



Bits & Pieces

> **Plastic pages** in the hobby go back at least as far as 1978. Those early pages were meant for photos, but they worked for covers. [*Matchcover Beachcomber, October 1978*]

> **Cellophane wrappers** used to be used on matchcovers by many collectors. You can still see them on some covers today. However, Frank Tripodi had his suspicions and sent some samples to the National Bureau of Standards in 1947. The samples were analyzed and Tripodi was told “The nitrate compound may decompose and liberate gases which would be harmful to paper, dyes and other materials with which it might come into contact.” [*Matchcover Beachcomber, July 1979*]

> **Chez Paree Celebrity covers** were selling for 25¢ each in 1978! [*Matchcover Beachcomber, October 1978*]

> **Universal started Safe-T-Lite covers in 1949** (those are the ones with the tear-out tabs), but the idea bombed out with both customers and collectors. [*Matchcover Beachcomber, November 1975*]

> **8,600 injuries per year caused by matchbooks!** In 1975, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission called for a ban on the use of coupons in matchbooks. The 8,600 injuries reported each year associated with matchbooks has caused them to try and reduce the hazards associated with matches. [*Matchcover Beachcomber, November 1975*]

> **In 1942, the Navy Department forbade the use of cuts of a navy ship** or any other printing on matchbooks that would disclose the identity of a Navy ship (that as when Navy ships issued their own matchbooks). [*Matchcover Beachcomber, February 1975*]

> **Flats are fakes!** In the early years of the hobby, Faked covers were a hot topic. ‘Faked covers’? When was the last time you saw a faked cover? Well, the fakes early collectors were talking about were flats, or salesmen’s samples, which were seen as not being true covers. “Such flats are easily available today. Collectors should remember, however, flats go into the trash can.” [*Matchcover Beachcomber, February 1975*]

> **Admiral’s Club!** I can never remember what those covers really are...They’re Airlines covers. They were from the V.I.P. lounges at American Airlines.

> **Where are the voices of the past?** At the 1948 RMS Convention, Ernest Damron, founder of the United Matchonians, recorded the voices of many attending collectors. Each person spoke of the hobby, the people in it, and about the activities of the convention. The recordings were meant to be played back at future conventions. What happened to those recordings? If found, they certainly would be of great interest to today’s collectors. [*Matchcover Beachcomber, December 1974*] (*Ed.* Those recordings belong in the RMS Historian/ Librarian’s vault)