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The Death of Fancies

When's the last time you saw a *new* Fancy cover? Probably not in a loooong time! It seems Fancies basically died a swift death when Universal and most of the other big manufacturers disappeared. Universal, of course, before its demise in 1987, was the biggest source of Fancies (Uniglos, Foilites, Filigrees, Signet, Jewelites, etc.)

About the only Fancies you'll ever see these days (and, then, only rarely) is an occasional Foilite-like cover from Atlas, or Foilite-like box from Diamond, or a die-cut (almost always from Europe).

What a tragedy! Fancies were the most eye-appealing issues the industry had to offer. Fortunately, tens of thousands of the issues are still available, but (as double whammy) collector interest in Fancies dropped off almost as suddenly as the flow of new Fancies stopped.

And that, I think, tends to support a theory I've had for sometime—namely, that most

collectors (not the die-hards) tend to collect what's *easiest* rather than what is the rarest, or oddest, or most attractive, etc. And that would also be why most collectors have left the hobby...it's not so easy anymore.

Still, I fall back on my last line of reasoning...*It all just means more covers for me!*