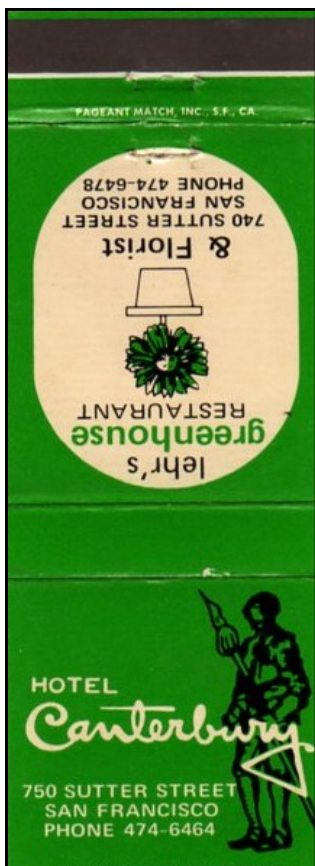


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# San Francisco

by  
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*First, a little history...*The City and County of San Francisco is the fourth most populous city in California and the 14th most populous city in the United States, with a 2007 estimated population of



764,976.[6] Among the most densely populated cities in the country,[8] San Francisco is part of the San Francisco Bay Area metropolitan area, which is home to more than 7.2 million people.[9] The city is located at the tip of the San Francisco Peninsula, with the Pacific Ocean to the west, San Francisco Bay to the east, and the Golden Gate to the north.

In 1776, the Spanish settled the tip of the peninsula, establishing a fort at the Golden Gate and a mission named for Francis of Assisi. The California Gold Rush in 1848 propelled the city into a period of rapid growth, transforming into the largest city on the West Coast at the time. After being devastated by the 1906 earthquake and fire, San Francisco was quickly rebuilt, hosting the Panama-Pacific International Exposition nine years later. During World War II, San Francisco was the send-off point for many soldiers to the Pacific Theater. After the war, the confluence of returning servicemen, massive immigration, liberalizing attitudes, and other factors gave rise to the Summer of Love and the gay rights movement, cementing San Francisco as a liberal bastion in the United States.

San Francisco is a popular international tourist destination famous for its landmarks, including the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz Island, the cable cars, Coit Tower, and Chinatown, its steep rolling hills, and its eclectic mix of Victorian and modern architecture. The city is also known for its diverse, cosmopolitan population, including large and long-established Asian American and LGBT communities. [[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San\\_Francisco,\\_California](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco,_California)]

*Now, a little editorializing...* The key phrase in the above history of the city is 'liberal bastion'. This most beautiful city by the bay started going downhill in the late 1960s with the hippie movement. Since then, the extreme liberal policies of the City Fathers has caused San Francisco to become not only the laughing stock of the world, as cities go, but I wouldn't vacation there, and I wouldn't take my kids there.

I'm sure the mayor and the city council would disagree, but they and their predecessors have ruined the city, apparently competing for the title of 'Modern Sodom and Gomorrah'. It is vehemently anti-military and has declared itself a 'sanctuary city', refusing to enforce federal immigration laws. It protects illegal aliens, and it protects illegal aliens who are criminals (over and above breaking into the country). It must certainly have the highest ratio of radical gays, drug addicts, and homeless people in the United States. The entire Tenderloin district of the city has been given over to the dregs of society and has become a psychedelic nightmare, with hundreds of misfits and malcontents aimlessly loitering in the streets daily. The traffic is horrendous and the bridge tolls exorbitant (and they just went up again as I'm sitting here typing this). It's also quite a filthy city. Indeed, I recently heard an interview with a movie director who was explaining that because he was filming a movie supposedly in San Francisco but actually shooting on location elsewhere, the first thing he did was dump garbage all over the streets to make the film 'look' as if it was really in San Francisco! (You can see what I'm not a member of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce) It's still a beautiful city...in that the city council hasn't managed to get rid of the ocean yet...but...

Still, you can collect San Francisco covers without every having to go there (ain't this hobby wonderful!). And, those covers would make quite a collection—great hotels, great restaurants, famous attractions—and the covers certainly go back to the pre- World War I era. There are a number of collectors who collect covers from certain cities—New York; Washington, DC; New Orleans, etc. San Francisco would be right in with that group.

Greg Lund, MD, had 13,809 San Francisco area covers as of November 2005.