

Errors XI: Reverse Creasing/Upside Down Creasing/ And Some Miscellaneous Questions

Well, as if there weren't enough things that could go wrong already, now the cover has been creased on the wrong side (inside, as opposed to outside), so that the cover bends the wrong way! That's reverse creasing. The sheet's been accidentally flipped over in the production process, or whatever.

Upside down creasing is when the sheet, cover, etc. has been turned around somehow? (so that the top is now at the bottom) and the creasing now occurs on the right side but on the wrong panels (so that the top flap crease, for example, is now at the bottom of the bottom panel). *Oi vey!*

I'm not running any graphics this time, since it's difficult to see just the creasing.

Onwards to a couple of burning questions about errors...

Are errors less frequent now than they were in the past?... Absolutely not! Surprising, isn't it? One might well think that, with technology having improved by leaps and bounds over that which was available in earlier times that, the chances of cover flubs would have been vastly reduced... Yet, that's not the case at all.

Numerically, there are fewer errors these days, but that's simply because there are fewer covers being produced. Percentage-wise, I see just as many modern errors as I do older errors. Why is that? Well, while any business would logically strive to keep its defective products from ever getting out into the public realm, I somewhat cynically tend to believe that in items that are mass produced like this, especially *cheaply* mass produced items, it's just not financially feasible to spend the time, effort, and expense necessary to all but eliminate such. Thus, from time to time, the little gems 'slip' out into circulation.

That theory is at least indirectly backed up by the long-running 'rumors' within the hobby that manufacturers intentionally release items such as uncut 10s or 20s, overruns perhaps, as 20-strike and 40-strike matchbooks, respectively, in order to maximize profits and minimize waste. Whether that's actually true or not, I don't know. Perhaps someone who was once a salesperson for one of the manufacturers could put that to rest for us, one way for the other.

Are there some manufacturers that seem to produce more errors than others? No! Again, percentage-wise, errors seem to have been produced fairly evenly by manufacturers/printers--big and small, old and new alike.

There *is* a difference between old and new in the sense that we don't really see the errors of the early days anymore that were due to crude practices and sloppy workmanship. The strikers, for example, no longer being applied by hand, are uniform and horizontal now. Also, in Diamond Qualities, as a further example, it isn't all that uncommon to see part of the footer cut off, as in the example shown here.

Next issue... We wrap up this series with a look at some of the more wild and crazy examples of ERRORS!

