

Contour Error Series



Nationals

A bad word in this hobby? Well....we're usually disappointed when we find them; we don't want them in trades; and we often just toss them away or put them on the freebie tables...but...

Almost everyone collects them! Because they're a part of just about every category you can think of. And, if you're after as 'complete' a collection as you can amass...then you *have* to have those Nationals! I collect most of the big Hotel/Motel chains, for example--Best Westerns, Holiday Inns, etc. What would my collections be without those Nationals. They're part of the 'story'. In fact, if the category is old enough, that sequence of Nationals will often document and illustrate the evolution of the particular product, chain, etc.

In fact, Nationals constitute the *majority* of covers in some categories! How about Airlines and Railroads, for example...And *those* covers are coveted! Thus, it turns out that only *some* Nationals are unappreciated, un wanted, and unloved.

Nationals have always been part of the industry and, consequently, part of the hobby. In fact, if I remember correctly, it was an order for 10 or 20 million Pabst Beer Nationals that kick-started the commercial success of matchbooks in the first place.

So, even though Nationals in general are certainly looked down upon and ill regarded by many, we *need* them...just because they're there! They serve a purpose in our collections. Those collections tell a story, and Nationals are part of that story.

[A note to all my traders: Don't send me any Nationals!]