

## Wide-Striker Match Corp. Covers

This is another of my 'esoteric' collections! I collect Match Corp. covers, but only wide-strikers.

Match Corp. of America was a manufacturer formed out of Beacon Products Co. in 1935. It merged with the Illinois Match Co. in the same year. Much later, it merged with Lion Match Co. in 1967. For awhile, starting c.1965, Match Corp. sold matches in England through Matchmakers Ltd.

Match Corp. wasn't a small company, and it lasted longer than those smaller, more famous manufacturers. Over the years, it developed its own line of trademarks, if not unique innovations. Those trademarks include: Princess (10-strike, ?), Regular (20-strike, ?), Diplomat (30-strike, ?), King (40-strike, ?), Two-Forties (240-strike, ?), Foil-Glo (metallic, ?), Super Embosso (Raised-ink designs, ?), Shine-Kote "30" (30-strikes, printed in blue only, ?). It also issued the first set of "Mad Cap Maids" (1939).

In any event, the company was finally dissolved in 1977, but by then it had long since ceased producing covers.

This Chicago-based company thus issued wide-strikers and then later 'regular' strikers. It's the wide-strikers that I've always been interested in! Unlike many of the covers from the 1930s-early 1940s, especially from the smaller manufacturers, these are uniformly well-made, well-printed covers. And colorful, not the often seen 2-color ink issues, again from the smaller companies. They always just struck me as 'keepers' [*probably that innate collector instinct!*]. So far, I have 1,307, and I also maintain the list of such, which has 2,732 currently logged in.

