

Swedish Foil Boxes

by
Mike Prero



These very attractive small boxes are typically 3 6/16" x 1 11/16" and are characterized by at least one embossed, metallic panel. The opposite panel is usually a criss-cross design with no text except for a "Made in Sweden" manumark.

Some of these boxes are wooden. These might be the older issues, although I should note that the ones I have don't look any older than the cardboard ones. The wooden examples are difficult to open and flatten without the flaps cracking.

Some Swedish Foil boxes have both panels metallic and embossed. In those cases, there is no manumark. It should also be noted that the embossed, metallic 'plates' are actually *glued* to the panels. If you have such a box with *one* embossed, metallic panel but no criss-cross pattern on the opposite panel, it's almost a certainty that there was a second embossed, metallic plate that has fallen off. (I have one such).

Unlike American Ace, these boxes have a striker on each side, and a much-wider striker at that.

Orientation is important in this category. As can be seen in the top examples above, the same cover may have the single embossed, metallic plate on the bottom panel *or* on the top panel, thus producing *two* different boxes for the collector's collection. (I suppose you could argue that actually *both* plates are on the same panel, but one is upside down. That's academic, however, since the result in either case is the same). The designs, themselves, are usually vertical, but they can be horizontal, facing in either direction (as shown in the last two examples on the following page).

As always, the collector, here, can make up whatever rules he or she wishes as far as determining what goes into the collection, and what does not. Most collectors in this category, though, also include Swedish Foil-like boxes in this category. For example, a number of these boxes have a “Made in Japan” manumark, but that’s the only difference. (I haven’t seen *any* boxes in the Swedish Foil category that identify the actual manufacturer, but I’d guess it would be Swedish Match, and for all I know, Swedish Match may have a plant in Japan!...So, perhaps *all* these boxes *are* Swedish Foil boxes.) (I have one box that has a manumark of “STRIKE A LITE CO. INC. JAPAN”, but that’s a distributor, not a manufacturer—and that box does *not* have the normal criss-cross pattern on the opposite panel).

These are really remarkable boxes, and I just recently started a Swedish Foil Box listing, with 290 currently listed as of 7/20, but I’m certain that there are many more out there.

