

FLASHBACK!*[May 1942 RMS Letter 6 - by Marty Deer]*

Dear Mr. Perkins:

In the past six months there seems to have developed in the Hobby a new and most unwelcome menace. This is what is commonly known as the Dealer-Trader. His prey is the new and unwary collector, and at least once the veteran collector will become enmeshed in the "propaganda feelers" which he sends out. He operates something like this: Ads are inserted in Match Cover publications offering covers in all groups for sale at a scale of prices which are attractive even to the seasoned collector. In most cases the supply is "limited", excuses generally accompanying the return order. Some specialize in certain groups and of course offer to swap devious ways for covers in this Group. As a result the trader who is sincere will find himself on the short end if he is not alert to the tricks employed by these "sharks". The most objectionable feature of this practice is that thousands of covers are "frozen" to the legitimate collector and to many who enjoy the hobby for the pleasure and friendship which it affords, and who are likewise in a great majority. They do not wish, or they can not afford to purchase these covers. Hence many a valuable trader or collector becomes discouraged and is driven out of a hobby, which, until recently has been enjoyed by thousands the world over. Keep it free from these practices if our hobby is to endure. Cooperation and fair dealing will help "slap the saps" who seem determined to destroy our Hobby with their unfair and unethical practices. Here's to the bigger and better swaps.

[August 1942 RMS Letter 7]

Dear Dr. Higgs: This will make you green with envy! Last night I saw the World's "largest" collection! Actually - it was shown in the movies under a short skit entitled - Believe it or Not - . This hobbyist, a fireman in Iowa, had the enormous sum of 11,000 different covers! He was seen in the act of gluing a number of them to a home-made album! (Ask Al Polick what he thinks of the glue idea.) Now I ask you, isn't such enlightenment as this a boon to our hobby, especially to the embryo collector? Regarding figures, you and ten other collectors of whom we know have at least 11,000, or better on different hotel issues alone. Many of the R.M.S. members received with welcome a copy of a recent Wilkes-Barre, Pa. paper which carried a lengthy article purporting to show what truly was the World's Largest Collection. Those of us who have visited you at 57 Carey Ave. would say that 175,000 different, and 1,000,000 duplicates were modest announcements, and exceed by at least 5,000 miles of thread (rather than glue) the "stupendous" number depicted in the News Reel. Unfortunately movie shorts are more widely circulated than Pennsylvania newspapers!

Labels?*[July 1957 RMS Bulletin]*

For a long time, label collecting has been almost a dead issue in these United States. With foreign correspondence growing among the matchcover collectors, almost all of them have started a match-label collection in conjunction. A lot of them will not admit it, but if you look thru their collections, you'll find some labels popping up. The most prolific country seems to be Czechoslovakia. Johnny Weaver and your Editor has received many colorful sets from youngsters in this country, some wanting bubble-gum in exchange, others wanting labels (which are few in this country) and others are interested in matchcovers. Evidently, our foreign friends have no compunctions regarding ...*[flats!]*