

# **RMS INSTA-POLL** “What are your criteria for voting on displays?” (Craftsmanship, quality of covers, rarity of covers, etc.) (This is a follow-up question to last issue’s survey. Thanks to Dave Carr, CAN, for submitting this one)

[57 responding]

Artistry/Craftsmanship	28
Quality of covers	24
Rarity of covers	23
Originality	6
Meets qualifications?	5
Subject matter	3
Is it interesting to me?	3
Difficulty level	3
Most like to have	2
I have no criteria (!)	1
Age of covers	1
Quantity	1
Never voted before	7

*Note: Almost everyone gave a combination of criteria, so the total of answers does not match the number of responses.*

**Applicable comments:**

- “I care less about how the actual display is put together and the frame quality, etc. For me, it's all about the cover(s).”
- “It's about the covers. That's our hobby. First and foremost.”
- “Will rule out displays containing majority of flats (yes, they’re still being entered & accepted). Generally will not consider displays that look like they are made up of purchased sets unless they are very unusual or in the case of labels.”

- “I like displays that are different, creative, thoughtful, and show personality.”
- “My primary thought is how hard is it to assemble the covers for a display. Some displays show a set that was purchased intact, while others have to be put together, piece by piece. I'll always vote for the latter.”
- “Craftsmanship to me is immaterial. Quality and rarity are factual.”
- “Overall appearance, quality, craftsmanship, originality. Rarity can be purchased.”
- “Jim Moffett once told me that he voted for the display of matches that he would most want to have in his own collection. That's been my view ever since as it makes perfect sense to me. Cuts through rare, old, valuable and creative.”
- “I count presentation as one of my highest criteria. Anyone can put a rare cover in a display (assuming that they had a rare one).”
- “I look most for Craftsmanship, the little things done by the maker to make it unique. Also look for Visually pleasantness. I don’t even consider if it is shoddy work.”

The bulk of the responses were fairly evenly split between Artistry/Craftsmanship - Quality of covers - Rarity of covers. It’s interesting that Artistry/Craftsmanship (the ‘look’ of the display) not only figures so prominently, but is actually the #1 response. That would seem to tell collectors who enter displays that if they don’t make their displays attractive, innovative, and eye-catching, their chances of winning are significantly lessened, irrespective of what the covers actually are. Rarity and quality of covers would seem to mean that any display of run-of-the-mill covers is basically doomed. I, personally, liked the “I have no criteria” response!