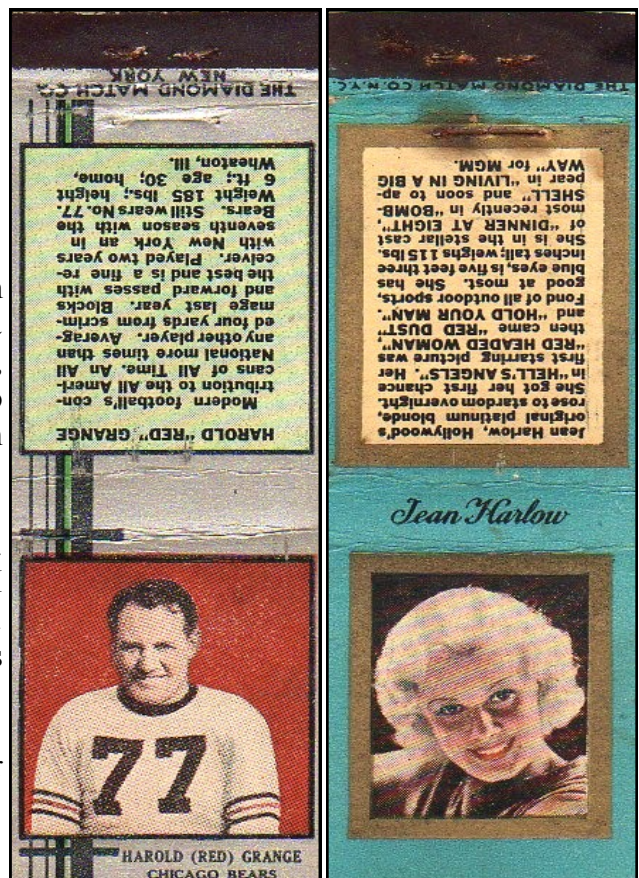

KNOW YOUR COVERS!

Group I

These covers have no advertising and were issued in sets by Diamond during the 1930s, each set having a particular topic (i.e, baseball stars, football stars, hockey stars, movie stars, etc.); almost impossible to acquire full sets; *very* highly regarded and much sought-after.

Robert Anderson, NE, had 892 as of March 2001. The listing is the old T&T Group I listing, although I typed up a new copy for the bulletin a few years ago. It runs 51 pp., and hundreds and hundreds of covers are listed.

There are many different sets, but the most popular are the Sports and Movie/Radio stars (surprise!).



FLASHBACK!

Bits & Pieces

“SAFETY NOTE: As we all well know that matches are not a play thing but can be and are a dangerous item. I suggest that all attending the convention take along some paper bags and place these shucked out matches in these bags so the hotel can dispose of them without danger of fire.

Please do not do your shucking in the Exhibit Room, nor the Meeting Room, nor the Hospitality Rooms and leave the matches laying around. Also any matches received during the Banquet should not be shucked out and left laying on the tables. Fire can be the result of carelessness. The ABC’s of our convention should be Always Be Careful. Nobody wants a fire...

from the President of R.M.S.
H. Russell Fink”

[July/August 1974 RMS Bulletin]

“SECOND BUSINESS SESSION, SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1974: ...Stanley Altricher moved that National Matchcover Week Contest Awards be dropped until such time as more interest is shown in the affair. Seconded by Charles Wolf. Approved.” *[September/October 1974 RMS Bulletin]*

“RAMBLINGS: *[ref RMS Convention auctions]*...All in all, for the two-day auction session, a total of \$1,084.00 was realized, of which the host club received 15% for their troubles.” *[September/October 1974 RMS Bulletin]*

“RAMBLINGS: Did you read about the “Gaithersburgh” Holiday Inn (20 miles from Washington, DC?) charging \$1,400 a night? Yep, this seven room suite four bath three bedrooms goes for one thousand, four hundred bucks a nite. The price includes all food and drink, chauffeured limousine and 24-hour maid and butler service, and of course all ten rooms and four baths. The matchcover I have is a regular, ordinary black-stock design with the usual design inside. Tch. 1¢ each!” *[May/June 1975 RMS Bulletin]*

“POST-CONVENTION NEWS: ...no convention would be complete without the complainers and the few snobs. These persons do not deserve any further mention. Thanks for nothing.” *[September/October 1977 RMS Bulletin]*

“COVER NEWS: There were over ninety thousand covers distributed into the bags at the 37th convention.” *[September/October 1977 RMS Bulletin]*

