

HOBBY HISTORY

groups tried to help the cover hobby, but various other hobby information was also included. One group seemed nearly taken over by razor blade wrapper collectors.

Blue Moon Match Label Club

“The first organized club [*in the United States*], catering to cover collectors, although not exclusively, was the Blue Moon Match Label Club under the directorship of M.A. Richardson in Ticonderoga, New York. The club’s first membership list in October 1932 shows no collector now within the hobby. Richardson, himself, was member number 1.

The first supplement to the list was published in April 1933. Again, there are no names of people still collecting.

By October 1933 member number 150 was W.W. Wilson, one of Long Beach’s members until his death in August 1974. The next familiar name is Carl Davenport, number 160. Carl joined as a youth. He is still active in the Long Beach Club and kindly lent the old membership lists used in this story. Member number 163 was Ray Yeingst, a long time participant in the Pennsylvania collecting scene.

In April 1934 another supplement list number 197 belonged to Robert Oliver, now active in the Long Beach Club. By October 1934 so many cover collectors had joined the group that special designations were added to their names. It is on this list that Ernest Damron joined the group. He later became famous as the leader of the United Matchonians.

Those people who joined Blue Moon before 1935 can be classified as the real pioneers of the hobby. They are beyond the designation oldtimer. It was through these early efforts that the covers of the 1930s are obtainable today. Cover collectors really had no place to go before Blue Moon for mutual help or exchange of information.

Blue Moon, of course, did not answer all the collector’s needs. United Matchonians and other

When RMS was formed, it wisely devoted itself to covers exclusively. Yet it was from Blue Moon contacts that cover collectors began the long chain of correspondence and meetings which paved the way for an exclusive cover club.”

...Long Beach bulletin, November 1975