

Match Manufacturers:

Chicago Match Co.

(1930's-1968)

This is one of the better-known companies of the past, although, again, little is known of its background. We don't even know exactly when the company started (earliest listed Dated cover is from the 1939 World's Fair). We do know that it was situated in Chicago (duh!).

There are currently over 1,400 Chicago Match Co. covers listed, which is one of the reasons why they're more well-known than some of the companies we've discussed so far, but it's interesting that only seven are World War II Patriotics. Perhaps most of the company had retooled for war materials or something of that nature.

The dates above are misleading in that production actually stopped earlier in the 1960's; the company wasn't dissolved until 1968. The latest dated Chicago cover listed is 1964. That's quite a common occurrence that I've seen with a number of other companies that have gone out of business.

The two big reasons why Chicago covers are sought after are because it was Chicago Match Co. that first introduced Hillbilly covers onto the scene (that was in 1948), and they also came out with some early Girlie issues, starting in 1939 ("Chicago Maids", for example). Quality wise, their early covers were really poorly made, but they got better in later years. Still Chicago was never known for its great art work or innovations; they stuck to their bread & butter, mainly text 20-strikes; no Safety Firsts or Qualities.

