ILLINOIS





"Official Business" State Departmental Offices Illustrated Covers 1860 - 1960

Compiled by Mike Ludeman



Hosted in the Stamp Smarter Library

https://stampsmarter.org/learning/StateGovCovers.html

INTRODUCTION

Mike Ludeman

Although the use of an envelope to securely enclose a letter sent through the mails has been around for many centuries, it was not until the 1840s when several events occurred that brought them into widespread use in the United States. The first was the invention of manufacturing equipment which could mass produce the envelopes inexpensively, and the second was the change in how the United States Post Office Department calculated the way it charged for the postage to carry a letter through the mails. The early rates were based on the number of pieces of paper that made up the letter, and since the envelope was considered a separate sheet, the rate would automatically be doubled for a letter sent in an envelope. This occurred as the result of the Postal Act of March 3, 1845, when rates were changed to consider the weight of the letter rather than the number of sheets comprising the mail piece. This law became effective on July 1, 1845.

By the early 1860s, several state governments had begun to produce decorative envelopes with an all-over background design for use in their "Official Business" correspondence. The typical design included some representation of the official state seal in the upper left corner, together with the name of the individual department or agency, either as part of the design with the seal or in the background of the entire envelope. As these envelopes were often printed in bright colors, they no doubt readily caught the attention of their recipients.

Eventually the local governments (county and city) began to emulate the state government, and some prepared illustrated envelopes for use in their departments and agencies.

The present monograph is an initial effort to document and illustrate these envelopes which were used at all offices within the current state. It is not intended to be complete in all respects, such as one might expect in a formal handbook or catalog but has been prepared to provide the reader with an introduction to a representative sample of the styles and varieties of envelopes that were used during this period, and perhaps educate the collecting community as to the possibilities that could exist in collecting them.

The initial section will include those envelopes used by the state agency and departmental offices, which are typically located at the state capitol. The state department envelopes have been organized into an alphabetical order based on the agency or department name. These department names were not always consistent, as they evolved over time, and therefore, these are usually grouped by what the compiler believed was the most obvious choice. Within the envelopes from a specific

A second section was prepared to include envelopes from agencies and departments prepared for and used by the county and other local (city) governments. The organization of this section was arranged in alphabetical order by county, then by county seat, and finally by date, with any envelopes from a city office in the county to follow.

Only the illustration of front side of these envelopes has been included, unless there is some significant postal history element present on the reverse. When the envelope illustrated also included contents related to the purpose of the office, the contents, or at least the illustrated portion of the letterhead or billhead, were also included. As the search for relevant envelopes proceeded, other state

and county documents with "interesting" billhead type illustrations were encountered, and because I found these interesting in terms of explaining the purpose for the use of these envelopes, they were included as well.

THE FUTURE PLANS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The complete series of these monographs has been hosted on the Stamp Smarter website through the courtesy of Don Denman. These are not intended to be an active project of the original compiler, but the source documents (a simple Microsoft Word file) can be made available to other collectors who would be interested in taking responsibility to add new materials to them.

For the immediate future, the compiler solicits the contribution of digitals scans that illustrate envelopes which are not present in these monographs, including those present but were used with different dates. Preference will be given to those envelopes with the all-over illustrations, and the state/local buildings and seals, and those used prior to 1920. Contributions of envelopes from any state will be welcome. It is requested that the submitted envelopes should be scanned at 300dpi and provided in the JPG format when possible. Images of envelopes created with a camera or iPhone are not really useful unless they are carefully focused and prepared with no angular distortion. If contributing more than a small number, please contact me to discuss options other than email.

All contributors will be acknowledged in the monograph(s) for which they submit examples unless requested otherwise. Any errors are the sole responsibility of the compiler, and please bring any errors found to my attention.

