

## Ephemeral Cities: Cigar Box Art



### **Background**

Cigar boxes have long been used after holding cigars as small, convenient containers for small and large collections—marbles, thread, nails, photos—and the lush illustrations on the cigar boxes and labels made them important for both their functionality in marketing and for their artistry. Cigars were sold out of their open boxes, so the art on the labels and boxes served to lure customers with bright colors and detailed pictures. **Ephemeral Cities** and related collections of ephemera collect and showcase cigar box art as well as photographs, maps, letters, and other materials related to the history of Florida and the history of cigar box art.

### **Searching in Collections Related to Ephemeral Cities**

In addition to searching in the **Ephemeral Cities** collection specifically, many other related collections can also yield useful information like the **Florida Ephemera** collection.

The **Florida Ephemera** collection includes material intended for one time use. If not collected, these resources would have been lost to history; instead, they are digitized and online to inform history and the Florida experience. The **Florida Ephemera** collection includes two and three dimensional artifacts, with post-cards and photographs; orange crate and cigar box labels; newspaper clippings; memorabilia marking life-events: weddings, the birth of a child, the death of a loved one, etc. There are cigar wrappers; cooking implements; tools used in farming; and the objects of every-day living and trade.

The **Florida Ephemera** collection houses material related to Ephemeral Cities and the history of Florida more generally. **Florida Ephemera** can be searched or browsed.

To search the **Florida Ephemera** collection, first go to the webpage for the collection:  
<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/UFDC/?s=flep>.



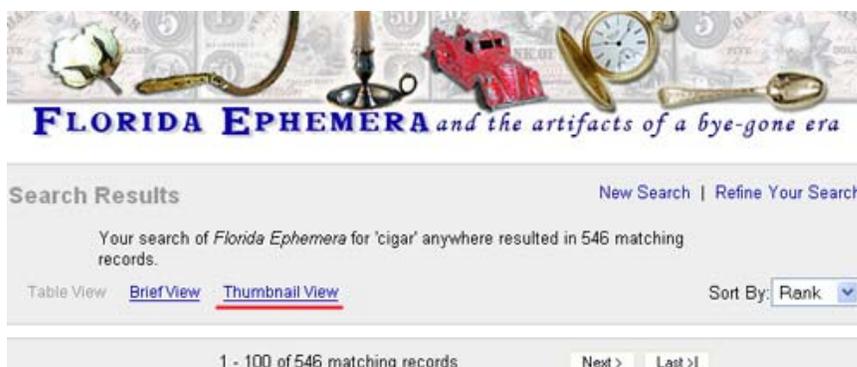
Then, click on the “Browse: All Items” to browse or search the collection using the search box.

Search Collection:

[Home](#) | [Advanced Search](#) | [Help](#)

Browse: [All Items](#)

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Because cigar art is visual, search for “cigar” and then choose the thumbnail view to see small thumbnail images of all of the related items.

### Activity



After looking through some of the many images, choose one of the images to analyze in groups. Once an image has been chosen, make sure to check the views (from the left-side options) for “Full Citation” and “Related Images” to see if those offer any insight.

Then, in groups discuss and analyze the image, and use the following questions as prompts.

- What images are used in the art?
- What colors are used?
- What sort of icons or other imagery is used?
- What text is included? What type of font is it in?
- Using the citation information, find what year the art is from. Does the image relate to that

period in history or a time prior? Where was the art done, or where was the company that used it? How does this relate to the imagery?

### Additional Reading

- Florida’s history has been shaped by cigar factories. See the National Park Service for detailed information on Ybor City and cigar factories:  
<http://www.nps.gov/history//nR/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/51ybor/51facts1.htm>
- Read more about the history of cigar labels in Florida from the University of South Florida Libraries:  
[http://www.lib.usf.edu/public/index.cfm?Pg=CollectionDetail&SpecialCollection\\_id=e8805057-b210-3cd1-3220-013b76c24b4e](http://www.lib.usf.edu/public/index.cfm?Pg=CollectionDetail&SpecialCollection_id=e8805057-b210-3cd1-3220-013b76c24b4e)