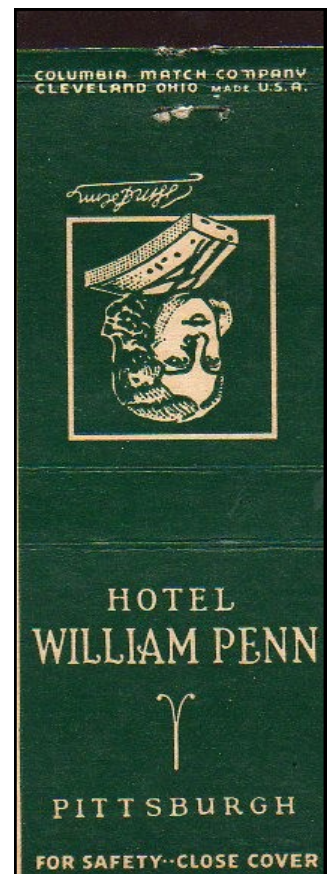
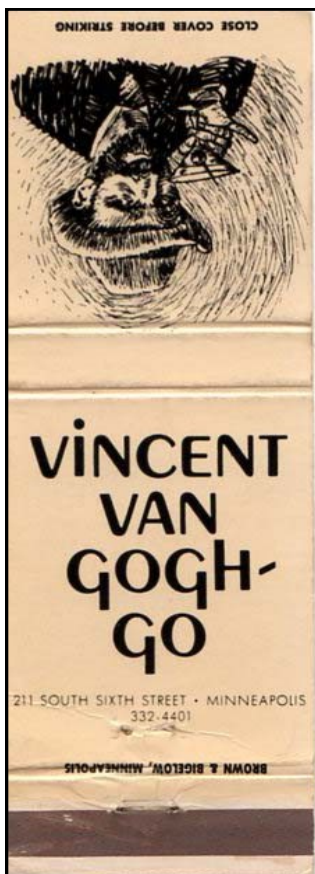


Historical Characters

by
Mike Prero

Last time, we took a look at Literary Characters, the great names in World Literature, as the basis for a really interesting collection. This time, we delve into the category of Historical Characters—the flip side of the previous category. Here, the names are real, not imaginary. In a sense, a collection centered on Historical Characters is a *biographical* collection.



Conquerors and losers, heroes and culprits, kings and queens, painters, poets, and politicians—they're all right there, on the pages of your albums. And, as a lover of history [*and this is the part I really enjoy*], there's a fascinating story behind each and every one.

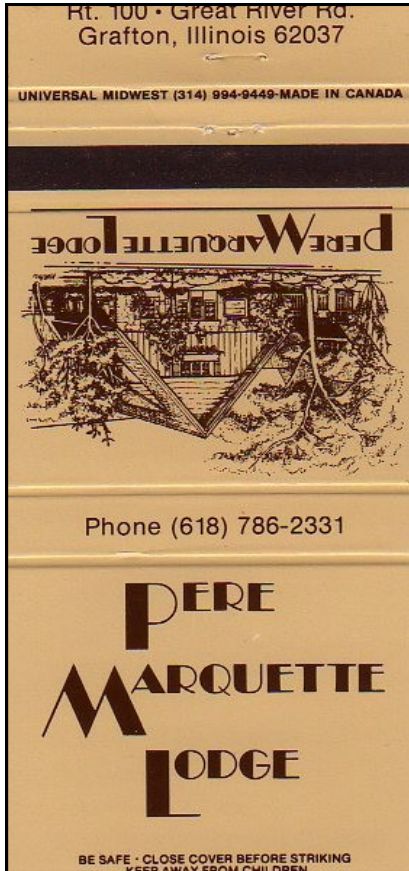
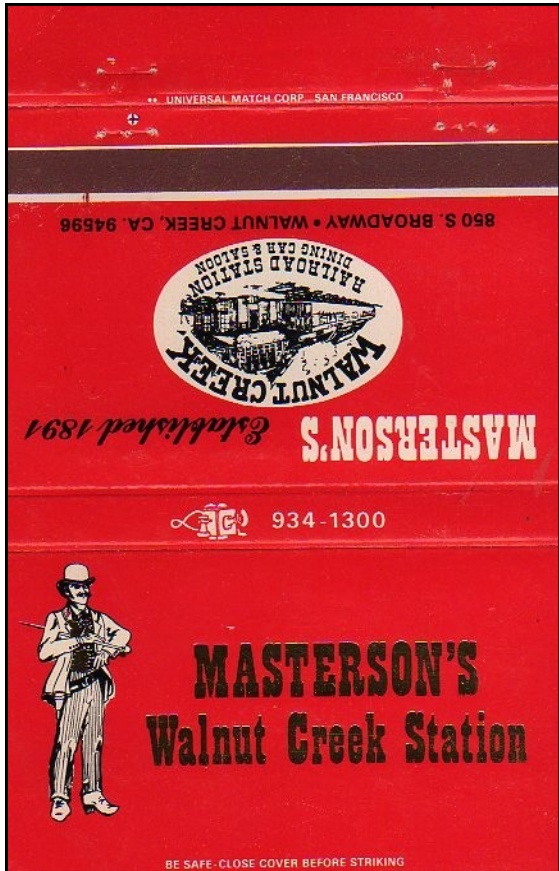
As with Literary Characters, you could also expand your Historical Characters collection to include *things* here, as well as actual people. You might want to use covers that feature the USS Missouri, Appomattox Courthouse, the Liberty Bell, and so forth.

Hmmmm, so much to do and so little time! How are you going to arrange them? You could organize them in subcategories (Kings, Generals, Politicians, and so forth); you could use time periods and put them in chronological order (i.e., Caesar comes before Augustus); or, you might even get really creative and sort them by culture. Personally, I just use the simplest way and have them alphabetically.

The ticklish question one eventually encounters with this category, though, is just where Historical Characters ends and VIPs begins. The border between the two remains somewhat nebulous for me. I toyed with defining Historical Characters as dead and VIPs as still alive, but that entails continually moving VIPs who pass away into the Historical Characters collection...not a viable solution.

So, just for my own satisfaction, I more or less make the cutoff at 1945. Why? Because that's when I was born, so anyone alive from 1945 on would be a contemporary...and thus a VIP. That kind of logic may not work for you, of course, so you can certainly come up with something that is more satisfying to you.

What kind of covers are you going to end up with here? Well, most, of course are going to refer to U.S. history—presidents, politicians, etc. But, there will certainly be others, especially from the time periods



preceding the inception of the United States—Genghis Khan, Caesar, Cleopatra, and so on. More recently, we have various Popes, Kings and Queens, Marshal Foch (France, WW I), Baron von Rict Hofen (the Red Baron), and so on.

Which are the most numerous personalities (judging from my own collection)? Lincoln, Washington, and Franklin lead the list, I believe. Not surprising.

I currently have 1,500 in my collection, but there are more to find!

have some collection, sooooo many

