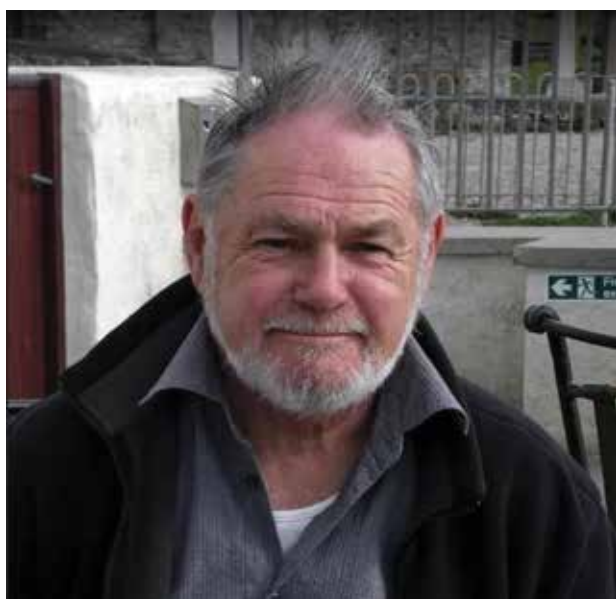


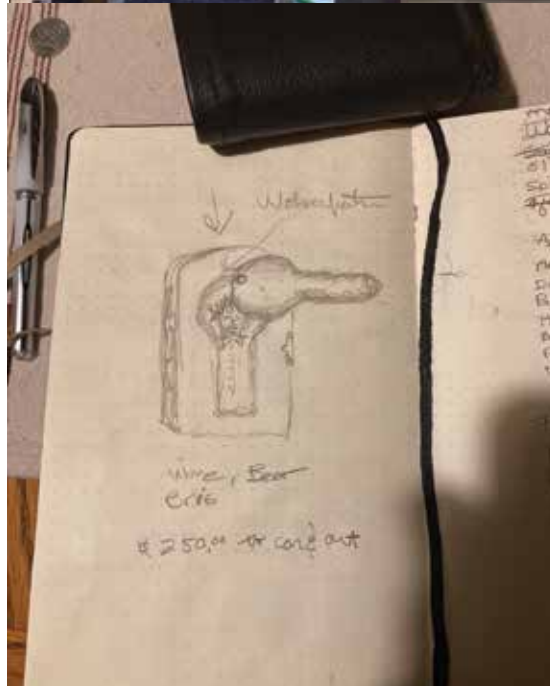
Ron's dilemma

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The story behind this medal begins at the FIDEM XXV exhibit in Switzerland. I was dining at the final banquet with my mother and mother-in-law who had accompanied me on the trip, and with George and Eileen Cuhaj. A very intoxicated gentleman approached and asked if I would mind if he sat with us because he was 'a bit pissed.' I responded that that would depend on what 'pissed' means in his country. In my country it means that one is angry. If he was angry, I'd rather he sat somewhere else. He responded, 'no I'm just a bit drunk' so he sat down and we chatted throughout the rest of the dinner. My mother, my mother-in-law, the Cuhajs and I all enjoyed Ron's company. To the best of my memory, Ron was also the first person who suggested that my work was of significance. Obviously, this meant a lot to me. Since then, Ron and I have visited a number of times and we've become dear friends over more than twenty years.

In recent years, we've maintained our friendship by phone because his health has limited his travel. Ultimately, it became very difficult to contact Ron by email or phone. It



became clear to me that if I wanted to see him again, I would have to journey to his home. Ron's son, Ben, alerted me that if I did come, I might only be able to visit for an hour a day. I went anyway, an hour is an hour. The visit went well; yet, it was disturbing to see Ron's decline. I am sure that it was even more disturbing for Ron than for me. When I got back home, I started sketching things that Ron had inspired during our time together. The medal was difficult to create, appropriate to the visit. It became a cathartic piece for me and I present it as a tribute to my friend and colleague who also inspired so many other medallists.

Creating this medal became an outlet for the grief I felt for the bright mind I had learned to treasure. All the parts were there but they weren't working in concert. Thus, the medal has an antique keyhole cover that conceals Ron's photo. As the cover slides back, you see Ron walking in Wolverhampton. On the opposite side of the container is a photo of his beloved soccer team. On the outside of this metal, a map of Mount Pleasant, my home, is etched. A Wolverhampton map is etched on the reverse because it avails more space in which to highlight Ron's home and hearth.



