

Small Categories Series

Clowns

I've known a number of collectors over the years who have collected covers with Clowns on them, clowns of any type. I don't collect in this category, myself, but, as usual, I put them aside whenever I come across them for my traders that do.

The art of clowning, itself, goes way back. The art of clowning has existed for thousands of years. A pygmy clown performed as a jester in the court of Pharaoh Dadkeri-Assi during Egypt's Fifth Dynasty about 2500 B.C. Court jesters have performed in China since 1818 B.C.

I include 'jesters' in this category, since they were the forerunners of modern clowns. As is generally true with any small category, the clown may be of any size or type, drawing or photo, anywhere on the cover, or even on the inside.

The covers shown here also demonstrate, once again, how easily these small category covers can lead you into other categories, small or large. There are Clowns on circus covers, Casino covers (i.e., Circus Circus), some Fraternal covers which put on circuses (such as those sponsored by the Shriners), amusement park covers, etc., and they're randomly sprinkled throughout other categories as well, especially the three most common ones— Hotels/Motels/Restaurants.

Ellen Gutting, NV, has the largest collection I'm aware of....293 as of September, 2000.

