

**Sale 887**

Thursday, November 11, 2004

**The Dr. John L. Robertson  
Collection of  
United States Free Franks**



**Robert A. Siegel**

AUCTION GALLERIES, INC.

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# Sale 887

Thursday, November 11, 2004

## The Dr. John L. Robertson Collection of United States Free Franks

**Offered without reserves**

### **Pre-sale exhibiton**

Monday, November 8—10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Thursday, November 11—10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
or by appointment (please call 212-753-6421)

**On-line catalogue, e-mail bid form, resources and  
the Siegel Encyclopedia are available on our web site:**

[www.siegelauctions.com](http://www.siegelauctions.com)



### **Arrangement of Sale**

**Afternoon session (Lots 2001-2181)  
Tuesday, November 9, at 2:30 p.m.**

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# United States Free Franks (and Their Look-Alikes)

## Free Franks Defined

The definition of “Frank” is the superscribed signature of a person entitled to send a letter free of postage. It has been used as a noun, representing the franked letter or envelope, and as a verb, *to frank*. The word is derived from the Latin *francus*, meaning free, thus the term *free frank* is somewhat redundant (“free-free”). Frankings sometimes included the word “free”, but often they did not. The post office sometimes used a “free” handstamp, but often it did not. Some persons with franking privileges, such as George Washington, totally avoided writing the word “free” on franked mail.

## History

The franking laws in the American Colonies developed as an extension of the British system. When the Parliamentary Post was established in 1692 to promote inter-colonial mail, letters from officers of state and council were to be carried free of charge. The Queen Anne Act of 1711 gave the British Post Office responsibility for all colonial post offices, and the King George III Act of 1765 revised the American postal rates. During this time mail continued to be franked when applicable, in much the same way as mail in England, except that in England, “Free” handstamps were used by the postmaster on franked covers.

In the transitional period of 1774-75, the Parliamentary Post continued to function while William Goddard tried to start his own Constitutional Post. Finally, the Continental Congress created its postal system on July 26, 1775. They stipulated that the franking privilege should be given to delegates only during sessions of Congress.

When the Articles of Confederation were passed in 1782, the franking privilege was given to those in Congress who had actually taken their seats, as well as to the heads of the departments of Finance, War and Foreign Affairs. The privilege was again given to the delegates to the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia in 1787.

The Executive and Legislative departments of the U.S. government were given franking privileges, beginning with the Act of February 20, 1792. Letters not exceeding 2 ounces in weight were to be delivered free of charge to and from the President, Vice President, Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, the Comptroller, Register, Auditor, Treasurer, Secretary of State, Postmaster General, Senators, House members, Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House. Since then, there have been hundreds of additions, deletions and amendments to the franking laws.

For example, the Act of March 3, 1797, gave George Washington a lifetime franking privilege as ex-President. Other ex-Presidents did not receive this privilege from July 1, 1873, to March 25, 1957, when Hoover and Truman received it along with all succeeding Presidents.

The Act of April 3, 1800, gave the franking privilege to Martha Washington, the first Presidential widow, and most widows have since received it except during periods when franking was abolished.

Franking privileges were restricted from 1845 to 1847, in what is called the “Brownout Period.” It was restricted in part during some of the Civil War period. Finally, it was abolished entirely in 1873 in response to continued abuse of the system. This period from 1873 to 1875 is known as the “Blackout Period”, during which only a few public documents could be franked. Except for the Executive Department, the franking privilege was gradually reestablished, the “Penalty envelope” came into use and our present franking system was developed.

## The Robertson Collection

The exhibit collection formed by Dr. John L. Robertson was displayed in an unconventional format to better show and explain the evolution of the franking privilege in the United States. Although the material has been rearranged in this sale catalogue according to the more customary groups, in its exhibit format the sections were arranged as follows:

- Parliamentary Post
- Continental Congress Post
- Confederation Post
- Presidents and Presidential Widows
- Post Office, War, Legislative, State and Treasury Departments
- Expresses
- Texas Republic
- Confederate States of America

In presenting the Robertson collection, we have included historical information and biographical data to provide a better understanding of the circumstances surrounding each franked usage. Much information comes from Dr. Robertson's intensive research. A useful list of Presidents and related facts will be found on our website: [www.siegelauctions.com/enc/presidents.htm](http://www.siegelauctions.com/enc/presidents.htm)

Our firm has offered many of the most important Free Frank collections ever formed, including those belonging to Louis Grunin, Theodore Stevens and Morton Dean Joyce. We feel confident in describing the Robertson collection as the most inventive of its kind, incorporating an unprecedented number of outstanding items into a storyline that no other collection has told before.

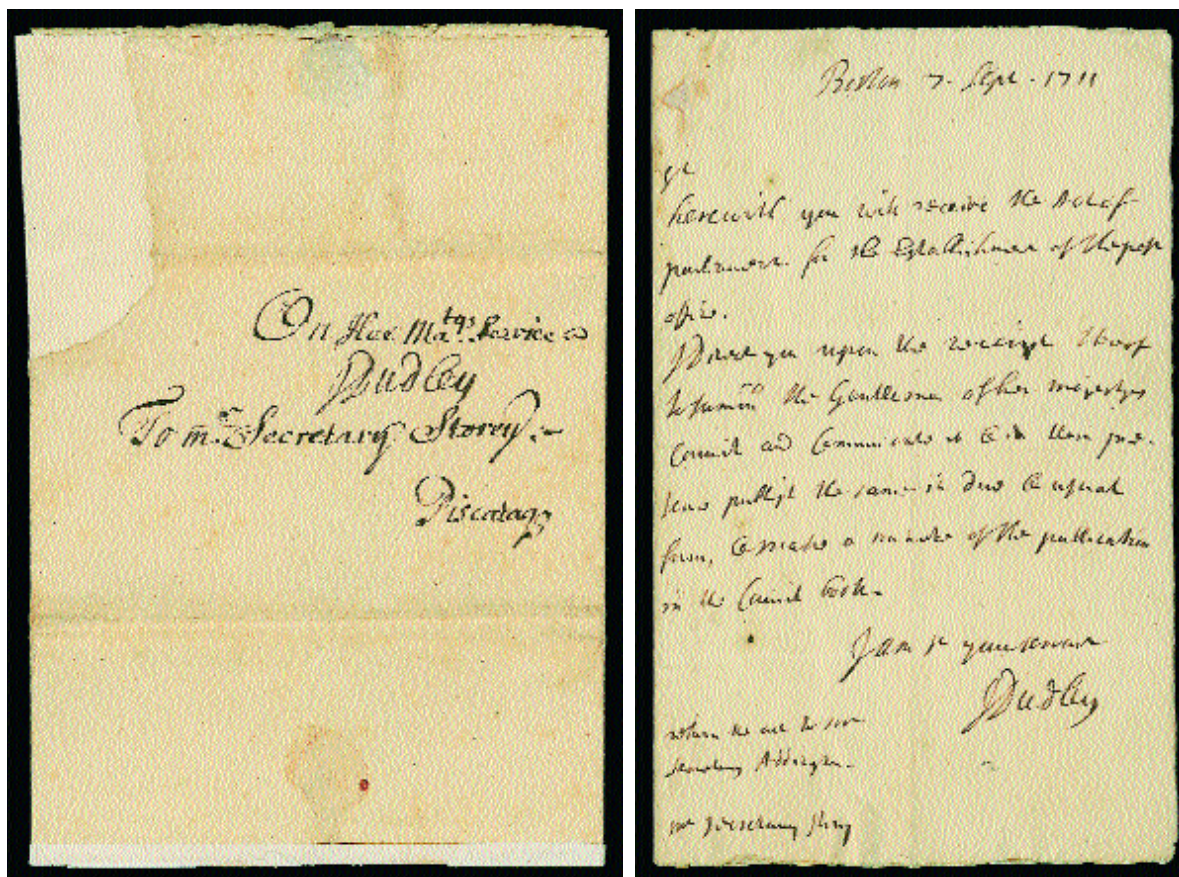
On a personal level, I am gratified that Dr. Robertson selected the Siegel team to present this extraordinary collection. We hope that the catalogue does justice to Dr. Robertson's collecting achievement, and we trust that the results will reflect his knowledge and appreciation of the rare and unusual.

—SCOTT R. TREPEL

AFTERNOON SESSION (LOTS 4001-4261)  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2004, at 1:30 P.M.

THE DR. JOHN L. ROBERTSON COLLECTION OF  
UNITED STATES FREE FRANKS

COLONIAL PERIOD — PARLIAMENTARY POST



4001

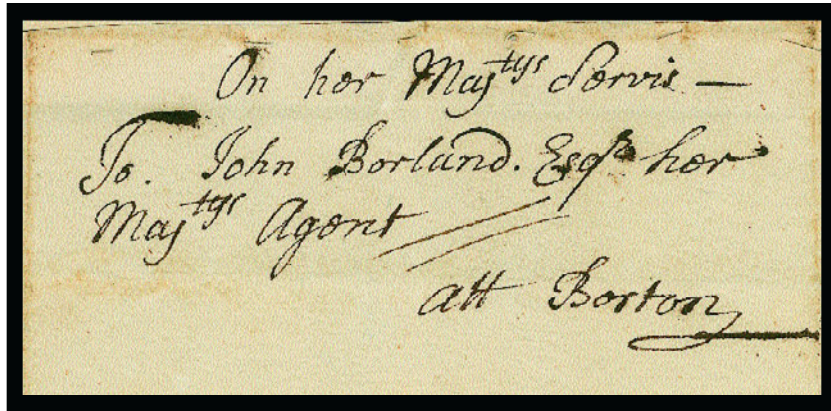
- 4001 ✉ **Joseph Dudley.** Member of the Massachusetts General Court (1673-76), fought the Naragansett Indians during King Philip's War (1675), member of the Upper House in the Massachusetts Bay legislature (1676-83, 1684), Commander of the United Colonies of New England (1677-81), member of the Governor's Council, President of the Council (1684), in charge of press censorship for Governor Andros and Chief Justice of Colonial Superior Court (1687-89), free frank "On Her Matys. Service Dudley" as Governor of Massachusetts and President of the New England Confederation on autograph letter signed, datelined "Boston 11 June 1711" to Secretary Storey at Piscataway (now Portsmouth), content discusses a Congress of Governors to take place in Connecticut and is signed, expert repair at top left, accompanied by second autograph letter signed and dated Sept. 7, 1711, originally enclosing the Act of Parliament for the establishment of the post office under the Act of Queen Anne

VERY FINE. THE ONLY REPORTED EXAMPLE OF ONE OF THE EARLIEST AMERICAN FREE FRANKS AND AN IMPORTANT PAIR OF LETTERS FROM JOSEPH DUDLEY, A MAJOR HISTORICAL FIGURE IN COLONIAL AMERICA.

In 1692 the first attempt to create an American post under the Neale Patent was to ultimately fail, but it was understood at that time that public letters were to be sent and received without charge. Under the Queen Anne Act, effective June 1, 1711, military officials could also send correspondence free of charge.

Ex Kantor..... E. 3,000-4,000





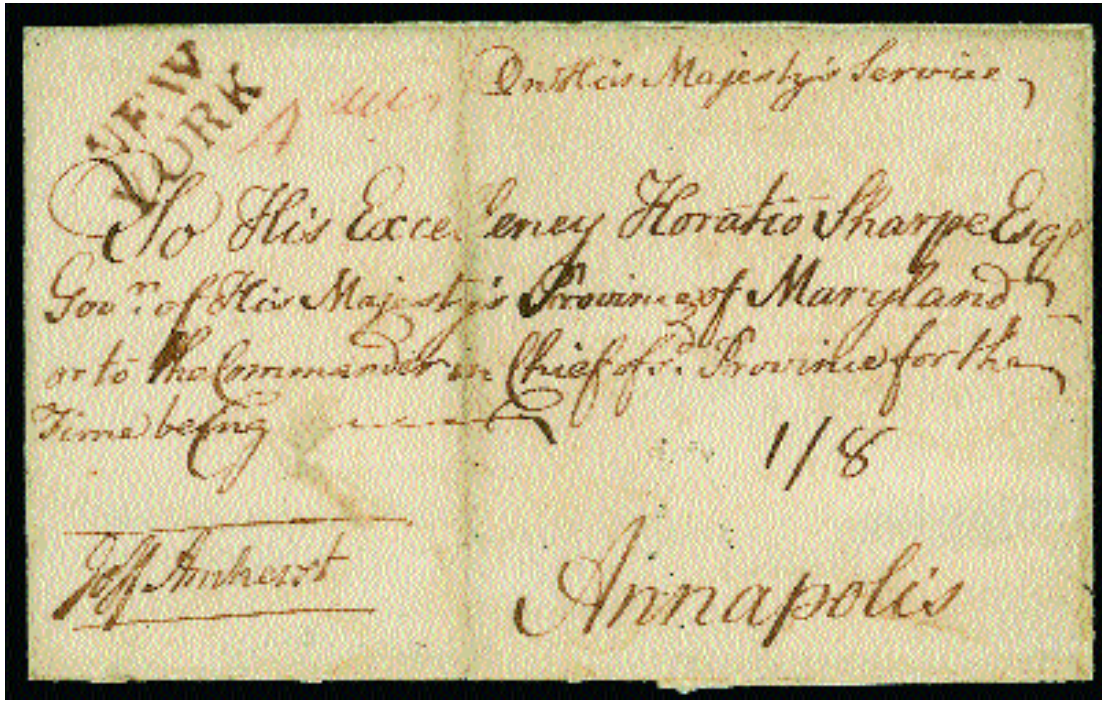
4002

- 4002 ☒ **Samuel Cranston.** Free frank “On her Majtys. Servis” as Colonial Governor of Rhode Island on address panel to Boston, accompanying autograph letter signed and datelined “Rhode Island Newport Octo. 20th 1711”, fresh and Very Fine, one of the earliest reported American free frank usages..... E. 1,500-2,000



4003

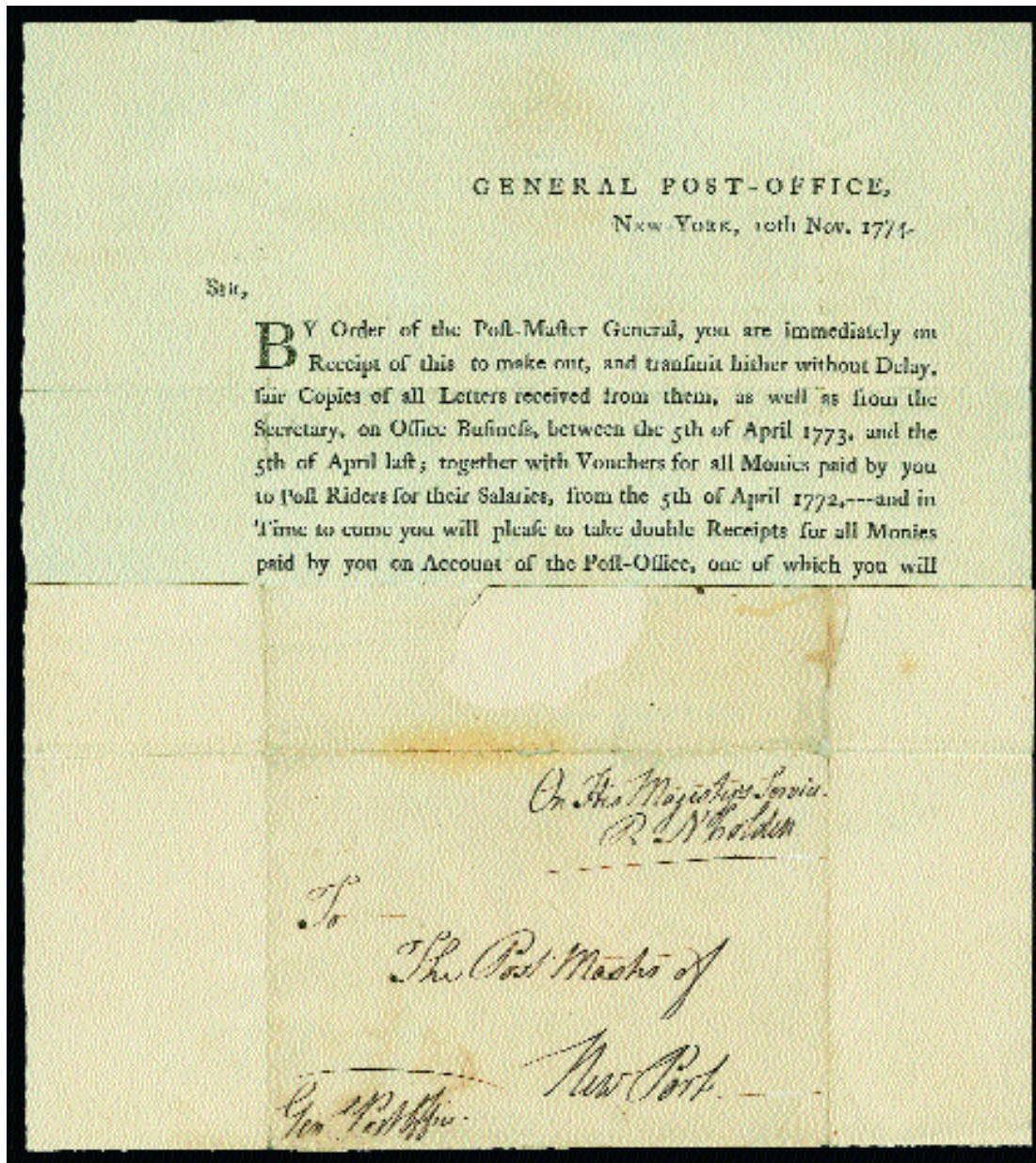
- 4003 ☒ **Sir William Keith.** Free frank “W Keith free” as Governor of Pennsylvania and Delaware on Sept. 17, 1719 autograph letter signed from Philadelphia to New York, small piece out at top and some light wear incl. horizontal file fold thru frank, otherwise Fine, **one of the earliest reported American free frank usages**, Keith is perhaps best known for convincing a young Benjamin Franklin to set up his own printer’s shop; in 1724 he promised Franklin that letters of credit would be in England upon his arrival to purchase new equipment; however, upon Franklin’s arrival the letters were not there, and he found Keith’s name had a poor reputation due to his prior backing of the upstart son of King James II to the throne; Franklin ended up spending two years working in England to earn enough to return to the States; in his biography, Franklin wrote “He wish’d to please everybody; and, having little to give, he gave Expectations. He was otherwise an ingenious sensible Man, a pretty good writer, and a good Governor for the People. . Several of our best laws were of his Planning, and pass’d during his Administration.” ..... E. 1,500-2,000



4004

- 4004 ★ **Lord Jeffrey Amherst.** Free frank “Jeff Amherst” as Commander of British forces during the French and Indian War on address panel (with flaps added from portion of original letter dated Feb. 29, 1760) from New York “To His Excellency Horatio Sharpe Esq., Govn. of His Majesty’s Province of Maryland, or to the Commander in Chief of sd. Province for the Time being, Annapolis”, brownish “New York” two-line handstamp and rated “4dw” penny-weight and “1/8” sterling, faint stains, expertly restored, Very Fine appearance, sent via inter-colonial system as it was less expensive than using a military courier, the franking was used in this instance to indicate the importance of the letter, this rare cover was used for many years as the frontispiece for the *American Stampless Cover Catalogue*, ex Konwiser and Stevens..... E. 2,000-3,000





4005

- 4005 ☒ **“On His Majesty’s Service, R N. Colden”.** Manuscript free frank and address in Colden’s hand to postmaster at Newport R.I., **printed notice from R. N. Colden, Secretary of the Colonial General Post Office, dated Nov. 10, 1774, requesting copies of official correspondence, pay vouchers and postal receipts,** copies of this notice were sent to all Colonial post offices at the time questions of loyalty to the Crown arose — although the notices and responses are discussed in official minutes of Deputy Postmaster General meetings, actual examples are extremely rare — Very Fine ..... E. 3,000-4,000

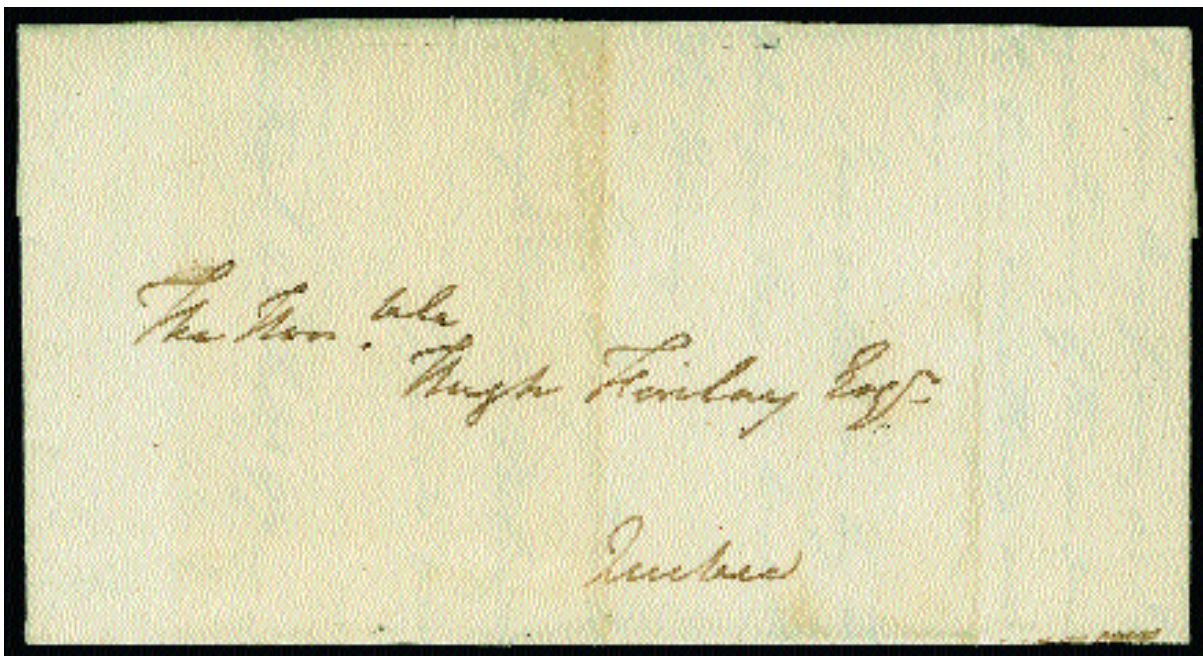


PARLIAMENTARY POST — LATE PERIOD



4006

- 4006 ☒ **General Charles Cornwallis.** British General during the Revolutionary War and Colonial Governor, free frank "Cornwallis" on folded letter datelined "Brunswick Jany. 15, 1777" and written to General Matthews, contents written and signed by his aide-de-camp and requests that he order 200 men to march towards towards Boundbrook to gather intelligence, some slight splitting along file folds, otherwise Very Fine, very scarce frank (probably carried by military courier) and desirable war-period letter..... E. 500-750

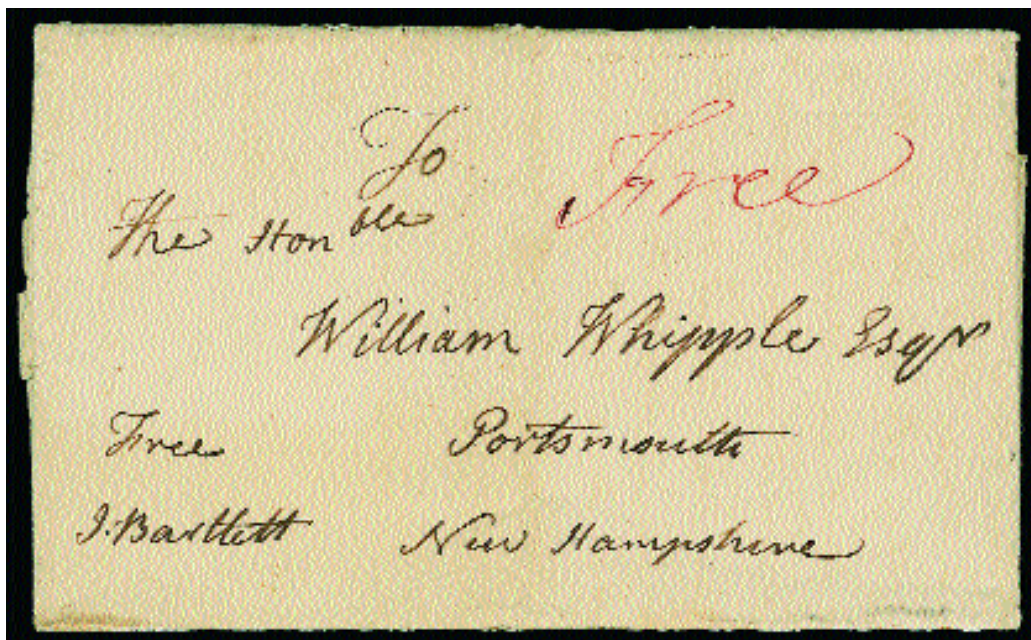


4007EX

- 4007 ☒ **Hugh Finley.** Organizer of the Parliamentary posts in Canada after Benjamin Franklin was dismissed from office in 1774, two items: first is folded letter addressed to him in Quebec and sent from Montreal, clear "Montreal Febry. 23" backstamp, second is a letter signed by him and sent to an employee, both carried free of charge, fresh and Very Fine .....(Photo Ex) E. 300-400



## SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



4008

- 4008 ☒ **Josiah Bartlett.** Signer of Declaration of Independence, delegate from New Hampshire (Continental Congresses of 1775-78), free frank "Free J. Bartlett" and address in his hand on folded cover **to William Whipple** (Signer and delegate from N.H.) in Portsmouth N.H., red ms. "Free", "Phila. Sep. 3" straightline on back, some slight splitting along folds, fresh and Very Fine, Bartlett was the first person to vote for the Declaration of Independence and the second to sign it ..... E. 1,500-2,000



4009

- 4009 ☒ **Charles Carroll.** Signer of Declaration of Independence, delegate from Maryland (Continental Congresses of 1777-77), free frank "Ch Carroll of C free" (Charles Carroll of Carrollton) on folded cover addressed in his infirm hand to Louis M. Lane in Wilmington Del., ms. "Browns Tavern June 19" postmark, minor wrinkles and tiny edge tears, still Very Fine, undated but probably late (1828-32) — as the last living Signer, the distinguished Senator Carroll was the beneficiary of an Act of Congress in 1828 giving him free-franking privileges for life (which lasted until 1832) ..... E. 1,500-2,000





4010

- 4010 ☒ **William Floyd.** Signer of Declaration of Independence, delegate from New York (Continental Congresses of 1774-77 and 1778-83), autograph free frank "Wm. Floyd Free" and address on large part of folded cover to Samuel Hazard at Newtown Conn., the cover has been cleaned, silked and refolded, pencil note indicates that the letter (no longer present) was dated at Philadelphia on Feb. 14, 1780, a Fine and attractive example of this scarce Signer's signature, very rare as a free frank, ex Grunin ..... E. 1,000-1,500



4011

- 4011 ☒ **Elbridge Gerry.** Signer of Declaration of Independence, delegate from Massachusetts (Continental Congresses of 1776-81 and 1782-85), framer of the Constitution, member of Congress, Governor of Massachusetts, and Vice President under James Madison, autograph free frank "free E. Gerry" on small folded cover to Northampton Mass., brownish-black "31/1A" Franklin mark and matching "Free" handstamp, both of Philadelphia, Very Fine and scarce Signer's free frank, Gerry's political maneuvering inspired the term "gerrymandering", he refused to sign the Constitution as he thought it gave the President too much power ..... E. 1,000-1,500



## BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



4012

- 4012 ☒ **Benjamin Franklin.** Free frank as Deputy Postmaster General "*Free B. Franklin*" on Nov. 25, 1762 folded cover to Mrs. Katherine Green in Rhode Island, some expert restoration VERY FINE APPEARANCE. A RARE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN FREE FRANK FROM HIS TERM AS DEPUTY POSTMASTER GENERAL FOR THE COLONIES IN AMERICA.

In 1753, Franklin was appointed Deputy Postmaster General for the Colonies in America. He had met the recipient of this letter in 1754 while visiting his family in Boston and had kept up a correspondence with her. In the spring of 1763, some months after sending this letter, Franklin embarked on a six-month tour to inspect his postal domain. While traveling through Rhode Island, he fell and injured his shoulder. Fortunately, Katherine Green and her husband, William, lived close by, and Franklin was able to recover there. Later, when fighting broke out in Boston, Franklin's sister, Jane Mecom, took refuge with Mrs. Green.

Accompanied by a transcript of the letter that originally accompanied this cover (now in the possession of the American Philosophical Society). ..... E. 10,000-15,000



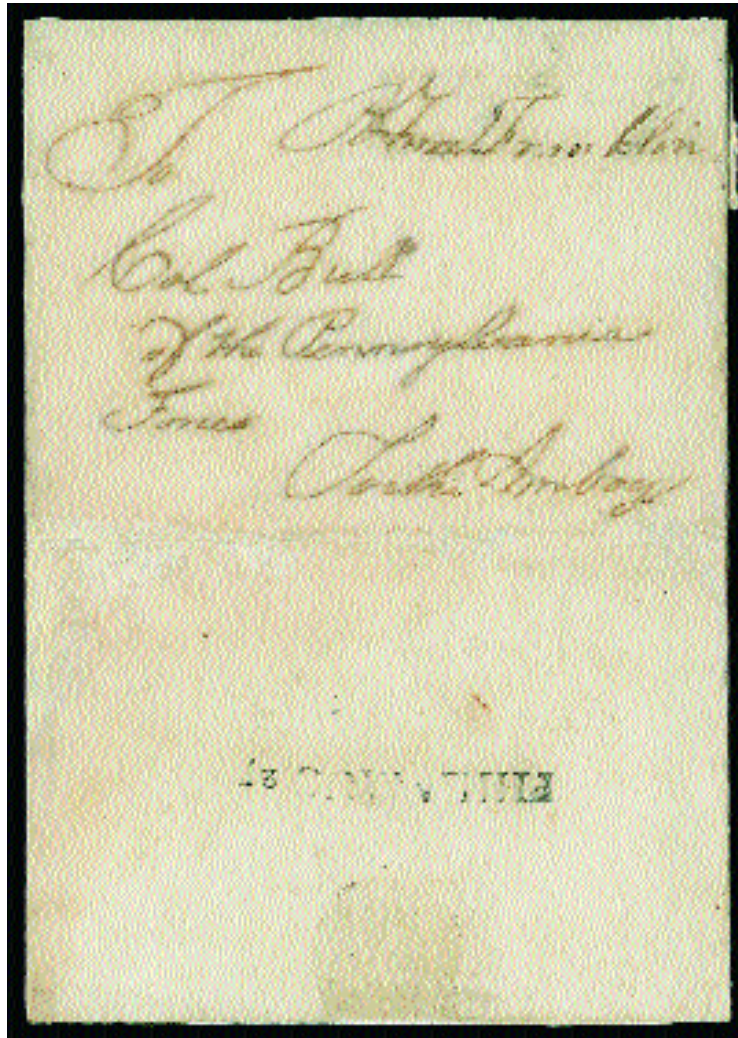
4013

4013 ☒ **Benjamin Franklin.** Free frank "*B. Free Franklin*" as Deputy Postmaster for the Colonies on cover front (restored with flaps) from London and addressed in his hand to Mrs. Franklin in Philadelphia, also endorsed in his hand "*via N York pr. Packet*", red London "Free" in circle handstamp, expert restoration not affecting writing

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. A HIGHLY DESIRABLE FORM OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S FREE FRANK WITH THE "B. FREE FRANKLIN" SYNTAX. THIS MAIL WAS SENT TO HIS WIFE FROM ENGLAND AND CARRIED FREE OF PACKET CHARGES AND INTERNAL POSTAGE.

This was most likely mailed in 1772, during Franklin's residence in London. With 1983 Charles Hamilton certificate..... E. 15,000-20,000





4014

- 4014 ☒ **Benjamin Franklin.** Free frank "*B Free Franklin*" as **Continental Postmaster General** on folded cover addressed to Col. Bull of the Pennsylvania Forces at Perth Amboy N.J., neat "Phila Aug. 27" (1776) straightline datestamp, skillfully restored

FINE APPEARANCE. AN EXTREMELY RARE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN FREE FRANK AS POSTMASTER GENERAL OF THE CONTINENTAL POST WITH THE "B. FREE FRANKLIN" SYNTAX USED LESS THAN ONE MONTH AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

On July 26, 1775, the Continental Congress established the position of Postmaster General of the United Colonies and appointed Benjamin Franklin to the post. Slightly less than a year later, the Declaration of Independence was signed. He left for his historic trip to France shortly after this letter was mailed. Examples of Franklin's signature as Continental Postmaster General are extremely rare in any form, and this could be the only free frank in private hands.

Ex E. N. Sampson. .... E. 15,000-20,000



4015

- 4015 ✉ **Benjamin Franklin.** Incoming letter addressed to "Dr. Franklin, Craven Street in the Strand, London", originally rated "6" pence due but crossed out and sent free of charge, red London "Free" in circle handstamp, red "JA/30" and "3/FE" Bishop's marks, ms. receipt docketing "Dr. Robertson 1770" on flap (almost certainly in Franklin's own hand), some wear, opened for display of all markings and docketing, Very Fine, sent from the president of Edinburgh College to Franklin during his term as Deputy Postmaster General, which allowed him to send and receive mail free of charge..... E. 1,500-2,000





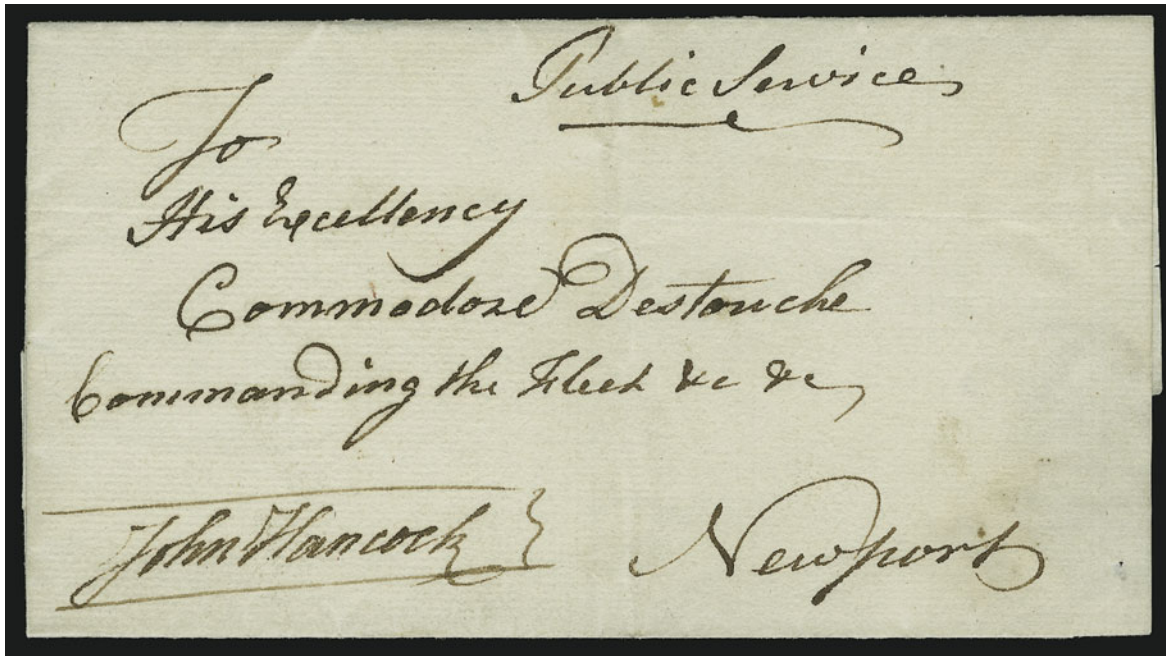
4016

- 4016 ☒ **Lyman Hall.** Signer of the Declaration of Independence, delegate from Georgia (Continental Congresses of 1775-78, 1780), Governor of Georgia, free frank "*Free Lyman Hall*" and address on folded cover to Elnathan Street Jr. at Wallingford Conn., ms. "Free" in another hand, with straightline "Phila Sep. 28" (ca. 1776) on back, skillfully cleaned to lighten foxing, manuscript strengthened in places

A VERY RARE EXAMPLE OF THIS SIGNER'S SIGNATURE AND POSSIBLY THE ONLY FREE FRANK IN PRIVATE HANDS.

This style of Philadelphia straightline is recorded from June 26, 1776, to August 12, 1777. The British occupied Philadelphia from September 26, 1777, until June 18, 1778, during which time the Congress met at Lancaster (one day only) and York (Town), Pennsylvania. Use of this postal marking in September points to a 1776 year date.

Ex Stevens (Siegel Sale 556, realized \$5,250) and illustrated in his article on free franks of the Continental Congress, ex Grunin (Siegel Sale 750, realized \$6,250)..... E. 5,000-7,500



4017

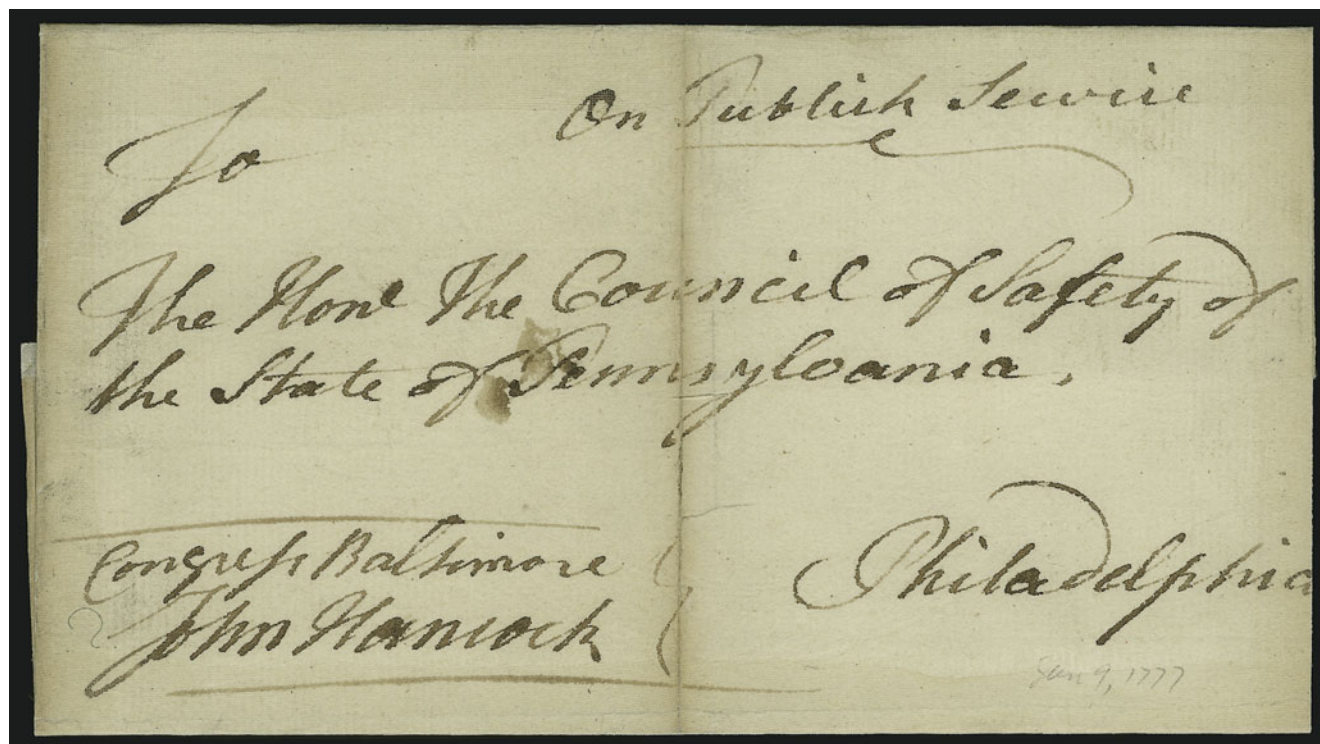
- 4017 ☒ **John Hancock.** Signer of Declaration of Independence, delegate from Massachusetts, bold free frank "John Hancock" on folded letter "To His Excellency Commodore Destouche, Commanding the Fleet &c &c, Newport", also endorsed "Public Service", faint vertical file fold does not affect franking

VERY FINE. A SCARCE AND DESIRABLE FREE FRANK FROM JOHN HANCOCK DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

This cover to the Commander of the French fleet at Newport would have been sent during the second half of 1780 or in early 1781.

Ex Stevens ..... E. 3,000-4,000



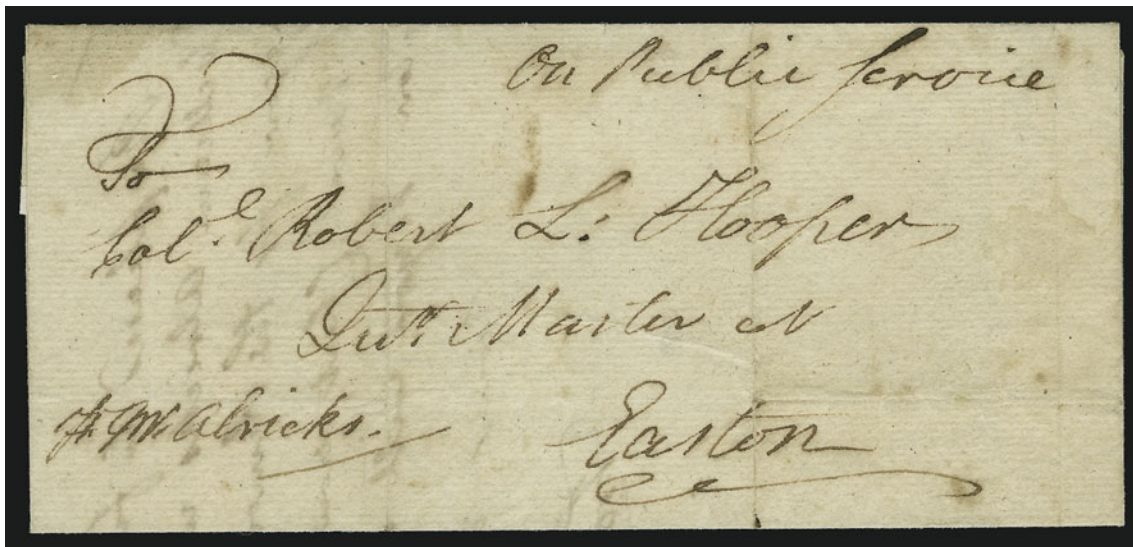


4018

- 4018 ☒ **John Hancock.** Signer of Declaration of Independence, delegate from Massachusetts, free frank "Congress Baltimore John Hancock" as **President of Third Continental Congress** (Dec. 20, 1776 to Mar. 4, 1777) on folded cover addressed in his hand to "The Hon. The Council of Safety of the State of Pennsylvania", receipt docketing on flap indicates Jan. 9, 1777 origin date and enclosure of a Resolve of Congress, lightly toned file folds, expertly silked and restored

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. A RARE JOHN HANCOCK FREE FRANK AS PRESIDENT OF THE THIRD CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, THE ONLY CONGRESS TO BE CONVENED IN BALTIMORE.

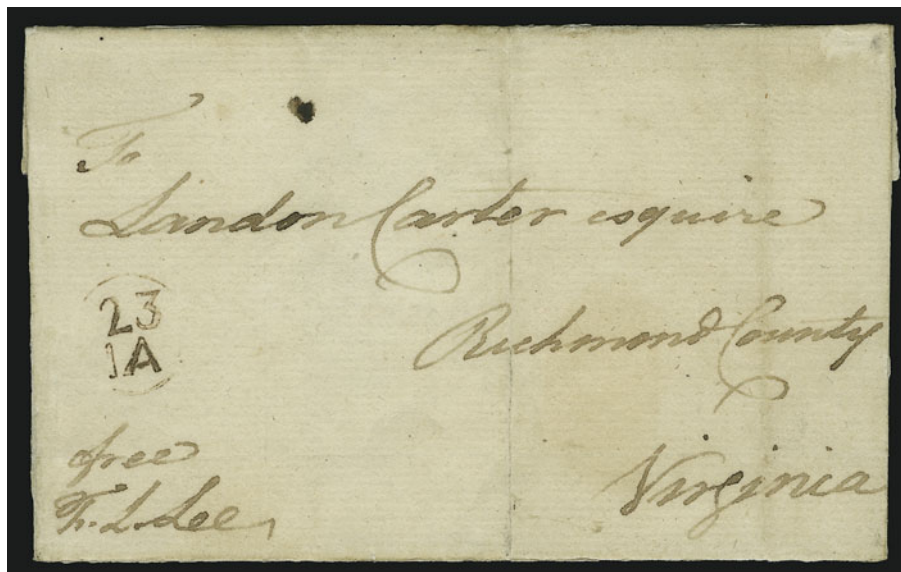
After the retreat of the Continental army through New Jersey, Congress was apprehensive of an attack on Philadelphia and adjourned on December 12 to meet later in Baltimore, from December 20, 1776, to March 4, 1777. This cover was franked and sent during that time period. .... E. 3,000-4,000



4019

- 4019 ☒ **Francis Hopkinson.** Signer of Declaration of Independence, delegate from New Jersey (Continental Congress of 1776), Signer of Declaration of Independence, member of Constitutional Convention in 1787, autograph letter signed "Fras. Hopkinson", datelined "Continental Navy Board, Borden Town N.J. 21st March 1778", endorsed by Hopkinson "On Public Service", addressed in his hand to the Quartermaster at Easton, contents requests a public wagon to move the Continental Naval Chest, faint stains, slight wear along folds  
VERY FINE. A SCARCE AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED BY FRANCIS HOPKINSON, SIGNER FROM NEW JERSEY, WITH A "PUBLIC SERVICE" ENDORSEMENT.

This letter was carried by military courier ("P. Wm. Alricks") and therefore bears no postal markings. Ex Hart. .... E. 3,000-4,000



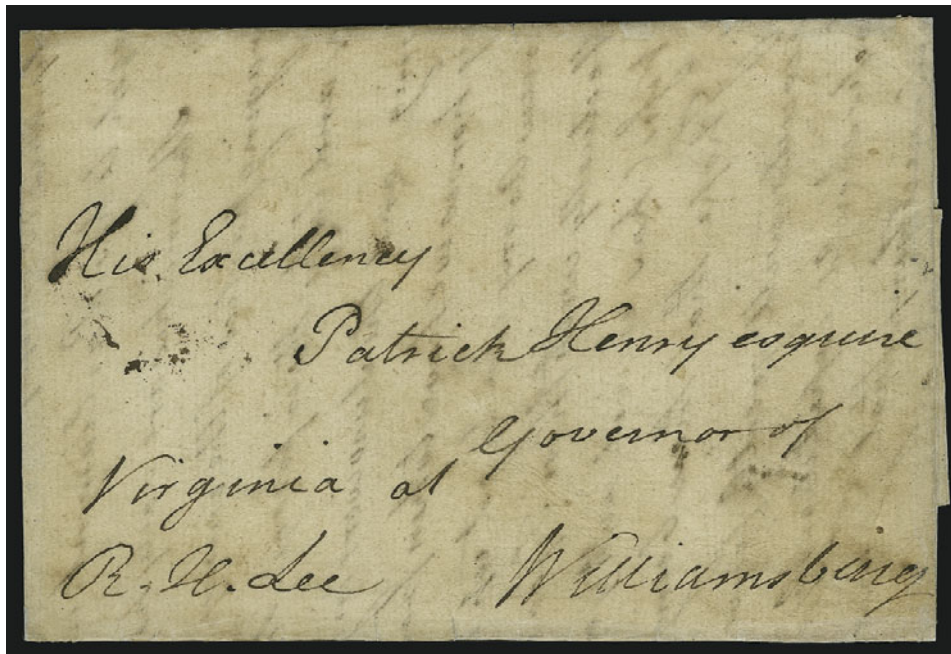
4020

- 4020 ☒ **Francis Lightfoot Lee.** Signer of Declaration of Independence, delegate from Virginia (Continental Congresses of 1775-80), free frank "free F. L. Lee" and address on folded cover to Landon Carter in Virginia, docketed January 23, 1776 on backflap, brownish "23/1A" Franklin mark of Philadelphia, red wax seal, minor reinforcement of folds  
VERY FINE. AN EXTREMELY RARE SIGNER'S FREE FRANK AND POSSIBLY THE ONLY EXAMPLE IN PRIVATE HANDS.

Francis Lightfoot Lee served with his two brothers, Richard Henry Lee and Henry Lee, the former also having signed the Declaration of Independence. Autograph letters of Francis Lightfoot Lee are very scarce. This rare free frank is especially desirable with the 1776 year of Independence date.

Ex Grunin ..... E. 5,000-7,500





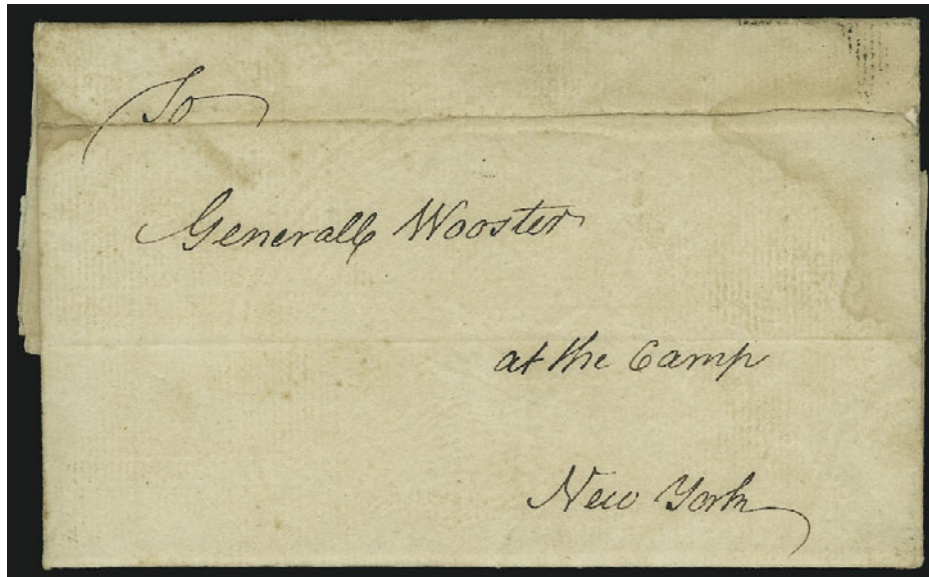
4021

- 4021 ☒ **Richard Henry Lee.** Signer of Declaration of Independence, delegate from Virginia (Continental Congresses of 1774-80), free frank "R.H. Lee" on autograph letter signed and addressed in his hand to **Patrick Henry** as Governor of Virginia, datelined "Baltimore 5th Feby. 1777" with war-related contents, expressing optimism and speculating "If our army can be got up in good time I hope we shall deal effectually with these Tyrant's fools", age toned, some wear along folds

A FINE AND RARE FREE FRANK ON AN AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED BY RICHARD HENRY LEE TO PATRICK HENRY, TWO GREAT PATRIOTS OF THE AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE.

The year in which this letter was written — 1777 — saw a number of defeats for the Continental Army, but ultimately it was a turning point in the war when British General Burgoyne surrendered to Horatio Gates at Saratoga. At the time this letter was written, Lee was participating in the Third Continental Congress convened in Baltimore, the only Congress ever held in that city. ....

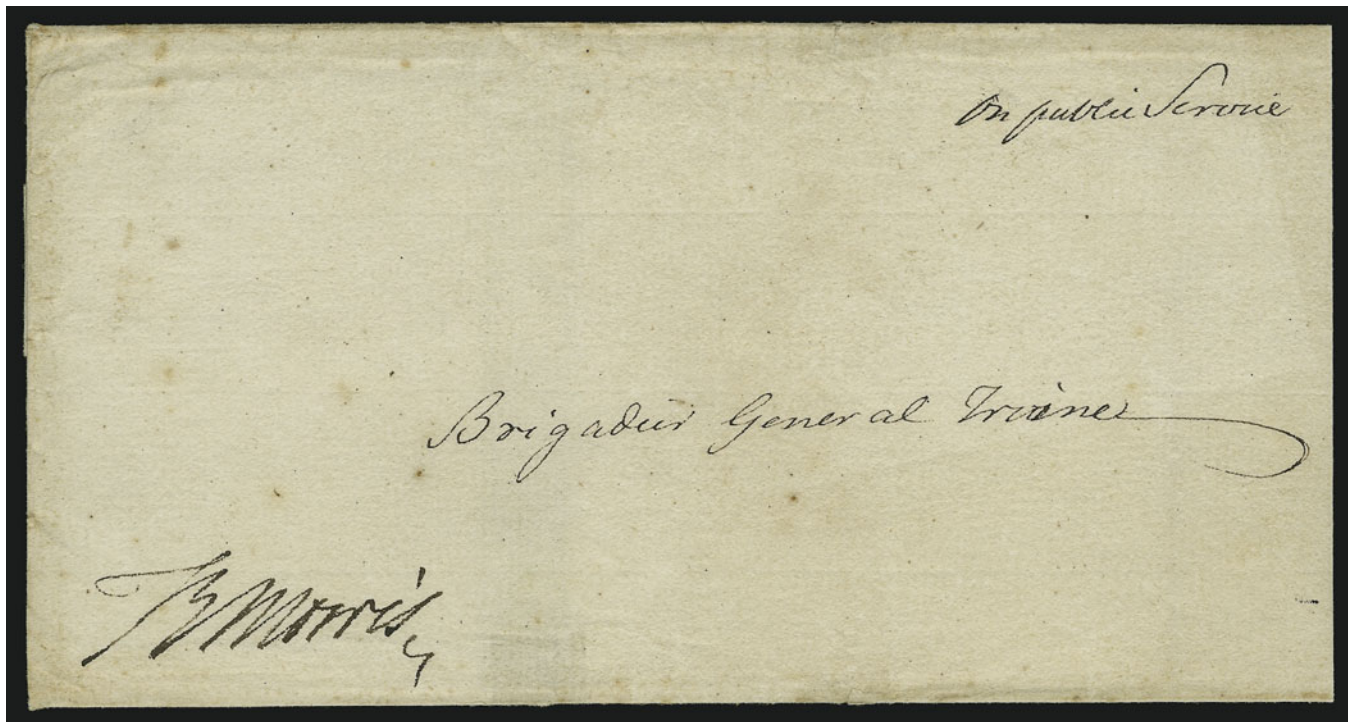
E. 3,000-4,000



4022

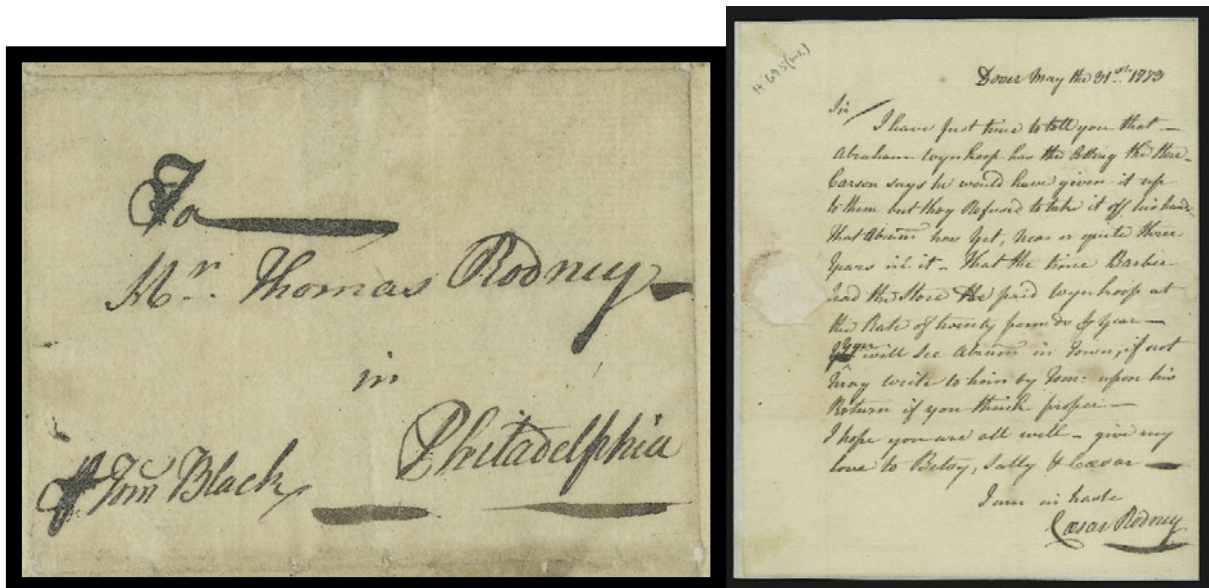
- 4022 ☒ **Phillip Livingston.** Signer of Declaration of Independence, member of Continental Congress from 1774 until his death in 1788, letter signed as **President of the New York Provincial Convention**, datelined "New York 7th July 1775 Provincial Congress", addressed to "General Wooster at the camp New York", discusses enlistment practices for servants and apprentices in his army, slightly age toned and splitting along folds, Very Fine, sent four days after Washington took command at Boston (July 3), the congressional franking privilege was not granted until November 8, 1775, in spite of this letters of this importance were carried free by an express or private rider hired by the Constitutional Post, the Army or the Provincial Committee .....

