
Last Call For The Uniglo!

by

Mike Prero

[reprinted from *Sierra-Diablo Bulletin*, December 1987]

There is no history here...no nostalgia...no DQ's or Crowns or Safety Firsts. There's nothing in this category...but beauty! As a new collector, I think I expressed my first "Oh!" and "Ah!" over a Uniglo, and rightly so.

Uniglo is a trademark of Universal Match Corp. It denoted a cover with a soft, oily, deep finish. Upon their introduction in 1972, it was said that these covers had certain particles embedded within their finish to actually make them glow, but the reality is that there is no glow in Uniglo!

It's of little consequence, though, since the Uniglo quickly proved to be popular with businessman and collector alike. They come in 10,20, 30, and 40-strike size. There are plenty in circulation, and this is a good category for beginners to get started in, and for any collector to enjoy throughout his or her collecting career. Dorothy puts out a listing that runs into the thousands. I've got over 3,700, myself, and there are many larger collections around.

Uniglos are included whenever a person says he collects 'Fancies', and many of the Uniglo covers are even fancier because they are also Cameo, Foilite, etc. These are good, high-quality covers that will last and stand a lot of handling (not that that's a good idea).

Not long ago, however, perhaps as a money-saving move, Universal quietly began producing the "Uniglo II" covers. These new Uniglo covers are a definite step down. They are thinner and not as "soft" and "deep". You have to look harder to notice that they *are*, in fact, Uniglos at all.



As it turned out, this economic move wasn't necessary. Universal stopped making *all* of its Fancy covers this year, so the Uniglo isn't in production anymore, in any form.

But, for the collector, that just makes them more collectible!

[Well, it's been 23 years since I wrote that. Since then, the Uniglo listing is up to 10,830 as of May, 2009, and my own collection has soared to 7,220. It still remains as one of my favorite categories—just because they're so darned attractive!]

I have plenty of dupes in case anyone would like to trade!]

