Small Categories Series

Anniversaries

First, I should note that this is not what most collectors refer to when they say "Anniversaries." What I'm referring to here are legitimate Dated covers heralding the anniversary of some business, town, etc. Otherwise, say "Anniversaries" to a collector and he'll probably assume you mean wedding and wedding anniversary covers, 99% of which are not legitimate Dated covers since the text was in all likelihood stamped on the cover by some caterer long after the actual issuance of the cover.

Nope, these babies are *real* Dated covers. It's a long story, but I'll give you the brief version. One day, as a novice collector, I was sorting through covers, and I came across a centennial anniversary cover for Streator, IL. Since I teach History, this immediately struck a nerve. It didn't fall into any category I had, so I just started collecting such Anniversaries, although that category soon gave way to my collecting Dated covers in general.

I originally had my Anniversaries arranged according to the length of the anniversary (i.e., all the 10th anniversaries together, all the 25th anniversaries together, etc. It was pretty neat, but you could just as easily arrange them according to the actual dates, themselves, or alphabetically, or by state, or whatever you're comfortable with. The longest anniversary I had at the time was the 800th anniversary of Thomas Beckett (1170-1970), celebrated on a 40-strike from England.

This makes a very interesting small category if you're inclined at all toward history...and you should be!





