

FLASHBACK!

A Collection of 2½ Million Covers!

[February 1944 RMS Letter 25 - by Ed Perkins]

Does anyone have it?- we have been asked. Personally most of us believe that Hobby Lobby slipped in an extra cipher by mistake - but we'd hate to dispute him. It would take 6 weeks - day and night to count 2½ million and at the end he might be right. You may accept the following computations for what they are worth:

Mounted in the standard photo-threaded album, allowing for a full stock of 32 covers per page this collection requires 78,123 pages, which if entered into one book would extend to an altitude of 350 feet, in other words from the base of the U. S. Capitol to the tip of the statue of Tecumseh above the dome. In distance the thread would traverse 130 miles of paper and it would take a seamstress 2½ years to complete the sewing, that is provided she made up one page every five minutes and gave a full eight hour day. Unless standpipes or an outgyro were available the ascent from Group to Group might be difficult as well as hazardous in which event the cigar box might answer the housing problem better. Even then one would need quite a few boxes (8,333), enough lumber to start the nucleus of a match factory. Possibly Hobby Lobby has taken into account the duplicates as well as the originals; even so the storage base without either box or album would be 17 feet in cubic dimensions - try finding that much some time!

If you had 2½ million covers you would need a little time to shell the matches, check and mount your cover and keep your traders in a good humor. That should take you no more than 50 years. Of course you would need a retinue of assistants and it would be best that you owned a colonial mansion, otherwise you would be collecting the family thru the kitchen and out into the street. Possibly your wife wouldn't object to that - wives have been found to be very liberal minded. And if you had such a collection you still wouldn't have them all- no one has a perfect collection! We'd bet a dime to a penny that you'd be picking at the other fellow's album - admiring certain covers that you would like to have. Oh yes- before we forget it - one more question for Hobby Lobby; Does his man collect full books? If so let us suggest that the U. S. Government turn over the Pentagon Building to him!

Unusual Methods Of Obtaining Covers

[March 1943 RMS Letter 14 - by Ed Perkins]

Some years back a number of chain letters were going the rounds. Here was the scheme: When you received the letter ten covers were to be sent to the name at the top of the list. Then you took the man's name from the top of the list and inserted yours at the bottom. The column contained ten names and addresses and you were likewise instructed to mail identical letters to three fellow-collectors not on the list. Here's the dope: If the chain remained unbroken from the first to the last of the ten the man at the top would receive 1,671,470 covers - quite a fantastic number! But it never worked that way. The chain was invariably broken somewhere in its course - most likely at the beginning. At least we've never heard of any collectors getting many covers thru this source. The chain letters faded out some time later. Letters of this nature went the rounds during bond drives, etc., but Postal authorities keep reminding that they are against the law.