Mike Ludeman mike@ludeman.net July 2021

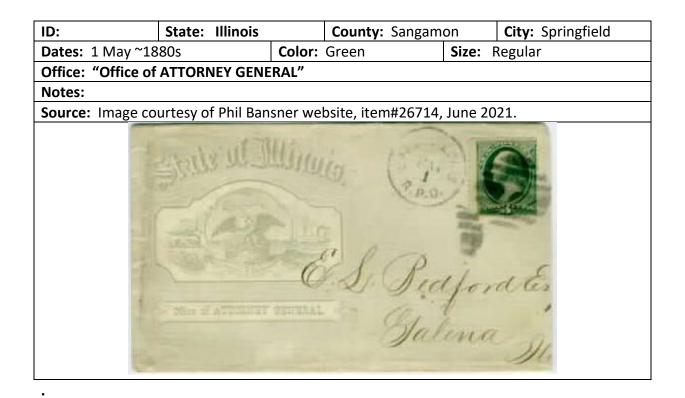
V3

State Capitol Building

Constructed 1868 - 1888



Postcard image courtesy of eBay seller zuluwar24, June 2021.



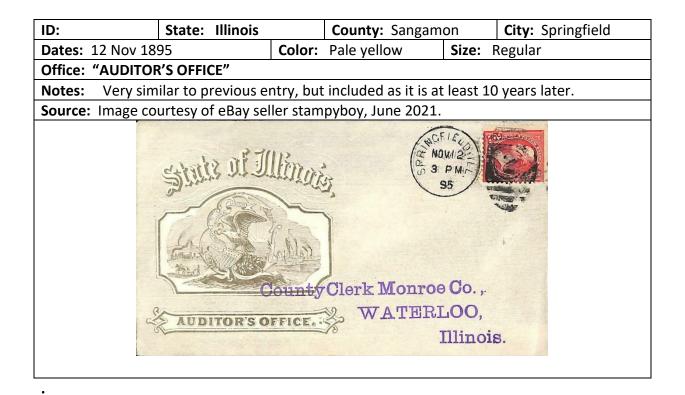
ID:	State: Illinois		County: Sar	ngamo	n	City: Springfield			
Dates: 17 Aug 18	89	Color:	Black		Size: F	Regular			
Office: "STATE O	Office: "STATE OF / ILLINOIS / OFFICE OF / ATTORNEY GENERAL"								
Notes:									
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay sel	ler elise	ot, June 2021						
	STATE OF IDLIGNIDIST ATTORNEY GENERA DIMOGENE ATTORNEY GENERA DIMOGENE DIMOG	3. Ja	ylor & Henny	GEIEL 2301 AUST 2301 AUST AUST AUST AUST AUST AUST AUST AUST		re			

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Sangam	on	City: Springfield					
Dates: 23 Aug 188	Dates: 23 Aug 1880Color: BrownSize: Legal									
Office: "AUDITOR'S OFFICE"										
Notes: Dated by docketing on reverse										
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay sel	ler Azteo	c-collectables, June	2021.						
JUDITO.	SILINGIS SOFTICE MININGELDI ILLINOIS FOR IN TAN DAYS	A	chand for	And a series of the series of	Agr.					

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Sangam	on	City: Springfield				
Dates: 7 Aug ~18	80	Color:	Pale yellow	Size:	Regular				
Office: "AUDITOR'S OFFICE"									
Notes: Dated by	Notes: Dated by docketing on reverse								
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay sel	ller Azte	c-collectables, June	e 2021.					
Star - Contraction of the start	ubitor's of	En al	Jury Onei	Den	S.M.				

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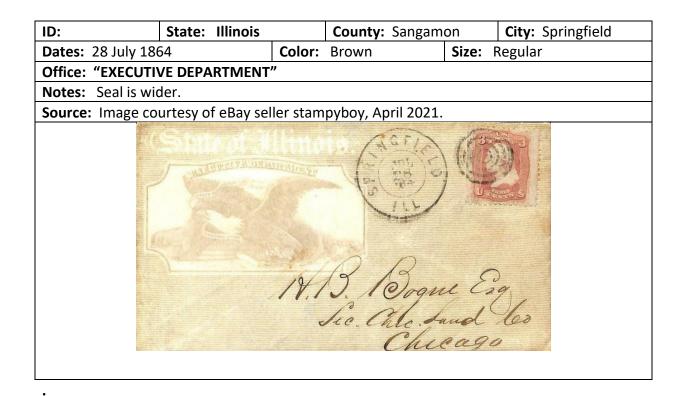


