

Cover Strategies For AMCAL 2010

Now, I don't know what *your* goal is when you attend a convention (after all, no everyone goes for the same reason), but *my* goal is to get covers. I'm a collector. I collect covers. So, that's what I'm after...covers! Personally, I'm not going to temporarily disrupt my life, take a couple of days off from work, and spend hundreds of dollars for transportation and housing just to socialize and see garden spots of the world such as Fresno (I've never been that big on socializing, anyhow). But, the promise of covers...now, *that's* a different matter!

At a convention, there are lots of covers...all in one place! And the new AMCALs promise an even greater emphasis on...gosh, covers! So, let's map out our campaign strategy...

> The auctions will offer a variety of covers: singles, bundles, albums—a great assortment of sizes, shapes, types, and categories, both rare and not-so-rare.

> The freebie table(s) offer...Well, you never know *what* you're going to find on the freebie tables. But, then, that's the beauty of the freebie tables! Over the years, I've found everything from Crowns and DQ's to just about anything else one would be interested in.

> Dealers' tables offer more specific pickings...at a price...but if you're after specific wants, be sure and check out what's to be had here. Dealers normally have their stock well organized, and it's easy and fast to find whether your wants are there or not.

>Yet another way to get covers is room-hopping! The grand old tradition will definitely continue, so, unless you're a brand new collector, you should also bring some freebie covers to set out in your room for all those 'drop-in's'. And, conversely, you'll be able to pick up some good covers from other collectors' rooms.

>Trading offers the biggest opportunity for obtaining your specific wants, and the new AMCALs promise a greater emphasis on such. Attendees are being encouraged to bring lots of trading material with them, or they can have it waiting for them by simply mailing a box ahead to Loren. There will be lots of opportunities for trading—in rooms, in gathering places—but often the most productive are those trades which can be set up ahead of time. For example, Doug Fouquet and I come to AMCAL each year with a pre-arranged trade. So, you can set up such with those of your traders who are attending, or you can check with Loren for who is *going* to attend and then see what trades you can set up with them.

I've been attending the AMCAL conventions since 1984 or 1985, and, even though I only go for 3 days rather than the entire week (it's during school, after all), I've always found that, for me, there was always a lot of down time—a lot of time when there was nothing going on that was of particular interest to me, so I'd usually spend the time (if you can believe it) correcting student papers in my hotel room until the next activity of interest started. The new shortened AMCAL, though, promises much less down time (if any) and much more concentrated activity—which for me, at least, is much more suitable.

AMCAL 2010 is (hopefully) the new generation of AMCALs, blending the best from the past with the needs of the present. I won't be surprised if there are some initial bugs that have to be worked out, but, if there are, I'm sure they won't be major...and I'm sure they won't dampen my enthusiasm... because whatever else...there's going to be all those...covers!