

Woodies

For one of the “peripheral” categories in the hobby, this one has always been quite a popular one, perhaps because they’re such distinctive-looking covers. After years of indifference, I’ve even recently started collecting them myself.

“Woodies” are covers which appear to have a wood-grain finish. When looking for these, they’re easy to spot because it looks as if the cover’s text and graphics have been printed on a plank! Still, it won’t be too long before you’re faced with what may be a tough decision. What actually constitutes a “Woody?”

I’ve already given you a definition—but, what if only a part of the cover has that wood-grain appearance? What if it’s only a ‘three-quarters’ Woody, or what if only half the design has a wood-grain finish? Are they *all* Woodies, or is there a distinction to be made? As usual, for your own collection, you can make your own rules, but you know you’re going to eventually end up with dupes you will probably want to trade...and then your rules have to meet the other collectors’ definitions of what *they* see as Woodies. I’ll leave the possible fine distinctions as to what, exactly, constitutes a ‘true’ Woody and what doesn’t, but the obvious, fail-safe definition is that a Woody is, in fact, a cover that sports a wood-grain finish from top to bottom and side to side—as most such covers do.

And, what about colors? These are “Woodies”—wood is brown—” hence, “Woodies” must be all brown, right? No fair! You looked at the front page! Well, that’s right. They’re not all brown. They actually come in a fairly wide variety of colors: all possible shades of brown (from light to dark), yellow, orange, pink, and even green! [Thus, you might even give some thought to arranging your Woodies in your albums by *color*, first, and then, perhaps, alphabetically. I have my Christmas covers sorted out by color, and it works out quite nicely].

OK, so now you’re interested to starting in on a Woodies collection. Does that mean you should be looking for a specific manumark or covers from a specific manufacturer? Nope. All of the major manufacturers, U.S. and Canadian, plus many of the smaller companies, put out Woodies. Universal, Diamond, Lion, D.D. Bean, Ohio, Eddy, Strike-Rite, and so on are all represented in this category. And, you will also find a variety of Woodies which sport a manumark by the local advertising, novelty, and printing companies.

Aside from the distinctive appearance of these covers, and the variety of shades and colors, there are a number of other factors which tend to make collecting Woodies popular. For example, as front-strikers (representing the older covers) have become more and more sought after in recent years, there has been a corresponding disdain (at least to some degree) for reverse-strikers (representing the newer covers). Woodies have have both types to offer the collector. It’d be interesting to try a determine just how far Woodies go back in history. While I

continued on p. 7

