

RMS INSTA-POLL

“Regarding covers, rank the following factors
in order of importance:
Age, Beauty, Quality, Subject Matter, Value”
[no ties - no combinations, please]
[May - 92 responding]

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Age	9	25	22	28	10
Beauty	13	14	34	21	12
Quality	4	45	19	21	2
Value		2	8	18	64
Subject Matter	66	6	9	5	4

Well, the results were pretty clear this time:

>Most agree, by a huge margin, that Subject Matter is the most important of the cover aspects noted here. I suppose that’s not all that surprising, given that we collect by categories.

>At the opposite end, a similar hefty majority agree that Value is the least important aspect. Also not surprising, perhaps, since none of us started collecting in order to become rich!

> The Quality of the cover came in second, which explains most collectors’ traditional distain for struck, damaged, or *[groan]* bob-tailed covers.

> Age and Beauty were fairly close for 3rd and 4th postions.

Pertinent comments:

-Several people noted that ‘quality’ = condition, which is what was intended

-What about the factor of Rare or Unusual ie: Classiques, Safe-T-Flaps, ANIMATCHES, Animated Bookmatches or MONO-PULL-PAK, etc. Would you throw them into one of the 5 factors you're asking for, ie: Subject Matter? That may be missing the point you're looking for. Perhaps Rare or unusual could also be a factor. [Ed. Absolutely. I should have included that.]

-Value is last because it is practically impossible to determine the value

-Age means absolutely nothing when recent covers you know are out there but can't be found.