

FOLD



NEIL SHAPIRO - In 1971 I bought my first match safe and through all my years of teaching in public schools I also collected and researched match safes. For most of those years information on match safes was difficult to find but in 1996 the International Match Safe Association (IMSA) was founded and from then until now our knowledge has grown tremendously. As one of the founding members of IMSA I have tried to add to that knowledge base.

I live in Albany, NY with my wife and have recently finished a book about Gorham match safes. My web site is: www.matchsafescholar.com.

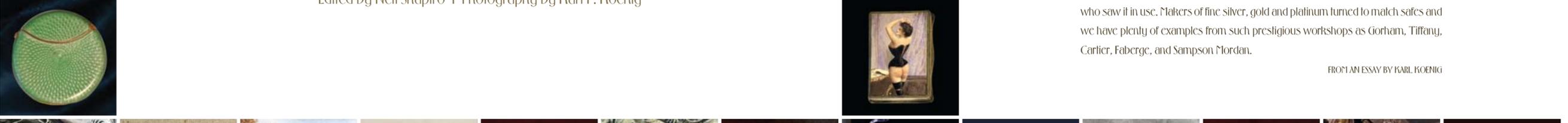
KARL P. KOENIG - My education consists of a B.A. from Trinity College, Conn., with M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Washington. I was Professor of Psychology at Stanford University and a Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of New Mexico, 1964-1981. From 1981 to 1997 I conducted a private clinical practice. Since then I have concentrated on making photographically based art and gallery showing, teaching here and abroad while also collecting and writing about interesting boxes; match safes for the most part.

[See <http://www.gumoil.com/>]

I live in the small village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque with Frances Salman Koenig who continues to practice psychology and shares my enthusiasm for match safes.



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EXCEPTIONAL MATCH SAFES

Edited by Neil Shapiro | Photography by Karl P. Koenig

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Pocket match safes (small purpose-made boxes with a dedicated striking surface) were devised when friction matches were invented around 1830. Yet, convenient as they were, they were too dangerous to carry in one's clothing without additional protection. Accidental ignition could mean a ruined suit or worse. Safes were made from virtually every natural and man-made material in an extraordinary variety of forms until they swiftly dropped into obsolescence in the 1930's. During the century they reigned their design and elaboration became increasingly artful and ingenious as manufacturers and artisans made them for every taste and social class. These small cases soon became more than a way to keep matches from exploding; indeed, they became part of the owner's identity, often anchored by a chain of precious metal, where the match safe conveyed a powerful implicit statement to everyone who saw it in use. Makers of fine silver, gold and platinum turned to match safes and we have plenty of examples from such prestigious workshops as Gorham, Tiffany, Cartier, Faberge, and Sampson Mordan.

FROM AN ESSAY BY KARL KOENIG