Hillbillies

This is a semi-tough category, but an ever-popular one. A Hillbilly cover is one that depicts Hillbilly life via a cartoon. Jim Moffett's November 1985 listing of Hillbilly Sets lists 24 sets with a total of 121 stock design covers. (21 sets of 5 covers, 2 sets of 6 covers, and 1 set of 4 covers) Superior, Match Corp. of America, Monarch, Regal, Strike-Rite (Canada), Diamond, Chicago Match and other various companies all put out Hillbilly sets, from 1948-early 1970s. Although the first came from Chicago Match Company, those from Superior set the standard. The artwork is beautiful, and that's one of, if not *the*, main attraction here. The detail is superb; the colors are rich and attractive, indeed.

There are two basic types of covers here: the older ones and the newer ones. It's easy to tell them apart. The newer issues are thinner, to begin with, and the artwork is a world apart from the craftsmanship demonstrated in the older covers. Also, of course, the newer issues are reverse-strikers.

Another attractive feature of this category is that these covers were issued in sets, mostly of 5-covers, as noted above. That's another reason why Hillbillies make attractive displays.

You don't normally see the older Hillbillies in trade anymore, and, when you do, it's almost always broken sets. As with all of the older categories, your best bet for putting together a collection, here, is to either wait until they appear in auctions, estate sales, or mail bids...or make contact with some veteran collector who has a supply.

There's no listing of individual covers. I had 2,624 when I last counted in January 2009.







