

The Bulletin

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Donald Evans and His Fantastic World of Postage Stamps

by Heather King

Donald Evans (1945-1977) “put his whole life and everything that interested him into the stamps of his fantasy world.” So says Willy Eisenhart, author of the wonderful “The World of Donald Evans.”

An only child, he grew up in a stable, prosperous and loving middle-class family. He liked to play alone. An older neighbor introduced him to stamp collecting when he was 6. He spent hours poring over the stamps, memorizing the names of the countries and capitals of the world, learning about the flags, currency, local customs and flora and fauna of fiefdoms, dictatorships and obscure islands.

His best friend for a time was Charles Fisk, who came from old money and whose well-traveled family, Evans recalled, “had a fascinating house full of collections of things and lots of encyclopedias.” The two boys built elaborate sand castles and palaces, made maps and calendars and invented characters. Charles’ was named Uncle Rich Harvest. Donald called his character The Queen.

When Donald was 10, he found he could render the places in his imagination “more real by making stamps from them and little letters.” He outlined the stamps in pencil, filled them in with pen and brush and made the perforations by pummeling out rows of periods on an old typewriter.

“In five years,” “he made a thousand — places like Fran-Jermend, Kuntsland Slobovia and the Powers. Each had coat of arms, currency and rulers. Geographies were intertwined and occupations, tions.”



writes Eisenhart, sand stamps. He tries to issue them dia, Doland, (East and West) Western United its own flag and rency, government phies and histories with protectorates unions and federa-

From the beginning, Evans meticulously catalogued his work. “He mounted and identified all the stamps in notebooks — the three-volume ‘World Wide Stamp Album,’ alphabetically arranged by country. Separately he typed and illustrated leaflets modeled on real collectors’ catalogues. For instance, in his ‘A Catalog of the Stamps of Aluala, 1939-1957,’ he listed all the issues with their dates, denominations and colors, as well as prices in Alualan pounds for mint condition and canceled stamps.”

At the age of 15 he stopped, seemingly forever. He pursued typical teenage interests. He dated a cheerleader, attended football games and applied to college. He studied art history at Cornell (his parents wanted him to be an architect), bummed around Europe for a summer, then in 1964 settled down at Cornell’s school of architecture after all.

(cont. pg 3)

Upcoming Meetings

Saugeen Stamp Club
Tues May 2

Kincardine Stamp Club
Wed May 3

Owen Sound Stamp Club
Wed May 17

Guelph Stamp Club
Tues May 2
Tues May 16

KW Philatelic Society
Thurs May 4

Check with the club before going to its meeting.

ONE PAGE

EXHIBITS

UPCOMING

TOPICS

MAY -

Members Choice

June -

Surcharged Issues

July -

Swimming

Message from the President

Welcome to Spring and soon we will be able to get outside to enjoy the fresh air. The winter months were not terribly bad and the 3 Saturday meetings were a positive change to winter / night driving.

At the last meeting, Treasurer Judy was able to provide an overview of the clubs' financial status – and we are in very good shape for the future.

The Saugeen Stamp Club has its annual show coming up on May 6th 2023 and the various volunteer opportunities were raised – albeit a bit later than it should. We do have a great volunteer base and members will respond as needed to get the job done. Member David Pugh is willing to put a show program together for this year but he does need the title / topic of your exhibit, a list of dealers etc. Email the information to David (penybank@hurontel.on.ca).

Volunteer Positions:

Reception (door & ticket sales for door prizes)

Pick up / set up of frames / take down and return frames to storage

Lunch counter – donation of sandwiches / drinks / servers for the goods as per the list passed around.
(Remember what you signed up to bring)

NOTE – REMEMBER THE CLUB WILL PROVIDE THE DEALERS WITH A FREE LIGHT LUNCH SO DO A FEW EXTRA SANDWICHES AND DRINKS. As many will be aware, dealers are getting fewer and will appreciate the gesture of the club.

The Active Aging Expo went well for the first-time attendance at this type of event. Thanks to the many who spent the afternoon at the P & H Centre. It was a free opportunity to promote the club activity and speak to attendees passing by the table. Several visitors took the opportunity to discuss donating material to the club. A positive activity which should be considered if it is held again next year (perhaps in a better setting)

The roots of the Saugeen Stamp Club have sustained 25 years of growth and solid membership since Peter & Jim made contact and started the club back in 1998 – hosting a very successful Royal show in 2003 just 5 years after forming. We have tentatively a celebration dinner and to which we can invite our partners in life? It is a milestone year and should be recognized – there are many long-time members who still make to drive to the regular monthly meetings.