E. 750-1,000



4023

- 4023 ☒ **Robert Morris.** Signer of the Declaration of Independence, delegate from Pennsylvania (Continental Congress of 1776-1778), Superintendent of Finance (1781-1784), known as the "financier of the Revolution" and Senator (1789-1795), free frank "R. Morris" as Superintendent of the Treasury under the Continental Congress on folded cover to Brigadier General Irvine, who was in command at Fort Pitt during that time, gently cleaned, Very Fine, possibly carried by private military courier ..... E. 750-1,000

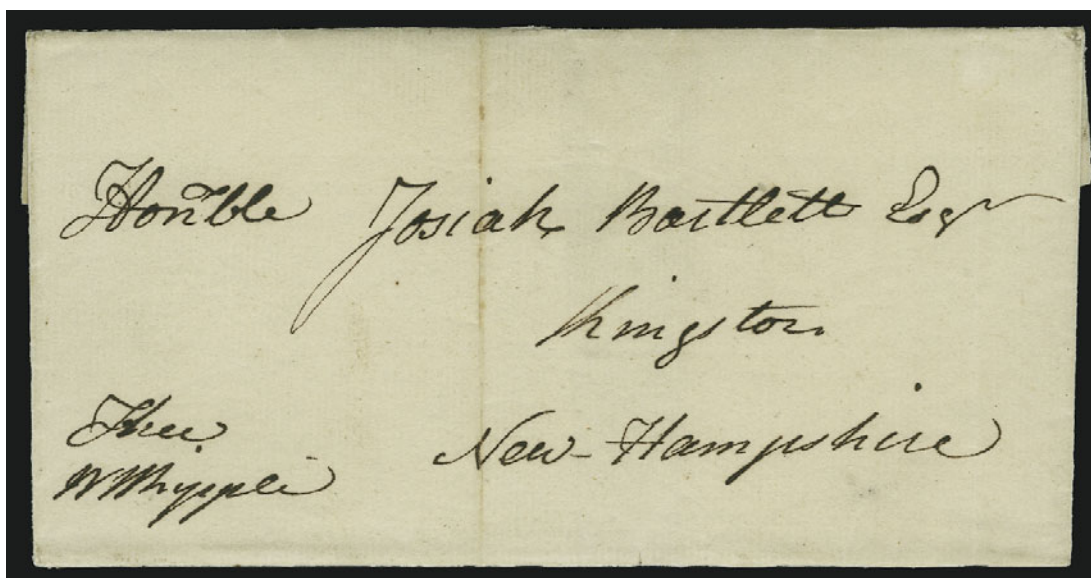


4024

- 4024 ☒ **Caesar Rodney.** Signer of Declaration of Independence, delegate from Delaware (Continental Congresses of 1774-76, 1777-78, 1782-84), Brigadier General in Revolutionary Army, autograph letter signed and addressed from Dover to his brother in Philadelphia, dated May 31, 1773, carried privately as Dover was not on the intra-colonial post roads and endorsed "pr. Tom Black", silked on both sides, Fine, very scarce autograph letter signed by this Signer ..... E. 1,500-2,000

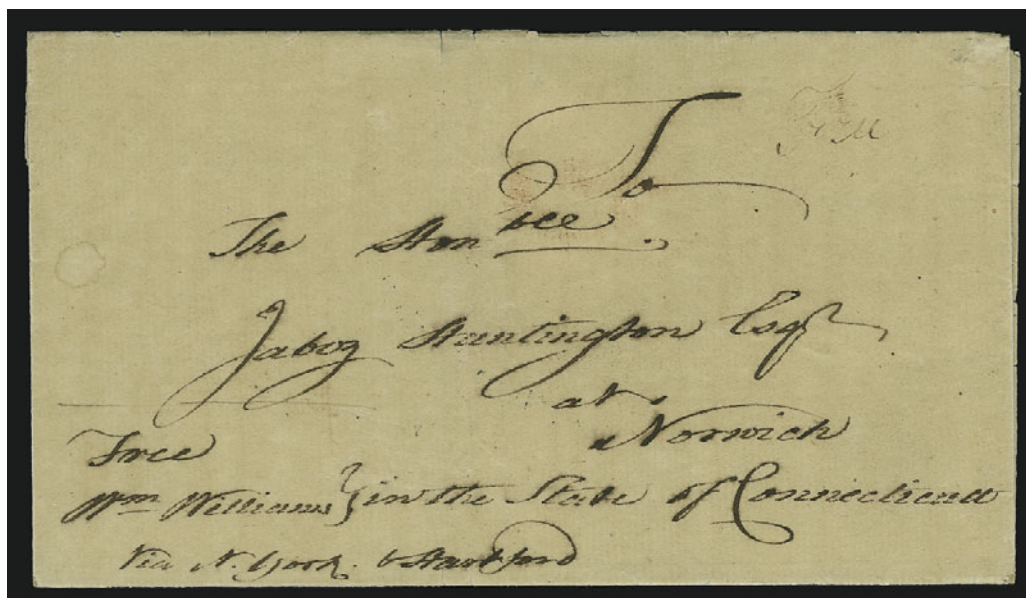


4025



- 4025 ☒ **William Whipple.** Signer of Declaration of Independence, delegate from New Hampshire (Continental Congresses of 1776-79), free frank "Free W Whipple" and address in his hand on folded cover to **John Bartlett**, fellow delegate and Signer from New Hampshire, lettersheet shows watermark with allegorical figure in crowned circle, neatly docketed on backflap "Genl. Whipple August 24th 1779", gently cleaned, Very Fine, attractive frank from one Signer to another ..... E. 1,500-2,000

4026



- 4026 ☒ **William Williams.** Signer of Declaration of Independence, delegate from Connecticut (Continental Congresses of 1776, 1783-84), free frank "Free Wm. Williams" on folded cover to Norwich Conn., sender's routing instructions "Via N. York & Hartford", "Phila. Aug. 12" (1776) straightline on back, some splitting along folds, slightly age toned

VERY FINE. THIS IS BELIEVED TO BE ONE OF ONLY TWO RECORDED FREE FRANKS OF WILLIAM WILLIAMS, A SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. A RARE FRANK FROM THE YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE.

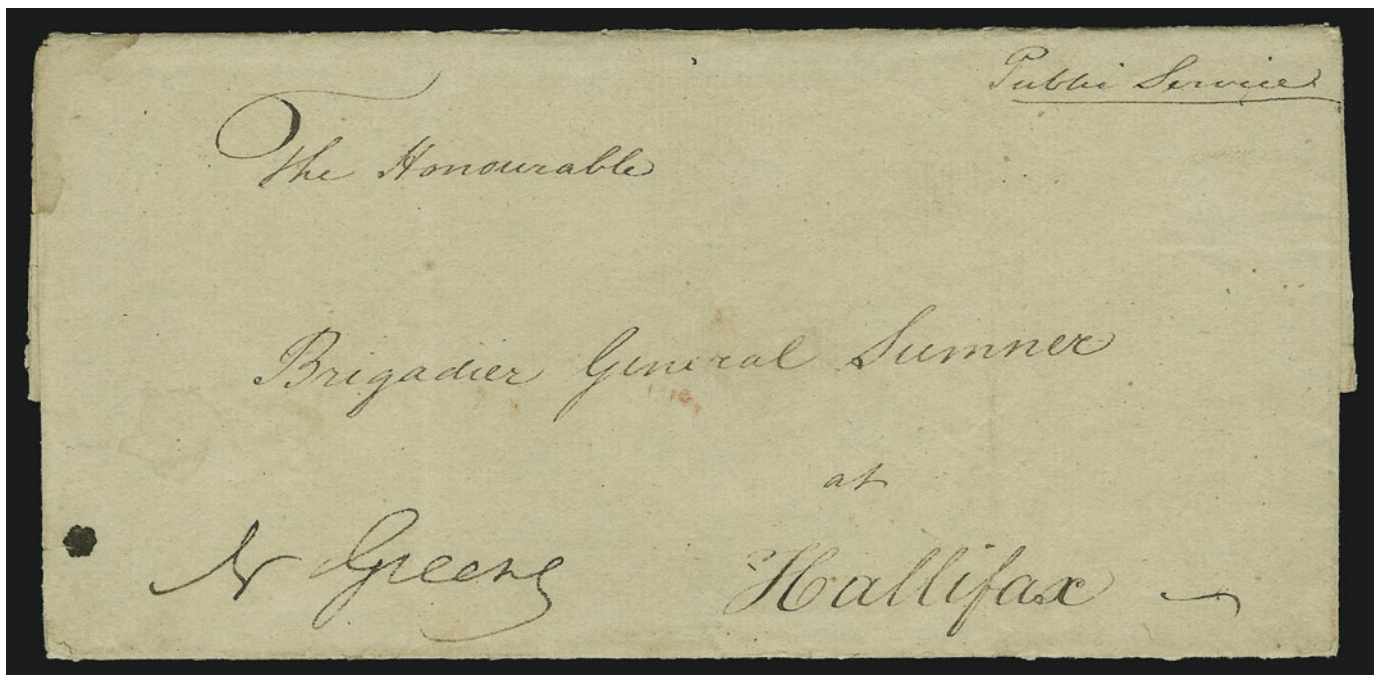
Williams was elected to the Continental Congress in 1776. He voted for Independence, signed the Declaration, and was then appointed a member of the committee to frame the Articles of Confederation. In 1777 he was appointed to the Board of War. After the war, he attended the Hartford convention, where Connecticut ratified the Federal Constitution. The cover offered here was sent just one month after Independence Day. The other recorded usage was offered in our Grunin sale (Sale 750, lot 15)..... E. 3,000-4,000

## MILITARY FRANKS OF REVOLUTIONARY WAR FIGURES



4027

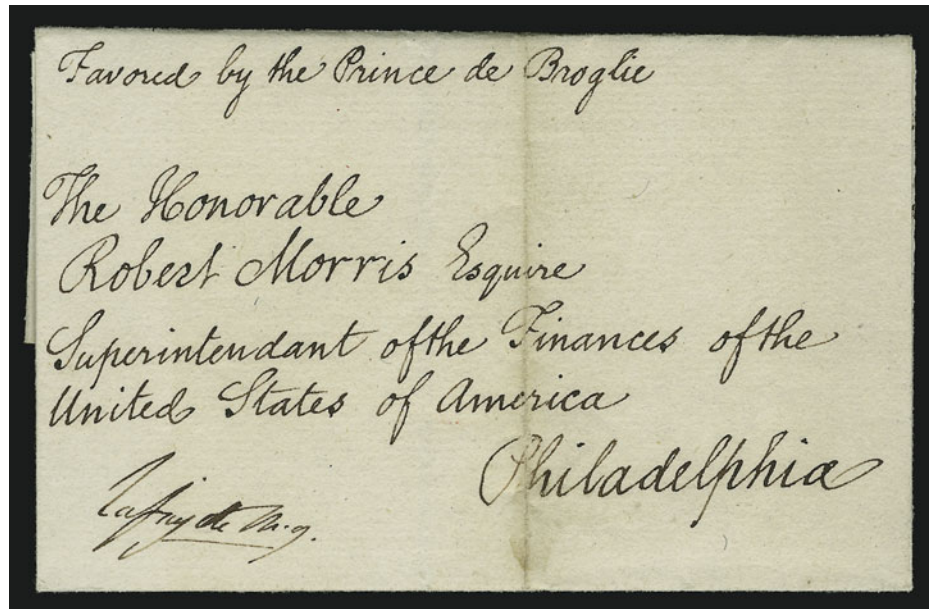
- 4027 ✉ **John Shaw.** Folded letter datelined "Camp at Perth Amboy July 22, 1776" and sent from Clement Biddle to his superior, John Shaw, the Adjutant Quartermaster General at Trenton, content discusses the care of damaged arms, providing forage and the 2,370 men who have just arrived from Elizabethtown, some overall wear and top flap slightly reduced, Very Fine, the Ordnance of Sep. 24, 1782 extended the franking privilege to the Quartermaster General among others ..... E. 400-500



4028

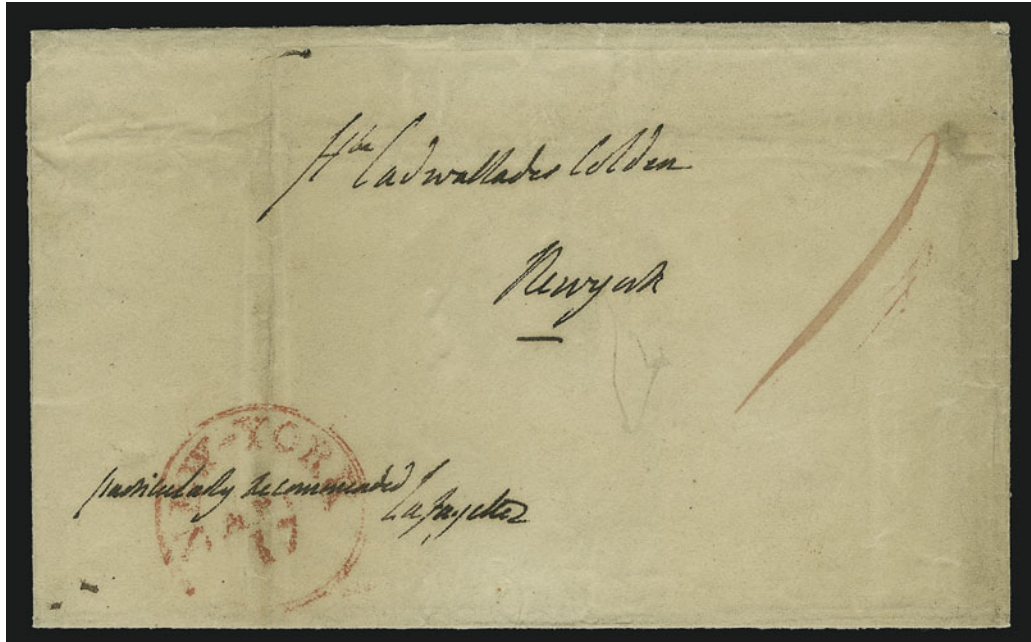
- 4028 ✉ **Nathaniel Greene.** Revolutionary War General, free frank "N. Greene" as General on April 1787 folded cover to Brigadier General Sumner at Halifax, also endorsed "Public Service", some slight overall wear incl. sealed separation folds and faint waterstain at top left corner, Very Fine, carried by military courier even though he enjoyed franking privilege at the time ..... E. 750-1,000





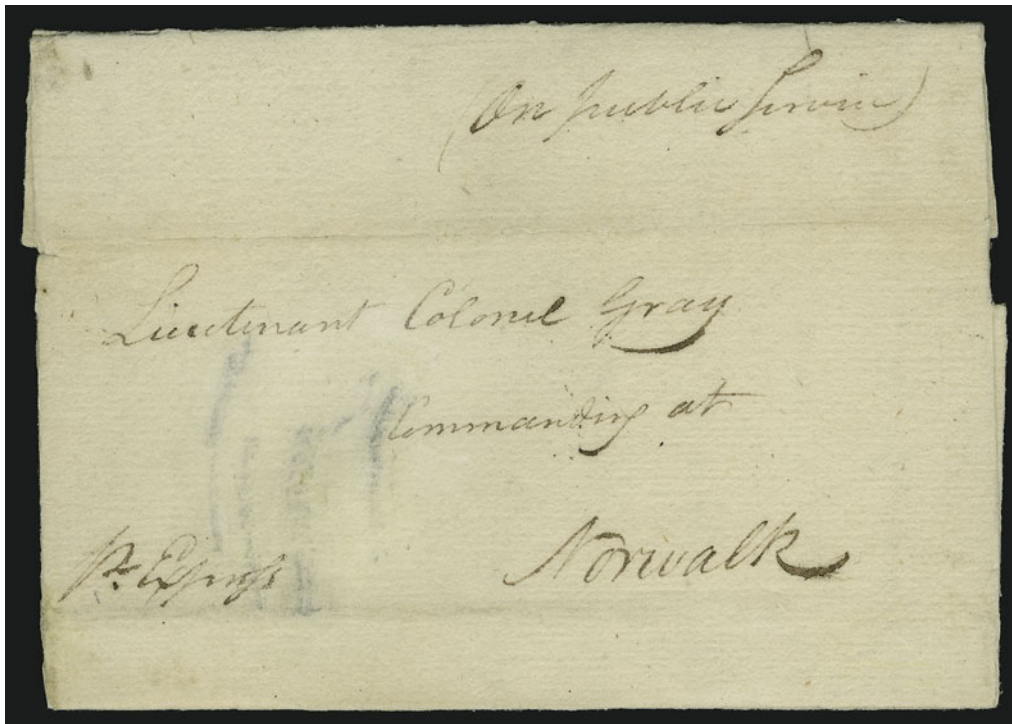
4029

- 4029 ☒ **Marquis De Lafayette.** French Hero in the Revolutionary War, free frank “Lafayette de M.g.” on 1780 folded cover to Robert Morris as Superintendent of Finances of the United States at Philadelphia, endorsed “Favored by the Prince de Broglie”, vertical file fold, Very Fine, docketing indicates sent from Paris on April 12, 1780 and carried privately, written while Lafayette was in France to gain support for the Revolution ..... E. 1,000-1,500



4030

- 4030 ☒ **Marquis De Lafayette.** French Hero in the Revolutionary War, endorsement “particularly recommended Lafayette” on folded cover addressed in his hand to Cadwallader Colden in New York, red “New-York Apr. 17” circular datestamp and rated “1” due for drop letter rate, some slight wear, Very Fine, probably sent while he was visiting the U.S. in 1824-25, Lafayette and the recipient (Representative from N.Y. from 1821-23) no longer had franking privileges and so the letter was marked due, illustrated in *The American Stampless Cover Catalogue* on page 194 ..... E. 1,000-1,500



4031

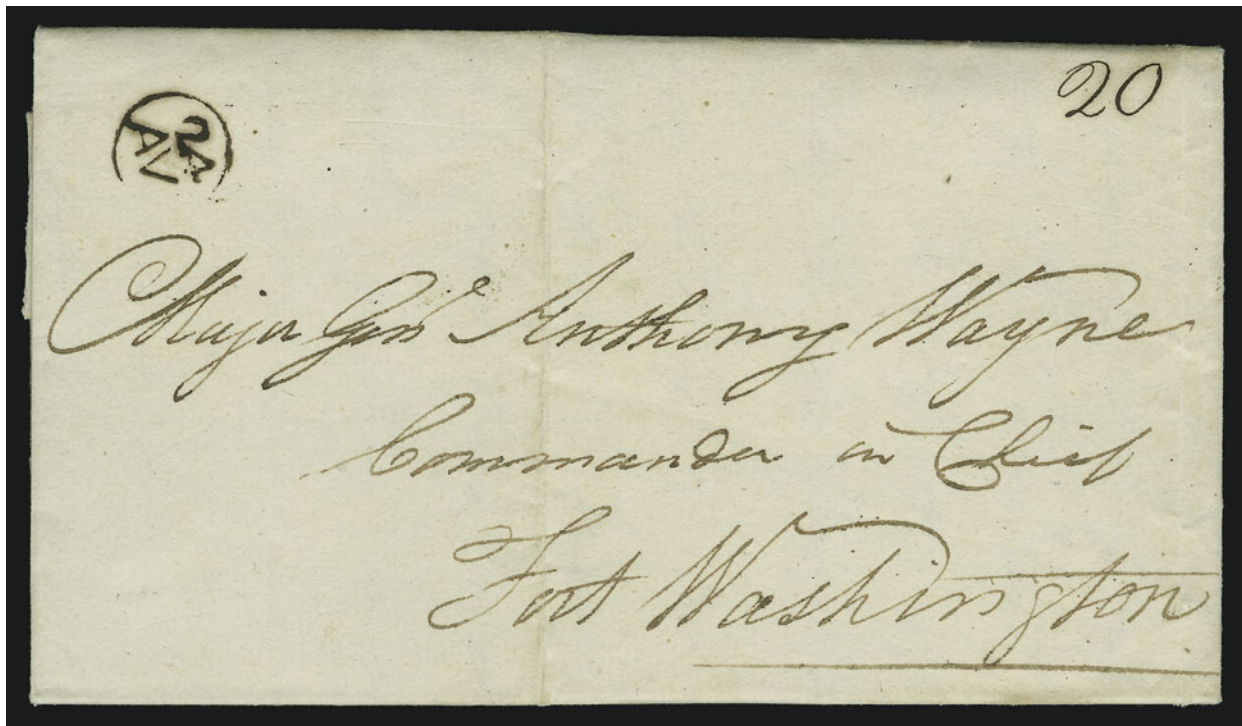
- 4031 ☒ **Israel Putnam.** Revolutionary War General, autograph letter signed and datelined "Head Quarters Jany. 26th 1779", addressed to "Lieutenant Colonel Gray, Commanding at Norwalk", endorsed "On public Service" and "pr. Express", contents read in part "You will probably have a great occasion for funding Expresses so that it will be absolutely necessary for one or more horses to be kept with you for that purpose.", some splitting along folds, gently restored, still Fine, both sender and receiver enjoyed free-franking privileges, but this was sent via military express ..... E. 500-750



4032

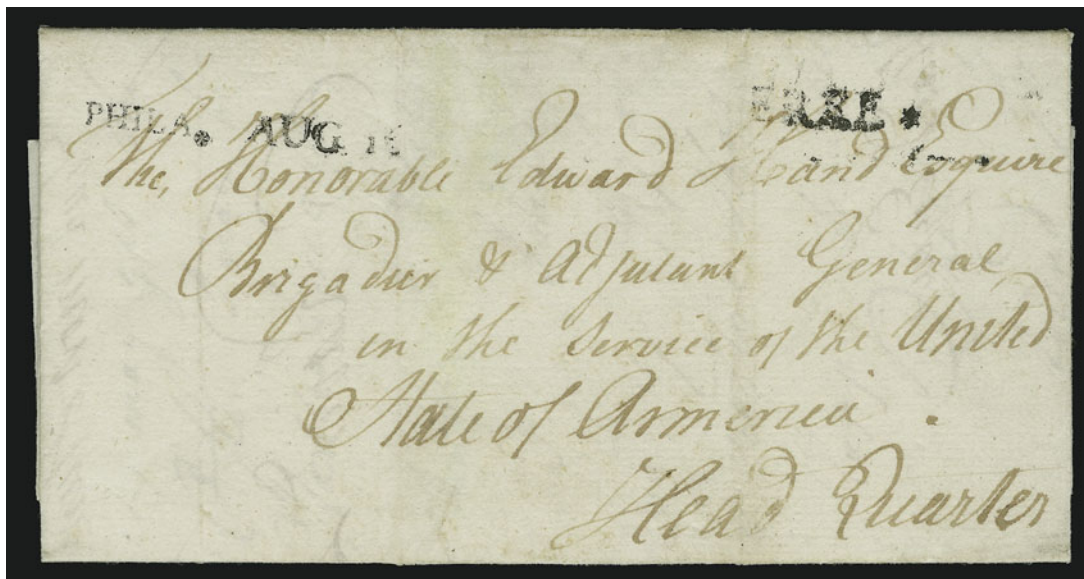
- 4032 ☒ **"Mad" Anthony Wayne.** Revolutionary War General, faced the British in the infamous "Paoli Massacre", later victorious at the Battle of Fallen Timbers, free frank "Ant. Wayne" as commander of a separate army in 1782 on folded cover to Capt. John Harper in the South Army, repaired splits along edges and overall wear, still Fine, extremely scarce frank of this controversial war hero, sent by military courier even though General Wayne enjoyed franking rights, ex Stevens ..... E. 1,000-1,500





4033

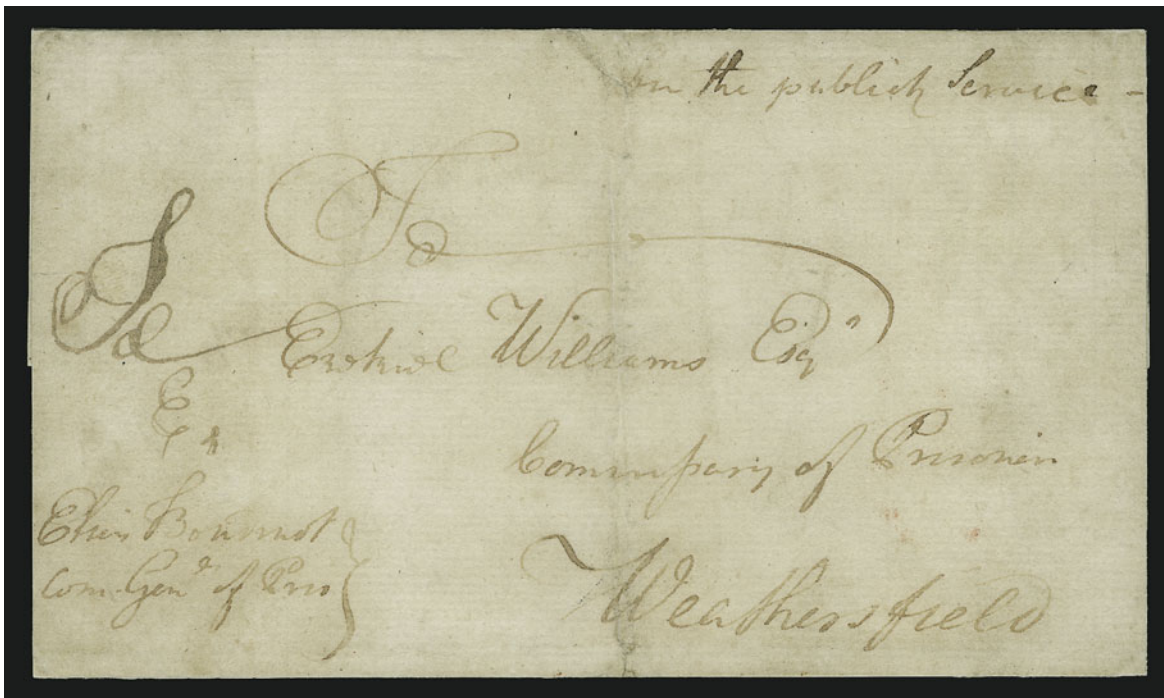
- 4033 ☒ **“Mad” Anthony Wayne.** Revolutionary War General, 1793 folded letter addressed to him as Commander in Chief at Fort Washington (Cincinnati), bold “24/AV” Franklin mark and rated “20” cents for distance between 250-350 miles and sent from Philadelphia, faint vertical file fold, Very Fine, Fort Washington was built in 1790 and Wayne took over from St. Clair after the latter’s defeat, this shows that none of the Commanders of the Continental Army other than Washington were given franking privileges after the war ...  
..... E. 300-400



4034

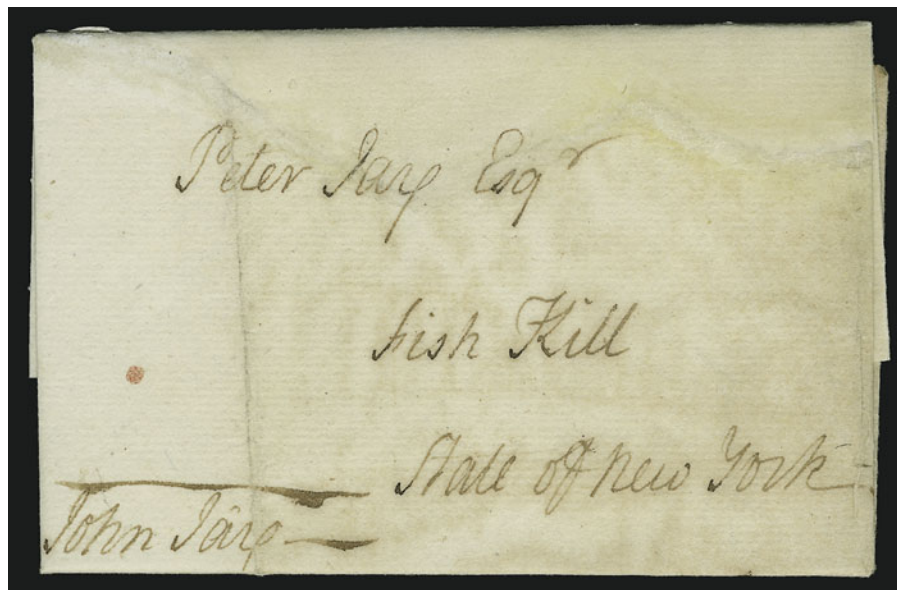
- 4034 ☒ **Edward Hand.** Revolutionary War General who participated in the Sullivan Expedition (see lot 4064), 1783 folded letter from Capt. David Ziegler and addressed to “The Honorable Edward Hand Esquire Brigadier & Adjutant General in the service of the United States of America Head Quarter”, contents mentions return of the army from South Carolina, the illness of Anthony Wayne and the good wishes of General Greene, clear “Free” hand-stamp and “Phila Aug. 14” straightline datestamp, Very Fine, Hand had the franking privilege thru Nov. 3, 1783 ..... E. 750-1,000

## PRESIDENTS OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS



4035

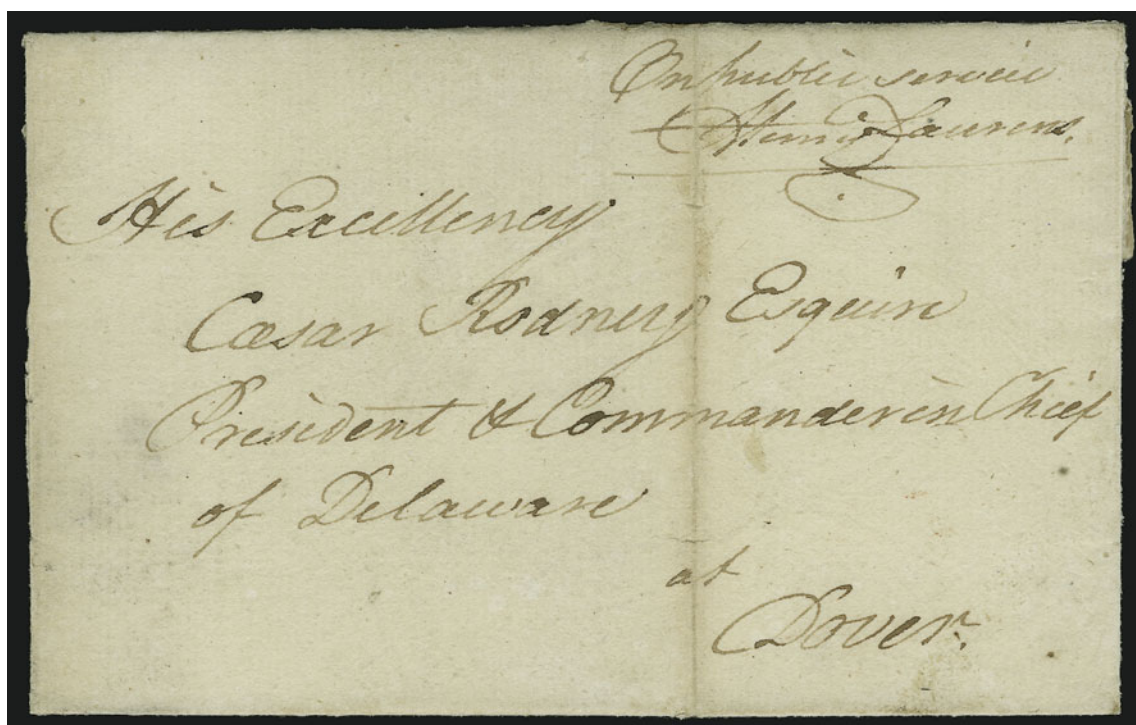
- 4035 ☒ **Elias Boudinot.** President of Continental Congress (1782-83), delegate from New Jersey (1777-78, 1781-83), free frank "*Elias Boudinot Com. Genl. of Pris*" on folded cover to the Commissary of Prisons at Weathersfield, cleaned and expertly repaired, still Very Fine, Boudinot also signed the peace treaty with England..... E. 500-750



4036

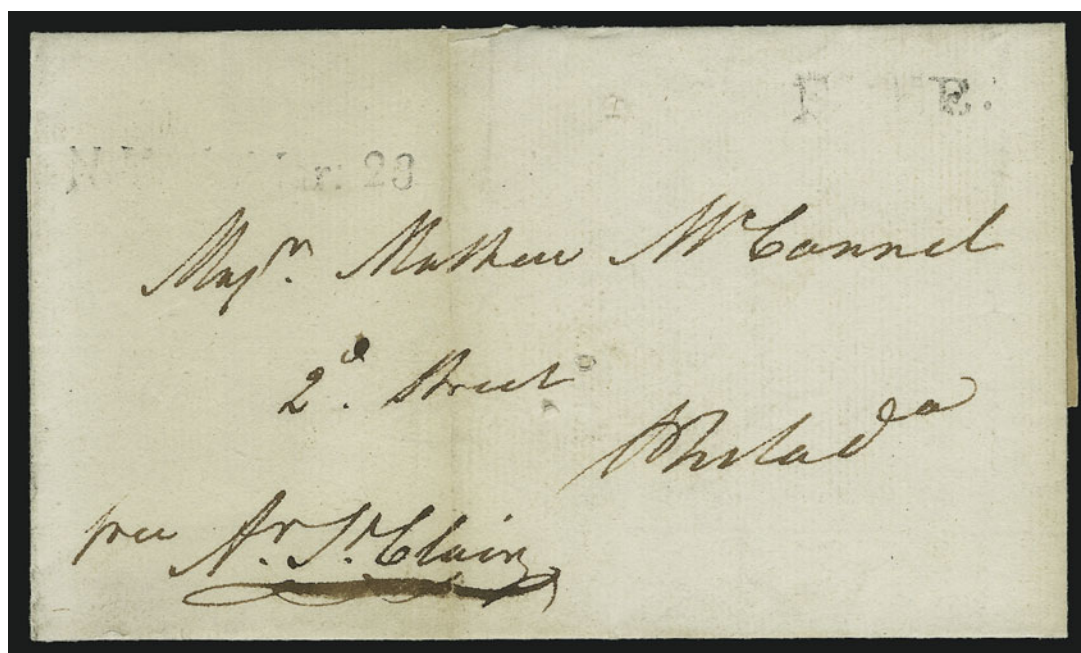
- 4036 ☒ **John Jay.** President of the Continental Congress (1778-79), delegate from New York (1774-77, 1778-79), Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Secretary of State under Washington, first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, autograph free frank "*John Jay*" as Foreign Minister to Spain and addressed to his father at Fish Kill N.Y., letter datelined "*Madrid 20 Nov. 1780*", expertly repaired, still appears Fine, scarce free frank sent from overseas, his franking privilege did not extend to mail sent from other countries, this would have been carried privately until it reached the U.S. then sent free.. E. 750-1,000





4037

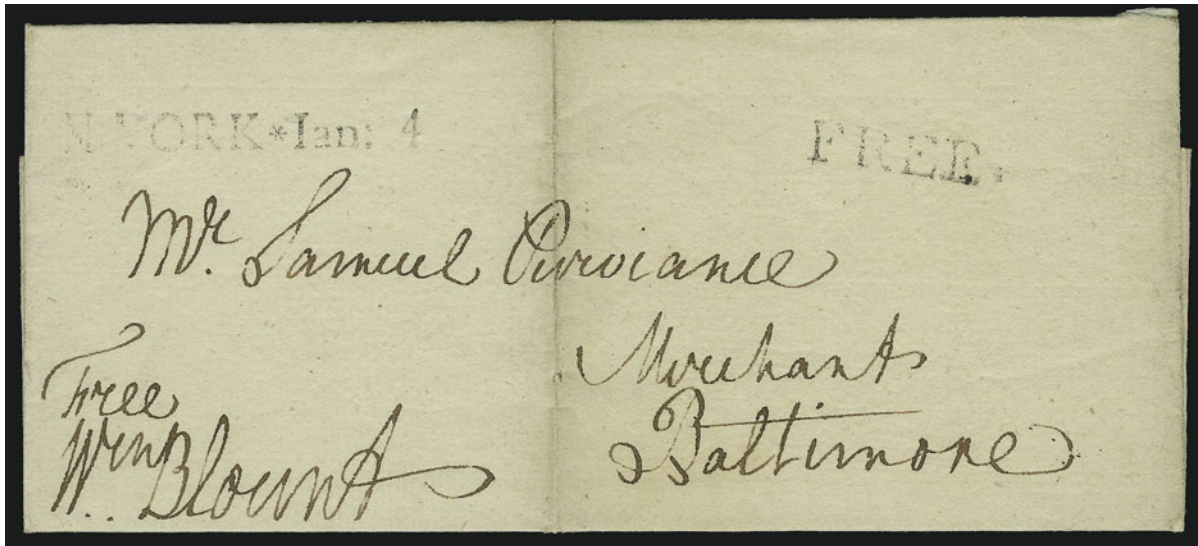
- 4037 ☒ **Henry Laurens.** President of the Continental Congress (1777-78), delegate from South Carolina (1777-80), free frank "On public service Henry Laurens" as **President of Continental Congress** on folded cover to "His Excellency Caesar Rodney Esquire, President & Commander in Chief of Delaware at Dover", vertical file fold, some minor repairs, Very Fine appearance, reportedly used on Oct. 13, 1778, after Congress returned to Philadelphia... E. 2,000-3,000



4038

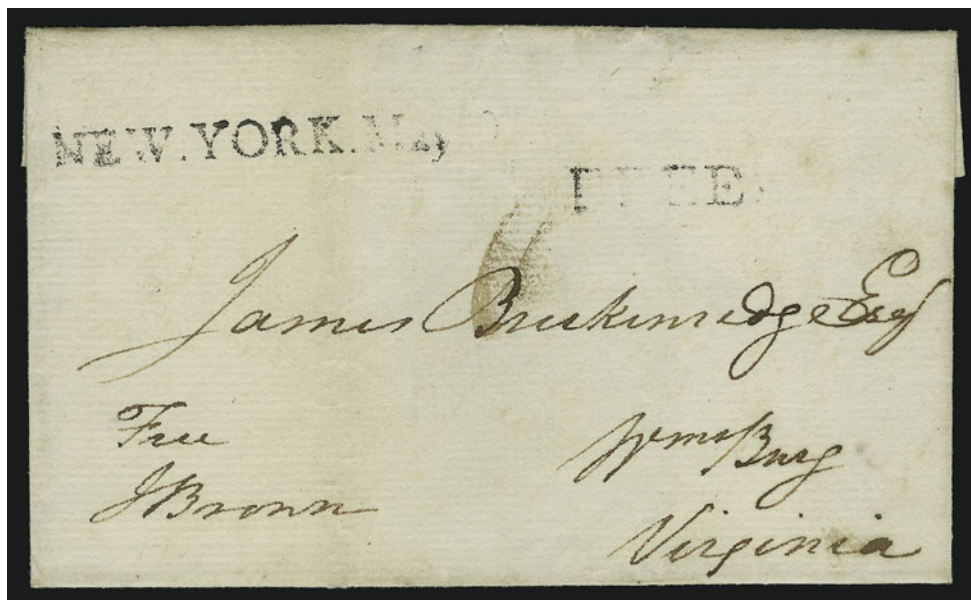
- 4038 ☒ **Arthur St. Clair.** President of the Continental Congress (1787-88), delegate from Pennsylvania (1785-87), first commander-in-chief of the U.S. military and the first Governor of the Northwest Territory (1791), free frank "free Ar. St. Clair" on folded cover addressed in his hand to Matthew McConnel at Philadelphia, faintly struck "N. York Mar. 23" straightline handstamp and "Free", docketed on flap with 1786 year date, faint toning and wear along fold, small erosion spots clear of signature, Fine, franked one year prior to St. Clair's term as president, very scarce, ex Stevens and illustrated in his article on franks of the Continental Congress, ex Grunin ..... E. 750-1,000

DELEGATES TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS



4039

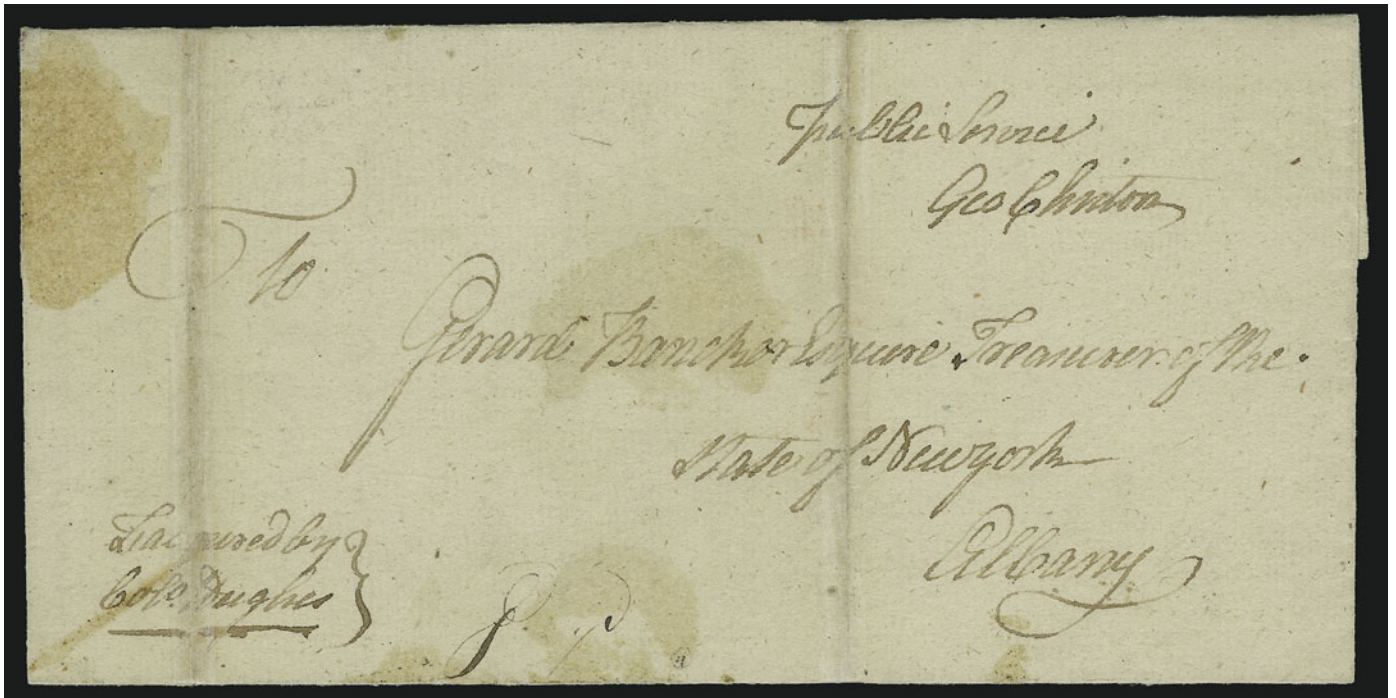
- 4039 ☒ **William Blount.** Delegate from North Carolina (Continental Congresses of 1782-83, 1786-87), free frank "Free Wm. Blount" on 1787 folded cover to Baltimore, "N. York Jan: 4" and "Free", handstamps, light vertical file fold, Very Fine..... E. 400-500



4040

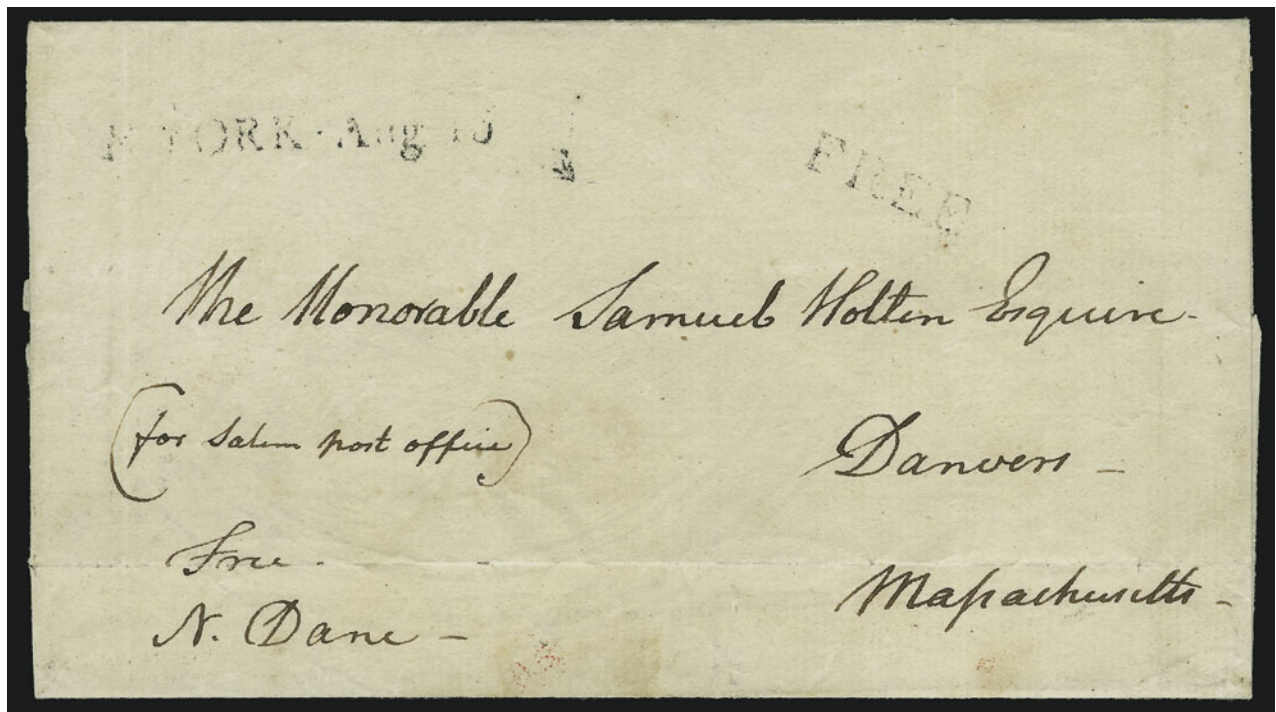
- 4040 ☒ **John Brown.** Delegate from Kentucky district of Virginia (Continental Congresses of 1787-88) and last survivor of the Continental Congress, free frank "Free J. Brown" on 1788 folded cover to James Breckinridge in Williamsburg Va., neat "New York May 10" straightline and matching "Free" handstamp, light vertical file fold, Very Fine, Breckinridge was graduating from William and Mary College that spring and this was probably a congratulatory letter..... E. 500-750





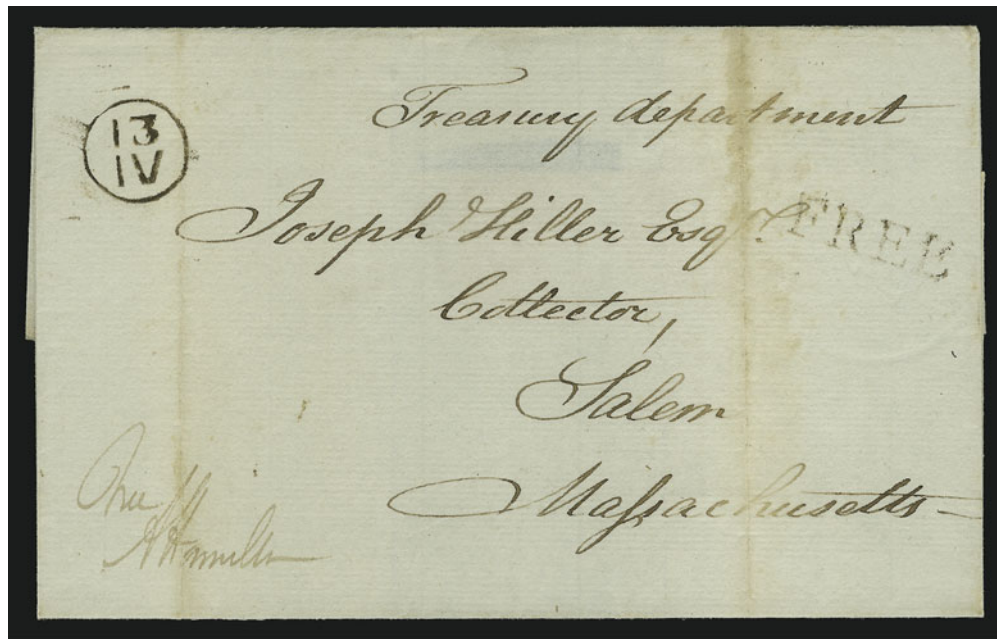
4041

- 4041 ☒ **George Clinton.** Delegate from New York (Continental Congresses of 1775-76), Brigadier General as of 1777, Governor of New York, free frank "Public Service Geo. Clinton" at top right of 1782 autograph letter signed as Governor of New York to the Treasurer of the State of New York at Albany, datelined "Poughkeepsie 15 October 1782", few toned spots, expertly repaired along split file folds, still Fine, ex Stern ..... E. 300-400



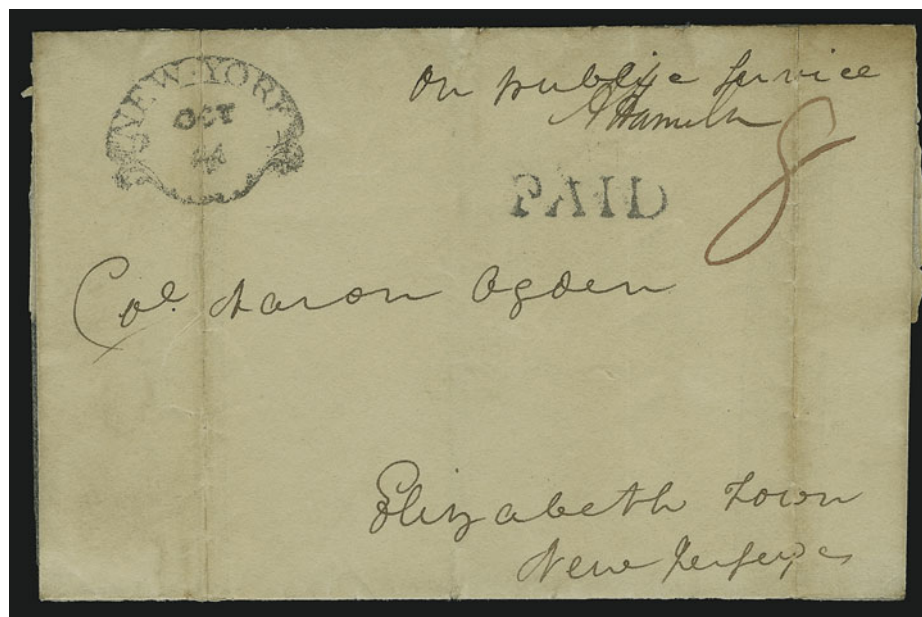
4042

- 4042 ☒ **Nathan Dane.** Delegate from Massachusetts (Continental Congresses of 1785-88), co-author of the Ordinance of 1787 establishing the Northwest Territory, autograph free frank "Free N. Dane" and address in his hand on folded cover to fellow delegate, Samuel Holton, at Danvers Mass., lightly struck "N. York Aug. 15" and "Free" handstamps, lettersheet watermarked with allegorical figure in crowned circle, Very Fine, ex Grunin ..... E. 500-750



4043

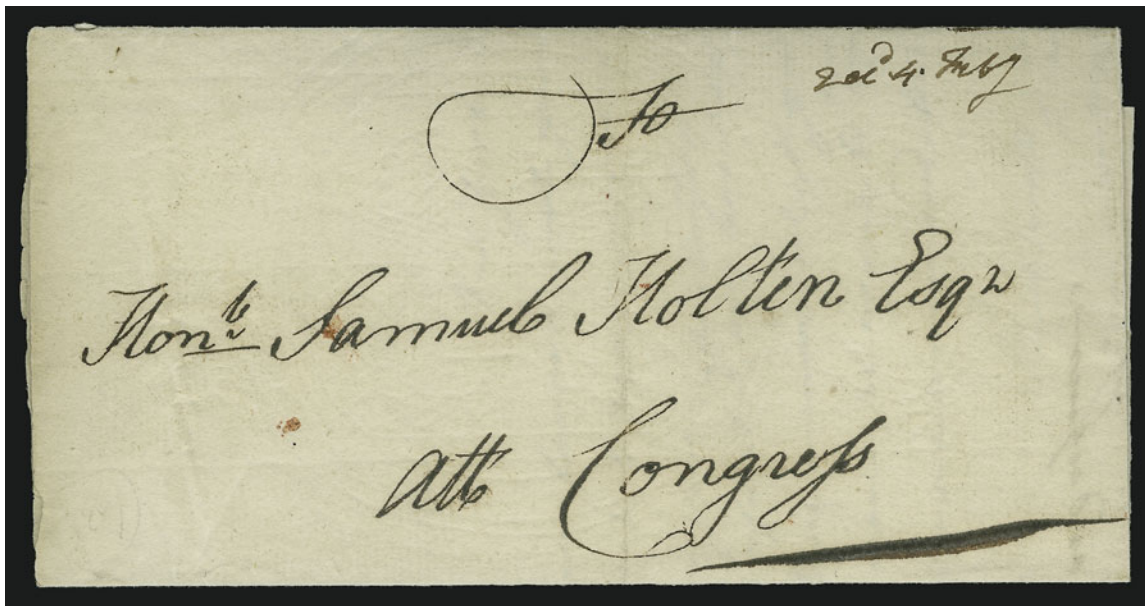
- 4043 ☒ **Alexander Hamilton.** Delegate from New York (Continental Congresses of 1782-83, 1787-88), framer and signer of the Constitution, Secretary of the Treasury during Washington administration (1789-95), and victim of Aaron Burr's bullet, free frank "*Free A. Hamilton*" on folded cover endorsed "*Treasury Department*" and addressed to a tax collector in Salem Mass., brownish "13/IV" Franklin mark and matching "Free" handstamp, two vertical file folds incl. one affecting frank, otherwise Fine..... E. 500-750



4044

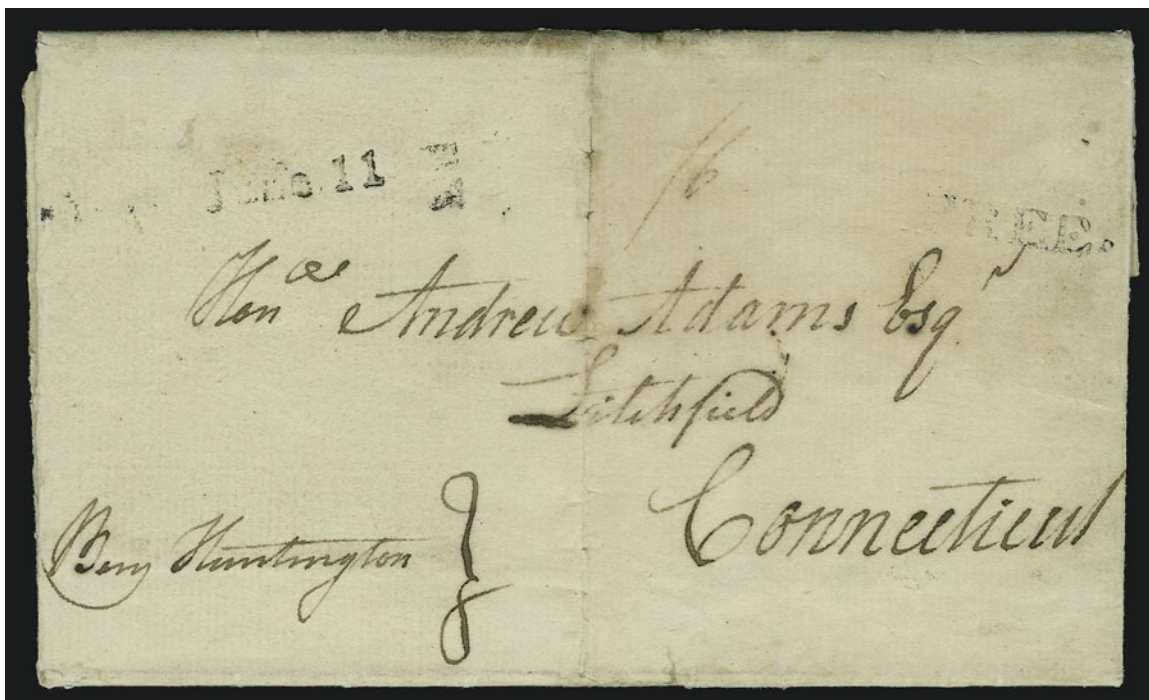
- 4044 ☒ **Alexander Hamilton.** Delegate from New York (Continental Congresses of 1782-83, 1787-88), framer and signer of the Constitution, Secretary of the Treasury during Washington administration (1789-95), and victim of Aaron Burr's bullet, attempted free frank "*On public Service A. Hamilton*" on 1799 folded cover to Aaron Ogden in Elizabethtown N.J., neat strike of "New-York Oct. 23" clamshell datestamp and "Paid" handstamp, ms. "8" rate, some repaired splitting along vertical file folds, otherwise Fine, in response to fears of an invasion during the Quasi-War with France, President Adams was persuaded to create a new army with ex-President George Washington in command and Adams's nemesis, Alexander Hamilton, as Inspector General with the rank of Major General; however, Hamilton's position did not entitle him to free-franking privileges, thus this "Public Service" letter was charged postage (as an aside, George Washington died a little more than two months after mailing)..... E. 750-1,000





4045

- 4045 ☒ **Samuel Holton.** Delegate to the Essex County convention in 1774, served in the Provincial Congresses of 1774-75, a delegate to frame the Confederation of 1777, a delegate to Congress in 1778-83, and again in 1793-95, and a member of the State Constitutional Convention of 1789, folded letter sent to him at the 1785 Congress in New York by **Ebenezer Hazard** as Colonial Postmaster General, red "Boston" straightline handstamp with matching "27/A" (Jan. 27) in circle, light vertical file fold, Very Fine, sent free due to its recipient, the sender also had franking privileges ..... E. 200-300



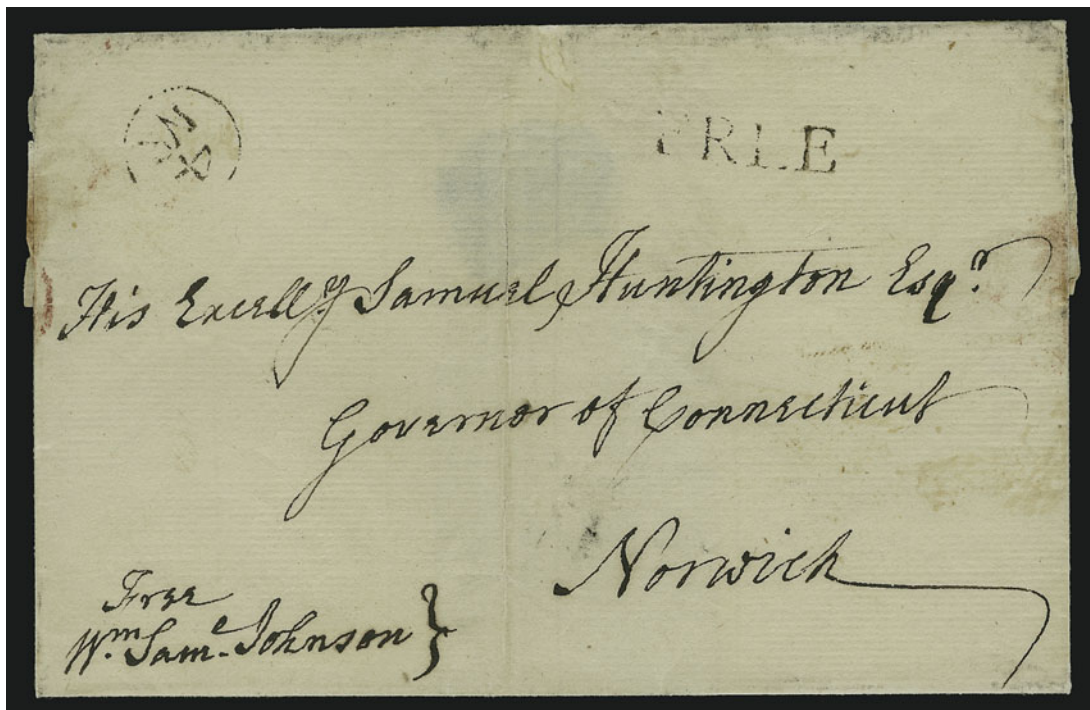
4046

- 4046 ☒ **Benjamin Huntington.** Revolutionary War General, delegate from Connecticut (Continental Congresses of 1780-84, 1787-88), free frank "Benj. Huntington" on 1789 autograph letter signed to Litchfield Conn., partial strike of "N. York Jun 11" datestamp and matching "Free" handstamp, another faint strike of unreadable handstamp to the right of date, originally rated 16gr (frank may not have been recognized) but treated as free as evidenced by the handstamp, some expertly repaired splitting along file folds, Very Fine, unusual and very rare, ex Stevens ..... E. 750-1,000



