

## 中國餐館

You see?! The title says it all. *Is* it a Chinese Restaurant, or *isn't* it?

There are Italian restaurants, French restaurants, Mexican restaurants, and the list goes on, but Chinese Restaurants is the most popularly collected subcategory of Restaurants. Lots of collectors collect them, including myself.

But, what constitutes a Chinese Restaurant? *That* is the question! I've been collecting them for years, now, but I only recently stopped to wonder whether or not I was actually collecting *Chinese* restaurants. I happened to be working on my collection, adding quite a few new covers that I had previously not had, when I noticed that I was putting in some pretty strange looking covers as Chinese Restaurants! I wasn't doing anything differently than what I had always done, but a lot of these new covers I was going though, I noticed, weren't really *Chinese* Chinese restaurants.

I've always considered any restaurant that advertised Chinese dishes as qualifying for my Chinese Restaurant collection, but now I'm beginning to wonder about that definition. Is a Japanese or Korean restaurant that serves Chinese food a 'Chinese Restaurant'? What about an Irish restaurant that serves Chinese food? How about a good ol' fashioned Western steak house that serves Chinese food?

Look at the covers pictured here. Some of the covers I have offer no suggestion at all on the outside that there's anything to do with Chinese food, culture, etc. But, on the *inside*, there's a stock cut advertising Chinese specialties. I've been including such covers in my collection...but would other Chinese Restaurant collectors consider those legitimate inclusions? What do you think?

