

Foreign Holiday Inns

In the 1980s, Holiday Inns was one of the most popular categories there were. HI covers were red hot! New, non-stock issues were coming out all the time. Not so since then. The category has been as cold as a dead mackerel [*pardon the colorful simile!*]. What caused the turn around?—The onset of those hated-above-all-other-things covers...generic Nationals.

But, those *foreign* locations (God love ‘em!) still occasionally crank out great non-stock covers, albeit not in the quantities seen in the past. Even if you’re not a Holiday Inn collector, aren’t thinking of becoming a Holiday Inn collector, and will never be a Holiday Inn collector, *foreign* Holiday Inn covers are worth collecting simply because of their exotic and interesting locations. Today, for example, there are Holiday Inns in 100 different countries, spread over Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and the Asia-Pacific area. Think of all the great covers! And that’s not taking into account all the covers issued in the past!

The two downsides to collecting these covers is 1) availability, and 2) the odd sizes. Because these are from far-away locations, they’re more difficult to obtain, and, when someone does bring some back, it’s always in very limited quantities. Once, the late Bill Thomas gave me a box from the Nairobi Hilton!! His wife had brought some back from a junket. Now, I ask you, how many Nairobi Hilton boxes are currently floating around the hobby? So, what you end up with in this category is often pretty much of a hit or miss situation. The other ‘problem’ that you have to deal with here is that, since most of these are actually ‘foreign’ covers (that is, not made to U.S. specs), you’re going to have to deal with a bunch of odd sizes...which means that that great Nairobi box or Thai cover may *not* going to fit into a the old slotted pages, so you may have to mount it in plastic or individually. Carmine Arpino, CT, has a d 851 such covers as of January 2016.



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