

INTERNATIONAL MATCH SAFE ASSOCIATION

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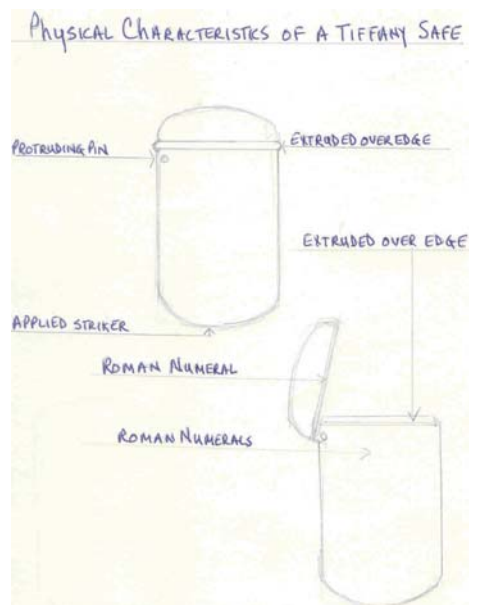
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IDENTIFYING UNMARKED TIFFANY MATCH SAFES

By Neil Shapiro

At the last IMSA Convention, there was a round table discussion on unmarked match safes. Most of the talk revolved around those safes that had identical or very similar motifs and/or designs that were on safes made by identified manufacturers. The question remained open as to whether unmarked safes with identical or similar designs were made by known manufacturers.

One area of our discussion that received scant attention was whether an unmarked safe could be identified only by its physical characteristics. (For example, it is possible to identify an unmarked Mergott safe by its tell-tale construction - see Alsford's book.) George Sparacio and I believe that we have uncovered five construction details that identify Tiffany-made safes. These construction details are not present in every Tiffany, but collectively they do not seem to appear on any other match safes except Tiffany.



One detail is the two protruding pins on either side of the hinge. Another is the external overedge of the lid and the same type of edge on the body of the box just below the bezel. A third is the extended edge of the spring push that is almost 1/2" long and reaches back into the deepest rear corner of the lid. Fourth is an applied striker. Finally, there appears to be inscribed Roman numerals on the inside of the box and the lid, perhaps showing that they were to be assembled together.

If anyone can dispute this hypothesis, please let me know.

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