

# RMS INSTA-POLL

## “What positive trends can *YOU* identify in the hobby?”

*[I need something concrete here, not something abstract such as “The hobby will continue to attract nice people.”]*

[November - 17 responding]

>Being able to continue to attract new members through awareness	1
>New Full-Length club will continue to grow	1
>Investment grade matchcovers will still go for premium dollars on EBay	1
>Increased exposure on the internet	
>Sharing covers via internet scans	1
>Matchcovers are becoming rarer and more valuable??	1
>Membership will continue to be pared down, leaving only the really serious collectors	1
>None	4
>N/A	7

**Pertinent comments:** [*‘N/A’ = either negative trends or off-topic responses*]

-I don’t see anything but continued attrition and few younger people coming into the hobby to replace them. I think it will just continue to slide and slowly die as far as organized matchcover groups go. Maybe one more generation. Matches themselves are not dying as there’s plenty of spirited bidding on eBay and other sites but most of those buyers are not interested in local clubs or RMS. Rather they are niche collectors such as tiki, girlies, gas, oil and automotive fans who buy covers as an adjunct to their hobby. Tobacco and regional soda pop are two other biggies. Also the RMS dues are too high to attract casually interested collectors.

-Sadly I honestly can't think of any positive trends in the hobby.

-(1) If you are willing to trade aboard, it opens up an incredible wealth of new material; (2) there still exists huge numbers of collections, accumulations, and batches of matches out there, just waiting to be snatched up, you just have to be persistent and creative to find them

-Because of the internet, I can share my covers without giving up my originals. For example, I scan my Decatur County, Iowa covers and email them to Sharon Becker, the coordinator of the Decatur County Genealogical website, [iagenweb.org/decatcur](http://iagenweb.org/decatcur). All 99 Iowa counties have a genealogical website...And I never have to give up any of my collection.

-I find collecting match covers more rewarding than ever, That's due to how few covers there are out there for giveaways. when you come across collection of covers that have not been used and in good condition and there are some of the covers that are front strikers that you don’t have is a good reason to collect match covers. There is so many different kinds of covers that make this hobby interesting.

-At this point, and I am relating to San Diego & vicinity, NONE.

-Many ebay dealers at auctions and it is getting harder to buy.

-Sorry, hope these are not too "abstract" but could only think of non positive trends for the most part.

**\*Ed. note:** *I didn’t expect to get much input on this insta-poll. It was a tough question, given the current circumstances.*