



Around The World

1970's Russian Logging? Box Set

[This was sent in by a non-collector] Some time in the 1970s, my mother-in-law visited the Soviet Union. As a souvenir, she purchased a boxed set of wooden matches in a special carton, all for the price of 0.25 rubles. She gave the set to me.

The main box, 11 x 13 cm, features a four-color lithograph of a Soviet lumber truck hauling logs out of a forest. On the side, a legend in Russian says, "This is Ust-Ilim, wood-industry complex." Inside the box is a large box of matches measuring 9.75 x 6.75 cm. with a picture of "Spnu Square", as well as 16 smaller boxes, each depicting a piece of Soviet logging machinery or a scene from this Siberian lumbering city.

The collection is in near-mint condition. When my mother-in-law gave it to me, I struck a single match. The resulting cloud of noxious sulfur was so disgusting that I put the collection in a drawer and forgot about it.

