

FLASHBACK!

Fund Raising Organizations *[July 1957 RMS Bulletin - by Walt Mensch]*

A category for collectors that is well worth looking into is one pertaining to covers from Fund Raising Organizations. Whether or not one would classify these as Group One is a moot question. They are certainly not given away, for, by the very nature of their plea, they are made for selling, or at least a donation in return. Many organizations have used the system of selling matches to make money for their charity. The Red Feather or Community Chest both in Canada and the United States have had covers. One of these is a dated cover, made for a testimonial dinner for the Women's Division of the Baltimore Community Chest, April 2, 1952 at the Emerson Hotel. At least two styles of the Red Feather cover were used in cigarette vending machines. The earliest dated cover in this particular fund raiser this writer has seen is one issued for the 1938 campaign in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area.

The Red Cross has had many issues over the years, both from Canada and the U.S.A. We have even seen Red Cross labels from Czechoslovakia and Switzerland. Labels in this case referring to the penny match box type. The American Cancer Society, about 1950, had issues from such divergent places as Atlanta, Georgia and Los Angeles, with stops between! We have seen about a dozen different of these.

Probably the most wide-spread and popular of this type of cover was issued for the various branches of the Infantile Paralysis Foundation, founded in honor of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Many of the first issues were made so that a coin could be attached to the cover and mailed directly to the President. If you have thirty or forty of these, you have a pretty good representation of them.

Various Blind Organizations and Orphanages have used this method of raising funds. In England, Dr. Barnado's Homes is a prolific user of this type of advertising. There must be at least one hundred different of them in existence. The Maryland Workshop for the Blind has had several very nice looking issues over the years, mostly in red and gold. Canada's National Institute for the Blind has had several issues in the past. The Royal Albert Orphanage in Bagshot, England is a firm believer in this system for raising funds.

During the World War II, there was a rash of various colorful covers issued for Bundles for Britain, Bundles for Bluejackets, the British War Relief Society (the latter having quite a series of covers all bearing the British Crest on the front, and the Local on the back), United China Relief, Coordinating Council of French Relief Societies, Greek War Relief Assn., Russian War Relief, American Friends of Norway, Free French Relief Committee, Maple Leaf Fund, The Queen Wilhelmina Fund for Dutch War Relief, La Paquet Au Front (French), and many others. Many collectors place these with Patriotics.

The latest group, all for Cerebral Palsy Foundations, have been coming from all parts of the country, the writer having seen better than thirty so far. We will attempt to list these in a future bulletin.