



Peter Hemsworth Troy OAM 1938 - 2009

“Hold out your hand to help the next person up.”



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## Prestige Points #149

### Peter Troy's International Large Gold Medal Exhibit/Collection of British New Guinea & Papua

In April of last year, we were privileged to conduct one of the most important auctions ever held in Australia when *Tim Rybak* sold his fabulous collection of New Guinea and Papua through *Prestige Philately* on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2008. The material was magnificent; the interest was extraordinary; the prices were astonishing; the impact was profound.

Among the most enthusiastic clients who attended the *Rybak* sale were Queensland couple *Peter & Libby Troy*. None of us had the slightest inkling that only a year later, Peter's wonderful collection of Papua would also be for sale. Peter, supported as always by Libby, was hoping to plug the few holes remaining in his competitive exhibit. At dinner that night, the Troys couldn't contain their excitement: the dozen key items they had hoped to acquire were now theirs.

Six months later, in the Czech Republic, *Peter Troy* became the first exhibitor ever to win an International Large Gold Medal for a display of Papua. Eight frames of exceptional material, from the Queensland Period, through *De La Rue's* stunning British New Guinea issue, to the numerous errors in the Air Mail Overprints, stood at the top of the exhibiting tree, recognised as one of the finest competitive displays in the world.

*Peter Troy* never got to see his medal. Only weeks after his triumph in Prague, he developed a pulmonary thrombosis and died, suddenly and tragically.

It is thus with an uncomfortable mixture of pride and sadness that we now invite you to sample the numerous philatelic delights that were brought together over a period of 25 years into what is surely the finest collection of Papuan stamps and proof material ever assembled.

*Tim Rybak's* Papua was exceptional: *Peter Troy's* is better! (Tim, of course, also collected New Guinea, so his auction was far more wide-ranging than the *Troy* collection.) There are 272 lots of Papua on offer here, compared with "only" 150 in the *Rybak* sale. *Rybak* had 21 proof or specimen lots; *Troy* has a remarkable 70, comprising 14 die proofs, 40 plate proofs (many of which are blocks), seven miscellaneous proofs & nine lots of specimen stamps!

Of the famous overprint errors in the Small 'Papua' series, *Rybak* had four items; *Troy* has nine. *Rybak* had three major pieces in the 1929-30 Air Mail issues; *Troy* has eight. In fact, in almost every area, *Peter Troy's* Papua has greater breadth and depth. A measure of this is the infamous *Sperati* forgery of the BNG 2/6d: on offer here are three of the seven recorded examples, plus one of the two "die proofs" created by the master forger.

*Peter Troy's* passion was the Lakatoi design. Consequently, there are none of the later issues, the Pictorials and Commemoratives. However, by way of "consolation", the collection does include a fascinating array of the 'Stamp Duty' overprints, including wonderful errors and the 5 surcharged high values to £100!

It has been a delight to prepare this collection for sale. We know you will enjoy perusing our first ever hardbound-only catalogue and hope you can derive as much pleasure from the stamps of Papua as did the late, and greatly missed, *Peter Troy*.

## Peter Hemsworth Troy, OAM (1938-2008)



*Peter Troy* was born at Hamilton in Western Victoria. At an early age, his family moved to Torquay near Geelong where Peter's father ran the local newsagency. His lifelong love affair with the ocean began at Torquay where Peter learned to surf while still at primary school.

In 1956, at the age of 18, Peter represented Australia at the Olympic Games in the demonstration sport of surf lifesaving. His passion for surfing and his love of the Torquay area resulted in Peter and a couple of mates bulldozing a rough track to a previously inaccessible cove known as Bells Beach. He ran the first Bells Beach board rally in 1961 and two years later the first of the now world-famous championship surfing carnivals at that venue.

Despite having qualified as a chartered accountant, in May 1963 Peter picked up his surfboard and spent the next three years travelling the world, from the Antarctic to Spitsbergen. He walked across the Kalahari (without finding any surf beaches!), sailed across the Atlantic solo, introduced surfing to Brazil, and developed into a remarkable young man.

Peter kept a journal of his adventures. One extract from April 1964 tells us a lot about Peter Troy: "To travel, to know, understand and respect other countries are the prime conditions for peaceful co-existence between the peoples of the world. To preach and practise tolerance is of greater value, and promises more happiness for mankind, than the propagation of political ideologies." He was 26.

Finally back in Australia, Peter established a successful accounting practice but still found time to surf. It was in his blood. He was the founder of the Australian Surfing Hall of Fame (and a reluctant inductee after many years of vetoing his own nomination!), and the Surfworld Museum at Torquay. He was also the Honorary Historian for Surfing Australia. In 2007, he was acknowledged for his contributions as a pioneer of surfing in this country with the award of an OAM (the Medal of the Order of Australia).

