

## Small Categories Series

### Whales

'Whales' is a category that's been popular with a number of collectors over the years. What's the attraction?...Is it the nature of the exotic beasts? The call of the sea? The mythology characterizing whales over the eons? There's the story of Jonah and the whale, of course. And what about Herman Melville's great classic, *Moby Dick*! Both of these stories picture the whale in something of a less than sympathetic portrait. But, more recently, with whale-watching tours and the movement against whale hunting in general, the whale has become more 'friendly'.

Although you're likely to find whales pictured on any type of cover, most will be found in the huge Hotel/Motel/Restaurant realm. Aye! That they abide in greater quantities, lad! Seafood restaurants would seem to be the logical focus, although I've never heard of any seafood restaurant that actually offers 'whale' on the menu.

Do 'Killer Whales', such as the one pictured below, qualify as whale covers? Hmmmm...it's up to the collector, I suppose.

Renown collector of small categories, Chester Crill, CA, currently holds the record for largest Whale collection. He reported having 278 as of April 2005.

This could be a nice category for you if you have any interest in Whales. Personally, I prefer the realistic representations, rather than the cartoonish ones.

