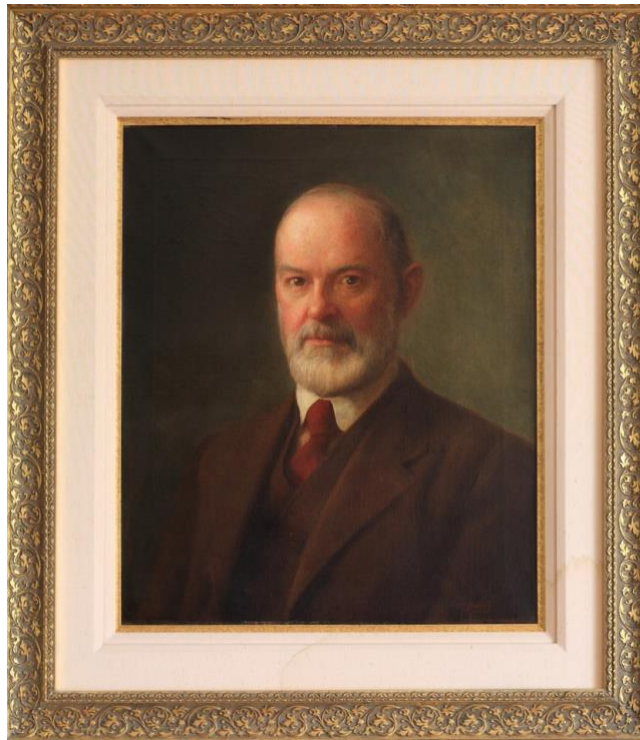




SIR HENRY ROYCE  
PORTRAIT



Tom Clarke wrote in 'The Roycean' in 2010, "This fine portrait of Frederick Henry Royce used to hang in the offices at Rolls-Royce of America Inc., Springfield Massachusetts and was later in the office of Rolls-Royce agent J. S. 'Jack' Inskip in New York.... As far as we know it has only appeared in print once before, in Art Soutter's book 'The American Rolls-Royce', 1976, on p.66 (the artist wrongly given as Sterling).... This portrait of Royce might have been commissioned when Royce was awarded the O.B.E. in 1918, or when his statue in Derby was unveiled in 1923 or, more likely, for the founding of Rolls-Royce of America Inc. in 1919."

Tom Clarke's investigation has continued, "This portrait by Albert Starling (1858-1947) was the first ever done of Royce. The only other known portrait was by Sir Arthur Rackham in around 1930 and it now hangs at the Sir Henry Royce Memorial Foundation in Paulerspury, Northants." Tom Clarke now believes the Starling portrait was commissioned (probably by Rolls-Royce Ltd.) prior to 1923 to coincide with the erection of the statue of Royce by Professor Derwent Wood...."

“The portrait was given to the company’s subsidiary Rolls-Royce of America Inc. in Massachusetts soon after its founding in 1919. When that factory closed in 1931 the portrait was sold to Jack Inskip of New York City who was a legendary new car dealer up to the 1960s. Subsequently it was owned by noted U.S. car collector the late Thomas W. Barrett III.” Tom Clarke acquired the portrait and it now hangs in the Duffield Bank guest house of Rolls-Royce plc in Derby.

There is however a second part to this portrait story. There were two portraits commissioned from Starling. The other portrait can be seen in a photograph of the luncheon celebrating the unveiling of the statue in the Derby arboretum.



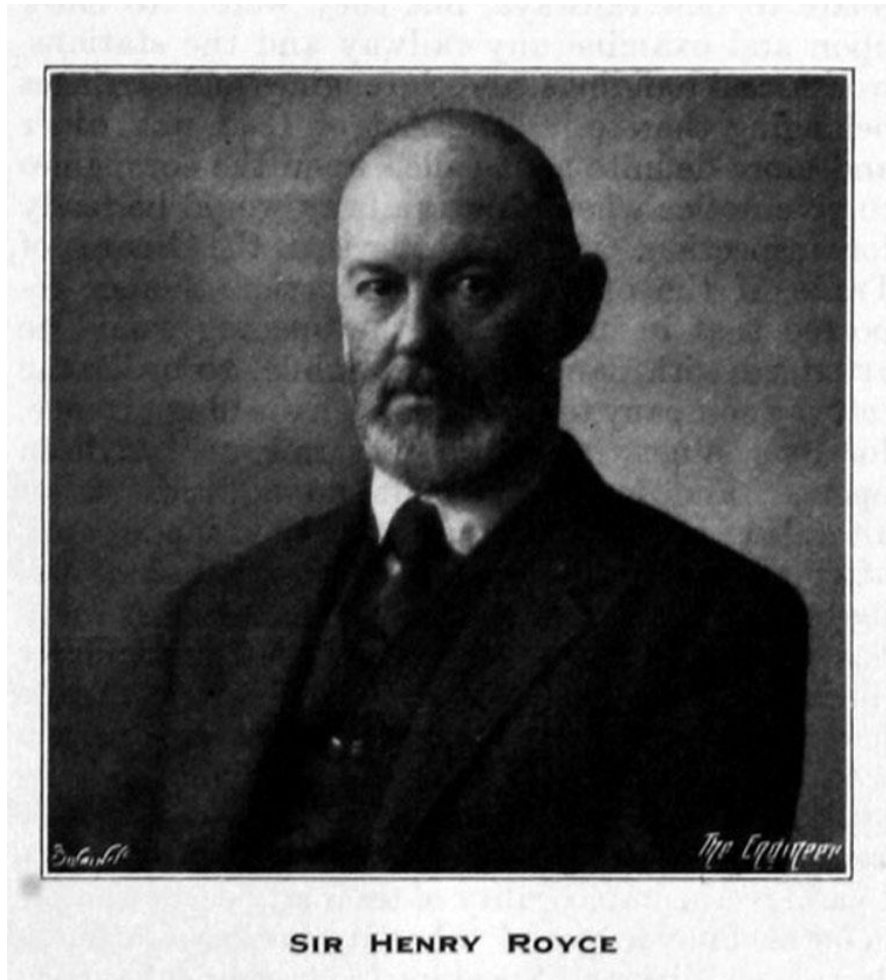
*Lady Birkenhead unveiled the statue in the presence of prominent people connected with aviation and motoring. Speeches were made by her husband the Earl of Birkenhead, see below, and others.*

*Royce was awarded the unusual honour of having a statue erected in his lifetime.*



*The Earl of Birkenhead speaking at the Luncheon at Derby on June 27th, 1923.*

The larger portrait on display at the luncheon includes Royce's hands whereas the surviving version shown at the start of this article doesn't have hands and was never cut down from such a version. Tom Clarke had the portrait he bought dismantled so that a small hole could be repaired. The expert showed him the canvas, stretch bars, and mount to prove it had never been altered.



*Royce did not sit for either of these two portraits and it is likely that this photograph was used for the painting.*

[Tom Clarke has generously provided this information and images. The main photograph is courtesy of Collin Hughes]

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