State: Illinois ID: County: Sangamon City: Springfield Dates: 31 Jan 1895 Color: Black Size: Regular Office: "THE ILLINOIS / BOARD OF HEALTH" Notes: Dated by the enclosure Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller tohncoverman, June 2021. If not called for in ton days, return to THE ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF HEALTH. SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS. Josh & adjutant-General, Martford, Connecticut Letterhead State of Illinois, THE BOARD: State Board of Health. WILLIAM E. QUINE, M. D., Chicago, President. JULIUS KOHL, M. D., Belleville. JOHN A. VINCENT, M. D., Springfield GROEGETHILO, M. D., Chicago. B. M. GRUPTIT, M. D., Springfield. SAMAH H. STEVENSON, M.D., Chicago JAMES B. MCFATHICH, M.D., Chicago OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, J. W. SCOTT, M. D., Secretary. fan. 312 1895. Springfield. No.

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Sangame	on	City: Springfield					
Dates: 22 Sept ~1	Dates: 22 Sept ~1880sColor: YellowSize: Regular									
Office: "OFFICE OF CUSTODIAN / OF FIELD NOTES, PLATS, ETC. / OF THE U.S. SURVEYS."										
Notes:										
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller stampyboy, April 2021.										
	Thet called for In TEN day	ys return to Hingdivide, III	Ce. M. Be Home	lling Valione bicaz	De Bank					

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Sangam	on	City: Springfield
Dates: 28 Oct ~18	360s	Color:	Brown	Size:	Regular
Office: "EXECUTI	VE DEPARTMENT	" ,			
Notes:					
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay sel	ler stam	pyboy, April 2021.		
	State of J	Mon Say	ts. Batem perint public	ant In	etr.

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ID:	State: Illinois		County: Sangame	on	City: Springfield					
Dates: 21 Sept ~1	Dates: 21 Sept ~1880sColor: BrownSize: Regular									
Office: "Executive	Office: "Executive Department / GOVERNOR'S OFFICE."									
Notes:										
Source: Image co	Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller stampyboy, April 2021.									
	Saturite uit i Saturite uit i Exemple and a COVERNOR S	Illing 70. Tring Marting	5 CALL) li						

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Sangam	on	City: Springfield					
Dates: 15 Mar 18	81	Color:	Brown	Size: F	Regular					
Office: "Executive Department / SECRETARY'S OFFICE."										
Notes:										
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller stampyboy, April 2021.										
	Situate ut J.	Ilining Antimation Office.	aur 5, 6 MA	45	all a					

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Sangam	on	City: Springfield				
Dates: June 1880s	Dates: June 1880sColor: BlackSize: Regular								
Office: "General Assembly, State of Illinois. / HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES."									
Notes:									
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller weiszcovers, June 2021.									
Gener	ral Assembly, State of Ill	inois.	Contraction of the local	Las any texas	and the second se				
HOU	USE OF REPRESENTATIV		Virgin	ia. bo	er.				

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Sangam	on	City: Springfield				
Dates: 17 June 19	941	Color:	Black	Size: L	egal				
Office: "LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU"									
Notes:									
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay sel	ller dave	-katz, July 2021.						
LEGISLATIVE REI	TILLINOIS FRENCE BUREAU SFIELD	130 Nort Room 141	of Lodging House In h Wells Street	Spection					

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Sangame	on	City: Springfield					
Dates: ~1880s		Color:	Gold	Size:	Regular					
Office: "OFFICE SUP'T PUBLIC INSTRUCTION."										
Notes:										
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller stampyboy, April 2021.										
	AND A STATE OF THE SUPT. PUBLIC INS		J. Lee, C Char	Bo. Se lesti	pt., Rel.					

