

Errors IX: Overprinting

Overprinting means that extra text or graphics have been applied over the correct design. There are three variations of this error. 1) The extra overprinting is just more of what's already on the cover; 2) The extra overprinting is from a completely different business's cover; and 3) The extra overprinting is reversed and may be more of the same (as in 1)) or something completely different (as in 2)). There are also covers that have been overprinted with several different advertisers!

In the third variety, the overprinting is reversed, making it look as if a freshly printed, still wet, cover had come in contact with the original cover, leaving a mirror image behind. This may not always be the cause of this type of overprinting, but it must be the cause of a lot of them because almost always when, this can be seen on the *inside* of the cover, the overprinting is lighter and not consistent (meaning some of the overprinting is lighter in places, and perhaps even missing)...which would certainly indicate that the overprinting was caused by one cover laying up against a freshly-printed second cover...or one sheet against another, and so forth.

In some cases, such as in examples #1 and 2, below, the overprinting is 'clean' and 'specific', but in many cases, overprinting simply results in a total mess! Just look at examples #3 and 4 below. I've seen a number of gross examples of overprinting where it was impossible to tell what the original design was. The cover has just been turned into a palate for a hodgepodge of colors and letters, layer upon layer, and little else is actually discernable.

Next issue...the exciting world of end-of-roll errors! (Boy, talk about building up suspense!)

