
Matchcover Etiquette

One of the things one has to be careful of when dealing with other people is not inadvertently stepping on toes. I'm not talking about political correctness, but rather simply knowing what the 'unwritten rules' are of any given situation...and the hobby has certainly developed its own over the last 70 years. Peruse this list of do's and don't's I've come up with and see if you've been naughty or nice!

Trading

- Always make certain that your trades are *not* going to arrive with 'postage due'.
- Always answer your trades and other hobby correspondence in a timely manner.
- Don't send struck/damaged covers in trade.
- Don't send flats in trade.
- Don't send junk for decent covers (i.e., don't send chemical companies and florist shops in trade for World's Fair covers)

Conventions

- If you're not a first-timer at a convention, you're expected to have freebie covers in your room for room-hopping.
- Under normal circumstances, if *you* go room-hopping, you're expected to have your *own* room available for such (although, not at the same time!)
- Don't take more than 1 cover each when room hopping, unless you've been told it's OK.
- Don't take covers from the Freebie tables that you can't use.

Bulletin-writing/Editorializing

- Don't quote anyone without asking beforehand. (!)
- Don't re-run someone else's article without giving the original bulletin credit.

Internet

- Never send huge graphic files to anyone without checking first (especially if the addressee is still using dial-up; you'll be tying up his computer for hours!)
- Don't send text in all caps (especially to editors who might want to use what you're saying; instead of simply copying and pasting, the text will have to be completely retyped before using)
- Always put your name on your e-mails.

Listers

- It's probably not a good idea to start a list on a category that someone else is already maintaining a list on (unless it's qualitatively different in some way)

Selling/Buying (as in auctions)

- No fair putting a nice cover on the top of the lot and garbage underneath!
- Each lot should be described accurately.
- Items purchased in mail auctions should be paid for promptly.

Club Membership [*this one's for all the overworked membership secretaries*]

- Always pay your dues on time!

[Ha ha... You thought you were doing OK until you got to the last one! I think we've all been guilty of that one at one time or another.]