“TIPS ‘N THINGS: A few years ago, when the Apollo covers were a big hit, and an expensive cover too, many members were “burned” when purchasing these Apollo sets from unscrupulous merchants. At that time ye editor had a caution flag out, thru the “Voice of the Hobby” bulletin to be wary of sales of such Apollo sets. Promptly I received a couple of letters telling me to “mind my own business”! Well, those that ignored my warning were very disappointed later on, I am told.” *January/February 1978 RMS Bulletin]*

“POST CONVENTION NEWS: Two new records were made this year, that surpassed the records set at Detroit last year...the Auction brought in \$3,081.00...Raffle ticket sales...\$416.00” *[S/O 1978 RMS]*

The Man From

Don Quixote! One of the most well-known names in world literature. The story has not only become an enduring classic, but it has spawned innumerable allusions, metaphors, comic books, cartoons, plays, operas...you name it. Indeed, the book, has made such a lasting mark on modern civilization that the very title, itself, has become a descriptive word in our language...*Quixotic*, referring to pointless behavior.

Written by Spanish novelist Miguel de Cervantes in 1605 and 1615 (he wrote it in two parts), it was an immediate success, and today *Don Quixote* is hailed as the world's first modern novel. A product of the Spanish Renaissance, it's a wonderfully satirical tale of a man chasing after impossible dreams, and often leaving a wake of destruction behind him, all of his eagerly hoped-for adventures turning into often hilarious and always entertaining *misadventures*.

Don Quixote tries to be a flesh-and-blood example of a knight in an attempt to force his contemporaries to face their own failure to maintain the old system of morality, the chivalric code. This conflict between the old and the new reaches an absolute impasse; no one understands Don Quixote, and he understands no one. Only the simple Sancho can mediate between Don Quixote and the rest of the world.

Until the 1800's, *Don Quixote* was thought of as a humorous story of a madman's adventures. But, then, it became a model for a new type of fiction with heroes who don't conform to their times. It's a comedy—it's a metaphor—it's a satire—and more! It's full of contrasts. Small, round Sancho riding on his donkey and the tall, thin Don Quixote riding on his scrawny horse, Rocinante; what Don Quixote envisions as opposed to what is; what is real and what is ideal; what's productive and what's



La Mancha

unproductive.

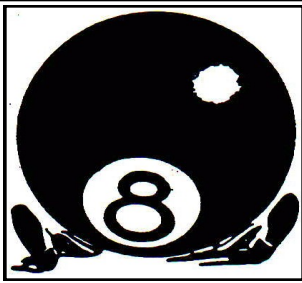
Distinguishing between a person's class and a person's worth was a fairly radical idea in Cervantes's time. In *Don Quixote*, Cervantes attacks the conventional notion that aristocrats are automatically respectable and noble, and there are any number of appropriate examples—the lowly goatherds and shepherds often appear as philosophers, and Sancho, despite his low social status, is wise and thoughtful. Cervantes's emphasis on these disparities between class and worth is a primary reason why *Don Quixote* was such a revolutionary work in its time.

Although it's a wonderful book for adults and youngsters alike, kids tend to avoid it like the plague—simply because it's so *big*! Ironically, only the *real* readers realize that it's the big books that have the most to offer, because when reading a *good* book—one doesn't *want* it to end! [*try convincing a seventh grader of that, though!*]

In the early 1970s, I happened to visit Spain several times (courtesy of the United States Army), and in Madrid I stumbled across a downtown park that was actually dedicated to Cervantes' endearing characters. Roaming across the park's expanse of lawns, I saw two statues prominently sitting right before me. I recognized them immediately. There was Don Quixote, mounted on his questionable steed and dressed in his aging armor, accompanied by the ever-faithful Sancho, seated on his little burro...immortalized forever in bronze.

Not surprisingly, then, references to both the book and the characters abound amidst Hotel/Motel/Restaurant covers. I have 11 such covers and boxes as part of my Literary Characters collection..so far!





Editorial *[another one!]*

That's it! *This...is War!*

I have searched for years! I have meticulously combed through literally hundreds of thousands of covers. I have forgone meals *[very hard for me!]* to sit for hours on end pouring over the various mounds of material available on freebie tables. I have sifted through endless auction lots. I have roamed the streets to the wee hours of the night, looking for that *right* matchbook in gutters and garbage cans...all for naught. I have *yet* to find a Man Hole cover that will gain me entrance into the hobby's most exclusive club...the mysterious and little known Man Hole Cover Club!

