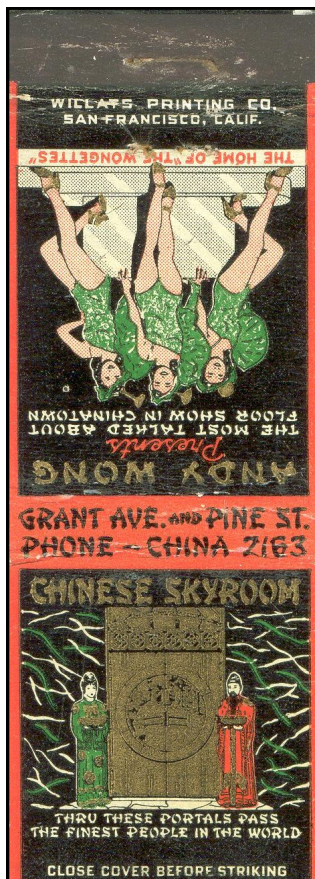


# Chinese Restaurants

by  
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Chinese Restaurants! A huge category, a riot of colors, wonderful variety, beautiful art (sometimes), spinoff conjunctive categories, a repository for some of the hobby's great old treasures! ...Sound good? It's all true!

This category has so much to offer, it's difficult to know where to begin. Well, let's start with what *is* a





Chinese Restaurant in the first place. There is probably more than one definition among collectors, but for discussion purposes I'll just give you mine, since I am a collector in this category, myself. If the cover specifies Chinese entries, I count it as a Chinese Restaurant. Someone else might be more of a purist and only count the cover if it says 'Chinese Restaurant' or if the business name is obviously Chinese. For my own collection, I don't require either of those. If it says that the restaurant serves Chinese dishes, I count it.

As you may well imagine, this is a large category. There are Chinese Restaurants everywhere, and, historically, many have not only put out a cover, but multiple covers, including series and sets. James Mettler, WA, reported having 14,358 Chinese Restaurants in his collection as of November 2000, and that was some 13 years ago. I'm guessing that there must be at least well over 20,000 today, perhaps even significantly more.

The variety of covers, here, is staggering, as you might imagine. There are fancies (Uniglos, Cameos, Filigrees, and the like), Oldies (Crowns, DQ's, wide-striker Match Corp. and Maryland Match Co., Foil-ites, Woodies, etc.), all sizes (from 10's to Giants), die-cuts, and lots of conjunctives (I started my Dragon, Great Wall, and Confucius collections from initially collecting Chinese Restaurants).

And, although we automatically think of domestic covers when we think of Chinese Restaurants, let's not forget that there are Chinese restaurants in probably every country of the world...even China! (Is a restaurant in China counted as a Chinese Restaurant?). Canada has lots of such issues, but I have qualifying covers from Germany, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, and other international locations.

Art? Oh, my! Ask anyone about great matchcover art, and he'll invariably cite those beautiful Crown Chinese Restaurant covers as an example. But, as I've endeavored to show here, there are lots of non-







Crown covers in this category that have great artwork, as well.

Of course, most covers, here, are probably what you would call 'run-of-the-mill', but I think there's a significantly higher percentage of nicer art in this category as compared to most others. They're certainly eye-catching and eye-pleasing!

As covers go, Chinese Restaurants are certainly readily available—from traders, auctions, etc. If you're thinking of starting a collection, or expanding the one you already have, I have lots of Chinese Restaurant covers to trade!

