



The Philatelic Foundation

341 West 38th Street • 5th Floor
New York, NY 10018

EXPERT COMMITTEE

No. 515497

10/24/2013

We have examined the enclosed item, of which a photograph is attached, and *described by the applicant* as follows:

Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

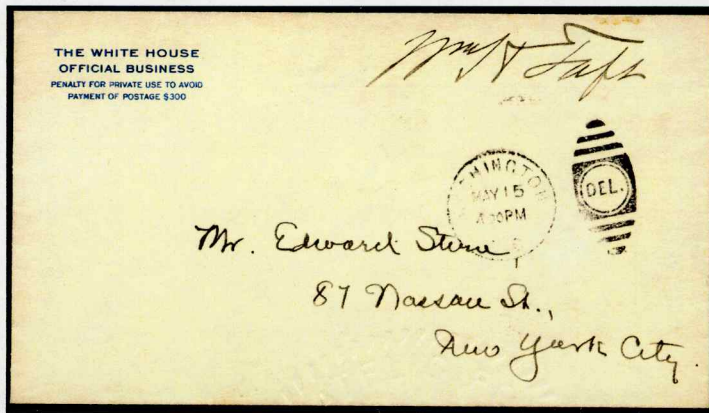
Cat. No. Issue Denom. Color

Scott's unless otherwise specified.

WILLIAM H. TAFT FREE FRANK ON "THE WHITE HOUSE/OFFICIAL BUSINESS" ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO NEW YORK CITY, WASHINGTON D.C. DUPLEX POSTMARK.

AND WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT:

IT IS A GENUINE USAGE *****



515497

F 261566

For The Expert Committee
Chairman

Photocopies of this Certificate are not valid.

Submitted by

VENTURA STAMP CO.

The Great Satisfaction of Obtaining a "Frank" from a President
 While in Office.

I doubt if any of the later Presidents ever "Franked" an Envelope intentionally for the purpose of prepayment of postage. A President very rarely writes a letter in long hand unless of great importance or of a personal nature; they are usually typewritten and signed by his Secretary. The Envelope does not require an autographed "Frank" as Penalty Envelopes are used and have been in use since President Grant's Administration. However, many of the later Presidents did occasionally "Frank" their Envelopes by favor.

It will be noted that a few of them are shown in connection with this article, such as, Presidents William H. Taft, Calvin Coolidge and Herbert Hoover. It has been a pleasure to receive them, personally addressed to myself, but it was necessary to use considerable tact in obtaining them. In each instance when requests were made it brought forth Penalty Envelopes without autographed "Franks" together with a most courteous letter, "complying with your request, etc." It was then necessary to return these Penalty Envelopes together with photographs of many of the Presidential Autographed "Franks" of early periods to show just what was required. By using this procedure and requesting the same Penalty Envelope be autographed by the President and again posted I was then able, with great satisfaction, to add these to my collection.

Descriptions of Franks Illustrated.

PLATE 12

- Cover # 1 **THEODORE ROOSEVELT**—Franked while Vice President under McKinley. Postmarked "Oyster Bay, N. Y., dated March 25, 1901." On Official Envelope inscribed "The Vice President's Chamber, Washington, D. C."
- Cover # 2 **WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT**—Franked while President, Washington, D. C. on Penalty Envelope inscribed "The White House." Addressed to myself, and autographed by special favor of the President.
- Cover # 3 **WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT**—Franked while Chief Justice on Penalty Envelope inscribed "Supreme Court of the United States" and signed "Wm. H. Taft, C. J."
- Cover # 4 **WARREN G. HARDING**—Franked while U. S. Senator on envelope inscribed "United States Senate, Public Document, Free."
- Cover # 5 **CALVIN COOLIDGE**—Franked while President. Postmarked "Washington D. C., Sept. 19, 1928" on Penalty Envelope inscribed "The White House." Addressed to myself and autographed by special favor of the President.
- Cover # 6 **CALVIN COOLIDGE**—Franked while Vice President under Harding. Postmarked "Northampton, Mass., March 30, 1923." Envelope inscribed "The Vice President's Chamber, Washington."
- Cover # 7. **HERBERT HOOVER**—Franked while President. Postmarked "Washington, Nov. 7, 1929" on Penalty Envelope inscribed "The White House." Addressed to myself and autographed by special favor of the President.

The Vice President's Chamber
 WASHINGTON, D. C.

Theodore Roosevelt
 V.P.

①

THE WHITE HOUSE
 OFFICIAL BUSINESS
 PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
 PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300

②

Supreme Court of the United States.
 OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Any person using this envelope to avoid the payment of postage on private matter of any kind, will be subject to a fine of Three Hundred Dollars.

③

THE WHITE HOUSE
 OFFICIAL BUSINESS
 PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
 PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300



Mr. Edward Stern,
 87 Nassau Street

④

THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S CHAMBER,
 WASHINGTON.



