

August 31, 1976

Dear Bob,

Received your letter of inquiry about old collectors and especially a C. R. Root. While not complete I can shed some light on the matter.

First have to explain some of my own operations. Started out originally about 1930 on bottles. When prohibition ended I soon ran out of shelf space so started taking the labels off bottles and putting them in albums.

Did not take me long to realize I was doing things the hard way so started writing to breweries all over the World asking for labels. Some U. S. A. breweries, rather than bothering it themselves, enclosed requests from other collectors they had received and sent them to me. Before you know I had an exchange empire built up that covered the Globe. As I went along I added other brew items and that is how my collection grew.

The collector who made notes of who and when and any variance and attached them to the seams of cans was J. K. Schmidt of Cleveland, Ohio. Doubt if he is still alive as he was very sick when I last wrote him about 5 years ago! He did not answer my last letter.

I have enclosed 3 samples of his small notes similar to those you refer to on cans so you can compare printing. These are from label collectors files. One is me, PAM is Paul A. Miller and Kim Martin is an Australian label collector. I could find none from Root so he must have been a can only exchange friend of Schmidts. Keep the stubs. I never heard of Root so can supply no information about him.

Paul Daniels and myself bought out Schmidt of Cleveland when he became ill and had to relocate in Texas. Daniels got the cans and I got the labels. We agreed on a criss-cross exchange of cans for labels. I/e Daniels took the cans he needed and duplicates he gave to me and I did same with the labels. I think the deal was 5 labels for one can. I left the stickers on the cans I got but do not recall any Root. Daniels may be able to tell you more on that. This was my first large purchase of anything where cans were included. Had exchanged for years previously but do not recall who was first and it is too involved for me to go thru my files to find out. I keep a record of all my deals and can tell you I last wrote to you in Oct., 1974 on one of my Museum post cards. A lot of water has gone over the dam since and also a lot of cans.

Never could piece the entire story together on the sale of Paul Daniels collection. Was several people and about the only thing concrete I can tell is that I eventually got hold of the ten million duplicate labels Daniels had accumulated. Still have them and they stay with me. Labels were sort of my first love and am eliminating all other brew items so that I can concentrate once and for all on my labels.

This is about the extent of any info I can give. Sorry but can tell nothing on Daniels present setup, Joe Allis is dead, never heard of Root, Bames, Conrodt. Ask Wally Gilbert who is in your back yard. Joe Veselsky may be able to shed some light as he got some of Daniels stuff.

Happy collecting,

*Wally Gilbert*