

Match Manufacturers:

Star Match Co.

(1892-1936)

The Star Match Co. is one of those grand old companies whose covers are *wanted* by oldies collectors. The company, located in St. Louis, was actually started in 1892, which means that it began by making wooden box matches. Exactly when it got into the book match area is a little hazy, as are the beginnings of similar companies of that turn-of-the-century era. It's simply not a period that we have much match industry information on at all. I can tell you that the company was incorporated in 1928 and taken over by Universal Match Co. in 1930, although Universal says *formed* rather than 'take over'. Thus, the relationship between the two companies is also 'hazy', to say the least.

Unlike the later Crown covers, Star covers aren't known for their artwork, most being fairly plain, which was pretty characteristic most of the 1930's covers. But they're *old!* And, while not being as numerically rare as some of the other old match companies' issues, they're very well known in the hobby, and the name "Star" just rings that collecting bell built into many a collector. Since the covers were issued during the transition period from 'tall' covers to shorter covers (to accommodate the advent of the vending machine), they're found in both sizes, but the XL (tall) ones would be the older. At least one cover has "Diamond Quality" on it, but that would seem to be a printing error.

There are currently 699 listed, and although 300 is the reported largest number collected, that figure is over 20 years old, and I know there are bigger collections than that...but not *mine!*

