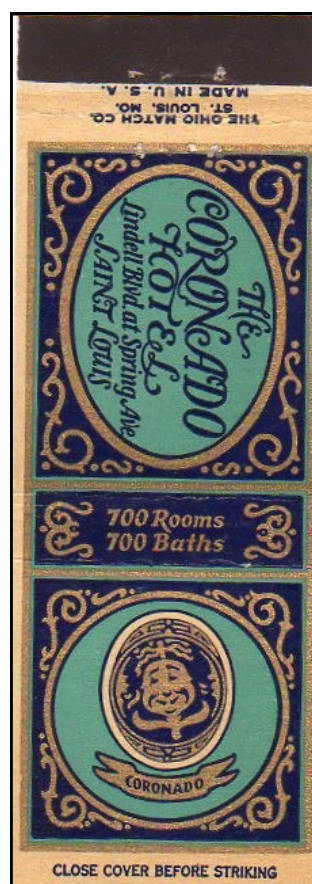


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# All Those In-Between Covers

by  
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“Oldies”, to me, always means Pre-War covers. That includes all the greats—Crowns, Federals, DQs, Stars, Gems, all those Safety Firsts and other Qualities, and the like. But, the vast amount of oldies don’t bear those sought-after manumarks and footers. What about them?—All those old Diamonds, Universals, Superiors, Match Corps, Lions, Ohios, and the variety of covers from now largely unknown printing, advertising, and marketing companies. They’re *old!* You can see it! You can feel it! They’re Pre-War, but they’re not the really early covers, and, again, they don’t have those glamorous trademarks. They’re just sort of...in-between.



I always feel a twinge of guilt—and a little anxiety—when they pass through my fingers...and I *don't* keep them. And I'm not just talking in favor of them because they're all a minimum of 68+ years old. Many of them are truly attractive covers. The old Ohio covers come to mind, especially—the art work was definitely a cut above the competition in this group—all those great old Hotel covers, for instance. *[I can see what's coming...I'm talking myself into collecting yet another category!]*

There are some collectors who just go after front-strikers in general, but in my some 26 years of collecting I don't think I've ever run across a collector who simply collected Pre-War covers as a category in and of themselves. It's an idea! Of course, it's an idea! Especially when you compare them to their modern replacements. In many... *many*...ways, most modern covers, as a whole, just come off looking cheaper, thinner, duller, and all-around less attractive than their Pre-War predecessors. Yes, I know that the later covers occasionally offered all those Fancies, and color photos, as well as somewhat slicker finishes....but that doesn't characterize the *majority* of Post-War covers....*Those* are your typical two-color, no-to-little-graphics covers. I maintain, Mr. and Mrs. Collector, that Pre-War covers can and *do* stand up in comparison to such covers. *Plus* (and here's one you can't top) those Pre-War covers *all* have AGE going for them, even if they didn't have anything else! AGE is something that appeals to *any* collector—to find the earliest, the first, the *old* ones!

So, for example, if you were sorting through covers and came across a 'blah' cover from 1982 and a 'blah' cover from the 1930s, and neither of them are in your want areas, are you going to just pass on both of them? I'd have no qualms on getting rid of that 1982 cover, but there'd be something of a Dr. Strangelove scene with that 1930s cover...where I desperately tried to control my right hand as it automatically reached to save that cover!

Not surprisingly, perhaps, I thus have a 'box' where I keep 'in-between' covers. At this point, I don't

really collect them, but I save them...because I normally just can't bear to see them leave. It's something of an 'investment, perhaps. Years from now, Pre-War covers...*any* Pre-War covers...may be viewed as 'treasures'...and then I'll be sitting on top of a fortune!! And then there's also the fact that I constantly seem to be adding new categories to my want areas...and, every time I do, I have this box of old covers that my yield 'new finds' for my new categories!

.....Ah, life is good!

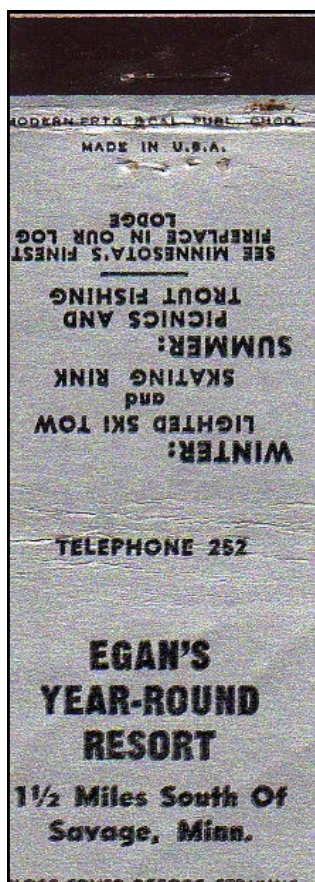
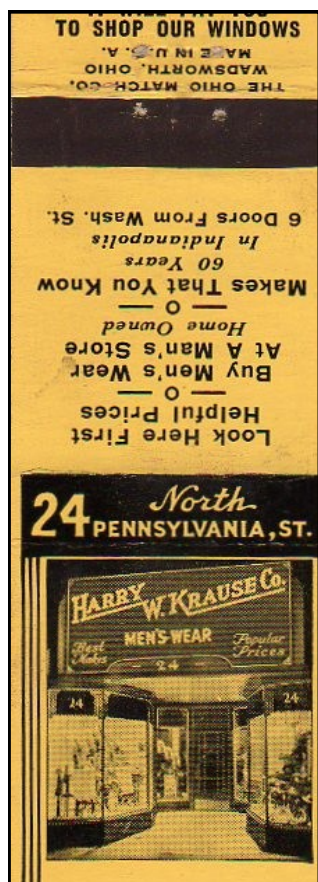


FIGURE 1. Three covers from the author's collection. The covers are arranged in a row, with the author's name and the year 1982 printed below them.