

KNOW YOUR COVERS!

Mendelson Opera Cover

The Mendelson Opera cover is one of the Holy Grails of this particular hobby, harkening back to the beginning of matchbooks.

It is thought to be the first matchbook with advertising on it (1893); it features handwritten text which advertises an opera performance in NYC; Franklin Institute of Philadelphia has the only known specimen, although I recently heard from a non-collector who said he has one.

The Piso cover (1893/1894) is thought to be the first conventionally-printed cover, however.

Where can you get one? Ordinarily, I'd say you can't, but if the above non-collector actually has one and decides to put it up for sale, you just may stand a chance of adding this piece of history to your collection!

