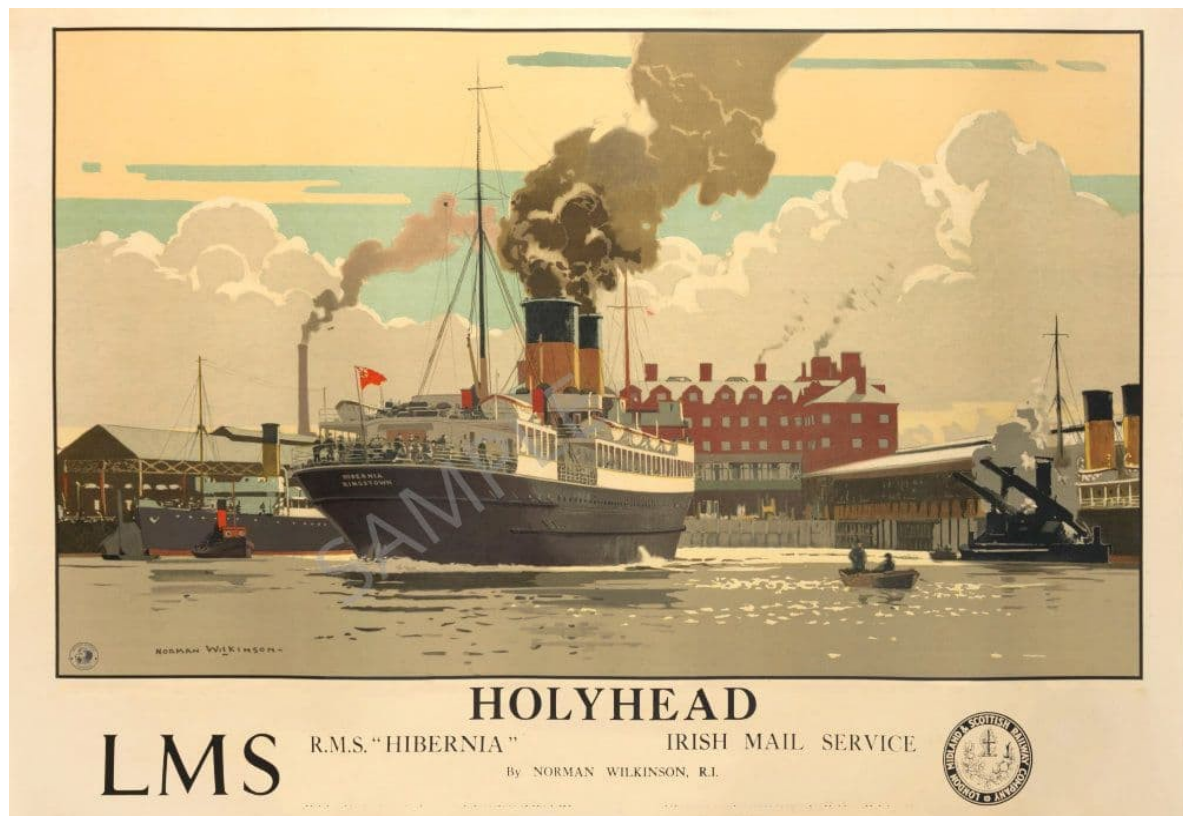


## Norman Wilkinson - Marine Artist (1878-1971) by Ray Pearce

It was a very cold day in January this year (2024) and I was waiting on Birmingham International railway station to meet a friend whose train was running 20 minutes late. I decided to have a hot chocolate to warm myself and went into one of the small cafes on the station concourse, on the right hand side just passed the ticket barrier. What a revelation for on one of the walls was a series of transport posters painted by Norman Wilkinson of whom I had never heard. I have now researched him and this is his story.



He was born in Cambridge and as a boy sang in the choir of St. Paul's Cathedral. He attended Portsmouth College of Art and after graduation became a teacher there. He was a contributor to The Illustrated News and became a full time artist. On the outbreak of World War 1 he joined the Royal Navy reaching the rank of Lt. Commander, serving in the Dardanelles and on Mine sweepers in the English channel. The Royal Navy made use of his artistic abilities and he helped design the Dazzle camouflage to protect our Merchant shipping from German u-boats an example follows.



The best example in modern times is on a Mersey ferry and painted by Sir Peter Blake. At the end of WW1 he was appointed Honorary Marine artist to the Royal Yacht Squadron, he had arrived.

**LMS**

**TILBURY FOR THE CONTINENT**  
S.S. "Picard" leaving Tilbury Marine for Dunkerque  
By NORMAN WILKINSON, R.I.

The nightly Tilbury-Dunkerque Service affords connections with all parts of the Continent and is the most convenient Route from the Midlands and North of England to Paris, Basle, Italy, and Central Europe.