

Match Manufacturers:

JERSEY MATCH CO. (1935-1948)

The Jersey Match Co. is one of those familiarly-named 'treasures' within the hobby, although the covers, themselves, are pretty much singularly unattractive. As usual in such cases, it's the rarity and age that makes them so.

Founded by Ruth Katz, Nat and Sully Fruitman (the Fruitmans had already formed the Atlas Match Co. in 1932, and it was shutting down, so they apparently regrouped to form the Jersey Match Co.). The company dissolved in New Jersey in 1944, but apparently was still in production in New York City, since there is at least one dated cover from 1948.

Its production center was in Elizabeth, NJ;...and, perhaps, New York, NY, but the later was simply an 'office move', rather than a factory move.

Another reason why Jersey covers are popularly sought after is that most of the covers bear the 'Safety First' footer (c. 1935-c. 1948).

Most Jersey covers are wide-strikers, but the later covers, as shown below, are of the variety that we have come to expect since at least the end of World War II. There is a listing, and there are currently 568 listed as of November 2004.

