

# HOBBY HISTORY

August 1962]

## Historical Tidbits: V

- > In 1951, 96% of matchbooks were 20-strikes. [RMS Bulletin, June 1965]
- > [You'd better sit down for this one...] At the Feb. 5th, 1950, meeting of the Empire Matchcover Club, a Lindbergh cover was sold for \$5. [RMS Bulletin, June 1965]
- > Both Midgets and 10-strikes were discontinued during World War II, but after the war 10-strike production returned...and Midget production didn't [RMS Bulletin, December 1964]
- > A hobby poll in 1956 showed that:
  - Only 1% of collectors focused on full-books.
  - Average collection was 30,000.
  - 52% of collectors were General collectors.
  - 84% of collectors used albums.
  - 75% of collectors were active traders.
  - 41% of collectors never bought from dealers.
 [RMS Bulletin, May 1963]
- > In 1943, Royal Flash covers were the latest rage in the hobby [RMS Bulletin, April 1963]
- > In 1936, Diamond Match Co. celebrated the 100th anniversary of the friction match [RMS Bulletin, September 1962]
- > In July, 1962, RMS President Harry Gerson reported that *none* of the 725 members had volunteered to run for any office! [RMS Bulletin, July 1962]
- > The March 18, 1962, Walter Winchell column reported that "...the Sinatra-Prowse matchbooks given to guests (at the betrothal party in Romanoff's) are now a collector's item." [RMS Bulletin, May 1962]
- > By 1962, 12.5 billion matchbooks were been used annually in the United States. [RMS Bulletin,
- > The first ad to appear in the *RMS Bulletin* (then called "Letter") was in the April 1942 issue [RMS Bulletin, April 1967]
- > Matchcover collectors were called "Lucifer-alogists" at one time [RMS Bulletin, April 1967]
- > An issue of the *New York Dramatic Mirror* dated November 19, 1894, carried an ad by the Binghamton Match Company pertaining to book matches with an illustration of same having printed sticks [RMS Bulletin, April 1967]
- > Diamond Match Co. reduced the staple size to 1/4 inch in 1944 to conserve metal for wartime purposes [RMS Bulletin, April 1967]
- > In 1942, RMS had 77 members [...and we may be approaching that figure again!] [RMS Bulletin, April 1967]
- > The federal government had a 2¢ tax on every 1000 matchbooks, resulting in a \$10 million tab for the industry in 1951. [RMS Bulletin, December 1961]
- > In 1960, that tax total was \$5 million, indicating a big drop in production. [RMS Bulletin, December 1961]
- > Label collectors were once called "Vuncanites" and later "Labelists" [RMS Bulletin, August 1961]
- > Mrs. Marjorie S. Evans, known as the "Queen of Labelists," coined the term "phillumenist" from the Greek word "Philo" (loving) and the Latin word "Lumen" (light). Somewhere around 1954, "Phillumenist" was incorporated into the Oxford Dictionary [A.J.Crouse, *Matchbox Labels Of The World*, 1946]
- > RMS Convention auctions go all the way back to the 1952 RMS convention [RMS Bulletin, August 1953]