

PEN PORTRAIT (for publication in "Cardlines" newsletter)

NB Please print details. It is optional as to what details you wish to disclose (*only fill in what you want printed in Cardlines*). This form is only a guideline with some sub-topics, but if you want you can compile your own format and on a separate bit of paper. An example of a typical Pen Portrait is printed on 2nd page. Please return completed Pen Portrait to the Editor of Cardlines; or even better type Pen Portrait (text only) on computer and send this + your card scans (*jpeg format) via email to: cartophilic@xtra.co.nz

NAME _____ TOWN _____ MEMBERSHIP NO. _____

GENERAL BACKGROUND OF YOURSELF (when born, where, etc, & please attach a photo if you like)

HOW/WHY YOU STARTED COLLECTING CARDS

HOW & WHEN YOU JOINED THE CARTOPHILIC SOCIETY OF NZ INC

YOUR COLLECTING INTERESTS/THEMES

HOW MANY CARDS/SETS IN YOUR COLLECTION & HOW ARE THEY STORED

YOUR BEST BARGAIN/LUCKIEST CARD FIND (when/where)

YOUR MOST FAVOURITE CARD/SET: _____

YOUR LEAST FAVOURITE CARD/SET: _____

YOUR Six BEST CARDS/SETS (please send a couple of sample cards so they can be used to illustrate this Pen Portrait)

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

ANY FURTHER COMMENTS _____

PEN PORTRAIT *by Bruce Isted #359*

NB This Pen Portrait is an example only - however it was originally published in the May-June 1992 *Cardlines* (page 14).

Unfortunately I was not born at the best time of the cigarette card craze, so I missed out on the so-called card game of “flicks” and hunting around the many tobacco shops. I was born in April 1962 at Wanganui. I first started collecting cards when I was about seven years old which was the same time that I also became interested in collecting stamps and coins. The first trade cards that I remember collecting were the SANITARIUM sets of 1969 - *The Maori Way of Life* (issued in Weet-Bix) and *Modern Road Transport in New Zealand* (issued in Skippy Cornflakes).

I was quite keen on card collecting right through my junior years at school. I used to swap cards amongst a small group of friends and I also sent some swaps to Sanitarium Health Food Company. I knew my grandfather was very keen on collecting cards, especially cigarette cards. He had around 191 completed sets in 1935 and by 1972 had 350 sets, but by 1973 he sold about half of these - mainly to help with the purchase a house.

By the time I was about to leave school in 1979-80 to embark on my first year of working, my interest in cards had waned somewhat. I think this was partly due to the fact that I thought collecting cards was only a hobby for kids. How wrong this was to prove later on! In the end most of my collection of trade cards was given away. My interest in stamps and coins continued, so collecting was in my blood for sure.

It wasn't until 1987 that I renewed my interest in collecting cards. When my grandfather passed away, his cigarette card collection was handed down to me. There were loads of albums (mostly the “Three Castles” type) with lots of different sets as well as many loose sets bound together by those nasty rubber bands. Anyway, one day I spent many hours looking through them - and from then on I was totally hooked. I thought some of the cards looked really smashing as well as having good descriptions on the backs. However, there were quite a few cards in poor condition and many uncompleted sets. Now this was going to be an interesting challenge, I thought to myself - but where to start and how to get more information on the subject.

As I used to buy some stamps and coins from a shop in Wanganui called “Leisure Lines”, I thought the shopkeeper might know about cards. He put me in touch with the then Auctioneer of the Cartophilic Society of NZ Inc, Noel Martin who luckily for me also lived in Wanganui. After meeting up with Noel one afternoon, my interest in cards really took off with vengeance! Many thanks must go to Noel, as he was the first person who gave me all the important information regarding Cartophily and helped me out with some of my wants. I then joined the Society which put me in touch with other keen and very friendly card collectors.

During 1988-89, I went on a working holiday to England; actually my aim was to research my family history, which was most successful. It was not long before I joined the Sussex Cartophilic Branch, where I got many bargains, especially cards (end-numbers) that I needed to upgrade.

Now my card collection consists of about 230 sets of cigarette cards totalling about 10,000 cards, and I have about 150 trade card sets (mostly NZ) totalling about 4,000 cards. The cigarette cards are kept in archival plastic pages in proper cigarette card albums and the trade cards are mostly stuck into their own albums, but some are kept in pages.

My most valuable card set is OGDENS 50 *Boy Scouts* (green back) issued in 1911. Just as yet I don't quite have a full set of TADDY *Clowns*!!

My six most favourite card sets are:

1. WIX *Henry, series 1-5* including Postcard size (1935-7). I cheat here because from seven sets I can look at one Henry card a day and get a laugh on each of the 365 days of the year!
2. DOMINION TOBACCO CO (NZ) *Playing Cards* (red & blue “Silver Fern” backs, issued c1925) - too rare to play cards with, but gives me pride to think that they may be one of the most valuable sets of playing cards in NZ.
3. ARDATH *Stamps Rare and Interesting* (1939) - nice, colourful front layouts; pity I don't own some.
4. PLAYERS *Cats* (1936) - my favourite pets, and this surely must be the best “cat” set ever issued.
5. WILLS *Heraldic Signs and Their Origins* (1925) - reminds me of my number 1 interest “Family History”.
6. WILLS *Time & Money In Different Countries* (1908) - this is my oldest set, and are nicely coloured and very descriptive; reminds me of the many places I have travelled.