

MINING-RELATED MATCH SAFES

by Bob Schroth
 P.O. Box 687
 Twin Peaks, California 92391

My wife and I love to hunt for a wide variety of antiques, each of us collects a different specialty. We recently returned from a ten day antiquing trip to the southern U. S. without finding much. An interesting item I did find was a neat mining-related advertising match safe (Figure 1). This new match safe pictures a miner on the front and has the following written on the back. "In all the world there is no money more honest or more free from usury or injustice than that which is taken out of the ground where nature has secreted it." This match safe was given out by Douglas Lacey & Co., Bankers and Brokers, New York. It is made of celluloid

plastic and has a metal strike plate on the bottom and a metal flip top lid. Also shown below are some other mining-related match safes.

These advertising match safes were probably given out as promotional items by the companies. Other advertising items I have seen are rulers, ash trays, pens and pencils, and mirrors. With the uncommon mining collectibles getting harder to come by, this is one more collecting area to explore and hunt for.

If you come across a different style match safe than has been shown, please submit an illustration of it to collectors talk, we would love to hear about it.



Figure 1. Hercules Powder Company match safes showing the two different back styles. (Larry Kuester (center) and Mark Bohannan (right) collections)

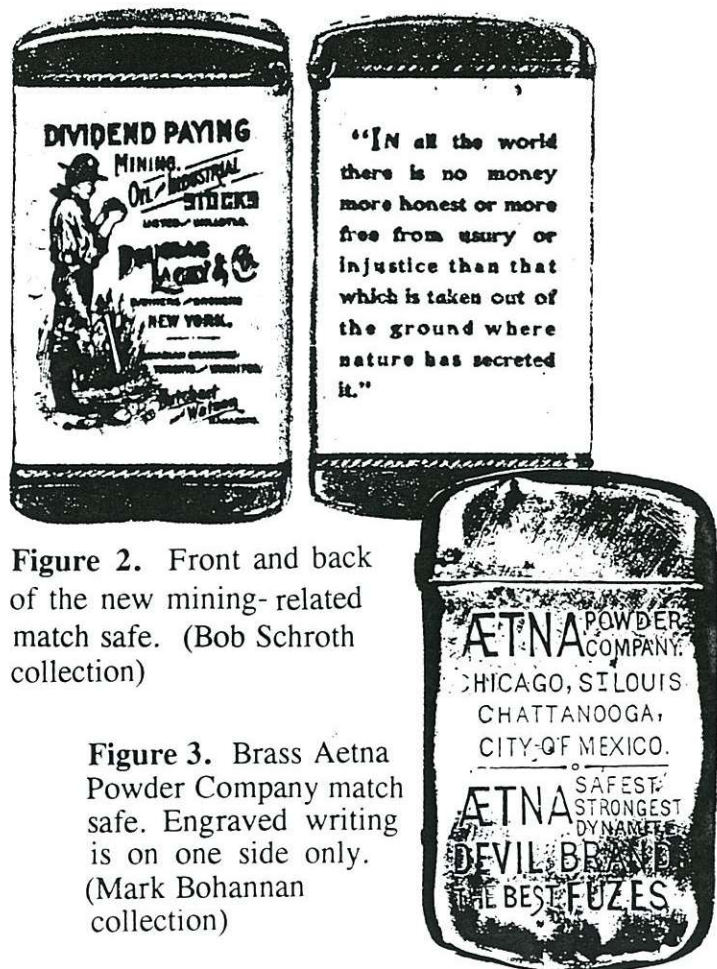


Figure 2. Front and back of the new mining-related match safe. (Bob Schroth collection)

Figure 3. Brass Aetna Powder Company match safe. Engraved writing is on one side only. (Mark Bohannan collection)