4047

- 4047 ☒ **William Irvine.** Delegate from Pennsylvania (Continental Congresses of 1786-88), letter addressed to him as "Member of Congress, New York", originally rated "2.16" but crossed out and sent free, letter dated Aug. 24, 1787, endorsed "Gen'l. Parsons" at left, minor edgewear and gently cleaned, Very Fine example of a cover sent to a delegate..... E. 200-300



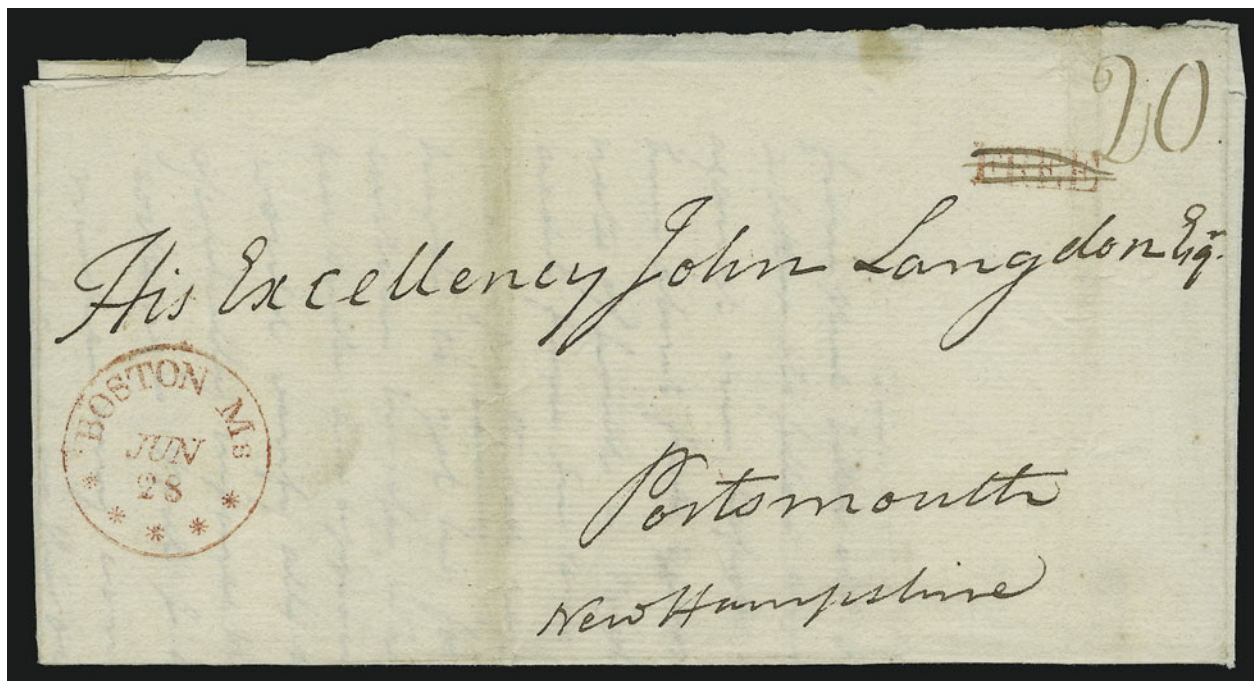
4048

- 4048 ☒ **William Samuel Johnson.** Delegate from Connecticut (Continental Congresses of 1784-87), first Senator from Connecticut, free frank "Free Wm. Saml. Johnson" as Senator on 1791 folded cover to the Governor of Conn. at Norwich, brown-black "MR/4" Franklin mark and matching "Free" handstamp, light vertical file fold, Very Fine..... E. 300-400



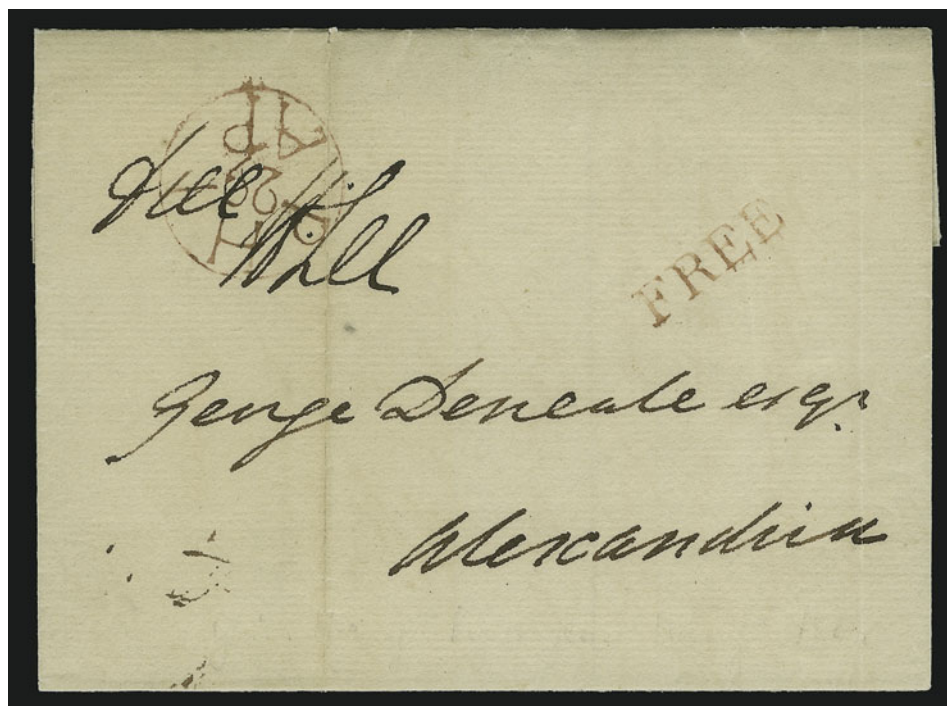


- 4049 ☒ **John Langdon.** Delegate from New Hampshire (Continental Congresses of 1775-77, 1786-87), framer and signer of the Constitution, and U.S. Senator, free frank "free J. Langdon" as Senator on letter signed by **Ebenezer Hazard**, former Postmaster General, datelined New York, April 17, 1790, to the Rev. Jedediah Morse at Charlestown Mass., faintly struck "New-York April 18" straightline and "Free" handstamp, about half of the letter deals with business, the other offers sharp comments about Congress including the statement, "*Local Politics have too great an Influence in Congress*, some light foxing along folds, otherwise Very Fine, Langdon's frank is extremely rare, the combination of Langdon's and Hazard's signatures on one document is most unusual, ex Grunin ..... E. 1,000-1,500
- 4050 ☒ **John Langdon.** Delegate from New Hampshire (Continental Congresses of 1775-77, 1786-87), framer and signer of the Constitution, and U.S. Senator, 1779 folded letter addressed to Langdon in New York, unusual "**Portsmohte June 12**" two-line datestamp with spelling error, vertical file folds, Very Fine, carried free under Langdon's franking privilege as Senator from New Hampshire to receive mail while in attendance at the Constitutional Congress, unusual misspelling of the town marking ..... E. 300-400
- 4051 ☒ **John Langdon.** Delegate from New Hampshire (Continental Congresses of 1775-77, 1786-87), framer and signer of the Constitution, and U.S. Senator, pristine Dec. 16, 1793 folded letter to Langdon as U.S. Senator in Philadelphia, perfect strikes of "Boston" straightline, "16/DE" Franklin mark and "Free" handstamp, Extremely Fine ..... E. 200-300



4052

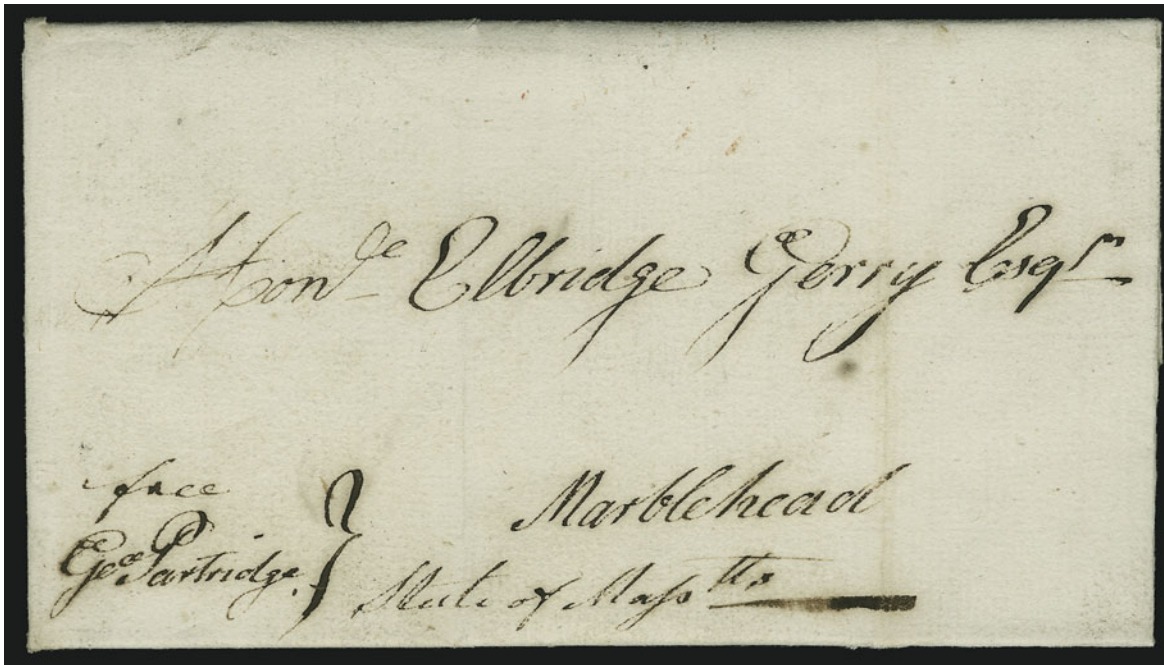
- 4052 ☒ **John Langdon.** Delegate from New Hampshire (Continental Congresses of 1775-77, 1786-87), framer and signer of the Constitution, and U.S. Senator, folded letter from James Sullivan at Boston, June 27, 1805, enclosing another letter from Thomas Jefferson, lengthy political content, addressed to Langdon while Governor of New Hampshire, red "Boston Ms. Jun. 28" circular datestamp and matching "Free" crossed out and rated "20" due because Langdon did not have franking privileges, slightly rough opening at top, otherwise Very Fine ..... E. 150-200



4053

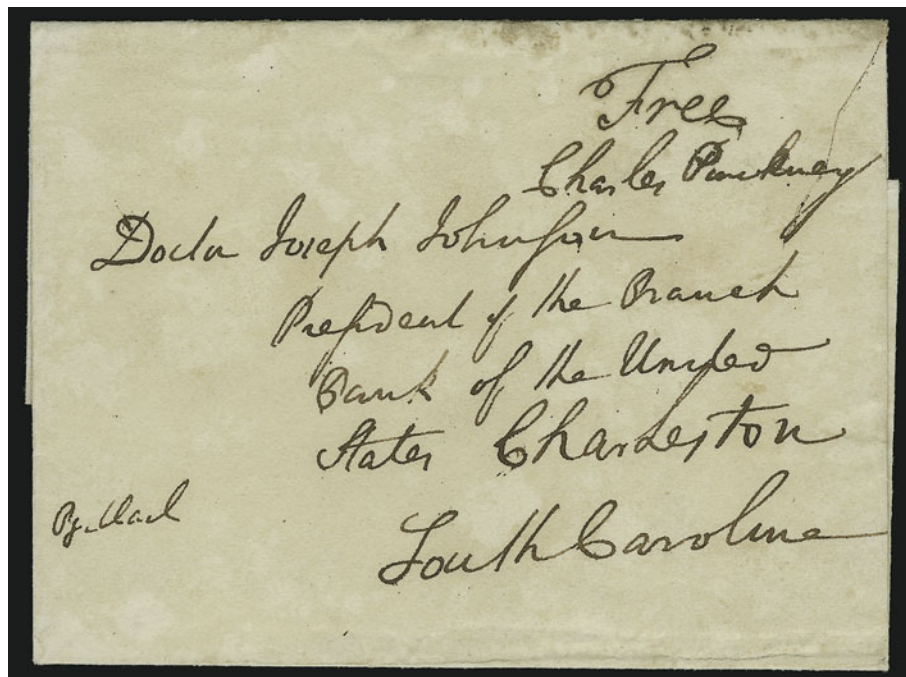
- 4053 ☒ **Henry "Light Horse" Harry Lee.** Delegate from Virginia (Continental Congresses of 1785-88), Governor of Virginia, Representative from Virginia and father of Robert E. Lee, free frank "Free H Lee" on folded cover, docketing on back indicates sent on April 29, 1800, clear strike of red "PH 29 AP" datestamp and matching "Free" handstamp, light vertical file fold affects frank, Very Fine, Lee is perhaps most famous for eulogizing George Washington at his funeral "First in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen" ..... E. 1,000-1,500





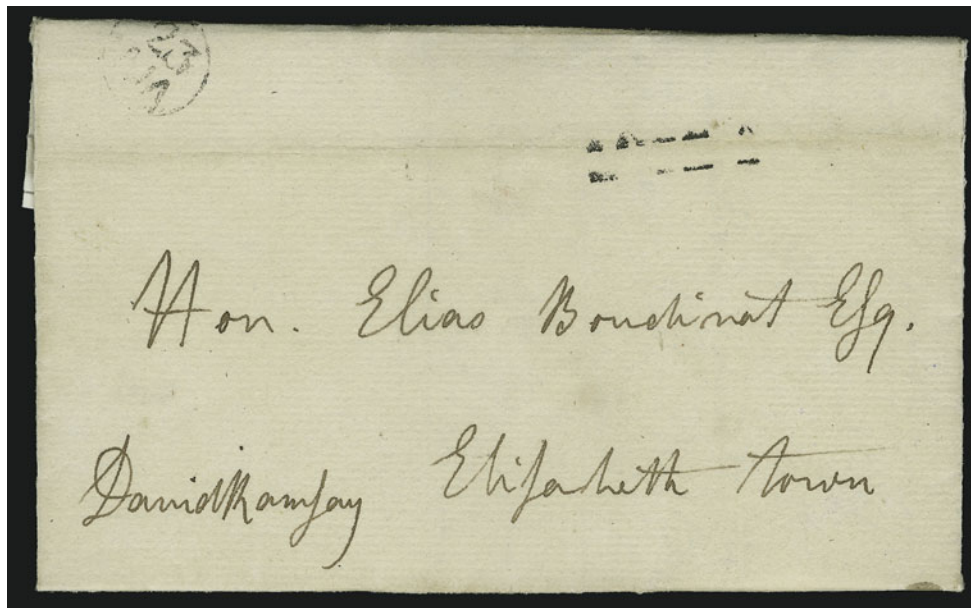
4054

- 4054 ☒ **George Partridge.** Delegate from Massachusetts (Continental Congresses of 1779-82, 1783-85) autograph letter signed and free franked "free Geo. Partridge", datelined Trenton N.J., November 24, 1784, written to **Elbridge Gerry**, fellow delegate, at Marblehead Mass., interesting political contents in which Partridge complains about the long and inclimate journey to Trenton (where the brief Congress was held), the poor showing of delegates, and he throws some vitriolic words at candidates for president of the Continental Congress: of William Williams, he says "probably thinks of himself, but he is generally singular in his opinion. . . R. H. Lee is here, whose character neither entitles him to his Country's Notice." Lee was elected. Docketed by Gerry on backflap, red seal embossed with profile bust, lightly cleaned, Very Fine, ex Grunin..... E. 500-750



4055

- 4055 ☒ **Charles Pinckney.** Framer, delegate from South Carolina (Continental Congresses of 1777-78, 1785-87), free frank "Free Charles Pinckney" on folded cover addressed in his hand to the President of the Branch Bank of the United States at Charleston S.C., directions on back "Please send this letter with the [?] or Colonel Haynes", it was evidently carried outside the mails, minor tear at top right, still Very Fine..... E. 200-300



4056

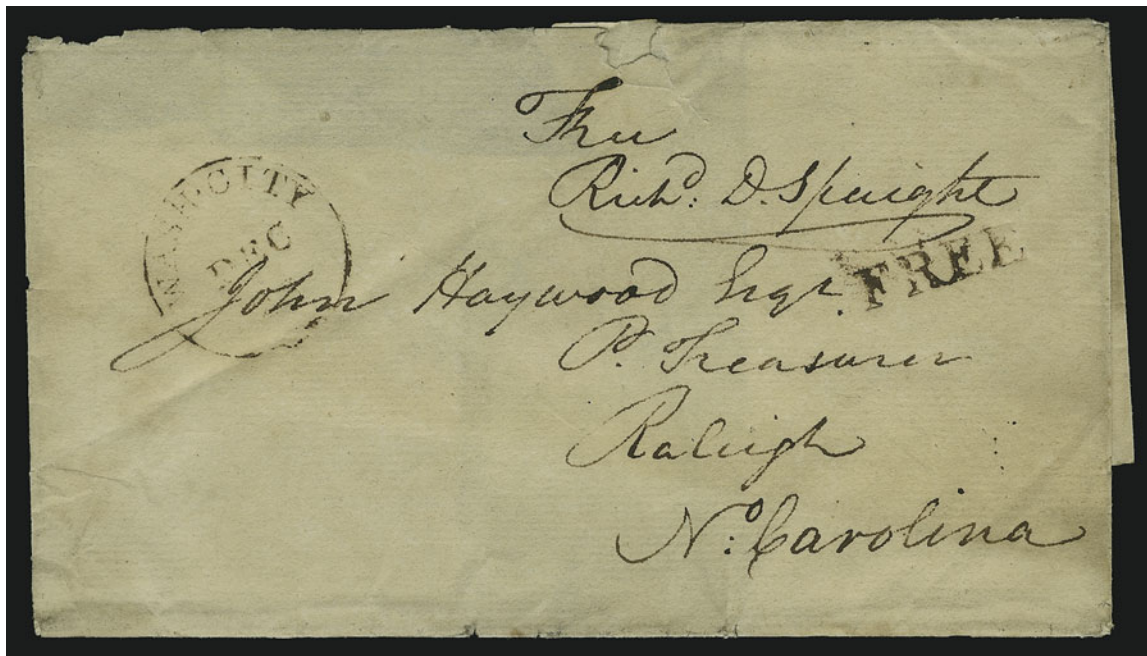
- 4056 ☒ **David Ramsey.** Delegate from South Carolina (Continental Congresses of 1782-86), Senator of South Carolina, surgeon and author (including "Life of George Washington"), free frank "David Ramsey" on autograph letter signed and datelined "Philada. May 23rd 1786", addressed in his hand to Elizabethtown, contents include "It is a matter of doubt whether the privilege of franking letters extends to the members of Congress on their way to or from public business. I have put my name on the outside of this on purpose that you may claim this as a matter of right. So few are the privileges and so limited the powers of that body, that I note it a kind of treason to give up any that they may possess by fair or liberal constitution", "23/MA" Franklin mark and "Free" handstamp, expertly rebacked, appears Very Fine, scarce usage, Ramsey was killed as a result of wounds he received from the pistol of a maniac after testifying about the man's mental unsoundness..... E. 500-750



4057

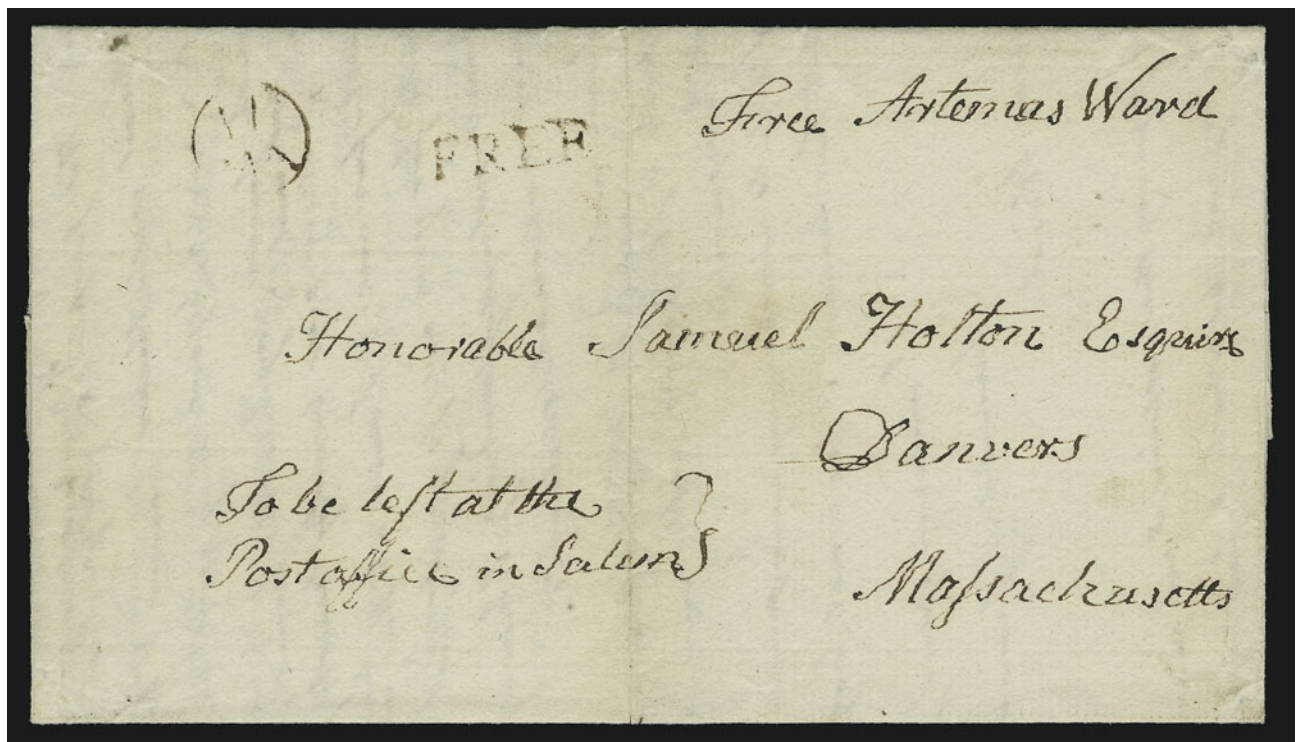
- 4057 ☒ **Richard Dobbs Spaight.** Signer of Constitution, delegate from North Carolina (Continental Congresses of 1783-85), free frank "Free Richd. D. Spaight" on folded cover addressed in his hand to Raleigh N.C., red "PHI 7/JA" circular datestamp and matching "Free" handstamp, no year date, minor age spotting and wear, Very Fine... E. 150-200





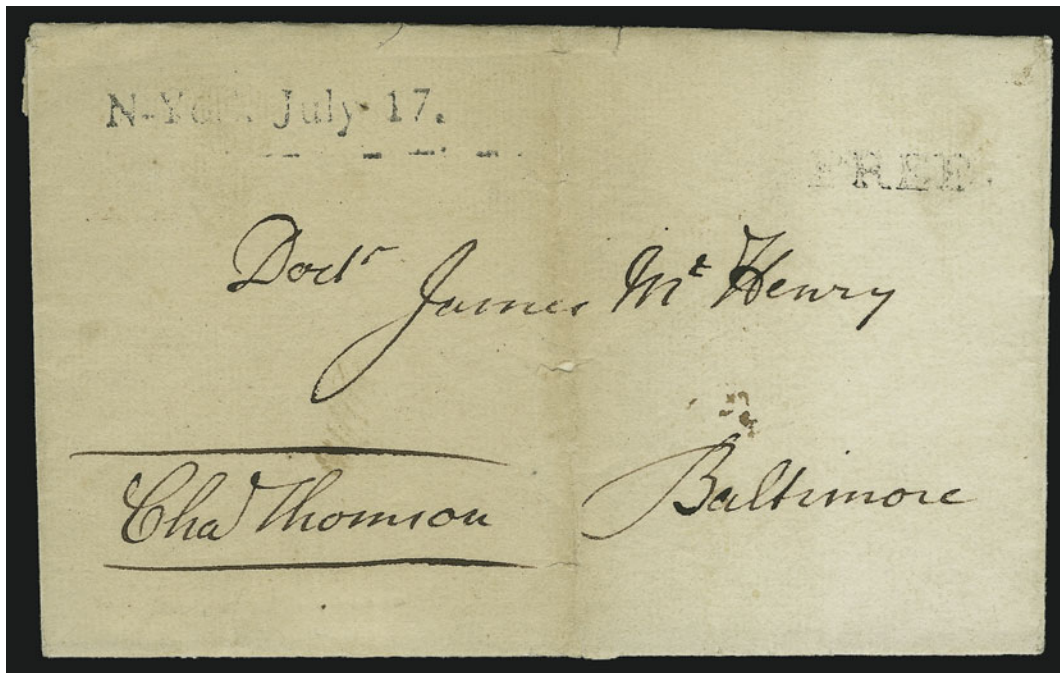
4058

- 4058 ☒ **Richard Dobbs Spaight.** Signer of Constitution, delegate from North Carolina (Continental Congresses of 1783-85), free frank "*Free Richd. D. Spaight*" on cover to John Haywood in Raleigh, ca. 1799-1801, small "Wash. City Dec. " circular datestamp, small piece out at top and sealed tear, otherwise Fine, very scarce ..... E. 150-200



4059

- 4059 ☒ **Artemus Ward.** Delegate from Massachusetts (Continental Congresses of 1780-81), free frank "*Free Artemus Ward*" as U.S. Senator on folded letter in another hand datelined "*Danvers 27th May 1794*", addressed by Ward to Samuel Holton in Danvers with note "*To be left at the Post office in Salem*", lightly struck Franklin mark and "Free" handstamp, minor tear in flap, Very Fine ..... E. 500-750



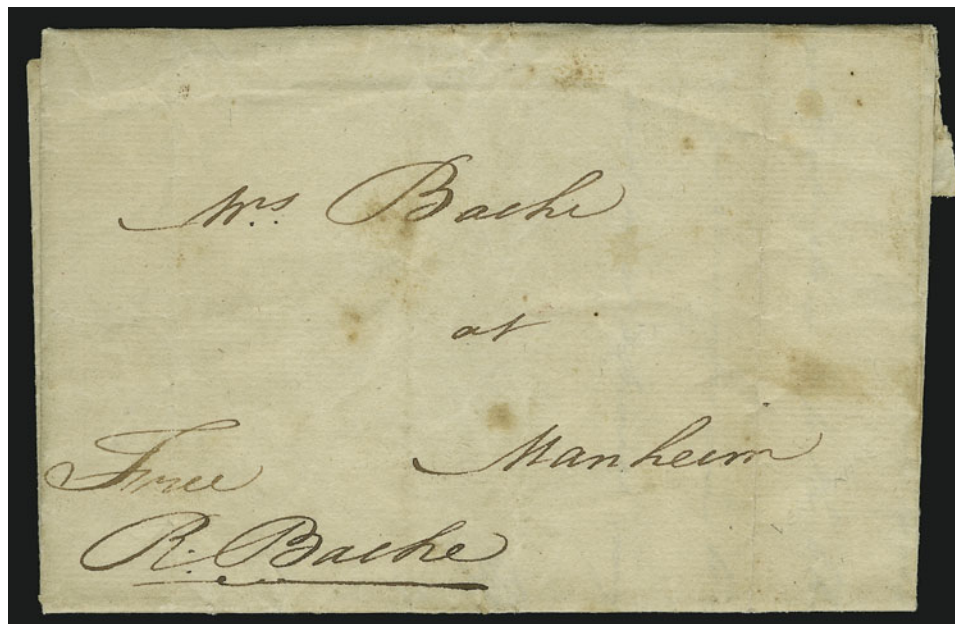
4060

- 4060 ☒ **Charles Thomson.** Secretary of Continental Congress (1774-88), free frank "Chas. Thomson" on 1786 folded cover addressed in his hand to Dr. James McHenry in Baltimore, light strike of "N. York July 17" straightline with "Free" handstamp, docketed 1788, red wax seal with cameo head, vertical file fold with minor toning and wear

VERY FINE. THE ONLY RECORDED FREE FRANK OF CHARLES THOMSON, SECRETARY TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS.

The Irish-born Charles Thomson was a zealous patriot known as the "Sam Adams of Philadelphia." He served as Secretary to the Continental Congress continuously from 1774 to 1788. His free frank is nonetheless extremely rare, and this is believed to be the only example in private hands. None was contained in the Stern, Grunin or Hessel collections.

Ex Kantor..... E. 2,000-3,000

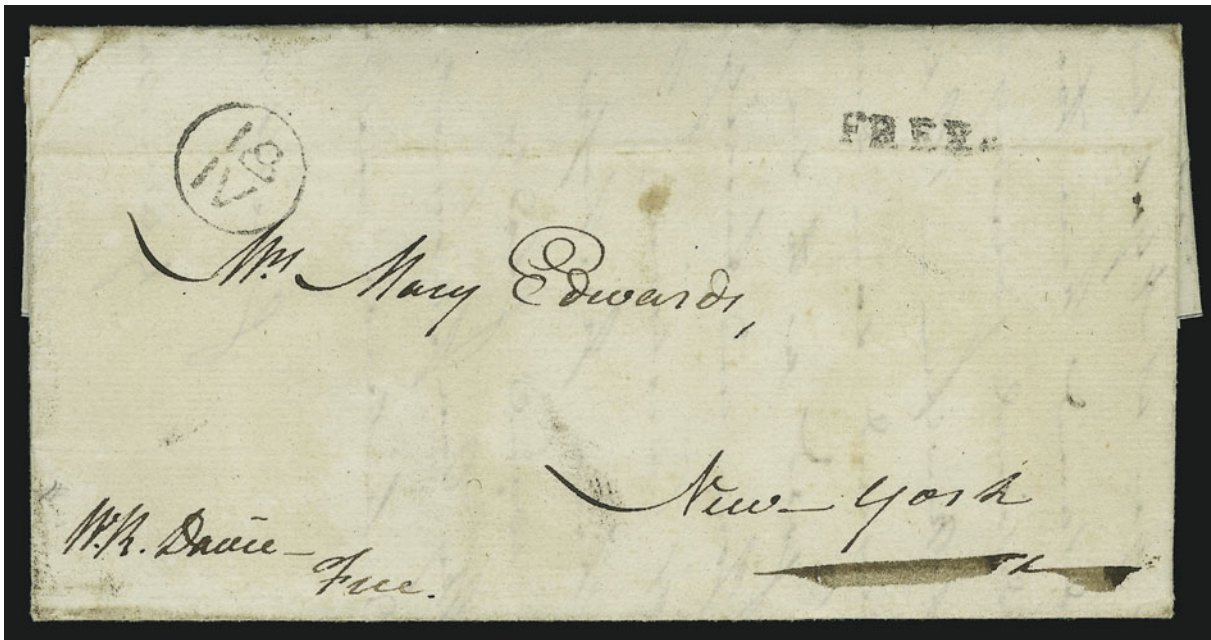


4061

- 4061 ☒ **Richard Bache.** Postmaster General under the Continental Congress, free frank "Free R. Bache" on May 24, 1778 folded letter to his wife at Manheim, contents mention possible impending battle, few light toned spots and faint file folds, Very Fine, scarce free frank, Bache was also Franklin's son-in-law ..... E. 2,000-3,000

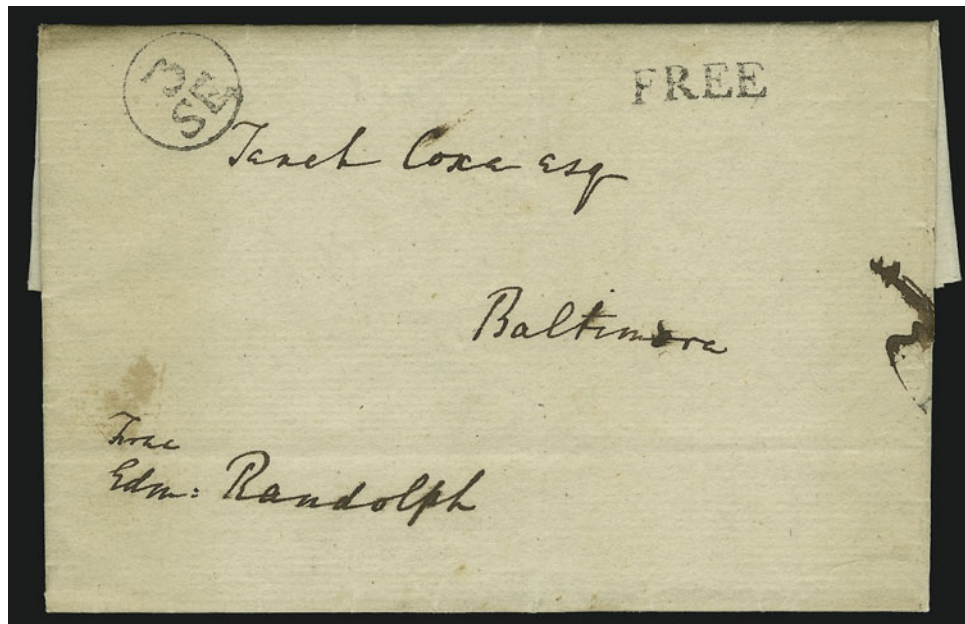


FRAMERS OF THE CONSTITUTION  
SPECIAL DELEGATES FRANKING PRIVILEGE



4062

- 4062 ☒ **William R. Davie.** Free frank "W.R. Davie Free" as delegate to Federal Constitutional Convention on 2pp autograph letter signed to New York, datelined "Philadelphia June 14, 1787", "18/IV" Franklin mark and "Free" handstamp, Very Fine, reported to be the only free frank of Davie while attending the Federal Constitutional Convention ..... E. 1,000-1,500



4063

- 4063 ☒ **Edmund Randolph.** Delegate to Continental Congress (1779-82), free frank "Free Edm. Randolph" as delegate to Federal Constitutional Convention on 1787 autograph letter signed to Tench Coxe in Baltimore, well-struck "3/SE" Franklin mark and "Free" handstamp, fresh and Very Fine, sent just two weeks before the final draft of the Constitution was signed on Sept. 17, 1787, extremely rare ..... E. 1,000-1,500

PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES



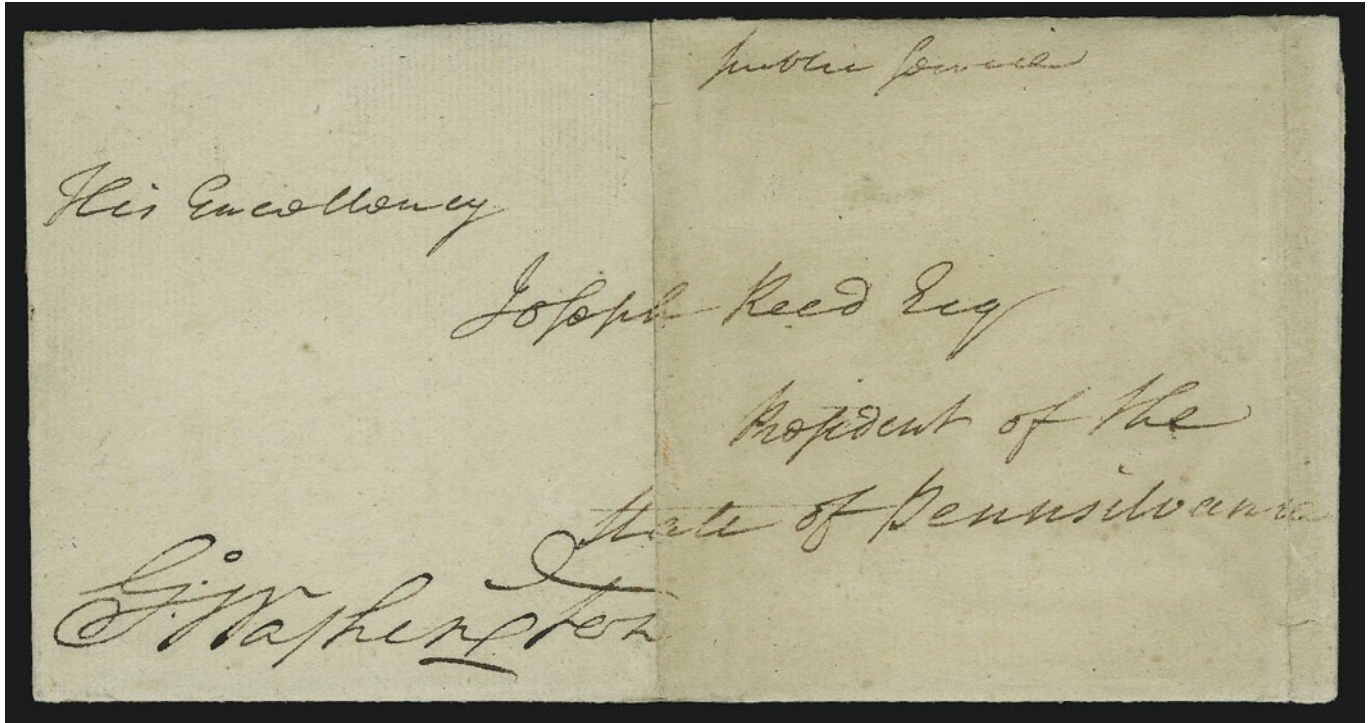
4064

4064 ☒ **George Washington.** Free frank "*G Washington*" and "*on public service*" on folded cover docketed Oct. 9, 1779, addressed in another hand to Brigadier General Hand at Fort Pitt, partial red wax seal on back, small tear at top, light horizontal file fold does not affect frank

VERY FINE. A RARE GEORGE WASHINGTON FREE FRANK AS COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY, TO BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD HAND.

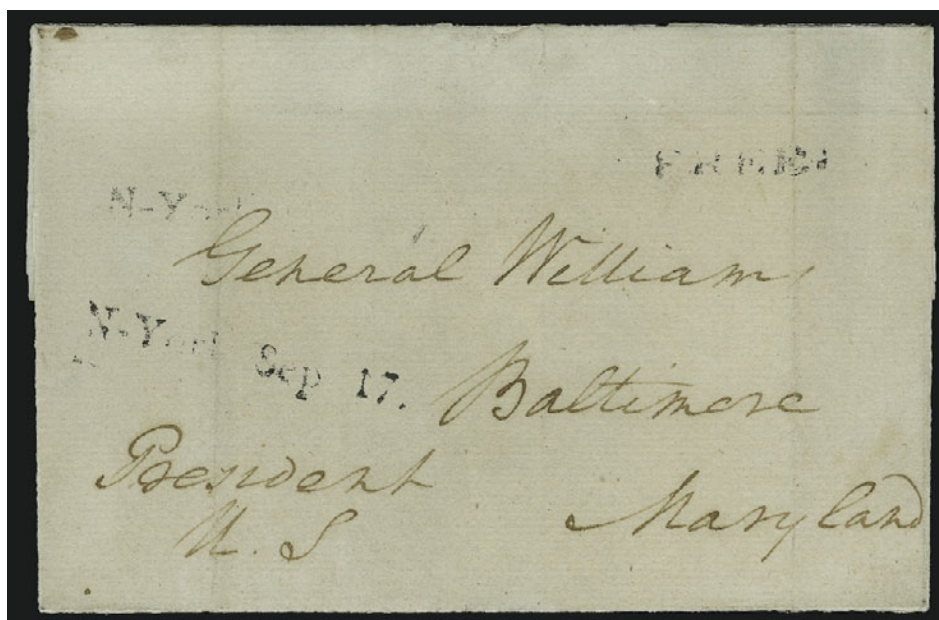
Brigadier General Edward Hand was given command of Fort Pitt in Beaver County, Western Pennsylvania, in the spring of 1777. In 1779, Washington ordered General Sullivan to launch a major offensive against the Iroquois Confederation in reprisal for attacks against the Americans in the frontier region of New York and Pennsylvania. General Hand participated in this major campaign. .... E. 5,000-7,500





4065

- 4065 ☒ **George Washington.** Free frank "G Washington" as Commanding General of the Continental Army on March 1780 folded cover addressed to "His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq. President of the State of Pennsylvania", minor splitting along vertical file fold, gently cleaned  
 VERY FINE. A RARE GEORGE WASHINGTON FREE FRANK SENT AS COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY IN MARCH OF 1780.  
 In March 1780, while Washington was camped at Morristown, the British conducted raids in New Jersey in the so-called "forage wars."  
 With 1944 pen notation on back from Elmer Heise confirming authenticity..... E. 5,000-7,500



4066

- 4066 ☒ **George Washington.** Free frank as **President** in the customary form "President U.S." on 1789 folded cover from New York to General Williams in Baltimore, two strikes of "N. York Sep. 17" and "Free" straightlines, docketed on back, intact wax seal, some splitting along folds, expertly restored

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. A RARE GEORGE WASHINGTON PRESIDENTIAL FREE FRANK.

After Washington resigned as Commander-in-Chief, his non-private mail continued to arrive in great volumes. On April 28, 1784, his franking privilege was extended. Technically, he did not receive the right to free frank mail as President until the Act of March 3, 1792 (effective June 1, 1792, and just over three years into his first term), but he obviously began franking in his own particular way as soon as he took office. No other president ever franked the mail in this manner (without signing his name). ..... E. 5,000-7,500



4067

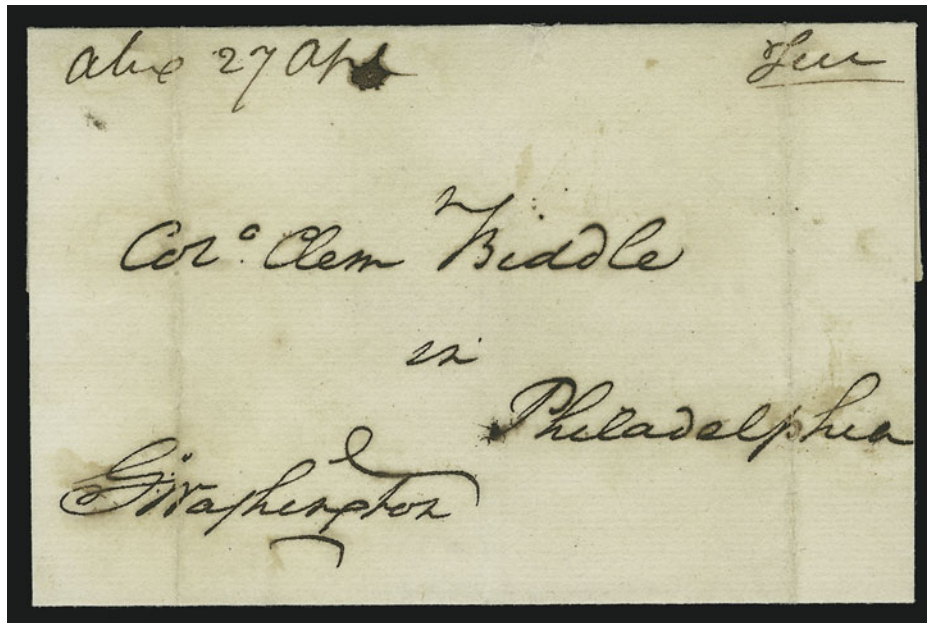
- 4067 ☒ **George Washington.** Free frank "President U.S." as **President** on December 3, 1793 folded letter written and signed by his secretary Tobias Lear from Philadelphia to Andrew Ellicott in Georgetown Md., neat "3/DE" Franklin mark with matching "Free" handstamp

VERY FINE. AN UNUSUALLY CLEAN AND ATTRACTIVE EXAMPLE OF WASHINGTON'S "PRESIDENT U.S." FREE FRANK.

The recipient was appointed Surveyor General to finish laying out the city of Washington after Pierre L'Enfant was dismissed.

Ex Stevens ..... E. 5,000-7,500



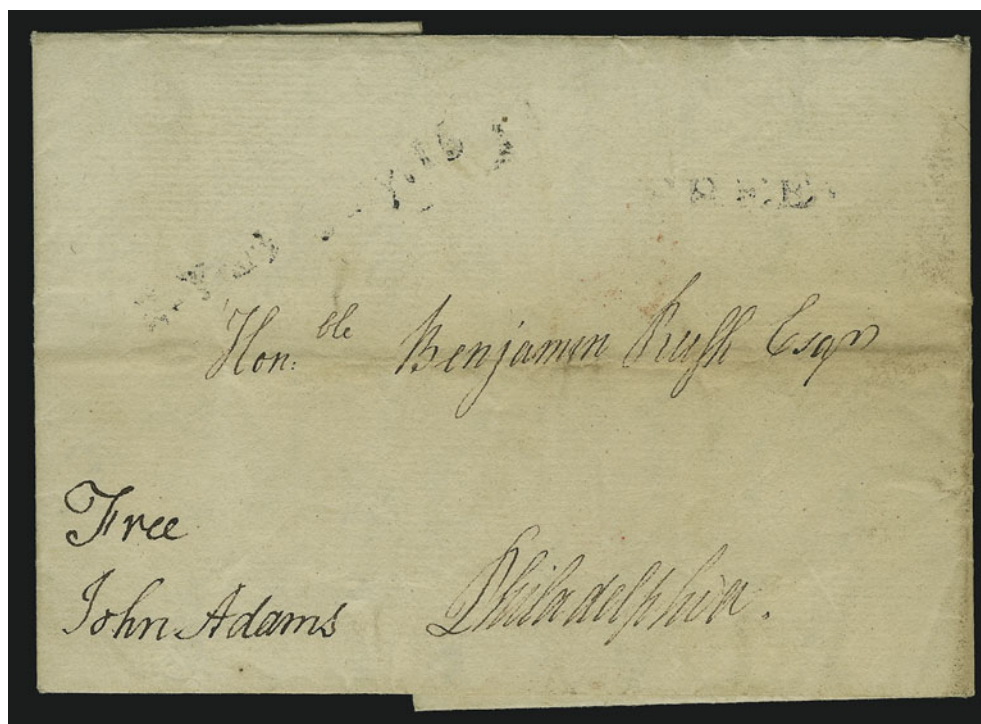


4068

- 4068 ☒ **George Washington.** Bold free frank "G. Washington" as ex-President on folded cover addressed in his hand to Col. Clemson Biddle in Philadelphia, neat ms. "Alex 27 Apl." postmark, vertical file fold affects signature

VERY FINE. A RARE FREE FRANK OF GEORGE WASHINGTON AS EX-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Covers free franked by George Washington as President are marked "President/U.S" and are not signed. From our 2002 Rarities sale, where it realized \$10,000 hammer..... E. 7,500-10,000



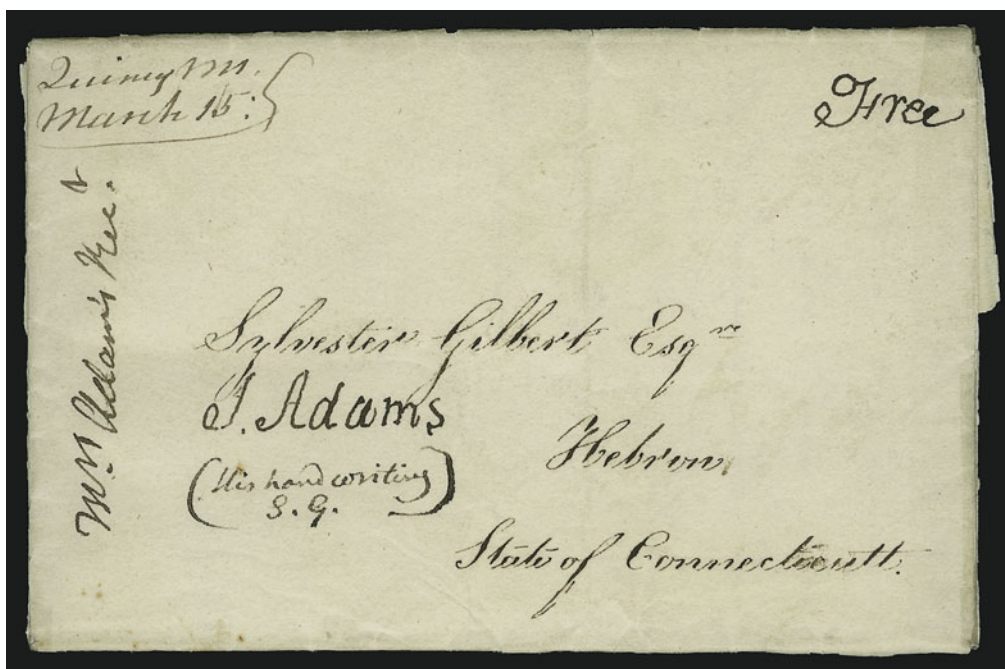
4069

- 4069 ☒ **John Adams.** Free frank "Free John Adams" as Vice President on one-page **autograph letter initialled "J.A."**, datelined "New York July 15, 1789" to Benjamin Rush in Philadelphia, partial strike of "N. York July 15" straightline and matching "Free" handstamp, leatter reads (in part): *"I have read Dr. Rush's DeMoribus Germanorum with pleasure. As I am a great lover of paradoxes, when defended with ingenuity, I have read also the Phillippie against Latin and Greek with some amusement. . .What an ingrate was he to employ Art and Science to abuse them. And are you much better, to use the knowledge and skill you derived from Latin and Greek to slander those divine languages? Yours ut Supra, J.A."*, faint age toning, light file folds do not affect free frank

VERY FINE. A RARE JOHN ADAMS FREE FRANK AND AUTOGRAPH LETTER WITH INTERESTING COMMENTS CONCERNING SOME OF HIS VIEWS ON THE HUMANITIES.

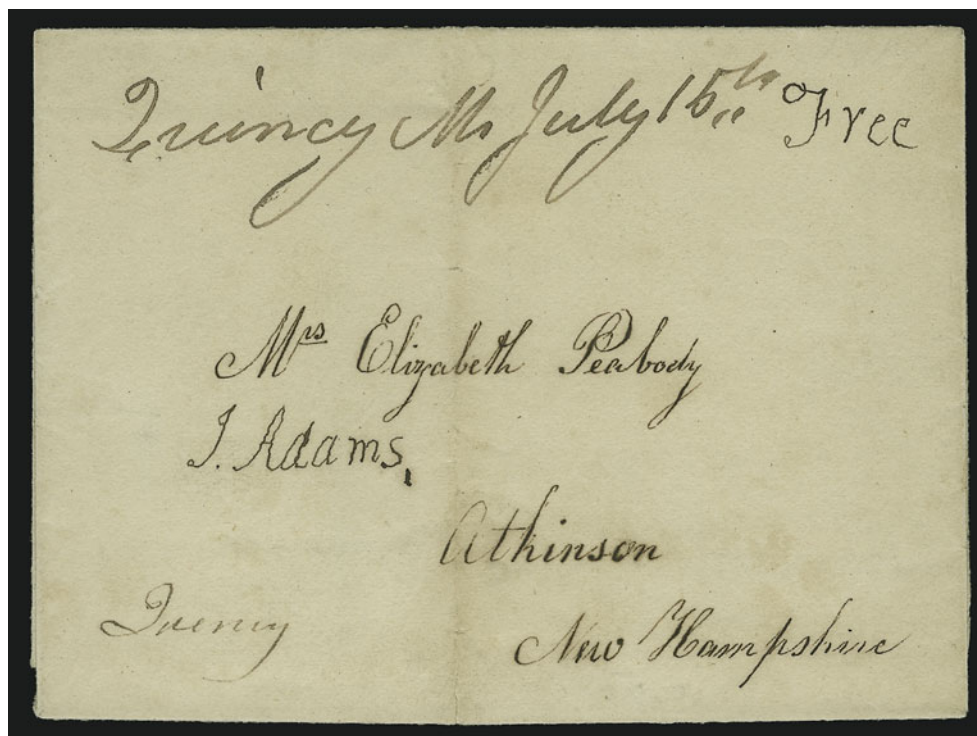
Due to a quirk of the Acts regarding franking privileges, John Adams enjoyed free-franking privileges during this time period due to his dual position as presiding officer of the U.S. Senate. Officially, the U.S. Post Office did not authorize free-franking privileges to either the President or Vice President until June 1, 1792..... E. 7,500-10,000





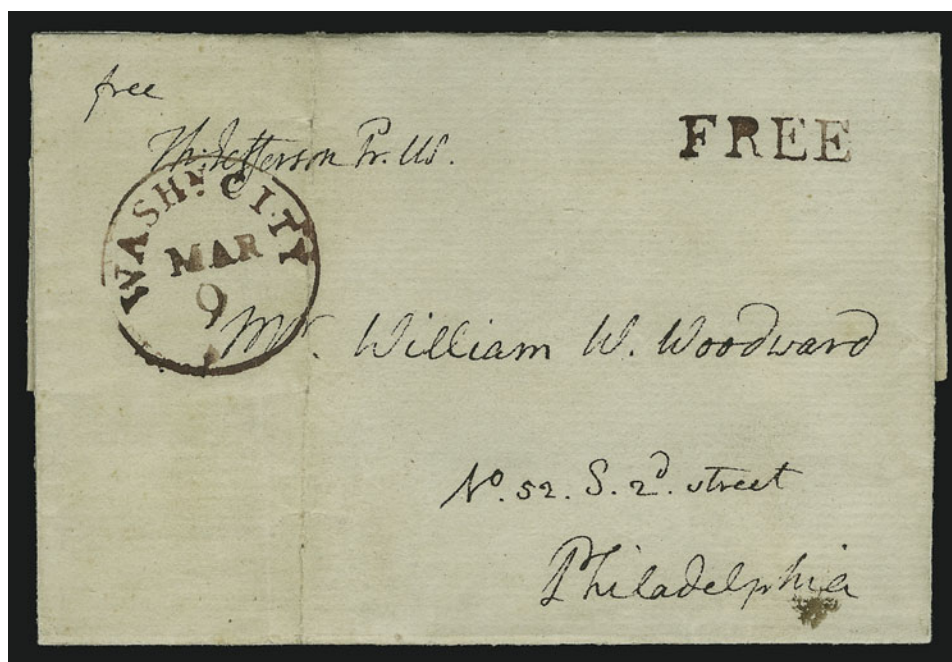
4070

- 4070 ☒ **John Adams.** Free frank "J. Adams" and "Free" as ex-President on March 15, 1813 folded letter from his sister to Sylvester Gilbert in Hebron Conn., ms. "Quincy Ms. March 15" postmark, notation on cover from recipient "His handwriting S.G.", trivial splitting along folds, Very Fine example of Adams's frank ..... E. 2,000-3,000



4071

- 4071 ☒ **John Adams.** Free frank as ex-President "J. Adams" and "Free" in an infirm hand on 1814 folded cover from his wife, Abigail (as indicated by docketing), to Mrs. Elizabeth Peabody in Atkinson N.H., ms. "Quincy Ms. July 15th" postmark, trivial splitting along pressed-out file fold (does not affect franking), Very Fine, franking another person's mail was prohibited but seems to have been overlooked as Adams seems to have franked most of his family's mail ..... E. 2,000-3,000

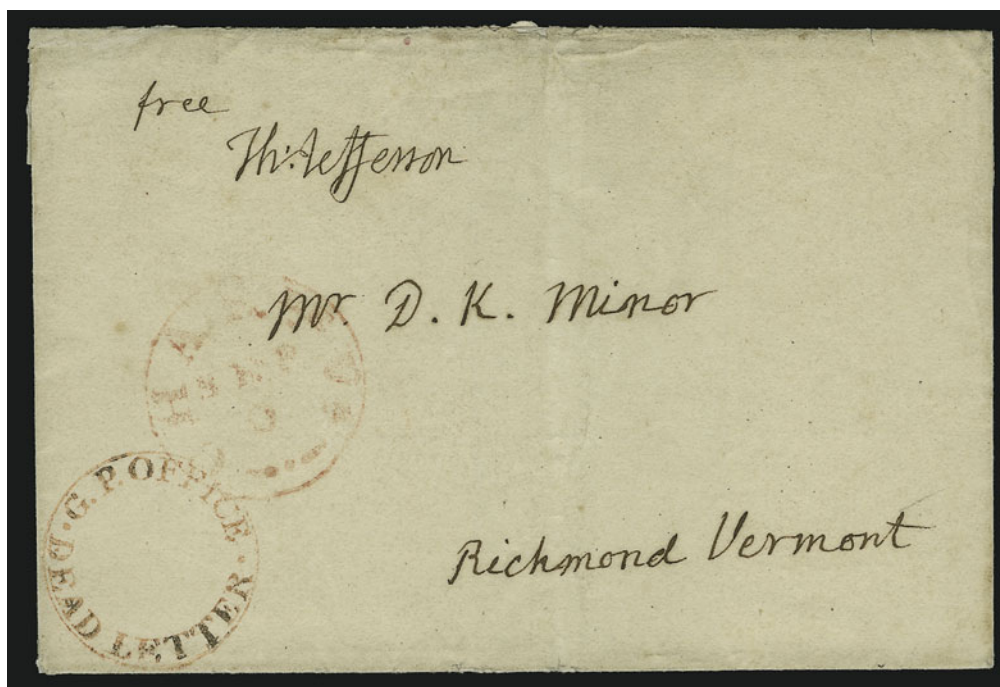


4072

- 4072 ☒ **Thomas Jefferson.** Free frank "free Th. Jefferson Pr. U.S." as **President** on folded cover addressed in his hand to William Woodward in Philadelphia, bold strike of brownish "Washn. City Mar. 9" circular datestamp with matching "Free" handstamp, vertical file fold thru signature (but not affecting its clarity)

VERY FINE. A BEAUTIFUL AND RARE THOMAS JEFFERSON FREE FRANK AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

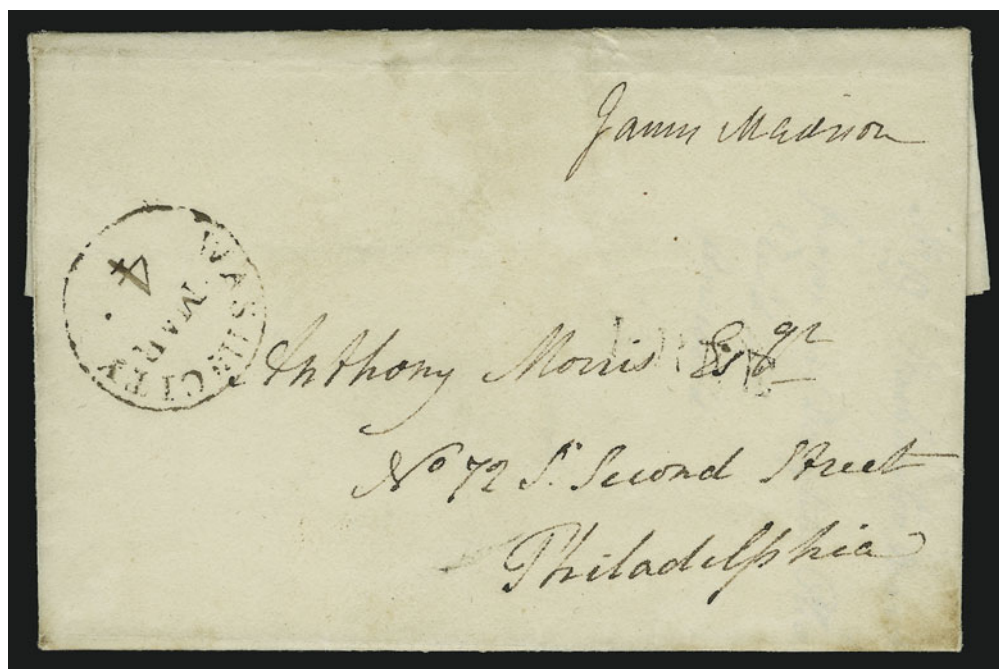
This is the most desirable form of Jefferson's free frank, because it includes the executive office designation. It is scarce in this exceptional condition..... E. 4,000-5,000



