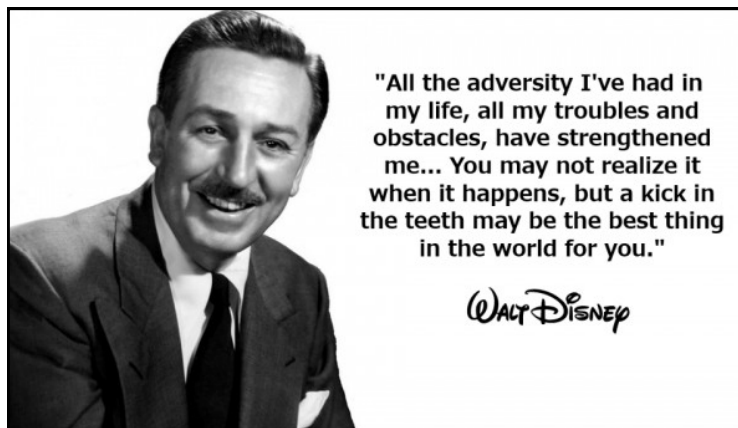
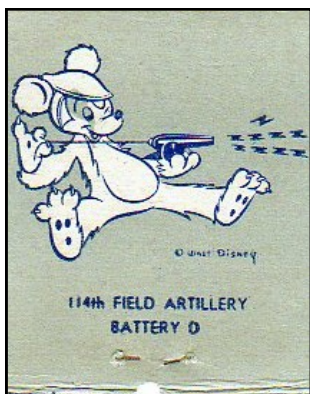


Collecting Disney Art!

by
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When you think of Disney and matchcovers, one tends to think of covers from the amusement parks: Disneyland, Disney World, EuroDisney, etc. But when we're talking about covers sporting actual Disney art, you might be surprised to learn that there's more of such art to be found in the Military category than any other.

In 1940, construction was completed on Disney's Burbank studio. The staff swelled to more than 1,000 artists, animators, story men and technicians. And luckily so, for during World War II, 94 percent of the Disney facilities were engaged in special government work, including the production of training and propaganda films for the armed services, health films which are still shown throughout the world by the U.S. State Department—and the creation of logos for various military units. The remainder of his efforts were devoted to the production of



"All the adversity I've had in my life, all my troubles and obstacles, have strengthened me... You may not realize it when it happens, but a kick in the teeth may be the best thing in the world for you."

WALT DISNEY



Disney-Pepsi Set

1. 751st Tank Battalion
2. 114th Field Artillery Battery D
3. Battery A 165th Field Artillery
4. 45th Air Base Squadron 46th Air Base Gp
5. Patwing Support Force Aviation Repair Unit No. 1
6. 26th Material Squadron 19th Air Base
7. U. S. S. Blue
8. 48th Pursuit Squadron
9. 251st Coast Artillery (AA)
10. 3rd Reconnaissance Squadron
11. Sixth Reconnaissance Squadron
12. U. S. Naval Reserve Aviation Base
13. 46th Air Base
14. 9th Field Artillery Battalion
15. 56th Signal Battalion
16. U. S. S. Hornet
17. Jackson Air Base
18. Battery B 206th Coast Artillery
19. Company C 69th Quartermaster Battalion (L.M.)
20. Interceptor Squadron
21. 331st School Squadron
22. Air Corps Training Detachment
23. 2nd Signal Armored Battalion
24. Alternate Aviation Arm U. S. S. Carolina
25. Women's Ambulance and Defense Corps of America
26. Seventh Bombardment Squadron
27. 38th Bombardment Group (Air Corps)
28. 40th Bombardment Group (M) U. S. Army Corps
29. 37th Pursuit Squadron
30. (Aviation Cadets) U. S. Naval Aviation..
31. Primary Training Squadron 11-A U. S...
32. 8th Air Corps Area Service Command
33. 55th School Squadron
34. Company F, 114th Infantry
35. 56th Pursuit Squadron (Int) G. H. Q.
36. 121st Air Corps Observation Squadron
37. 2nd Ambulance Battalion 134 Medical....
38. 503rd Parachute Battalion
39. First Marine Brigade (Prof)
40. 46th Bombardment Group (L)
41. 42nd Bombardment Group 75th Squad...
42. 4th Field Artillery Battalion
43. Utility Squadron No. 6 U. S. Naval Air..
44. 57th Signal Battalion
45. Mosquito Fleet American Motor Torpe..
46. 22nd Pursuit Squadron (Int)
47. Air Base Detachment
48. 72nd Quartermaster Battalion (L.M.).....

comedy short subjects, deemed highly essential to civilian and military morale.

There are some very nice Disney sets of art work available in the Military area. The most famous, of course, is the Disney-Pepsi set, 48 20-strikes from D.D. Bean, issued during World War II. Each cover is numbered, as shown here, and each features a unique Disney drawing

Indeed, almost all of the covers here come from the World War II period. Maryland Match Company, as a further example, came out with a set of 20 20-strikes in 1942 (and I believe there were one or two variation sets). The set was done for the National Match Company. I don't have the entire set, but the ones I do have all seem to have a yellow background. If anyone does have the entire Maryland set, I would certainly appreciate getting a listing, similar to the one shown here, so I can run it in a future issue...and I'd also like to have it, myself!

Aside from these wonderful sets, there are also a number (at least) of singles, some of which are pictured on page one, including, note, a 40-strike. I don't seem to have any examples in a 30-strike size.

I didn't specifically go through my Navy Ships for further examples, but I do know that there are some—the Post-War U.S.S. Dionysus (AR-21) cover, for one.

Plus, there are additional Disney art covers to be seen among Military collections which are not specifically labeled "Walt Disney," "Disney," "Disney Productions," etc. For example, covers from the Anacostia (DC) Naval Reserve Aviation Base and Jacksonville (FL) Naval Air Station sport Donald Duck drawings.

All in all, we're probably looking at 100+ covers in this area—a nice small category, and yet one offering ample challenges even for the veteran collector. You can bet that Disney collectors outside the hobby scoop up such covers whenever they come across any...and I'd just as soon see those covers stay *inside* the hobby, so you might consider starting on them yourself.