The club is in the process of ordering the circuit books from the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada... for our meeting in July. Perhaps have another pizza / drink day courtesy of the club on a Saturday afternoon. Should you wish to have an opportunity to view / purchase from these books, you must notify the president (wsberry@sympatico.ca) the name of the country and/or the topic you wish to view, so the books can be ordered.

CLUB CIRCUIT BOOKS – AVAILABLE AT MONTHLY MEETING - now located in the Cabinet at the Church. The single page challenge for May is an open category so members will have a chance to show off the topic / country of their choice – its time to have some fun – show what you got.

Happy stamping

*Visit our new and improved Webpage for all
information and past Bulletins*

saugeenstampclub.org



Donald Evans and His Fantastic World of Postage Stamps

(Cont. from pg 1)

After graduating in 1969, he joined the prestigious New York City firm of Richard Meier and Associates. Unhappy with the frenetic pace of New York life and ambivalent about his profession, he began to show the stamp books he'd compiled as a youth to friends.

The response was enthusiastic. He sold his stamp collection to his father, gave up his apartment in Brooklyn and set out for Holland, as if "in a dream," with his watercolors and a stack of preperforated paper. "I just left," he told a friend, "and the world is so different and I don't understand anything."



From a cottage in the Dutch countryside, he drew stamps of dykes and windmills, landscapes and imagined figures of royalty based on his friends. From a warehouse in Amsterdam, the work continued.

In 1972 alone, he made 561 stamps from 20 countries. He traveled light and lived close to the bone, spending what little money he had on books. Eisenhart wrote, "He had books on windmills and mushrooms, flowers, fruits and

vegetables, old ships and planes, birds and birds' eggs; illustrated travel books, stamp catalogues and books on stamps and postal history; works of Gertrude Stein. And he had a few seashells, a set of dominoes and a lot of library cards."

The stamps are exquisite. Dreamy watercolors of ships, planes, mountains and fish, a series on Middle Eastern minarets, a falcon in flight, tartan plaids and various breeds of chickens. Symbols of the Republica de Banana include a tall black boot, a crayfish, a scorpion and a palm tree. "Drinks of Barcentrum" was inspired by one of his favorite Amsterdam cafés.



Eventually he collected his work in one volume called "The Catalogue of the World." He began to sell his work and to achieve a certain amount of success.

In 1975, he told the Paris Review, "It was vicarious traveling for me to a made-up world that I liked better than the one I was in. I'm doing that now, too. No catastrophes occur. There are no generals or battles or warplanes on my stamps. The countries are innocent, peaceful, composed. Sometimes I get so concentrated in these worlds I get confused. ... It's hard to get out."

But in the end, a catastrophe impinged after all. On April 29, 1977, the Amsterdam apartment house where Evans lived caught fire. He died at 31, a stone's throw from his beloved windmills and dykes.

His life was like one of his own miniature works of art: a dreamscape incorporating the banana trees, shells and bird eggs he treasured, framed by a border of banged-out black dots, painstakingly, lovingly worked out with a Grumbacher number two brush.

Saugeen Stamp Club

Chapter 220, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

Chapter 1538, American Philatelic Society

Chapter 21, Grand River Valley Philatelic Association

Website: <https://www.rpsc.org/chapters/saugeenstampclub/>

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Owen Sound Zoom Auctions

The links to see items and read the terms and conditions follow below:

https://stampsmarter.org/AuctionSQL/Auction_Owen_Entry.php?operation=insert – Please use this form to enter your individual lots for auction

https://stampsmarter.org/AuctionFiles/Cat_OwenSC.aspx – You may view listed items in the current auction on this page. These will be the same scans used during the auction

<https://stampsmarter.org/AuctionFiles/OwenTCs.html> – Terms and Conditions - please read if you are listing or bidding in the auction

Saturday May 6 2023

Saugeen Stamp Club

Annual Show

Royal Canadian Legion

505 Scott St Walkerton

Hours 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Door Prizes / exhibits

Dealers / Circuit Books / lunch counter

Free admission / free parking

Further information contact:

President Walt Berry wsberry@sympatico.ca

Don't forget to bring yourself, sandwiches, coffee, cream, juice boxes, muffins or anything else you promised to bring to the Annual Show

May 6, 2023



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