

RMS INSTA-POLL**“Collect labels?”***[November - 126 responding]*

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Do you seriously collect labels?	4	122
2. Do you casually collect labels?	29	94
3. Do you ever collect labels?	24	76
4. Open to collecting labels in the future?	26	98

[Notes: 2 Only in certain circumstances (i.e., only 1n my categories)**4* Only in certain circumstances (i.e., only 1n my categories)**If answer to #1 was ‘yes’, no answer was logged in for #4**If answer to #2 was ‘yes’, no answer was logged in for #3]***Some representative comments that accompanied responses:**

- I think the Society should consider (at least) limited coverage of Matchbox labels.
- Labels—Too many and not enough quality.
- They’re too small and flimsy—easily damaged?
- If more labels were available, I would collect more of them.
- I collect some if they are in my categories. If some were more available I’d be interested.
- I would collect labels in my categories of subjects; i.e., chef hats, riverboats, etc., but not AS a category.
- What are the care requirements for labels? Any different from covers?
- I’m a new collector. I don’t think I’ve ever seen a real label in person.
- I collect labels if they pertain to my other collections. I do love the graphics on them.
- If I could learn more about collecting labels (the ins and outs), I would be interested.
- Perhaps there should be categories (including in entries at the convention) for those who wish to go that route.

Well, it’s not surprising that hardly any collectors here seriously collect labels. Not only is this the birth place of the matchcover, but domestic match labels disappeared almost 100 years ago! But, a much larger percentage of collectors at least had some in their collections, and a decent percentage (again, given that labels aren’t available here) were open to collecting labels in the future.

In order for the latter to happen, though, there would have to be a significant infusion of labels to this country from Asia and Europe, either, say, via a wholesale effort on the part of RMS or the hobby as a whole, or a grass roots effort from a number of individual collectors. I would imagine that the more entrepreneurial collectors could do that if they viewed labels as a burgeoning growth area here in North America. Up to now, we’ve represented a dead-end for label collecting!

Have any suggestions as far as topics for the RMS Insta-Poll? I could use some new ideas. Any thoughts would be appreciated.