

End of the Front Striker

Here's the best illustrative example of the end of the front striker that I've ever run across. These two covers are exactly the same: same format, same advertiser, same manumark...and same date...1976. Yet one's a front striker and one's a reverse striker.

Although federal law mandating reverse strikers went into effect in 1973, manufacturers were allowed to use out their existing stocks of front strikers. The actual regulation gave manufacturers up to 1978 to do this, and I can readily see the changing over by looking in my Dated collection, which is fairly extensive. Looking at 1976 covers, one can see about a 50/50 split in striker positions. About 75/25 in 1977; and approximately 90/10 in the 1978 covers. Then, it's 100% reverse-strikers from 1979 on.

You can still find modern front-strikers, but they're all foreign covers.

