

19th Century Paper Photographs

A Genealogist's Guide to Cartes de visite and Cabinet Cards

A New Book from PhotoTree.com – Released May 10, 2011

19th Century Paper Photographs v1

Carte de visite Checklist

This table recaps the clues and checks the years each clue can most frequently be found. Note: Some photographers may have used a technique or material well after others ceased.

| Clue | 1860 | '62 | '64 | '66 | '68 | '70 | '72 | '74 | '76 | '78 | '80 | '82 | '84 | '86 | '88 | 1890 |
|--------------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Card Thickness | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| .011" - .014" | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| .015" - .017" | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| .020" - .030" | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | |
| .030" - .040" | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Card Corners | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Square | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rounded | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Card Color | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Natural | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yellow & Pastels | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Gold, Black, Chocolate | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Card Edges | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Plain Cut | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Beveled | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Tax Stamps | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| All | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1-Cent | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blue Playing Card | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cartouche Frame | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Card Borders | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| None | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Two same size | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Two: one thin, one thick | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Single rounded corners | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Thick gilt to edges | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Imprints | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Small type: 1 to 3 lines | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Small artwork, patriotic | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Horizontal art & text | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | |
| Large, full card art | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

A printable chart is available at: www.phototree.com/books.htm

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Printable PDF checklists are perfect for quick reference charts, pin them up in your work area. These are available on the PhotoTree.com web site:

www.phototree.com/books.htm

Checklist and Reviews. These checklist provide a handy method to review all clues and can be used as a quick reference.

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Cabinet Card Checklist

A recap of clues and the years each is found most frequently.

| Cabinet Card Clue | 1870 | '72 | '74 | '76 | '78 | '80 | '82 | '84 | '86 | '88 | '90 | '92 | '94 | '96 | '98 | 1900 |
|-------------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Card Edges | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Plain cut | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Beveled | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Uneven Scalloped | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Even Scalloped | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Borders & Emboss | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No Borders | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Single Thin Line | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Thick Gilt Border | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | |
| Single Line Below Print | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Fine Border Embossing | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Card Color | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Natural Finish | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Coated Front & Back | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Pastels | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Maroon, Green, Black | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Front Imprint | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Small Plain Text | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Cursive, Larger Text | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Centered Monogram | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Foil Stamped | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Embossed | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Back Imprint | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Covers Half of Back | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | |
| Covers Entire Card | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Paper Process | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Albumen (Sepia) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Collodion (Rich Hue*) | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Gelatin (Rich Hue*) | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Matte Collodion (BW**) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Special Effects | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trompe l'oeil | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Pressed Image | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

* Rich Hues include reddish/brown and blueish/purple
 ** BW: Near neutral black and white with great range of tones.

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