

The Lone Star Match Company

Yes, we know about Diamond; Yes, we know about Universal; Yes, we know about Lion. But what about Texas match companies? Why don't we hear about any of them? There were some...weren't there? Yes, there were. Obviously, there is Atlas, but there were a few others in the past, as well. They're little known, and their covers are rarely seen, but they were there, and one was the Lone Star Match Company.

At first glance, one might question the logic of placing a match company in Texas, especially in the 1950s...the country's population centers were all somewhere else! Most of the World War II military bases had closed; the hustle and bustle of all those military personnel, gone. The state wasn't known for its paper products or chemical industry. Southwestern Match Company of Ft. Worth had only made it a few years, itself, before selling out to what eventually would become today's Atlas Match, Euless, TX, in 1960. On the other hand, Atlas has gone on to become one of the few surviving match companies of the domestic industry, so...

Unfortunately, hardly anything is known about this very short-lived company. It was centered in San Antonio and operated from 1955-1956 (and the only known dated cover is from 1956). On the other hand, it's fairly easy to date Lone Star covers (!!). A total of 60 covers are currently listed; I have the four shown here, plus a few others.

There's a certain mystique about those little short-lived companies from the past. They're not only part of the industry's and hobby's past, but there's always that tantalizing challenge to find their covers, even more so than finding covers for your other categories.

