



The Question of Early Non-Diamond Matchbooks: Follow-up

In our last issue, I explored the question of what happened to Diamond's original patent rights to the matchbook. Diamond had sued the Binghamton Match Co. for patent infringement c. 1895, but somewhere along the line other companies eventually began manufacturing their own matchbooks. When exactly was that? And, how exactly did that come about? Did the patent run out? Or...?

One question that I brought up dealt with the 'shadow years' (1892-1919) which I referred to in earlier articles—those early years in which we know very little of the match industry and its early matchbooks. Indeed, I asked if all matchbooks prior to 1928 were, in fact, Diamond products. Well, here are two *possibly* pre-1928 covers that do not have a Diamond manumark. These are not dated covers, but the only dated World Match Corporation cover that I am aware of is from 1927. We could argue all day about which side of the 1928 line they fall on.

I haven't heard from anyone yet about having pre-1928 non-Diamond covers, so the matter is still up in the air. I have a feeling that such covers *did* appear before 1928; sooner or later they'll turn up....but I'd sure like to know about that patent question!

By the way, anyone ever hear of "Egyptian Mysteries" cigarettes?

