

“What a gentleman, a scholar, what an acrobat!”

In Issue 49, courtesy of Pauline Garry, we reported on a new set of nine Sweet 'N Low sweetener packets showing the Pink Panther on the front in different poses. The packets had very similar backs except that there appear to be seven different phrases printed at the top right. John Walters found a further packet which was noted in issue 50.

There is also a variant set. The original, mentioned above, has the words “GRANULATED SWEETENER” printed on the front in red writing. The new set has the words “LOW CALORIE GRANULATED SWEETENER” in blue writing, and a different typeface on the front. In addition unlike the “red” set this new “blue” set have identical backs.



Red Set as shown in Issue 49.



Blue Set with different text on front.

Red set has different backs.

Blue set has identical backs.

“AND IT’S AS PLAIN AS YOUR NOSE.”

More intriguing was discussion at the Exchange Meeting as to whether there were further variants in which that rinky-dink Panther has different expressions. It appears that the black overprinting of the whiskers, eyebrows and pupils varies. Two examples of this are shown. In the first pair the edge ribbing clouds the issue, though in one the eyes look forward and in the other to the left.



The second pair is clearer and the eyebrows are also different thicknesses. Collectors of stamps would no doubt consider such variation of particular note, however, I am not sure how many packet collectors would consider it worthwhile keeping these differences. It would, however, make an interesting game to come up with phrases to describe the different expressions.



My thanks to Robin Williams for supplying the blue set and the variants at my request.

David

