

## Match Manufacturers:

### United Engineering Corp. (1926-1942?)

Compared to others, this one is somewhat different. For one thing, the word ‘match’ is not in the company name, and for another, even compared to other earlier covers from other manufacturers, its covers were really poor quality. So, why is the company notable? Well...

United Engineering Corp. was founded by Russell Smith, NJ, an inventor of match-making machinery. Its production center was located at Kenilworth, NJ. It never issued many covers, and they were of minimal quality...but, *because* they had a very limited number of issues...and *because* they’re Pre-War (as in *old!*), United Engineering Corp. covers are sought after and are certainly keepers.

Because most, if not all, of the listed covers are from the 1930s-early(?) WW II period, I have a hunch that the company did not initially make matchbooks, i.e. c. 1926. In any event, the company, itself, certainly didn’t last very long, and, judging from the number of listed covers, its sphere of influence must have been very small (as far as actual issued covers were concerned—It may have done better at selling match manufacturing equipment).

Currently, there are only 28 different covers listed, and many of them have a patriotic and/or Depression era bent. The covers are very simply done, with little or no graphics. Almost all also seem to be done on inferior grade paper, as the ink often seems to have been absorbed into the paper, decreasing the overall sharpness of the text/graphics. *[That’s just a guess on my part, though]*

