

## William Stanier

- 20<sup>th</sup> November 1919. Born at John Street, Wordsley, Stourbridge, Staffordshire (now Worcestershire)
- 1931 – 1936. Educated King Edward VI Grammar School, Stourbridge, where the Head Master told William's father "Take this boy away from School and make him work".
- 1936-38. Stourbridge School of Art
- 1939. Awarded Royal Scholarship to the Royal College of Art. Also awarded Silver Medal for Outstanding Success, Stourbridge.
- March 1940 to March 1946 served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Cambridgeshire Regiment.
- February 1942 – Taken prisoner by Japanese at Singapore. Subsequently moved to Thailand where he was put to work helping to build the Thailand-Burma railway. Falling from a bridge in darkness he broke his collar-bone and an arm, and was sent to a camp at Nongpladuk to recover; while he recuperated there, the rest of his Regiment was moved up the line into a severe cholera epidemic in which many, many died. Afterwards he was shipped to Cap St. Jacques near Saigon, in what was then French Indo-China (Vietnam) and he was put to work helping build a new airfield. August 1945. He was officially released as a prisoner. Two days after that release he was accidentally involved, almost losing his life, in the uprising that was the start of the Vietnamese War. Upon his release, the Japanese had given him clothing to wear (instead of the loin-cloths worn up until then). One of the items of clothing provided to him was a French Naval Jacket and, by wearing that jacket, he was mistaken for a Frenchman and was almost beaten to death in a riot. However, he survived the beating, but on awakening was handcuffed and taken to a gaol. He was released from that predicament only after remonstrating loudly to a latterly well known Mr Ho Chi Min (to quote William himself) "**in unmistakably strong English**".
- 1946. Restarted studies at the Royal College of Art
- 1946. Part-time employment by Stuart Crystal, Stourbridge, as a Designer. Designs then exhibited in the 'Britain Can Make It' Exhibition held at the Victoria and Albert Museum.
- 1948. Obtained Diploma of Associateship of the Royal College of Art and in Final Examinations and was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Prize in the Design School.
- 1948. The Victoria & Albert Museum, London, the Adelaide Museum, Australia and the Melbourne Museum, Australia all bought, for their permanent collections, various pieces of the work he had produced during his studies at the R.C.A.
- 1948. Awarded 'Designer of the Year' prize by The Federation of British Industries.
- 1948. Elected Member of The Society of Industrial Artists
- 1949. Given 'Travelling Scholarship' by the Federation of British Industries. Spent six months studying in Gothenberg and Stockholm, Sweden.
- 1949. Appointed Tutor at the Royal College of Art
- 1950. Married Monica Pugh at St. Philips Church in the Earls Court Road.
- 1953. Promoted to 'Head of the Industrial Glass Department' at the Royal College of Art
- 1950 -- 1952. -- Part-time teacher of Glass Design - Stourbridge School of Art.
- 1957 -- 1959. -- Part-time teacher of Pottery - Bromley College of Art.
- 1957. One of many commissions he received was the large windows of the relatively local Warwick Council Chamber opened in 1958. He designed and engraved the 16 panels from drawings he had made from the 1483 Rous Roll in the British Museum.
- May 1961. Appointed 'Head of School of Art' Banbury.
- 1962-1964. Designed and had built 'Staniers' house and home in Overthorpe, Banbury.
- 1968- 1970 Renovated and made home at 'Old House', Drayton, Banbury.
- 1983 – Moved into 'Old Brewhouse', Shutford, Banbury, with extended family.
- June 1983. Retired from the School of Art, Banbury.
- January 2000. Lost wife, Monica, to cancer and flu.
- 2002. Had annexe built at Willoughby, Balscote, Banbury, and moved in.
- 19<sup>th</sup> October 2010. Died.