Credit Unions

A number of collectors specifically look for Credit Unions as a category in and of itself, although Credit Unions are usually seen and collected as part of the much larger generic category, Banks. Why would a collector focus in on Credit Unions, per se? A variety of reasons, but personal preference, I suspect, would be the main factor. The collector, here, may have a personal reason for looking for these covers. I, for example, have been a member of my local credit union for almost 40 years.

Credit unions differ from banks and savings & loans in that they are normally centered around a specific group of employees. Thus, my own credit union is designed to service Placer County employees, including teachers. Such a person, then, might take a heightened interest in Credit Unions as a category.

The covers, themselves, tend not to be as flashy as many of the Banks and Savings & Loan covers...not many Cameos, Matchoramas, and the like, here. There are quite a few sets, but like the great majority of covers in this category, they also tend emphasize text rather than design.

Any collector who already has a collection of "Banks" in its widest application (Banks, S&Ls, Credit Unions) will already have a lot of credit unions, but, if you're really interested in hunting these critters down, don't limit yourself to just going through stacks of Bank covers. You'll find them in a number of other, rather unlikely places. Would you believe Military, for example? Just about any large installation is going to have a credit union for the people who work there.

Mel Reese, WI, reported having 5,700 Credit Unions in his collection back in 2000, so we're talking some sizeable numbers, here. Any Bank collector should have Credit Unions available to trade; you normally don't seem them broken out as specific auction lots, although I occasionally run them in my own on-line auction. Chances are slim that you're going to be able to just buy them at AMCAL or RMS.

Good luck!