



Bits & Pieces

>**American Aces! American Aces!** There are over 13,000 known...but which one was the very first issued by Universal? Skeffington's (Ohio Tri-State area). And, it had a Matchorama photo on the front. [*Matchcover Beachcomber, September 1978*]

>**Too many displays!** By 1981, RMS had to limit the number of displays each member could enter to 10.

>**Obscenities on matchcovers?** Unfortunately, we're used to such these days (another one of the ways society has 'progressed'), but when did that start? The *Matchcover Beachcomber* noted an example back in October 1976.

>**The BE safe - Close cover before striking footer** from Universal first appeared in 1974. [*Matchcover Beachcomber, September 1976*]

>**What has a runny nose got to do with**

matches? "The Latin word *myxa* is the source of the word *match*. *Myxa* referred to the mucus of the nose, or any runny substance. *Myxe* was also spelled *maache*, whose form it more closely resembles today. The earliest recorded reference in the English language to a match came in 1377 in this quotation, 'As thou seest some tyme...a torche, the blasé there of yblowe out set eveneth the weyk with-oute laye or light that he macche brenneth.' By 1530 *match* meant any article to be readily ignited." [*Matchcover Beachcomber, July 1978*]

>**In 1956, Lion introduced three new types of covers:** True Color, Model Match, and Poster Feature. [*Matchcover Beachcomber, June 1976*]

>**Early matchcover albums probably began around 1935** by Gromey of New York. These albums were called 'twin-slit albums.' The idea was not exactly new because twin-slit albums for post cards were available before World War I. The Gromey albums carried an insert about membership in the United Matchonians. [*Matchcover Beachcomber, June 1976*]

>**The first Italian-made Click match was discovered by collectors in 1954.** [*Matchcover Beachcomber, April 1976*]

>**In 1947, there were 12 known matchcover collectors in the entire state of California.** Today, there are 143. [*Updated Matchcover Beachcomber, February 1976*]

>**First mention of the matchbook industry** was in the November 18, 1894 issue of the *New York Dramatic Mirror*. It was an ad for the Binghamton Match Company, which produced the Piso cover. [*Matchcover Beachcomber, February 1976*]

>**Hobby humor?** Early in the 20th century, a Harry Moreland in England originated the idea of putting jokes on matchboxes. The idea was later transplanted to matchcovers. Moreland died on August 20, 1954, at the age of 90, being best known as the matchbox joke king. But he really had the last laugh. He left an estate of app. \$1,345,000. [*Matchcover Beachcomber, Feb 1976*]