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ID:	State: Illinois		County: Sangar	on	City: Springfield					
Dates: 20 Mar 19	28	Color:	Blue	Size:	Regular					
Office: "Office of Public Instruction"										
Notes:										
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller bellesite, June 2021.										
0)	State of Illinois ffice of Public Instra Springfield	Mary L Baptis	Cook t Orphanage ville, N. C.	TIME						

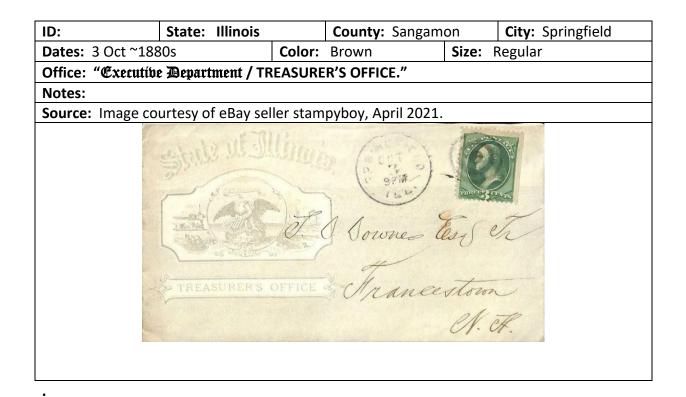
ID:	State: Illinois		County: Sangam	on	City: Springfield					
Dates: 13 Aug ~1	Dates: 13 Aug ~1870Color: GoldSize: Regular									
Office: "OFFICE OF SECRETARY"										
Notes:										
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller stampyboy, April 2021.										
The second se	International and a second sec	heo.	6. Thom	nao, inglos	bog. n. C					

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ID:	State: Illinois		County: Sangam	on	City: Springfield
Dates: 1 Mar ~18	70	Color:	Gold	Size: l	egal
Office: "OFFICE C	F SECRETARY"				
Notes: Secretary	/ of State ?				
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay sel	ler pape	rhistory, June 2022	1.	
OFFICE OF	Julinois SECRETAD DE	Pieh Or	art 60 Steher andre,	A de de	erount Rount

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Will-Ken	dall	City: Joliet		
Dates: 14 Jan ~18	370s	Color:	Black	Size:	Regular		
Office: "ILLINOIS	STATE PENITENT	ARY,"					
Notes:							
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay sel	ler stam	byboy, May 2021.				
	ILLINOIS STATE PENITENTIARY. RETURN TO JOLIET IS NOT CALLED FOR IN TEN DAYS. Addadade Addadade Carbinocloo						

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Part 2

ILLINOIS

County & City Agencies "Official Business" Envelopes

Arranged by County and City

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Champaign C		City: Urbana
Dates: 15 Dec 187	73	Color:	Black	Size: F	Regular
Office: "PROBATI	E JUDGE, "				
Notes:					
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay sel	ler cove	rmuseumannex, M	ay 2021	•
a series of	If not called for in 10 days, return to PROBATE JUDGE <i>Urbana, Ohio.</i>		Laggart wir Center Delovar)) arg 2 les Ohn	

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Cook		City: Chicago				
Dates: 24 Mar 1894Color: BlackSize: Regular									
Office: "OFFICE O	Office: "OFFICE OF / BOARD OF EDUCATION / CITY OF / CHICAGO"								
Notes:									
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller halfmoon28a, June 2021.									
	ALTO OF FOUCATION BOARD OF FOUCATION CITY OF CHICAGO.	UTO LE	EL R. CAMERON, Member Board of Educa 73 L	ation,	ITY.				

