

Knowledge Sharing

Donald's fame was not due to his showmanship. Indeed he was quite a retiring man and avoided public speaking if he could. In 1955 he was asked to appear as the expert on a BBC Light Service programme, presented by Franklin Englemann entitled "What do you know?" The regular team on the programme included the popular broadcaster Patrick Cambell. The regular team answered general questions and a different expert, on each programme, was invited to answer questions on specialist subjects – Donald was to answer questions about Horology. He admitted the morning of the recording of the show in London that he was concerned that he might not know the answers to the questions put to him. His fears almost overcame him as he sat on the bus to get to the studios and it went through his mind to jump off and simply go home. He did not and he was able to answer all the questions but in his usual unadorned and straightforward way. In 1964, in a programme on the BBC Light Programme called "Information Please" Donald was one of three experts alongside Yehudi Menuhin and Douglas Frew.

Although he shunned the limelight he was an excellent marketeer and created timepiece exhibitions, staged at Garrards, which even gained the attendance of Her Majesty the Queen. He was in the forefront of promoting to major national businesses the benefits of presentation watches and clocks for long and distinguished service. He generated large contracts from major national enterprises and the business created was an important element of the income of the company.

His fame was undoubtedly mainly due to his technical books on the craft of clock and watch repairing which have sold in over 40 countries and one of them for over 80 years.