⑤

THE WHITE HOUSE
 OFFICIAL BUSINESS
 PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
 PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300



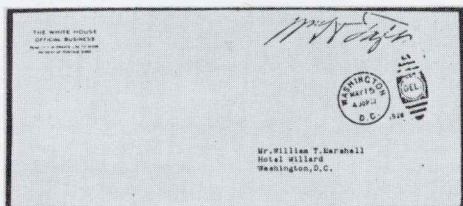
Mr. Edward Stern,
 87 Nassau Street,

⑥

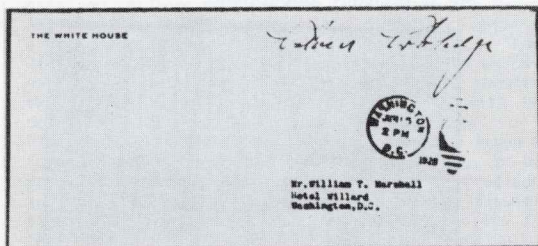
W.G. Harding

UNITED STATES SENATE.
 PUBLIC DOCUMENT.

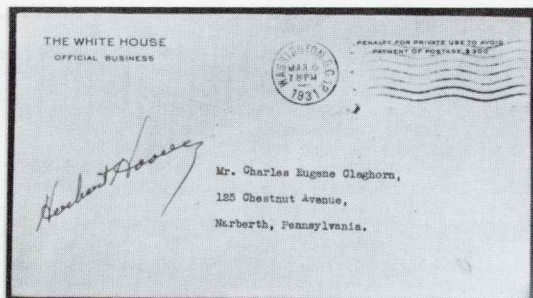
MAIL FROM THE PRESIDENTS
OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL



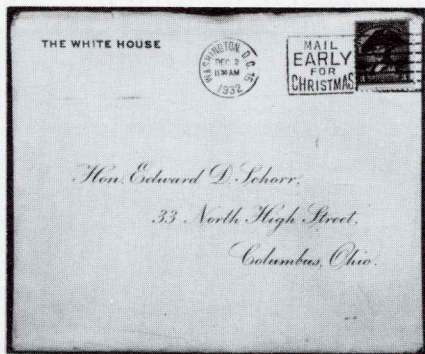
Bearing the autograph signature of then Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court (a post that never has possessed the franking privilege), William Howard Taft, this White House envelope with "Official Business" and penalty clause imprint, was sent during the Coolidge administration in 1928.



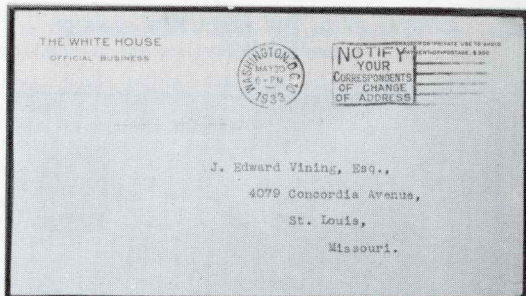
An autograph of Calvin Coolidge as President on a White House envelope intended for personal mail, this cover bears a Washington, D.C. postmark of June 15, 1928. Thus, the only factor preventing this being termed a Coolidge Presidential free frank is that there was no extant legislation at that time giving the President the franking privilege!



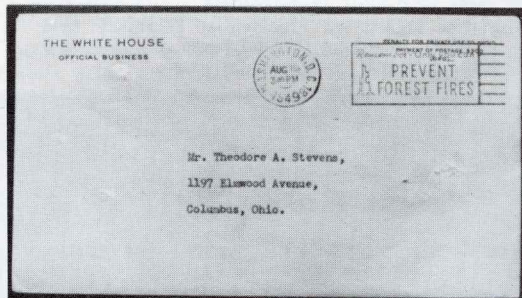
An autograph signature of Herbert Hoover while President, on official White House stationery with penalty clause imprint.



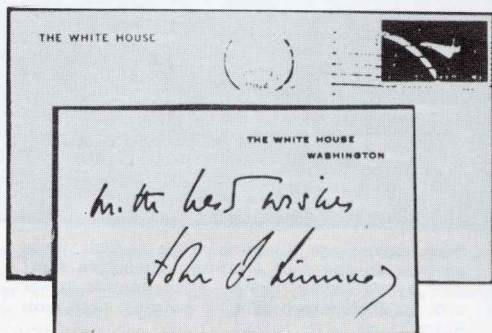
Herbert Hoover's Christmas cards for 1932 were, as personal mail, sent in White House envelopes franked by 3¢ Washington bicentennial commemorative stamps.



A White House official letter, with "Official Business" and a penalty clause, sent from the oval office early in the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt.



White House official mail from the Truman administration used official stationery almost identical to that of the Roosevelt years, except that "(G.P.O.)" has been added to the penalty clause.



This White House mailing from the Kennedy administration in 1962 was in response to a request for a "free franked" cover. The response to such requests was evidently considered to be "personal mail" by the Oval office personnel, since a 4¢ Project Mercury stamp was used to mail the White House envelope containing a card with "White House/ Washington" imprint and a signed "W. the best wishes/ John F. Kennedy". The signature and legend are, alas, one of the many proxy signatures of Kennedy written by designated secretaries!