

# THE EPHEMERA JOURNAL

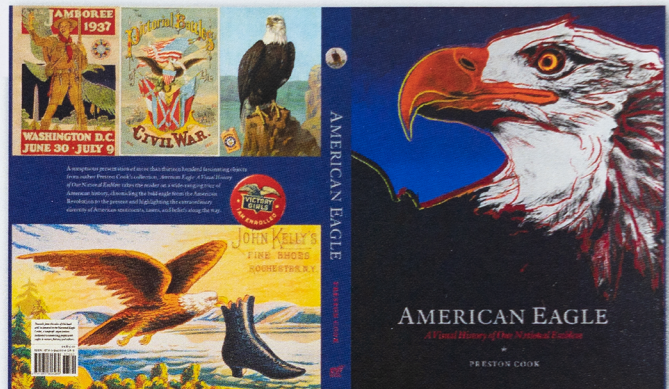
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## Interesting Books

The Spring 2009 issue of *Ephemera News* featured an article on the collecting of eagle ephemera by Preston Cook, who continues to proclaim: “You can’t have too many eagles.” His mammoth collection has grown to the point where it is now the focus of a new museum being built at The National Eagle Center in Wabasha MN (the Center’s logo depicts Harriet, a bald eagle who died there in 2016). A beautifully printed, very impressive book (large enough to BE the coffee table) has just been published, proceeds to benefit the museum:

*American Eagle: A Visual History of Our National Emblem*, by Preston Cook, Goff Books 2019, 245 pages, hardbound, \$75, documents the national bird in all its guises. The book jacket shows just some of the media represented: modern art (Warhol), trade cards, poster (Rockwell), chromo title page, pinback button. The eight thematic chapters - The Official Page, Military & War, Politics & Protest, Culture & Entertainment, Art & Decoration, Commerce, The Natural Eagle, Travel & Transportation - all feature a plethora of eagles, though Commerce offers the most familiar to Ephemerists. The imagery based on Old Abe (the bald eagle mascot of the 8th Wisconsin) alone is intriguing. Each item is captioned with a full description including size and material and content notes (as an example: “Cutlery trade card, G.S. Harris & son, lithographers, Philadelphia, ca. 1876. 4 1/4 x 5 9/16 inches. The image comes from a sketch used as the template



for a three-dimensional sculpture created by L. Herder & son, a cutlery company, for the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial International Exhibition. The eagle was made entirely of cutlery: table knives for the wings, curved knives for the talons, and forks for the body. After the fair the sculpture was displayed in the company’s Philadelphia store.” The hundreds of items have been well researched - for instance, a series of caption commentaries follows the narrative trope of an eagle carrying off a child, revealing that some of the “sightings” reproduced stills from a 1939 movie. Appendices include a timeline of eagles in America; references for each chapter; notes to the chronology; acknowledgments (that include Kit Kinrichs who spoke on American flag collecting at Ephemera 36). In addition to offering many hours of pleasurable browsing, the book provides a way to chart the evolution of particular images, and arrangements of the eagle’s wings, scroll, and accoutrements.