

They Were Good Ideas...Then

It's called progress, I suppose. The horse gave way to the automobile; the wagon gave way to the truck; the telephone gave way to the cell phone (I'm just glad I missed the men's garters era!) Yes, we have all these newer, fancier, more colorful gadgets today. They whirl and purr and blink so prettily until we wonder how we ever got along without them...until the next new item comes along.

It's always interesting to look at covers which have obsolete items pictured—fashions, hair styles, medicines, machines. They look so quaint, so 'old fashioned'. They bring smiles to the faces of older collectors who remember them; they bring looks of humorous wonderment to those who belong to another era.

If one had a really good collection of such covers, the evolution of such items could be shown, from hand washing boards to the most modern of washing machines, for example. It's all part of our history, and that's why it appeals to me. It's the story of how we got to where we are.

Of course, almost all of these covers, by definition would be old covers, and that's always a plus in my book, but there will be some, a few, that are newer—covers depicting VHS tapes, for example. How about covers advertising sets of encyclopedias?! How about Apple IIc's?! How about BlackBerrys? (ha ha)

Smaller and faster seem to be the current guidelines for progress.

It's all relative, though...relative to your particular generation. Our cutting-edge technology will be our children's obsolete, quaint gadgetry...Well, heck! It already is!



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