

RMS INSTA-POLL

“With ref to the covers in your own collection, what’s more important to you? (please prioritize this list) **VALUE, RARITY, ATTRACTIVENESS, SENTIMENT, TOPIC, AGE, OTHER (Please specify)?”**

[March - 84 responding]

<u>Characteristic:</u>	<u>Ranked 1st:</u>	<u>Ranked 2nd:</u>	<u>Ranked 3rd:</u>	<u>Ranked 4th:</u>	<u>Ranked 5th:</u>	<u>Ranked last:</u>
Value:	4	2	8	16	17	30
Rarity:	8	18	9	14	16	11
Attractiveness:	15	22	16	16	8	1
Sentiment:	10	11	19	9	10	18
Topic:	47	14	9	4	6	2
Age:	4	14	14	15	15	17
Other:						
Location:		2	2			
Significance:			1			
Condition:			1			1
Series:			1			
Theme:				1		
Whim:						1
Pers. Assoc.	1					
Enjoyment:					1	
Investment:						1
Sickness:				1		
Resale Value:			1			

The results, here, had some no-brainers and some surprises, I thought...

No-brainer: *Topic* was overwhelmingly indicated as the primary factor in choosing covers. I suppose that’s not surprising because we, as collectors in this particular hobby, are all oriented to collecting by topic—Chinese Restaurants, Railroads, Military, etc.

Surprise: *Value* came in dead last, and by a healthy margin. If you think about it, though, perhaps it’s not that surprising. Matchcovers aren’t like coins. Collectors don’t get into this hobby with investment and profit in mind.

Surprise: *Age* came off second to last [if you take the last two columns combined]. That’s surprising to me, although most categories are not really age-related, so perhaps that accounts for the lesser priority.

Surprise: *Sentiment* came in much higher than I thought it would. I can see that in certain categories, such as Famous Places, VIPs, or Military...but in most categories...Hmmmmm.

Surprise: *Rarity* did much more poorly than I would have suspected, but I have a feeling that most collectors feel that rarities are either beyond their resources or efforts, and so don’t pursue them. I’m not up to buying a Lindburgh cover, myself.

Overall, though, and once again, the results show a remarkable viability in collector tastes, expectations, and opinions.