



Editorial

You *Were* A Phillumenist... Now, You're Also An Antiquarian

An 'antiquarian' is a person who collects antiques; the general meaning of 'antique' is something 100 years old or older, so....

We're just at the beginning of our 'Antiquarian Age'! Well, actually, since matchcovers go back to Joshua Pusey and Charles Bowman in 1892, the beginning of the Antiquarian Age began in 1992, but how many of us really have a matchcover from 1892? But, *now* it's 2017...hmmmm!

Now, the possibility of *some* of us actually being antiquarians is a reality. Some collectors have, for example, at least one Diamond "Licensed Match" or "Approved Match No. 7" cover. Well, those were issued from 1905 to 1916, using Bob Oliver's dating of Diamond manumarks (although the Beekman Arms cover is dated 1918). Thus, at this point, a minority of collectors are now antiquarians.

I would guess that most collectors don't have covers older than the 1930s, so I'm projecting that most collectors won't be antiquarians for another 20 years or so, but the point is that we've already passed the 100-year line for some covers, and now, with every passing year, more and more of our older covers are going to turn 100. And just think! Those new covers that I collected as a new collector in 1983 are already 34 years old. In 66 years, they'll all be 100 years old. Hey, what the heck! I'm retired! I've got time!