



Price: £24.99

Publication Date: June 2006

ISBN: ISBN 1 84114 521 1
ISBN 978 1 84114 521

Format: Hardback, 144 pages,
258x238mm,
including over 120
full colour images

Imprint: Halsgrove

LOST NORFOLK LANDSCAPES

PAINTINGS BY HORACE TUCK (1876–1951)

Simon Butler in association with Cyril Nunn

Horace Tuck (1876–1951) might well be described as Norfolk's 'forgotten' artist. While his paintings appear at auction from time to time, his name means little to those in his native county, and still less is known about him in the wider art world. Yet his work deserves wider recognition. He is known to have painted in the company of Alfred Munnings (1878–1959), and from his twenty years of teaching at Norwich School of Art (1920–1939), he was fondly remembered by those he taught, influencing a generation of artists.

Described by contemporary Norfolk artist Colin Self as 'rich and sumptuous, like baked bread', Tuck's painting style is not easy to categorise. Recognised as 'Late' Norwich School his work retains echoes of his illustrious Norfolk forebears, the giants of the Norwich School, including Cotman and Crome. His paintings evoke a rural idyll that once characterised the Norfolk landscape but which was already fading from memory as Tuck's life drew to a close.

The majority of paintings in this book come from a single private collection. Most are of recognisable Norfolk scenes: from the coast and landscape around Sheringham and Cromer; to the Broads, as well as a number in and around the city of Norwich. Others depict working scenes and the everyday life of people in the Norfolk countryside: boatbuilders, farm labourers and the fishermen and women.

That a major collection of Horace Tuck's work should now come to light is down to the foresight of a local collector, Cyril Nunn, who many years ago acquired Tuck's complete studio work from the artist's widow. The collection comprises approximately 180 works ranging from major oils, to watercolours and linocuts, most completed in the 1930s and '40s. It is this collection that forms the basis of this book.

Cyril Nunn got to know both Horace Tuck and his wife Bessie when they moved to Sheringham in Norfolk. A photographer and art collector, Cyril was the recent subject of the book *Face to Face* which tells the story of his friendship and professional work alongside pioneer photographer Olive Edis. He lives in Sheringham with his wife Renate.

Simon Butler FRSA is an author and publisher. He has published and contributed to over a hundred books related to art and artists and has curated a number of exhibitions associated with published works. For this book he has drawn on the personal reminiscences of Horace Tuck's family and from local records. He lives in Devon.



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Example of a double page spread.



The Road to Holt

oil on canvas 24x20 inches



Unloading a Wherry, Norwich

oil on canvas 14.5x10 inches



Norwich Fair

watercolour 15x10.5 inches



The Beach at Sheringham

watercolour 12x8 inches



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