

Mexican Restaurants vs. Chinese Restaurants

Other than Chinese Restaurants, Mexican Restaurants are the most collected of all the ethnic restaurant categories...and I can't really explain why. They're certainly not noted for their attractive art work; hardly any Fancies here; almost no Dated, Full-length, etc. Just what *is* the attraction? The only supposition I can come up with is numbers, availability, and familiarity.

There *are* a lot of them! And, they're easily available--in trades, auction lots, etc. It's not like collecting Lindbergh covers. Milt Wolf, DE, reported having 4,083 in July 2000, and that's the largest Mexican Restaurant collection that I know of, but I would guess there are many more than that, just judging from the number I routinely run across, myself...and I don't even collect them. And that figure's already 10+ years old.

They come in mostly 20's, as you would guess; lots of 30's. Can't remember having seen more than a handful of the other sizes, notably 10's, 12's, and 40's. There are some boxes, of course, and some sets and series. There are also a number of big chains involved in Mexican Restaurants, but they're not the ones that have put out the covers, not counting nationals. It's interesting to note the relative absence of such chains in Chinese Restaurants. Wonder what's going on there.

Chinese Restaurants are more exotic; there's a bigger variety of graphics [*I mean, how many different ways can you show a Mexican and a cactus!*]; the art work is nicer [*not even counting those gorgeous drawings on some of the Crown Chinese Restaurants*]...which is probably why I've turned out to be a Chinese Restaurant collector rather than a Mexican Restaurant collector.

James Mettler, WA, had 14,358 Chinese Restaurants as of November 2000.

