



Editorial

“Death of a Hobby”

No, no! Not *our* hobby!...Despite the beating it's taken in the last ten years. But, that got me to thinking [*always a dangerous and unpredictable occurrence*].

Did you ever stop to think?...*Hobbies don't die!* Their popularity usually waxes or wanes, depending on the times; the numbers of their adherents grow or decline; resulting clubs may proliferate or even disappear...but the hobbies, themselves, don't die!

Just out of curiosity, I did a search on Google. I initially thought it might be interesting and useful to go through a list of dead hobbies, see why they died, and take a look to see if any of those factors were happening to our own beloved endeavor. Looking...Looking...“Dead Hobbies”...“Defunct Hobbies”...“Dying Hobbies”... etc....nothing! There aren't any! All the references one finds are simply in reference to the individual, not the hobby, itself. Thus, a person may note his declining interest in his hobby, and therefore describe that activity as a ‘dying hobby’...but it's his *interest* that's dying...*not* the hobby.

Can *you* come up with a hobby that's actually died? I fling down the gauntlet! I publically challenge you! I don't think you can. There are so many people in the world, with such an endless diversity of interests and pursuits...No matter what the activity, no matter what the item...someone's still doing it...someone's still collecting it.

There are people who dress up as knights and other Medieval and Renaissance characters; there are those who ride Ferris wheels; there are those who get together on a regular basis to watch Laurel and Hardy films; heck! There are people who collect barbed wire (!) [*come on, don't ever tell me I'm crazy for collecting matchcovers!*]

So, bringing this all down to our own hobby, just as we see various types of new covers become ‘hot’ and yesterday's ‘hot’ types become ‘cooler’, the same is true of hobbies, themselves. Just look at how hot Group I covers were when they came out, or Jewelites when they made their appearance, or Holiday Inn covers back in the ‘80's [*oh! I feel old!*]. So too with hobbies. Life styles change with the times, and especially with technology...and interests change with life styles...and when interests change, preferences for various hobbies change.

It's much like stardom, I suppose. One day you're everyone's darling; the next, you're a has-been. Ah, the fickle finger of fate! How were we supposed to know that someone would invent the disposable lighter! Then, along comes the no-smoking craze! And then the coup de grace!—Foreign competition!

But...the point is...you and the other guy and I may come and go [*well, I actually plan on being around forever*]...but the hobby will be around as long as civilization survives...sort of a “Britannia! May you rule forever!” sort of thing...[*hmmmmmm...perhaps that's not a good example*] [*I have a little space left here so allow me to relate a humorous anecdote: When trying to explain the meaning of “The sun never sets on the British Empire”, a student once wrote...“The sun never sets on the British Empire because the sun sets in the west and the British Empire was in the east.” (!)*]