

2. Storage - other solutions

Notes for newcomers

Earlier surveys conducted by the club indicated that (of those who responded) the most popular way of storing packets are the specialist collectors albums we featured in a previous article (Sweet Thoughts 51). However, most people do not begin this way and, when a collection grows, a specialist album system can prove prohibitively expensive either in terms of money or time.

Writing elsewhere in this issue Roy Hodgkiss (No. 270) reveals that he has always kept his collection in a biscuit tin with cardboard separators. For years I too kept my collection in a Tea Time Assorted tin, though I never got as sophisticated as separators. In the earlier surveys (Issues 16 and 26) similar methods such as storage jars and drawers were mentioned.

Linda Stone (No. 112) confesses that time has simply not allowed her to migrate from her original method of storage. She keeps the packets in clear plastic bags labelled by country and the whole collection resides within a couple of bin bags, which suggests that it is going to be a mammoth task for Linda if she ever finds the time to adopt another system.

In addition to being cheap, tins, boxes and bags share the advantage that adding to them is quick and easy. However, it gets much more difficult to check new packets against an existing collection and it is also not so simple to oblige unsuspecting guests who respond to our “would you like to see my fascinating collection of sugar packets?” questions.

John Walters (No. 27) says that in the early days he fixed full packets onto cardboard sheets filed within box files. “Then my collection increased and I came to appreciate the changes in design and sets. Stuck onto cardboard prevented both sides being recognised so I carefully removed the sugar and re-housed my collection in cellophane packets by countries so that I could see both sides of the packets, which are loosely stuck on with a small piece of clear sellotape.”



Biscuit tins - an ideal excuse to buy biscuits.



Photograph albums are cheap, but packets cannot be viewed from both sides.

Apologies to Brenda Marsh (No. 12) who for some reason I referred to as Brenda Smith in the last Notes for Newcomers.

Another popular method is the use of sticky photo albums. It is often possible to find these for a bargain price and allows packets to be clearly displayed, though only on one side. It is possible to move packets around and the sticky backing means that unlike some album solutions the packet can be kept in its right place even in transit. However, the sticky backs can remove colour and if you are reorganizing a collection it is best to do it on your own - the constant noise of separating cellophane from backing glue will annoy innocent bystanders.

Philippe Mery (No. 41) has developed his own variant of the photo album. Philippe writes that packets “are fixed on coloured paper with glue stick (for wrappers) or transparent photo corners (for packets). Each coloured sheet is then kept in a transparent wallet within a ring binder”.

All of this just goes to show that sugar packet collectors are a resourceful bunch.

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Some correspondents also gave details of how they arrange their collection, but this is the subject of the next article. If you have not already written or emailed I would be delighted to hear from you. Do you organise your packets alphabetically, by country of origin, by subject, colour, date discovered or other ways? You can find my e-mail and address on page 3. You must use some method, so I look forward to hearing from you.

David

One of Philippe Mery's pages