

Tip 'n Twinkle Sets

[Reprinted from Nov/Dec 1999 RMS Bulletin, with follow-up from Mar/Apr 2000]

These covers always give novice collectors cause for hesitation. "Are they real?" No, they're not. They're satirical spoofs of various topics, such as the "Infernal Revenue Department."

These are all 20s, all front-strikes, and they all carry a "Tip 'n Twinkle" manumark. (The latter is especially important, as there are other satirical sets in existence—the Metal Art Co. covers, for example) The 1957 and 1958 sets consist of 12 covers each; the 1961 set has only 8 covers. The trick is to locate them all and sort out the various sets, of which there are three, and the two variations of the 1957 set. Apparently, the hardest set to acquire is the 1961 set; few collectors I contacted even knew it existed, and I have not been able to locate any to picture here....although I have the complete listing.

It's easy to tell the three sets apart. Each carries a different year in the manumark: 1957, 1958, and 1961.

The two variations on the 1957 set are: 1) one set is blank inside, and 2) the other set has "Close Cover Before Striking" inside.

Oddly enough, the 1958 set contains a Double-length-like cover—the Elmot Slugg cover.



SET LISTINGS:

1957	1958	1961
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Last Chance Morticians 2. Seamore by the Seashore Nudist Camp 3. Golden Naval Dance Hall 4. Alcoholics Unanimous of U.S.A. and Canada 5. Buckingham Palace 6. Mabel's House of Ill Fame 7. The Happy Dream Opium Den 8. The Kremlin on Salt Mine Drive 9. Infernal Revenue Department 10. Alcatraz "On the Rocks" 11. Happy Daze Sanitarium 12. Hunting College for Girls 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Jayne Manfelt Bra 2. Things are a little rough all over! 3. Next Summer Visit Mars 4. Bennie's Flophouse Ltd. 5. Devil's Island 6. Mau-Mau Shrunk Head Company 7. Siberian Insurance Company 8. The Tiltin' Hylton 9. Elmot Slugg, Candidate for Congress 10. Purple Passion Drive-In Theatre 11. The Snow-White Electric Chair Co. 12. Killjoy Handy-Dandy Axe 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dodge City, Kansas, U.S.A. 2. Hankee Pankee Geisha House 3. Leechmont Country Club 4. Lost Vegas, Nevada 5. The International Order of Mafia 6. Personality Loan Company 7. Betty's Bawdy House 8. Colonel Horsepasture's <p><i>[plus 4 others...see below]</i></p>

Special thanks to Cliff Zeckser, Bill Retskin, James Willard, Donna Longenecker, and Regina Hardin for their invaluable assistance in sorting all this out!

FOLLOW-UP

Ken White, MI: I have the Infernal Revenue cover listed in the 1958, but mine is dated 1965, as is the manumark. I also have the original boxes the '57 and '61 sets came in. The former is black plastic, 6"x2 1/2"x1 1/8". The '61 box is clear plastic, 6"x2 1 1/4"x14/16".

Roy Buckley, WA: I have all three sets. The 1961 set is 12 covers (the 8 listed in the article+4 odd-sized covers: two 10s and two 30s). The two 10s are "Capn Johns Live Lobsters" and "Fanny - - - Living Girdle; the two 30s are "Confederate Air Force" and "Fallout is dangerous" (the latter has no manumark but was part of the set).

[**Ed Note:** Joel Acus 's Jul-Sep 1996 Tri State Cardinal bulletin article refers to a Jewelite in the 1961 set; perhaps that second 30-strike that Roy refers to is a later substitution in the set. That might explain the absence of a manumark compared to the other 11 covers.} Also a couple of the '61 covers refer to a "complete set of 24-ALL DIFFERENT. "

Dorothy Williams. OH: Dorothy also has the 1965 Infernal Revenue cover and notes that the 1957 Alcoholics Anonymous cover is in her 1958 set.

[**Ed Note:** Perhaps there was a 1965 set, as well. There definitely are a lot of variations in these sets (color variations and others)]

Special thanks to Mark Quilling, Donna Longenecker, Dorothy Williams, Ken White, and Roy Buckley.

2020 Update: 19 years later, and we still don't have a clear idea, here. Any help?...the Ed