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Collecting Presidents

by
Mike Prero

Well, first off, we're not talking about "Presidential"

Here's a category that's been around for quite awhile. It's fairly easy and yet challenging, since there will always be those elusive ones you haven't found yet. There are some collectors who only collect specific presidents, such as Washington or Lincoln, but a number of people collect the wider topic.

From my viewpoint, the first challenge would be to try and get at least one cover from *all* the presidents, and that might be an insurmountable goal right at the onset—since I haven't seen or heard of any covers yet featuring President Obama. There may be a campaign cover or two that haven't turned up yet, but even if there aren't I would think that eventually be one put out by one of the clubs or as part of a new set of Presidents by Diamond, Atlas, or D.D. Bean. Otherwise, one recent set of Presidents would give you one cover for each. Then, the *real* fun begins..and you *know* what's coming!

Sure, you're going to find *lots* of Washingtons and Lincolns, but how many Hardings, Fillmores, Pierces, and the like are you going to come across! Aside from the store sets, which will have all the presidents in them, I would guess that your only real hope would be the rare hotel named after such presidents (the Rutherford B. Hayes Hotel, for example), and even then you'd have to sort through the older Hotel covers. They just don't name modern hotels after presidents anymore. You might come a cross that one-in-a-million cover from the James. K. Polk Restaurant or the Andrew Johnson Fan Club—but somehow I doubt it. For the more modern presidents, there might be *a* cover from a presidential library, museum, or some such source, but, again, your chances of such are slim.

The most common covers are going to be Washington and Lincoln, of course. Not only will you find them from the above sources, but they both abound amidst Lodgings and Financial Institutions, as well—The George Washington Inn, Lincoln Savings & Loan, etc.

Plus, there are other areas you can successfully mine, as well. For example, in most of those older 4-cover 'monument' sets, one of the covers is Mt. Rushmore—and Mt. Rushmore shows both Washington *and* Lincoln. Then there are those covers that picture a coin—the pennies always show Lincoln! Pictures of quarters would show Washington! I wouldn't think you'd find too much in the way of paper currency, though. Also, there the covers showing the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument—but, here,

I think, we start approaching the question of just which covers are going to qualify for your Presidential collection and which are not.

Now, this is just *my* take on this, and others may well differ, but, for me, the Lincoln Memorial would qualify because the entire structure is dedicated to Lincoln, and it has a large statue of Lincoln to boot. The Washington Monument is ‘ify’—It’s dedicated to Washington, of course, buuuuuuuut hmmmmmm....there’s no statue, no real graphic. Somewhere along the line here, you have to draw the line. Are you going to include all the covers that say “Lincoln, Illinois”? “Washington, MO”? How about the “Lincoln Highway”, “Washington River”, or

GEORGE WASHINGTON
 JOHN ADAMS
 THOMAS JEFFERSON
 JAMES MADISON
 JAMES MONROE
 JOHN QUINCY ADAMS
 ANDREW JACKSON
 MARTIN VAN BUREN
 WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON
 JOHN TYLER
 JAMES K. POLK
 ZACHARY TAYLOR
 MILLARD FILLMORE
 FRANKLIN PIERCE
 JAMES BUCHANAN
 ABRAHAM LINCOLN
 ANDREW JOHNSON
 ULYSSES S. GRANT
 RUTHERFORD B. HAYES
 JAMES GARFIELD
 CHESTER ARTHUR
 GROVER CLEVELAND
 BENJAMIN HARRISON
 WILLIAM MCKINLEY
 THEODORE ROOSEVELT
 WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT
 WOODROW WILSON
 WARREN HARDING
 CALVIN COOLIDGE
 HERBERT HOOVER
 FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
 HARRY TRUMAN
 DWIGHT EISENHOWER
 JOHN F. KENNEDY
 LYNDON JOHNSON
 RICHARD NIXON
 GERALD FORD
 JIMMY CARTER

RONALD REAGAN
 GEORGE BUSH
 BILL CLINTON
 GEORGE W. BUSH
 BARACK OBAMA

“Washington, DC”, itself? I wouldn’t. Even though the connection is obviously there, it’s not what I would be looking for in this

category.

Here are a few examples of the types of Lincoln covers that might fall into such a collection. You can find similar covers that would qualify for just about all of the rest of the Presidents...although some, admittedly, are far more difficult than others.

