

## Match Manufacturers:

### STANDARD MATCH CO. (1917-1945)

This is yet another of the small manufacturers from the past of which we know virtually nothing. Originally, the company started out in Harvey, IL, but even that's not quite clear. It was incorporated in 1933; apparently folded in 1937 due to Depression problems; reformed, using Salvation Match Co., in 1940. There may be more than one Standard Match Co. here, though. Its later, and main, production center was Chicago, IL, but Fort Scott, KS, is seen on its earlier manumarks. Apparently, it later moved operations to Chicago...but that may also be an indication that there are two different companies here.

Most of the covers show the manumark, "STANDARD MATCH CORP., CHICAGO", such as the ones pictured below.

These covers are all 20-strikes, and, as can be seen below, I've never seen any issues that sport really attractive graphics or text, and, certainly, no fancies. Thus, as usual with these older small companies, the main collecting feature here is age and relative scarcity.

There are currently only 60 different covers listed, and, looking through those, there seems to be an abnormally high percentage of coal companies and country clubs. This might actually reflect a sales focus of the company, but, on the other hand, it may simply reflect the fact that a higher number of those covers have survived because of the specific collecting interests of the collectors who sought them out.

