

Emergency Glossary For Those “Where in the heck is this from?” Covers

You don't have to be in the hobby very long before you begin running into foreign covers which bear text that is just beyond your skills to decode. Usually, these eventually end up in some isolated caddy or shoe box, destined to collect dust until you some day attempt once again to figure out what their country of origin is. Well, I have here (courtesy Jerry Bell, Editor of the Australian Match Cover Collectors' Society bulletin, "*Observer*," a little chart that may indeed help to to classify at least some of those dusty, forlorn covers. [Note that our fellow collectors Down Under, and, indeed, all over the world, face similar identification problems]

Hopefully, the cover or box you're looking at uses the word "matches," so here's an alphabetical listing of "matches" in different languages: *[Of course, if it's not written in some version of the Phoenician alphabet, you're out of luck!]*

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| > Allumettes (France) | > Gyufa (Hungary) | > Spirto (Greece) |
| > Allumetes (Belgium-Fr.) | > Huo Chai (China) | > Stuks (Belgium-Flemish) |
| > Chibrituri (Romania) | > Kebrita (Arabic) | > Taendstikker (Denmark) |
| > Cerillos (Mexico) | > Kibrity (Turkey) | > Tandstickor (Sweden) |
| > Cipini (Ireland) | > Korek Api (Indonesia) | > Tuletikk (Estonia) |
| > Degtukas (Lithuania) | > Lucifers (Holland) | > Tultikkua (Finland) |
| > Dravaca (Yugoslavia) | > Macis Api (Malaysia) | > Vuurhoutjies (S. Africa) |
| > Eldspitur (Iceland) | > Matchi (Japan) | > Zapalky (Czech Rep.) |
| > Fiammiferi (Italy) | > Phosphoros (Early Brazil) | > Zapalky (Slovak Rep.) |
| > Fosforos (Portugal) | > Serkocins (Latvia) | > Zapatki (Poland) |
| > Fosforos (Spain) | > Shkrepsha (Albania) | > Zunder (Austria) |
| > Fyrstikker (Norway) | > Speechkee (Russia) | > Zundholzer (Switzerland) |
| | | > Zundholzer (Germany) |