

FLASHBACK!*[From January 1953 RMS Bulletin]*

We thought the newer members of RMS would like to know how group meetings of collectors got started, so we give you below an article by Robert F. Oliver (a member of the RMS) as taken from the magazine "MATCHONIA & HOBBY ADVERTISER", June 1939:

"The recent match cover collectors' convention in New York is now only a memory, but one which will live long in the minds of all who attended. The gathering of the clans began in Penn Station at eight in the morning on Saturday, May 6th. Even though most of them had not met before, each could recognize the other by an eager rarin-to-go gleam in his eye! The writer was soon joined by Paul Schaeffer of Egypt, Pa.; Frank Ryan of Somerton, Pa.; Robert Lockard of Philadelphia, Pa., (RMS's first President-Ed. note) and Harry Rathkamp of Newport, R.I. (RMS's namesake-Ed. Note). The five of us rushed right for the Brooklyn Navy Yard where we went aboard all the ships there and obtained covers from some of the shore stations nearby. Then time out for lunch on Sands Street, and some naval conjunctive covers.

Mid-afternoon found us bound for Jamaica, L.I., and the swappingest time it has ever been my pleasure to witness. All rolled up their sleeves and got right into the thick of it and everyone added plenty to his collection. After dinner, we were joined by Messrs. Cherinsky and Middlebrook, and the trading began anew and lasted far into the night. We finally broke it up at 2 A.M. in order to rest a bit before going to the World's Fair the next day. However, rumor has it that friend, Schaeffer, got up an hour ahead of the rest of us and carefully scanned the streets of Jamaica for covers and did not do so badly either!

Then, off to the Fair at ten and the hunting began in earnest. We had the good fortune to locate three different official Fair sets by Lion - one of four midgets, one of 4 regular size covers and the other consisting of 4 Giants. Several of the latter were autographed by all and mailed to other collectors. A number of Fair conjunctives were found, too, and will doubtless find their way to the albums of many of you readers. It is a fact that all of us saw more of the sidewalks and streets than we did of the exhibits and 'tis well known that "the Carpetbagger" did very nicely for himself and went away with the bag filled. The boys finally had to tear themselves away in order to catch their trains and boats, but decided to hold another meeting, perhaps late this summer. So, all interested in this, will kindly get in touch with the writer.

Several collectors wrote their regrets. Ted Shumon sent his by air mail from Chicago, and we also had word from Bill Eisenhart, Art Rogers, Harvey Flood, Tom Jackman, Max Rosenberg and Roscoe Yorgey. The pass word for the convention was "Youse Crahooks!"

As far as possible, your Editor will give what information he has about the collectors other than the parenthetical inserts above: Robert F. Oliver, Paul Schaeffer, Frank Ryan, Art Rogers and Roscoe Yorgey are still members of RMS, also Ted Shumon. Bob Lockard, Harry Rathkamp and Tom Jackman have passed on, also Bill Eisenhart and Middlebrook. Cherinsky used to be a member of RMS, but we have no present information about him or Max Rosenberg. Harvey Flood sold his collection and now resides in Moline, Illinois. - Ed.