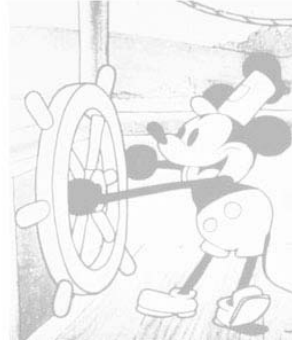




CLUB 71



EXPLORING THE WORLD OF DISNEY COLLECTIBLES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2007

Continuing the Trend

What do you do when you have 47 square miles of land and just one park? Build more parks of course. When Walt Disney World opened in 1971, only the Magic Kingdom, Contemporary Resort, Polynesian Resort, and Fort Wilderness were open, so expansion was the order of the day. For many years this expansion included resorts, shopping, and a water park, but no new theme parks. When plans were finally announced for EPCOT Center, the second park at WDW, of course they couldn't help but release another license plate to add to the collection:

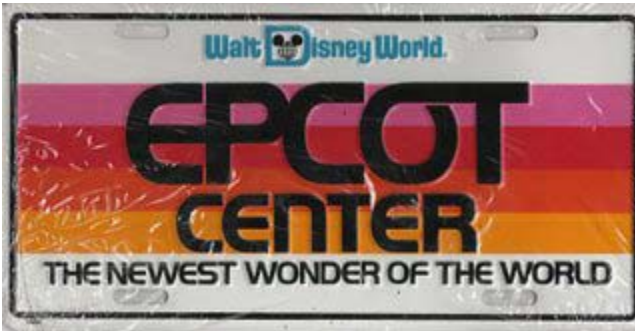


The interesting thing about this license plate is that it is also part of a trend that has become the bane of all hard-core Disney license plate collectors: variants. Over the years there have been a number of variant plates, and this one was among the first. This plate was released with both a bare aluminum back and a white painted back.



This variation makes buying at auction somewhat difficult because the color of the back is almost never listed.

I am not 100% sure of when this next license plate was released, but from what I have been able to dig up it was released after EPCOT Center was opened. Disney also didn't wait a very long time to produce another variant plate:



This and the EPCOT Center pre-opening license plate are among the favorites in my collection, they just look so darned cool. The variation on this plate was a lot less obvious than the previous one and took almost a decade to surface. The one in my collection is from the original run of plates. This license plate also introduces us to something that I will discuss in another blog, identification numbers. This plate has an identification number in the bottom most left hand corner, just below the stripe. The second run had an identification number in the corner and a Disney copyright directly under the "D" in "world." These second run plates were produced in 1997 and may have been a cast member only issue. I am still searching for one of these second run plates, so if anyone knows where I can find one, please let me know.

In our next installment we will take a look at the next member of the Walt Disney World family!

POSTED BY RYAN CROCHET AT 9:04 AM

LABELS: LICENSE PLATES