

1 Kereru Bend,
Tawa. 1/12/93

Dear Beryl,

We greatly enjoyed our short sojourn(s) with you, and hope it won't be too long before we see Ratarua again. Our return trip was uneventful, striking only some heavy rain on the higher parts of the Taupo-Napier road. Had a good evening and part of 2 days with Bas, who is not keeping as well as I seem to. We got home on Friday about 4 pm of 26th, - and, happily, found the house intact.

I've had a preliminary go at the little cabinet: I first pressed out the back panel and sand-papered the parts which seemed tight. I'd guess it had been wet & swollen some time. I reckon I can get 3 trays of coins in each drawer - 4 in the lower ones, with a dozen coins in each tray: they move easily now.

I'm not sure if you are interested in religious studies; I am to some extent in ancient cults, but I have a few books here that might interest you. These are:

1. The Story of Creation (evolution)
2. An easy outline of evolution.
3. The Riddle of the Universe.
4. Human origins
5. The creeds of Christendom
6. The martyrdom of Man. (Human history)

If these appeal to you, I'd be glad to send any or all up to you. Nos. 1 & 4 are bound together.

2/ I very occasionally buy another coin, and the latest is especially interesting. It was issued under the Sassanian dynasty of Persia in the 2nd century AD - not especially ancient. On one side is the king's portrait Shapur I, and on the other, an altar showing flames issuing from the top. The prevailing religion was a form of Zoroastrian, and the god that was worshipped, was Mazda, who venerated light and fire, - hence of course the name of Mazda-lamps and cars.

I had known of this coin for some years, for it is illustrated and described in the Encyclopaedia Britannica, as well as in coin catalogues, so I was rather pleased to secure a nice silver example. This is a good example of my interest in coins - not what they're worth, but the society that produces them, the curious or tragic story behind the portraits that they carry, or the many objects, places, buildings, animals, birds, fishes &c. they depict. Some Greek coins issued in North Africa, depict an edible plant, Silphium, which was so prized that it became extinct - the coins the only record of its shape. The Pharos, the famous lighthouse of Alexandria, is known as to shape, by its appearance on coins.

But I'm letting the subject take over my letter. So I'll end with a moral anecdote.
(opposite)

Pascal, the French author, once wrote to a
correspondent: "I'm sorry this letter is so
long: I hadn't time to write a shorter one."

With love from us both,

Clyde
