

Match Manufacturers:

Acme Match Corp.

(c. 1920's-1931)

“Acme Match Corp.” covers represent that small group that is rarely seen, rarely known of, and rarely acquired. If a collector knows of this manufacturer at all, he or she normally sums it up with, “Oh, yes! That was one of those small, old Pre-War companies. Don’t see those covers around very often!” And, that’s about it, but that’s understandable. Not much is known about this manufacturer or its covers. It certainly wasn’t a big company by anyone’s standards. Only a very few of its covers are known to exist today. There are some additional interesting teasers, though.

Sometime in the 1920s, the company started out as the Acme Match Co. The manumarks on both the “Acme Match Co.” and “Acme Match Corp.” covers give a Chicago location, but I have a note to myself in my files that I’ve see at least one Acme Match Corp. cover that gave Duluth, MN, as the location. Perhaps that was going to be a second distribution point. I can’t believe that a company such as this would have two factories.

Match czar Ivar Kreuger had bought heavily into the company by 1930. Kreuger, a Swedish financier/industrialist/business man, had formed the International Match Corp. as part of his efforts to create a worldwide match monopoly. This was a Swedish-controlled operation. It had Federal Match Co. as a subsidiary by 1928, 1/3 of Diamond Match Co’s stock by 1930, and all or portions of 20 other match companies in America alone, including the Acme Match Corp. The entire empire crumbled with Kreuger’s suicide in 1932, brought on by his questionable financial dealings and juggling of various accounts. His

International Match Corp. disappeared, along with Acme and a number of smaller companies that he had held parts of.

The company’s production center was in Chicago. Both matchbooks and matchboxes were produced, the later being issued under “Acme” as trademark.

There are only 12 Acme covers currently listed, and three of those are generic ‘Thank You Call Again’ Nationals. As with just about all of the covers issued from the smaller, Pre-War companies, the covers themselves are generally lack-luster, two-color designs with no art work at all. But, and here’s the surprise....the company used an “Acme Quality” footer! Unfortunately, it only appears on one of the twelve listed covers. On the two specimens I have in my own collection, one has no footer, and the other has “FOR SAFETY - CLOSE COVER.

Yep! I’ve been collecting for 21 years, and I have TWO Acme covers...but I’m always looking!...That’s the joy of collecting, after all!

