

FLASHBACK!

First Booklets

[July 1957 RMS Bulletin - Frank Ryan]

The first booklet match dates in the late 1890's, and it seems strange to me that we have so little data about covers between 1900 and 1932. Why don't we have more Patriotic Covers from the First World War? Personally, I have seen only five. Two are well known, the Knight's of Columbus one issued to the 'doughboys' by this grand organization, in fact, the Knight's of Columbus issued two covers during the war. Another prominent cover during this period was one issued to our fighting boys by the 28th Division Command, this being the Pennsylvania Keystone Division. It shows the State insignia on both front and back of cover. Another is BUT FIFTH LIBERTY BONDS by a Philadelphia concern, and each match had BUY BONDS on it. Another cover was issued by the Cramp Shipyard in Philadelphia and it solicited labor to build ships.

In my years of collecting dated covers, I have been unable to find any collector who has a dated cover between the years 1900 and 1930. It would be true that many concerns would not be old enough to celebrate birthdays of 25 years, but surely someone, somewhere, would have issued a cover with a date on it. If anyone reading this article has a cover or covers from this period, please trace it off and send it to the writer of this article so the information may be collated with old covers.

Covers began to become plentiful during the early 1930s, and during this period, sets began to appear. The most famous of these being the Chicago World's Fair and sold at the Fair Grounds in 1933. These were by Diamond Match Co., and the color was a gold background. Ten covers were in this set, and at a later date, we will list the covers. The Official Cover of the Fair was by Ohio Match Co., and we shall list data on these at a later date. The famous 1934 set if these covers came in silver and consisted of, as Mr. Al Polick of New York showed at the 1955 Keystone Spring Frolic, twelve different. More on this later.

Many Fair conjunctives were issued, but, to date, no one has listed them. We shall try to do so with the help of you who are reading this column and want to help the hobby. If you will be willing to head up a committee to ferret out these covers and list them, we shall be ever grateful to you. I am willing to act as a clearing-house for this information and to prepare the listing, but of course, we must have the exact wording of the covers outside and inside. Give the exact reading of the manumk, the color of the cover, any views, color of the inside paper, and any other pertinent data that would be helpful to the collectors. How about you Fair collectors giving a hand here!

Now, believe it or not, we shall get down to the listing of some typical covers. Remember, this listing is not complete by a long-shot, nor does it mean that I am listing all the covers in my collection. I shall give enough of them to show what we dated cover collectors are doing and with the hope it will stir up the enthusiasm of others to list their specialties. Let the Editor hear from you, I am sure he will appreciate any help you want to give.

1932 - WASHINGTON BI-CENTENIAL 1732-1932, Washington D.C. This is a DQ with photo of Washington on front, and Mt. Vernon on the back.

1932 - Among other colleges, University of California had a gold and white on blue cover with 1932 Football Schedule, and a season ticket went for \$7.00! Other colleges of this year were Illinois U., Kansas State College, and Northwestern.

.....[Ed. Note: I have not changed the original spelling here]