

FLASHBACK!**Do You Like Service** by Vance Marks
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The service covers as we know them are usually divided into two separate collections by those who save them. One is a regular size, and the few 30 Stick size covers and the other Royal Flash size. The regular size collection will number upwards of 3,000 different, and a good Royal Flash collection will be more than 1,500 different. Of the two classes, the RF is probably the most sought after. At one time the collecting of these ranked on a par with ships, with a listing being available and want lists being circulated all over the country. One of the most beautiful RF service, and considered by many collectors to be one of the most beautiful covers ever made, is the one made for the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station in San Diego, California. There are at least two different of these, each in multi-color, with picture on back of the "Rescue of Andromeda." Saddle bears the inscription "Immortal Man Has Ever Flown." The front has station name and CG insignia. Here is the difference, the wings being designed differently. There may be more than two of these if you go for inside colors of paper.

Since the close of World War II, There has been a new design of RF cover that will merit a separate class within the service group. These are the covers made for the Veterans Administration Hospitals all over the country. These covers came out slowly at first, but now it seems that every hospital in the country is having them made, and many are re-ordering and getting new variations. All this makes for more fun for the collectors; and this group is getting a lot of play. All are blue on gold, and more or less designed the same. A good collection of VFH will number about 150 different at present. A few of the latest are: Fort Bayard, N.M., Portland, Ore., Palo Alto, Calif., Fresno, Calif., Livermore, Calif., Reno, Nevada and Phoenix, Arizona.

A glance at anyone's RF collection will reveal that the most covers came from the states of Texas and California, with all the others being represented except Vermont. So far as I know, Vermont has no service covers in RF. In fact, I've seen only one service cover from Vermont. The one from Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont, is still being sought by many collectors to complete all the states in their collection.

Since about 1947, there have been a few covers from service bases on foreign soil that are very desirable for the collectors. The greatest number of them are from Japan with some from Germany and England. In my own collection, I have 17 different from Japan with the outstanding one being the Feamcom Officers Club, Tachikawa. Two of the most beautiful are: Officers Club - 6160th Air Base Wing, Itazuke, Japan, and GHQ Enlisted Mens Club, Tokyo, Japan.

Here are some of the latest service: Regular size - NCO Mess Fort Eustis, Va., a set of 12 American Scenics of NCO Mess, Otis A.F.B., Falmouth, Mass., a set of five Girlies of CPO Mess, Mare Island, Calif., NCO Mess, 1701st Air Transport Wing, Great Falls, Mont., U.S. Naval Reserve, Seattle, Wash., Staff NCO Club, USMC Air Station, El Toro, Calif., Commissioned Officers Mess, Pearl Harbor, T.H., El Morro Officers Mess, Ft. Brooke, Puerto Rico., Sr. NCO Mess, Tachikawa, Japan, 30 Stick Size: Ladd Air Force Base Officers Club, Fairbanks, Alaska and Marine Corps Exchange, Barstow, California.

Watch the new yellow-red Marine Corps stock design covers as they are starting to imprint the inside for the various stations. We have seen one for the El Toro, Marine Station. I need more information about new service covers in order to report them to the members through these articles.