

# MARYLAND



**“Official Business”**  
**State Departmental Offices**  
**Illustrated Covers**  
**1860 - 1960**

Compiled by Mike Ludeman



Hosted in the Stamp Smarter Library

<https://stampsmitter.org/learning/StateGovCovers.html>

# Maryland: “Official Business” Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

## 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

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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 digital scans that illustrate envelopes 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. 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. Please bring any errors found to my attention.

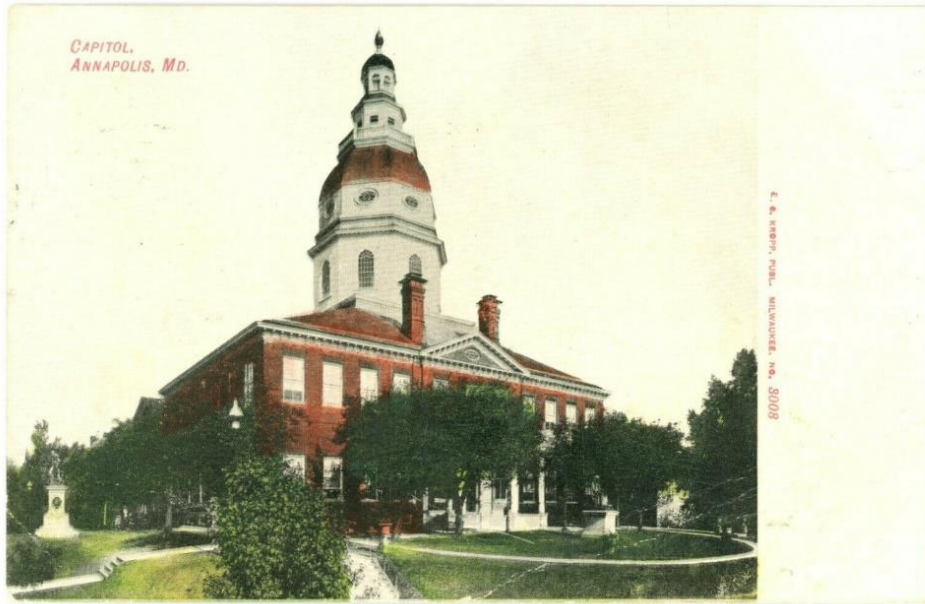
Mike Ludeman

[mike@ludeman.net](mailto:mike@ludeman.net)

July 2021

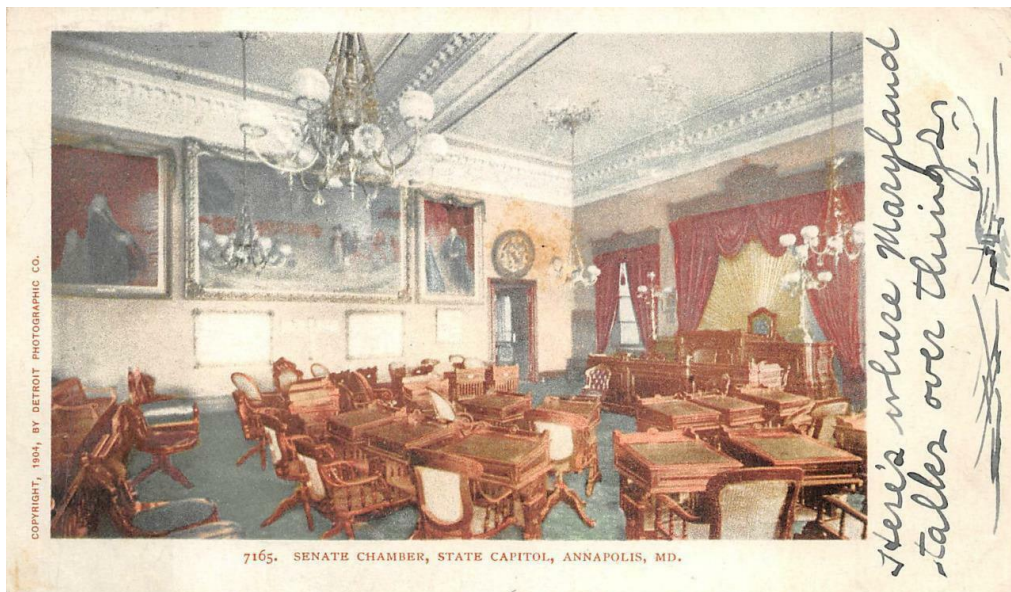
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## State Capitol 1908



Postcard image courtesy ebay seller kequit, June 2021.