4073

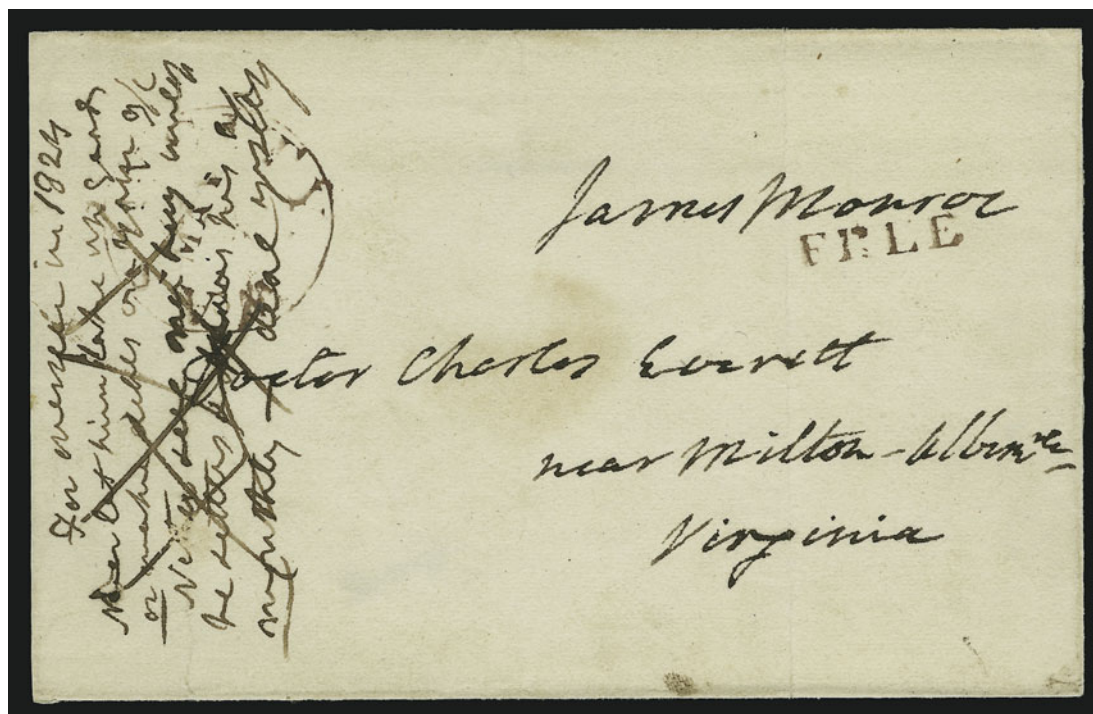
- 4073 ☒ **Thomas Jefferson.** Free frank "free Th. Jefferson" as ex-President on folded cover addressed in his hand to D.K. Minor in Richmond Vt., red "Char. V. SEP 5" circular datestamp, also clear strike of "Dead Letter G.P. Office" handstamp, light vertical file fold and some minor wear, Very Fine, scarce free frank..... E. 3,000-4,000





4074

- 4074 ☒ **James Madison.** Clear free frank "James Madison" as **President** on 1812 folded letter from P.P. Morris to Anthony Morris in Philadelphia, brown "Wash. City Mar. 4" circular datestamp and matching "Free" handstamp, fresh and Very Fine, although Madison franked mail in several capacities, his Presidential frank is extremely scarce ..... E. 500-750



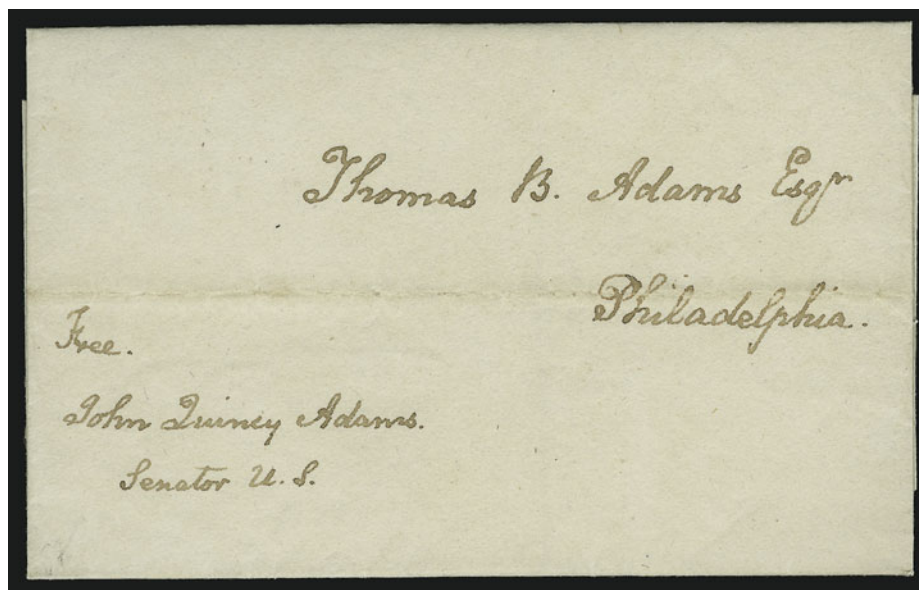
4075

- 4075 ☒ **James Monroe.** Free frank "James Monroe" as **President** on 1824 folded cover addressed in his hand to Dr. Charles Everett in Va., brown "Washn. City May 7" circular datestamp and matching "Free" handstamp, extensive docketing at left, gently cleaned and pressed, Very Fine ..... E. 750-1,000



4076

- 4076 ☒ **James Monroe.** December 20, 1814 folded letter addressed to James Monroe as Secretary of State in Washington, from Richard Henderson in Leesburg and with "Alexa. Ga. Dec. 22" circular datestamp, letter states (in part): "I shall pay the above, on demand, I wish you to deliver up the Boy??", light vertical file fold, docketed at right in Monroe's hand, minor slitting along folds, Very Fine usage sent to Monroe with slave-related contents ..... E. 200-300



4077

- 4077 ☒ **John Quincy Adams.** Remarkably clear free frank "Free John Quincy Adams Senator U.S." as Senator on folded cover to Thomas B. Adams in Philadelphia, October 25, 1803 docketing on back, light horizontal file fold, fresh and Very Fine, particularly scarce with Adams's middle name spelled out..... E. 500-750

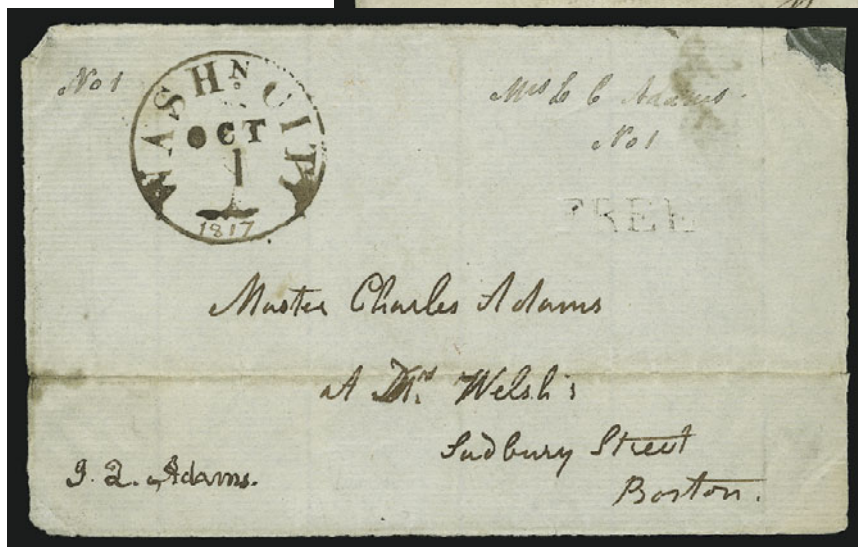




4078

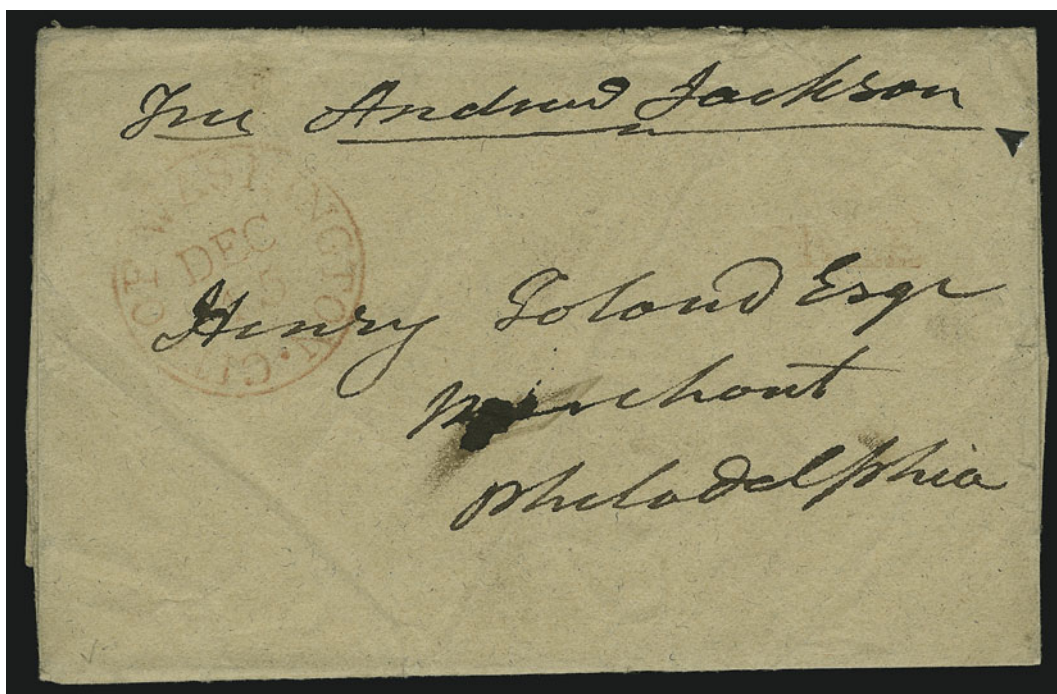


4079



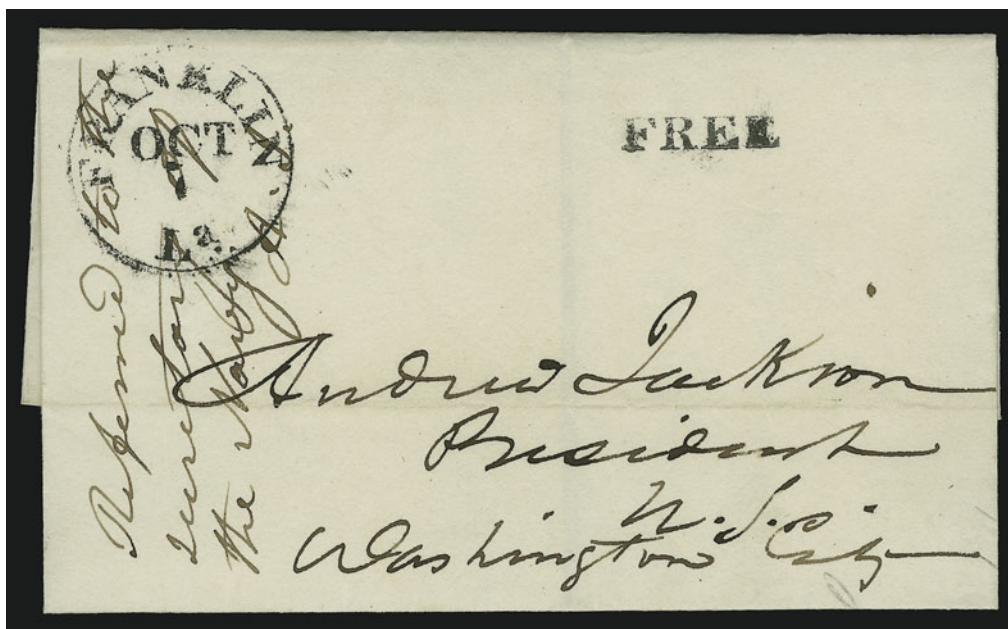
4080

- 4078 ☒ **John Quincy Adams.** Free frank "J.Q. Adams" as Secretary of State on part-printed 1819 furlough document to the Sailing Master on the U.S.S. *Ontario* in New York, ms. "Navy Department" endorsement, brown "Washn. City May 29" circular datestamp and matching "Free" handstamp, some toning along vertical file folds, Very Fine free frank, unusual usage, Adams was Secretary of State at this time and was allowed to frank letters from another department in the absence of their principal ..... E. 500-750
- 4079 ☒ **John Quincy Adams.** Free frank "J.Q. Adams" as Secretary of State on April 3, 1823 folded letter from England and sent from the daughter of Benjamin Rush to her mother in Philadelphia, brown "Washn. City May ?" circular datestamp with matching "Free" handstamp, slight wear and soiling, still Fine, unusual usage, carried by diplomatic pouch to Washington D.C. where franked, the sender was in England with her brother, Benjamin Rush, who was negotiating with George Canning, the British foreign minister, on policy towards Latin America, which led to the enunciation of the Monroe Doctrine .... E. 400-500
- 4080 **John Quincy Adams.** Free frank "J. Q. Adams" as Secretary of State under Monroe on cover front only to his son Charles in Boston, notation "Mrs. L. C. Adams No. 1" in an unknown hand, brownish "Washn. City Oct. 1, 1817" circular datestamp with year/date notation, matching "Free" handstamp, some wear incl. horizontal file fold, otherwise Fine ..... E. 200-300



4081

- 4081 ☒ **Andrew Jackson.** Bold free frank "Free Andrew Jackson" as **President** on folded cover to Philadelphia, well-struck red "City of Washington Dec. 5" circular datestamp and matching "Free" handstamp, minor wear, small smudges in address, Very Fine, this circular datestamp was only in use during Jackson's term as President ..... E. 1,000-1,500



4082

- 4082 ☒ **Andrew Jackson.** 1835 folded cover addressed to Andrew Jackson as President in Washington D.C., bold "Franklin La. Oct. 7" circular datestamp and "Free" handstamp, docketed and initialled by Jackson at left "Referred to the Secretary of the Navy A.J.", fresh and Very Fine ..... E. 300-400



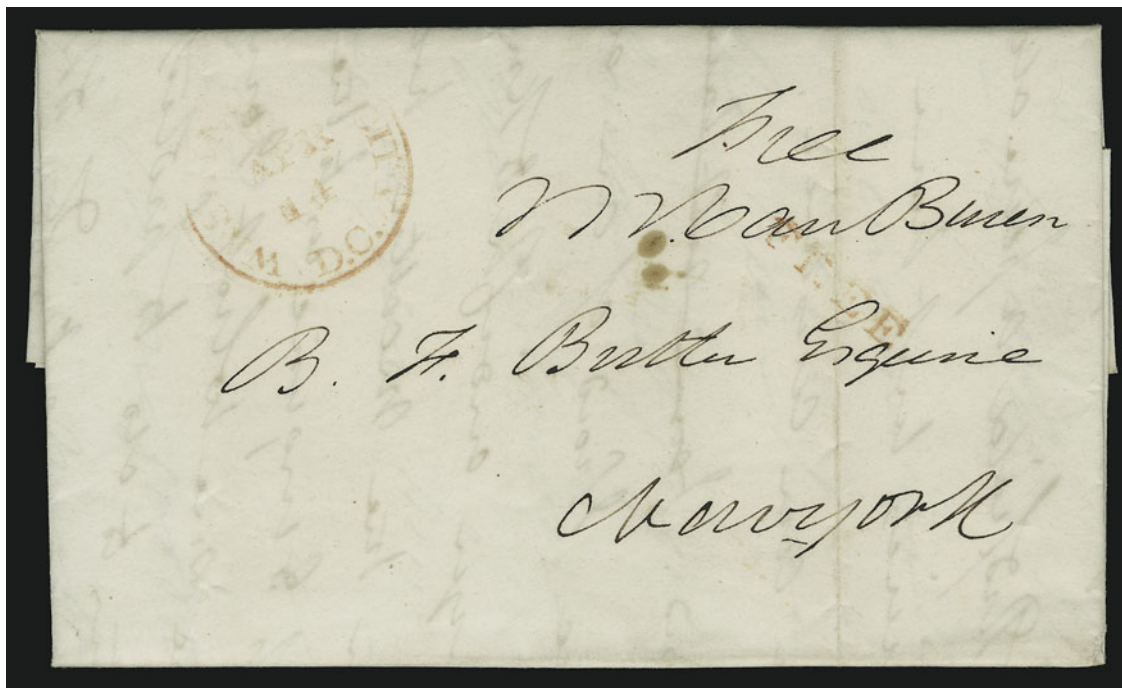


4083

- 4083 ☒ **U.S. City Despatch Post, New York N.Y., 3c Black on Blue Green Glazed, Double Impression (6LB5a).** Full to large margins, trivial corner crease, a light but distinct second impression separate from primary impression all around the inscription, red "U.S." in frame cancel (not tied), red "New-York Mar. 1" circular datestamp on ca. 1843 folded cover address in the hand of Adm. Hiram Paulding to **ex-President Andrew Jackson** with his **autograph notation "Mr. Paulding"** at left, in a shaky hand just two years before his death, addressed to "*General Jackson, Hermitage, Nashville, Tennessee*" (military officers use rank), initialled "HP", ms. "50" double rate due crossed out

EXTREMELY FINE. A VERY RARE DOUBLE IMPRESSION STAMP ON A COVER TO EX-PRESIDENT ANDREW JACKSON AND DOCKETED IN HIS HAND. A WONDERFUL COMBINATION OF PHILATELY AND HISTORY.

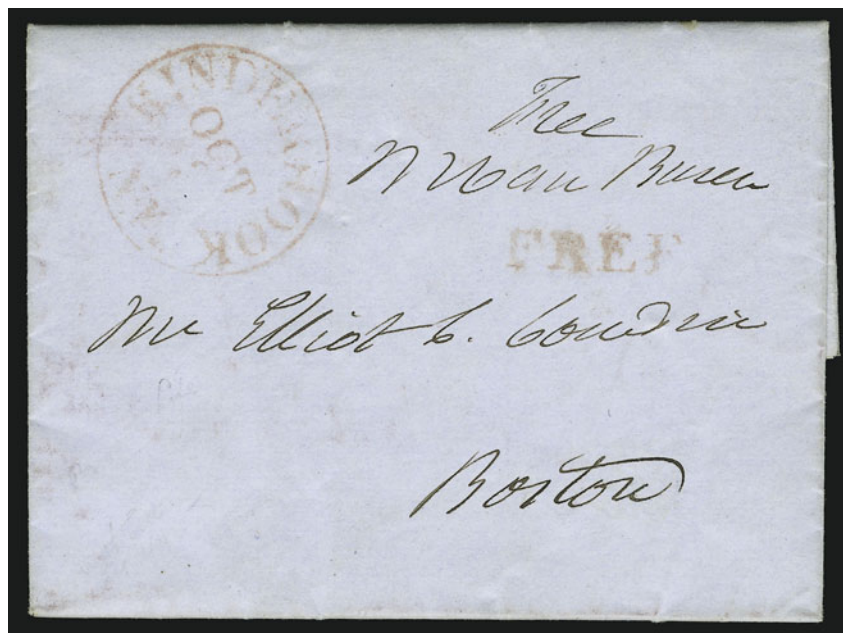
This cover is one of five or six examples of the true double impression. Ex Golden. With 1981 P.F. certificate stating "kiss impression" and with 1999 P.F. certificate stating double impression. .... E. 2,000-3,000



4084

- 4084 ☒ **Martin Van Buren.** Free frank "*Free M. Van Buren*" as **President** on April 14, 1839, 3pp **autograph letter signed** and addressed by him from Washington D.C. to his Attorney General Benjamin F. Butler in New York, red "Washington City D.C. Apr. 14" circular datestamp with matching "Free" handstamp, letter refers to a political victory in New York State and reads in part "*I return your money and sincere thanks for your kind congratulations. Verily, Verily the working men and good people of N. York have fully justified the insurmountable estimate we formed of their reliability when we first entered upon the sea of troubles with which we have been contending for the last two years. Nothing could have been more appropriate, more operative or more gratifying than this brilliant triumph.*", additional contents discuss his debt, light vertical file folds, Very Fine, fascinating historical contents from the President whose administration coincided with the Panic of 1837 and earned him the nickname "Martin Van Ruin" ..... E. 2,000-3,000





4085

- 4085 ☒ **Martin Van Buren.** Clear free frank "Free M Van Buren" as ex-President on autograph letter signed and datelined "Kinderhook October 1st 1845" to Boston, red "Kinderhook N.Y. Oct. 3" circular datestamp with matching "Free" handstamp, fresh and Very Fine..... E. 400-500



4086

- 4086 ☒ **Martin Van Buren.** Defective folded cover addressed to Lawrence Van Buren in Kinderhook, notation in Van Buren's hand "Charge postage to M V Buren", red "24" rating for triple rate, red "Albany N.Y. Sep. 30" circular datestamp, second strike of "Albany Oct. 12" circular datestamp, unusual usage, sent while he was either a member of the State Senate or as Attorney General of New York, neither office had franking privileges, these are instructions to charge the postage to his account..... E. 150-200



4087

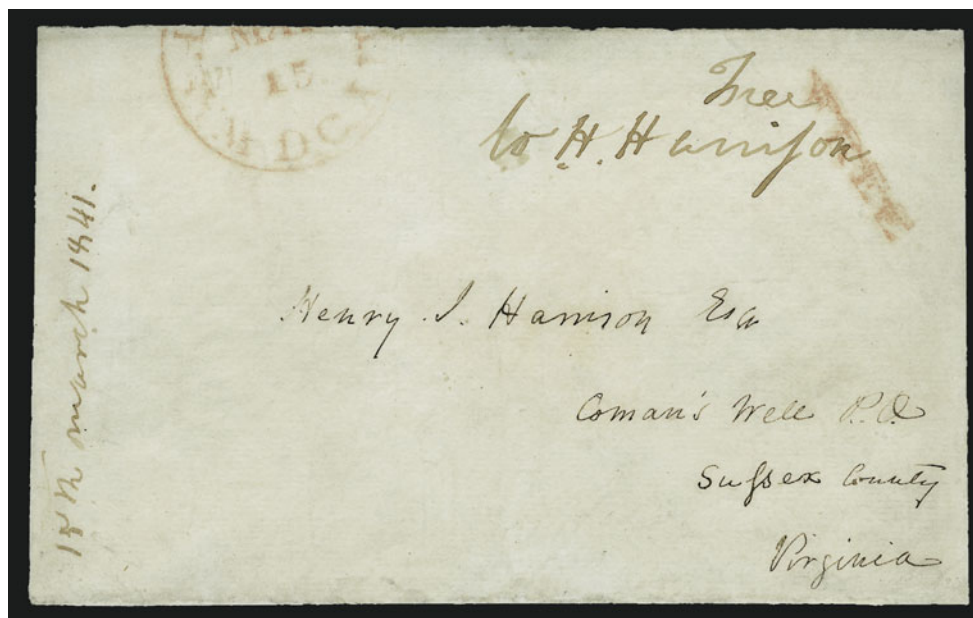
- 4087 ☒ **Martin Van Buren.** Free frank "Free M Van Buren" as ex-President on cover to Ithaca N.Y., 1c Blue (63) tied by "New-York May 9" duplex datestamp and target, small edge tear at upper right, still Very Fine, rare use of 1c 1861 to pay carrier fee on cover franked by an ex-President (franking privilege did not apply to carrier fees), ex Cole ..... E. 750-1,000



4088

- 4088 ☒ **Martin Van Buren.** Free frank "Free M Van Buren" as ex-President on cover to Joseph Burnett & Co. in Boston, single 1c Blue (63) tied by red "U.S. Mail City Delivery" carrier datestamp, back of cover with "Held for Postage" straightline and "New-York May 6" duplex datestamp and target, same duplex (May 8) ties 1c Blue (63) pair that was added after post office notified sender, small stamp flaws, sealed tear to the right of stamps, otherwise Very Fine, Van Buren died in July 1862, the stamps were issued in August 1861, so this May 8 cover was mailed in 1862 and the frank was refused in error, ex Cole ..... E. 750-1,000





4089

- 4089 ☒ **William Henry Harrison.** Free frank “Free W. H. Harrison” as **President** on cover front only to Henry J. Harrison at Coman’s Well P.O. Va., red “Washington City D.C. Mar. 15” (1841) circular datestamp with matching “Free” handstamp, docketed “18th March 1841” at left, with enclosure from Henry Harrison to Henry J. Harrison, letter comments on terrible weather in Washington (which was associated with the President getting pneumonia and dying) and on upcoming politics for the new President’s term “*Since the Fourth of March we have had a succession of bad weather. I was really in hopes that it was all over. . . Mrs. Harrison has not yet arrived here. She will probably be on in April: the severity of the weather will prevent her traveling before that time. . . Since the inauguration there has been a great deal of speculation how the public offices will be filled — the office seekers are almost innumerable*”, the front has been expertly restored with backflaps added and stain removed from left edge

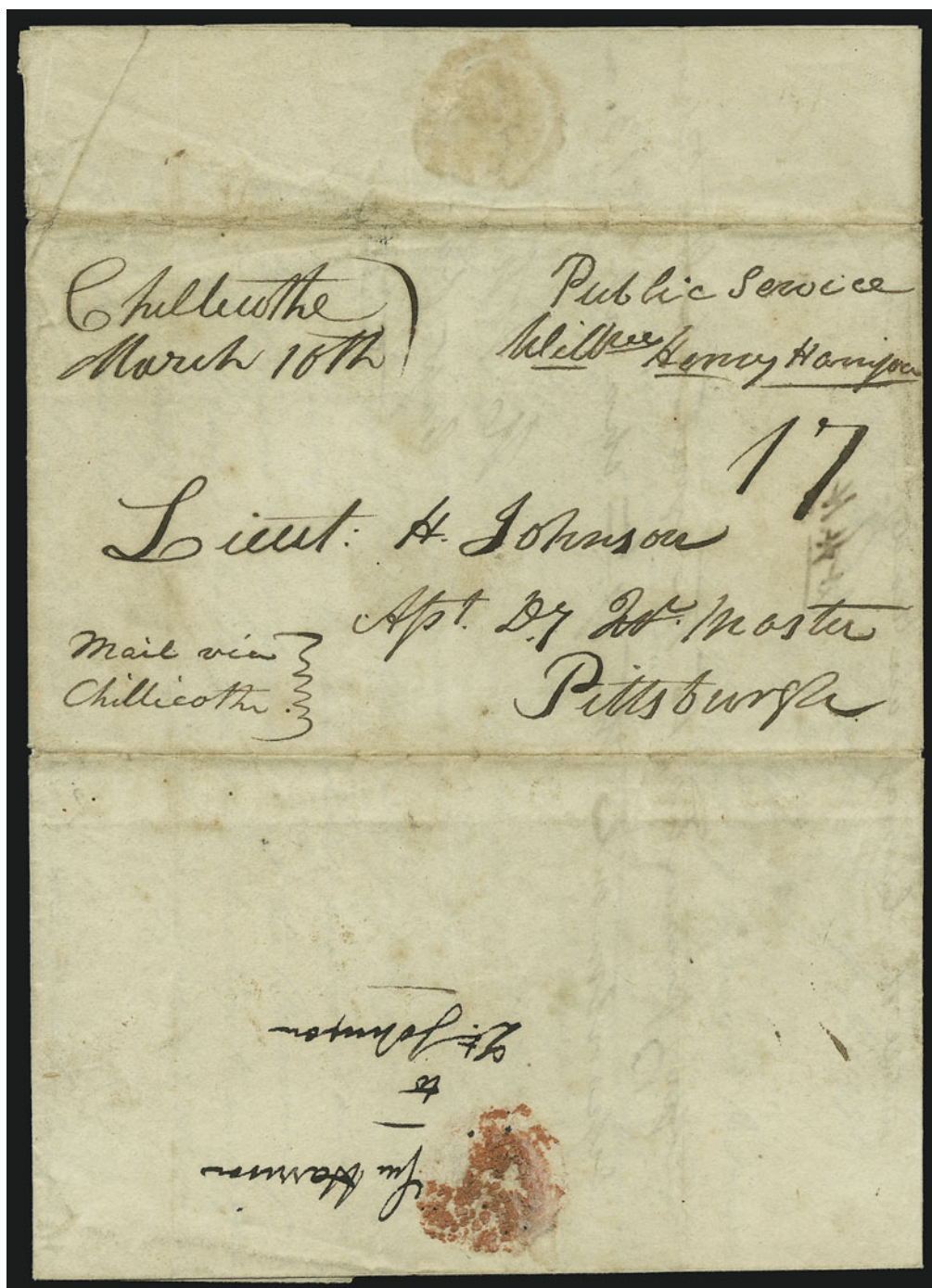
VERY FINE. ONE OF ONLY TWO CONFIRMED FREE FRANKS OF WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON SENT DURING HIS BRIEF TERM AS PRESIDENT. ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT, AS THE LETTER DISCUSSES THE INCLEMENT WEATHER THAT LED TO HARRISON’S DEATH.

William Henry Harrison assumed the office of President of the United States on March 4, 1841. He caught a cold at his inauguration ceremony, contracted pneumonia, and died on April 4, 1841, exactly one month after assuming office. Harrison has the distinction of being the first United States President to die in office.

Harrison’s brief period in office, combined with his illness, provided very little opportunity to produce letters or free-franked mail. According to our records, this is one of only two surviving presidential free franks of William Henry Harrison, and it is one of the few presidential signatures in private hands.

The style of Washington D.C. datestamp, enclosed letter and docketing notations confirm this as an 1841 usage. Harrison had the free-franking privilege as Northwest Territorial delegate in 1800, as a member of Congress in 1816-19 and as a U.S. Senator in 1825-28. This particular style of Washington D.C. datestamp did not come into use until years after Harrison’s 1825-28 franking privilege expired. It was used in 1841, and the combination of Harrison’s frank and this datestamp usage could only occur after his inauguration in March 1841.

Ex Joyce..... E. 50,000-75,000



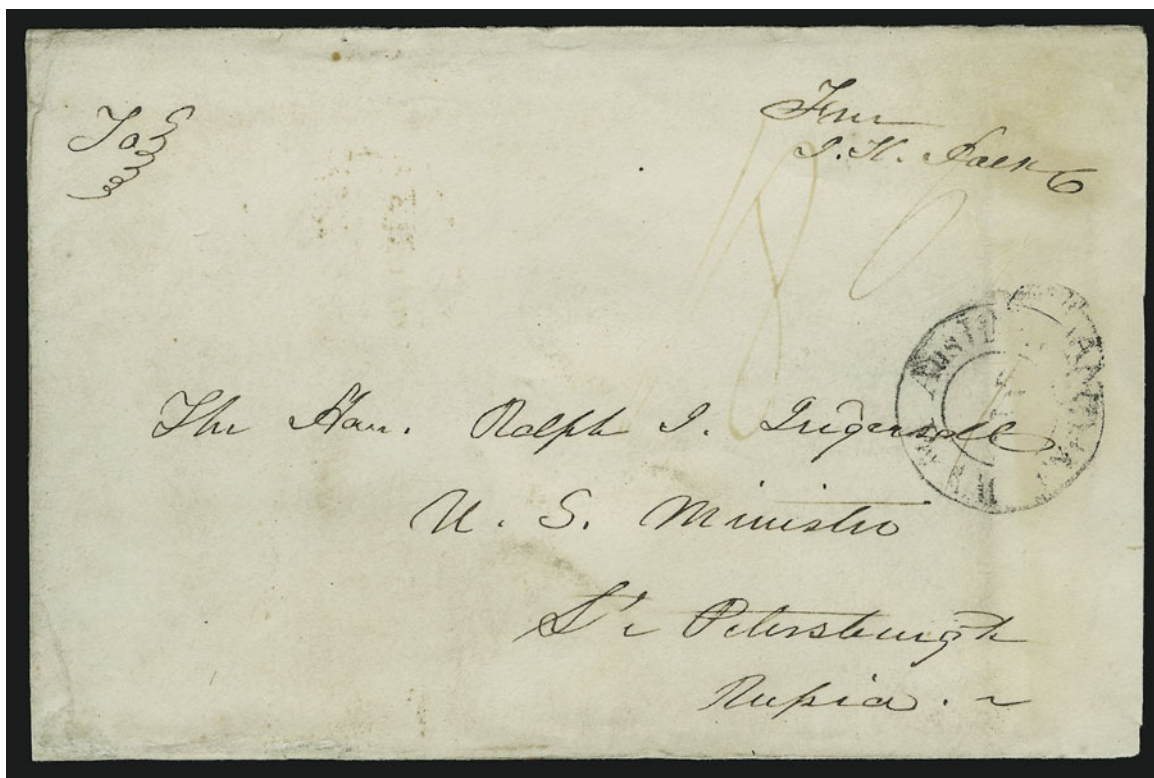
4090

- 4090 ✉ **William Henry Harrison.** Military endorsement "William Henry Harrison" and "On Public Service" on folded letter datelined "Camp Meigs 27th Feby. 1813" to Lieut. H. Johnson, Assistant Quartermaster, in Pittsburgh, content is a request for ordnance and supplies (listed in another hand) with **autograph letter signed** and a post-script initialled by Harrison, datelined "Head Quarters Camp Meigs, 27th Feby. 1813", Harrison comments "I conceived that I had once cause to complain of you. It is but doing you justice to say that since that period your conduct has been entirely satisfactory — your proceedings have been consonant to your Orders and your arrangements have been manifested zeal and ability.", "Chillicothe March 10th" ms. postmark with "17" rate, minor overall soiling, Very Fine, unusual and rare, sent during the War of 1812, Harrison was Major General of Militia and also Indian Commissioner, neither post had franking privileges, this was carried by military courier under his frank to Chillicothe, where it entered the mails and was charged normal postage of 17c (for distance of 150-300 miles) to Pittsburgh..... E. 3,000-4,000





- 4091 ☒ **William Henry Harrison.** Free frank "Free W.H. Harrison" on undated folded cover to Philadelphia, expertly sealed tear at top affects franking but is unobtrusive, Very Fine, probably franked as Senator..... E. 2,000-3,000
- 4092 ☒ **John Tyler.** Free frank "J. Tyler" as ex-President on mourning cover addressed by his wife, Julia Gardiner Tyler, to her younger sister, Margaret, in New York, neat "Chas. City C.H. Va. 17th April 1846" ms. postmark, minor wear, Very Fine, the mourning cover is in memory of Mrs. Tyler's father, David Gardiner, who was one of eight spectators killed on Feb. 28, 1844, when the "Peacemaker", a bow gun on the steam frigate *Princeton*, blew up during a demonstration for dignitaries — Tyler and his much younger wife-to-be were below deck at the time and were unharmed (they were married on June 26, 1844) ..... E. 300-400
- 4093 ☒ **John Tyler.** Free frank "J. Tyler" as ex-President on cover to Miss Rebecca Jones in Richmond Va., with original 4pp enclosure from his wife datelined "Sherwood Forest April 9th 1861" and reading in part "The legislature has adjourned and it is thought the Convention will soon. And what will Virginia do? I wonder! We are in a terrible fix I think", blue "Norfolk Va. Apr. 13" double-circle datestamp and matching "Steamboat" handstamp, ms. "Supposed to be the autograph of Ex Pres. Tyler", small tear at top from opening, Very Fine, by the time this letter reached Norfolk from Tyler's plantation at Sherwood Forest, Fort Sumter had fallen and the Civil War had begun..... E. 200-300
- 4094 ☒ **John Tyler.** Folded letter addressed to John Taylor as President in Washington D.C., bold strike of "Brownsville Pa. Apr. 26" circular datestamp and matching "Free" handstamp, contents request sender's son be discharged from the service, **handwritten note inside from Tyler**, vertical file fold at left ending in small tear at top left affecting datestamp, Very Fine ..... E. 200-300



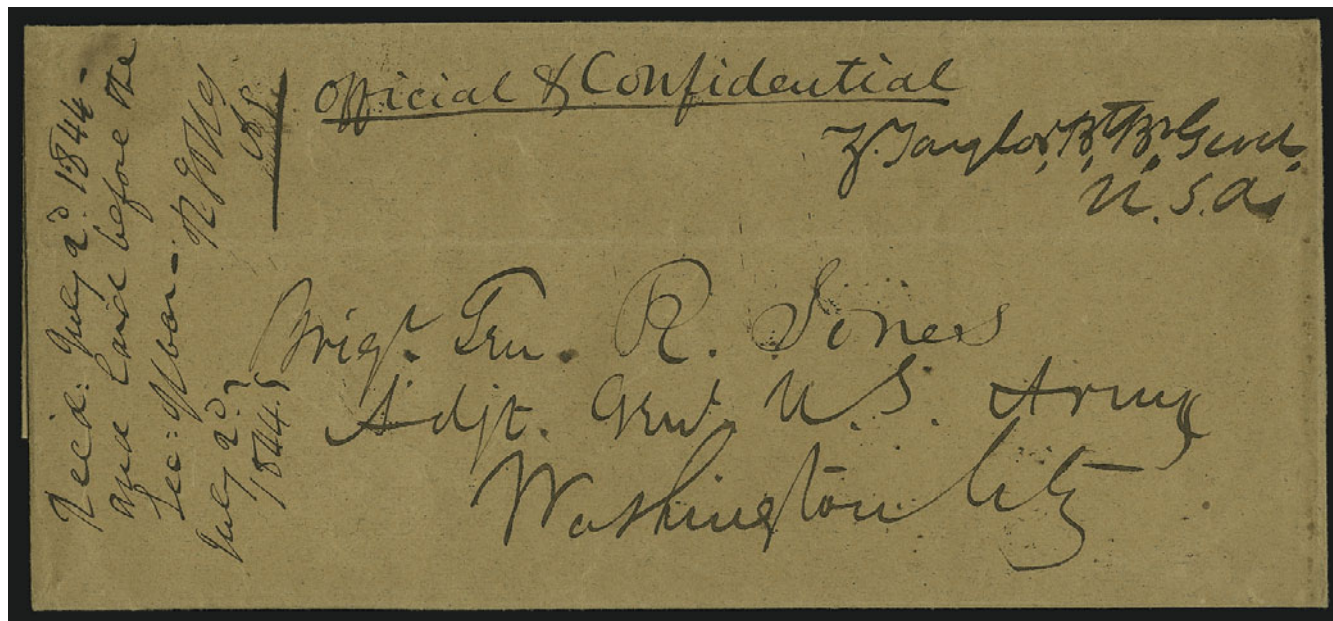
4095

- 4095 ☒ **James K. Polk.** Bold free frank "*Free J.K. Polk*" as **President** on cover apparently addressed in his hand to "*The Hon. Ralph J. Ingersoll, U.S. Minister, St. Petersburg, Russia*", red "OT/4 JY 4/1848" London transit backstamp, Aachen transit, red ms. "6" for 6p due G.B., "18" for 18sgr due applied in Aachen as restatement of total British postage to Russia by Prussian Mails of 1sh9p (21p), small "69" on back for total postage due of 69 Russian kopecks, intact red wax seal on back, expertly restored

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. PROBABLY A UNIQUE USE OF POLK'S PRESIDENTIAL FREE FRANK ON A TRANSATLANTIC COVER TO RUSSIA.

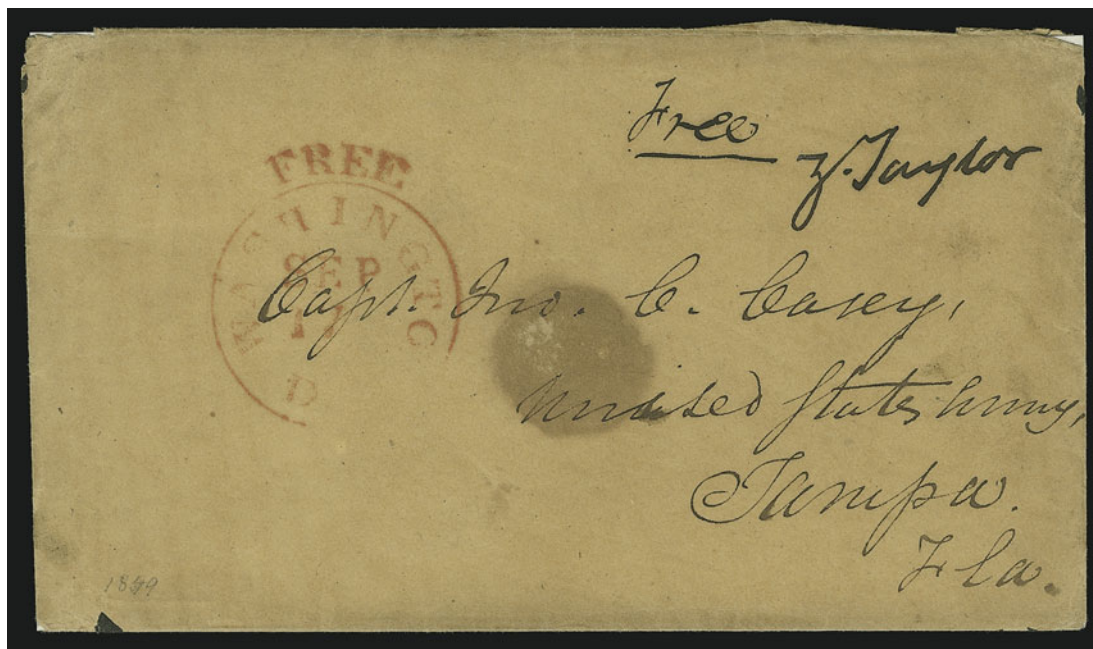
President Polk's signature was probably used to authenticate the use of a consular diplomatic pouch to England, where it was put into the mails and charged foreign postage. Accompanied by typed analysis by Richard Winter..... E. 3,000-4,000





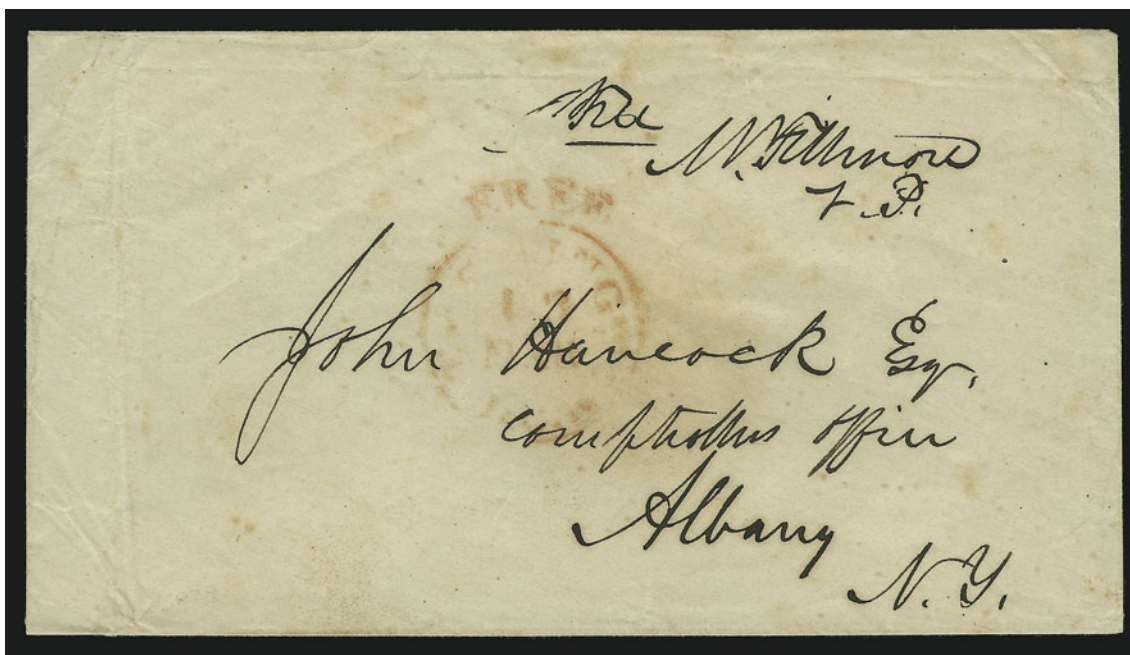
4096

- 4096 ☒ **Zachary Taylor.** Endorsed "Z. Taylor Bt. Br. Genl. U.S.A." on legal-size folded cover to the Adjutant General of the U.S. Army in Washington D.C., docketed at left "Rec'd. July 2nd. 1844 and laid before the Sec. of War July 2nd 1844", faint horizontal file fold away from signature, Very Fine, Taylor did not enjoy franking privileges at this time, this was sent free under the privilege of the recipient..... E. 2,000-3,000



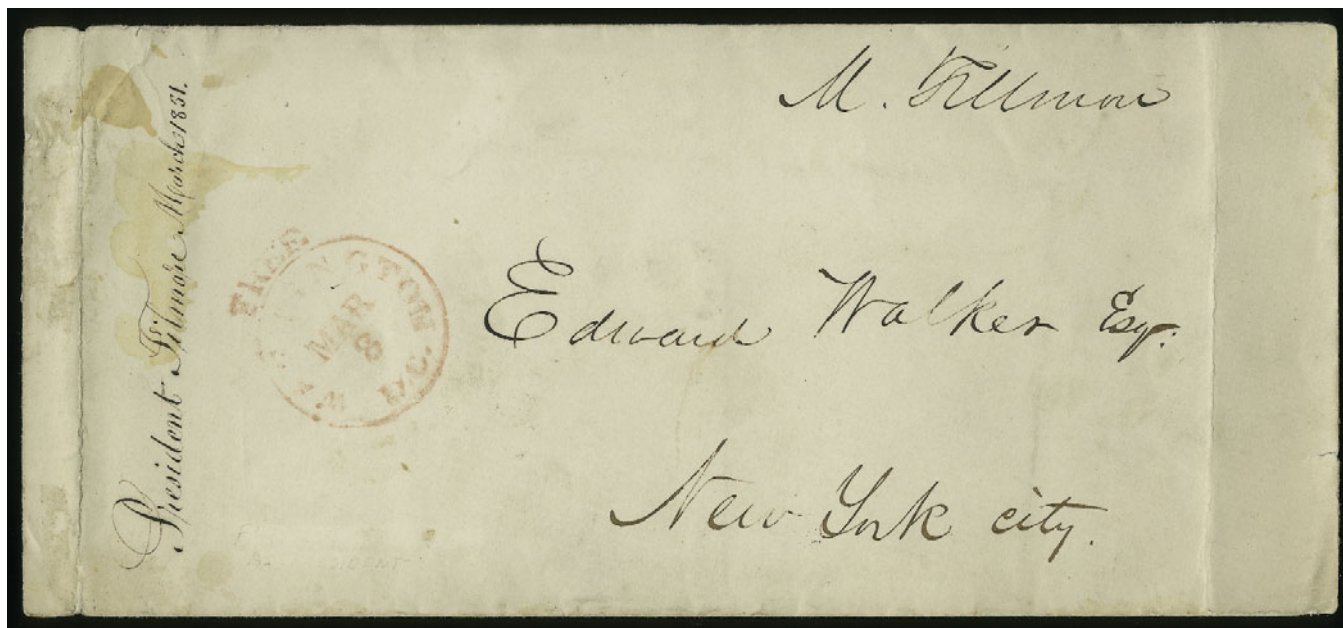
4097EX

- 4097 ☒ **Zachary Taylor.** Two covers, first is free franked "Free Z. Taylor" as **President** on buff cover to Tampa Fla., red "Free Washington D.C. Sep. 17" circular datestamp, wax seal stain and some wear, Very Fine, second is August 1849 folded letter to Taylor as President from Fort Smith Ark. and sent free under his franking privilege, vertical file folds, Very Fine — Taylor presidential franks are rare due to his death in office mid-term.....(Photo Ex) E. 750-1,000



4098

- 4098 ☒ **Millard Fillmore.** Free frank "*Free M. Fillmore V.P.*" as Vice President under Taylor on cover to the Comptroller's office in Albany N.Y., light strike of red "Washington D.C. 8 Mar. Free" circular datestamp, some wear, Very Fine, Fillmore's term as Vice President was brief, from March 4, 1859 until August 9, 1860, when he assumed the office of President after the death of President Tyler..... E. 200-300



4099

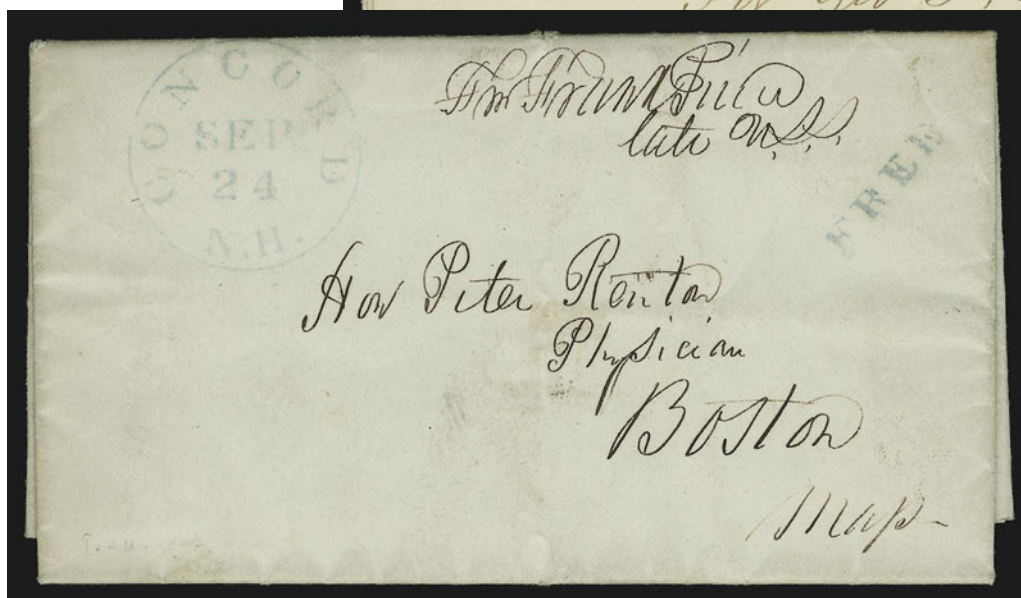
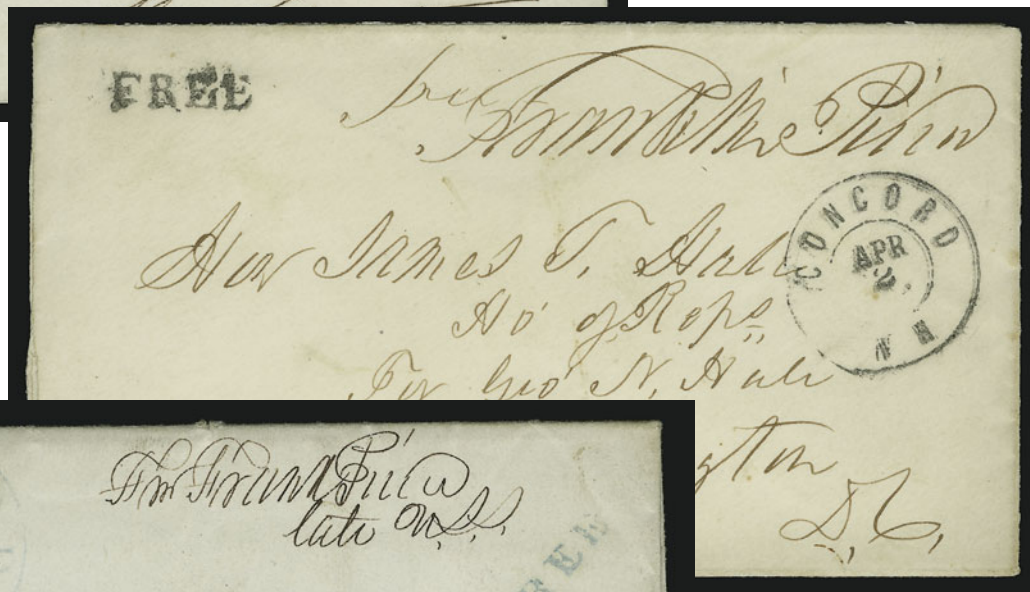
- 4099 ☒ **Millard Fillmore.** Free frank "*M. Fillmore*" as **President** on oversize cover to Edward Walker in New York City, red "Washington D.C. Mar. 8 Free" datestamp, docketed "*President Fillmore March 1851*" at left, partly intact red wax seal on back, two vertical file folds do not affect frank, some edge faults, still Very Fine..... E. 400-500





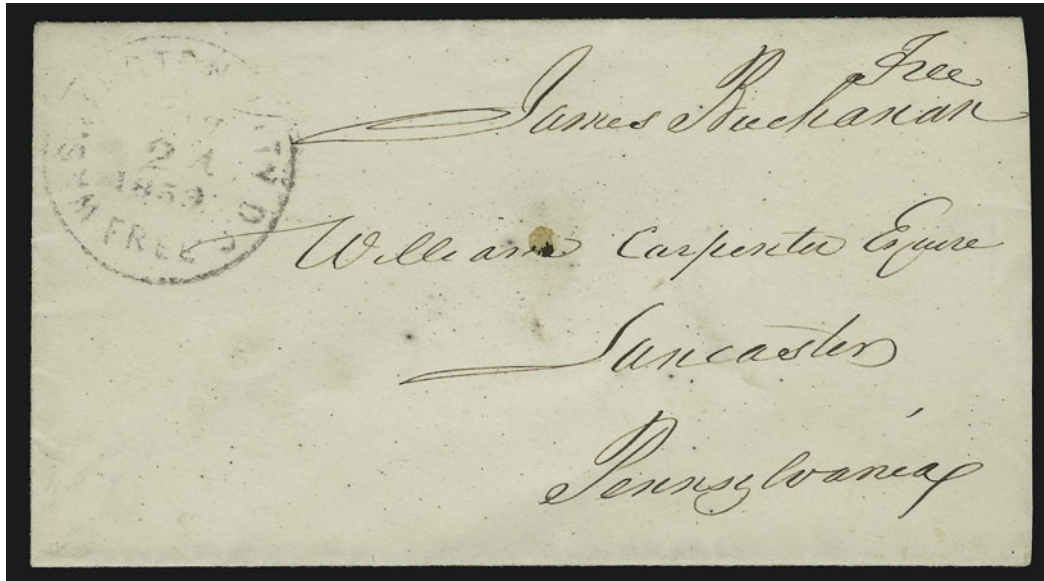
4100

4101



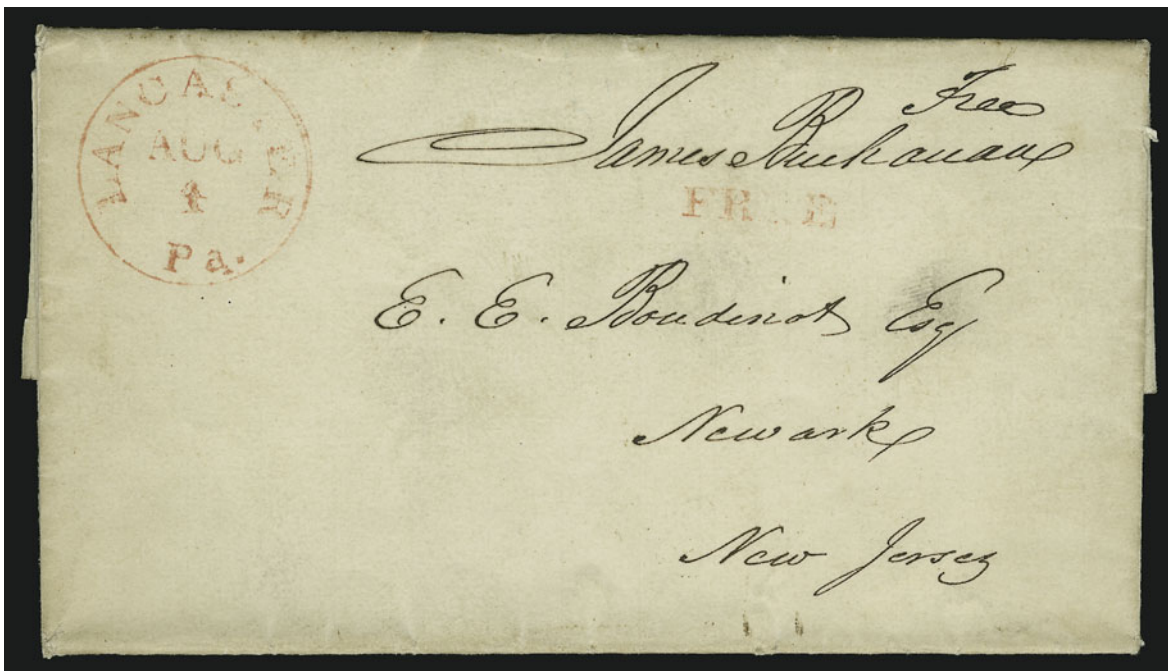
4102

- 4100 ☒ **Franklin Pierce.** Free frank "Franklin Pierce" (possibly as President) on cover to Washington D.C., neat "Portsmouth N.H. Sep. 4" circular datestamp and matching "Free" handstamp, small sealed tear on backflap only, Very Fine ..... E. 300-400
- 4101 ☒ **Franklin Pierce.** Free frank "free Franklin Pierce" as ex-President on cover to Rep. James T. Hale in Washington D.C., "Concord N.H. Apr. 2" double-circle datestamp and matching "Free" handstamp, Very Fine, Hale was a Representative from 1859-65 so this would have been sent during that period ..... E. 300-400
- 4102 ☒ **Franklin Pierce.** Free frank "Free Franklin Pierce late U.S.S." after he resigned from the Senate, on 1843 folded letter to Boston, blue "Concord N.H. Sep. 24" circular datestamp with matching "Free" handstamp, contents discuss legal matters (Pierce resumed his legal practice in Concord after leaving his Senate seat), fresh and Very Fine, unusual and rare unauthorized usage, the cover should have been charged 10c postage as he was no longer in office but this was carried for free, ex Grunin ..... E. 500-750



4103

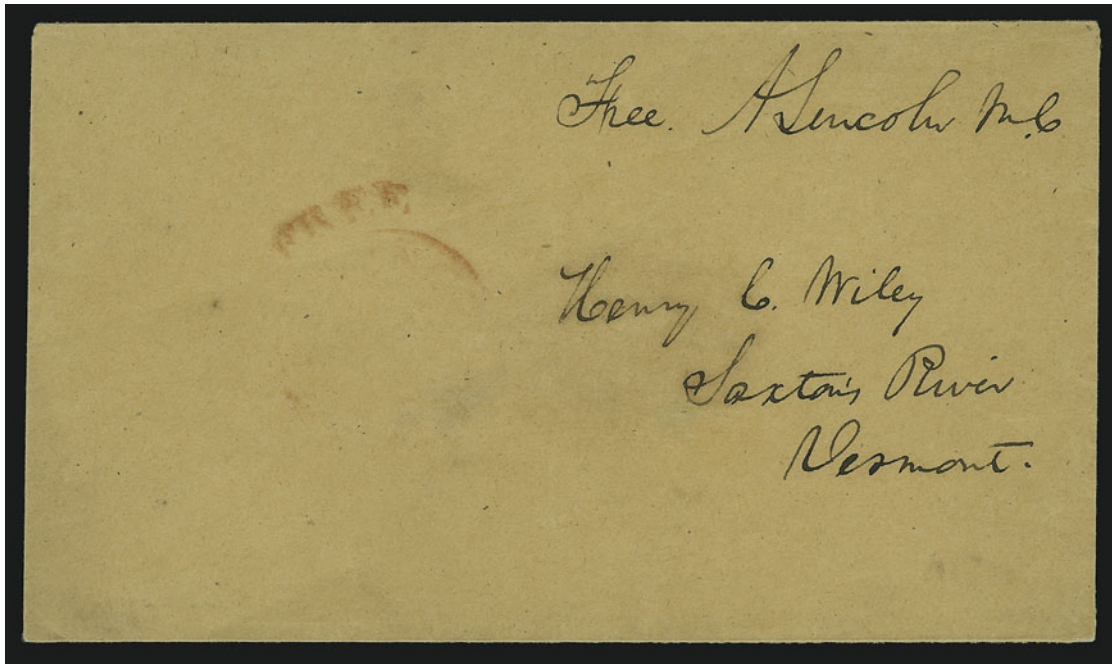
- 4103 ☒ **James Buchanan.** Free frank "*Free James Buchanan*" as **President** on cover to Lancaster Pa., readable "Washington City D.C. May 24, 1859 Free" circular datestamp, **intact red Presidential wax seal** on back, single small toned spot, Very Fine, especially attractive with the yeardate on the cover ..... E. 300-400



4104

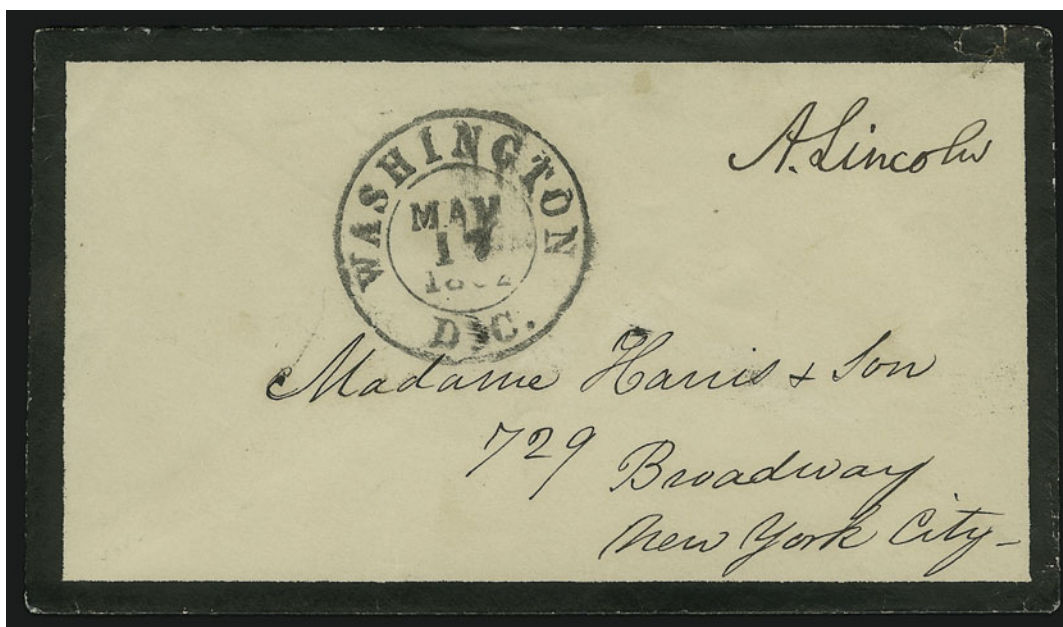
- 4104 ☒ **James Buchanan.** Free frank "*Free James Buchanan*" on folded cover to Newark N.J., red "Lancaster Pa. Aug. 4" circular datestamp with matching "Free" handstamp, Very Fine .. ..... E. 300-400





4105

- 4105 ☒ **Abraham Lincoln.** Free frank "*Free A Lincoln M.C.*" as Congressman on buff cover addressed in his hand to Saxton's River Vt., partial strike of red "Free" datestamp  
 VERY FINE. A HANDSOME AND RARE ABRAHAM LINCOLN FREE FRANK AS CONGRESSMAN FROM ILLINOIS.  
 Lincoln served for only one term in the House. His free frank as congressman is far rarer than as President.  
 Ex Haas ..... E. 7,500-10,000



4106

4106 ☒ **Abraham Lincoln.** Clear free frank "*A. Lincoln*" as **President on mourning envelope addressed by Mary Todd Lincoln** to Madame Harris & Sons in New York City, well-struck "Washington D.C. May 17, 1862" double-circle datestamp, small cover tear at top right

VERY FINE. A RARE LINCOLN FREE FRANK AS PRESIDENT ON A BLACK-BORDERED ENVELOPE MOURNING THE DEATH OF HIS BELOVED SON, WILLIE, AND ADDRESSED BY THE FIRST LADY.

