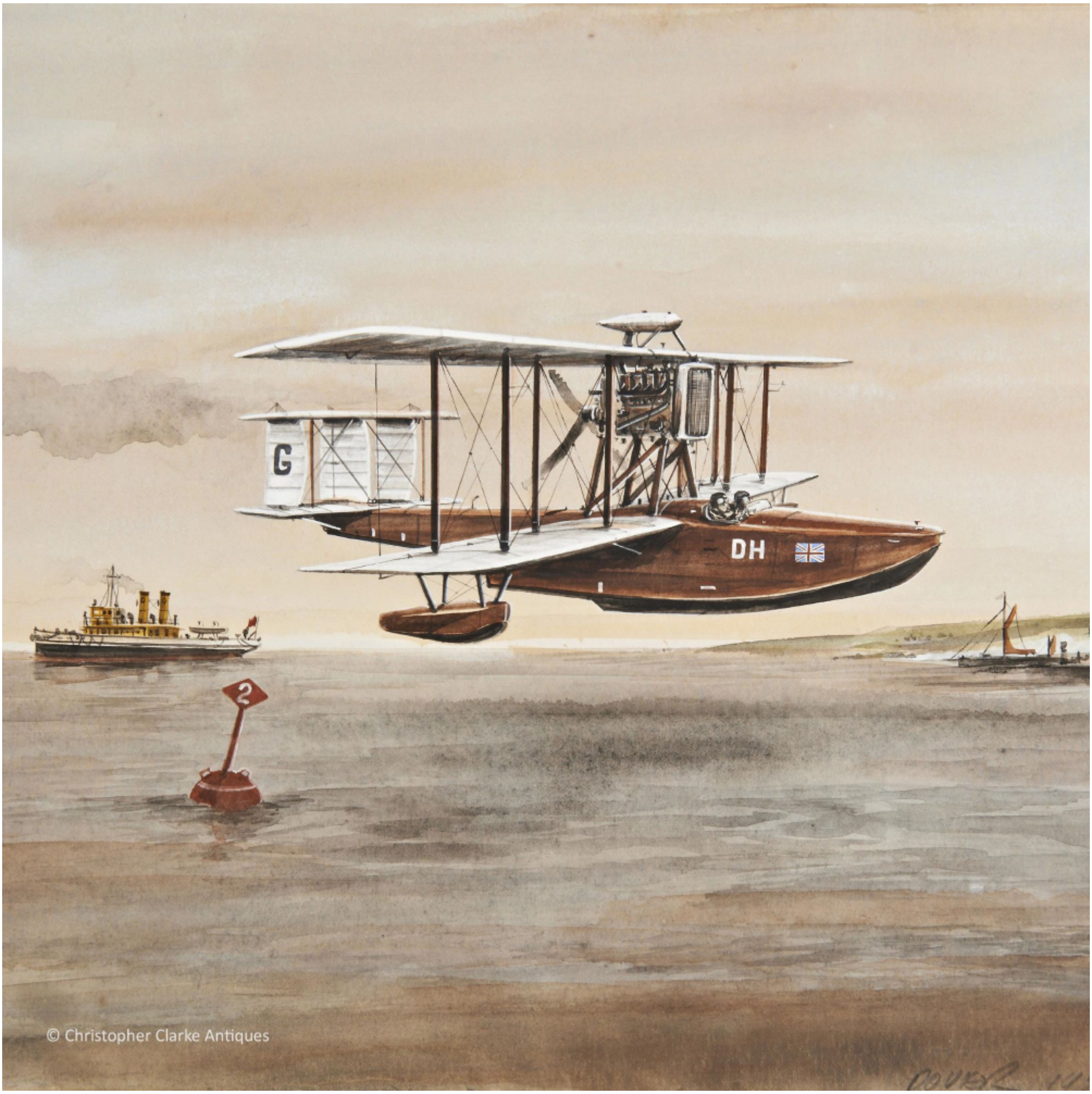
Vickers I X Flying Boat RNAS by Norman Wilkinson

Norman Wilkinson

Sold



REF: 83903

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Height: 26.53 cm (10.4")

Width: 39.35 cm (15.5")

Description

A watercolour on board illustration of a Vickers Viking Flying Boat coming into Dover Sea Plane Base in 1920.

The Flying Boat looks to be preparing to land and in the background is a steamboat, a red marker buoy, a sailboat and some white cliffs. It is signed 'N. Wilkinson Dover 1920' to the lower middle right. 'Dover 1921' is written in pencil below to the board edge and each corner has pencil arrow marks for sizing.

The back of the picture has a paper label suggesting that the picture may have been destined for use as a cigarette card for John Player. It notes 'Vickers I .X. Flying Boat. Dover Seaplane Base R.N.A.S 1920. By N. Wilkinson. Card. 30 Players. 1921. Nr 6'. Above the label written to the board is 'Reduce 6" - 4" Card 30' and 'Vickers Dover 1920-21'. The board is also stamped twice with a crown logo above D.

The Vickers Viking biplane flying boat was manufactured between 1919 and 1923 with 31 made. It won first prize in the Air Ministry competitions of 1920 to determine the best amphibious plane. Vickers have a long history as a company starting as steel founders in Sheffield in 1828. The company expanded over time to buy other businesses, moving into shipbuilding, armaments and motor cars. In 1911 they added aircraft manufacture to their interests.

It was not uncommon for illustrations for sets of cigarette cards to be commissioned but not used with either the set never issued or the subject not making the final cut of cards. Wilkinson has painted the flying boat with quick but accurate strokes that together, give a detailed impression, showing his skill as an artist. Dated 1920.

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