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The Conundrum Of Obtaining Foreign Covers

In general, I'm not a big advocate of collecting foreign covers, simply because they're difficult to obtain and they come in all those odd sizes that make them hard to mount in your albums (even with plastic pages, a lot of space is wasted in many of the pockets).

Still, I have foreign covers in my collections whenever they happen to fall into my categories, but I don't actively pursue them.

Obviously, the best source is collectors overseas that have ready access to these, and I've always found such collectors are ready, willing, and able to trade. But, the postage is relatively expensive, and I absolutely hate having to down to the post office in order to mail trades to foreign locations (because I can never figure out what the postage will be beforehand). And, if the mailing is relatively heavy, you have to fill out all sorts of customs forms to boot.

Another problem in dealing with

foreign collectors is that their emphasis is in boxes and labels rather than covers, any you may not want boxes and labels. Also, with the boxes, foreign collectors routinely deal in what US collectors would call flats, and you probably don't want such covers and boxes in trade.

It will take you some real searching to find a collector overseas who will accede to your wants *and* your standards, but if you can, and you're willing to deal with the postage and the post office, then it's worth it.