The Lincolns' third son, Willie, died on February 20, 1862, after an illness that has been attributed to typhoid fever. Lincoln is quoted as saying "My poor boy. He was too good for this earth. God has called him home. I know that he is much better off in heaven, but then we loved him so. It is hard, hard to have him die!". Willie was buried in nearby Georgetown. After the assassination of President Lincoln, the boy's body was exhumed and his remains placed on the Lincoln funeral train which traveled back to Springfield, where he was buried with his father.

Madame Harris in New York City was a supplier of clothing to Mrs. Lincoln. After Willie's death, Mary Lincoln was inconsolable and began obsessively ordering hundreds of garments. This envelope is addressed by Mary Lincoln.

Ex Stern ..... E. 10,000-15,000





4107

- 4107 ☒ **Abraham Lincoln.** Autograph docketing and signature **as President**, "Col. Wistar—Negro Regiments. Submitted to the Sec. of War, A. Lincoln Feb. 20, 1863", on cover addressed by Col. Isaac J. Wistar to "Hon. Wm. D. Kelley M.C., House of Representatives, Wash. D.C.", neat "Philadelphia Pa. Jan. 27, 1863" circular datestamp with matching "Free" in oval handstamp

VERY FINE. A RARE COVER DOCKETED AND SIGNED BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN, RELATING TO THE CONSCRIPTION OF "NEGRO REGIMENTS" DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

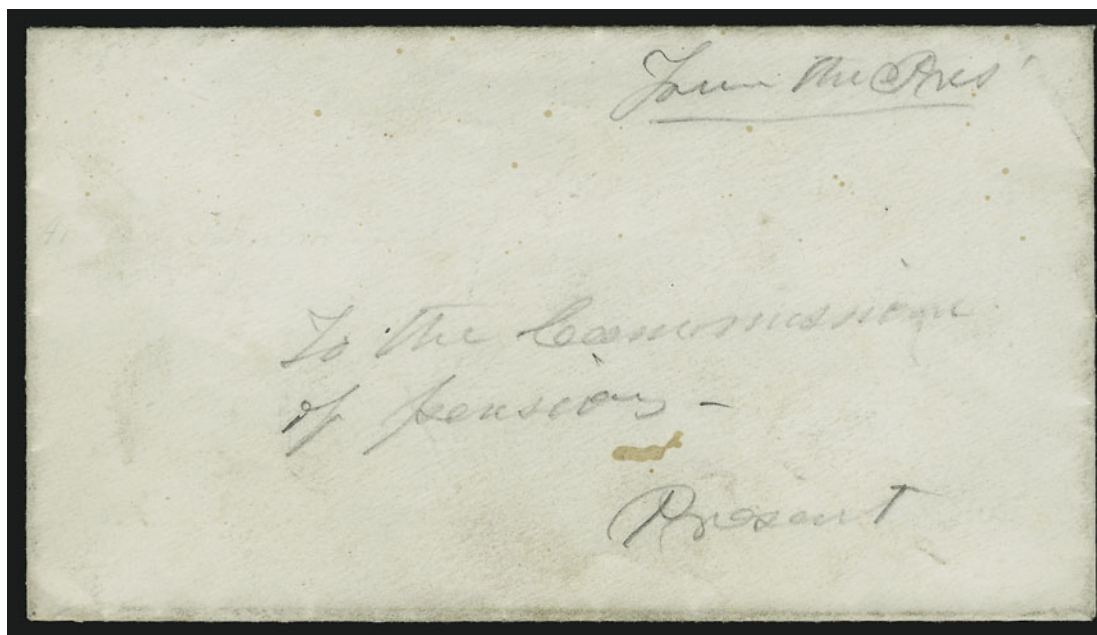
This letter was sent from Colonel Isaac J. Wistar to an anti-slavery congressman, William D. Kelley, shortly after the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863. Kelley was a friend of Lincoln's and evidently thought the letter was important enough to bring to the President's attention. Lincoln then docketed the envelope and forwarded it to Secretary Edwin Stanton. Soon after the Emancipation Proclamation, four new black regiments were raised to join the Union forces. .... E. 7,500-10,000



4108

4109

- 4108 ☒ **Abraham Lincoln.** Letter addressed to him in Springfield Ill., bearing 3c Dull Red, Ty. II (26) tied by large "Paid" grid, red "Boston Ms. Sep. 13, 1860" circular datestamp, docketed "Answered" at right, some toning, file folds affect stamp, still Fine, sent to Lincoln when he was a Republican candidate for the Presidency ..... E. 500-750
- 4109 ☒ **Abraham Lincoln.** Letter addressed to "Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, Washington D.C.", 3c Rose (65) tied by "Fond du Lac Wis. ? 23" double-circle datestamp, small toned spot, Very Fine, probably sent between July 1, 1863, and March 16, 1864, the brief period when mail to the President required postage ..... E. 500-750



4110

- 4110 ☒ **Andrew Johnson.** Autograph endorsement "From the Pres" as **President** in pencil on cover to the Commissioner of Pensions, trivial soiling, Very Fine, Johnson used pencil most of the time when signing his free frank as President, this was carried outside of the mails, ex Hessel ..... E. 500-750

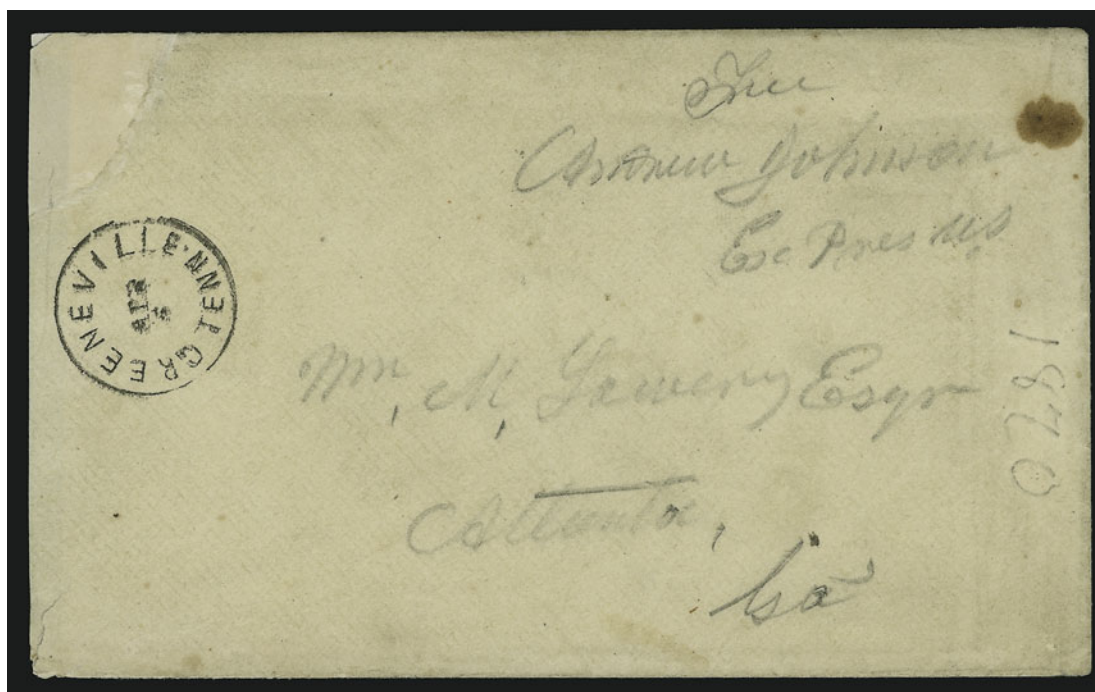




4111

4111 ☒

**Andrew Johnson.** Autograph endorsement "From Andrew Johnson Ex Pres. US" as ex-President on cover to Baltimore Md., franked with 3c Green (147) tied by "Greenville Tenn. Feb. 5" circular datestamp and cork cancel, few cover tears and some toning, Fine, scarce usage sent after he was made aware of changes in the law regarding franking privileges..... E. 500-750



4112

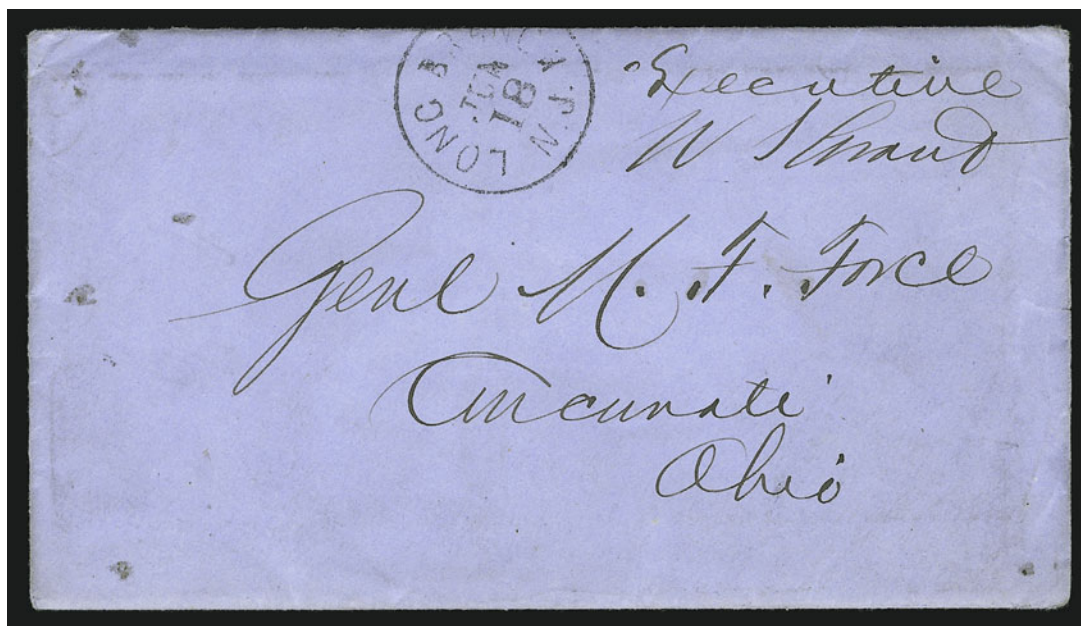
4112 ☒

**Andrew Johnson.** Attempted free frank "Free Andrew Johnson Ex Pres. US" on cover to Atlanta Ga., bold "Greenville Tenn. Apr. 5" circular datestamp, toned spot at top right, repaired tear and stamp removed from top left, still Fine, an Act of Congress eliminated the franking privileges of all ex-Presidents as of July 1, 1863, after he left the Presidency he franked several covers, some of which had additional stamps..... E. 500-750



4113

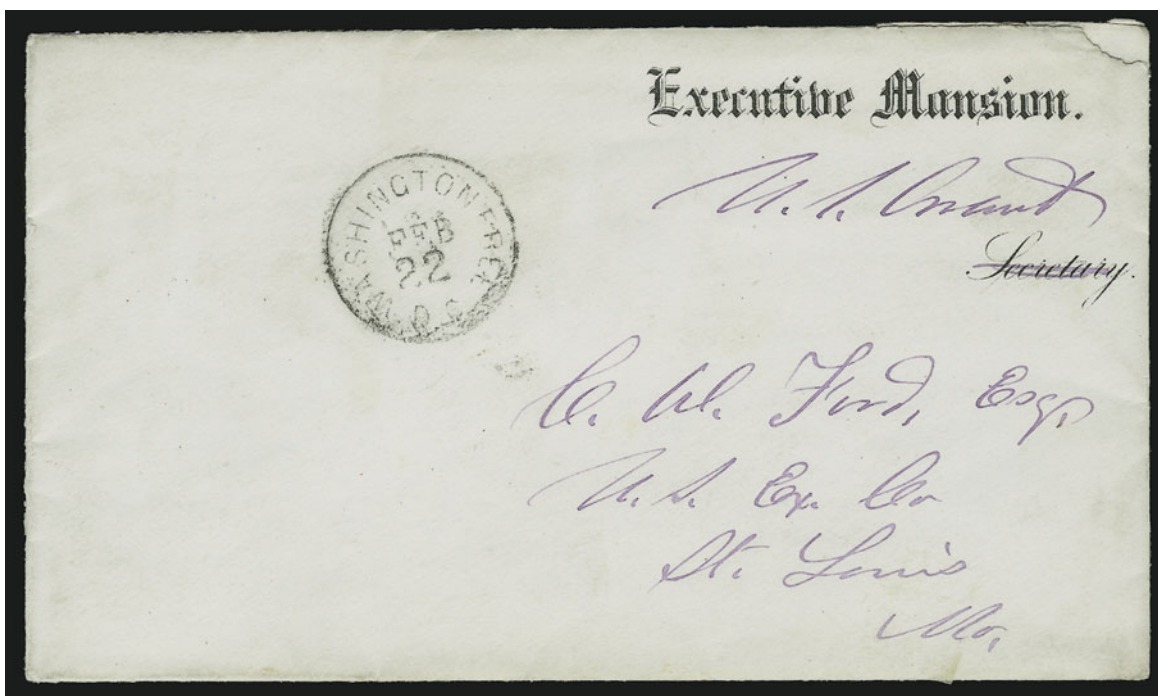
- 4113 ☒ **Andrew Johnson.** Autograph endorsement "*From Andrew Johnson USS*" as **Senator** on cover to Greenville Tenn., 3c Green (158) tied by quartered square cork cancel, "Washington D.C. Apr. 14 5 P.M." circular datestamp, tears at top left affect endorsement and small piece replaced at top left, still Fine, scarce usage, he was re-elected to the Senate on March 4, 1875 and served only a short period of time before his death on July 31, 1875, very few covers are known from this period, this letter required postage as the franking privilege had been abolished ..... E. 500-750



4114

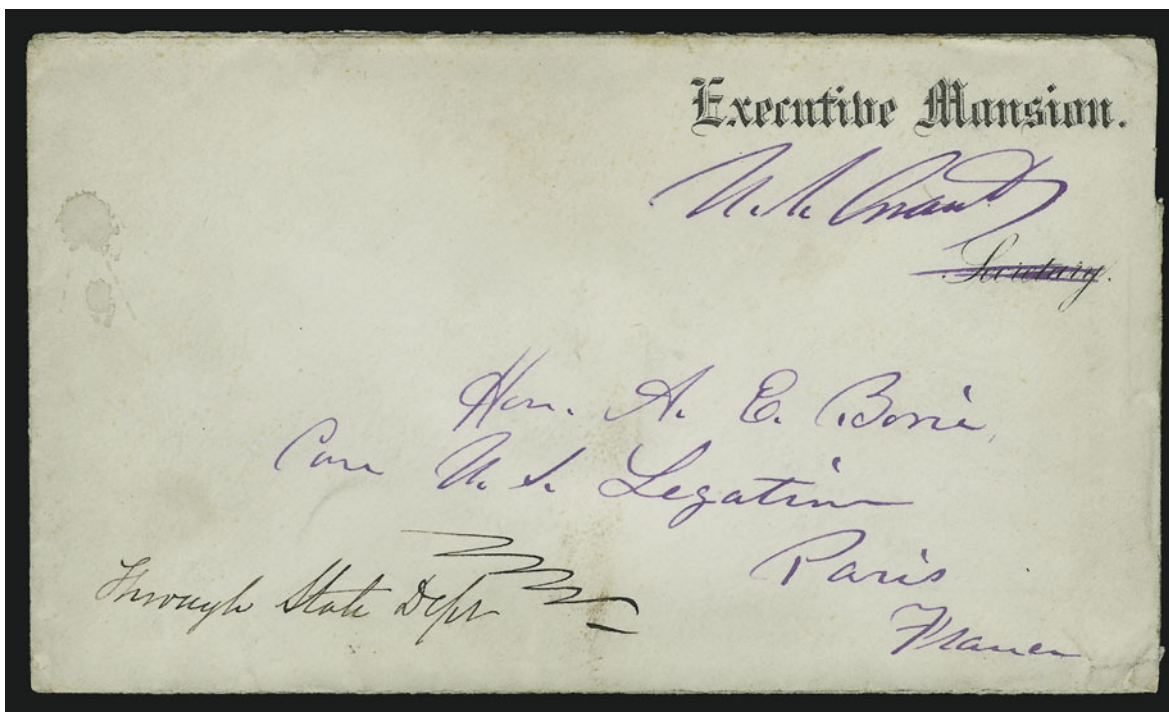
- 4114 ☒ **Ulysses S. Grant.** Free frank "*Executive U.S. Grant*" as **President** on blue cover to General M.T. Force at Cincinnati O., partial strike of "Long Beach N.J. Jun. 18" circular datestamp, with original 3pp **autograph letter signed**, dated June 17, 1872, expressing regret at not being able to make a meeting of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee due to his son's leaving for Europe, fresh and Very Fine, as a precursor to the Official stamps he would designate the branch (Executive) in his free franks..... E. 2,000-3,000





4115

- 4115 ☒ **Ulysses S. Grant.** Free frank "U.S. Grant" as **President** on Executive Mansion imprint cover addressed in his hand to St. Louis Mo., neat "Washington D.C. Feb. 22" circular datestamp, small nick in top right corner, Very Fine, most official mail was signed by his secretary, here he crossed out the "Secretary" designation to indicate that he had signed it, ex "Crystal"..... E. 1,000-1,500



4116

- 4116 ☒ **Ulysses S. Grant.** Free frank "U.S. Grant" as **President** on Executive Mansion imprint cover addressed in his hand to a member of the U.S. Legation in Paris, France, endorsed "Through State Dept." at lower left, virtually intact red wax seal of the President of the United States on back, barely reduced at right, two small waterstain spots, Very Fine, scarce usage to a foreign destination, this letter was routed via diplomatic courier and never entered the postal system..... E. 1,000-1,500



4117

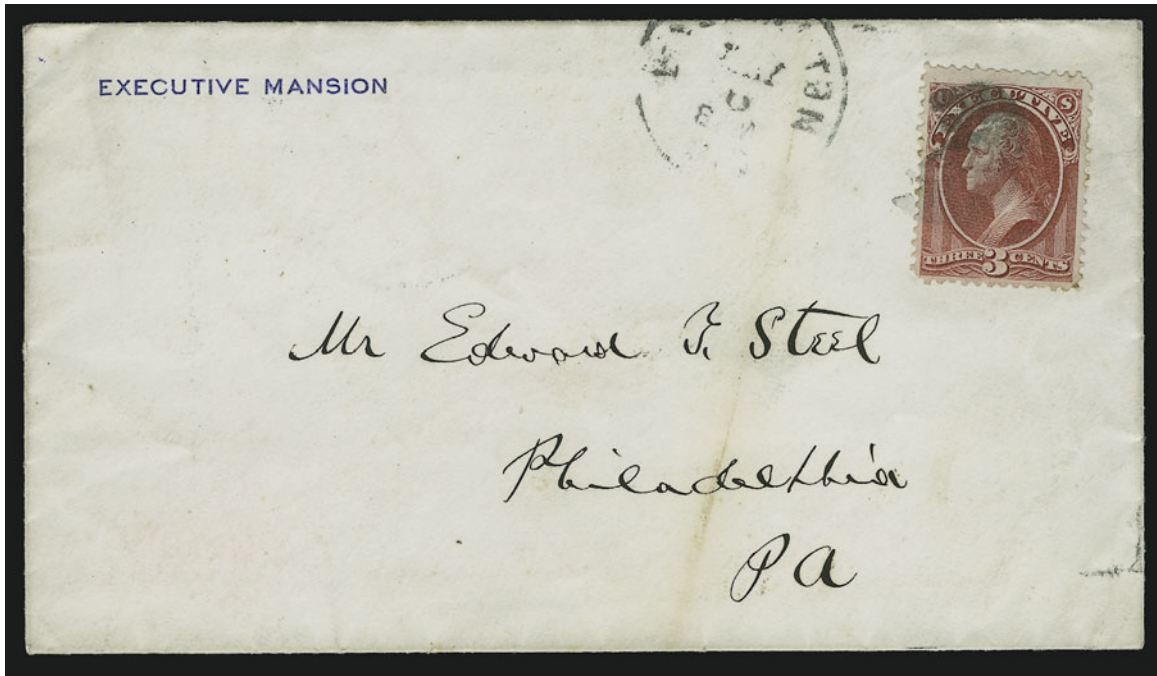
- 4117 ☒ **Ulysses S. Grant.** Autograph free frank "U.S. Grant" as **President** on 1873 Executive Mansion imprint cover **to Paris, France**, 3c Red, F. Grill (94) and 6c Carmine (148) tied by cork cancels, "Washington D.C. Feb. 9" circular datestamp, red "New-York" and blue French receiving datestamp, matching "10" decimes due handstamp, minor wear, stamps have pre-use faults and show traces of mucilage

VERY FINE. AN EXTRAORDINARY TRANSATLANTIC COVER BEARING THE FRANK OF PRESIDENT ULYSSES S. GRANT DURING THE LAST MONTH OF HIS FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

The odd mixed-issue franking and use of mucilage to affix the stamps probably reflect the sender's effort to locate 10c postage — new or old — for the rate to France. Grant's franking signature is applied here during the final month of executive franking privilege.

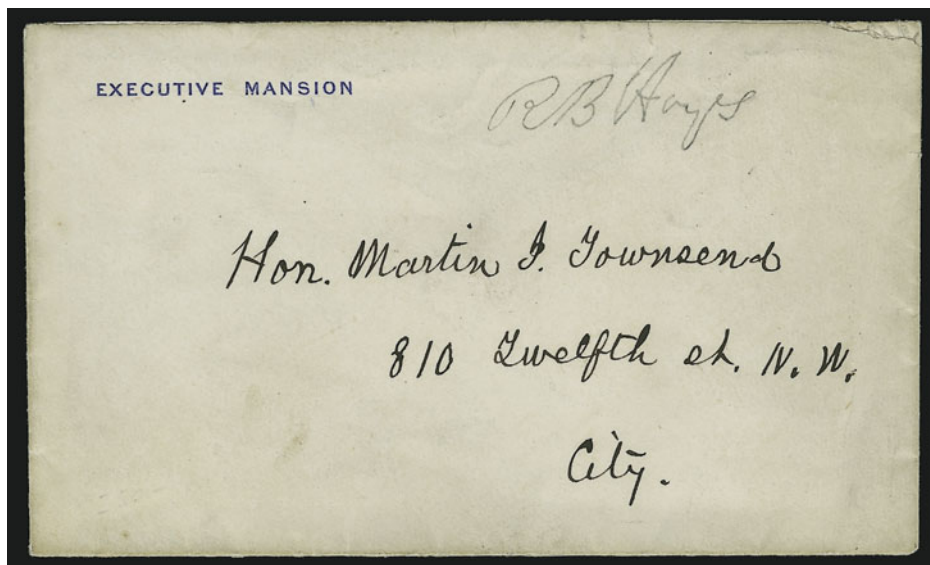
Ex Morton Dean Joyce. From our 1995 Rarities sale, where it realized \$10,500 hammer  
 ..... E. 7,500-10,000





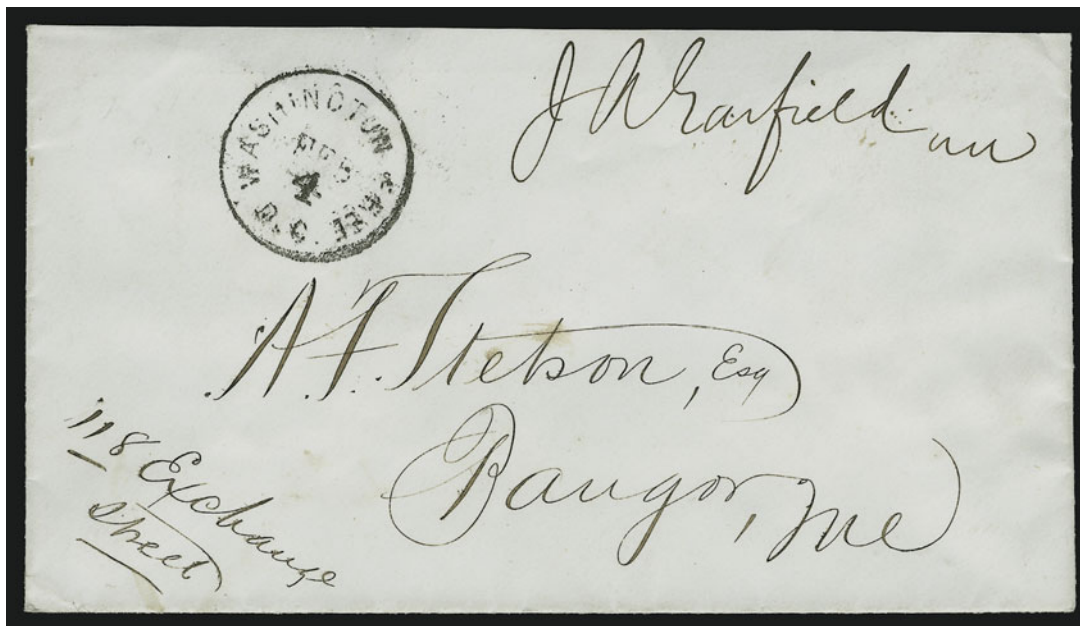
4118

- 4118 ☒ **3c Executive (O12).** Wide margins, slightly rounded corner at bottom left, tied by cork cancel, "Washington D.C. May 6 8 AM" circular datestamp on Executive Mansion imprint cover **addressed in the hand of Rutherford B. Hayes** to Edward F. Steel in Philadelphia, very minor wear, Very Fine, scarce use of 3c Executive..... E. 1,000-1,500



4119

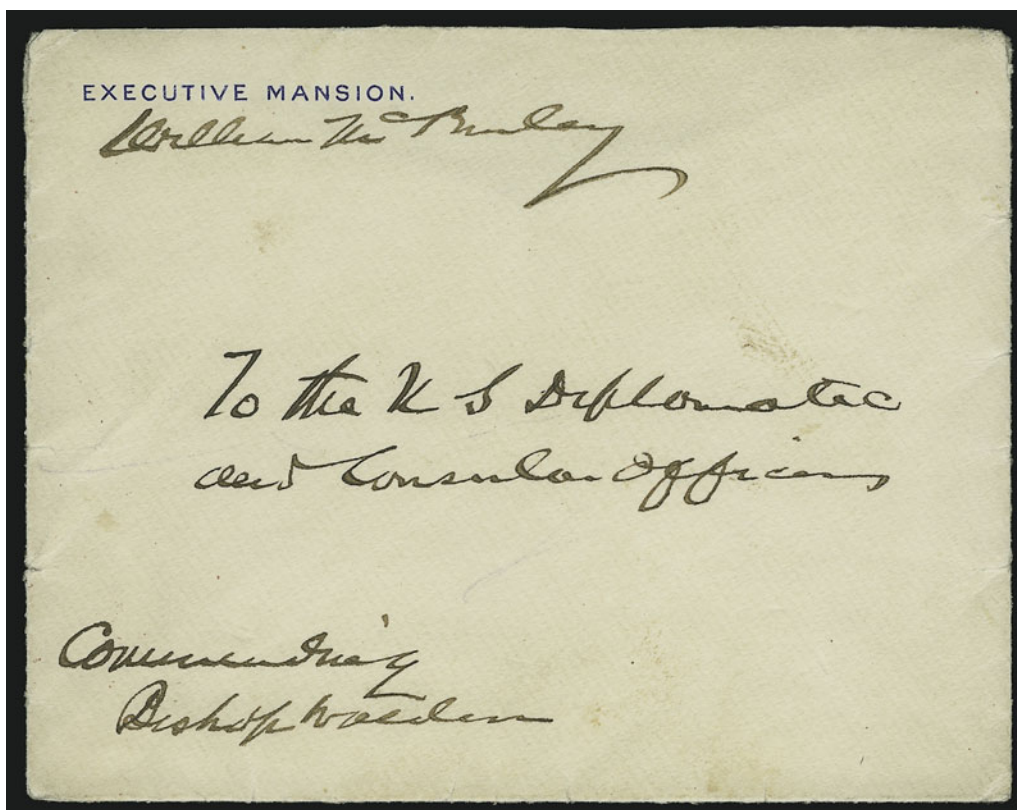
- 4119 ☒ **Rutherford B. Hayes.** Signed "*R B Hayes*" as **President** in pencil on Executive Mansion cover to Hon. Martin Townsend at local address, trivial edgewear, Very Fine, delivered by hand outside the mails ..... E. 200-300



4120

- 4120 ☒ **James A. Garfield.** Free frank "*J A Garfield MC*" as member of Congress on cover to Bangor Me., bold "Washington D.C. Free Feb. 4" circular datestamp, missing top flap, Very Fine..... E. 200-300





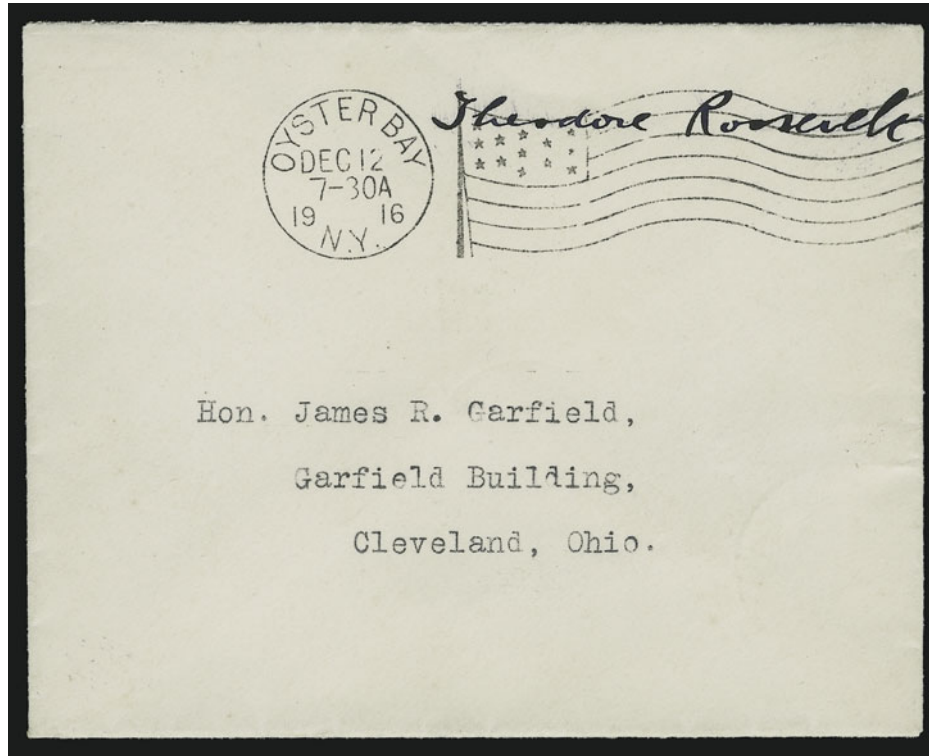
4121

- 4121 ☒ **William McKinley.** Unauthorized franking signature “William McKinley” as **President** on Executive Mansion imprint cover addressed in his hand to the “U.S. Diplomatic and Consular Offices”, missing top flap and tiny edge tears

VERY FINE. THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE OF ASSASSINATED PRESIDENT WILLIAM McKINLEY'S AUTOGRAPH FRANK.

William McKinley did not have free-franking privileges as President; therefore, envelopes bearing his signature are extremely rare. This cover was carried outside the mails. No other example has been located in major collections such as Hart, Hessel, Joyce, Stern or Grunin.

Ex Kantor..... E. 4,000-5,000



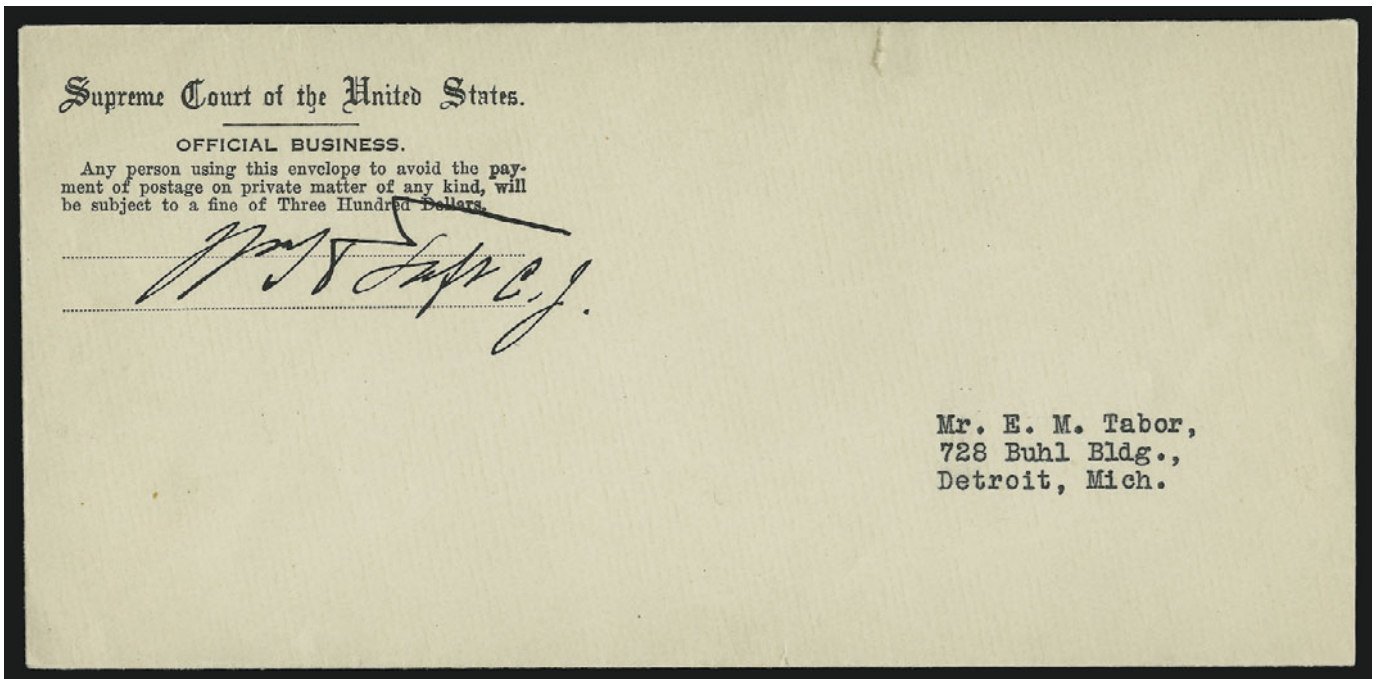
4122

- 4122 ☒ **Theodore Roosevelt.** Free frank "*Theodore Roosevelt*" as ex-President on cover to James R. Garfield in Cleveland O., neat "Oyster Bay N.Y. Dec. 12, 1916" machine cancel  
 VERY FINE. ONLY A FEW COVERS EXIST WITH THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S FREE FRANK AS EX-PRESIDENT.

Although Roosevelt was not authorized to frank mail as ex-President, evidently he and the Oyster Bay post office were under the impression he did. Only a few covers are known, all from Roosevelt's retirement home in Oyster Bay, Long Island.

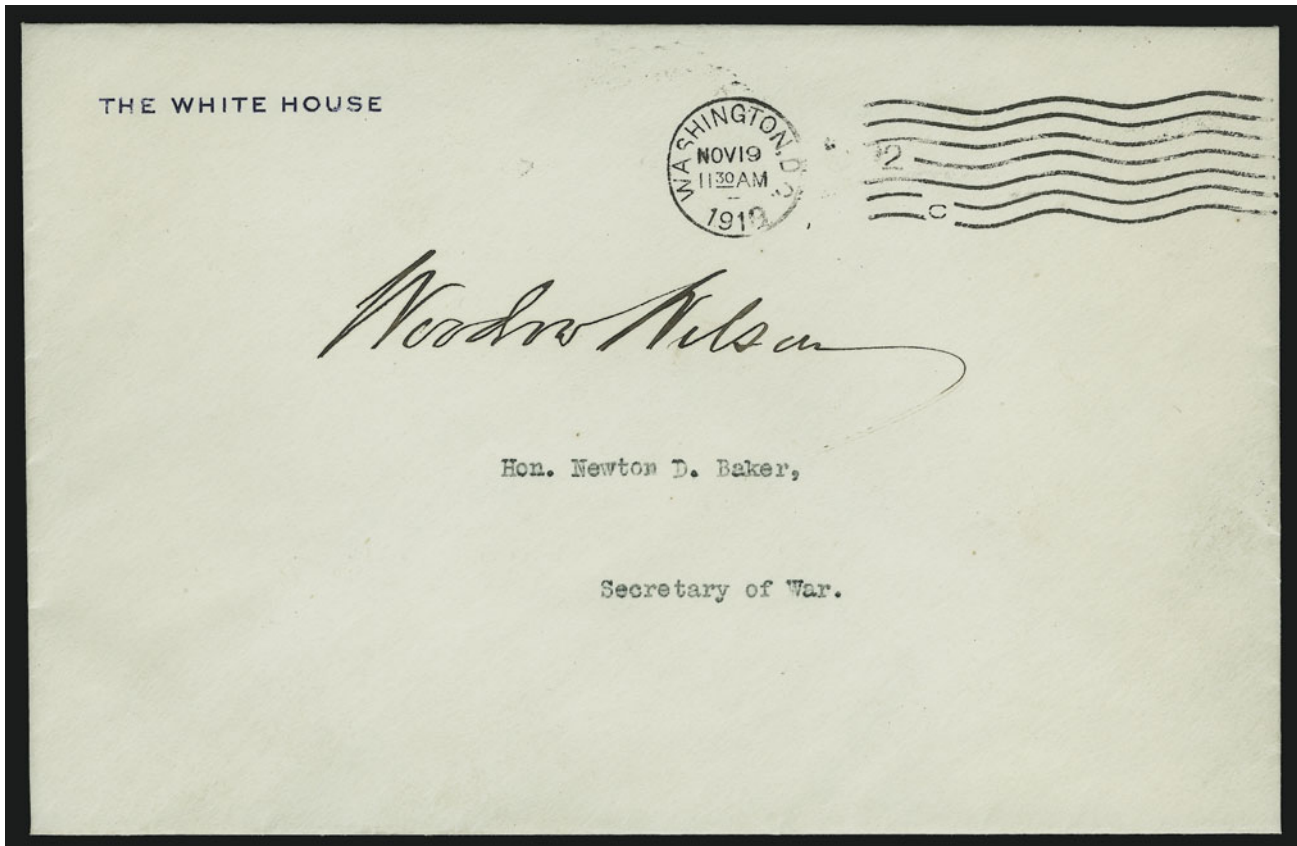
Ex Kantor..... E. 3,000-4,000





4123

- 4123 ☒ **William Howard Taft.** Signed "*Wm. H. Taft C.J.*" as ex-President and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on legal-size Supreme Court Official Business imprint cover to Detroit Mich., slightly reduced at right, Very Fine, an extremely rare cover bearing Taft's signature as Chief Justice — Taft did not have franking privileges as ex-President or Chief Justice ..... E. 1,500-2,000



4124

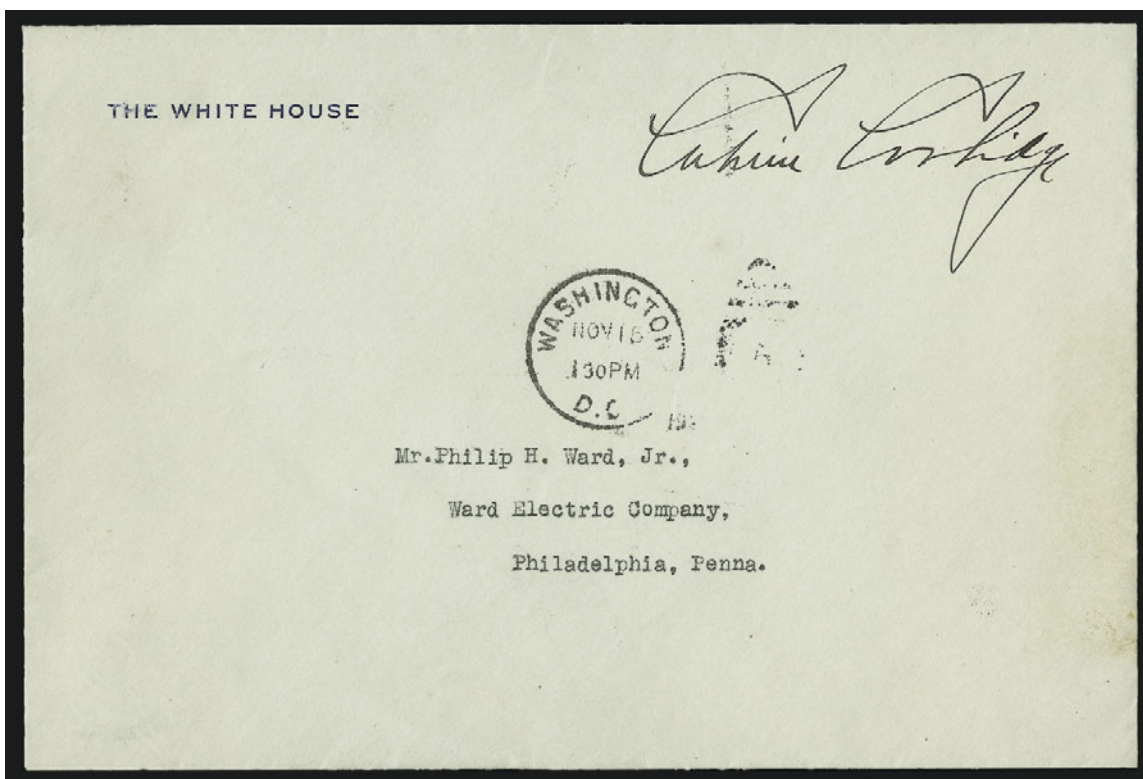
4124 ☒ **Woodrow Wilson.** Free frank "*Woodrow Wilson*" as **President** on White House imprint cover to his Secretary of War, Newton D. Baker, Washington D.C. Nov. 19, 1918 machine cancel

VERY FINE. THE ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE OF WOODROW WILSON'S FREE FRANK.

Woodrow Wilson's free frank is exceedingly rare. No other example could be found in the collections formed by Hart, Hessel, Stern Joyce or Grunin.

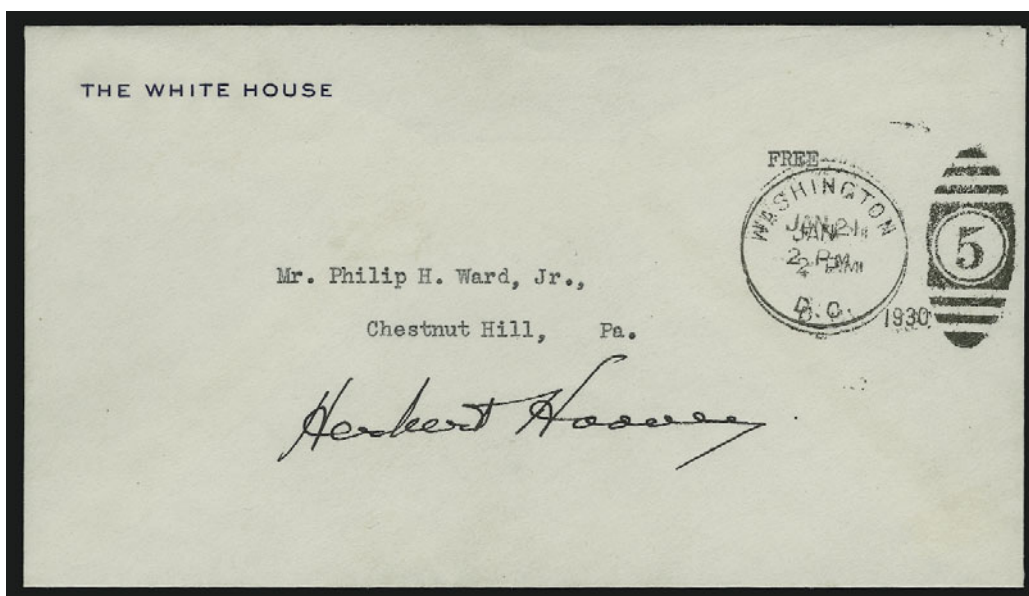
Ex Kantor..... E. 10,000-15,000





4125

- 4125 ☒ **Calvin Coolidge.** Free frank "Calvin Coolidge" as **President** on White House imprint cover to Philip Ward in Philadelphia, "Washington D.C. Nov. 15" duplex cancel, Very Fine and extremely rare ..... E. 750-1,000

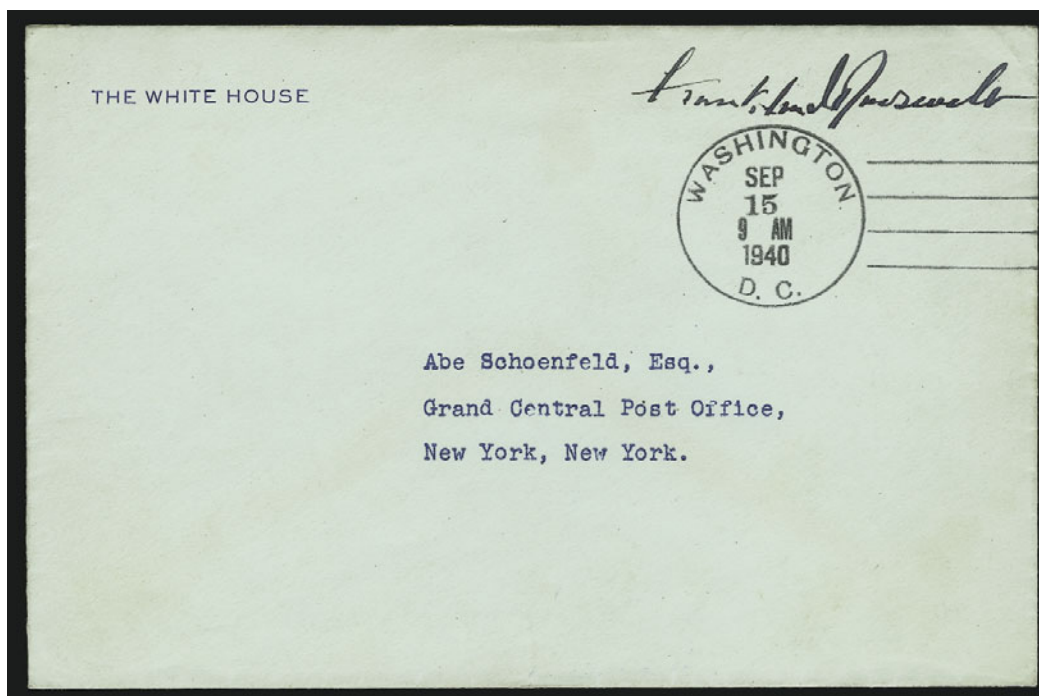


4126

- 4126 ☒ **Herbert Hoover.** Free frank "Herbert Hoover" as **President** on White House imprint cover to Philip Ward in Pa., neat "Washington D.C. Jan. 21 2PM 1930" duplex, typewritten "Free"

VERY FINE. ONE OF THREE RECORDED COVERS FRANKED BY HERBERT HOOVER AS PRESIDENT.

Other examples of Hoover's presidential frank will be found in the Stern and Hessel collections. Ex Kantor..... E. 4,000-5,000



4127

- 4127 ☒ **Franklin Roosevelt.** Free frank "Franklin Roosevelt" as President on light green White House imprint cover to New York, "Washington D.C. Sep. 15, 1940" datestamp

VERY FINE. AN EXTREMELY RARE FREE FRANK OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT AS PRESIDENT ON A POSTMARKED "WHITE HOUSE" COVER.

President Roosevelt did not have the legal right to frank mail, but a few examples on regular White House envelopes were successfully passed through the mails during his administration. According to a story told by one of Roosevelt's admirers, Republican party officials wanted to acquire an example to show that Roosevelt had no respect for the laws of the country.

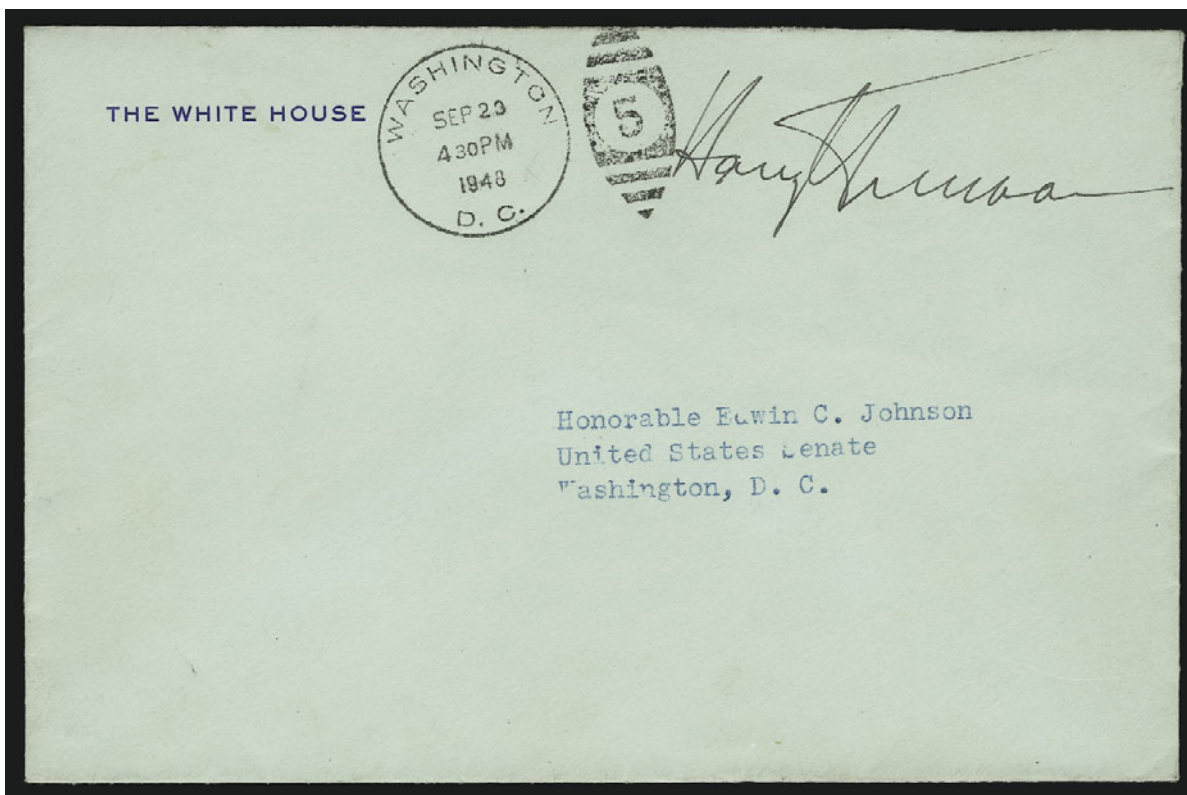
Accompanied by an authentication letter from Charles Hamilton..... E. 1,500-2,000



4128

- 4128 ☒ **Franklin Roosevelt.** Signature at top left of 1928 Houston Convention illustrated cover to Washington D.C. also signed by Alfred Smith, postage paid by 10c Lindbergh Air Post stamp tied by "Houston Texas June 26, 1928" cancel, several purple handstamps of kicking donkey with "He's in Houston" slogan, receiving backstamps, Very Fine, scarce signed cover postmarked on the first day of the convention..... E. 400-500





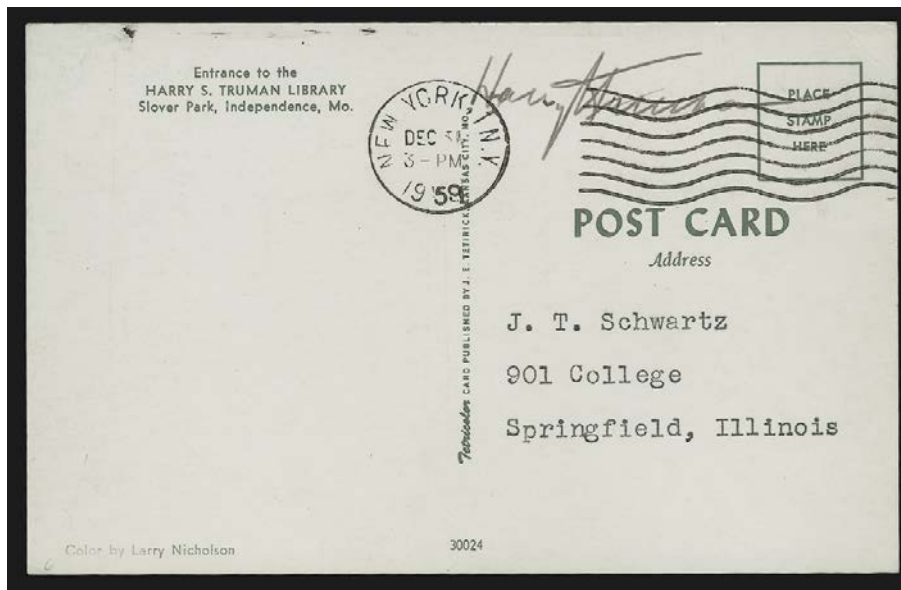
4129

- 4129 ☒ **Harry Truman.** Free frank "Harry Truman" as **President** on light green White House imprint cover to Senator Johnson in Washington D.C., well-struck "Washington D.C. Sep. 23, 1948" datestamp

VERY FINE. AN EXTREMELY SCARCE COVER FRANKED BY HARRY S. TRUMAN AS PRESIDENT ON WHITE HOUSE STATIONERY.

