

The 'Smaller' Manufacturers

by
Mike Prero

Note: A few of these companies may not have been confirmed as actual manufacturers. They might, instead, be basically printing or specialty companies. It's almost impossible to find factual information about such early, small companies



1. **ACME MATCH CORP.** (c. 1920's-1931) Originally Acme Match Co. Ivar Kreuger had bought heavily into it by 1930. **Production center:** Duluth, MN(?) [*Acme Match Co. covers say "Chicago"*] **Trademarks:** Acme (box, c. 1920s) **Special Footers:** Acme Quality (1920s)

2. **ACORN MATCH CO.** (c. 1920's) **Production center:** Chicago, IL

3. **ART MATCH CO.** (c. 1920's-1935) **Production center:** Grand Rapids, MI. **Special Footers:** Safety First (?); Art Match Quality (1922-early 1930's)

4. **ATLANTIC MATCH CO.** (early 1930's-1937) Not related to the earlier company of the same name. Taken over by Universal c. 1941. **Production center:** Jacksonville, FL

5. **ATLAS MATCH CO.** (1932-1937) Founded by Rae Korn, Nat and Sully Fruitman. Unrelated to other companies of the same name. **Production centers:** Newark, NJ; New York. **Special Footers:** Safety First (1932-?)

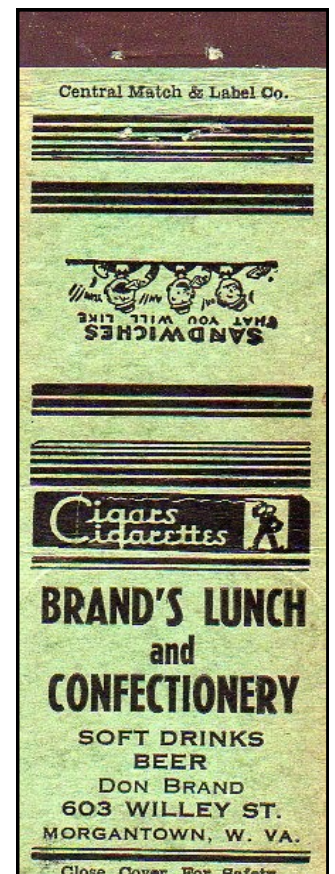
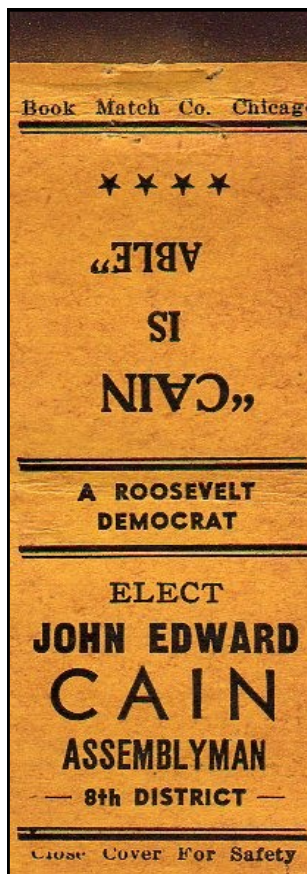


6. **BELL MATCH MACHINE CO.** (1907-at least as late as 1950's) Founded by E.J. Bell. Name changed to Dauber Bell Machine Company in May, 1911, when C.G. Dauber purchased part of the company. He sold his shares in 1912, but the company continued under that name until September, 1921, and then it changed back to the Bell Machine Company.

E.J. Bell had already had 20 years of experience in the match industry before founding the company, so he soon acquired equipment for the manufacture of wooden and book matches. Bell sold such machinery to both domestic and foreign companies, and in 1930, the Bell Machine Co. began making its own matches. The company changed hands in 1935 and halted match production, but it was resumed in 1945. **Production center:** Oshkosh, WI. **Trademarks:** MatchBuds (1934)

7. **BOOK MATCH CO.** (1929-1940) Dissolved in Illinois in 1930; remnants absorbed in 1933, but re-established [there are dated covers from 1939 and 1940]. **Production center:** Chicago, IL.

8. **CENTRAL MATCH & LABEL CO.** (c. 1930s) **Production center:** Illinois (?)



9. **CHAPMAN MATCH CO.** (c.1940s?) **Production center:** Kansas City, MO.

10. **COAST BOOK MATCH CO.** (c. 1920's) **Production center:** Tacoma, WA

11. **EMPIRE BOOK MATCH CO.** (1920's-1930's) **Production center:** Brooklyn, NY. **Trademarks:** Empire Quality (footer, 1920's-1930's) (there are Empire Qualitys dated 1929)

There was also an **EMPIRE MATCH CO.** of the same time period. **Production center:** Chicago, IL. **Trademarks:** Empire Quality (footer, 1920's-1930's) (there are Empire Qualitys dated 1929 and 1931). Note both this company and the preceding company had EMPIRE QUALITY footers. If there's a connection, I haven't come across it, but it's unlikely that there isn't one. Perhaps "Empire Book Match Co." is the early name, and then the company was relocated to Chicago and the name shortened.

12. **FLORIDA MATCH CO.** (?-1936) **Production center:** Miami Beach, FL

13. **GEM MATCH CO.** (c.1935-c.1944) No relation to earlier company of same name. Records indicate company was dissolved in 1938, but I have a cover dated 1940 and a company brochure dated 1944, so it may have been reorganized in some fashion. This manumark has long been seen as something special within the hobby. Why, I don't know! **Production center:** Chicago, IL



[Part II next issue]