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ID:	State: Illinois		County: Cook		City: Chicago					
Dates: 24 Jan 189	8	Color:	Blue on tan	Size:	Regular					
Office: "Probate (Office: "Probate Court, / Judges Chambers."									
Notes:	Notes:									
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller m.esmaili, May 2021.										
	Probate Court, Indges Chambers, Chord	Les C.	c. A CA 30A 39A 39A 111 9 111 9 111 9 111 9 111 9 111 11	+m Park w. erset	Le. t.d					

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Cook		City: Chicago				
Dates: 22 Dec 19	Dates: 22 Dec 1903Color: BlackSize: Regular								
Office: "SUPERIO	Office: "SUPERIOR COURT / OF / COOK COUNTY / OFFICE OF / JOHN A. LINN, Clerk."								
Notes:	Notes:								
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay sel	ler m.es	maili, May 2021.						
	COOK COUNTY DJJIEL OF JOHN A. LINN, CLERK CHIEASO, JUL	tus (Robertwi Balin	linghoge Dec	I de la companya de la compa				

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Cook	City: Chicago
Dates: ~1970s?		Color:	Black	Size: Legal
Office: "STATE OF	ILLINOIS / DEPA	RTMEN	T OF LABOR / BUR	EAU OF EMPLOYMENT
SECURITY"				
Notes: Unused w	indow envelope			
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay sel	ler soun	dnostalgia, July 20	21.
BUREA	OF ILLINOIS-DEPARTMENT OF LA AU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURI WAGE RECORDS SECTION 10 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60605 Official Business			POSTAGE AND FEES PAID EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL LAB 449

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Cook		City: Chicago					
Dates: 29 Nov 18	Dates: 29 Nov 1870sColor: BlackSize: Regular									
Office: "JOHN VA	N'T WOUD, /Just	ice of th	e Peace, Notary Pu	ublic, / A	AND COMMISSIONER					
OF DEEDS"										
Notes:	Notes:									
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay sel	ler cove	rmuseumannex, M	ay 2021						
I	JOHN VAN'T WOUD, itice of the Peace, Notary Public AND COMMISSIONER OF DEERS, COM NO. 1, Masonic Building, S. W. CO. Randolph & Halsted Sts., CHICAGO. Manchet Morr Kan Keinstens- E	toresch	genocharge tenscharge threeht we Netherlan	and a						

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Cook	City: Chicago
Dates: 13 Feb 19	13	Color:	Black	Size: Regular
Office: "The Illin	nois State Acaden	ry of Scie	ence / THE UNIVER	SITY OF CHICAGO"
Notes:				
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay sel	ler halfm	oon28a, June 202	1.
	Oh Illinois State Academy of S Genes of the secretard The Diversity of Calcad Chicago, Illinois	• (11 1	Lault, lyn Lyn	

ID:	State: Illinois		County: McLean		City: Normal	
Dates: 29 Oct 18	Dates:29 Oct 1886Color:BlackSize:Regular					
Office: "I.S.N.U."						
Notes: Illinois St	ate Normal Schoo	ol				
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay sel	ler civil_	war_photos, June	2021.		
	I. S. N. U RETURN TO NORMAL, ILL.		Mis Effic Os Maisa Co La	1 0		

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Cook	City: Chicago
Dates: ~1893		Color:	Black	Size: Regular
Office: "THE DIRE	CTOR GENERAL /	' WORLD	'S COLUMBIAN EX	(POSITION"
Notes: Does not	appear to have be	een mail	ed.	
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay sel	ler zeflir	n, June 2021.	
~	THE DIRECTOR GENERAL THE DIRECTOR GENERAL	Zna	n Bessie Tho # 292 E. A Chicap	mad, Ediana St.,

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Du Page		City: Wheaton				
Dates: 29 Apr 188	82	Color:	Gray	Size:	Regular				
Office: "M. S. ELL	SWORTH, / Coun	ty Clerk,	<i>n</i>						
Notes: Printer's i	Notes: Printer's imprint on backflap: "Sewell's Chromatic Envelope Factory, 40 State St.,								
Chicago."	l's Chromatic En	velope F	actory, 40 State St.,	Chicag	0.				
Source: Image cou	urtesy of eBay sel	ler stam	pyboy, April 2021.						
	County Cle	rk,	D. A. Jau Mest Mad	berd dison	ou j St 200				

