

If It's Lion...1929, It's Mine!

Hopefully! And, yep! I collect these, too! What are they? They're the old Lion covers that have the following manumark:

U.S.PAT. No. 1,733,258·PAT'D IN CANADA 1929

LION MATCH Co. N. Y. MADE IN U.S.A.

[Note that the 'o' in 'Co.' is inside the 'C']

Despite the 1929 in the manumark, the vast majority of these covers are from the 1930s-early 1940s. Indeed, of the nine dated covers that I've come across, the dates run from 1933-1941. As you might expect of Lion covers, these are nice, old covers!

Looking through the 186 I have, there's a smattering of most categories-some nice Minor Politicals, old Christmas, Lobsters, Chinese Restaurants, Full-Lengths, Tobacco, a couple of Ship Lines, even some advertising Lion Match Co., itself. The most frequent covers, of course, are Hotels/Restaurants. And, as a nice additional attraction, the semi-famous Lion Cocktail sets are here.

Just for the record, these are all front-strike 20-strikes. I've never seen any back-strikers in this category. Also, of the ones I have, only one has the manumark on the inside, and that's a cover that's full-length/design-only (no advertising on the outside). All the others have the manumark where you would expect to see it.

This is a nice small category, with all the standard attractions that most of the old categories have to offer. The only thing that's missing is a distinctive footer...but, then, it already has a distinctive manumark! There are currently 644 listed, but there certainly must be 1,000+, and I'd guess probably many more.

