

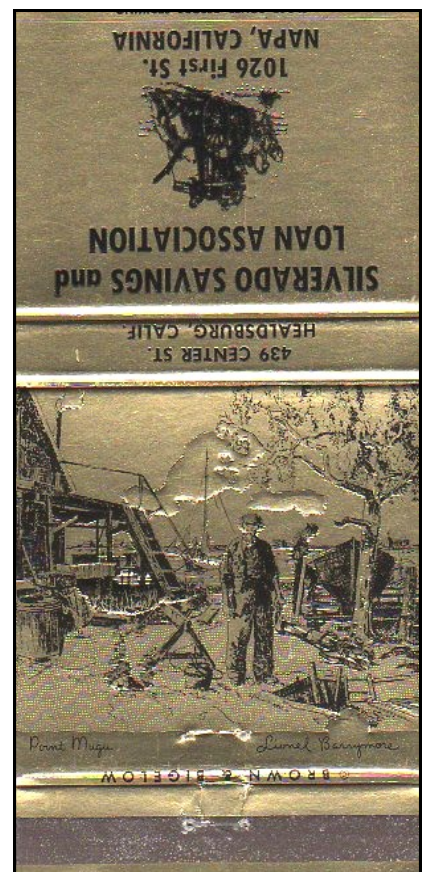
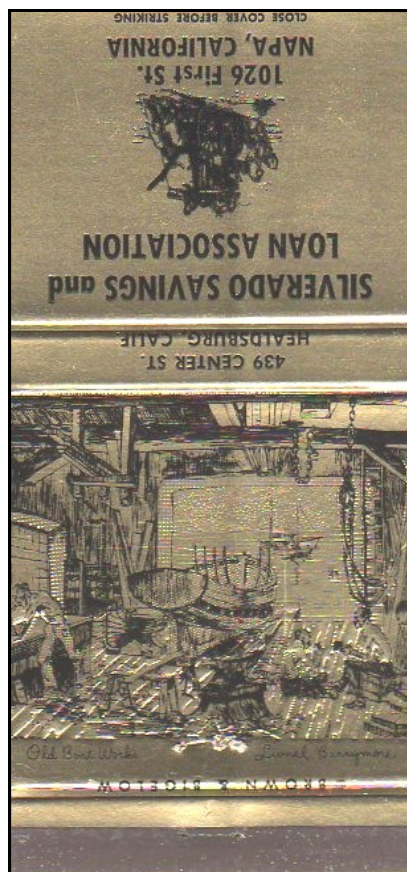
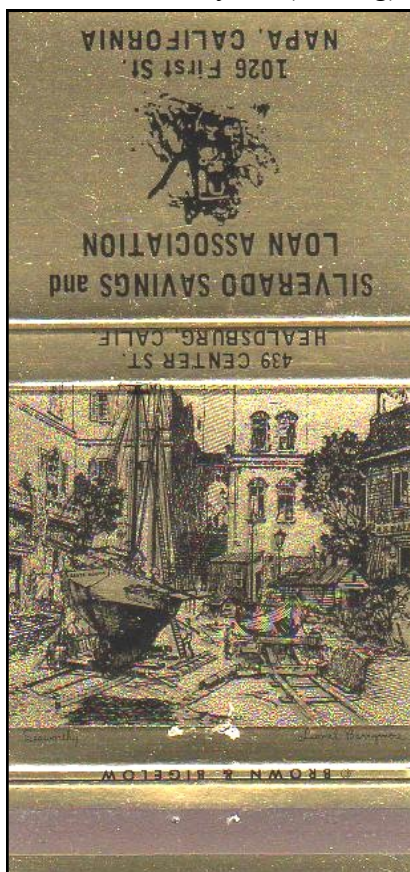
## The Barrymore

We 'more mature' collectors will immediately recognize Lionel Barrymore as the great actor of the 1930s and 1940s, especially, although his stage career started in the mid-1890s, and his first film was around 1911. He won an Academy Award for Best Actor for his performance in *A Free Soul* (1931). He is well known for the role of the villainous Henry Potter in Frank Capra's 1946 film *It's a Wonderful Life*. As a kid, I remember him from his role as Dr. Gillespie in all the *Dr Kildare* movies.

But, he was also quite an accomplished artist, and that's how he's best known in our hobby...because of his etchings. You don't have to have been in the hobby for very long before you start coming across all these metallic sets featuring his etchings. If you look closely, you'll see that each is titled and each is signed 'Lionel Barrymore'. How and why *his* art work became stock designs on matchcovers is probably an interesting story, but it's one that I unfortunately haven't been able to track down. I did find the following, however.

Lionel Barrymore studied painting in Paris between 1903 and 1907. He attended Art Students League of New York. Even after settling on acting as a career path, he frequently made etchings, composed music and painted at his home in California. He published a novel, "Mr. Cantomwine", at some point during his life, although I don't know the date. According to Valenda's Obsessive Collective: "There are a lot of Barrymore prints around. It may look like a woodcut but if upon close inspection, (use a jewelers loop) you see tiny dots, it is a lithograph of a wood cut... Barrymore lived on Long Island during the summers in 1917 or thereabouts. He also donated his talents for local fundraising events.

Some of his artwork includes:  
"Coldwater Canyon" (etching)





# Etchings

- "Courtyard, Venice" (2)
- "Dry Dock" (painting)
- "Fishing Banks" (etching)
- "Harbor Shelter" (etching)
- "Home Port" (2) (described as both etching and painting by different owners)
- "Little Boatyard Venice" (print)
- "The Nantucket"(4) (etching)
- "Old Boat Works"(4) (described as both etching and painting by different owners)
- "Old Farm" (reprint made by Stand. Pkg. Corp.)
- "The Old Red Bank" (2) (etching)
- "Old Red Barn" (2)
- "Point Mugu" (5),
- "Point MaGoo, CA" (woodcut print)
- "Point Mugu" (oil)
- "Point Pleasant"
- "Purdy's Basin" (7) (etching)
- "Quiet Waters" (1) (etching)
- "Rocky Point"(3) (etching)
- "San Pedro" (8) (etching)
- "Seaworthy" (2)
- A set of four prints (7)
- "Shoreside Farm" (2) (etching)
- "Spencer Tracy" (oil)

"Water Front"

[[http://www.reelclassics.com/Actors/Lionel\\_Barrymore/lionel-art.htm](http://www.reelclassics.com/Actors/Lionel_Barrymore/lionel-art.htm)]

[Ed note: I hope the pics here haven't turned out as black blobs!]