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Du Page		City: Wheaton	
Dates: 12 Dec 1925Color: BlackSize: Regular						
Office: "CITY COL	LECTOR,"					
Notes:						
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay sel	ler soun	dnostalgia, July 20	21.		
	After 5 days, return to CITY COLLECUOR, Sir Hall 300 W. Weiley St., WHEATON, ILLINOIS	6	LU OCOLUMN			

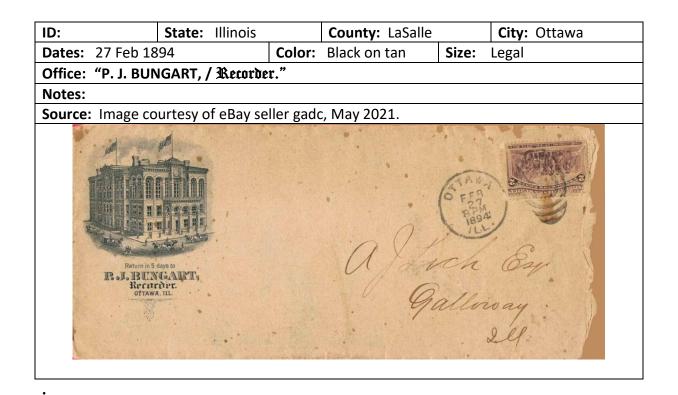
ID:		State:	Illinois		County: Fulton		City: Lewistown
Dates:	9 Sept 18	65		Color:	Black	Size:	
Office:	"Office of	the Circ	uít Court	& Reco	rder"		
Notes:	Letterhea	ad					
Source	: Image co	ourtesy o	f eBay sel	ler ema	rtnet, June 2021.		
						•	
-	•				Office of the Cir or Fallow	County,	Illinois.
	h	0	- 00		Lewistour	r, Sep	1 9 1865.

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ID:	State: Illinois		County: Knox		City: Galesburg	
Dates: 6 Jan ~1870s Color: Black on pale pink Size: Regular						
Office: "JOHN S.	WINTER, County	Clerk,"				
Notes:						
Source: Image co	ourtesy of eBay se	ller oldi	esngoodies, May 202	1.		
If not called for in 10 Days return to JOHN S. WINTER, County Clerk, GALTSBRITG, ILLINOIS,	Hem,	Georg	Decy of State Springfe	i la s	the second	

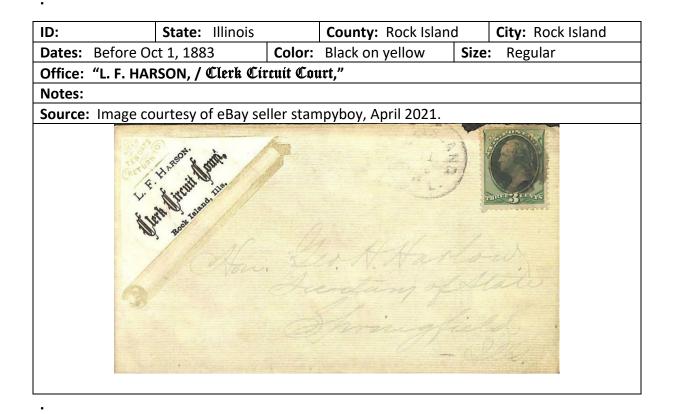
ID:	State: Illinois		County: Lake		City: Prairie View			
Dates: ?? Mar 19	985	Color:	Black	Size	: Legal			
Office: "Vernon Township Assessor"								
Notes:								
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay se	ller sour	ndnostalgia, June 202	1.				
Charles Gerschefske, C Vernon Township Asses 23450 N. Main St. Prairie View, IL 60069	sor		1985	N2C	USA 20c			
MARTI 412 HORAT BUFFA	N IO BLV	60090						

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ID:	State: Illinois		County: Marion		City: Salem					
Dates: 25 Mar 1	913	Color:	Black	Size	: Regular					
Office: "ROBERT	Office: "ROBERT J. BRANSON, / County Clerk of Marion County,"									
Notes:										
Source: Image co	Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller mocardmn, May 2021.									
Co	AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO DBERT J. BRANS onnty Clerk of Marion Com SALEM. ILLINOIS		MAR26 5-30P 19 13							
		Mrs. Sa	rah Whitehead,							
			Centralia,							
			Illinois•							
	1.	100								

