

RMS INSTA-POLL

“What do you do with flats?”

[January - 98 responding]

-Put them in my regular collections	34
-Keep them until I can replace them	16
-Give them away	14
-Keep them as a Flats category	15
-Throw them away	6
-Toss them in a box	5
-Keep the rare/old ones	4
-Don't have any	1
-Trade them	1
-Only work with full-books	1
-Have never gotten any	1

Well! This was certainly a surprise to me. Given RMS's official stand on flats, I thought most collectors threw them away. No so! 76% keep them! And, 35% put them in their regular collections as they would regular covers.

I've always gotten rid of mine, but, as a result of this poll, I think I'll start a FLATS category and keep them, but not to use in my regular collections. After all, most are pristine and typify what we collect.

Here are a few appropriate comments received:

- “Put them in a box earmarked for future freebie tables. Would never put a flat in any of my albums.”
- “Why would you treat it any differently than a match cover, that's what it is. We put them in the category book they belong with.”
- “save flats. I consider them comparable to proof coinage and postage stamps which are not put into general circulation but are collectible. The idea of discarding them as junk material is absurd!”

Many thanks to all that participated and made this poll possible.