



Editorial

Those @&%\$!(*/%~! Covers!

Did you ever notice (I'm sure you have) that no matter what covers you are working with, there are always at least a few that just don't go?!—They don't fit on the slotted pages; they won't squeeze into your plastic page pockets; they can't be arranged in the same organization as the other covers in the category...and you end up spending three times as much time on them as the other covers. It's almost as if the gods have a bull's-eye on you.

In the course of collecting, it's a common enough occurrence to come across covers that won't fit on your slotted or plastic pages. They're either slightly too long (as in the case of the older, pre-vending machine covers) or too wide (as in the case of many of the older Superior covers, for example, or those extra-wide, God-awful older Canadian 30-strikes—*sorry Canadians!*). And *Foreign!* Don't even get me started on *Foreign!* Most of them don't nicely fit *any* of the pre-measured openings!

But, for me, the covers that are *really* a pain are those that can't be dealt with under the standard organizational rules that you've come up with for that particular category. For example, last night I happened to be working on my Minor Politicals. I *had* them all organized by the office that the candidate was running for—constable, mayor, county commissioner, etc.—but I found more and more covers where the office was either so obscure that I wasn't likely to get any other covers to house with it (which is not good because I have to devote a whole plastic page for that one cover, wasting the rest of the space)...*or*, the stated office was so vague that I couldn't tell which one of my pre-set categories it went in (i.e., “Commissioner”—does that mean ‘City Commissioner’, ‘County Commissioner’, or so forth).

The end result was that I decided to re-organize my entire Minor Political collection so that it is alphabetical, by the candidate's last name. Simple—shouldn't be a problem, right? We'll, I've already run into a couple that don't *have* the candidate's last name! One, for example, just says “Vote For Joe”. And then, of course, there are the Minor Politicals that don't have any candidate's name at all, such as the ‘Vote for Proposition 5’...so all the Proposition covers have to be alphabetized by “P” (for ‘Propositions’).

See? That's the point. No matter what system you come up with, there are always some covers that won't fit into your system. I used to have my Christmas covers sorted by colors, but there were always covers with either off-the-wall shades that didn't match any of the other color categories, or that consisted of such a kaleidoscope of colors that they, also, didn't fit in with the “Greens,” or the “Reds”, etc. It goes on and on—In my Banks collection (sorted by state and then alphabetically), there are those invariable covers with *no* state! In my Uniglo, Foilite, and Cameo collections (all organized alphabetically), there are always those with no text at all! In my Christmas collection, there are also covers with no text. And, in my Military collection (which is sorted by state, then by branch, then by unit name), there are those gol'darned covers with no location! And it just keeps going!

Of course, one *might* reasonably argue that if it wasn't for the little frustrations, collecting wouldn't be as interesting as it is (!!)—I'm not sure if I sign on to that one!