

HOBBY HISTORY

Did You Know? I

-“Perhaps the greatest odds ever given, in the cover world, were those given recently by a noted collector to obtain a very old Russian book match cover which was said to have been manufactured in 1890! Five hundred U.S. covers were traded for this single cover! The cover is now part of the noted “Schmauss Collection.”

-“Among the rarest, and most valuable, covers in the entire world is a cover advertising Jesse Moore Whiskey! This cover was manufactured by the Diamond Match Co. and is marked, ‘Patented Sept. 27, 1892,’ making it one of, if not the, most valuable in existence. It is in the collection of Mr. Ray Cooper of Chicago, ILL.” *[All of the above are from the Blue Moon newsletter, May, 1936]*

-In 1878, “When the average man wanted to light his cigar, he generally fished a lucifer match out of a bunch loose in his pocket and struck it on his trousers, though frequent applications tended to add an unwanted shine to the cloth.” *[Fifty Years of Match Making: 1878-1928, Diamond]*

-In 1878, “the match most in use in this country and elsewhere was the so-called lucifer.” *[Fifty Years of Match Making: 1878-1928, Diamond]*

-In 1878, “In European cities at almost every crowded corner there was a boy or girl who offered a light to the smokers. ‘Ere y’are Sir, pipe light, cigar light, only ‘apenny a box—’ave a light, Sir.” *[Fifty Years of Match Making: 1878-1928, Diamond]*

-In England, c. 1878, almost all match factory workers were girls. *[Fifty Years of Match Making: 1878-1928, Diamond]*

-By 1928, almost all the hand-made match making operations were now machine-made. *[Fifty Years of Match Making: 1878-1928, Diamond]*

-Safety matches were, probably, “the most dangerous matches made.” *[The Popular Science Monthly, 1877]*

-In case of disputes within RMS, the deciding authority is....Roberts Rules of Order. *[RMS By-Laws]*

-Originally, collectors referred to manumarks as ‘imprints’.

-In 1994, D. D. Bean & Sons produced 1,250,000 cases of matches. *[American Match Council Media Kit, 1994/1995]*

-In 1944, The Allies dropped 4 million matchbooks behind enemy lines. *[American Match Council Media Kit, 1994/1995]*

-It was Diamond that moved the striker to the outside of the cover (Pusey had it on the inside)

-In 1948, Universal had 9 factories and employed close to 3,000 people *[Twenty Years Young: The Story of Universal Match Corporation, 1948]*

-Universal was the first to produce matchbooks “that met every requirement” for vending machines. *[Twenty Years Young: The Story of Universal Match Corporation, 1948]*

-In 1941, Federal Match Corp. and West Virginia Match Company merged with Universal. *[Twenty Years Young: The Story of Universal Match Corporation, 1948]*

-Until 1890, Wilmington, DE, was the match making capital of the US. *[Wilmington Match Companies, 1960]*

-In 1937, The Swedish Match Company reported a net profit of \$3,811,000, up from \$3,153,102 in 1936. *[Match Lights, July 1938]*

-A 1938 ad described matchcover collecting as a “New, fascinating, inexpensive hobby.” *[Match Lights, July 1938]*