

Errors III: Spelling Errors

I classify any type of text transposition as a Spelling Error, even something such as MN instead of MT for a state abbreviation. My reasoning is that whatever the reason for the incorrect letter, the result is still the same...a misspelling.

It's always seemed to me that spelling errors provide the most entertaining examples of all the error covers. Often, the spelling error is simply an innocuous extra letter or an incorrect letter that produces gibberish. But sometimes...*sometimes*...you get a beaut! In the May/June issue of the *RMS Bulletin*, for example, I just ran a cover that had Big *Beer* Lake, CA, rather than Big *Bear* Lake, CA.

As errors go, this type is much less common than the miscut variety, although I suspect that there are significantly more, but simply unnoticed. In most cases, the error is obvious, but should the error appear in the spelling of a person's name, for example, it could be unnoticeable to all but that particular individual. Or, in a street name, and so forth. Even so, that's where almost most spelling errors seem to occur--in the names of people, streets, cities, and states. My theory is that spelling errors in the rest of the text are much more noticeable, and thus much more likely to be caught before the job is actually run. Considering all the text that has been used on all the matchcovers/boxes that have been produced over the years, it's actually quite a tribute to the typesetters and 'proofreaders' that so few spelling errors have made their way out into circulation.

Almost all spelling errors occur in the main cover text. A much rarer type is a spelling error in the manumark.

[Below: correct spellings are - "El Reno", "Lorain", Hackettstown", and "Madras"]

