



Editorial

How Big Is Big?...How Small Is Small?

For those collectors who collect ‘specialty’ categories...i.e., various animals, Mermaids, Indians, Streetlamps, Chef’s Hats, Matadors, and the like...the question may arise as to how ‘big’ the picture of said item has to be before it qualifies as an addition to the collector’s collection. I say *may*, because some collectors don’t have this problem; *any* cover that has *that* categorical picture, no matter what the size, automatically qualifies. I, myself, am such a collector...in most instances.

But, many collectors may be more ‘discerning’ in their wants. The item has to be soooo big, or the item has to be referred to in business name, or the item has to be big enough to be easily seen, or the item has to be big enough and on the front panel, or... As usual, each collector makes up his or her parameters.

I have a ‘Tree’ category, for example [*I know!*]. I could see right off the bat that, if I used my usual standards here, I’d end up with a gazillion covers with trees (just think how many covers have trees on them!) And that wasn’t the objective of the collection. I just wanted to save those covers that had beautiful, and prominent, trees in the design. So, for this category, *I* simply decided that any such cover that would qualify for *my* collection of trees would have to have the tree as the dominant graphic on the panel. Someone else collecting trees might well come up with different standards.

Even if the collector takes all sizes, sometimes the decision is taken out of the collector’s hands and

has already been determined by someone else. The Girlie Club, for example, will not include girlie covers in its singles catalog if the girlie pics are judged to be too small. The individual collector can still collect those smaller girlies, of course, but the fact that they’ve been rejected for inclusion in the official listing somehow diminishes their worth or attractiveness to collectors.

Then, there’s the at least *potential* problem of clashing parameters. What if I demand *big* trees, but my traders send me *all* trees? Hmmmmmm. Well, I avoid that problem by simply not listing Trees as one of my wants. Actually, truth be told, I’ve never really run into this problem, *ever*, but it *could* happen.

So, the question of whether it’s big enough, or just too small, is just another one of those perplexing little problems that can confront the collector during his or her career in the hobby. Some people’s interests are just different from other’s; some people might be a little more picky; some people less. When in doubt, just remember...*my* standards are the right ones (!)

