

The Sad Plight Of

Boy, talk about an under-appreciated, and unappreciated, category! Raised-ink covers can be extraordinarily beautiful and refined decorative masterpieces...but hardly anyone wants them...and fewer still list such as a stated want area.

Even in the early '80s, when covers and collectors were much more plentiful, this was an overlooked category. I had some 175 traders at the time, and I think that perhaps two indicated an interest in Raised-ink covers. When sorting, I always used to set them aside for my trading stock, but it was a rare occurrence when anyone would actually ask for them. Now, no one asks for them

First, though, a definition to make certain that I'm talking and you're thinking about the same thing; in raised-ink, the ink looks as if it has been applied very thickly, almost allowed to 'pool', in patterns, on the surface of the cover. The resulting effect is that the text and/or design ends up as 'bumps' on the cover. You can feel it when you run your finger across the cover. Hence, 'raised'-ink.

Perhaps, it's the fact that most Raised-ink covers are more of the run-of-the-mill variety....."Raised-ink" So what?" But, don't most covers within any category tend to be 'run-of-the-mill'? One could make the argument that most Raised-ink covers are attractive in-and-of themselves, just because of the raised-ink text or raised-ink designs. On the other hand, perhaps their wallflower status stems from the fact that one can rarely readily notice that these covers are, in fact, of raised-ink designs without actually taking a closer look, looking at them from a certain angle, or even running a fingertip over the surface of the cover. Certainly, sitting on album pages or in plastic sleeves, it's difficult to notice at first glance just what's different about such covers.. Still, they're not all the same, and even if the bulk of such covers hold no attraction for you, there are some gems to be seen here.

Roughly speaking (because I certainly don't have this down to a science), there are two major types of covers within this category...and sub-types within each.

1. Raised-ink text: Covers here all have some or all of the text in raised-ink.

a. Regular ink: Nothing particularly special being used here—normal ink colors and textures.

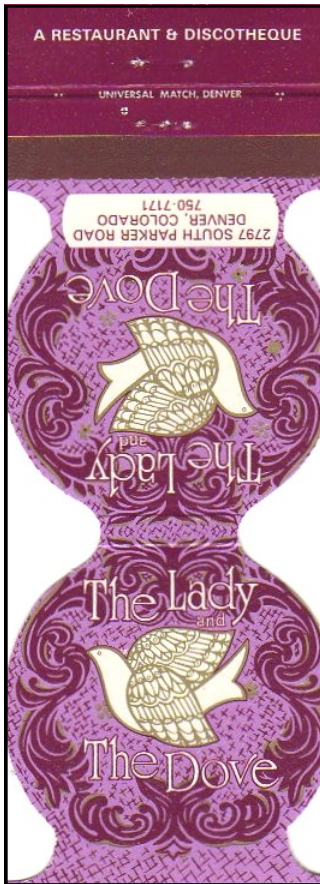
b. Glitter/metallic ink: These covers tend to be the most visually striking. The most popularly used combinations are silver on black and gold on black, simply because of the readily noticeable pleasing-to-the-eye contrast.

2. Raised-ink design: Same as Raised-ink text, only here part or all of the graphics are done in raised-ink.

a. Partial: 'Partial' is just my term for a cover within the Raised-ink category which has a small portion of its graphic design in raised-ink.

b. Florentine: "Florentine" comes to mind because that was Universal's trademark for its raised-ink, full-graphic design covers...only they weren't all technically 'raised-ink'. More often than not, they were actually a raised-filigree pattern. But, whereas the Filigree bubbling was random all over the cover, the Florentine pattern formed actual designs. *Very* attractive (and I think the raised-ink designs are much more pleasing

Raised-Ink Covers



than the bubble patterns.

...and to support my point about this being an overlooked category...I have *no one* who has ever reported their totals in this category! I've only just begun collecting in this category, and even then I only collect the truly attractive examples. If the cover happens to be a raised-ink Florentine, it goes into my Florentine collection first. So, for both of these reasons, I currently have only about 15 such covers in my 'Raised-Ink' collection, some of which are shown here...*But*...Adding insult to injury!...Mere pictures don't really show raised-ink! [sigh!] Well, at least you can see that they come in a variety of sizes and shapes.