Somehow, the passionate surfer became a passionate philatelist. He dipped his toe into these unfamiliar waters only in 1982. Soon he was well and truly hooked, and pursuing new adventures with his beloved Lakatois. In an effort to both improve his knowledge and share his love for stamps, Peter became involved in competitive exhibiting. He had two major advantages: an eye for a quality item; and a wife who not only fully supported his hobby but also planned and laid-out his exhibits. Between them Peter and Libby Troy became a formidable presence in the exhibiting halls of the world, culminating of course in the *FIP* Large Gold Medal awarded at Prague in 2008.

Peter was friendly with most of the leading collectors of Papua, many of whom were encouraged to assist him directly in attaining his philatelic goals. The catalogue for his collection contains extensive details of provenance for the better items, many of which are noted as having been acquired privately from *Roger Lee, Peter Gold, Fred Pearson, Clive Fenn, Bill Tatters* and others. And one must add to this list, Peter's best mate, *Jerry Blair*, who both mentored the former surfer and sold to him many of the finest items in the collection.

In September last year, *Roger Lee* attended a display in London of material from the *Royal Collection*. Included was the Papuan section of what is undeniably the finest philatelic collection ever formed. Afterwards, Roger sent an email to Peter in which he gushed "In all, Peter, there is no way you would ever, ever, ever consider swapping collections with Her Majesty! Your collection is far and away the best Papua in existence."

So it is. But all who have contributed to these brief notes agree that as fine as this collection is, it was assembled by a man who was finer still. One of Peter's favourite sayings was "Hold out your hand to help the next person up." Peter Troy should be remembered as a maverick, an adventurer, a surfing legend, a consummate philatelist, but, most of all, as an all round decent human being.

## Auction catalogues referred to in this catalogue

The value of a well-developed library is amply demonstrated when we are called upon to prepare a major collection for auction. In addition to the leading textbooks, **all of the auction catalogues listed below were consulted to check for provenance and realisations.** Without ready access to these references, our descriptions would lack the colour, context and additional information that are integral elements of setting apart our descriptions from those of other firms. This attention to the history of a collection is merely one of the “little extras” that vendors of important properties can expect from Prestige Philately. It’s a small part of what we term **“The Prestige Difference”**.

Date	Auction House	Vendor	Subject
4/ 3/1953	Robson Lowe	John Leask	Papua
28/ 5/1970	RLowe (Aust)	Evan Gill	Papua
2/ 8/1973	West Brisbane	Tony Tonakie	Papua
5/ 8/1976	RLowe (Aust)	De La Rue	Archives
26/ 3/1981	RLowe (Basel)	Paul Simonson	Papua
14/ 7/1987	Macray	Tom Belknap	Papua
19/ 7/1988	Macray	Jim Harrison	New Guinea & Papua
17/10/1990	CRLowe (Aust)	Jim Tyler	Papua
10/ 5/1991	CRLowe (Aust)	Tom Belknap	Papua Postal History
21/ 7/1993	Harmers	Billy Huston	Papua Airmails
29/ 7/1997	Macray Watson	Michael Courtis “Granville”	Papua Papua Postal History
5-6/ 3/1998	Spink	Hamilton Croaker	Papua
31/ 3/1998	Macray Watson	“Sepik”	Papua Postal History
<b>6/10/2001</b>	<b>Premier</b>	<b>Col Harrie Evans</b>	<b>New Guinea and Papua</b>
7/12/2001	Shreve	Henry Houser	Papua
<b>9/11/2002</b>	<b>Premier</b>	<b>Roger Lee</b>	<b>Papua Postal History</b>
24/ 3/2003	Leski	Ray Kelly	Papua Airmails
4/ 6/2003	Spink	William Frazer	New Guinea and Papua
<b>5/12/2003</b>	<b>Prestige</b>	<b>Peter Gold</b>	<b>Papua</b>
6/ 2/2006	Leski	Heinecke	Papua
<b>4/ 3/2006</b>	<b>Prestige</b>	<b>Fred Pearson</b>	<b>Papua</b>
<b>22/ 4/2006</b>	<b>Prestige</b>	<b>Fred Pearson</b>	<b>Papua Rarities</b>
17/ 1/2007	Sotheby’s	Sir Gawaine Baillie	New Guinea and Papua
<b>10/ 3/2007</b>	<b>Prestige</b>	<b>Barry Gribble</b>	<b>New Guinea and Papua</b>
<b>26/ 4/2008</b>	<b>Prestige</b>	<b>Tim Rybak</b>	<b>New Guinea and Papua</b>
<b>17/10/2008</b>	<b>Prestige</b>	<b>Harold Gough</b>	<b>New Guinea and Papua</b>
<b>24/ 4/2009</b>	<b>Prestige</b>	<b>Tony Williams</b>	<b>Papua</b>