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Platt	City: Monticello
Dates: 8 Feb 19)7	Color:	Black	Size: Regular
Office: "J. C. TIP	PETT / Circuit Cle	rk and R	ecorder of Platt Cour	nty,"
Notes:				
Source: Image co	ourtesy of eBay se	ller cove	ercrazy2, May 2021.	
	AN IN FIVE DAYS TO J. C. TIPPETT C. TIPPETT		Lott & Hering	at at Des



ID:		State: Illinois		County:	Rock Island	k	City: Rock Island
Dates:	Before O	ct 1, 1883	Color:	Black on	yellow	Size:	: Regular
Office:	"L. F. HAF	SON, / Clerk * Ci	rcuit * C	Court,"			
Notes:	Another	cover for same of	fice.				
Source	: Image co	urtesy of eBay se	ller stan	npyboy, Ap	oril 2021.		
	Ca	Le J J h. T. Harry Smy	Jas. Hu o So	D. S B 33	Smiph unlie	la la	Sundan Sunda

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Tazwell		City: Pekin					
Dates: 30 Oct 19	40	Color:	Black	Size	: Regular					
Office: "PEKIN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL"										
Notes:										
Source: Image co	Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller webby99, June 2021.									
PEK	N COMMUNITY HIGH SC PEKIN, ILLINOIS		Menini Haptar Matima Bont	Sum E	in here, Beizig:					

Part 3

ILLINOIS

Private Business's Using designs similar to the "Official Business" Envelopes

Arranged by County and City

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Cook		City: Chicago				
Dates: 20 Feb 1881Color: Pale roseSize: Regular									
Office: "America	n Bureau of Mine	s / Chica	igo"						
Notes: Dated from docketing.									
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay sel	ler stam	pyboy, April 2021.						
	Answine May 25	Mac .	Altarchican Marine St. Ma Shisage Califor	BALL SPELS	Att AS				

Part 4

ILLINOIS

Federal Department & Agency Envelopes

Used within the State

Arranged by County and City

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Peoria	City: Peoria						
Dates: 15 May 18	68	Color:	Black on brown	Size:	Regular					
Office: "United S	otates Internal R	evenue /	Collector's Office,	5th Dist	rict, Illinois"					
Notes:	Notes:									
Source: Image co	Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller mrfancycancel, June 2021.									
	1868		tates Internal Beren tod's Ollos, 5th District, Illinois (2 Harry 2 15 //	1.50	7					

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Cook City: Chicago		City: Chicago					
Dates: 6 June 189	9	Color:	Black	Size:	Legal					
Office: "Treasury Department / Custom House, Chicago, Ill, Collector's Office."										
Notes:										
Source: Image co	Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller dave-katz, June 2021.									
	Weare Commissi		by Building,		casury Separiment over, Chiego, III., Collector's Office. OFFICIAL BUSINESS. Mairy for private use, \$300.					
			Chicago.	A Day						

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ID:	State: Illinois		County: Sangame	on	City: Springfield			
Dates: 25 Oct 186	54	Color:	Black	Size:	Regular			
Office: "Office of	Office: "Office of United States Attorney For the Southern District of Illinois"							
Notes:								
Source: Image co	urtesy of dealer P	hil Bansı	ner website, item#	89890,	June 2021.			
	A. Cerzy ho a	Tor de M	t United States	Attor	linerii 29 20 = -			

ID:	State: Illinois		County: Sangamon		on	City: Springfield		
Dates: 14 May 1892		Color:	Black		Size:	Regular		
Office: "UNITED STATES MARSHAL'S OFFICE / SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS,"								
Notes:								
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller yefzin, June 2021.								
UNITED AT THE WAREHAL'S OFFICE, DESERTION OF LELINOIS, DESERTION OF LELINOIS								

ID:	State: Illinois	County: Cook	City: Chicago

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