

Match Manufacturers:

Book Match Co.

(1929-1940)

Another very small, little known manufacturer from the past. This is a Pre-War company that had something of a rocky history. Located in Chicago, it was founded in 1929...only to be dissolved in Illinois in 1930 (from state records); the remnants of the company were absorbed in 1933 (the records don't say by whom, though...could possibly have been one of the other Chicago companies, such as Chicago Match Co.), but the Book Match Company, like the phoenix reborn (!), was re-established after that (there are dated covers from 1939 and 1940, one shown below). Of course, there's nothing to say that it wasn't re-established as a subsidiary of whatever company absorbed it in 1933, and the parent company simply continued using its manumark (although why, I couldn't imagine—these are fairly poor quality covers). After this, it was apparently an early casualty of the coming world war, but that's just a guess on my part.

Even though the covers *aren't* top quality, they *are* interesting (but keep in mind that I find *all* of this old material interesting!). First of all, as the first cover example below shows, early covers from the Book Match Co. were XL's (Talls). Second, the manumark tends to move around! Some covers have it in the traditional place, just below the striker; other covers may have it on the saddle (also shown below); and still others have the manumark on the inside.

As usual in such circumstances, only a few of these covers are known (68 are currently listed), and all are keepers. They're all at least 65 years old, and they're certainly not run-of-the-mill.

