

Match Manufacturers:

REPUBLIC MATCH CO. (Inc. 1939-1944)

Hardly anything is known about this manufacturer. It was centered in Plymouth, WI. It wasn't in business very long, and it certainly didn't put out many covers. The records indicate that it was incorporated in 1939, but I would guess that the company actually was in production at least a short time before that (that's often the case).

This company, although it bears the same name, has no relationship to the later Republic Match Co. based in Texas.

From the covers I've seen, there are two different manumarks, a 1-liner and a 2-liner, and I would guess that the 2-line manumark is the earlier. The covers, themselves, aren't particularly notable for quality or attractiveness. There are no new innovations to be seen, no specialized types, etc. Also, there are no distinctive footers, no 'quality', 'safety first', or the like, but some do say 'for safety', but not in the old Ohio Match style. No, the only thing special about such covers is who made them!

I would guess that its demise was caused by the shortage of materials during World War II, as was the case with a number of other match manufacturers. Production had stopped by 1944. Universal bought its equipment, and the company was finally dissolved much later, in 1980.

There are only 28 known covers currently listed, and I actually only have nine.

