

Blot-R Matches

BLOT-R MATCHES always make me chuckle, although I'm not quite sure why. I suppose it sounded like a great idea at the time. After all, the world was using fountain pens, so why not use your old matchcover as a blotter when the matches were gone? Sounds good to me! The covers were also supposed to absorb moisture in general, and thus keep the matches drier.

I'm not sure exactly *when* you were supposed to use the covers as blotter—while there were still matches in the matchbook...or after the matchbook had been used up. I'd be wary of putting a used blotter in my pocket, so probably it was *after* the matches had been used up.

The idea never really caught on, though, or perhaps it was because the company folded several years later, and the idea never really had a fair chance (although ten years would seem to be long enough to determine whether the idea was going to work or not). The BLOT-R MATCH was introduced by the Union Match Company of New York in 1928, and the company went out of business in 1938. On the other hand, perhaps it was the BLOT-R MATCH that put the company out of existence!

In any event, this is yet another category where you are likely to hear or see the name mentioned on rare occasions, but you could easily go through your entire collecting life and never actually see one, let alone own one. I don't really have satisfactory satisfactory stats on this category. Clem Pater had 32 as of 2005. There are 117 currently listed.

Note that the picture on the right shows the typical inside of a Blot-R match: a blue blotting surface.