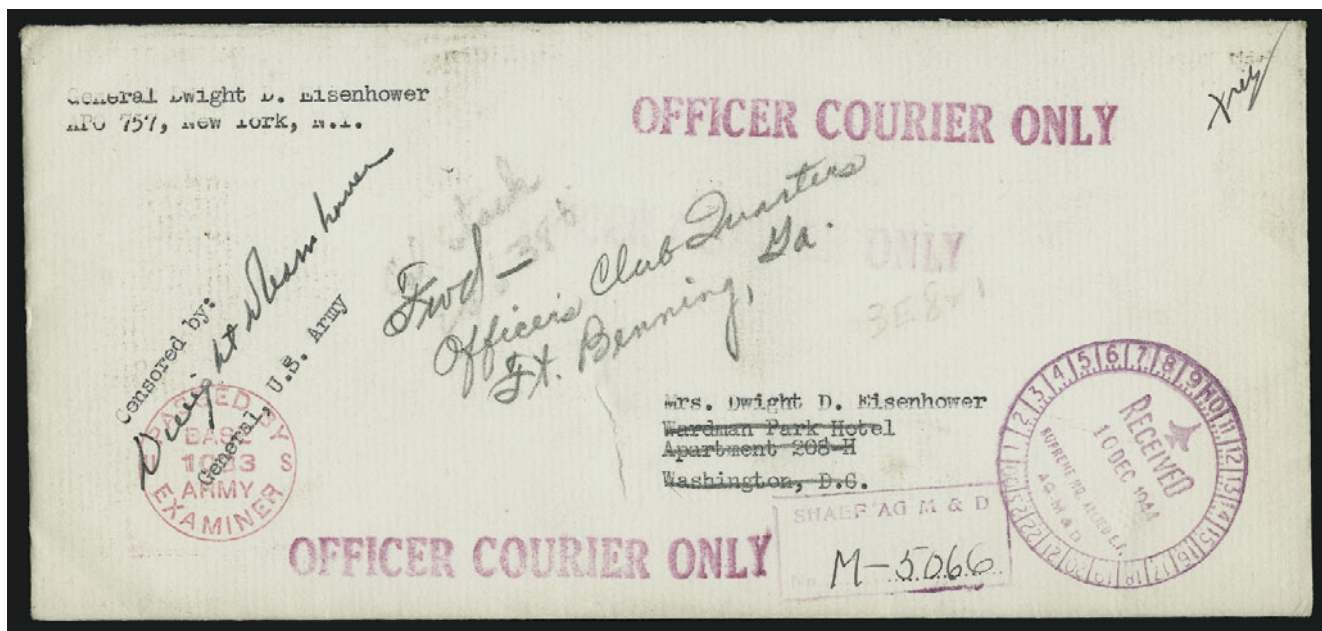
Almost all of Truman's presidential free franks are on penalty envelopes, not "The White House" imprinted stationery. For collectors, this distinction is significant.

Ex Kantor ..... E. 1,500-2,000



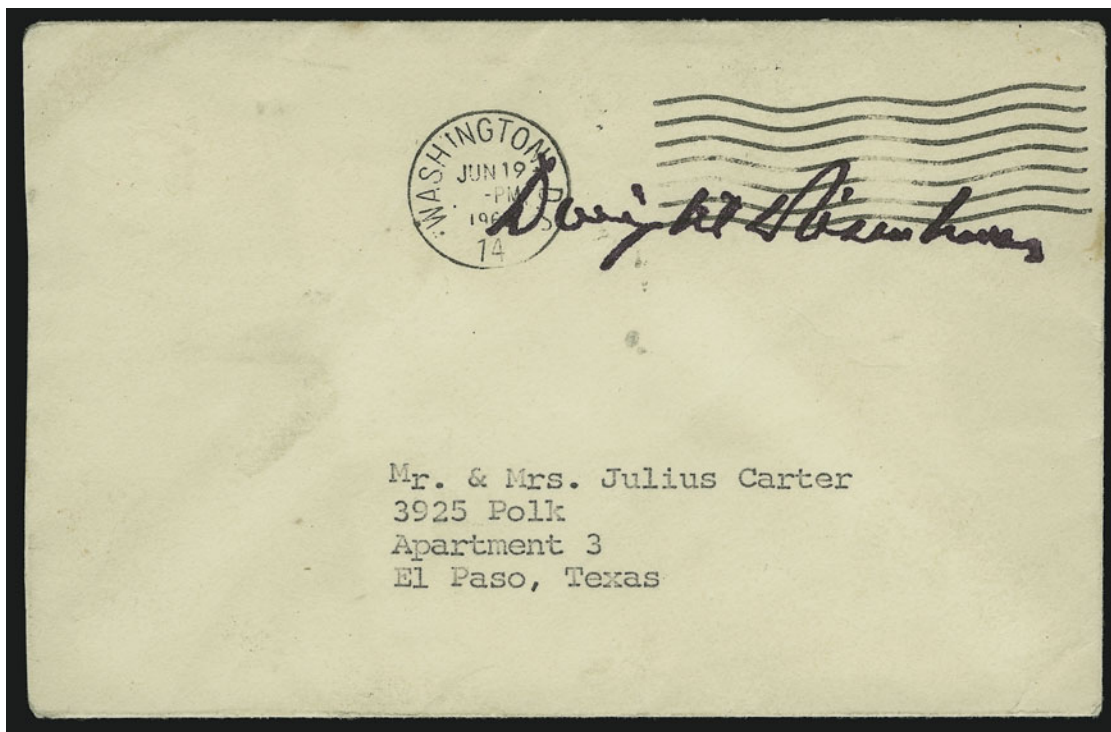
4130

- 4130 ☒ **Harry Truman.** Free frank "Harry Truman" as ex-President on color picture post card depicting the Truman Library, to Springfield Ill., "New York N.Y. Dec. 31, 1959" cancel, Very Fine, the Act of 1957 gave him franking privileges..... E. 200-300



4131

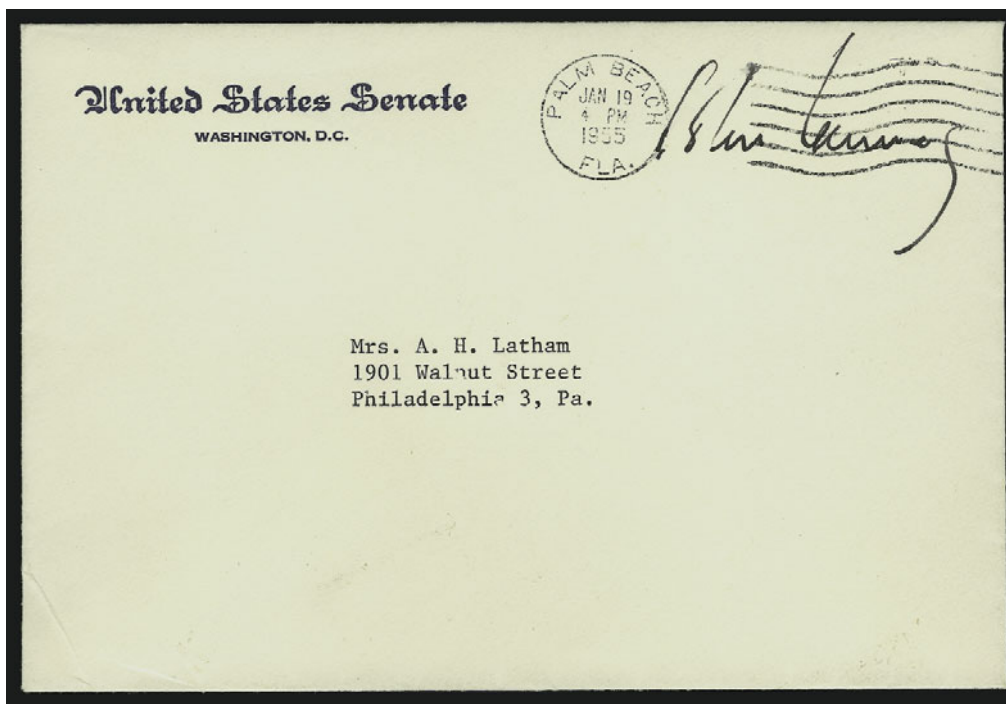
- 4131 ☒ **Dwight D. Eisenhower.** Free frank and censor's marking "Dwight Eisenhower" with "Free" at top right on legal-size Officer Courier service cover to Mrs. Eisenhower in Washington D.C. and forwarded to Ft. Benning Ga., red Army Examiner's handstamp, Dec. 10, 1944 receiving datestamp, with original **autograph letter signed** "Ike" to "Darling", Very Fine, Eisenhower's signature on this letter to his wife served double duty, as both a censor's marking and free frank, this letter was written six months after the Normandy invasion and states "He will tell you of my impending trip home — there are so many complications involved that it would take me hours to try to write about them." (not to mention military secrecy) ..... E. 2,000-3,000



4132

- 4132 ☒ **Dwight D. Eisenhower.** Free frank as President "Dwight D. Eisenhower" as **President** on cover to El Paso Tex., Washington D.C. Jun. 19, 1960 machine cancel, Very Fine, Eisenhower's autograph free frank as President is rare — earlier military franks are more common and presidential franks are usually facsimile signatures..... E. 1,000-1,500





4133

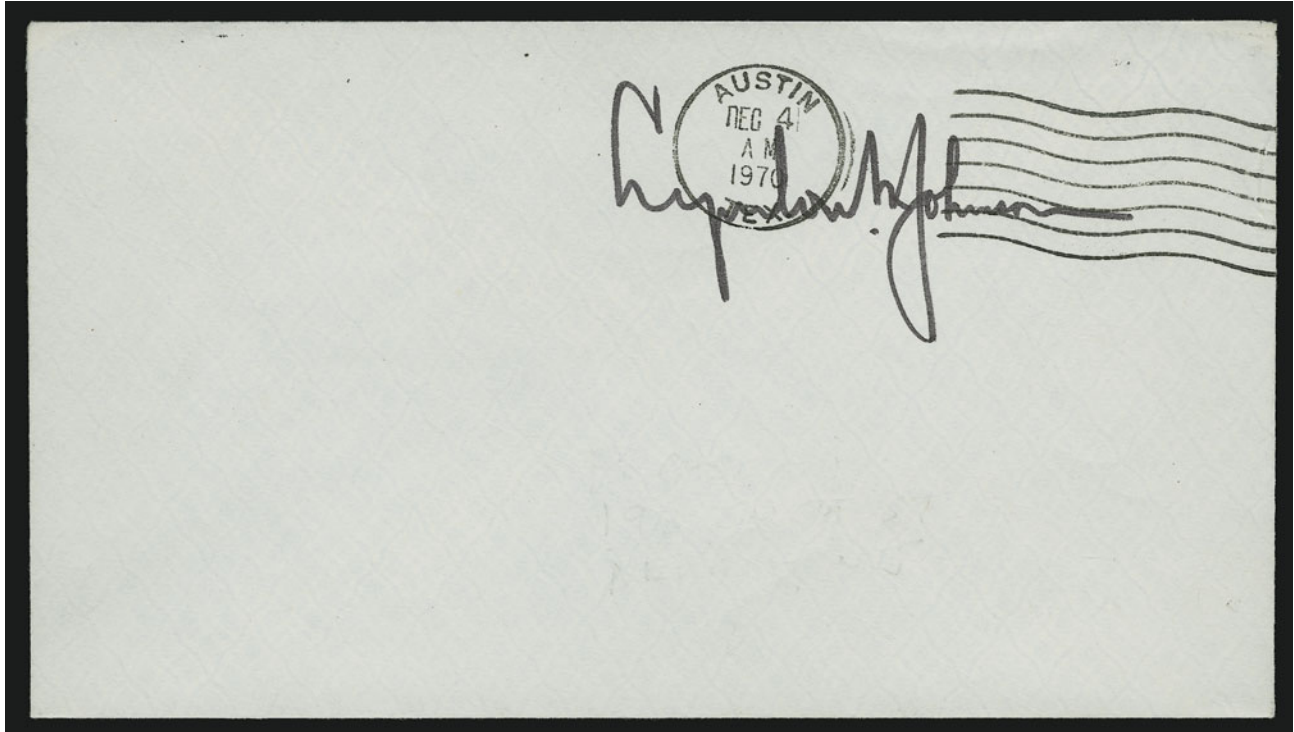
- 4133 ☒ **John F. Kennedy.** Free frank “*John Kennedy*” as Senator on cover with “Palm Beach Fla. Jan. 19, 1955” machine cancel, U.S. Senate corner card in blue, pristine condition  
EXTREMELY FINE. ONLY TWO EXAMPLES OF KENNEDY’S AUTOGRAPH FREE FRANK ARE RECORDED. A MAJOR 20TH CENTURY RARITY.  
Although facsimile signatures are common from this period, only two examples of a free frank in Kennedy’s own hand are recorded.  
Ex Kantor..... E. 2,000-3,000



4134

- John F. Kennedy.** Hurried auto-graph on oversize card with cachet of PT 109, 4c stamp tied by “U.S.S. Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Aug. 1, 1961 A.M.” postmark, purple “U.S.S. J.P. Kennedy, New York N.Y. Aug. 2, 1961” double-circle datestamp, fresh and Very Fine, scarce genuine signature, accompanied by autopen (for comparison) on Jan. 21, 1961 cover from second day in office ...  
..... E. 750-1,000

4134



4135

- 4135 ☒ **Lyndon B. Johnson.** Bold free frank "*Lyndon B. Johnson*" as ex-President on cover with Austin Tex. Dec. 4, 1970 machine cancel, originally sent by collector Fred Casoni who had obtained Johnson's signature and addressed the envelope in pencil to himself; at a later date the address was mostly erased by Casoni (although it is partly visible), Very Fine, ex Joyce, Hart and Kantor, accompanied by a short history of this cover written to Morton Dean Joyce..... E. 750-1,000
- 4136 ☒ **Covers Signed by Republican Presidents.** Three, incl. two 1985 Los Angeles Olympics covers signed by Gerald Ford, also unaddressed and postmarked White House imprint cover signed by Ronald Reagan, fresh and Very Fine, scarce genuine signatures .....*Not illustrated* E. 150-200



## WIDOWS' FRANKS



4137

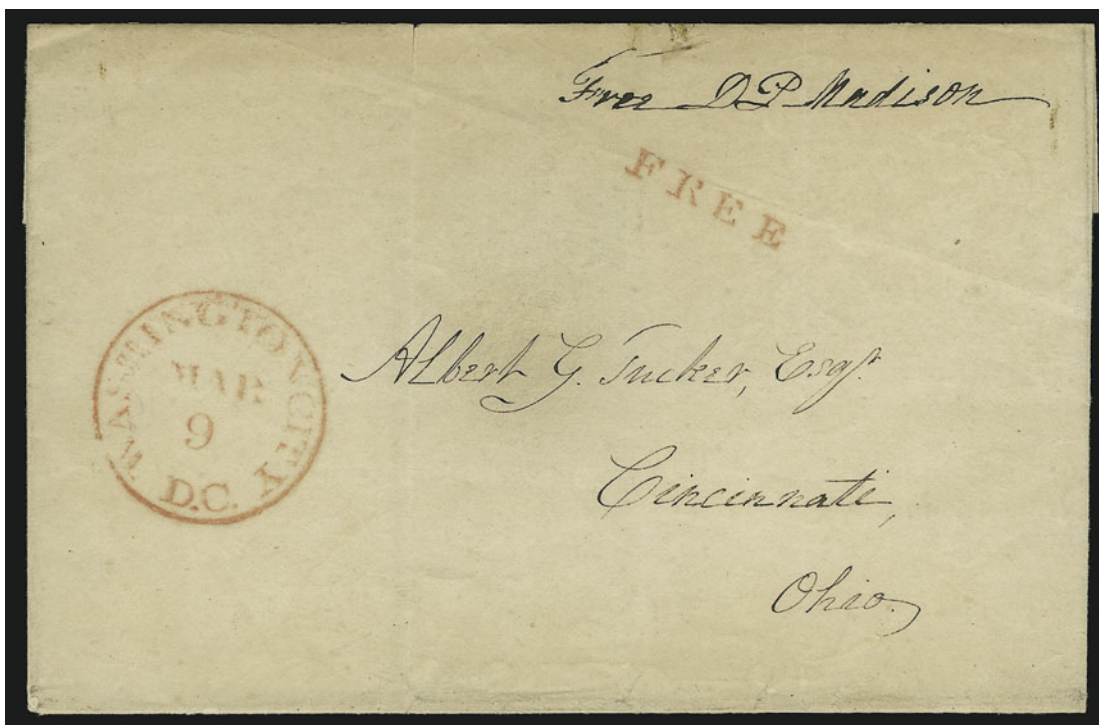
- 4137 ☒ **Martha Washington.** Autograph free frank "M Washington" as widow of President George Washington on folded letter datelined "Mount Vernon, December 15th, 1801" and addressed to Col. Richard Varick in New York, lightly struck red "Alex. Va. Dec. 18" circular dates-tamp, red ms. "Free", contents thanks the recipient for sending several barrels of apples and asks for a bill for them, also mentions hiring of a white cook, light vertical file folds

VERY FINE. ONE OF FOUR REPORTED FREE FRANKS OF MARTHA WASHINGTON, AMERICA'S FIRST LADY AND FIRST WIDOW, WHO WAS GRANTED THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE IN APRIL 1800 AFTER HER HUSBAND'S DEATH, BUT USED IT FOR ONLY TWO YEARS BEFORE HER OWN DEATH IN MAY 1802. ONE OF THE GREATEST RARITIES OF EARLY AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY AND AUTOGRAPH COLLECTING.

The letter and address are in the hand of her granddaughter, Eleanor Parke Custis Lewis, who had married George Washington's favorite nephew, Lawrence Lewis. Lawrence's brother Robert was Washington's secretary.

Eleanor "Nellie" Parke Custis Lewis was the daughter of Martha Washington's son from her previous marriage. Her son, John Parke Custis, was killed in the Revolutionary War in 1781. Eleanor and her brother, George, were adopted by General Washington and lived at Mount Vernon until Martha Washington's death in 1802. Eleanor was a favorite of both General Washington and Martha.

Ex Joyce (Siegel Sale 733, lot 193, where it realized \$35,000 hammer) E. 20,000-30,000



4138

- 4138 ☒ **Dolley Madison.** Widow of James Madison, free frank "Free D P Madison" on folded cover to Cincinnati O., red "Washington City D.C. Mar. 9" circular datestamp with matching "Free" handstamp, small tear at top and minor splitting along folds, Very Fine, this style of Washington D.C. circular datestamp points to a usage about 1838-39..... E. 500-750



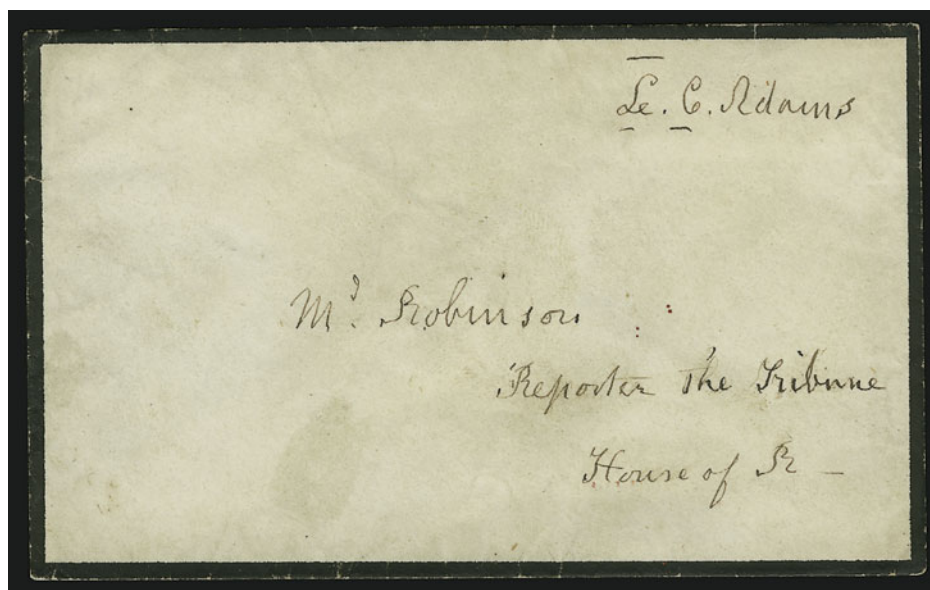
4139

- 4139 ☒ **Louisa Catherine Adams.** Widow of John Q. Adams, free frank "L. C. Adams" on 1849 mourning cover to London, England, red "Washington D.C. Sep. 13 Free" circular datestamp, "5" in circle debit handstamp, ms. "1/-" due for transatlantic rate, transit backstamp, small tear at right affects debit marking, otherwise Very Fine, scarce use of widow's frank on transatlantic mail, ex Stevens, illustrated in ASCC Vol. II on p. 223..... E. 1,000-1,500



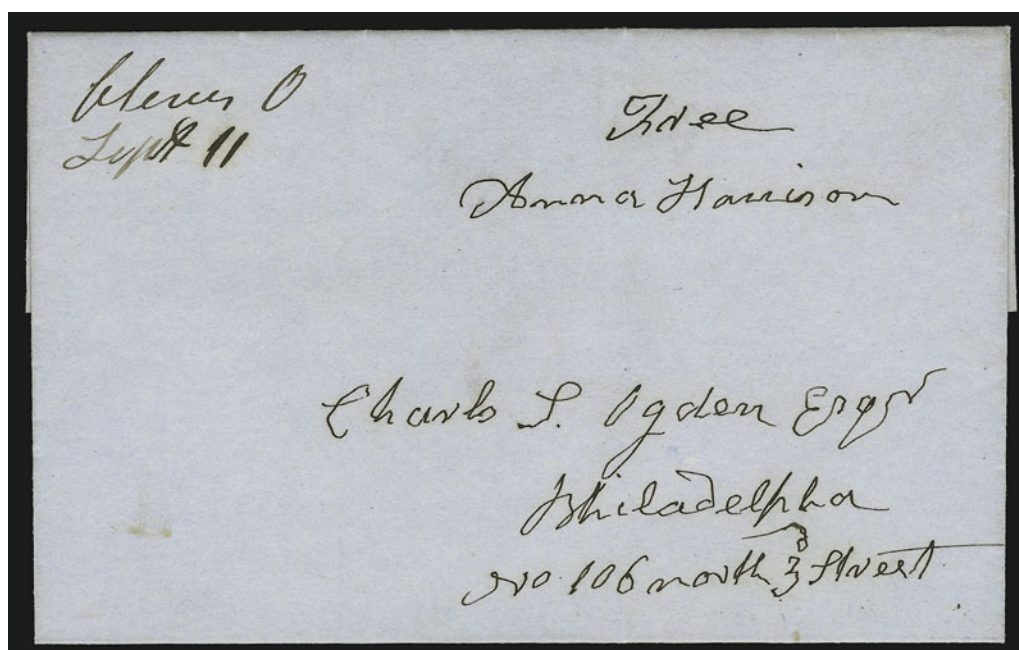


- 4140 ✉ **Louisa Catherine Adams.** Widow of John Q. Adams, Free frank "L C Adams" on **mourning cover with illustration of Capitol Building** and addressed to Mrs. Sarah Smith Stafford in Washington D.C., neat "Quincy Mass. Aug. 5" ms. postmark with matching "Free", with matching enclosure which is 2pp **autograph letter signed** and dated 1848, contents include in part: "my thanks for your kind present which must ever give rise to agreeable associations with the view of the Capitol of our Union. That my late venerated husband interested himself for you I am sure, as much of his time was occupied in promoting the interests of Widows and Orphans. I trust that your claim will be successfully promoted in Congress. . . the feeling of gratitude which you express for him who is gone to return no more is honorable to Him, and amiable in you, and must give real satisfaction to me, to whom life has become as nought since he is removed who was life to.", some splitting along folds, cover with some wear, otherwise Fine, scarce and attractive cover and letter, her husband passed away on Feb. 23, 1848, which was only a few months before this letter was sent, the sentiments amply demonstrate her deep SORROW..... E. 2,000-3,000



4141

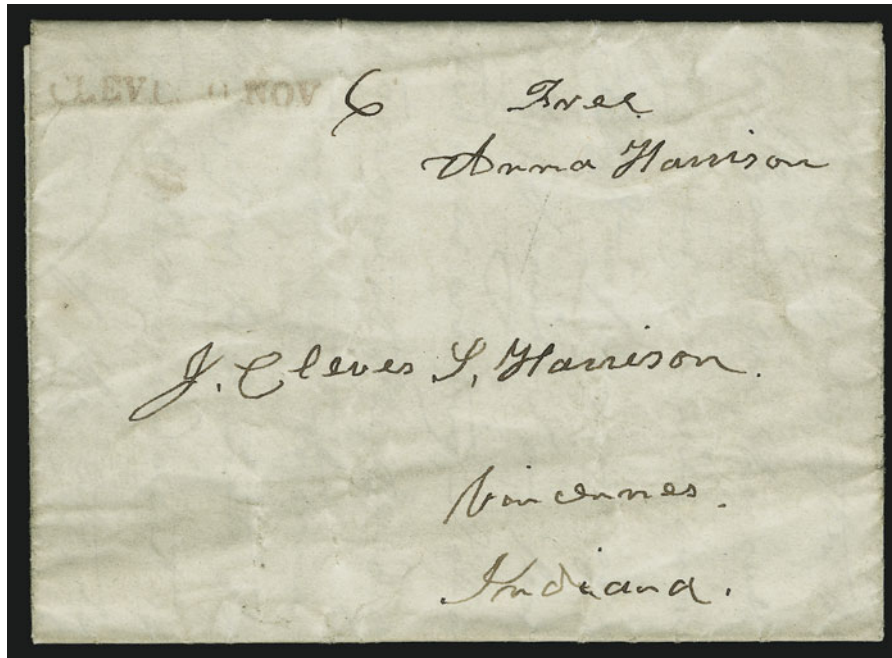
- 4141 ☒ **Louisa Catherine Adams.** Widow of John Q. Adams, free frank "L. C. Adams" on **mourning** cover to a reporter for the Tribune, some slight wear, Very Fine, scarce widow's free frank, she was granted the privilege on March 9, 1848, and it lasted until her death on May 15, 1852..... E. 500-750



4142

- 4142 ☒ **Anna Harrison.** Widow of William H. Harrison, free frank "Free Anna Harrison" on blue folded cover addressed in her hand to Charles Ogden in Philadelphia, neat "Cleves O. Sept. 11" ms. postmark, fresh and Very Fine, a very scarce frank from the widow of the President who died one month into office ..... E. 750-1,000



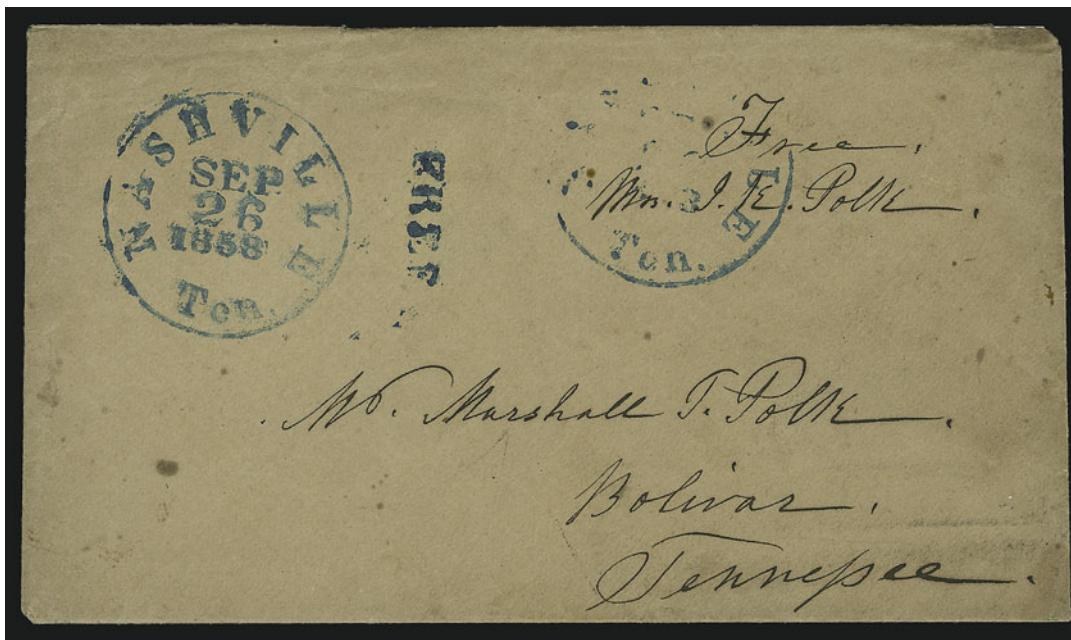


4143

- 4143 ☒ **Anna Harrison.** Widow of William H. Harrison, free frank "*Free Anna Harrison*" on 2pp **autograph letter signed** to her nephew, J. Cleves S(hort) Harrison, in Vincennes Ind., contents discuss death of a distant relative, letter datelined "*North Bend Nov. 4, 1846*" and with red "Cleve O. Nov. 6" straightline with day in ms., some slight wear and soiling

VERY FINE. A SCARCE FREE FRANK AND VERY RARE AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED BY ANNA HARRISON, WIDOW OF WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

Anna Harrison (1775-1864) was the wife of President William Henry Harrison and grandmother of President Benjamin Harrison. In 1841, Anna was unable to accompany her husband, William, for his inauguration. Her daughter-in-law, Jane, served as First Lady until Anna's arrival. As Mrs. Harrison prepared for the journey, she learned that her husband had died of pneumonia on April 4, 1841. Anna married William in 1795 and bore ten children, only one of whom outlived her. One of her grandsons, Benjamin, became President in 1889. .... E. 2,000-3,000



4144

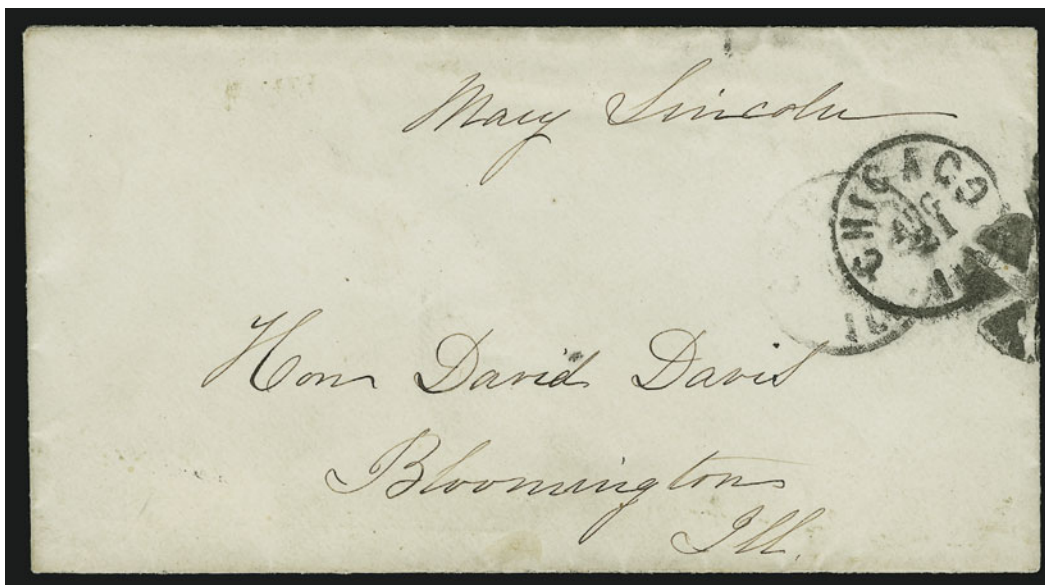
- 4144 ☒ **Sarah Childress Polk.** Widow of James K. Polk, free frank "*Free Mrs. J.K. Polk*" on buff cover to Bolivar Tenn., blue "Nashville Ten. Sep. 26, 1858" circular datestamp and matching "Free" handstamp, some slight wear, few repaired tears in top flap only

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. AN EXTREMELY DESIRABLE FREE FRANK OF THE WIDOW SARAH POLK. ONLY THREE EXAMPLES RECORDED.

Sarah Polk, a staunch admirer and supporter of Dolley Madison in her later years, has the distinction of being the first First Lady to be photographed on the White House grounds. Although Sarah lived more than 40 years following her husband's death in 1849, she lived somewhat reclusively in Nashville and evidently franked a relatively small amount of mail. Her free frank is exceedingly rare, with only three reported examples.

Ex Joyce (Siegel Sale 733, lot 232, realized \$7,500 hammer)..... E. 5,000-7,500





4145

- 4145 ☒ **Mary Todd Lincoln.** Widow of assassinated President Abraham Lincoln, free frank "*Mary Lincoln*" on cover addressed in her hand to David Davis in Bloomington Ill. (appointed by President Abraham Lincoln as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States 1862-1877, later U.S. Senator), bold strike of "Chicago Ill. Aug. 21" circular datestamp

FRESH AND VERY FINE. A RARE COVER FREE FRANKED BY MARY TODD LINCOLN, WIDOW OF THE MARTYRED PRESIDENT.

In May 1865, Mary Todd Lincoln and her sons, Robert and Tad, left Washington D.C. for Chicago, where they resided until leaving for Europe in 1868. During this difficult time, Mary attempted without success to sell her clothing through merchants in New York City. The style of Chicago postmark points to a date of mailing in 1866 or 1867..... E. 3,000-4,000

4146



4147

4148



- 4146 ☒ **Julia Dent Grant.** Widow of Ulysses S. Grant, free frank "*Julia D. Grant*" on wide-bordered mourning cover addressed in her hand to Mrs. George W. Childs, the wife of a prominent book publisher in Philadelphia, clearly struck "New York Mar. 29, 1889" duplex ties 2c Bank Note stamp, small tear at top, Very Fine, the ex-President, Ulysses S. Grant, spent the last year of his life completing his memoirs (after a business partnership with a swindler resulted in financial catastrophe), he died in 1885, and the publication of his memoirs made his widow a wealthy woman again, in 1886 she was presented with the largest royalty check in history — \$200,000 — by Mark Twain, her free frank is considered rare, she must have given the letter to a friend to mail, who put a stamp on it, unaware that she enjoyed the franking privilege... E. 500-750
- 4147 ☒ **Julia Dent Grant.** Widow of Ulysses S. Grant, free frank "*Julia D. Grant*" on mourning cover to the U.S. Pension Office in New York, bold "New York Dec. 6, 1889" duplex, marked "Due 2" and with 2c Postage Due stamp tied by oval, stamp affected from placement at edge of cover, Very Fine, scarce, the postal clerk was presumably unaware of her franking privilege and so marked the letter due 2c for drop rate usage, perhaps if she had written "Free" when she signed there would not have been any confusion..... E. 500-750
- 4148 ☒ **Julia Dent Grant.** Widow of Ulysses S. Grant, free frank "*Julia D. Grant*" on mourning cover to Philadelphia, well-struck "New York Mar. 26, 1889" duplex cancel, receiving backstamp, faint file folds and expertly repaired, Very Fine appearance, scarce ..... E. 500-750





- 4149 ☒ **Lucretia K. Garfield.** Widow of assassinated President James A. Garfield, free frank "Lucretia K. Garfield Free" on mourning cover to Philadelphia, neat "South Pasadena Cal. Dec. 30, 1914" duplex cancel, minor edgewear, Very Fine..... E. 150-200
- 4150 ☒ **Francis F. Cleveland.** Widow of Grover Cleveland, free frank "Francis F. Cleveland" on mourning cover to New York, "Princeton N.J. Dec. 20, 1911" cancel, fresh and Very Fine, scarce with this form of free frank ..... E. 100-150
- 4151 ☒ **Frances F. Cleveland Preston.** Widow of Grover Cleveland, free frank "Frances F. Cleveland Preston" on cover to Plainfield N.J., "Princeton N.J. Oct. 5, 1934" cancel, Very Fine, she remarried in 1913 and thereafter franked all of her mail as the example offered here ..... E. 100-150
- 4152 ☒ **Frances F. Cleveland.** Widow of Grover Cleveland, two covers with different free franks, both with 2c Washington stamps, first signed "Frances F. Cleveland" on 1912 cover from Princeton N.J. to Germantown in Philadelphia, second signed "Frances F. Cleveland Preston" on 1914 cover from Albany N.Y. to South Orange N.J., fresh and Very Fine, she was married to Grover Cleveland at the White House on June 2, 1886, when she was 21 years old, they had five children and after her husband died in 1908 she remarried on Feb. 10, 1913, and continued to frank under her new name until her death on Oct. 29, 1947..... E. 150-200

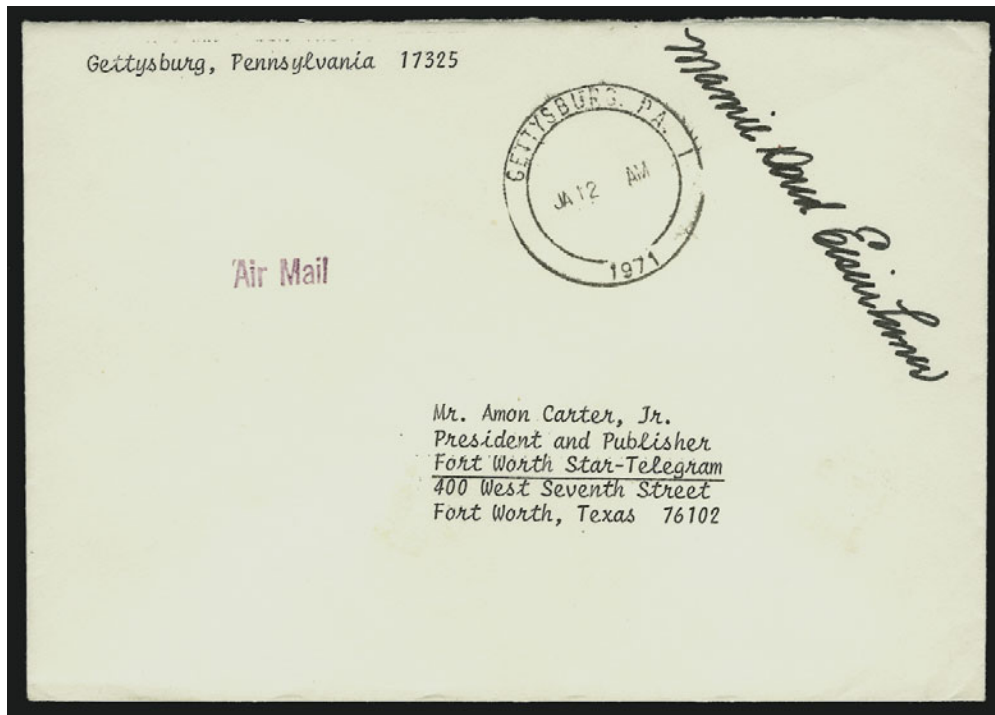


- 4153 ☒ **Mary Lord Harrison.** Widow of Benjamin Harrison, bold free frank "Mary Lord Harrison" on cover with her imprint on back to Indianapolis Ind., crayon "Pictures" and "Photo" at left, bold "New York N.Y. Mar. 10, 1938" machine cancel, Very Fine, Mary Lord Harrison is the only President's widow who was never First Lady and only received the free-franking privilege eight years after her husband's death when she applied for it..... E. 100-150
- 4154 ☒ **Ida S. McKinley.** Widow of assassinated President William McKinley, free frank "Ida S. McKinley" on mourning cover to Montrose Mich., clear "Canton Ohio Dec. 29, 1902" flag cancel, fresh and Very Fine..... E. 500-750
- 4155 ☒ **Ida S. McKinley.** Widow of assassinated President William McKinley, mourning cover containing matching acknowledgement card from Mrs. McKinley and sent to Sheridan N.Y., postage paid by 2c Bureau issue tied by Nov. 19, 1901 duplex, some edgewear, Fine, unusual usage, she did not receive franking privileges until Jan. 22, 1902, so this letter required postage ..... E. 400-500
- 4156 ☒ **Edith K. Roosevelt.** Widow of Theodore Roosevelt, free frank "Edith K. Roosevelt" on "Government House, Porto Rico" imprint cover to Washington D.C., light strike of "S.S. San Lorenzo Jan. 1, 1931" duplex cancel, includes 2pp autograph letter signed, Very Fine, unusual usage..... E. 100-150



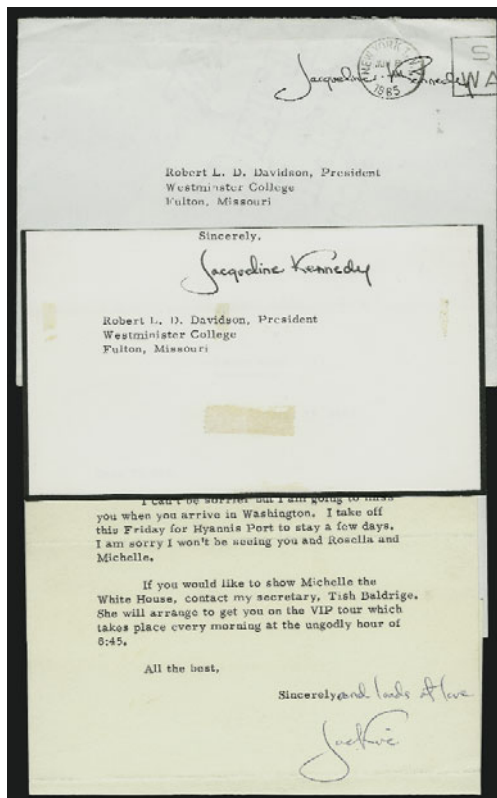


- 4157 ☒ **Helen H. Taft.** Widow of William H. Taft, two covers: first is franked "Helen H. Taft Free" on cover with Supreme Court imprint crossed out, "Pointe Au Pic P.Q. 13 Jul. 1936" circular datestamp to Washington D.C., second franked "Helen H. Taft Free" and with 1c and 4c Taft stamps tied by "Cincinnati Ohio Jun. 4, 1930" cancel on airmail cover to Lakewood N.J., Very Fine, the first was sent from her summer home in Canada where supposedly her son had the local postmaster keep account of her Canadian postage due and reimbursed him, the second used on the First Day of the new Taft stamp, her free frank did not apply to Air Mail use and so the stamps paid the duty .....(Photo Ex) E. 150-200
- 4158 ☒ **Edith Bolling Wilson.** Widow of Woodrow Wilson, free frank "Edith Bolling Wilson" on mourning cover to Woodstock N.Y., "Washington D.C. Mar. 7, 1924" slogan machine cancel, receiving date-stamp, Very Fine, used only three days after she received the franking privilege..... E. 150-200
- 4159 ☒ **Edith Bolling Wilson.** Widow of Woodrow Wilson, free frank "Edith Bolling Wilson" on mourning envelope, "Washington D.C. Mar. 12, 1924" machine cancel, with matching printed enclosure acknowledging sympathy for the death of President Wilson (d. Feb. 3), Very Fine, her franking privilege took effect on Mar. 4 and this was used only eight days later ..... E. 150-200
- 4160 ☒ **Florence Kling Harding.** Widow of Warren Harding, three covers: first is mourning cover with 2c Harding stamp from Marion O. on Dec. 10, 1923, and addressed in her hand and used before she was granted free-franking privilege, second is Jan. 28, 1924 cover with "Florence Kling Harding" free frank from Washington D.C. to Marion O. (used three days after she was granted the privilege), last is April 9, 1924 mourning cover franked "Florence Kling Harding" from Washington D.C. to Rutherford N.J., fresh and Very Fine, she passed away on Nov. 22, 1924, less than a year after receiving the franking privilege, also incl. 2pp autograph letter signed regarding charges relating to the death of her husband .....(Photo Ex) E. 400-500



4161

- 4161 ☒ **Mamie Doud Eisenhower.** Widow of Dwight D. Eisenhower, free frank "Mamie Doud Eisenhower" on cover to Amon Carter Jr. in Fort Worth Tex., Gettysburg Pa. Jan. 12, 1971 circular datestamp, enclosed signed typewritten note states "This is the first and only time I have done this (signing the envelope indicating any free franking privilege) for we normally use a rubber stamp on the Pitney Bowes meter stamp", Very Fine, obviously very rare and unusual..... E. 750-1,000



- 4162 **Jacqueline Kennedy.** Widow of assassinated President John F. Kennedy, three items: first is printed franking signature on 1965 cover to Fulton Mo., second item is typed letter signed (original enclosure for first item) with mourning border to President of Westminster College, third item is typed letter signed with personalized handwritten note at bottom on June 27, 1961 White House stationery to a friend, fresh and Very Fine ..... E. 1,500-2,000

4162

- 4163 ☒ **Presidential Widows' Free Franks.** Four, including Lady Bird Johnson, Bess Truman, Grace Coolidge and Eleanor Roosevelt, last with two Postage Due stamps attached and handstamped "Voided" as sent via air mail, fresh and Very Fine ..... Not illustrated E. 300-400

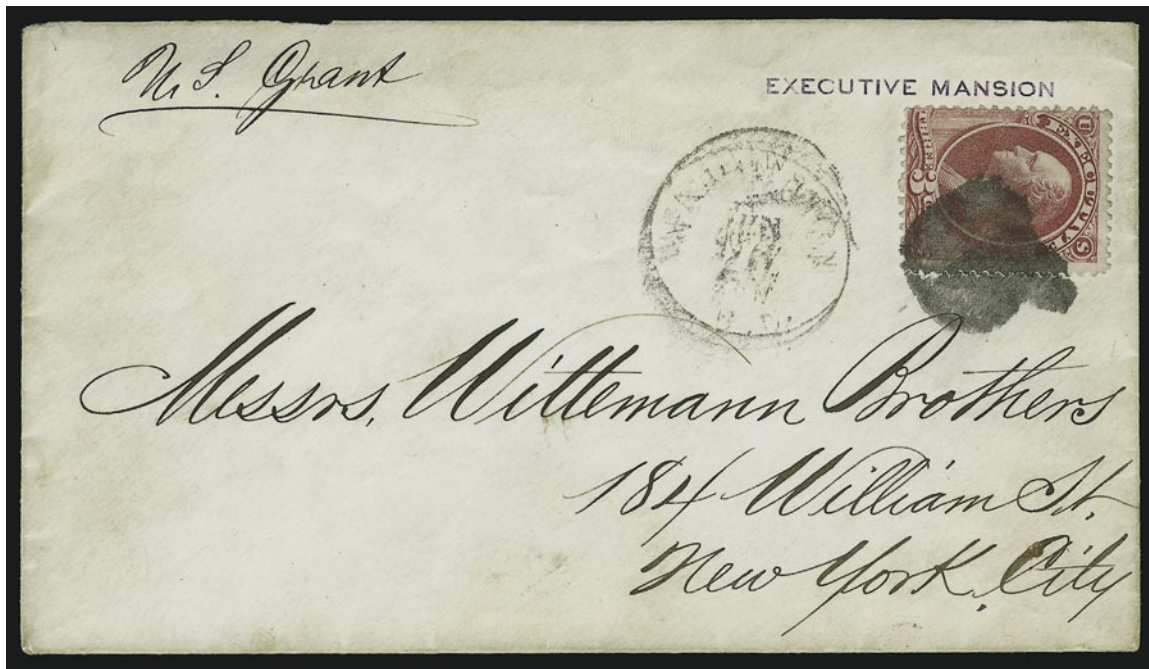


## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT AND PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARIES



4164

- 4164 ☒ **3c Executive (O12).** Well-centered, bright color, tied by bold strike of quartered cork, "Washington D.C. Apr. 30" circular datestamp on Executive Mansion imprint cover signed by O. E. Babcock (Secretary to President Grant) to Edward Pierpont in New York City, 1875 docketing at left, small cover tear at top from opening, Very Fine, the Executive stamps were issued July 1, 1873, were supplanted by penalty envelopes on May 1, 1879, and were declared obsolete on July 5, 1884..... E. 2,000-3,000



4165

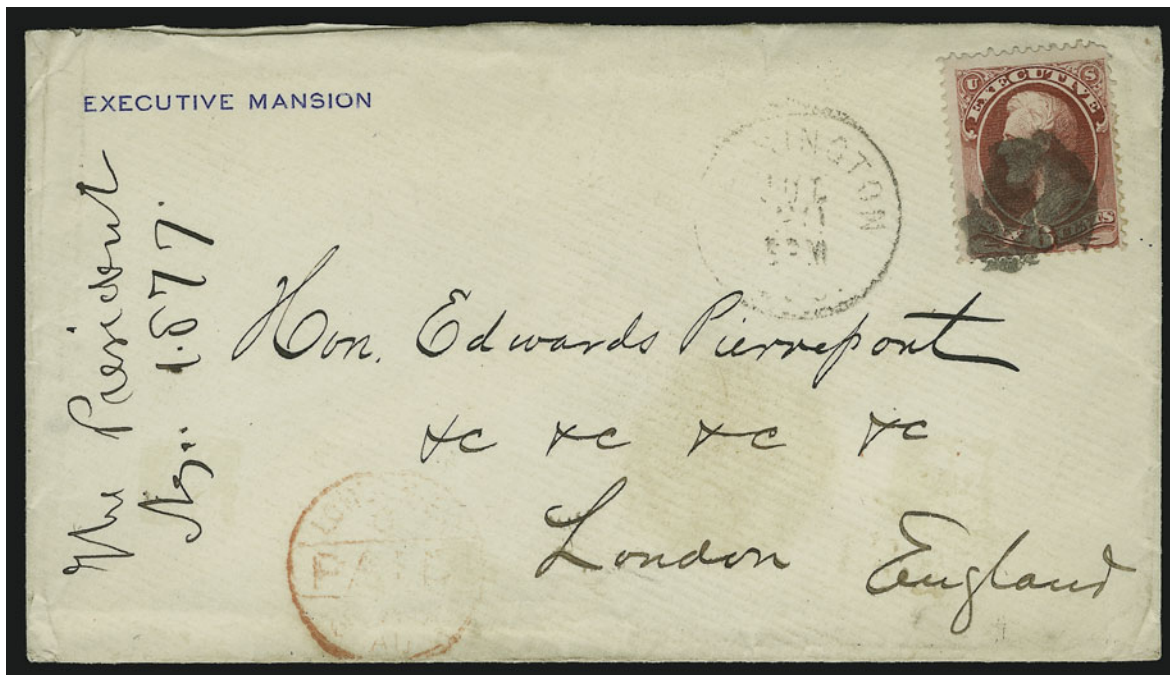
- 4165 ☒ **3c Executive (O12).** Tiny perf creases, tied by cork cancel, blurry "Washington D.C. Jun. 20" circular datestamp on Executive Mansion imprint cover to New York City, endorsed "U.S. Grant", backflap removed, otherwise Very Fine, ex Griswold..... E. 1,000-1,500



4166

- 4166 ☒ **3c Executive (O12).** Centered to left, tied by fancy cork cancel and "Washington D.C. Mar. 18" circular datestamp on Executive Mansion imprint cover with signature of Grant's secretary, C.C. Sniffen, includes original 1874 2pp autograph letter signed from Sniffen on behalf of the President, to a Col. Swift, declining an invitation to the reunion of the Michigan Soldiers & Sailors Assoc. at Jackson, Mich., cover with edge wear and some soiling, otherwise Fine, ex Griswold..... E. 1,000-1,500





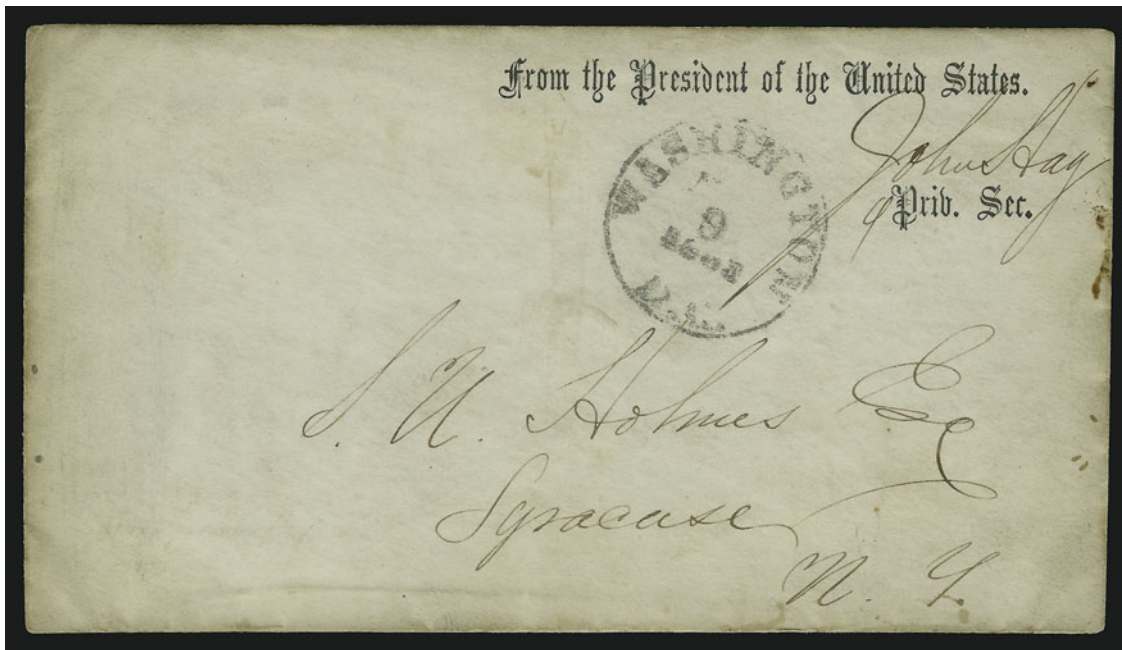
4167

- 4167 ☒ **6c Executive (O13).** Tied by cork cancel, "Washington D.C. Jul. 30" (1877) circular datestamp on Executive Mansion imprint cover to Attorney General Edward Pierrepont **in London, England**, red London Paid and receiving backstamp, 1877 docketing at left

FINE AND FRESH. A VERY RARE USE OF THE 6-CENT EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT STAMP ON COVER TO ENGLAND MAILED DURING THE HAYES ADMINISTRATION.

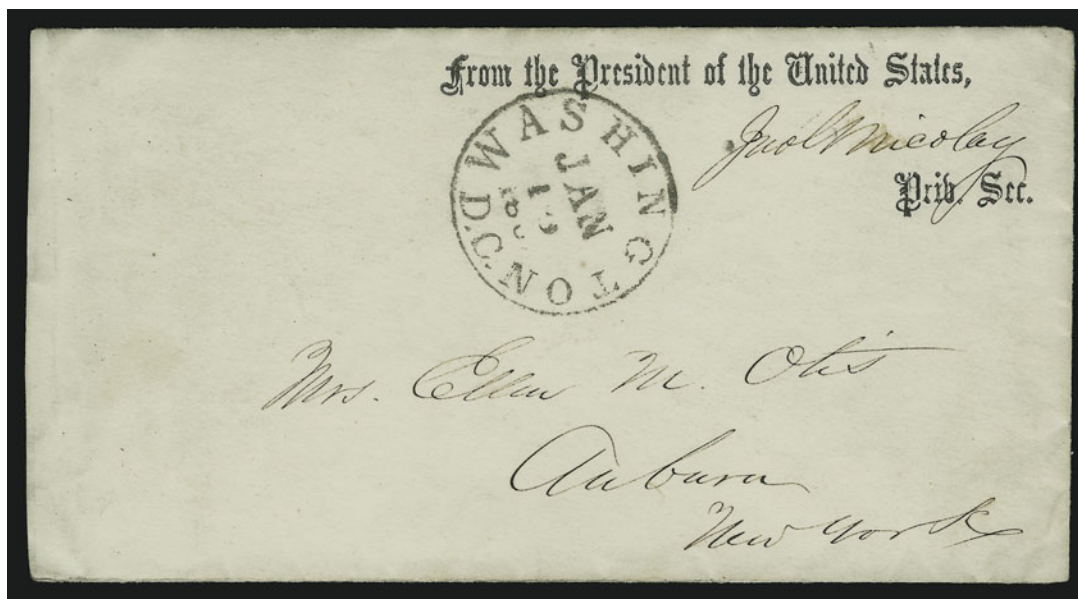
The 6c treaty rate to England was superseded by the 5c GPU/UPU rate in July 1875. Thus, the 6c Executive stamp overpays the required postage by 1c. Only seven 6c Executive covers are reported in Markovits catalogue (Bennett).

