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Collecting Literary Characters

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Being a Literature teacher, among other things, my eyes automatically focus in on any cover text that alludes to a character, place, event, etc. in Literature...and that's how I started in on my 'Literary



Characters' collection. I also have a similar collection of 'Historical Characters'...the difference being that I reserve the fictional topics for 'Literary Characters' and the factual topics for 'Historical Characters'. Thus, the Round Table, Zeus, and Paul Bunyon would be examples of topics that would be fictional, whereas Caesar, Molly Pitcher, and the Red Baron would be factual. The distinction makes things a lot simpler, and so far it's worked out quite well.

So here's another possibility for adding new zest to your collecting endeavors. As you sift through covers, looking for ones to fit into your other categories, you'll occasionally notice ones which have a character from Literature in the business name, as those below do. Or, the reference may be in a logo or other corollary to the central name; you'll have to decide what you're looking for.

Of course, as always in our hobby, it's your collection so you can set whatever parameters you want. You may decide to collect any and all such covers, with no further qualifications. On the other hand, you may decide that a text reference isn't enough, and that you want a picture of the character on the cover, as well. It's totally up to you.

Not surprisingly, Hotel/Motel/Restaurant covers are going to be the normal source for such covers, and they're going to come in all shapes, sizes, and types. After awhile, you'll have several pages of Robin Hoods, Cinderellas, and the like. Gods and goddesses could also qualify for this category, since there is a body of myths connected to each. Thus, the Athena Restaurant, Thor's Hardware, or Odin's Lodge are fair game as Literary characters. You could also take this same concept and expand it into other areas. How about Famous Mythological Places, for example?—Flying Dutchman Motel, El Dorado Hotel—"California" even qualifies, since it's believed that Cortez named California after he had read the name in a 16th century novel about a mythical land.

