

## Give Me Those *Old Lions!*

Here's yet another...dare I say.. 'obscure'...category that I'm enamored with and that you may never have given any consideration to—*old* Lion Match Co. covers. Immediately, though, one has to qualify just *which* old Lion covers we're talking about, here. There were so many!—Old Lion Features, old Lion Safety Firsts, and so on.

The ones *I'm* focusing on are like the ones shown below. In non-technical terms, they're the old ones...but they're not the *really* old ones. They're the sort of 'in-between' covers. There, that helps. Doesn't it? They're definitely old, but they're not as old as the Safety First covers and older than just about anything else Lion came out with. Sooooooo, we're talking 1930s, maybe 1940s for the later ones. That's respectably *old!* The manumark is distinctive, and that's how you single them out:

LION MATCH Co NEW YORK  
[and the 'o' is in the 'C' in the 'Co.']

Of course, given the age, these are all front-strike 20-strikes, but there is one more distinctive characteristic to these covers. Typically, they're a couple of millimeters taller than an average cover. Not as tall as a 'Tall', or 'XL', cover, but you'd probably notice the difference if you tried to put them in most of the old, slotted paper pages.

The real joy of a category this old is paging through your album and looking at all the bygone fashions, the 'quaint' gas stations, the (now) antique cars...and, then, certainly, there are all those old phone numbers. [Ha! I just saw Loren's ears perk up!] There's no listing on these covers. I have app. 700.

