Dealing With 'No Loc' Covers

There are certainly lots of them! They say "Bank of America," "Annie's Deli," Flintlock Tavern," etc., but they don't have any location! And there's the rub!

Most of us have at least some of our sub-collections organized by location, especially the larger ones. Take Banks, for instance. You might have them sorted alphabetically, but you end up with huge divisions simply because you have so many Banks. Say you get ia Southwestern Trust Company cover, and you need to go through your "S" Banks to see if you already have it. Well, you don't want to have to wade through 100 album pages of "S's"! So, first, you organize your covers by location, *then* alphabetically, thus dividing those 26 alphabetical divisions by 50! (or more if you also have foreign covers in that category). Now you have at least 1,300 divisions—much easier to deal with!

But *[You knew there was going to be a catch!],* it's not quite that simple, because—you always end up with some covers that have no state. "DeLuxe Pizza"...telephone number, perhaps even a street address...but no state. I happen to collect in many categories, so I run into this problem all the time.

You could try to discern the state by researching the phone number. Sometimes that works. If it's a newer cover, you could try locating the business on the internet. Still, when you have tens or hundreds of such covers, none of this is practical for most of us. It's simply too time-consuming, not to mention tedious.

What to do? What to do? Here's how I have single-handedly solved this most perplexing problem *[to my own satisfaction, if no one else's!]*: I file No Loc covers by state, as well, only here I take the state from the manumark. So, if the manumark says, "Lion Match Co., Boulder, CO," I'd file it under Colorado, and then alphabetically.

The location noted in the manumark usually denotes the office where the salesman who took the order reported to. And since the salesman covered a goodly amount of territory, there's a good chance that the cover in question was not located in Boulder, but it was most likely, although not certainly, in Colorado. (There's always an off chance that the business was located nearby in an adjacent state. You may even run into a few covers which show a Northern state in the manumark...for a Canadian business!)

But, it doesn't matter! Even if that business *was* actually located in a different state from where I have placed it, as long as I'm consistent in my "error," I will always know where to look for that particular cover, especially when checking for dupes among newly arrived covers. And that's the whole point in organizing your covers in the first place. Even if I eventually get in a dupe of that cover, and some kindly collector has written in the state on the inside, I disregard it, and still treat it as a No Loc cover. Otherwise, down the line, should I get another dupe, I'd never be able to find the original.

Ah! *[You're already ahead of me]* But what about those covers that don't *have* a state in the manumark? What about those covers that just have "Made in U.S.A."? And, what about those covers (and boxes) that don't have a manumark at all?! For these few covers, I simply create a special section in the front of my first album. Here, all of the truly "unknown" covers are simply put in alphabetically. Again, since I'm consistent, the process works.

There are undoubtedly other possible solutions to this problem, but this one does everything I want it to, so...I'm satisfied.