

PETER MADDOCKS

Born 1st April,
1928

Moseley Road Art School 1939-1943

National Newspaper Cartoonist

"I took my life as a cartoonist very seriously – to me it was everything, holidays were a bore, my poor wife would watch me mooch about walking up and down anywhere but the beach, passing away time until I could return to my drawing board in Fleet Street."



Son of a bus driver in Birmingham, he started drawing at the age of 6

At the age of 11 he won a scholarship to the School.

"My tutor was Norman Pett who drew the risqué Jane cartoon strip for the 'Daily Mirror' which saw the heroine out of her clothes as often as she was in them. There I was drawing daffodils in milk bottles whilst he was drawing naked women in the classroom!"

At 21 he started his own advertising agency in London designing cinema posters. Four years later he was invited to draw a sample cartoon for the *Daily Sketch* and became a regular contributor.

"I preferred to paint but with cartoons, I could take a thought, transfer it to paper quickly with a pithy comment and get paid almost immediately."

For the next 40 years he was published by all the major newspapers including the *Mail*, *Telegraph*, *Express* and *Mirror* as well as *Private Eye* and *Mayfair*. His satirical look at political events flourished in the comic strips 'No. 10' and 'Four D. Jones'. However one potential comic strip failed to materialise:

"I was a huge fan of the 'Goons' on the radio and I suggested it would make a great cartoon for the 'Daily Sketch' and contacted Spike Milligan. I went to the 'Goons' rehearsals and met Harry Secombe and Peter Sellers. Sellers was very enthusiastic and we sat together drawing some of the characters. All was going well until the 'Daily Sketch' and Spike couldn't agree on a contract."

Co-founder and Vice President of the British Cartoonist Association 1966. In 1977 he opened the London School of Cartooning in Fleet Street

In the 1980's his work took a new direction, setting up an animation studio to create three classic BBC children's cartoon series: *The Family-Ness* (1983) which centred on the life of the Loch Ness Monsters, *Jimbo and the Jet Set* (1986) and *Penny Crayon* (1990).

He followed this success writing a number of self-help books on how to become a cartoonist.

In 2000 Peter moved to Spain to follow his passion for painting:

"I wanted to forget cartooning and instead of the pen, turn to a brush with paint and canvas. Besides, the lights had gone out on my beloved Fleet Street."

Although his new focus is painting, he still produces a weekly cartoon for *Euro News Weekly*.