Yes, we've all heard the rumors of deep, underground bunkers and whispered connections to Goldman Sachs, the clandestine meetings in certain Eastern European capitals, the paper trail said to lead to some nebulous Military-Industrial complex, the affiliation with the ominous Trilateral Commission...even, dare I say...links to the heretofore unexplained saucer landings in various wheat fields over three continents.

But, nothing has ever been proven. Nothing has ever come to light, for the Man Hole Cover Club issues no newsletter, holds no public meetings, puts forth no roster. Indeed, its membership is a closely guarded secret, and all enquiries are met with a stoic, frightened silence. The MHCC exists...but for what nefarious purpose? To monopolize the covers of the world? A complete takeover of the hobby? The extinction of collecting as we know it? The oxidation of every striker in existence?

Who can say? Who knows? But history has taught us one indelible lesson (despite the likes of Neville Chamberlain and others). Fire must be fought with fire!

My friends, I am announcing today the formation of an organization created out of Man's primeval instinct to survive, an agency designed and constructed with but one goal—to counteract and nullify the insidious activities of the Man Hole Cover Club! Today, the Tree Stump Matchcover Club is born! *[thunder, lightning, opening bars of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony]*

Membership in this first ever secret counter-insurgency group will be limited to those collectors who are able to produce a hitherto unknown tree stump matchcover. Fittingly, I, as the leader of this elite crime-fighting organization, have discovered the first such treasure, pictured here. The rationale for the membership requirement is that since our mission is so dangerous and demanding, only the most dedicated of collectors need apply...and only the most dedicated collectors will be able to locate and procure a fabled tree stump cover.

No meetings, no bulletins, no dues, no frills and fads...but only members will be privy to our secret handshake and password, by which members may identify each other. Other collectors, although not on the front lines of the struggle, may now rest easy, safe in the knowledge that the future of the hobby is once again insured for posterity.



RMS INSTA-POLL

“RMS Roster”

[May - 117 responding]

1. How frequently do you use the RMS Roster?
 - a. Frequently - **29**
 - b. Occasionally - **53**
 - c. Hardly ever - **35**

2. Roster availability options: Which of these would you be most in favor of?
 - a. Roster posted on web site (password-protected) with hard copies available to any members upon request (but no more mass mailing to everyone) - **81**
 - b. Roster available upon request (no more mass mailing to everyone) - **12**
 - c. Keep mailing hard copy roster to everyone - **21**

First off, one person said I was skewing the results just by asking on-line members about an on-line roster. Not so. The goal of the survey was to see if on-line members *would be willing* to use an on-line roster.

While the results overwhelmingly show they would, I am totally perplexed by the votes for options ‘b’ and ‘c’. I must be missing something here. If you’re a person who wants a hard copy roster, why would you vote for ‘b’ or ‘c’, thereby denying an on-line roster to those collectors who want an on-line roster, when *all* of the options give you your hard copy roster? Perhaps there was some anxiety about having your name and address posted on the internet at all? But that information (and much more) is already all over the internet...and it’s not password protected, either.

Additional suggestions submitted by respondents included:

- Post dues due date on roster
- Should have more telephone numbers and e-mail addresses listed
- Having the roster in a usable digital format for printing address labels, adding additional fields for personal notes, such as what clubs a person belongs to, what swapfests & conventions they attend(ed), what awards they've won, more detailed collecting categories, etc., would be a boon to the hobby. The roster should be emailed to members with an email on file (this will encourage more to do so!) or downloadable in a spreadsheet format (i.e., MSXcel - not pdf !) from the RMS website by paid-up RMS members for free. Printed and mailed copies should be available upon request for a nominal fee above their dues, say \$5 - \$7.50.
- If you want a hard copy then request one and pay extra for it. I belong to a beer club that has 200 members. The dues is so little as long as you take the newsletter by e mail. If you want a hard copy then you have to pay extra for it. I know a lot of members may not have e mail, but you can go to a library or office supply chain and they will print it for you. Only 10 members pay for a hard copy out of the 200. Saves a ton of money and time.
- Mail out hard copy roster to everyone once a year [*of course, that would double the roster expenses*]
- Several people suggested lower dues for those who opted out of hard copy rosters

Note: A few people didn't indicate an option, so the numbers, when totaled, don't all equal each other.