
Matchbooks/Boxes

MATCHBOOKS CAUSE INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT...London (AP)—The U.S. embassy reported Friday it has flown home an American-made book of matches with “some dirty wisecracks about Buckingham Palace printed on it.” The matchbook was part of the Very Important Places set, a group of satirical covers poking fun at a variety of places. “We regard the cracks as extremely bad taste, the embassy spokesman said. (the abusive text was, “Buckingham Palace—Where You Feel Like a King”—in reference to Palace plumbing) The matchbook was promptly put in a courier’s briefcase and flown to Washington. (from *RMS Bulletin*, August 1960)

MATCH BOOKS SPARK CAMPAIGN TO HELP ASCOM ORPHANAGE...Mrs. Dorothy E. Lauri and her four children in Junction City, Kansas, spent the holidays unaware that their efforts to bring cheer to 75 blind children in Korea had been successful. Mrs. Lauri, wife of U.S. Army Capt Massimino Lauri, had learned of the plight of the children of the Kwang Myung Orphanage and School for the Blind near Ascom from her husband. Since her hobby is collecting match covers, she wrote to other match cover collectors all over the United States and explained her project to help the blind children. Soon Capt. Lauri began receiving donations from all over the States; in all 161 cards and letters arrived and more are still coming in. (from *RMS Bulletin*, March 1962)

UPSTART COLONISTS!...”London, Oct. 26 (UPI)—Olaf Lindbohn, a waiter in a Stockholm restaurant, traveled to London at a cost of \$350 to buy the matchbox he had been seeking for two years. He paid \$1.40 for his matchbox decorated with a picture of Queen Victoria.” This clipping was sent to us by John L. Woods. Who said that our hobby was not serious o worthy of mention. (from *RMS Bulletin*, April 1962)

NATIONAL MATCHCOVER WEEK...In case you came in late, we’re now in the midst of the fourth annual “Matchcover Week.” As a hobby, collecting matchcovers is a big, big thing. During the week hundreds of collectors from all over the country will show and talk about their collections. St. Louis and St. Louis County collectors will have displays in business establishments. (from *St. Louis Globe Democrat*, April 19, 1965)

MATCHBOOKS GIVE TIPS ON FASHIONS...The Soviets are using matchbooks (covers) to give women fashion tips. The program is part of the new campaign to make Russian women more attractive. (from *RMS Bulletin*, March 1966)

MATCHBOOKS AS WALLPAPER...Ronnie Smith, owner of the Flamingo Cafe in Fort Scott, MI, has more than 7,500 matchbook covers taped on the walls of his eating establishment and is constantly adding to his collection. He has covers from all 50 states and from 100 foreign countries. (from *RMS Bulletin*, April 1966)

MATCHBOOK CONNECTION...In a raid last week, 14 officers led by Detroit Chief of Detectives Vincent Piersante arrested the owner and night manager of the Grecian Gardens restaurant, at 562 Monroe, on charges of bribing Sgt. Billy J. Starks to ignore gambling there. One of the men arrested at the Dexter address early today reportedly dropped a matchbook bearing the label “Grecian Gardens” as he was being led out, the police said. (from *RMS Bulletin*, May/June 1969)

In The Real World: I

MATCHBOOKS AND HEROIN DON'T MIX...A discarded matchbook led to the arrest Saturday of 18-year-old Charles Edward McGill, 590 Main St., Poughkeepsie, NY. According to the city police, a bag containing a white substance believed to be heroin was found in the matchbook. (from *RMS Bulletin*, Nov/Dec 1969)

MATCHBOOK LEADS TO BURGLARS...A teenage burglary ring that had been operating in Clifton, NJ, for more than a year has been cracked because of a matchbook cover. The ring was broken last Thursday during an investigation of a burglary at the home of Fred Kolenut, 147 Sargeant Ave. "As a result of the investigation, we picked up a 16-year-old and we found a matchbook cover with the name of the Bethwood Restaurant in Totowa. We knew a bunch of these matchbooks had been taken from Mr. Kolenut's house." "This was the clue that broke the whole thing." (from *RMS Bulletin*, Nov/Dec 1969)

MATCHBOOKS FIGHT COMMUNISM...The police in Taiwan have their own matchcovers. Made by the Hing Wah Co., they have a police symbol on the front. It is common in all areas with Nationalist Chinese to use anti-Communist slogans everywhere. The police matchcover says roughly "Fight Communist forces to regain our homeland." The entire matchbook is in Chinese characters, so the slogan is only approximate. (from *Long Beach bulletin*, June 1972)

MATCHBOOKS MAKE NEWS...The first mention of the matchbook industry can be found in the Nov. 18, 1894 issue of the New York Dramatic Mirror. This old newspaper carried an ad for the Binghamton Match Company of Binghamton, NY. (from *Long Beach bulletin*, Feb. 1976)

MATCHBOOK LIGHTS THE WAY TO CRIMINAL...A book of matches bearing the name of a Miami, FL, hotel was the vital clue that led to the discovery in Melbourne of missing Member of Parliament John Stonehouse. For 12 days, Victoria police followed the trail of a "Donald Clive Mildoon," AKA "Joseph Markha." "We were trying to establish whether a fraud had been perpetrated on Melbourne banks, or in a foreign country." Then they found a discarded book of matches from the Fountainbleau Hotel, Miami, FL...which led to finding their mystery suspect...Stonehouse. (from *IMC bulletin*, July, 1976).

MATCHCOVER COLLECTOR STARTS INFLIGHT FIRE!...The FAA alleges that a female collector in the Eastern U.S. was responsible for an inflight fire in a luggage compartment recently. Collectors who carry full matchbooks in their checked luggage face \$10,000 fines. Signs are being printed in English and Spanish to be posted in every airport. These signs will list a number of forbidden items not to be included in luggage. Matches are not mentioned by name, but any flammable item is restricted. (from *Long Beach bulletin*, Oct. 1976)

SECRET SERVICE CONFISCATES MATCHBOOKS...Secret Service agents entered Sanford Criner's "George's-on-Washington" restaurant and seized 15,000 matchbooks bearing a dollar bill image of the first president holding a knife and fork. Mr. Criner took the matter to court where it was ruled that his matchbooks were not counterfeit money, and they were returned to him. "We have struck a match for freedom," said Mr. Criner. (from *IMC bulletin*, Oct. 1977)