

What's All That Writing On The Backs Of My Covers?

Now, we all know better than to write on the fronts of our covers, but who's doing all that marking on the backs of the covers we get?

Well, the good news is that I doubt if it's anyone these days, except in certain instances discussed later. In that respect, I think we're a bit more picky than our predecessors, and it's the later, indeed, who did most of that marking.

Sometimes you'll see the collector's name, sometimes a simple mark or a logo. Some of the older collectors wrote it; some stamped it....whole names and addresses in some cases...perhaps just a tiny little star or asterisk in others. Whatever it is, it doesn't belong on the cover, so don't do it yourself. It just detracts from the cover, and hardly any collector these days appreciate extraneous markings on his covers.

Never having done this, myself, I can only guess as to why previous collectors did it...to make sure they didn't get their own covers back in trade? Record keeping by tracking? Advertising? Perhaps one of our senior collectors can fill us in on that one.

The accepted exception here, though, is the catalog number! For those categories for which there is a listing available, it is helpful (sometimes invaluable) to have the listing # for that cover written inside—in *pencil*—the latter so that the purist can erase it if he finds it objectionable. It's sooo helpful, for example, to see the COMBINE # already written in on a newly obtained Navy Ship. The same holds true with Girlies. Matchoramas, Foilites, etc., as well, but not so necessary since fewer collectors collect these latter categories by list. But the pencil is important. Look at the backs of many of your Matchoramas, for example, and you'll see several numbers written in, crossed off, added to, etc...and you can't get rid of all that ...because the entries have been written in ink!