

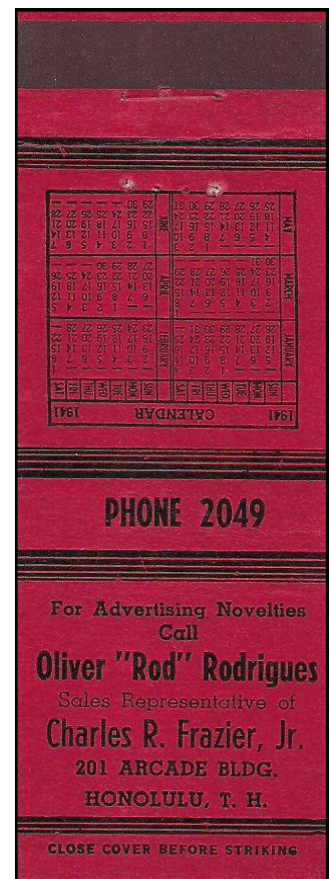
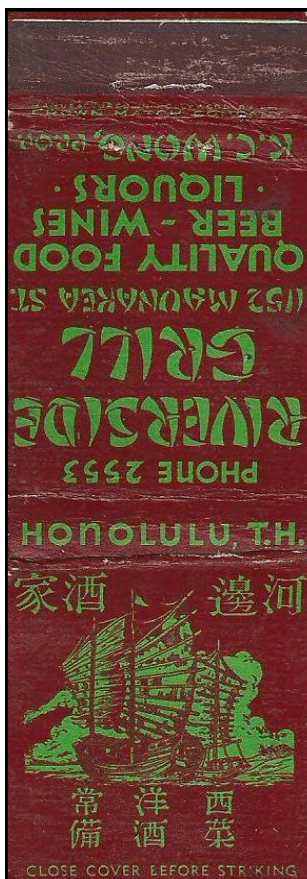
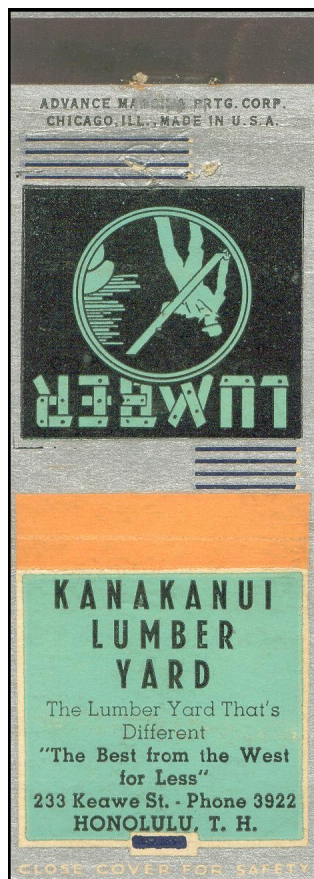
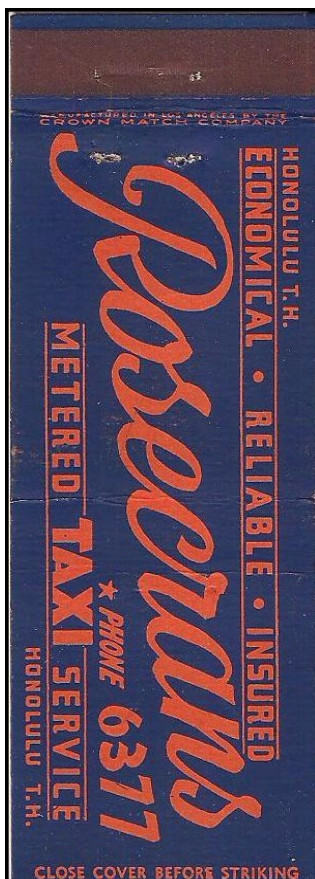
Hawaii T.H.

What are the two most important letters in "HAWAII?"....."T" and "H"!! When you see those letters on a Hawaiian cover, you know it's at least 55 years old and probably a good deal older than that. "T.H."—Territory of Hawaii—my favorite type of Hawaiian covers.

We're only concerned with a specific slice of Hawaiian history here, 1900-1959; that's the time period when Hawaii was a territory, prior to becoming a state. It also proved to be the era of the formation of Hawaii's modern economy and the birth of what is probably the most famous tourist destination on earth.

Our "T.H." covers, then, come from the 1900-1959 time frame. Of course, your chances of ever coming across a 1900 Hawaiian cover are nil. Still, we're talking very respectable *old* covers, here, even older than the dates given above would lead you to believe. Why? Because there are hardly any "T.H." covers to be seen after World War II, even though Hawaii was to remain a territory for another 14 years. Almost all of the "T.H." covers are pre-1945! Well, now! That means we're actually talking about covers the bulk of which are in the 59-79 year old range! That's reason enough for me to collect them...and they're also early Hawaiian covers to boot.

So, what's out there and where? There couldn't have been all that many, judging by the relatively few I actually have in my own various collections. Also, many of them are Crowns, and Crowns would probably end up in a collector's Crown collection rather than his Hawaiian collection. And, many of the old Hawaii covers simply carried "Hawaii" without the "T.H." in any event. Helen Hollmann, PA, reported having 204 as of November 2010.



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