

RMS INSTA-POLL

“Do you ACTIVELY collect...?”

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Only covers	39
Only boxes	1
Only labels	
Only full-books	2
Only full-books/boxes	1
Only full-books/covers/boxes	1
Only covers/boxes	64
Only covers/labels	1
Only boxes/labels	
Covers/boxes/labels	18
peripheral hobby items?	32
All	5
Ash trays	6
Cards (ex: for combos)	3
Hobby bulletins	1
Items made from matchbooks	1
Lighters	1
Match crates	8
Match advertising	9
Match Co. documents	4
Match holders	7
Match packaging	5
Match-related Christmas items	2
Match safes	10
Match strikers	2
Media articles	1
Misc.	1
Salesmen’s sample books	12
Vending machines	1

Well, it’s no surprise that the vastly larger response centered on collecting both covers and boxes. That’s always been my perception in the hobby—that most collectors will also take boxes that are in their categories.

I can’t say that I’m surprised that 30% of collectors collect *only* covers, either. Let’s face it; boxes *can* be a hassle! [*don’t send me your cards and letters!*] Now, if all boxes were uniform in size, and they all opened relatively easily, such as American Ace and Pocketbox, no problem...but they *aren’t* and they *don’t*! But I’d better stop before I alienate the entire membership of the New Moon Box & Label Club!

I *was* surprised that 15% collected labels. I had no idea it would be that big a number. Of course, there’s ‘Label’ right in New Moon’s name, but we never really hear about US collectors collecting labels, and even New Moon doesn’t usually run labels in its bulletin. Personally, I’d like to see the hobby incorporate labels more; it would draw us closer to collectors in other parts of the world. But, from the US collecting standpoint, there are problems the way foreign collectors collect boxes and labels—namely, they routinely accept what we would classify as flats, and the overseas label market, especially, has been flooded with ‘collector sets’, which, to my way of thinking, has ‘watered the entire category down’, much like what has happened to baseball cards. Still, the results here are interesting.

The real surprises, for me, though, came in the area of peripheral hobby items. I’ve always been aware that there were collectors who were seeking salesman’s sample books, and I have a few of my own, but look at the range of items here and the numbers! Of course, Combos have always been

fairly common items within the hobby, and in order to have a Combo, you’ve got to have the other related item to the cover.

It certainly makes sense that collector interest would extend out to these other items, but I wasn’t aware that so many people were actually into it. Trans Canada MC has been running a long series on match crates, come to think of it!

Some of the items listed above *might* be seen as ‘questionable’, in as much as whether or not they really fall within the broader confines of the hobby...lighters, for example. But, who knows?!

Is there anyone out there who would be interested in writing a regular column for the bulletin on such peripheral items? I would imagine that there would be enough interest to justify such.