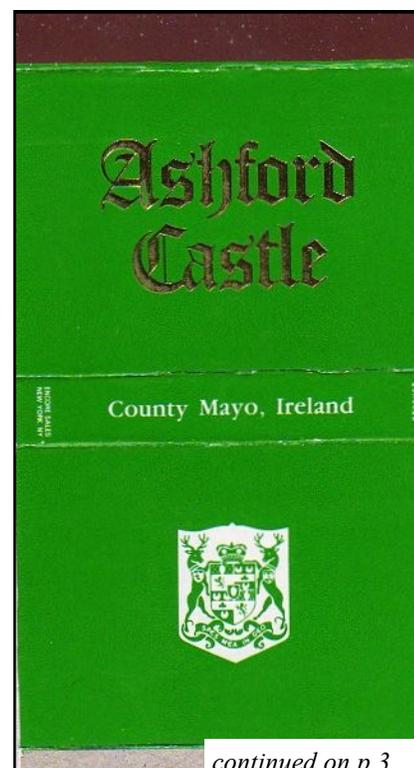
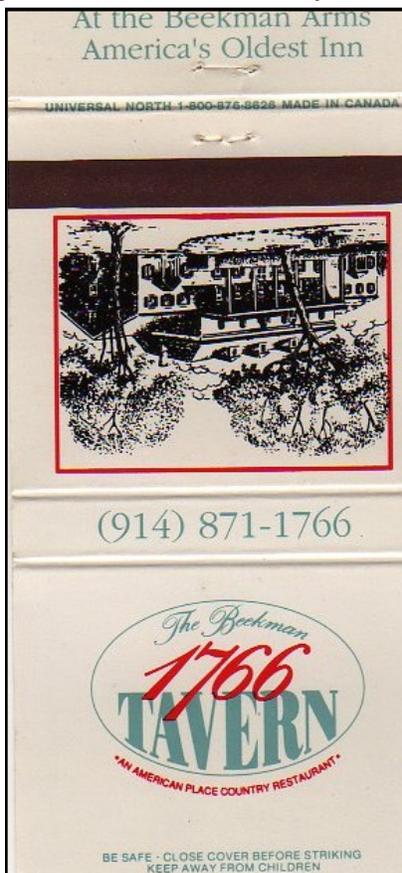
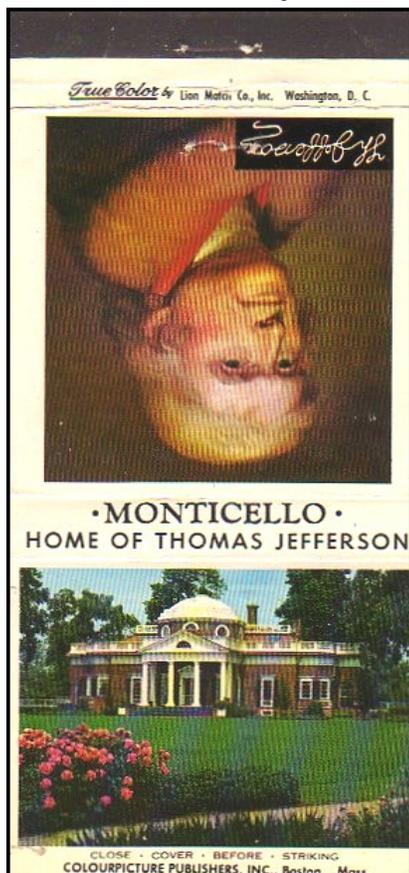


Famous Places

by
Mike Prero

A significant part of this hobby is based on nostalgia, and most of us, it seems to me, would have such about Famous Places—not just the famous places that we've actually visited, but many of those we haven't, as well.

We may remember Disneyland because our parents took us there when we were



continued on p.3

children; we may remember that trip to the Empire State Building when we were in college... But, because most of these famous places are part of the culture that we have grown up in and with, because they're familiar to us even though we *haven't* been there, we feel something when those names come up...as in on covers! Plus, these are covers that visitors 'ohhh' and 'ahhhh' over when perusing your collection. "Oh, I've been there!" "Wow, my parents took me there when I was seven years old! Haven't thought of it in years. I should take my kids there on our next vacation."

What's a 'Famous Place'? That's really for the individual collector to define to his or her satisfaction. For me, it's not only the places that *everybody knows*, but normally any place of public importance, even though it might be privately owned. Thus, in my own collection, I may have a cover from the Cincinnati Civic Center. I've never been there; most people wouldn't even have heard of it; but it fits my criteria. So, you might well ask, "If most people have never heard of it, how is it a famous place?" It fits for me because it's famous *within its region*, and it's of public importance. Still, once you get into this category, you quickly find that there are a lot of Famous Places that you really *haven't* heard of, let alone been to.

You can see, though, that one could carry that too far, perhaps. The Nimbus Fish Hatchery here in the Sacramento area has a long history and is a fairly popular site for visitations, especially when the salmon are running...but I wouldn't put a cover from there in this collection. As with many category criteria, you reach a point where the guidelines become blurred, and you simply have to make a call based on your gut feelings.

I have over 2,200 Famous Places covers currently, so organization is a must. I have everything subdivided into smaller categories, such as: Amusement Parks, Bridges, Dams, Monuments, Famous Buildings and Businesses, Natural Formations (caverns, etc.), Historical sites, Store sets, Ski Areas,



Zoos and Aquariums, Race Tracks, Museums, and so forth.

A sampling of the places I have under Famous Buildings and Businesses includes the following:

21	Charleston Civic	Corn Palace	Gump's
Aragon Ballroom	Center	Cow Palace	Hearst Castle
Brown Derby	CN Tower	Delmonico	Hollywood & Vine
Biltmore	Ciro's	El Morocco	Hollywood Bowl
Blum's	Cliff House	Empire State Bldg.	Hollywood Palladium
Bloomington's	Cocoanut Grove	Finpccchio's	Hungry I
Cal Expo	Copacabana	Gimbels	Madison Square
Chez Paree	Condor	Ground Cow	Garden

Within each subcategory, the plastic pages demand that everything be further subdivided by size: 20's, 30s, 40s, Jewel, boxes (I still haven't found a good solution for the 10s!). And, everything is alphabetized within its subcategory.

As the box on the front page demonstrates, I also include Famous *Foreign* Places in my collection, although I don't have that many—a few castles from Ireland and England, Canterbury Cathedral, and some others. I know there are some large foreign sets that feature European and other foreign famous places.

This has always been a very satisfying category for me, personally. I'm continually learning about other areas of the country that I've never been to—fueling even more my desire to take a huge driving tour of the United States once I've retired. Of course, with the present economy I may not *ever* retire, and with rising gas prices I may have to thumb my way across the country!

