

I'm In Love!

I don't advertise that I collect Sets & Series, merely culling them out of my dupes and trading stock, but the more I've worked with them...the more I've become enamored with them. This is a category that simply has a lot of the things that I usually look for in a category that would attract my interest—numbers, variety, and I'll *never* get them all!—Which means that I'll be happily searching and finding until I'm finally called to that big Convention in the sky

Numbers? We're talking huge! Tens of thousands!...Dare I say, a hundred thousand+?! Think of all the various sets and series you've seen in the years you've been in the hobby. They're all over the place!

Variety? In the extreme! What's really interesting about Sets & Series is that it literally contains just about *all* other categories! You'd be hard put to think of more than a very few categories that *never* have in sets or series. A couple that come to mind might be Classiques and Jupiter 1-8s, both very short-lived with extremely few issues.

What's a set? Same design in multiple issues, usually in different colors or with different related pictures, such as the Group I sets and all those collector-generated convention sets. Usually seen are 3-, 5- and 7- sets, but they certainly come in larger numbers. Zodiac sets, for example, would come in sets of 12. Some number over 100, especially certain Portuguese sets. What about two? Do two covers constitute a set. They do in my book!

What's a series? Same design in multiple issues, usually with something like different dates, different advertisers, etc. Something like all those Champion Spark Plug covers, or the familiar KFOX series.



With Sets & Series!

When you embark on collecting in this category, the first thing you're confronted with is that you're dealing with *lots* of covers...and *lots* means you have to come up with some system of organization almost immediately. And the *immediately* is important, because the numbers are quickly going to become insurmountable when you eventually decide *later* to sit down with those thousands of covers and make some sort of sense to it all.

And, as happens on a regular basis when dealing with conjunctives, organizing your Sets & Series collection is going to call for some perplexing, perhaps even occasionally agonizing, decisions. That means setting priorities. You can organize any way that strikes you, of course, but, here, probably the most logical and common way is simply to use the categories already used within the hobby. Here, though, they would be used as subcategories. So, my dog sets go under DOGS; my girlie sets go under GIRLIES, and so forth.

I already knew this was going to be a big collection when I started, so I planned ahead and set up separate albums for each subcategory. Many, if not most, will eventually require multiple albums, which in turn means that you're going to need space...something a little more than that little cranny where you stuck that inch binder of Red Pagodas.

With all these covers, do I have a favorite? Yes! I especially like a series of covers made up of successive years—First Anniversary-1946, Second Anniversary-1947, etc. The killer is...*and here's where some of that agony comes into play*...They're Dated covers, and my Dated collection takes precedence, so I only have such in my Sets & Series if they're dupes! Well, life is a series of compromises...*Someone once said that...Didn't he?*

