

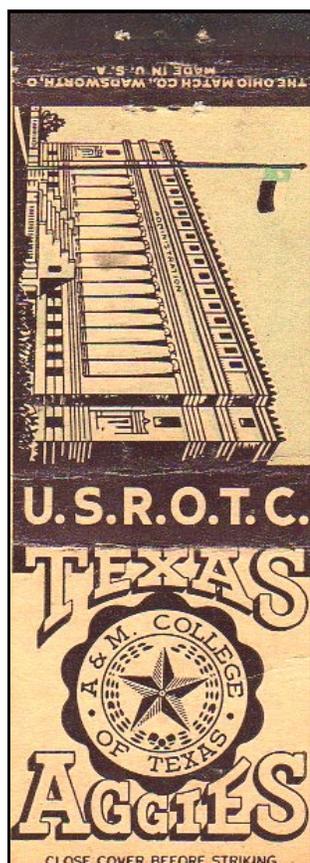
Texas A & M!

Texas A & M! You can almost hear the marching bands playing on the fields! The Aggies are coming! Certainly it's one of the better known universities in the country, and one Texans can be rightly proud of. Texas Agricultural and Mechanical University [*in case you were wondering what the "A & M" stood for*]. is the oldest public institution of higher learning in Texas. It has a current enrollment of approximately 43,700 students. The campus is located on more than 5,000 acres of land in the university town of College Station. It's centrally located between Texas's major population centers: Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, and Fort Worth. When Texas A & M was first established, back in in 1876, it was a college. It didn't change its status to a university until fairly recently. The difference between the two [*in case you've always wondered about that, as well*] is that, normally, the highest degree you can attain at a college is a Master's Degree, whereas a university can grant Doctorates.

A lot has happened over the years for Texas A & M. Along with the inevitable growth has come a surprising surge in its reputation throughout the country. I say "surprising" because, let's face it, in its earlier years the state was not exactly the academic capital of the nation. All of the major centers of learning were still located in the East. But, Texas A & M has made room for itself among the "big boys." Tuition, fees, and cost of living compare favorably with other major institutions in the United States. In terms of research funding in engineering and science, Texas A & M ranked eighth nationally in 1989 [*the latest reporting period*] by the National Science Foundation. The university's College of Engineering, which included ten departments, continues to have one of the largest enrollments in the nation and offers a wide range of graduate programs.

Of course, if Texas A & M happens to be your alma mater, I hardly have to convince you to be interested in its covers, but, even if it isn't, a good look at these covers might be enough to start you off on, say, a Texas colleges and universities collection, if not colleges and universities in general. Thumbing through my own collection, I find that I have six Texas A & M covers, all 20-strikes, some pictured here. And, any time we're talking college and university covers, we're also talking Sports and Dated [*an example of the latter can be seen in the bottom, right cover*], usually together in the form of a dated sports schedule on the inside of the cover.

Not surprisingly, you'll note that the majority of covers are front-strikers. Fortunately for students' health, but unfortunately for collectors' collections, matchbooks issued by colleges and universities these days have become politically incorrect, so your chances of wandering over to the local Student Union and picking up the latest covers have dwindled drastically. Still, prior issues continue to be found, so the hunt is always on. The best way to get started is to simply advertise, either in your club bulletin or your trading correspondence, for exactly what you are looking for. Otherwise, you can take your chances with auction lots and the like; you never know what treasures you might find.



STUDENT CENTER DIRECTORATE	
for 1952 - 1953	
Plans and executes the activities program approved by the MSC Council	
COMMITTEES	CHAIRMEN
Art Gallery	LOUIS HAMPTON
Bowling Club	JAMES KENNEDY
Camera Club	GERALD OTTINGER
Crafts Club	A. W. TIEKEN
Dance	BOYCE HOLMES
House	RODNEY HEATH
Music	BARTON REYNAUD
Public Relations	CHUCK NEIGHBORS
Radio Club	GUS FOX
Browsing Library	JERRY MOSLEY