

FLASHBACK!

[Bill Evans, MI, suggested a series bringing back articles run in old RMS bulletins as a way of showing today's collectors where the hobby was in those days of yesteryear. So let me know what you think, please.]

ODD SIZES

by James H. Moffett, Jr. *[RMS Bulletin, February 1953]*

We are all familiar with the names numismatics and philately as representing the hobbies of coins and stamps, but how about the name PHILOPYRY? That's right, it's the name of our hobby, namely that of collecting matchbook covers.

Then, you might ask, "Since one who collects coins is a numismatist and one who collects stamps is a philatelist, why isn't one who collects matchbook covers a philopyrist? I do not know why, but the more common name is MATCHONIAN.

In order to provide a simple and systematic method of collecting, arranging, and collecting matchbook covers, collectors classify them according to subject and size. I won't attempt to get involved in discussion of subject except to mention that the most common method is the 7 point classification.

When you hear the words "odd sizes" what comes to mind? Probably a number of things, but, in relation to matchovers, it includes a lot of different size covers other than the regular size. To my knowledge, no one has ever actually pin-pointed it down, but to me there are 8 general sizes included in the broad classification "odd sizes. 1. Midgets. 2. 10-Strike (which include 12-Up). 3. 30 Stick (which include "Aristocrats"). 4. Perfect '36'. 5. Royal Flash (Billboard). 6. Giant. 7. Super Giant (largest in the world). 8. Miscellaneous (which would include Jewelite, Contour, foreign, pull-up and Action).

It may be that some of you will disagree, in which case you've probably got a good point, but the line has to be drawn somewhere, and, no matter where you draw it, there will be some valid reasons for changing the line.

To start with, let's take the "midget" size. What is it? To begin with, it is the smallest matchcover made—that is the shortest in length. Actually, the 10-Strike is smallest in width, but more about the 10-Strike next month. The MIDGET is 3 7/16" long and 1 1/8" wide. It is believed that the first midgets ever published were by Lion and consisted of a set of 4 called the "Regatta" set. How many of you have these and how many have any dupes? It was issued around 1934 and consisted of 4 pennants and 3 flags in alternating order, and they are in different, bright colors: Red-Yellow-Green-Blue backgrounds—a very beautiful set. "Midget is a trade name exclusive to Lion, while Ohio used the name "Junior", but no one seems to know of any name for Diamond's. About 60% of all midget sizes are by Lion, 30% by Ohio and 10% for the Diamond company although all seem to have been a war casualty around 1942. Lion is the only one who survived and began production after the war.

"Yours truly" is no expert on matches, but I am interested in getting as much as information on midget covers (as well as all odd size covers) as is possible. In fact, I'd like to write down for our present and future RMS members as much information and history of midget sizes, and all other odd sizes, as is humanly possible. So, how about it? Drop me a line giving me as much dope as you can, and I promise if I get enough information I shall put it in book form and send it to all interested