

THE WILLIAM B. WEBSTER COLLECTION OF FEDERAL HUNTING PERMIT PRINTS AND MULTIPLES



WHILE GROWING UP IN MINNESOTA IN THE 1930'S, WILLIAM B. WEBSTER BECAME enamored with the outdoors, and in particular waterfowl and upland birds. An early exposure to the works of J.N. "Ding" Darling, the designer of the first Federal Duck Stamp, triggered a further interest in sporting art and specifically the collecting of duck stamps and prints. So began a life-long hobby and eventually a second career when he founded Wild Wings, a publisher and distributor of wildlife and sporting art, in the late 1960's.

Bill Webster was well-known to the Duck Stamp and print collecting community. He was the first non-government employee invited to attend the judging of the annual Federal Duck Stamp competition and he continued to attend for decades. He befriended many of the artists who have won the competition over the years. When *The Duck Stamp Story* was published in 2000, Bill was one of only three collectors featured in the book with a biography.

The Duck Stamp and print collection formed by Bill Webster over the decades is one of the most important of its kind. It contains a complete set of Duck Stamp prints -- *every edition from every year* plus a few hand-drawn editions of winning artists' designs. The condition of the prints is exceptional, with full margins, pristine paper and very few previously mounted. The stamp collection is comprehensive and includes plate blocks for every issue (including artist signed for most), complete sheets for all but a few issues, an imperforate strip of three of RW1 and the unique trial color proof for RW12.

Bill Webster died in 2015. His and his childrens' desire was that current and future collectors would be able to share the joy he experienced in collecting these beautiful works of art.