

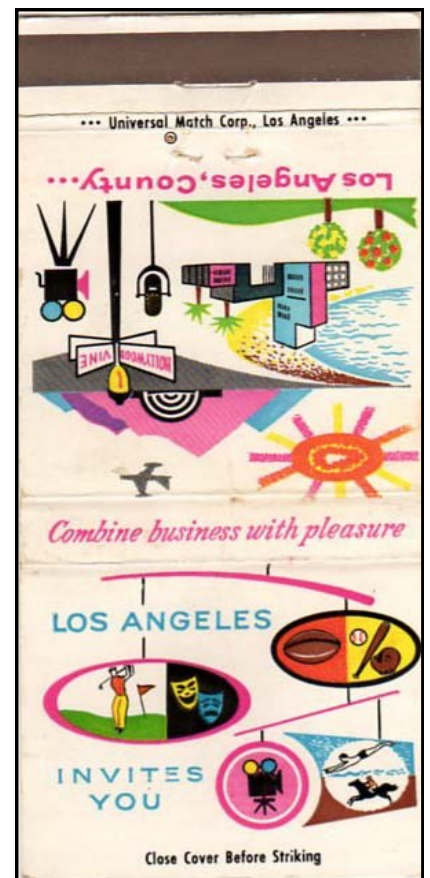
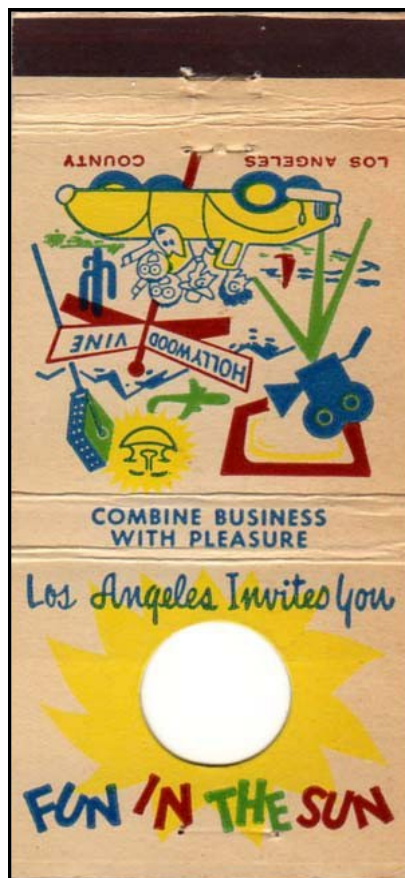
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City of the Angels

by
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“City of Angels”...Yep, that’s Los Angeles, although one has to wonder just how many of the ‘angels’ are left these days [*Oh, God! He did a hatchet job on San Francisco last time, and now he’s going to ax Los Angeles, as well!*]. Sprawling over 4,000 sq. miles and being part of the largest county in the nation, Los Angeles is what we all picture when we think of freeway-encrusted metropolises.

I grew up in Los Angeles—fed the pigeons in MacArthur Park, used to play in Griffith Park, spent a



couple of years at Belmont High School, walked down the streets every day with red and watery eyes because of the abysmal smog—but the last 40 years in a small Northern California town has now ruined me for anything else. Certainly, I'll never live in a big city again.

Anyhow, those are my 'credentials', as far as Los Angeles is concerned, but we're more concerned here with Los Angeles covers than with Los Angeles as a living environment. And, as you would expect, Los Angeles being one of the largest cities in the world, covers abound! Just think of all those places, organizations, and various businesses issuing continually issuing covers for some 80 years. Whatever other categories you're interested in, you'll find them among covers from Los Angeles.

Famous places? How about Olvera Street, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, La Brea Tar Pits, Autry Museum of Western Heritage, Los Angeles Holocaust Monument, Griffith Observatory, the Getty House, and the Los Angeles Zoo?

Chain Hotels? They're all there—Intercontinental, Hilton, Sheraton, Marriott's, Ramada, plus hundreds and hundreds of smaller hotels, motels, inns, lodges, etc., as well as a number of one-of-a-kind famous hotels.

Restaurants? How about The Pantry, among the many famous restaurants? Ethnic? Chinese, Italian, Russian, Mongolian, Greek, Middle Eastern, Vietnamese, Korean, French, German—you name it.

Sports? Wrigley Field, Staples Center, Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum [*is that the way they spell it? It should be 'colosseum'*], Dodger Stadium, Galen Center, Grand Olympic Auditorium.

Of course, even if you had all of the covers issued from all of the above locations, it would only be a small fraction of the total number of covers a collector could garner from Los Angeles—thousands upon thousands of them. And, don't forget, Los Angeles was the headquarters for the Crown Match Co., Hellman Match Co., and King Midas Match Co.! Granted, all of those companies were around for less than ten years, but two, at least, managed to make quite a reputation for themselves within the later hobby...and a lot of those beautiful old Crowns come from Los Angeles-based outlets.

And, when most people think of 'Los Angeles', they're thinking of the Los Angeles *area*, not just the city itself. And that opens an even broader venue of opportunities for the Los Angeles collector. Now, we can include at least the adjacent suburbs. Hollywood, for example!—Universal Studios, Hollywood & Vine, Hollywood Bowl, Walk of Fame, Grauman's Chinese Theatre [*Sorry, it'll never be 'Mann's' to me*]; Anaheim—Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm; Burbank—NBC Television Studios; and on it goes..

Now, balancing out that great buildup, and not to mislead you, I have to admit that I've never actually heard of any collector specifically collecting "Los Angeles". But, why not? There are collectors who collect New York City, San Francisco, New Orleans, and Washington, DC. Los Angeles certainly isn't lacking in the cover offerings.

Come to think of it, collecting "Cities" would be an incredible collection! More or less, you'd basically be a General collector and sort your covers into sub-collections based on the city location. Wow! What an undertaking *that* would be! Imagine sharing at your local club meeting..."Oh, yes! I have 25,000 NYC, 22,000 Los Angeles, 15,000 Chicago..." *Hmmmmmm...I might be talking myself into something here!*

Well, a Los Angeles collection is something to think about, in any event, especially if you're already prone to such because of your Towns or County Seat collections.