

HOBBY HISTORY

Move Over, Microsoft!

Book Match Makers Indicted (*San Francisco Chronicle*, Tuesday, January 11, 1966)
Washington - A Federal Grand Jury yesterday indicted nine of the Nation's principle manufacturers of book matches on charges of fixing prices.

The Jury in New York City also indicted four officers of the firms and filed a civil anti-trust suit against eight of the firms seeking an end to the alleged practices, the Justice Department reported.

DEFENDANTS

Named as defendants in the indictment are Diamond International Corp., formerly the Diamond Match Corp., of New York City, its president, Richard J. Walters, and its vice president, Ivin H. Koenig; D.D. Bean & Sons Co., of Jaffrey, N.H., and its treasurer and director, D.D. Bean J.; E.C.M Corp., operator of the Match Corporation of America, New York City; Hunt Foods and Industries, Inc., owner of the former Ohio Match Co., Fullerton, Calif.; Lion Match Co., Carteret, N.J.; Maryland Paper Products Co., operator of the Maryland Match Co., San Jose, Calif., and its vice president, Harold Meitus of Chicago, who is also president of Superior Match Co.; Superior Match Co. of Chicago, and Universal Match Corp., of St. Louis.

The civil suit names only eight defendants because Lion Match merged with E.C.M. last November 15.

SALES

The defendants manufacture about 95 per cent of the book matches sold for resale in the United States.

The maximum penalty for each individual named in the indictment would be a year in prison

and a \$50,000 fine, while each corporation could face a \$50,000 fine.

The Grand Jury charged that the defendants have conspired since 1949 to raise and stabilize prices charged for resale book matches. These are the matches that usually carry advertising, not to be confused with special reproduction matches which are designed to the customer's specifications.

The defendants sell about \$25 million worth of matches in this country annually, the Justice Department said.

Associated Press