Ex "Crystal" (Ehrenberg). With 1981 P.F. certificate. Scott Retail \$3,500.00.. E. 3,000-4,000



4168

- 4168 ☒ **John Hay.** Private Secretary to Abraham Lincoln as President, free frank "John Hay" on "President of the United States, Priv. Sec." imprint cover to Syracuse N.Y., neat "Washington D.C. Nov. 9, 1863" circular datestamp, some overall soiling, Very Fine free frank from Lincoln's personal secretary, Hay, also a lawyer from Springfield Ill., who later became Secretary of State under McKinley and Roosevelt ..... E. 300-400



4169

- 4169 ☒ **John Nicolay.** Private Secretary to Lincoln as President, free frank "John Nicolay" on imprint cover from "President of the United States, Priv. Sec." to Auburn N.Y., well-struck "Washington D.C. Jan. 15" circular datestamp, Very Fine ..... E. 300-400
- 4170 ☒ **Presidential Secretary Free Franks.** Six covers, incl. J. Buchanan Henry, Robert Johnson, Horace Porter, Orville Babcock, Levi P. Luckey and Culver C. Sniffen, fresh and Fine-Very Fine ..... E. 300-400
- 4171 ☒ **Executive Department Free Franks.** Approximately 74 attractively mounted on exhibit-style pages, wide range of usages incl. seven printed Presidential franks such as Eisenhower (2), Nixon, Kennedy, Johnson, also incl. nice groups of Treasury Dept., Post Office Dept., State Dept., War Dept., Navy Dept. and Dept. of the Interior, few better incl. Edwin M. Stanton, Gideon Welles, most fresh and Very Fine ..... E. 1,500-2,000

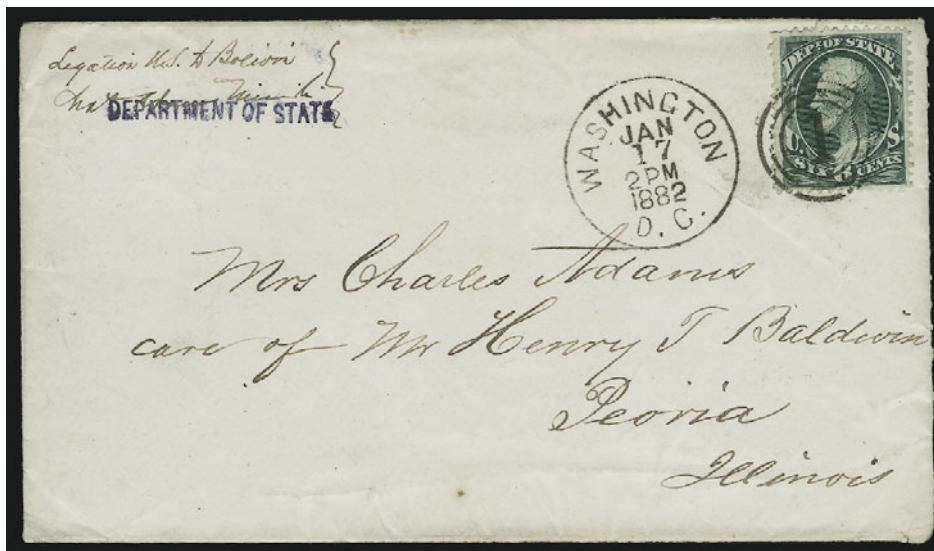


## STATE DEPARTMENT



4172

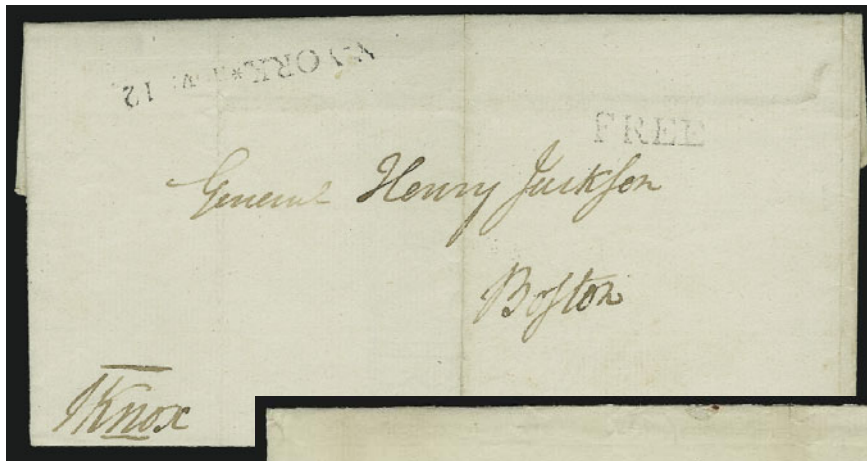
- 4172 ☒ **Asbury Dickins.** Chief Clerk of the State Department (1833-1836), free frank "Department of State, Asbury Dickins" on 1835 cover to the U.S. Consul in Havana, Cuba, red "City of Washington Jun. 18" circular datestamp and matching "Free" handstamp, Cuban due markings, slightly reduced at top and piece out of back, some wear, still Fine, scarce usage with frank paying U.S. postage and recipient charged for Cuban postage ..... E. 150-200



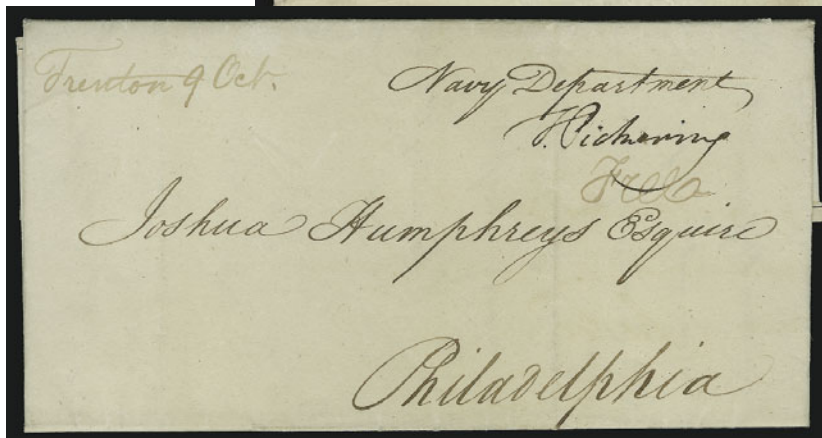
4173

- 4173 ☒ **6c State (O60).** Rich color, tied by well-struck "1" in target, "Washington D.C. Jan. 17, 1882" circular datestamp on cover to Mrs. Adams in Peoria Ill., endorsed "Legation U.S. to Bolivia, Chas. Adams Minister", with blue "Department of State" handstamp, 1881 docketing on back, minor cover wrinkling, fresh and Very Fine, a rare use of the 6c State on mail from Bolivia to Washington via diplomatic pouch, then by mail to Illinois ..... E. 1,000-1,500
- 4174 ☒ **Executive and State Dept.** Five, incl. secretarial letter on Executive Mansion stationery (with cover, no frank), Census Office, Patent Office, handstamped frank of Wm. Hunter, Seward's chief clerk, minor faults, generally Fine ..... Not illustrated E. 300-400
- 4175 ☒ **Treasury Dept.** Four, incl. two franked by Tench Coxe (First Comm. of Internal Revenue), A. J. Dallas and Oliver Wolcott, minor faults, overall Very Fine ..... Not illustrated E. 400-500

## WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS



4176



4177

4178

- 4176 ☒ **Henry Knox.** Secretary of War under the Continental Congress and also under the Federal Constitution, bold free frank "*H Knox*" on 1786 folded cover to General Henry Jackson in Boston, neat "N. York Nov. 12" straightline and matching "Free" handstamp, faint vertical file fold does not affect franking, gently cleaned, Very Fine .... E. 150-200
- 4177 ☒ **John Pierce.** Paymaster General, free frank "*Jno. Pierce*" with additional title crossed out on folded cover to Oliver Wolcott in Hartford, neat "N. York May 8" straightline and matching "Free" handstamp, light vertical file folds, Very Fine..... E. 150-200
- 4178 ☒ **Timothy Pickering.** Secretary of State (1795-1801), free frank "*T. Pickering*" on letter to Joshua Humphreys in Philadelphia, datelined "*Navy Department Novem. 9, 1798*" and signed by Pickering, asking for expeditious repairs to the damaged frigate *United States*, ms. "*Navy Department*" endorsement above free frank, "Trenton 9 Oct." ms. postmark and matching "Free", light vertical file folds, Very Fine, unusual usage, the Navy Dept. had just been formed, on April 30, 1798, and the government during this period was operating out of New Jersey due to an outbreak of Yellow Fever in Philadelphia, presumably this was franked by Pickering because he was the only one available who had the franking privilege ..... E. 150-200



## WAR OF 1812

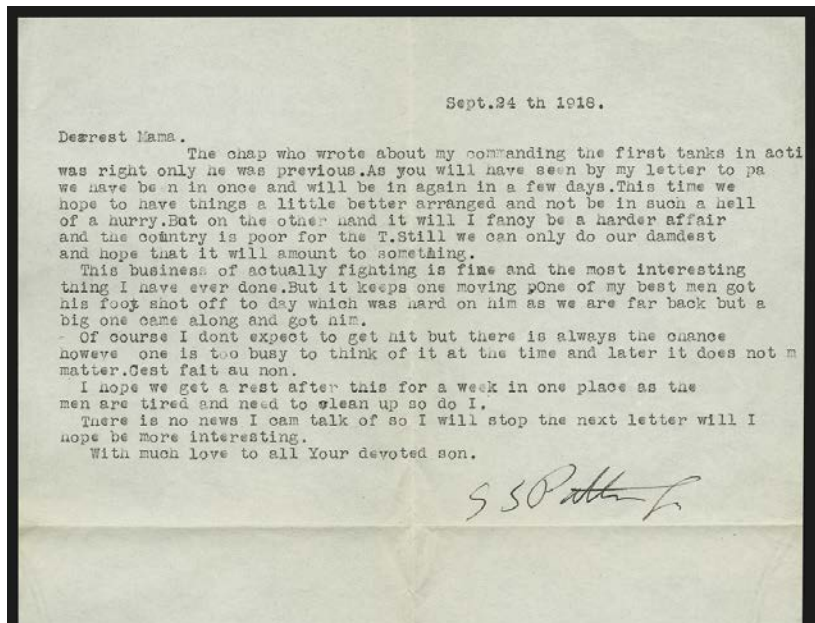


- 4179 ☒ **War of 1812 Military District Free Frank.** Folded cover endorsed "Pubick Service, Simon Bruton Col., 2nd Regt. detachd M.N. 6" and addressed to **Major General Calvin Jones** in Raleigh N.C., some wear incl. repaired splitting along horizontal file fold, still Fine, the franking privilege in this case was owned by the recipient of the letter; during the War of 1812, certain department heads in the ten established military districts were given the franking privilege, the "M.N. 6" of the endorsement refers to Military Area No. 6, which included North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia..... E. 200-300
- 4180 ☒ **War of 1812 Military District Free Frank.** 1814 folded letter endorsed by a Major in the 37th Regt. Infantry to the Inspector General in New London Conn., rimless "Hartford May 24" datestamp with date in ms., matching "Free" handstamp, contents report on setting up a recruitment meeting, Very Fine, used in Military Area No. 2, which included Connecticut and Rhode Island .. E. 200-300
- 4181 ☒ **War of 1812 — Richard Cutts.** Free frank as Superintendent General of Military Supplies in Washington D.C. "Free- R. Cutts Sup. Genl. My Supplies" on folded letter of July 24, 1813, to Thomas Cutts in Maine, contents include "The mails have come in from the west—Harrison's army is in motion for Malden—nothing particular from Niagara—an express has just arrived from opposite Blackstone's Island—the enemy have abandoned the island in haste and fallen down the river. Two deserters have come ashore from the fleet. They report that Admiral Warren received an express on the 21st: that he immediately ordered the whole fleet to be ready to sail for Bermuda as soon as possible.", split along folds incl. several pieces detached (but accompanying), still Fine, fascinating contents..... E. 200-300
- 4182 ☒ **War of 1812 — Stephen Decatur.** Prominent naval hero in the War of 1812, originator of "Our Country Right or Wrong", free frank "Stephen Decatur" as commissioner of the Board of Navy on folded cover addressed in his hand to James Herron at Norfolk Va., faint red Washington D.C. circular datestamp and "Free" handstamp, no year date, c. 1816-20, split at folds along sides, repaired at center, still Fine and scarce, ex Grunin ..... E. 300-400



- 4183 ✉ **Old/Hickory.** Well-struck red octagonal packet boat handstamp on 1847 folded letter addressed to Brigadier General R. Jones in Washington D.C., datelined "Lake Providence La. March 1st 1847", blue "Louisville Ky. Apr. 9" circular datestamp with matching "Steam" handstamp, originally rated 10c which was crossed out and with ms. "Free", light vertical file folds, Very Fine, the recipient had franking privileges and thus delivered free..... E. 300-400
- 4184 ✉ **Mexican War Military Frank.** Light green folded letter datelined "Puebla 13th May 1848" and addressed to "Col. Geary, 2nd Penna. Vols. Mexico", clear "Puebla Mex. May 17th 1848" ms. postmark and matching "free", contents requests information as to where Lieutenant Sturges was buried when he was killed at the battle of Puebla, some wear incl. vertical file folds, Very Fine, sent free by military mail..... E. 300-400
- 4185 ✉ **George Izard.** Maj. Gen. in War of 1812, Governor of Arkansas Terr. (1825-1828), endorsement "U.S. Service Geo. Izard" on folded cover addressed to "U.S. Agent to the Osage Indians, to the Care of B. Genl. Nicks, Cantonment Gibson A.T.", neat "Little Rock A.T. October 3rd" ms. postmark and matching "free", minor overall wear, Very Fine, as Governor of Arkansas Territories Izard did not enjoy franking privileges but the Brigadier General at Fort Gibson did and so this was sent care of free in care of him..... E. 300-400
- 4186 **Abolishment of Free Franking Privilege.** Inspection Report from Fort Brown Tex., reads "Twelve office chairs required for and very much needed at Fort Brown and Ringgold Barrack also a better scale required for use in the C.S. Department at Ringgold Barrack and rendered necessary by the late act of Congress abolishing the franking privilege.", dated May 22, 1873, partly restored and affixed to archival paper, interesting contents.....Not illustrated E. 200-300
- 4187 ✉ **Major General Fitzhugh Lee.** Endorsement "Soldier's letter Fitzhugh Lee Maj. Genl. Comdg." on Office of the Commanding General, Seventh Army Corps imprint cover with private penalty notice crossed out, to New York City, bearing Cuba 2 1/2c on 2c Red tied by "Jan. 24, 1899, Havana Cuba" duplex, trivial wear, Very Fine usage sent during the Spanish-American War where a soldier's letter could have been sent either prepaid or collect..... E. 200-300



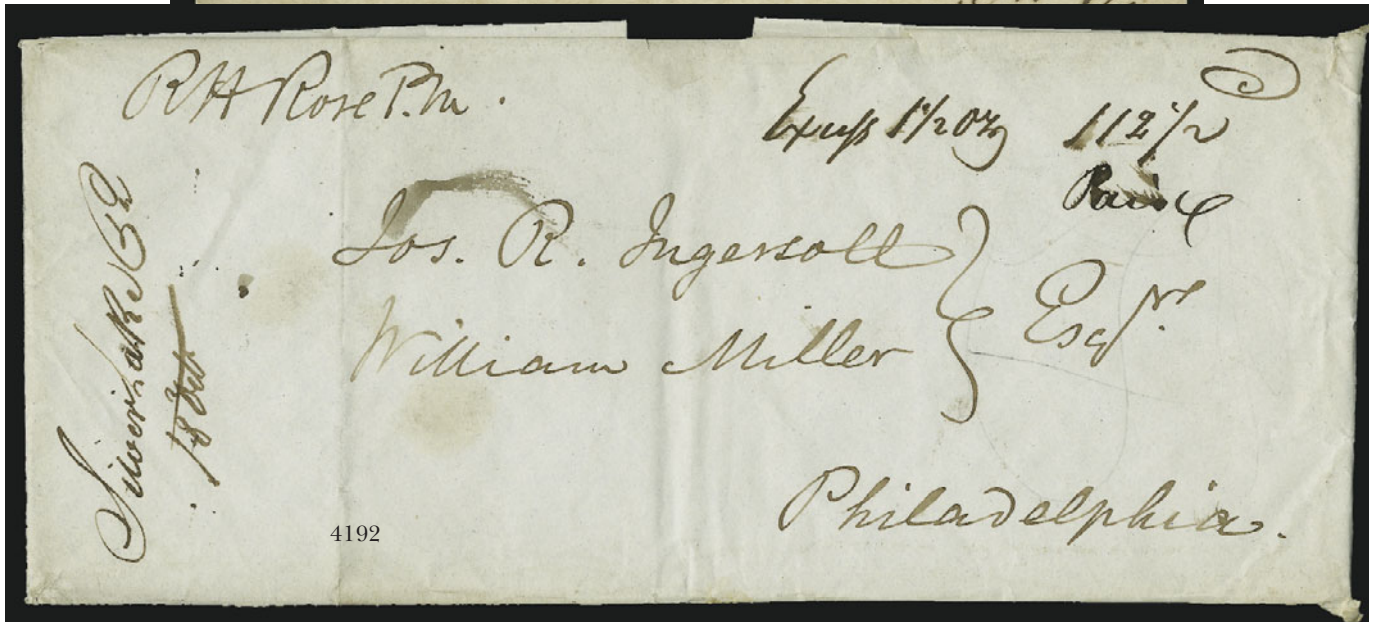
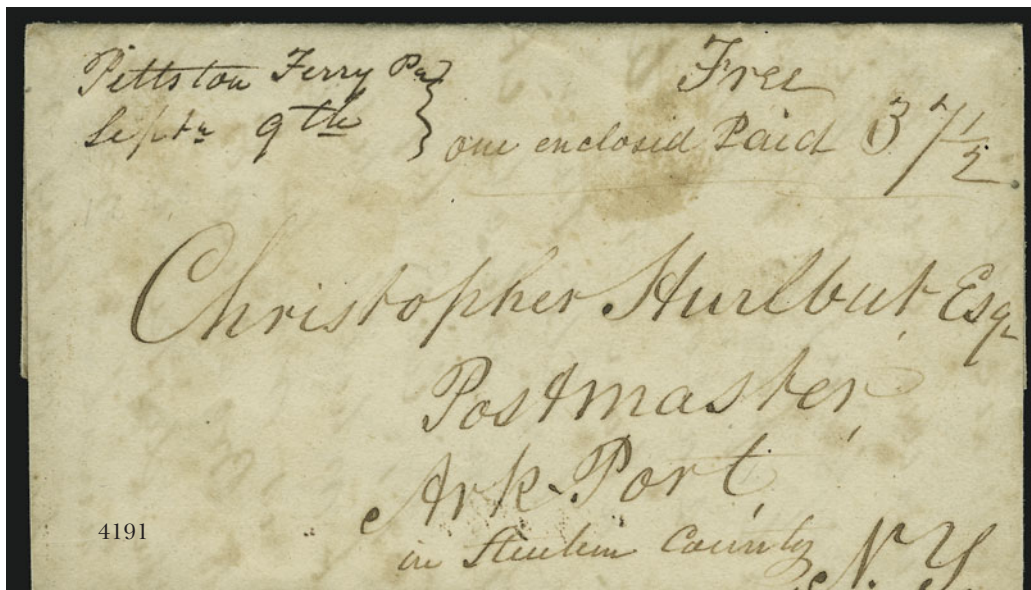


4188

- 4188 ☒ **George S. Patton.** Free frank as Lieutenant Colonel in World War I "Lt. Col. G.S. Patton A.P.O. 714" and "Official Service" on cover to his mother in San Gabriel Cal., due "A.E.F. Passed as Censor" handstamp with additional signature of Patton, "U.S. Military Postal Express Service 27 Sep. 1918" double-circle datestamp, with **typed letter signed** stating in part "This business of actually fighting is fine and the most interesting I have ever done", small piece out at top from opening and some wear, still Very Fine, World War I was the first time free-franking of soldier's mail was authorized since the American Revolution, Patton was the leading American tank expert in WWI, shortly after writing this letter, on Sept. 26, 1918, he was shot in the hip during a battle in the Argonne and saw no further active duty until World War II ..... E. 500-750

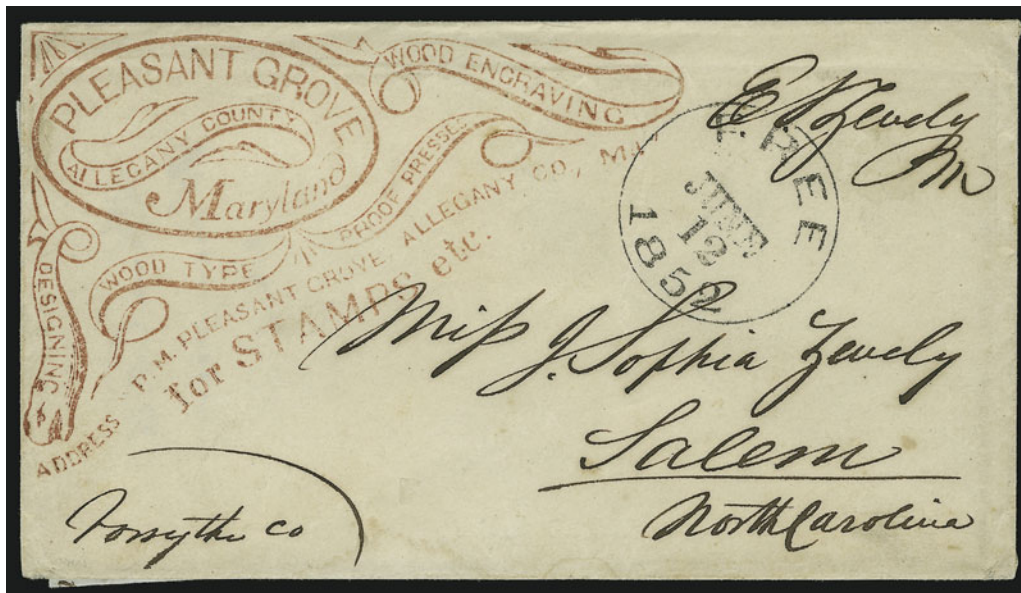
- 4189 ☒ **War and Navy Departments.** 17, mostly 1820's thru 1840's, desirable group of franks and usages incl. 1845-47 "Brownout", William Simmons, Henry Dearborn, Isaac Shelby, William Jones and others, minor faults, generally Very Fine appearance .....  
.....Not illustrated E. 1,000-1,500

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT AND POSTMASTERS



- 4190 ☒ **Free Franks to Europe.** Two covers: first sent by Rep. J. D. Graham and with his free frank at bottom left to London and carried by Major Hagner of the U.S. Army, second free-franked by Charles Wickliffe as Postmaster General in 1842 to Paris, red French transit and "6" decimes due marking, some slight wear, Very Fine, unusual usages.....  
.....Not illustrated E. 200-300
- 4191 ☒ **Excess Rate Free Frank Usage.** 1828 folded letter to the postmaster at Arkport N.Y., neat "Pittston Ferry Pa. Sept. 9th" ms. postmark, signed "Free" but rated "37 1/2" some toning, Very Fine, the Act of March 3, 1825 provided for payment of excess postage on free franked mail by fixing a weight limit for such mail of 1/2 oz. per letter or packet and requiring that any excess be paid at the regular rate..... E. 200-300
- 4192 ☒ **Excess Rate Free Frank Usage.** Oversize folded cover endorsed "R.H. Rose PM" to Philadelphia, also endorsed "Excess 1 1/2 oz. 112 1/2 Paid" at top right, minor wear, Very Fine, unusual usage, the first 1/2 oz. was carried free ..... E. 150-200
- 4193 ☒ **Free Franks to Canada.** Four covers or folded letters, incl. two sent from U.S. to Canada with postage free to border but charged for Canadian postage, one to St. Catherine's in Upper Canada from a U.S. postmaster to a Canadian postmaster, last to Stanstead exchange office without charge, overall fresh and Very Fine, fascinating group showing different cross-border usages.....Not illustrated E. 200-300





4194

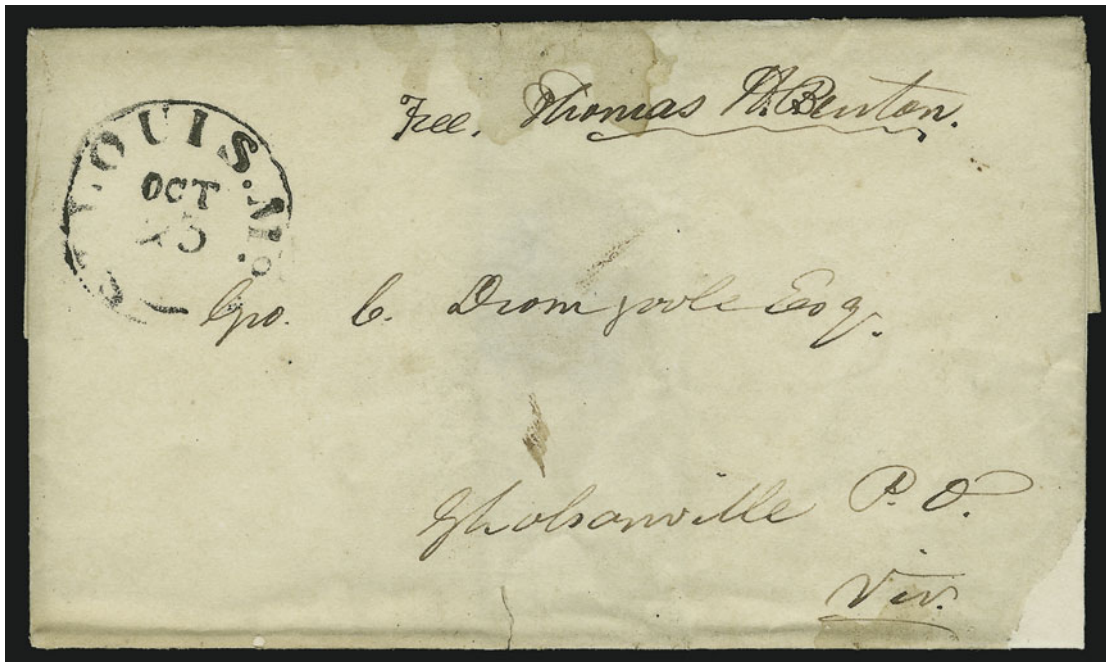
- 4194 ☒ **E. N. Zevely.** Free frank in elaborate **corner card cover for engraving, designs and stamps** to Salem N.C., well-struck "Free June 12, 1852" circular datestamp, with original enclosure, Very Fine, a beautiful cover from the premier 19th Century manufacturer of postal markings ..... E. 1,500-2,000



4195

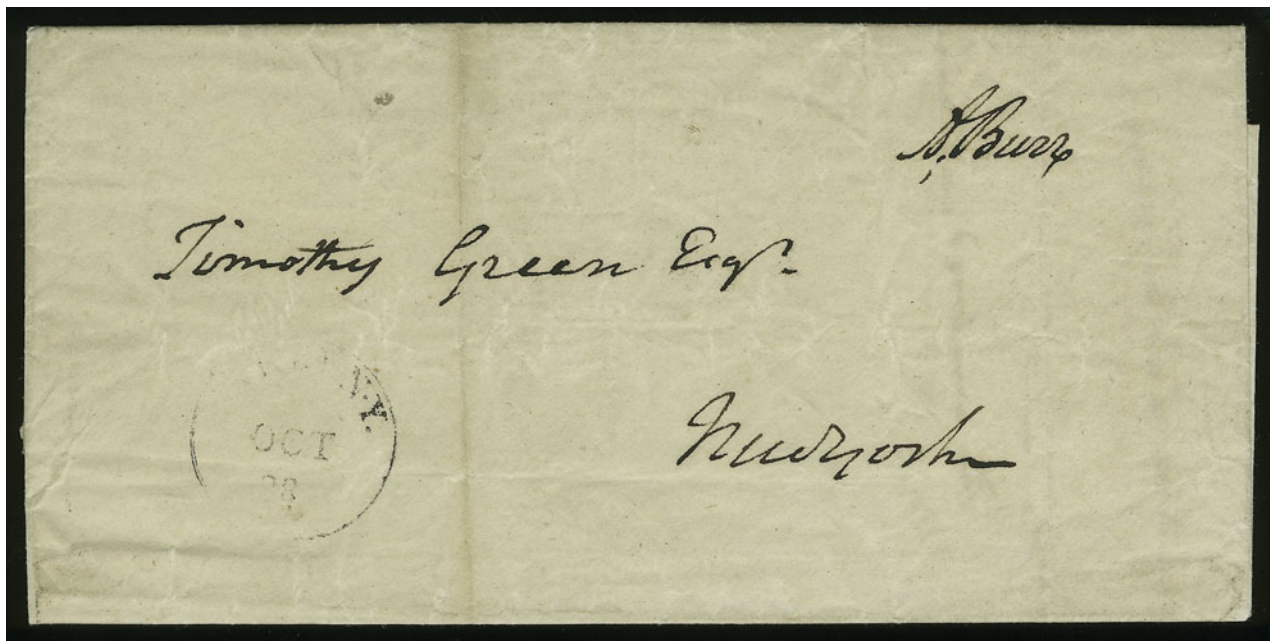
- 4195 ☒ **Jas. N. Burns PM Free Ringgold Mo.** Ms. postmark on 1851 folded letter to New York, well-struck "**Pike No. 9 Tucker Master**" Ohio River packet markings, red "Smithland Ky. Apr. 1" circular datestamp with matching "Free" handstamp, some wear, Fine, this is the only reported example of this marking, this letter was sent by a traveling postmaster away from his normal jurisdiction..... E. 1,000-1,500
- 4196 ☒ **Post Office Dept.** Four, incl. Postmaster General Habersham, usages to postmasters, red New York handstamp "Post Office Business Free", registered return receipt, minor faults, overall Fine.....*Not illustrated* E. 300-400

## LEGISLATIVE FRANKS



4197

- 4197 ☒ **Thomas Hart Benton.** Free frank "Free Thomas H. Benton" as Senator on folded cover to Gholsonville P.O. Va., neat "St. Louis Mo. Oct. 23" circular datestamp, some waterstaining at top, small tear and repair at bottom, otherwise Fine, Benton was the first Senator to serve for 30 consecutive years..... E. 100-150



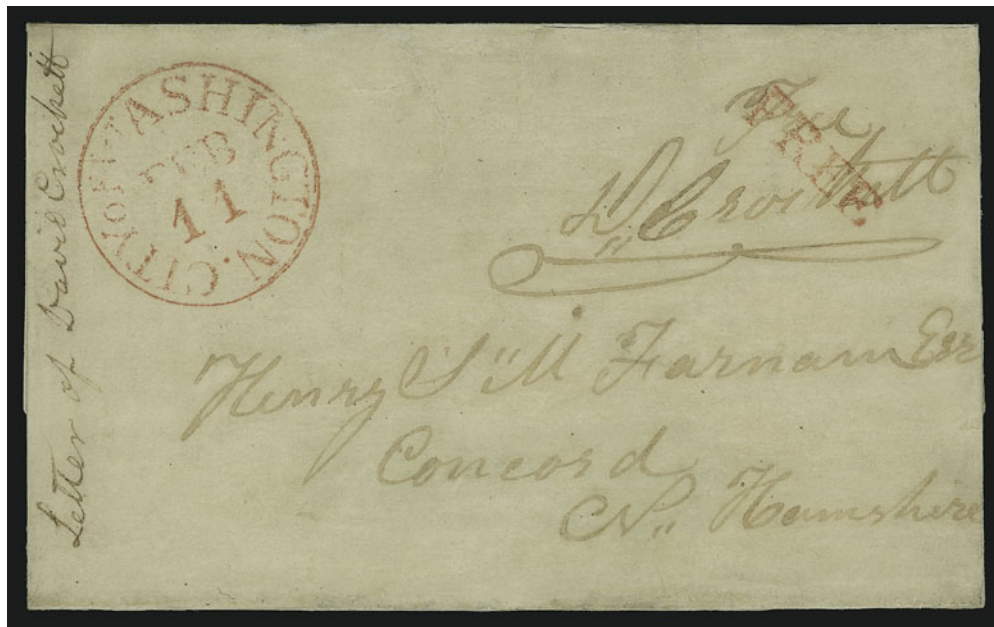
4198

- 4198 ☒ **Aaron Burr.** Free frank "A. Burr" as Vice President under Thomas Jefferson on 1801 autograph letter initialled, to Timothy Green in New York, faint strike of Oct. 28 circular datestamp, light vertical file fold and some minor overall wear, Very Fine ..... E. 750-1,000





- 4199 ☒ **John C. Calhoun.** Representative and Senator from North Carolina, defender of the South, slavery and states' rights, Secretary of War under Monroe and Vice President under Adams and Jackson, free frank "free J.C. Calhoun" as Secretary of War under Monroe on 1822 folded cover to Capt. John Le Conte of the Corps of Engineers in New York, ms. "Dept. of War", brownish "Washn. City May 13" circular datestamp and matching "Free" handstamp, light vertical file folds, Very Fine..... E. 200-300
- 4200 ☒ **John C. Calhoun.** Representative and Senator from North Carolina, defender of the South, slavery and states' rights, Secretary of War under Monroe and Vice President under Adams and Jackson, free frank "free J.C. Calhoun" on cover addressed in his hand to Francis Wharton in Philadelphia, red "Washington D.C. 21 Dec. Free" datestamp, Very Fine..... E. 150-200
- 4201 ☒ **R. K. Call.** Free frank "free R. K. Call" as **Florida territorial delegate** on folded cover addressed in his hand to Fayetteville N.C., fresh and Very Fine ..... E. 100-150
- 4202 ☒ **Henry Clay.** Three covers, incl. two free-franked "Free H. Clay" and sent to the Hon. Joseph Nicholson in Baltimore, third is cover addressed to Clay bearing Blood's local stamp paying local postage and sent free thru the U.S. post office, few faults, Fine-Very Fine ..... E. 300-400



4203

- 4203 ☒ **David Crockett.** Frontiersman, Congressman from Tennessee, free frank "*Free D. Crockett*" on folded cover to Henry Farnam in Concord N.H., red "City of Washington Feb. 11" circular datestamp and matching "Free" handstamp, expert restoration does not affect frank or markings

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. A RARE DAVY CROCKETT FREE FRANK AS REPRESENTATIVE FROM TENNESSEE.

This legendary American frontier hero's signature is extremely scarce in any form and of the greatest rarity as a free frank..... E. 5,000-7,500





- 4204 ☒ **Stephen A. Douglas.** Senator from Illinois, presidential candidate, famous orator and advocate of states' sovereignty, free frank "free S.A. Douglas U.S.S." on mourning cover to Charlestown Mass., clear strike of "Washington D.C. 27 Jan. Free" circular datestamp, toned spot from wax seal, Very Fine, scarce free frank, this style of datestamp was in use in 1852, the year Douglas's first wife passed away, Douglas defeated Lincoln in the race for the Senate in 1859, though Lincoln would go on to defeat Douglas in the Presidential election in 1860, ex Hessel..... E. 500-750
- 4205 ☒ **Edward Everett.** Congressman and Senator from Mass., overseer of Harvard University, best remembered for speaking 2½ hours at Gettysburg before Lincoln's address, Feb. 17, 1832 folded letter addressed to him and sent free under his franking privilege as Member of Congress in Washington D.C., red "Somerset Feby. 19" oval postmark with date in ms., matching "Free" handstamp, the sender discusses Calhoun's Doctrine of Nullification in South Carolina, an early break with the Union and an example of the Doctrine of State Rights: "Slavery and Nullification are fit companions and will soon prepare the delightful regions of the South for a scare upon which will be enacted the bloody and heartsickening tragedy of St. Domingo."; fresh and Very Fine, scarce early letter regarding State vs. Federal doctrines ..... E. 150-200
- 4206 ☒ **Edward Everett.** Congressman and Senator from Mass., overseer of Harvard University, best remembered for speaking 2½ hours at Gettysburg before Lincoln's address, Oct. 28, 1830 autograph letter signed **from Paris, France to Charlestown Mass. and forwarded to Washington D.C.**, red "New-York Dec. 20" circular datestamp and matching "Ship" handstamp, well-struck oval "Charlestown Mass. Dec. 25" postmark with date in red ms., originally rated "20¾" but crossed out and marked "Free" in Charlestown, contents discuss sentiment in Paris after the July Revolution and that the public feels that Lafayette, as Commander of the National Guard, is getting too old, light vertical file fold, Very Fine, unusual usage, the recipient should have been charged postage on a letter originating overseas; however, in what must have been a burst of Christmas spirit the rating was crossed out and nothing was charged, so this was sent entirely free from Paris to Washington D.C. .... E. 150-200



- 4207 ☒ **William Graham.** Senator from North Carolina (1840-1843), Governor of North Carolina (1845-1849), Secretary of the Navy (1850-1852), free frank "Free W.A. Graham Sec. Navy" on blue folded cover to New York, blue "Washington RailRd. Sep. 28" circular datestamp, Very Fine, scarce route agent marking, Graham's tenure as Secretary was only two years ..... E. 200-300
- 4208 ☒ **William Graham.** Senator from North Carolina (1840-1843), Governor of North Carolina (1845-1849), Secretary of the Navy (1850-1852), four free franks, incl. two sent to him and two sent by him, one sent as Senator, one as Secretary of the Navy and with Steamboat handstamp, overall fresh and Very Fine..... E. 300-400
- 4209 ☒ **Horace Greeley.** Newspaper editor and publisher, Congressman from New York, free frank "Free - H. Greeley, M.C." on folded cover to Theodore Sedgwick in New York City, no postal markings or yeardate, Extremely Fine, Greeley's free frank is very rare as he filled a vacant seat in Congress very briefly in 1848 and held no other post in his lifetime that would have given him the free-franking privilege ..... E. 500-750
- 4210 ☒ **Hannibal Hamlin.** Clear free frank "free H. Hamlin" on cover to Hallouell Me., well-struck "Bangor Me. Nov. 30" circular datestamp, fresh and Very Fine..... E. 100-150





- 4211 ✉ **Richard M. Johnson.** Free frank as Vice President on very unusual 1837 folded letter containing a integral letterpress copy of a two-page letter headed **Batavia Java** and signed I. J. Roberts, on the third page is a printed notice and a second letter from Roberts (in manuscript) regarding the addressee's interest in missionary work among the Western Indians and suggesting instead "*these eastern heathen*", cover addressed to College Hill, D.C., "Lexington Ky. Jul. 6" circular datestamp, small paper loss at corners, not affecting text or appearance, still Fine, rare and very unusual usage; during the War of 1812 Johnson raised a battalion of Kentuckians to fight the British and Indians; at the battle of Thames he killed the great Indian chief Tecumseh ..... E. 200-300
- 4212 ✉ **Richard Johnson.** Vice President, free frank "*Free R. M. Johnson*" as presiding officer of U.S. Senate on folded cover addressed in his hand to New Bern N.C. and forwarded to Raleigh, red "Washington City D.C. Feb. 13" circular datestamp and matching "Free" handstamp, pencil notation inside indicates 1839 usage, minor edgewear, Very Fine ..... E. 200-300
- 4213 ✉ **Stephen F. Nuckolls.** Free frank *Free S. F. Nuckoll MC* as **Wyoming territorial delegate** on yellow cover addressed in his hand to Nebraska City Neb., "Cheyenne Wyo. May 4" circular datestamp, minor edge wear, Very Fine, scarce ..... E. 100-150
- 4214 ✉ **William H. Seward.** U.S. Senator, Secretary of State under Lincoln, free frank "*Will H. Seward*" on cover to Schaghticoke N.Y., reduced at sides, neat "Washington D.C. Jan. 1, 1856 Free" circular datestamp, Very Fine ..... E. 150-200



- 4215 ☒ **Daniel Webster.** Free frank "Danl. Webster U.S. Senate" on **transatlantic folded letter from France to U.S.**, datelined Paris Oct. 28, 1839, to Daniel Fletcher Webster in LaSalle Ill., Paris circular datestamp, red "Paid Ship Letter London" oval and "Foreign Paid" in arc, red "New-York Ship Nov. 24" circular datestamp, sender's route instructions "pr. B. Queen via London", various rate markings, the last of which are crossed out and marked "F" for free, negligible wear along folds, Fine and outstanding use of Webster's free frank on an incoming letter from family in Europe, accompanied by rate analysis by Richard Winter..... E. 750-1,000
- 4216 ☒ **Daniel Webster.** Free frank as U.S. Senator "Danl. Webster U.S. Senate" on cover addressed to Millard Fillmore in Albany N.Y., red "Boston Mass. Apr. 28" circular datestamp with matching "Free" handstamp, intact wax seal on back, some edgewear incl. small tear at bottom, Very Fine, probably sent to Fillmore as Comptroller in Albany (1847-1849), Fillmore became Vice President in 1849 and President in 1850 when Taylor died, Fillmore appointed Webster his Secretary of State in 1850 ..... E. 750-1,000
- 4217 ☒ **Daniel Webster.** Folded cover addressed to him as Senator in Washington D.C. and forwarded to Boston, clear strike of red "Detroit Mic. T. Jan. 20" oval datestamp and matching "Free" handstamp on folded cover, bold red "Washn. City Feb. 4" circular datestamp and matching "Free" handstamp, faint file fold, Very Fine and choice, interesting forwarded usage sent free to a member of Congress ..... E. 200-300
- 4218 ☒ **Legislative Department Free Franks.** Almost 400, neatly arranged on exhibit-style pages by state and then by time period, large number of penalty envelopes, some are printed franks, incl. some Speakers of the House and few Vice Presidents (incl. one Colfax), virtually all fresh and Fine-Very Fine, fascinating group and the nucleus of a wonderful collection .....*Not illustrated* E. 1,500-2,000
- 4219 ☒ **Legislative Free Franks and Usages.** Eleven, incl. A. Tattom and E. Everett, territorial delegates Chaffee (Col. Terr.) and Cass (Michigan Terr. unsigned), several other Senatorial and Congressional usages with stationery or facsimile signatures, minor faults, generally Fine .....*Not illustrated* E. 400-500



## UNUSUAL FRANKINGS AND USAGES



4220

- 4220 ☒ **Negative “Washington City” Horse & Rider Oval.** Orange-red handstamp clearly struck on flap, matching red “Washington City D.C. Dec. 1” circular datestamp and “Free” handstamp on folded letter free franked “Free R. French” as Representative from Kentucky, datelined Washington D.C. Dec. 1, 1844, to his wife in Mount Sterling Ky., content mentions Texas annexation question. An enigmatic marking: the other known example of this Horse & Rider oval is also on a free-franked cover (Knapp Sale, Part 2, lot 1378), dated April 14, 1842; no explanation for its purpose or meaning has been determined, but it is a very distinctive and rare marking..... E. 1,500-2,000



4221EX

- 4221 ☒ **“Imitation” Free Franks.** Two covers: first is May 7, 1837 folded letter from Pa. state Congressman attending state convention in Harrisburg and franked with reference to the convention, rated “25” for double rate which was apparently paid by the State Legislature; second is similar usage from June 9, 1842 but for 6c postage and franked by Thaddeus Stevens as Representative to Pa. State Legislature, fresh and Very Fine, unusual usages .....(Photo Ex) E. 100-150



4222

- 4222 ☒ **10c Black (2).** Three large margins, full to in at top, tied by blue “Milwaukee Wis. Feb. 28” circular datestamp and three criss-crossed strikes of matching “Free” handstamp on blue 1849 Office of the Milwaukee Sentinel and Gazette folded letter to “Hon. O. Cole M.C., Washington D.C.”, **2pp autograph letter signed by Rufus King**, contents discuss incoming Presidential administration (Zachary Taylor) and how quickly new appointments should be made, faint vertical file fold

VERY FINE. A RARE AND BEAUTIFUL USAGE OF THE 10-CENT 1847 ISSUE, CANCELLED BY MULTIPLE STRIKES OF THE BLUE “FREE” CANCELLATION. THE ONLY RECORDED USAGE OF THE “FREE” HANDSTAMP ON AN 1847 COVER FROM MILWAUKEE.

Mail could be sent free to a member of Congress, thus the use of this 10c stamp was unnecessary. It may have been affixed by the sender as an insurance policy, to ensure that the letter would not be treated as unpaid by the post office..... E. 3,000-4,000



4223

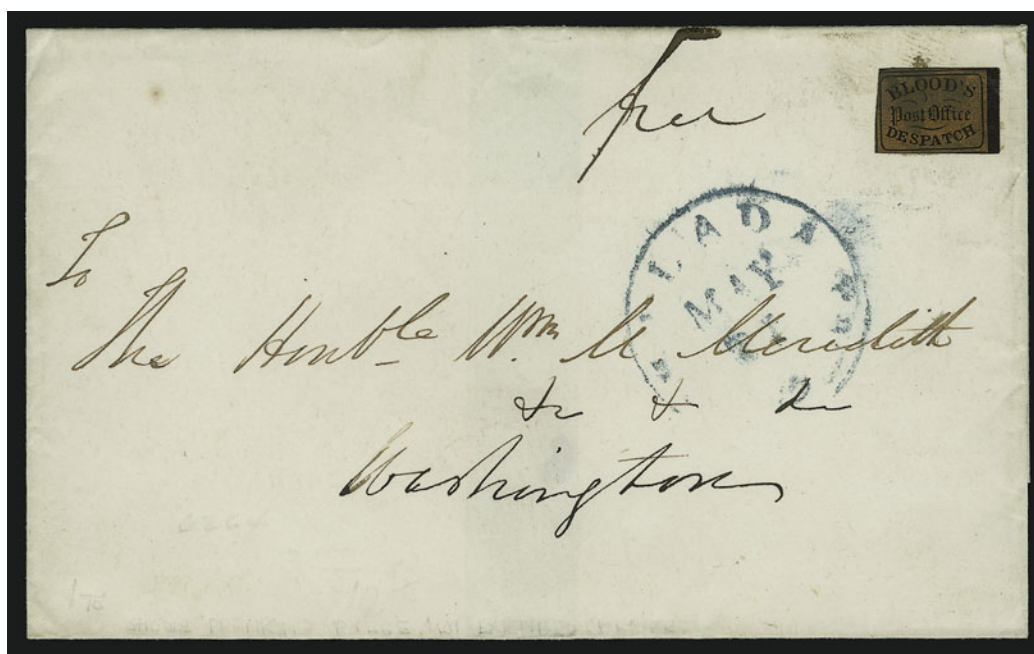
- 4223 ☒ **10c Green, Ty. II, III (14, 15).** Eight Ty. II, one Ty. III, the nine stamps in three strips of three — two horizontal strips with large margins to just touched (Pos. 53-55R1, 73-75R1), one vertical strip with large sheet margin, ample other sides except cut in at bottom (Pos. 1/11/21R1) — tied by multiple strikes of “Washington City D.C. Oct. 28, 1857” circular datestamp on legal-size Treasury Department, First Comptroller’s Office, imprint cover to **Buenos Aire, Argentina**, to the Minister Jas. A. Pedeu, signed by Wiliam Medill, magenta “48” credit, red London transit, red New York backstamp, skillfully restored by pressing folds, lightening stains and sealing small tears in stamps; however, the cover is basically intact and of Very Fine appearance — a truly remarkable usage and one of the largest multiple frankings of the 10c 1855, at first glance appearing as a block, ex Rust ..... E. 3,000-4,000





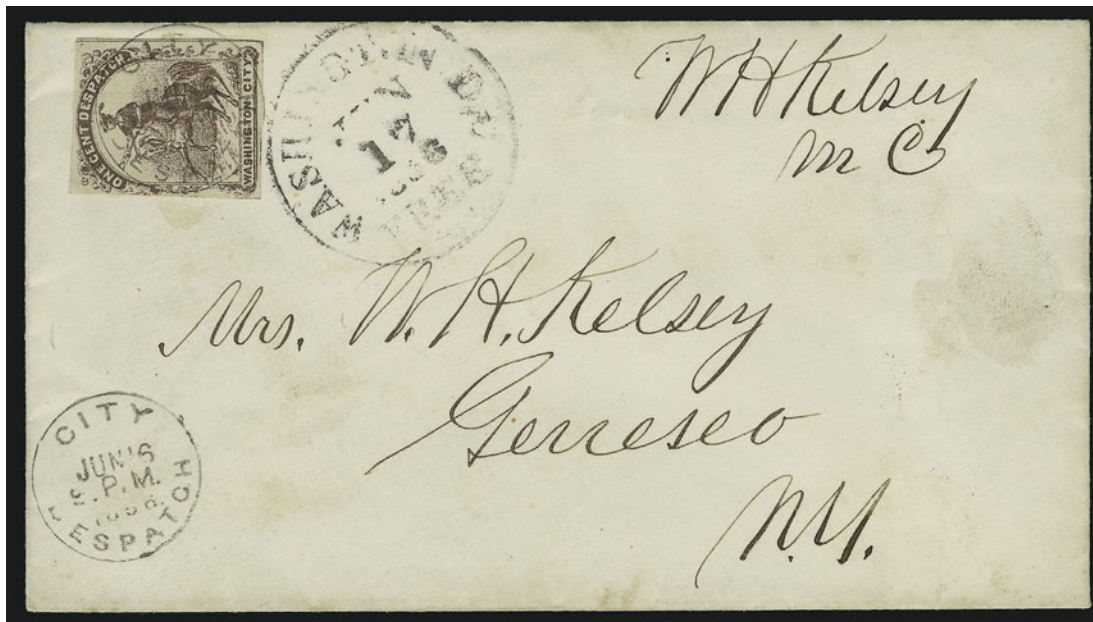
4224

- 4224 ☒ **15c Brown & Blue, Ty. II (119).** Centered to top, rich color, tied by "Grafton W. Va. Mar. 14" double-circle datestamp on oversize **United States Internal Revenue** imprint cover sent **registered** to "Mouth of Seneca, Pendleton Co. N.Y.", free franked by Internal Revenue agent at top right, reduced at sides, cover quite worn, still Fine, unusual usage, the free frank paid domestic postage but the 15c stamp was necessary to pay the registry fee..... E. 300-400



4225

- 4225 ☒ **Blood's City Despatch, Philadelphia Pa., (1c) Bronze on Black Glazed (15L17).** Acid tied on folded cover addressed to **William Meredith as Secretary of the Treasury** in Washington D.C., blue "Philada. Pa. May 21" circular datestamp, endorsed "free" at top, Very Fine, Blood's fee paid with stamp, then sent free through the U.S. postal system..... E. 150-200

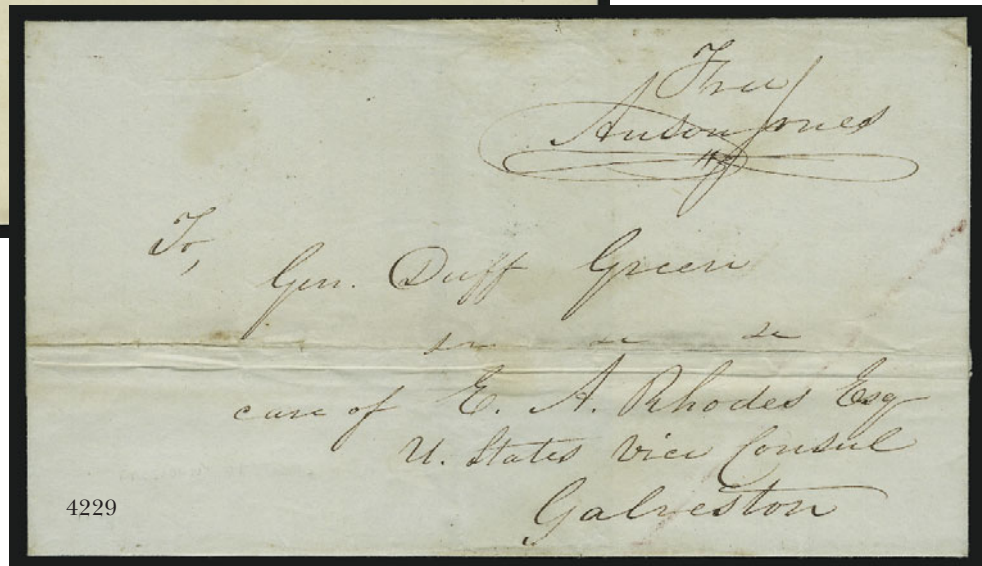
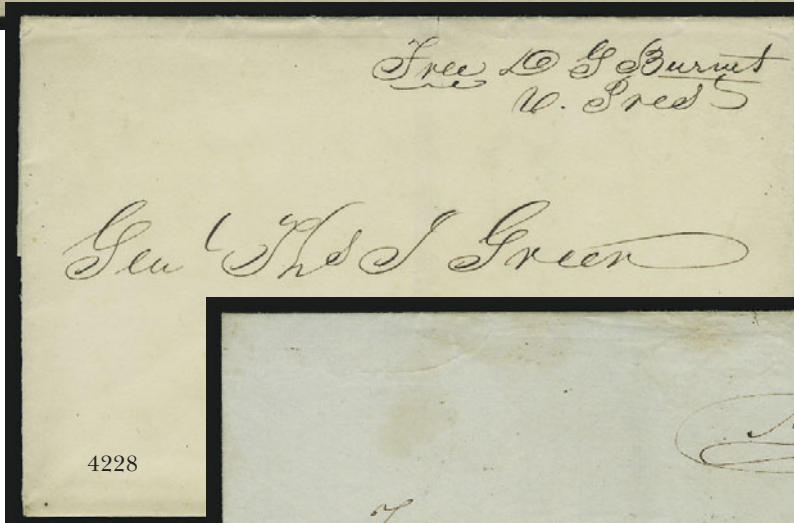
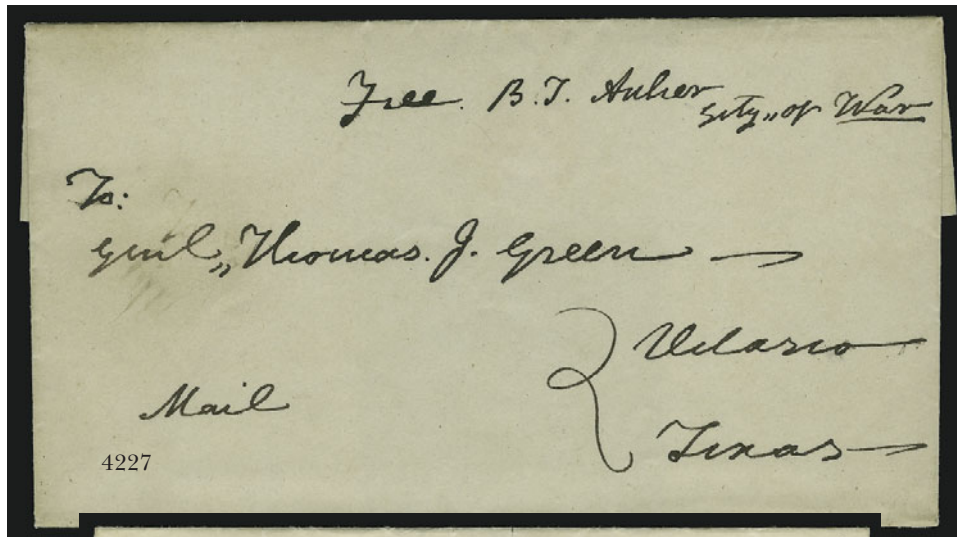


4226

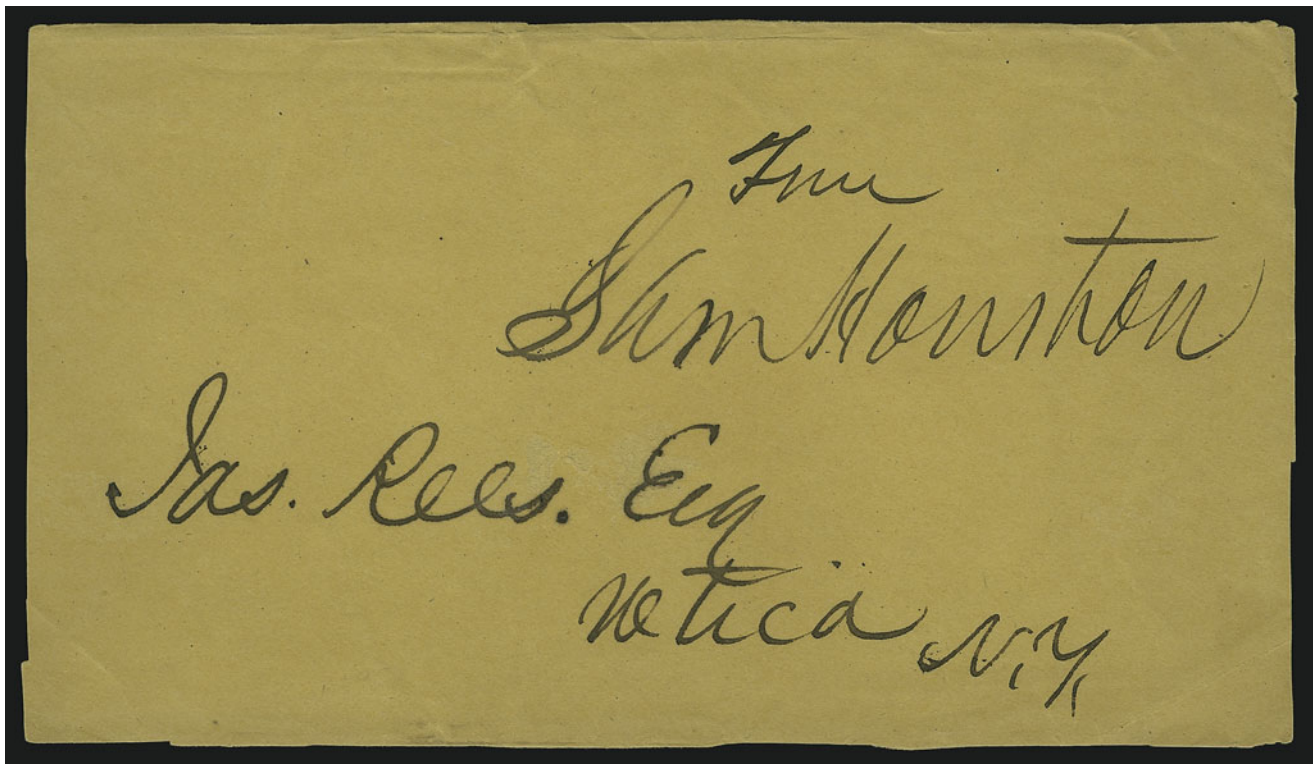
- 4226 ✉ **William H. Kelsey.** Congressman from New York, free frank "*W H Kelsey MC*" as congressman on cover addressed to Mrs. Kelsey at Geneseo N.Y., free frank used in combination with **One Cent Despatch, Washington D.C., 1c Violet (112L1)**, ample margins to just touched at left, tied by "City Despatch Jun 16 9 P.M. 1856" company circular datestamp, second strike at bottom left, also with "Washington D.C. Jun. 17, 1856 Free" circular datestamp, pristine condition, Extremely Fine, an extremely rare combination of this local-post adhesive and congressional free frank, ex Grunin ..... E. 1,500-2,000



REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

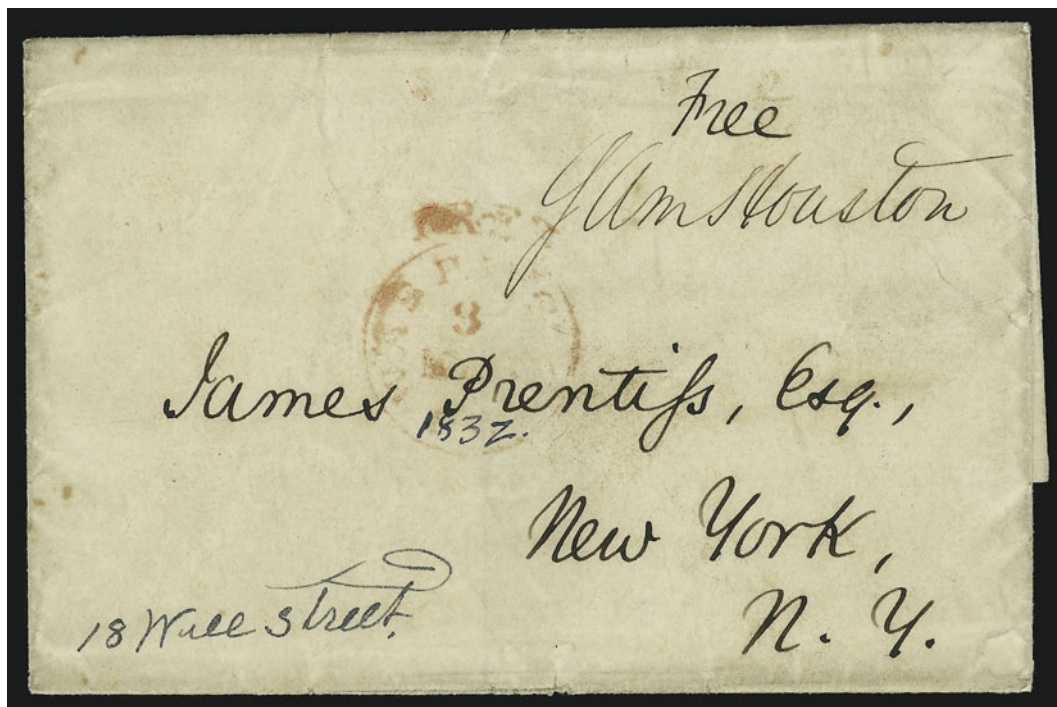


- 4227 ☒ **Branch T. Archer.** Free frank "Free B.T. Archer Scty. of War" as Secretary of War of Republic of Texas on remarkably fresh folded cover to General Thomas Green at Velasco, Very Fine and choice, rare frank ..... E. 300-400
- 4228 ☒ **David G. Burnet.** Free frank "Free D. G. Burnet V.Pres." as Vice President of Republic of Texas on 1840 folded cover to General Thomas Green at Velasco, Very Fine and rare ..... E. 400-500
- 4229 ☒ **Anson Jones.** Free frank "Free Anson Jones" as **President of Republic of Texas** on 1844 folded cover General Green at Galveston, some minor soiling and horizontal file fold, Very Fine, scarce ..... E. 400-500



