

Small Categories Series

Signet

“Signet” is more or less of a specialized type of Foilite, but it’s collected as a category in itself, since it has its own trademark. They’re not Oldies, but they’re not new either. They first came out in 1963 and were produced by Universal Match until the company ceased production of all Fancies in 1987.

Signets are easily recognized. The relevant name on the cover is in foil, but each letter is deeply cut (debossed) and distinctly wedged-shaped. It really gives the impression that the production process involved a hammer and chisel! I’m sure that scans below really don’t do these covers justice, and it’s probably difficult for you to see the tell-tale features we’re talking about, but the resulting covers are really quite attractive.

Where might you find these little gems? Well, you’re only looking for Universal covers, but other than that they might pop up in any category, but look especially in those categories which tend toward the Fancies to begin with—Christmas covers, for example; Cameos; Banks [*Ah, I love those bankers; they can afford anything!*]

There was an early listing in the early 1970s that listed 161 Signets. Copies are available from the RMS Library. Later, Mike Hickey, Washington, DC, was doing a Signet listing in 1988, but I don’t know if it was a new one or a continuation of the earlier one, and I don’t know what its status is currently. The largest collection that I’m aware of is Judi Wittwer’s, AZ, who had 302 in August, 2003.

