



The Equine Art World Loses a Distinguished Artist, Author and Horseman

Sam Savitt

Sam Savitt was designated the official artist of the United States Equestrian Team and was honored by Equus as one of the world's most influential horsemen of the 20th century.

As an artist, Sam Savitt's distinctive work is recognized at a glance by art and horse lover's worldwide. Savitt passed away in December 2000, at the age of 83. An avid horseman, he was able to portray the horse in any discipline, an affirmation of his extensive knowledge of the horse world in its entirety. He brought his unique style to the world of show jumping, horse racing, steeplechasing, fox hunting, rodeo and polo. He was proficient in several mediums including oil, watercolor, charcoal, ink, and pencil.

His accomplishments are enormous. He illustrated 150 books and his drawings were published in magazines such as *Sports Illustrated*, *Equus*, *Country Journal*, *Boy's Life* and *Practical Horseman*. He created well-known posters for the National Horse Show and the Kentucky Derby, paintings for limited-edition reproduction and art for advertising campaigns.

His "Sam Savitt Horse Charts," illustrating valuable information on conformation, breeds and colors of horses, have been sold worldwide by his own company, Black Horse Press. *Sam Savitt's Guide to Horses*, the title of one of his well-known charts, is in the Smithsonian Institution.

Savitt was the author of 15 books treasured by horse enthusiasts, including *True Horse Stories*, *Wild Horse Running*, *Vicki and the Brown Mare*, *Midnight*, *Champion Bucking Horse* and *Draw*

Horses with Sam Savitt. He illustrated countless others.

Widely recognized, Mr. Savitt was designated the official artist of the United States Equestrian Team and was honored by *Equus* as one of the world's most influential horsemen of the 20th century. In 1998, he was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award by the North American Horsemen's Association, the only time this award has ever been bestowed on an artist.

Residing in North Salem, he owned horses and was an accomplished horseman. This relationship with horses helped train him to create the vitality and attention to detail that were characteristic of his artwork. He was quoted as saying, "I know horses, and I just sort of reconstruct them on canvas."

Successful right out of school, he began working for Western Printing, the publishers of Dell Comics. He painted 145 covers for a variety of Dell titles in the 1950's

including *The Lone Ranger*, *Hi-Ho Silver*, *Gene Autry's Champions*, *Roy Roger's Trigger* and others. After comic book covers, his successful freelance career spanned more than 50 years.

He was a founding member of the American Academy of Equine Art and also their Director of Painting. He often gave workshops on painting and was a skilled public speaker whose ability to sketch horses while he spoke made him a favorite with audiences.

Sam Savitt will be missed as an artist, author, illustrator and horseman. He touched the lives of many through his varied collections of memorable written and artistic contributions. ▲

A special tribute to The Art of Sam Savitt will be held at the Northern Westchester Center for the Arts in Mount Kisco, New York opening April 20, and continuing for a month.



"Foul" - by Sam Savitt