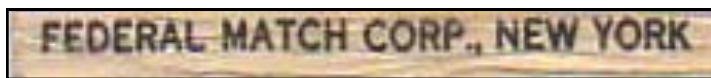


KNOW YOUR COVERS!



The Federal Match Corp. (originally Federal Match Co.) (1923-1941) was formed by the merger of 9 companies. It absorbed Bean & Symonds Co. and New Hampshire Co. in 1928. In 1931, Federal became part of Ivar Kreuger's International Match Corp. when it was purchased by Vulcan Match Co., one of Kreuger's subsidiaries. It was then purchased by Pan American Match Corp. (a Diamond holding company) in the Kreuger bankruptcy auctions in July, 1937. It merged with Union Match Co. in 1938, and both were consolidated into Federal Match Corp. Both Federal and West Virginia Match Corp. merged into Universal in 1941. Earlier covers are noticeably longer than later issues, leading to the distinction between "Federal longs" and "Federal shorts." Many pre-War Navy Ship issues. Currently, there are 3,333 listed. One collector reported having 3,502 in July 1999.

