

# Prioritizing Your Covers

If you only collect in one category, you can skip this article and go right to the next page, but, if you're like me and collect in multiple categories, prioritizing becomes essential...and often gut-wrenching.

'Prioritizing' means deciding in what order of importance your categories go when you obtain a cover that could possibly go into two or even more categories at the same time. For example, one of your traders sends you a Crown Chinese Restaurant cover with a Dragon on it, and it's from a small town in Nebraska...a town that you don't as yet have in your Towns collection. Where's it going to go? In your Crown collection, your Chinese Restaurant collection, your Dragon collection, or your Towns collection? Hmmmm! Agony!

Well, the agonizing disappears (although not necessarily the frustration) when you've already mentally set up a prioritized list of your categories. *This* category gets precedence over all the rest, then *this* one, *that* one, and so on. For example, my own top 10...

So, if I were to get in a Dated, Christmas, Military cover, it would go into my Dated collection. If I were lucky enough to find a dupe, the dupe would go into my Christmas collection, and so forth.

## -Dated

## -Navy Ships

## -Duncan Hines

## -Christmas

## -Oldies

## -Military

## -Towns

## -Fraternal

## -Girlies

## -Fancies

I currently have over 270 categories, so prioritizing is a must! And it's just not the several top categories that are important in the process. It's the bottom, as well. At the very bottom of my priority list is Zip Codes. So, if I don't need that cover in any of my other categories, I check the Zip Code to see if I need it in that collection. *That's the great thing about collecting in many different categories—There's a good chance you can use that cover somewhere! With this process, you wouldn't think I'd be getting anywhere in my Zip collection, but I have 4,500+, and it's steadily growing!*

*Is it an Oldie, Dated, Lodging, or Famous Place?*

Now, I should mention a process that *negates* prioritizing. If you were to list each of your covers electronically on a database, spreadsheet, etc., noting all the categories each cover falls into. Then, technically at least, by searching for "DA" (Dated), for example, you could pull up a list of all the covers you have that are dated. And when you searched for "XM" (Christmas), you could pull up all your Christmas covers, even the dated ones. Thus, you could get away with only having that one, multi-conjunctive cover, but you're showing it as being in *all* the conjunctive collections.

I don't use that system because you really don't *have* that cover in all those conjunctive collections. You're merely showing which collections that cover could possibly go in, which, to my way of thinking, is not even close to the same thing.

If you're calculating how many covers you have in each of your categories, for example, you can't count that conjunctive several times. And, when it comes time to sell your collections, that one cover is only going to be able to go into *one* collection.

Still, depending on what your goals are, it's an option.

