

HOW I STARTED COLLECTING – DAVID FIGG

It was 1960 when as a 9-year-old boy walking to school that I kicked over a matchbox in the gutter only to find that it had a picture on it (Brymay Birds & Animals issue) so took it to school, showed my mates and we started collecting. They soon lost interest and so I acquired their holdings to complete my set. I had a Great Aunt in the UK who also sent me labels and so my collection slowly grew. The labels were soaked off and pasted in an exercise book.



In 1967, I learnt of the existence of the Australian Match Cover Collectors Society (AMCCS) through a work colleague of my late father at Parker Brothers Bakery who took his son to the meetings. This was to be the start of a life-long passion for the hobby.

In 1970, the attached Profile was published in the AMCCS magazine, the Observer and yes, I did meet a “little Miss” marrying Dianne in 1977. Children followed in 1981 & 1983 and three grandsons in 2014, 2019 & 2020.

COMMITTEE SERVICE, ETC.

Secretary 1984-1986

President 1987 to present

Life Membership AMCCS 2002

Honorary Life Membership BMCC 2022

Observer Editor May 1990 to February 1999

Observer Distributor since 2009

Annual Postal Auction Coordinator since 2009

Coordinator National Match Exhibitions held in Adelaide 1999, 2003, 2009, 2014, 2018, 2021 & 2022

Attendee & Trader at BML&BS Exhibitions held in 2000, 2005, 2009 & 2017

SPECIALISATION AREAS

Collecting areas for labels, booklets & skillets are Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea & South Africa. World-wide hardware produced by or for the match manufacturers together with any ephemera allied to the match industry, particularly picture postcards are also collected.

PUBLICATIONS & ARTICLES

Author of –

Duncan's of Australia

E.L. Bell & Co, Australian Match Works & Commonwealth Match Works

Co-Author/Contributor to –

Bryant & May Australia Parts 1 & 2

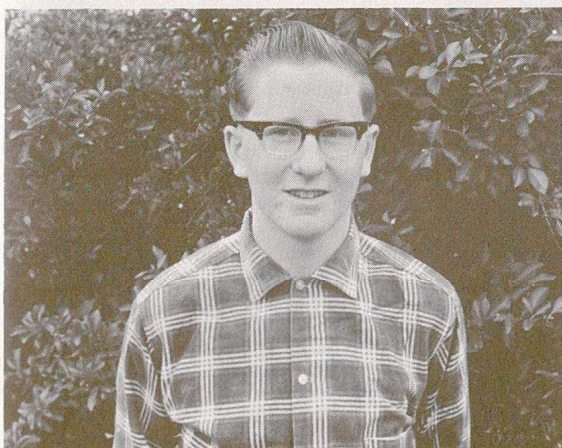
Federal Match Company, Australia

Redheads Skillets

Plyfiber, Australia

The Cheapies (Imports to Australia)

Numerous articles in the Observer, Match Label News & IMSA News



PROFILE.

David Figg (No. 1163)
South Australia.

First of all, allow me to introduce myself, David Figg is my name, single is my station, but I hope that, one day, a little miss will change this situation. At present, I am living at home in Adelaide where I have been employed by the State Public Service for the past three years. I am at present studying for the Diploma of Technology in Accountancy at the S.A. Institute of Technology.

My hobbies consist of philately, photography and, of course, match box label collecting, but not necessarily in that order. Both in match box labels and stamps I have decided to specialise in Australia, although I do have several overseas

labels in my collection, because of their connection with Australia, and also save any overseas stamps I may come across. This limits the number of labels in a collection considerably, but I feel there is still an objective since I have never heard of anyone with a complete collection of Australian labels.

I have been saving labels since 1960, when I first collected the Bryant and May Set of Birds, Animals and Reptiles. Now my collection contains almost 1,850 Australian labels, my aim being 2,000 by the end of this year. Since 1960, I have been fortunate in procuring all labels in the Bryant and May, W.A. Match Co., and Federal sets since 1956 with the exception of the early Qantas sets and Federal sets of parlour size labels (Views of Sydney and New England, Period and Fashion). Thanks must go to Mrs. Hodges of the "Markette", one Victorian collector, two from N.S.W. and two from W.A. I will leave these persons un-named as, no doubt, they are busy people. There have been many singles issued since 1956 and I still have some of these to obtain.

On the older side, my collection contains two of the Swedish "Chateau Tanunda" labels and one of the English "Seppelts" labels, four Lactogen, two Nestle's milk, Milk maid, B. and M., Bell and Co. Crown, Weeties, Commonwealth, Carnation, Defence Canteens, several old Federals, and some fifty odd Duncans, besides the more recent singles. It is in this area where I would like to see some expansion, and I am willing to buy or exchange labels (especially Duncans) with other Australian duplicates I have, that are of similar age.

Starting at the age of ten, I did not appreciate the value of carefully mounting the labels with stamp hinges and pasted them in exercise books after having removed them from the box. On joining the Society in 1967, I was made aware of the importance of condition and mounting on the value of the label or its sets. I began the long task of carefully re-soaking and removing all the labels, luckily damaging only a few which I have, fortunately, been able to replace. Many other young collectors can take this as a warning.

Whilst holidaying in New Zealand recently, I told our bus load of tourists that I was a match-box label collector and received this witty reply from our guide. " Well, that's sure one out of the box, you just don't know what you're going to strike next ". I couldn't match that reply, could you ?

I attend all meetings of the S.A. Branch of the Society if studies do not prevent me, and also look forward to reading the " Observer " which keeps me abreast of the news. Congratulations must go the Society for organising a membership card which, in my opinion, is a good idea. Perhaps one day we may even have a badge. In conclusion, I should like to wish fellow members all the best in hunting and hope they receive as much satisfaction and enjoyment from our hobby as I do. May the Society as a whole progress from strength to strength. I wish to thank the Editor and Committeemen for the invitation to contribute to the " Profile " series.