

Top Hats

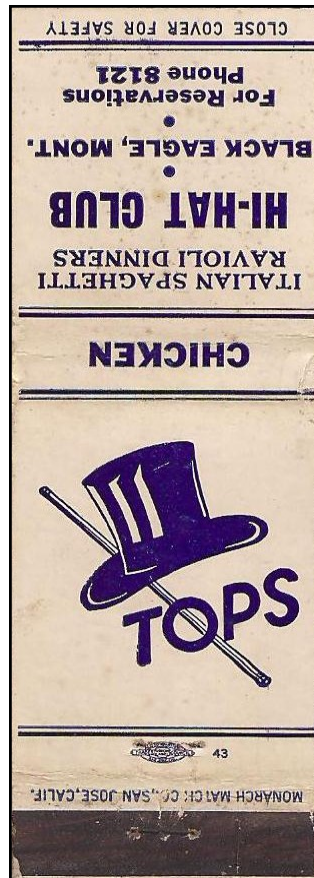
They may have looked ridiculous in hindsight, but you have to admit...they had style! A lot of beavers made the ultimate sacrifice for those top hats! Eventually, though, beaver fur was replaced by silk.

They were all the rage in the mid-1800s. Kings, nobles, and men of all classes aspired to them. We also associate the top hat with President Lincoln, although he wore an extreme version, the 'stovepipe' top hat.

Tops hats have become iconic, symbolizing high society, good times, luxury...

And, lest you think they disappeared from the U.S. long ago, they were worn at least as late as President John F. Kennedy's inauguration in 1963. It's also still seen as part of the traditional dress of Uncle Sam.

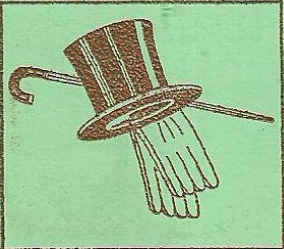
Mike Schwimmer, MA, had 1,305 in his collection as of November 2010.



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