4230

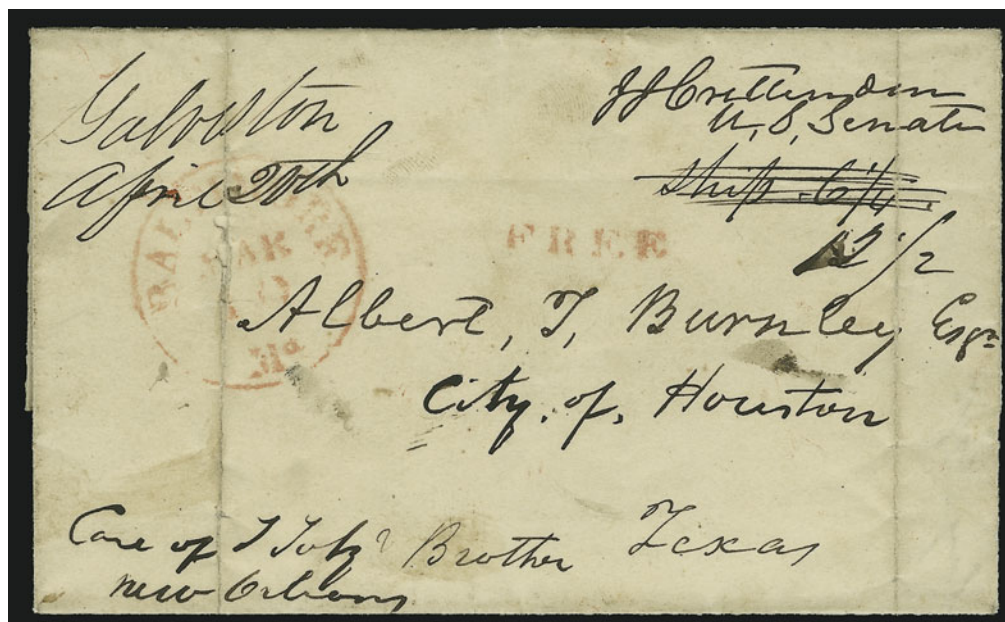
- 4230 **Sam Houston.** Free frank "Free Sam Houston" (probably as President of Republic of Texas) on orange cover front only to Utica N.Y., fresh and Very Fine..... E. 400-500



4231

- 4231 ☒ **Sam Houston.** Free frank "Free Sam Houston" as Senator from Texas on folded cover to New York City, red "Washington D.C. 3 May Free" circular datestamp, some slight wear, Very Fine, with 2002 P.F. certificate..... E. 750-1,000





4232

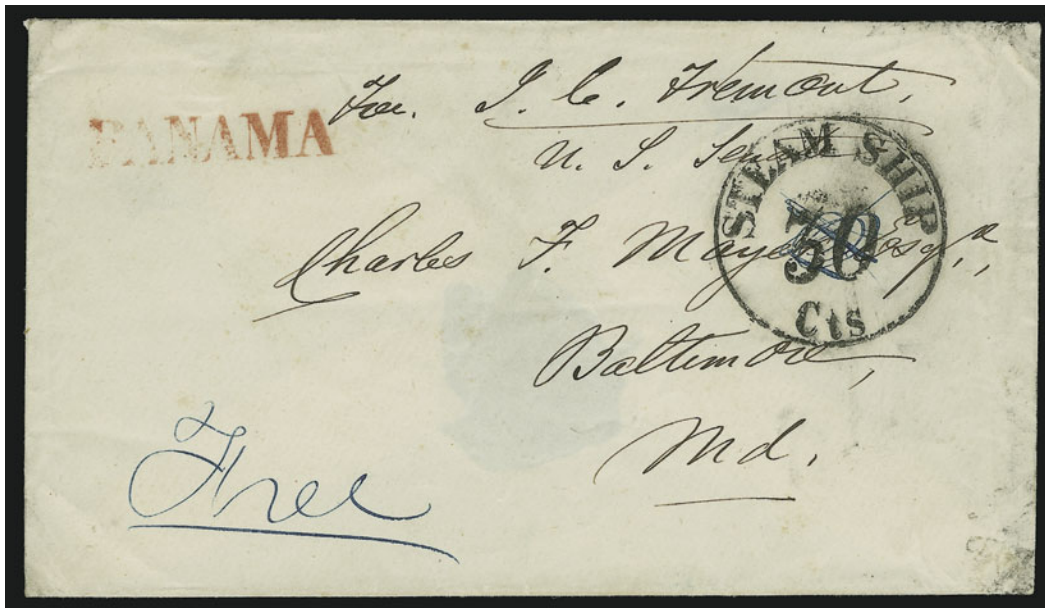
- 4232 ☒ **John J. Crittenden.** Free frank as Senator from Kentucky "JJ Crittenden U.S. Senate" on folded cover from Baltimore to Houston Tex. and addressed "Care of T. Toby New Orleans" — Toby and Bros. were among the forwarding agents handling mail to and from the Texas Republic — red "Baltimore Md. Mar. 19" circular datestamp with matching "Free" handstamp, originally rated "Ship 6¼" but crossed out and uprated to 12½c for 6¼c rate to Houston plus 6¼c incoming ship rate, Galveston transit ms. postmark of April 20, some wear along vertical file folds, Very Fine, unusual usage, the U.S. postage was paid by the free frank, the Texas Republic postage was paid by the recipient..... E. 400-500



4233

- 4233 ☒ **Center Hill Tex. May 11.** Ms. postmark with matching "Free" on 1838 folded letter to Indiana, red "Ship" and "Steam Packet Columbia" handstamps, back of cover with large oval "Sam Ricker Jr. New Orleans, Agent of the Texian Post Office" handstamp, rated 27c for 2c ship fee plus 25c for distance greater than 400 miles, light vertical file fold, Very Fine, unusual usage, sent free of Texas Republic postage (presumably from a postmaster), U.S. postage was due from recipient..... E. 300-400

## CALIFORNIA MAILS

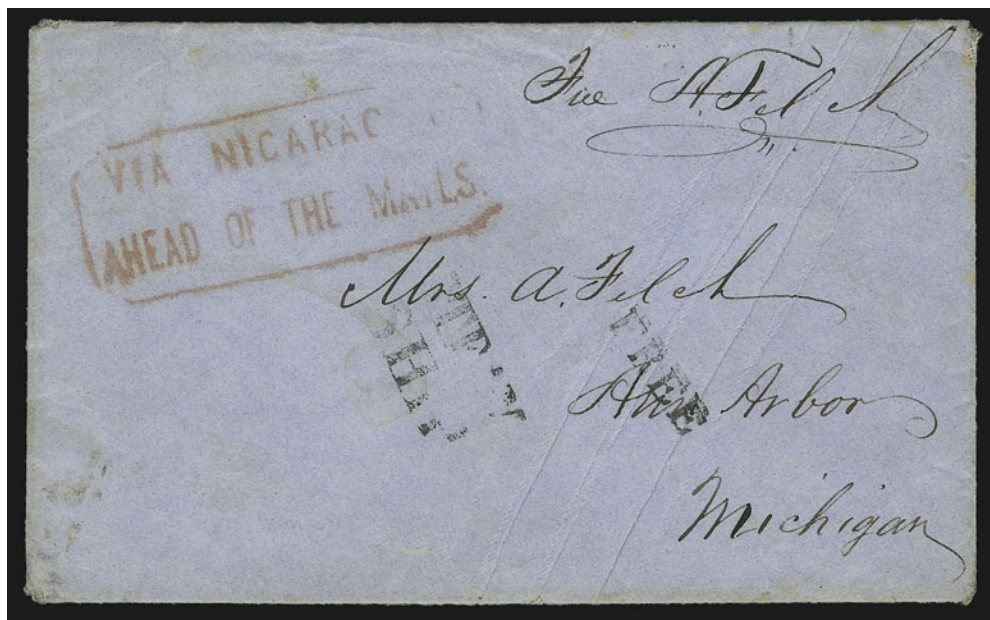


4234

- 4234 ☒ **John C. Fremont.** Explorer of the Rocky Mountains, the "Pathfinder", Senator from California, free frank "Free J.C. Fremont/U.S. Senate" on cover addressed in his hand to Charles F. Mayer in Baltimore Md., red "Panama" straightline handstamp and "Steam Ship 30 Cts" in circle with rate crossed out in blue pen and matching "Free"

VERY FINE. ONE OF TWO RECORDED COVERS FRANKED BY FREMONT AND HANDSTAMPED WITH THE "PANAMA" STRAIGHTLINE AT THE UNITED STATES POSTAL AGENCY IN PANAMA.

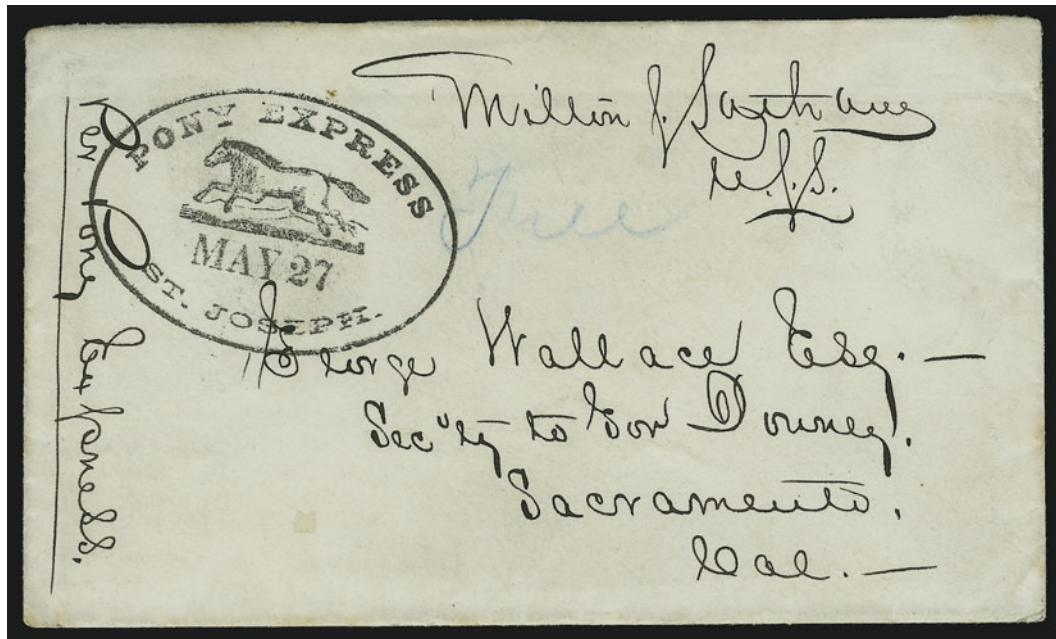
Charles F. Mayer was a member of the Konig family and principal in the Baltimore firm of Mayer & Konig, a prominent importer and dealer in fancy goods. A similar cover (except bearing the "Steam/Ship" marking in two lines) was offered in our 1996 Rarities of the World sale and realized \$7,500 hammer. .... E. 4,000-5,000



4235

- 4235 ☒ **Alpheus Felch.** Free frank "Free A. Felch" as Senator from Michigan on blue cover from California to Michigan via New York, clear strike of red boxed "Via Nicaragua Ahead of the Mails" handstamp, also strikes of "Steam/Ship" and "Free" handstamps, minor wear, Very Fine, scarce usage, probably sent in early 1853, ex Knapp, Wiltsee and Grunin..... E. 500-750
- 4236 ☒ **James William Denver.** Commissioner of Indian Affairs, three covers addressed to him and sent free of charge under his franking privilege, including one with designation "Via Tehautepec", two sent to Washington D.C., last sent to Kansas Terr., fresh and Very Fine .....Not illustrated E. 200-300





4237

PONY EXPRESS

4237 ✉ **Milton S. Latham.** Congressman and Senator from California, free frank “*Milton S. Latham U.S.S.*” on pristine white envelope addressed in his hand to George Wallace, secretary to California’s Governor Downey, at Sacramento, perfect bold strike of “**Pony Express St. Joseph May 27**” (1860) Running Pony oval datestamp, Latham’s endorsement “*Per Pony Express*”, blue crayon ms. “*Free*” in another hand, indicating waiver of Pony Express charge, with original letter datelined “*Washington, May 22/60*” from Latham (see excerpts below)

EXTREMELY FINE AND PRISTINE COVER WITH A PERFECT STRIKE OF THE ST. JOSEPH RUNNING PONY OVAL. ONE OF SIX RECORDED PONY EXPRESS COVERS SIGNED BY SENATOR LATHAM.

The Pony Express was launched in 1860 by the overland freight express firm operated by William H. Russell, Alexander Majors and William B. Waddell. In an attempt to secure the lucrative government mail contract, the Central Overland California & Pikes Peak Express Company announced that it would carry letters between California and the railroad terminus at St. Joseph, Missouri, in less than ten days. The earliest advertisements appeared in January 1860, and the first pony rider left the *Alta Telegraph* office in San Francisco at 4:00 p.m. on April 3, 1860.

The cover offered here is franked by Senator Milton S. Latham, who went to California in 1850 and was elected to Congress on the 1852 Democratic ticket. After his term expired, he declined to run for reelection and served as collector for the port of San Francisco. In 1859 he was elected governor, but he resigned almost immediately to become a U.S. senator. Latham served until 1863, during which time he was a strong supporter of Russell, Majors and Waddell and their effort to secure the contract for the central route.

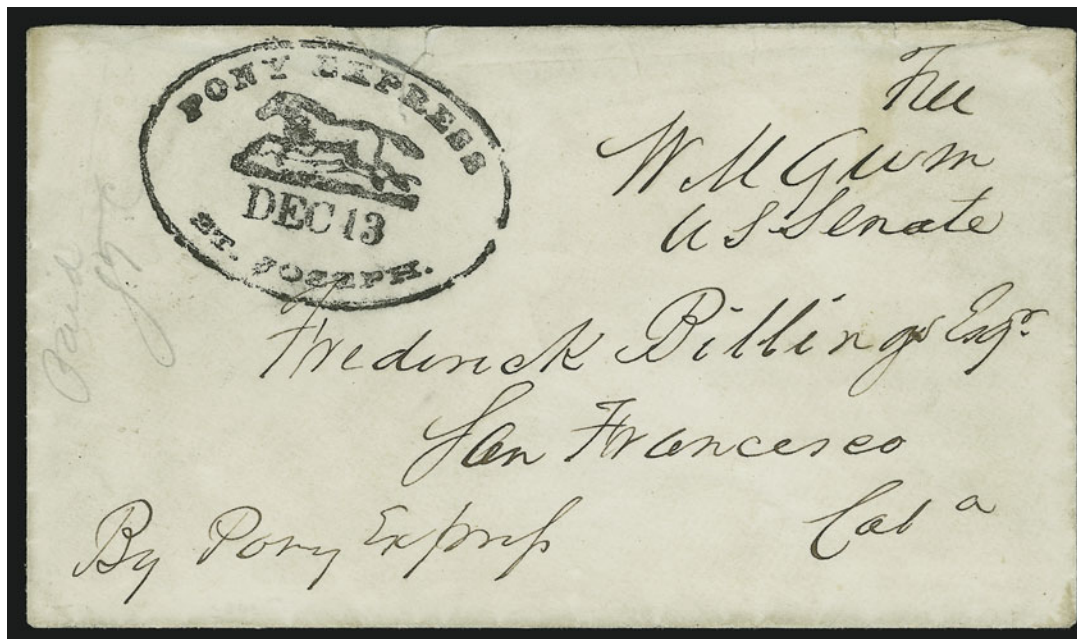
This autograph letter signed “*Latham*” is datelined Washington, May 22, 1860, and addressed to George Wallace, secretary to California’s Governor Downey. The content reveals Senator Latham’s political views and, in typical fashion, his cronyism and partisan maneuvering on Capitol Hill.

He writes: “*I called in person to see Secy. Toucey of the Navy, about Coghlan, & urged him to make the order O’Farrell wanted, and I then wrote T. a strong letter to the same effect. I recd. last night the enclosed answer, which I send you. You will see that he says ‘the services of a Boatswain are not required’ at Mare Island & of course I can do no more. I am sorry for this, for I should have been much pleased to favor O’Farrell. Better luck next time. I have recd. all your letters & cannot tell you how gratified I am at their contents. They keep me posted as to all Cala. matters and are very refreshing. You need not fear my Clerk, George, for he does not see your letters, and if he did, it would make no difference, for he is very reliable. You know I generally know my confidential friends, your own experience should satisfy you of this. Gordon has no connection with Cala. & although his brother, George, is with Tom Williams, he is too honorable & too much attached to me to betray my friendship. . . The great Democratic party is split forever, I fear. Douglas has made the greatest speech of his life last week, but it has only embittered his enemies the more. I think the Richmond Convention will nominate Lane, and the Baltimore will nominate Douglas & Stephens. We will then have a Northern & Southern Democratic Party & who then can say where it will end. What a pity inasmuch as it all comes from an **abstraction about the almighty nigger. . .**”*

The envelope is addressed and endorsed “*Per Pony Express*” in Latham’s hand. The St. Joseph Running Pony handstamp is perfectly struck with the famous running pony design showing remarkable detail. The blue “*Free*” indicates that the \$5.00 Pony Express fee was waived in favor of Senator Latham, whose political efforts on behalf of the company were enthusiastic. This Pony Express trip left from St. Joseph on May 27, 1860. A total of ten free-franked Pony Express covers are recorded in Nathan, six of which were signed by Senator Latham (on the first he paid the \$5.00 fee; the subsequent ones were carried free). A mate to this cover, dated at St. Joseph on May 13, is illustrated in the Nathan book (p.10) and was sold in our sale of the Hall collection for \$95,000 hammer (Sale 830, lot 798). Another similar cover, dated June 3, is listed in the Nathan census.

Ex Knapp, Hale, Hertz and Grunin, and featured on the cover of our catalogue for the Hale collection (Sale 171, April 29, 1954). ..... E. 75,000-100,000





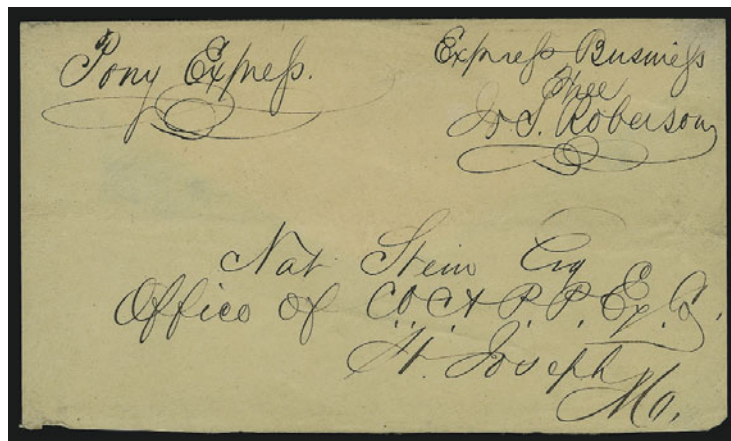
4238

4238 ☒ **William M. Gwin.** Senator from California, free frank "Free W M Gwin US Senate" on white envelope addressed in Gwin's hand to Frederick Billings at San Francisco, bold strike of "Pony Express St. Joseph Dec. 13" (1860) Running Pony oval datestamp (shows wear or ink caking due to cold), Gwin's endorsement "By Pony Express", pencil "Paid J.T.C." in another hand indicating payment of Pony Express charge, backflap slightly torn from opening, small nick in top edge of cover above the handstamp (small part of the oval rim pencilled in)

VERY FINE AND EXTREMELY RARE COVER WITH A BOLD STRIKE OF THE ST. JOSEPH RUNNING PONY OVAL AND FREE FRANK OF SENATOR WILLIAM M. GWIN. ONE OF TEN FREE-FRANKED PONY EXPRESS COVERS RECORDED IN THE NATHAN CENSUS.

Senator Gwin, who received his medical degree from Transylvania University in 1828, was a colorful, influential and controversial figure in California politics. In 1840 he was elected to Congress and aligned himself with the Calhoun school. He left Washington for California in 1849, following the prediction of John C. Calhoun that San Francisco would become New York's great rival. Dr. Gwin and Fremont became senators, and, influenced by Senator Gwin's tireless efforts, the U.S. government authorized the establishment of the U.S. Mint in California, the survey of the Pacific coast, a navy-yard, and the commencement of steamship service between San Francisco, China, and Japan, via the Hawaiian Islands. At the beginning of the Civil War, former Senator Gwin was arrested on accusation of disloyalty and held prisoner until 1863. After his release from prison, he traveled to France and became involved in a scheme to colonize Sonora with southerners, under the authority of Napoleon and Emperor Maximilian. The plan failed without the support of Mexico's military, and Dr. Gwin finally returned to California, where he continued to participate in political affairs.

Ex Grunin ..... E. 20,000-30,000

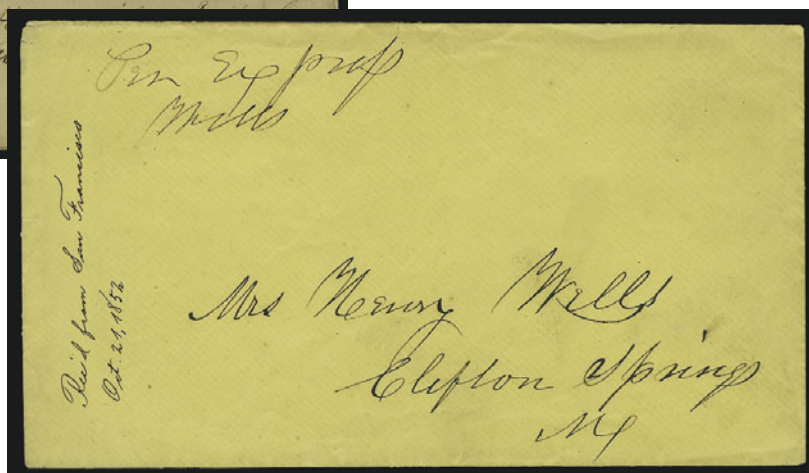


4239

- 4239      **“Express Business, Free, Jo S. Roberson” Pony Express Free Frank.** Cover front with backflap, franked and addressed by Roberson to Nat Stein, Office of Central Overland & Pike’s Peak Express Co. at St. Joseph Mo., endorsed “Pony Express”, undated and therefore it is not known which pony trip carried this mail, minor cosmetic edge improvements, Very Fine appearance, a rare “Express Business” Pony Express frank ..... E. 2,000-3,000



4240



4241

- 4240      **Samuel Langton.** Free frank “Free SWL” on cover to Marysville Cal. and forwarded to Downieville Cal., blue “Franklin Mills O. Jun. 8” circular datestamp with matching “Paid” and “10” handstamps, well-struck blue “**Langton’s Pioneer Express, Marysville**” handstamp, repaired at top, still Very Fine, the recipient, Frank Rumrill, came from Ohio to California in 1851 to mine for gold but instead became interested in the express business between Marysville and Downieville; in 1855 he sold his business to Langton and returned to Ohio; this letter was sent to Rumrill in Marysville, but when it arrived he was in Downieville, so Langton forwarded the letter free of charge..... E. 500-750
- 4241      **Henry Wells.** Free frank “Per Express Wells” on yellow cover to his wife in Clifton Spring N.Y., neat ms. Oct. 21, 1852 docketing at left, non-contemporary blue pen notation on back in ballpoint, still Very Fine, interesting and scarce frank from one of the founders of Wells, Fargo & Co., sent only four months after the western express started, apparently carried outside of the mails..... E. 400-500



## THE CIVIL WAR



- 4242 ☒ **George McClellan.** Successful unauthorized free frank "*Hd Qts of the Army/Geo McClellan/Maj. Enl Comdg.*" on cover to Hartford Conn., partial "Washington D.C. Jan. 20" (1862) circular datestamp, Fine, because of his rank (he replaced Scott as Commanding General on Nov. 1, 1861), and because Scott's frank was recognized, it was probably assumed by Washington D.C. postal clerks that McClellan had the same privilege, but no mention is made in any of the official summaries in this period; to his credit, McClellan did not use the word "Free"; nevertheless the cover was post-marked and went through the mails without any due markings; no other such cover, franked by Grant, is recorded by the ASCC, Vol. II, but the introduction to that section states: "No authority for Scott's Civil War era successors, McClellan and Halleck, has been found, nor have their franked covers been seen." A remarkable, and possibly unique, war-time usage..... E. 1,000-1,500
- 4243 ☒ **Winfield Scott.** U.S. General, presidential candidate, first commander of the Union forces in Civil War, free frank as Maj. General "*Free Winfield Scott Major Genl., &c &c.*" at top right of cover to Charles King in Elizabethtown N.J., red "**Washington Railroad Oct. 4**" route agent's circular datestamp, slightly reduced at right and some edgewear, Very Fine, probably used around 1850 ..... E. 400-500
- 4244 ☒ **Winfield Scott.** U.S. General, presidential candidate, first commander of the Union forces in Civil War, envelope addressed in his hand and franked "*Free - On public service*" without signature, to Colonel E. D. Townshend, adjutant-general U.S. Army, at Washington D.C., magenta "**Unpaid and Not Franked**" circular handstamp, small piece of backflap missing, otherwise Very Fine, an extremely rare attempted free frank that was rejected by the post office for lack of signature, ex Grunin ..... E. 200-300
- 4245 ☒ **Winfield Scott.** U.S. General, presidential candidate, first commander of the Union forces in Civil War, free frank as Maj. General "*Free Winfield Scott Lieut. Genl., &c &c.*" at top right of "Head Quarters of the Army, Official Business" imprint cover to Lieutenant E.W.H. Reade of the 8th Infantry, small sealed tear at top from opening and some overall wear, Very Fine.... E. 400-500



4246

- 4246 ☒ **Adams Express Company N.Y.** Perfectly clear blue double-circle handstamp on red and blue **Col. Ellsworth Memorial Patriotic** cover to Exeter N.H., Wells imprint, sent by "*Freeman Conner, June 10, 1861*" (in ms. at right), **free franked by Congressman C. H. Van Wyck** who franked a large quantity of mail for soldiers around the Washington D.C. area, red "New York Jun - 1861 Free" circular datestamp without day, backflap removed **EXTREMELY FINE AND HIGHLY EXHIBITABLE. A SCARCE ELLSWORTH PATRIOTIC DESIGN AND PROBABLY THE ONLY EXTANT EXAMPLE CARRIED BY ADAMS EXPRESS.**

Federal troops surrounding Washington D.C. at the beginning of the war relied on Adams for transmission of mail and valuables. This cover was carried by Adams to New York City and put into the mails for New Hampshire.

From our Sale 795, where it realized \$4,250 hammer ..... E. 3,000-4,000





4247

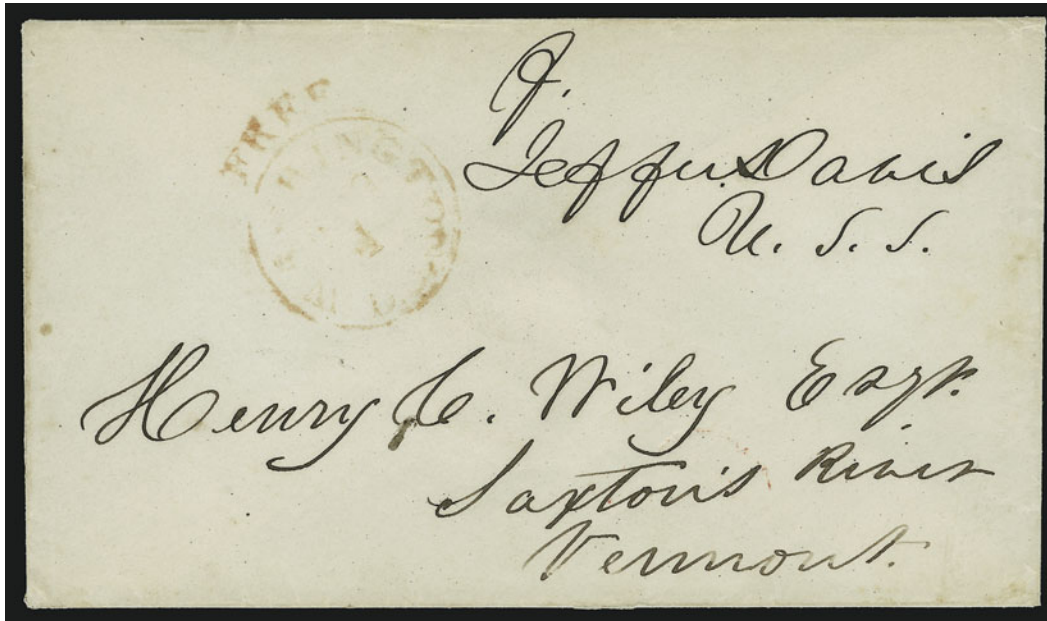


4248

4249

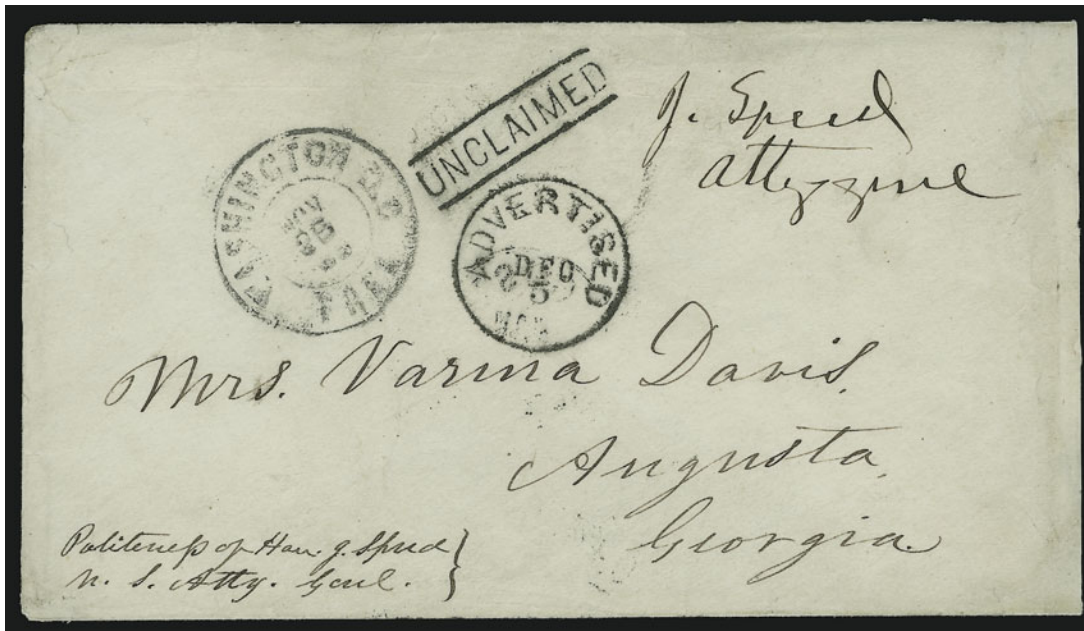
- 4247 ☒ **William Helmick.** Representative from Ohio (1859-61), blue **Liberty and Smithsonian Institution Magnus Patriotic** cover with “W. Helmick” free franked *after* his term had ended but before next session of Congress began and sent by a soldier to Grand Rapids Mich., with two illustrated enclosures incl. one matching the cover but in green and dated “Camp of Instruction, Washington”, in one enclosure sender writes “I am going to the city tomorrow and I think I shall have a chance to get some envelopes franked, so they will go free, and if I do then I shall send you some more perhaps.”, Washington D.C. circular datestamp, expertly repaired along right edge, otherwise Very Fine, fascinating usage ..... E. 300-400
- 4248 ☒ **William Helmick.** Representative from Ohio (1859-61), free frank “W. Helmick M.C.” on red **General McClellan “The War For the Union” Patriotic** cover to Grand Rapids Mich., bold “Washington D.C. Nov. 14, 1861” circular datestamp, with matching original enclosure which originally enclosed a leaf (possibly Maple) and showing toned outline, cover expertly restored along edges, Very Fine, Helmick obviously free franked this for a soldier who was stationed in the area ..... E. 200-300
- 4249 ☒ **William Helmick.** Representative from Ohio (1859-61), attempted free frank “W. Helmick M.C.” after his term had ended and after next session of Congress had commenced, his free frank crossed out and free franked “Wm. Mitchell”, on green “**Green Mountain, Freedom and Unity, Vermont Loyal**” Patriotic cover to Grand Rapids Mich., with original enclosure, neat “Washington D.C. Feb. 20, 1862” circular datestamp, some slight edgewear, Very Fine..... E. 200-300

CONFEDERATE STATES



4250

- 4250 ☒ **Jefferson Davis.** Free frank "F. Jeff Davis U.S.S." as U.S. Senator on cover addressed in his hand to Saxton's River Vt., red "Free Washington D.C. Aug. 4" circular datestamp, intact wax seal on back but indistinct impression, fresh and Very Fine ..... E. 750-1,000



4251

- 4251 ☒ **Jefferson Davis as Prisoner of War to his Wife.** Cover addressed in the hand of the former President to his wife, "Mrs. Varina Davis, Augusta, Georgia," additionally Davis writes, "Politeness of Hon J. Speed U.S. Atty. Genl." in a tiny hand, Speed's signature is at upper right, "J. Speed Atty genl", which served as both free frank and censor's mark, originally datestamped Nov. 25, 1865, in Washington D.C., it was shortly thereafter marked "Advertised Dec. 5" and "UNCLAIMED", apparently by the Augusta office, though it eventually found its way to Mrs. Davis as there is an Augusta circular datestamp dated Jan. 5 on back, and the cover, according to Earl Antrim, was in the collection of Davis's grandson, Mr. Jefferson Hayes-Davis; cover with expertly repaired tear above Washington postmark and small restored nick at top right corner

VERY FINE. A REMARKABLE CIVIL WAR USAGE, SENT BY JEFFERSON DAVIS, FORMER CONFEDERATE PRESIDENT AND IMPRISONED LEADER OF THE SOUTHERN REBELLION.

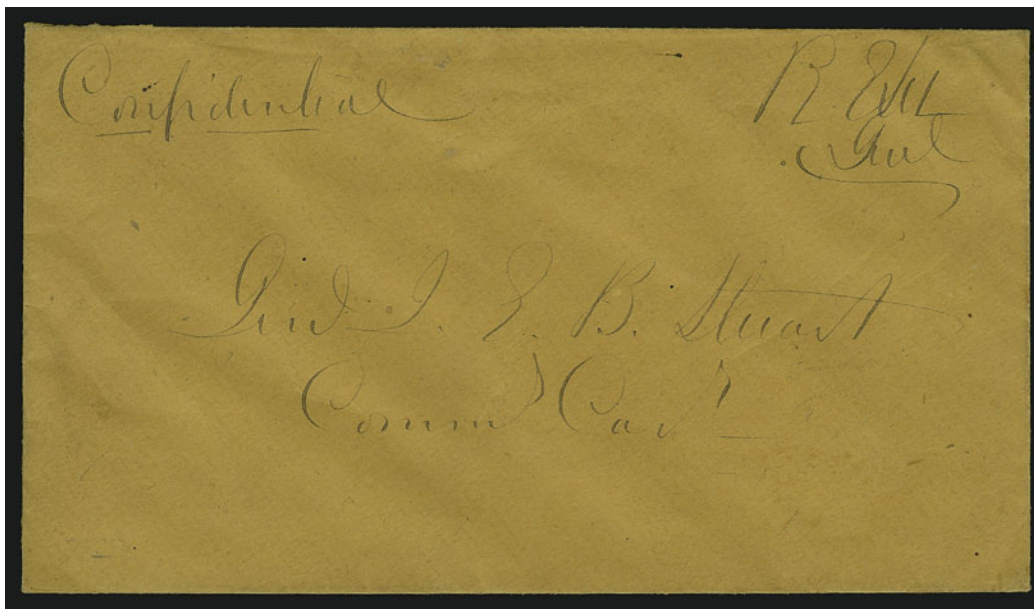
Illustrated in Antrim, page 97. .... E. 5,000-7,500





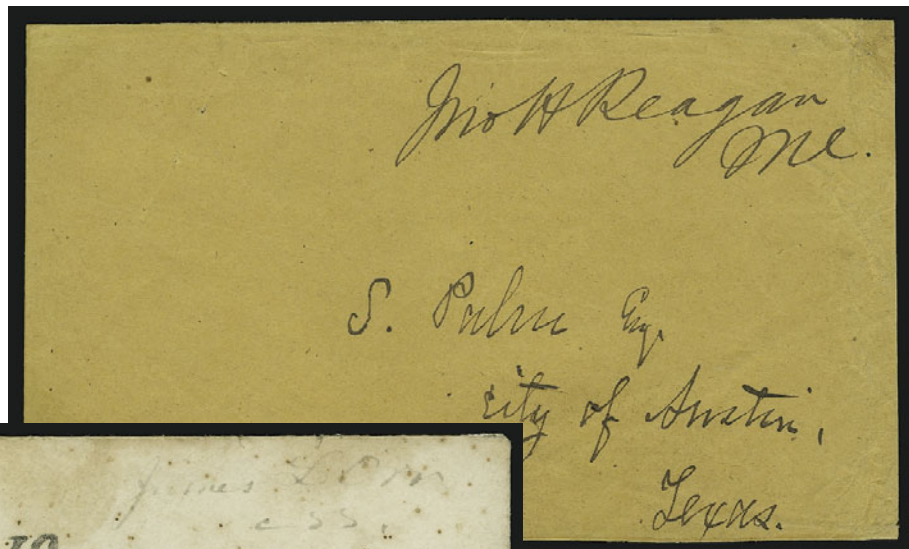
4252

- 4252 ☒ **Robert E. Lee.** Endorsement "R E Lee" under "Engineer Department" written in another hand on 1837 folded cover as member of the Corps of Engineers, to Yuckertown N.J., red "Washington City D.C. Apr. 26" circular datestamp and matching "Free" handstamp, cover addressed and endorsed (in a different hand) "War Dept." and signed at top left, light file folds affect signature, Very Fine, unusual usage, Lee did not enjoy free franking privileges, he signed it as member of the Engineer Department but the free franking was allowed under the War Dept. franking signature ..... E. 2,000-3,000



4253

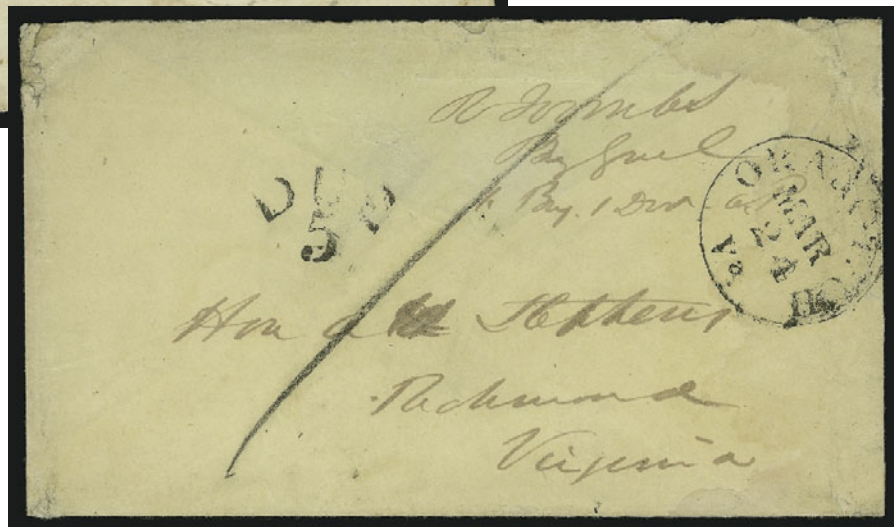
- 4253 ☒ **Robert E. Lee.** Field letter endorsement "R.E. Lee Genl." on undated orange cover to **Genl. J.E.B. Stuart** as Commander of Cavalry, marked "Confidential" at upper left indicating that the content was of military significance, all in Lee's hand, flap faults and light wrinkling  
VERY FINE. A RARE FIELD COVER FROM CONFEDERATE GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE TO GENERAL J.E.B. STUART.  
Robert E. Lee's letters sent from the field were enclosed in envelopes signed "R. E. Lee Genl.". The letters and other important papers were carried by military courier, usually to Richmond to another officer under Lee's command. .... E. 7,500-10,000



4254



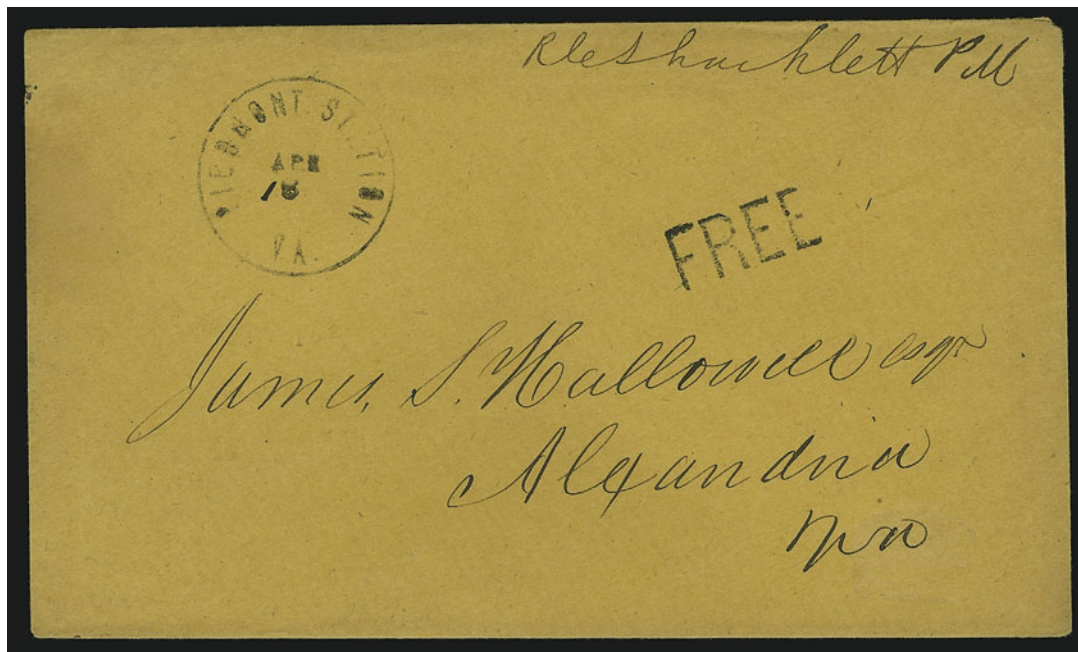
4255



4256

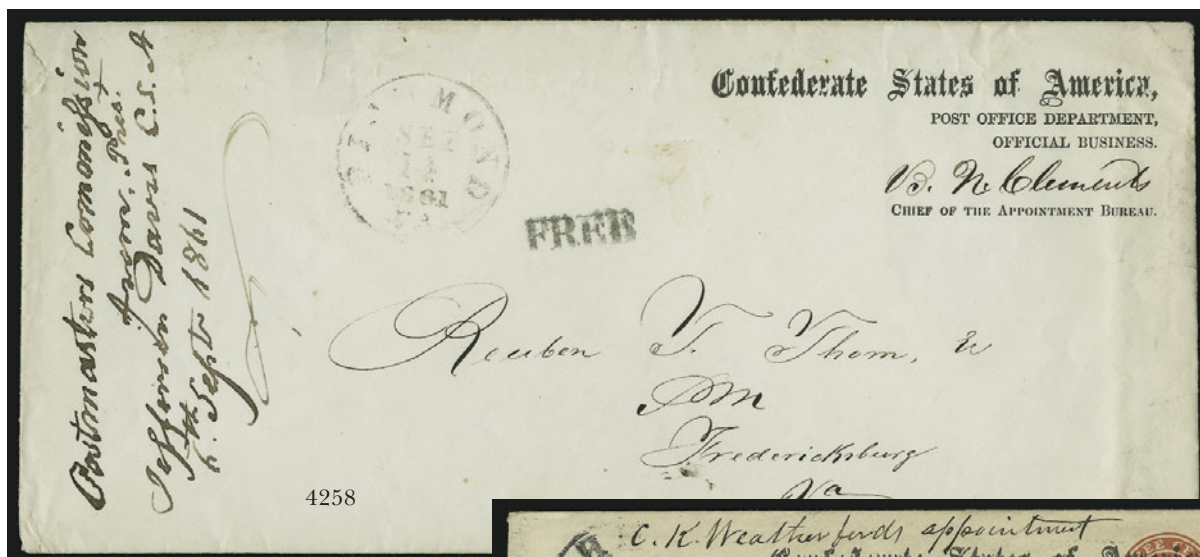
- 4254 ☒ **John H. Reagan. Postmaster General of the Confederate States, free frank** "Jno H Reagan MC" as Congressman from Texas on buff cover to Austin Tex., no postal markings, slight wrinkles, Very Fine, ex Matz..... E. 400-500
- 4255 ☒ **James L. Orr. Free frank** "James L. Orr CSS" on **turned** cover to Abbeville S.C., bold "Richmond Va. May 6" and "Due 10" handstamps, inside addressed to Abbeville and with "Paid 10" handstamp, pencil drawing of bird on one side flap, some toning spots, still Fine, the frank was not accepted in lieu of postage and so was charged 10c due, the sender was one of three Confederate commissioners to visit Washington for the surrender of U.S. forts in Charleston harbor, after the war he became Governor of South Carolina..... E. 150-200
- 4256 ☒ **Robert Toombs. Signed** "R. Toombs Bg Genl." on cover addressed in his hand to Vice President Stephens in Richmond with "Orange C.H. Va. Mar. 24" circular datestamp and "Due 5" in arc, large pencil "1" indicating Richmond carrier service, 1862 docketing on back by Stephens, edge faults incl. light water staining at right just touching last letter in his signature, scarce ..... E. 200-300



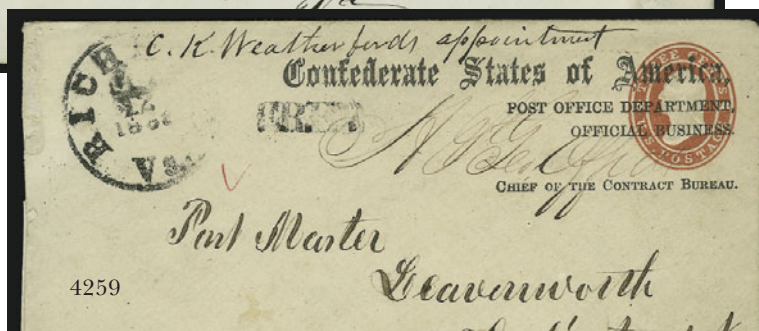


4257

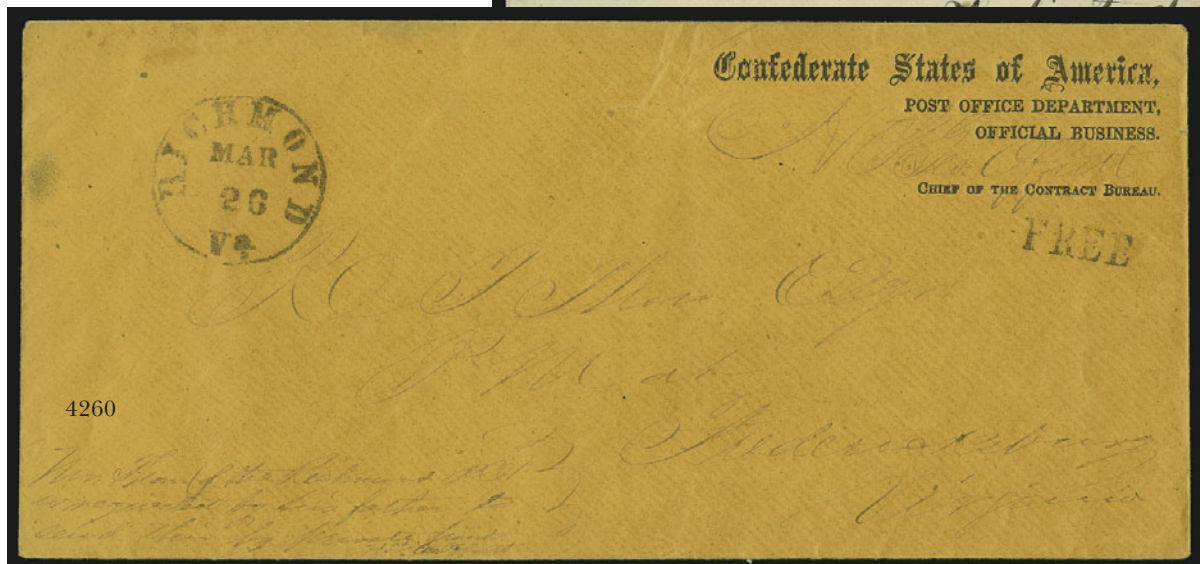
- 4257 ☒ **R.C. Shaklett P.M.** Free frank on buff cover to Alexandria Va., clear strike of “**Piedmont Station Va. Apr. 18** (1861) circular datestamp and “**Free**” handstamp, original letter enclosure from postmaster’s brother (thus an illegal use of frank) with interesting comment “*In regard to secession we have all been opposed to it until the last day or two, but I think it high time now for Va to act and to act decidedly in favour of her rights. Va has done everything in her power to avert this great calamity now upon our country and all to no purpose and in choosing between the North and South she must take the latter.*”, fresh and Very Fine, April 18th was the second day of Virginia’s Independent Statehood — only one other cover with a “Free” handstamp is known from any Independent State, from our Sale 795 (realized \$2,200 hammer) ..... E. 1,500-2,000



4258



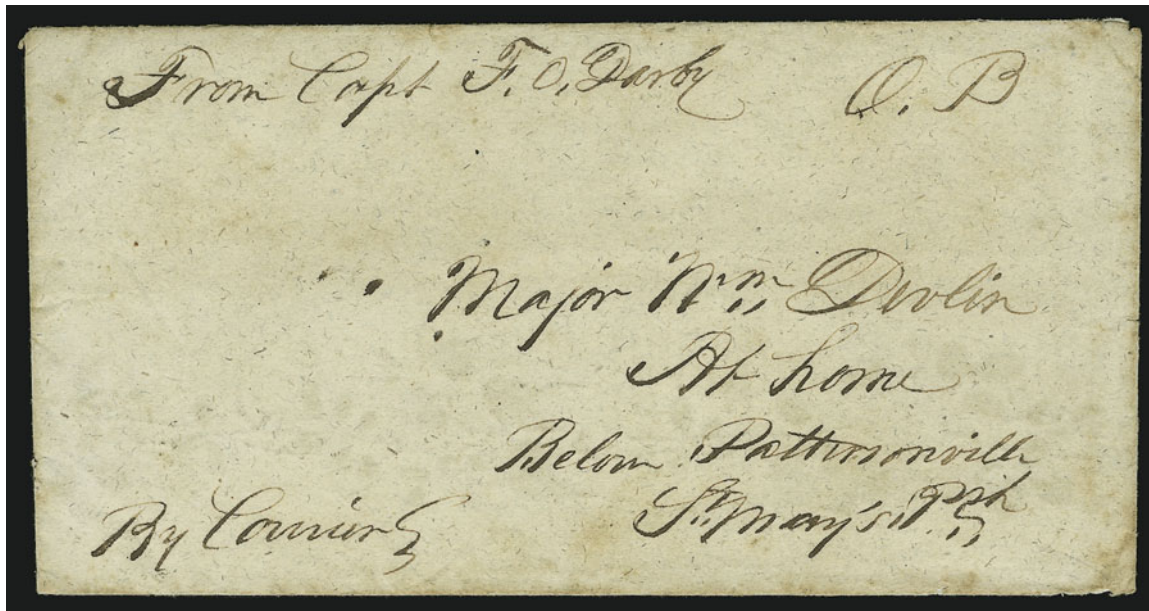
4259



4260

- 4258 ☒ **B. N. Clements.** Free frank and Chief of the Appointment Bureau of the Confederate States Post Office Dept. semi-official imprint on legal-size cover, "Richmond Va. Sep. 11, 1861" circular datestamp and matching "Free" handstamp, docketing at left indicates enclosure was a commission from Jefferson Davis, Very Fine ..... E. 100-150
- 4259 ☒ **H. St. Geo. Offutt.** Free frank and Chief of the Contract Bureau semi-official imprint on U.S. 3c Red Star Die entire to the postmaster at Leavenworth S.C., "Richmond Va. ? 12, 1863" circular datestamp with matching "Free" handstamp, docketing indicates enclosure was an appointment for C. K. Weatherford, barely reduced at left, Very Fine ..... E. 300-400
- 4260 ☒ **H. St. Geo. Offutt.** Free frank and Chief of the Contract Bureau of the Confederate Post Office Department semi-official imprint on orange legal-size cover to the postmaster at Fredericksburg Va., well-struck "Richmond Va. Mar. 26" circular datestamp with matching "Free" handstamp, pencil notation on front from sender indicates that he did not trust the mail and asking to have this letter to his father sent privately, trivial edgewear, Very Fine..... E. 100-150





4261

- 4261 ☒ **“From Capt. F.O. Derby O.B.”** Free frank with “By Courier” endorsement on **wallpaper** cover to Maj. Devlin “At home Below Pattersonville, St. Mary’s Psh”, with original enclosure datelined “St. Mary’s Parish La., May 4, 1865”, contents concern preparations for an enemy (Federal) landing in the area — written after Appomattox, Lincoln’s assassination, the evacuation of Richmond and only weeks away from the surrender of the last Confederate army — rare example of Confederate military mail very late in the war from die-hards in the Louisiana Bayou..... E. 500-750

**PRICES REALIZED FOR SALE 887---11/10/2004**  
**The Dr. John L. Roberston Collection of U.S. Free Franks**

Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.  
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Tel (212) 753-6421 Fax (212) 753-6429

Lot#	Realized	Lot#	Realized	Lot#	Realized	Lot#	Realized	Lot#	Realized	Lot#	Realized	Lot#	Realized
4001	3,250	4044	1,500	4087	850	4130	260	4173	800	4216	325	4259	450
4002	1,700	4045	425	4088	850	4131	3,000	4174	160	4217	160	4260	260
4003	1,600	4046	1,150	4089	85,000	4132	2,700	4175	200	4218	1,000	4261	1,000
4004	5,750	4047	170	4090	3,750	4133	6,000	4176	240	4219	200		
4005	2,100	4048	550	4091	1,500	4134	600	4177	240	4220	3,250		
4006	1,600	4049	2,000	4092	475	4135	2,500	4178	800	4221	80		
4007	425	4050	1,050	4093	1,000	4136	375	4179	110	4222	3,250		
4008	4,250	4051	260	4094	400	4137	32,500	4180	115	4223	2,100		
4009	2,400	4052	210	4095	2,800	4138	650	4181	425	4224	375		
4010	1,050	4053	1,800	4096	1,500	4139	800	4182	575	4225	75		
4011	1,050	4054	1,300	4097	2,000	4140	2,600	4183	450	4226	1,600		
4012	9,000	4055	250	4098	325	4141	650	4184	600	4227	550		
4013	18,500	4056	1,150	4099	270	4142	800	4185	270	4228	475		
4014	30,000	4057	350	4100	575	4143	2,100	4186	110	4229	1,050		
4015	1,800	4058	270	4101	575	4144	8,000	4187	280	4230	450		
4016	5,250	4059	850	4102	800	4145	4,500	4188	2,200	4231	1,200		
4017	5,000	4060	3,750	4103	450	4146	500	4189	650	4232	375		
4018	5,000	4061	2,200	4104	450	4147	900	4190	110	4233	600		
4019	2,600	4062	1,700	4105	7,000	4148	800	4191	170	4234	3,500		
4020	8,500	4063	2,600	4106	22,000	4149	75	4192	110	4235	600		
4021	10,500	4064	14,500	4107	8,000	4150	200	4193	135	4236	550		
4022	4,000	4065	7,000	4108	600	4151	95	4194	1,050	4237	62,500		
4023	2,200	4066	4,500	4109	350	4152	200	4195	1,350	4238	42,500		
4024	2,700	4067	3,750	4110	300	4153	50	4196	160	4239	3,750		
4025	2,800	4068	10,500	4111	400	4154	800	4197	130	4240	425		
4026	3,000	4069	14,000	4112	525	4155	375	4198	900	4241	550		
4027	650	4070	2,200	4113	300	4156	55	4199	350	4242	2,000		
4028	1,700	4071	1,800	4114	2,600	4157	325	4200	350	4243	450		
4029	2,800	4072	6,750	4115	850	4158	150	4201	50	4244	180		
4030	1,800	4073	4,000	4116	1,050	4159	110	4202	350	4245	400		
4031	1,050	4074	1,600	4117	9,000	4160	650	4203	6,250	4246	4,250		
4032	2,300	4075	1,100	4118	900	4161	1,400	4204	375	4247	150		
4033	600	4076	400	4119	625	4162	1,600	4205	210	4248	100		
4034	1,300	4077	1,500	4120	300	4163	550	4206	95	4249	450		
4035	525	4078	325	4121	9,500	4164	1,400	4207	125	4250	1,200		
4036	1,600	4079	800	4122	4,250	4165	750	4208	180	4251	8,500		
4037	2,100	4080	305	4123	2,400	4166	900	4209	260	4252	2,100		
4038	1,000	4081	2,600	4124	17,500	4167	4,750	4210	180	4253	7,500		
4039	425	4082	425	4125	3,000	4168	400	4211	425	4254	675		
4040	525	4083	4,250	4126	5,750	4169	550	4212	100	4255	100		
4041	850	4084	3,750	4127	2,800	4170	850	4213	55	4256	500		
4042	900	4085	625	4128	1,100	4171	700	4214	210	4257	1,050		
4043	1,050	4086	210	4129	3,500	4172	325	4215	1,600	4258	400		