

## U.S. Made Wax Matches: I

by Ed Wright

BOCK, GENIN & CO. NEW YORK. N.Y.

PARAGON WAX MATCH TIN. Circa 1871

Size : 4cm. X 5cm. X 1.5cm.



*Believe this to be Trade mark # 352  
Issued to 'Bock, Genin & Co.' on  
Jun. 27, 1871, and referred to as simply  
"MATCH"*

Very little is known at present about this company. According to entries in 'The U.S. Gazette', Trade-Mark # 352 described as 'MATCH', was issued to this company on June 27. 1871. Unfortunately no picture or illustration accompanied this information. This was the very first U.S. Match Related Trade mark issued. We know then, that they were in business at this time in 1871, but since when is unsure. Other information from Revenue stamp catalogues, suggests that they were no longer in business under this name, by the end of the same

year.

From 1862 all operating match concerns had been obliged to pay a match tax, payment of which was verified in the form of government internal revenue stamps (Proprietary) that were attached to each packet or tin of matches, in such a way as to be destroyed as the products were opened, thus eliminating re-use. Almost 130 companies are known to have produced their own 'Private Die Proprietary Stamps' under government supervision. This company never did produce their own stamps, so one must assume they were too small for this system of producing dies etc. to be affordable, and hence were using the standard revenue stamps of the time.

Another company, namely '**Bock, Schneider & Co. N.Y.**' was however listed as producing its own match tax stamps from Dec. 1871 - Nov. 1872. These stamps were marked with the words '**Paragon matches**', which suggests this company was related to, or the successor to '**Bock, Genin & Co.**'

On Sept. 25, 1872, the die for the previously mentioned private die stamps was sold to '**The Paragon Match Co.**', 509 & 511, W. 45<sup>th</sup> ST. New York.'

On Oct. 21, 1872 the company name was changed to '**Arnold & Co.**' and the die was changed to incorporate this new name. New stamps were issued in Dec. 1872 and were last issued in April 1873. How long this company continued in business, or if it was taken over, is uncertain. Research of all U.S. match related Trade marks pre 1876 (9 in total) seems to link trade mark # 352, registered to 'Bock, Genin & Co.', and one used by R.H. Zennig & Co. and The American Wax Match Co. from 1876.

So it seems the two year life span of this company, with its four different names, was not yet over.