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High Density Categories

So there I was, sitting in the living room, watching a movie while sorting covers. Sorting covers is one of my most pleasurable pastimes. I get to see covers I've never seen before—some of which I'll probably never see again—and some that I can actually use in my collections. (Of course, there are the covers I've see a million times and will probably see another million before I cash it in).

Anyway, as I'm sorting, I find myself looking at a hotel cover, not particularly remarkable, but all of a sudden one of those dangerous random thoughts appears in my head. "Hotels! That's a high density category!" *Hmmmmm, what's a high density category?* It's a category that involves lots of people—Hotels/Motels/Restaurants, for example. Airlines, Ship Lines, (most, if not all, of the Transportation categories, in fact...Depends on how you look at it), Grocery Stores, Drug Stores, etc.

Low density categories (involving less people) might include Tattoo Parlors, Barber Shops, Astrologers, and so forth. Tom Gray, IA, comes to mind. He collects Agricultural topics—Low density! You can readily see by now that this High density-Low density distinction pretty well matches up with the Large category-Small category division.

There are lots of categories that don't lend themselves to this High density-Low density type of organization, though. Basically, all the small categories that are focused on 'things' rather than people—Frogs, Roses, Windmills, etc.—don't fit in here. Even something like Girlies, which is not a small category.

'High density' could certainly be defined differently, however. It could be made to mean popular categories as opposed to not-so-popular categories; the former attracting more collectors than the latter. Holiday Inns, Best Westerns, Navy Ships, (at least in the past) would be such high density categories; Girlies (always popular); and so on.

Or, it could be taken to mean the quantity of covers in a given category (High density = lots of covers). Most of the Fancy categories would qualify here: Matchoramas, Uniglos, Christmas, Foilites, and so forth. Girlies, Hotels, Motels, Restaurants...and on and on. Low Density = Red Cross, Dave & Buster's, Hard Rock Cafe, and the like.

Orrrrrrrrrr... 'High density' might even be stretched to mean difficult categories. Terrorists, Pre-War Navy Ships, CCC Camps...Goodness knows, there are a lot of them.

But, *[sigh!]* 'High density' is a term which will never catch on in the hobby. Why? Because it simply isn't needed. Too bad! It has such a nice ring to it.

Curse these random thoughts!