

Sorting Out The Tums Sets

They're attractive covers—colorful, animals, birds, etc., but if you happen to come across all of them it can be rather a daunting task to try and sort what goes where. There are multiple sets and variations. Indeed, while researching the topic, I found that some collectors were under the impression that these were 9-cover sets, 12-cover sets, etc., when, in fact, what we're dealing with here are 6-cover sets. The late Jo Wilding had the original packaging of six.

All were issued by Universal in the early to mid-1950s, all are 20-strikes, and, of course, all are front-strikes. All have the same inside text, except as noted. As can be seen below, all three different types (Lures, Birds, and Wild Animals) have different front panel Tums designs, so all of these covers are not just the same design with a different picture on the back. Here's the guide:

TUMS FISHING LURES: SET I (1950)

1. Professor
2. Scarlet Ibis
3. Silver Doctor
4. Pale Evening Dun
5. Parmacheene Beau
6. Grey Hackle Orange Body

Variations:

- no letter,
- small A,
- large A,
- small B,
- large B,
- large C [=6 sets]

TUMS FISHING LURES: SET II (?)

1. Logan
2. Montreal
3. Black Gnat
4. Col. Fuller
5. Royal Coachman
6. Parmacheene Belle

Variations

- A** inside with medium letter
B
- large **B**
- A** inside with no letter
- B** inside with no letter
- large C

TUMS BIRDS: SET I (1953)

1. Pintail
2. Redneck
3. Mallard Drake
4. Canada Goose
5. Mourning Dove
6. Ringneck Pheasant

Variations

- A** inside with small A
- large **A**, but diff. font ('A')
- than above
- B** inside with large A
- no letter
- large C

Well, we originally calculated 15 different sets. Now, with Andre's and Carmine's input, we're up to at least 27 different sets, or 6 sets with 21 variations, and that's assuming that some of Carmine's variations that I've left out corresponded to the correct **A** or **B** insides noted by Andre. If they, in fact, don't, then we have even more variations. Within the first four sets (Lures and Birds), there are varying subsets (6 covers each), based on the inside text [*see below*]. The Wild Animals sets are labeled either Series #1 or Series #2.

TUMS BIRDS: SET II (?)

1. Woodcock
2. Wood Duck
3. Wild Turkey
4. Canvasback
5. Prairie Chicken
6. Bob White Quail

TUMS WILD ANIMALS: SET I (1956)

1. Bengal Tiger
2. African Lion
3. Black Panther
4. African Gorilla
4. Canadian Moose
5. African Elephant

TUMS WILD ANIMALS: SET II (1956)

1. Brown Bear
2. German Boar
3. African Zebra
4. African Leopard
5. American Buffalo
6. African Rhinoceros

Variations:

- small B
- B inside with large C
- large C



Variations:

- B inside



Variations:

- B inside