## State Capitol – Senate Chamber 1904



Postcard courtesy of eBay seller stampyboy, April 2021.



## Maryland: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Maryland	<b>County:</b> Anne Arundel	<b>City:</b> Annapolis
<b>Dates:</b> 7 Nov ~1860s	<b>Color:</b> Gray	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "COURT OF APPEALS. / ANNAPOLIS" around edge of seal			
<b>Notes:</b> Printer's imprint on backflap: "J. W. BOND & Co. BALTIMORE, MD."			

J. W. BOND & Co., BALTIMORE, MD.

**Source:** Image courtesy of eBay seller stambyboy, May 2021.



<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Maryland	<b>County:</b> Anne Arundel	<b>City:</b> Annapolis
<b>Dates:</b> 6 July ~1870s	<b>Color:</b> Tan	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "COURT OF APPEALS. / ANNAPOLIS" around edge of seal			
<b>Notes:</b> Printer's imprint on backflap: "J. W. BOND & Co., STATIONER, BALTIMORE,"			

J. W. BOND & CO., STATIONERS, BALTIMORE,

**Source:** Image courtesy of eBay seller stambyboy, May 2021.

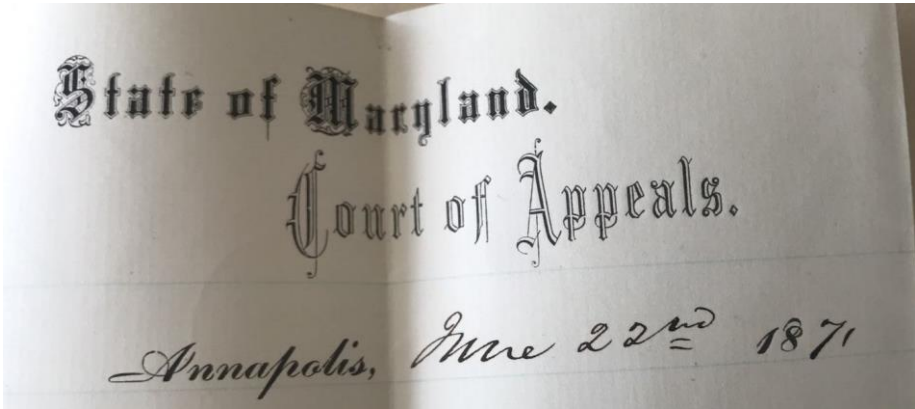


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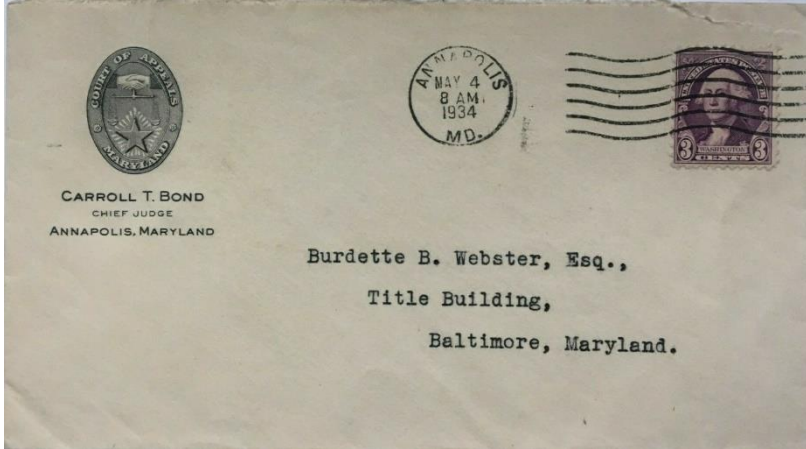
<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Maryland	<b>County:</b> Anne Arundel	<b>City:</b> Annapolis
<b>Dates:</b> 22 June 1871	<b>Color:</b> Red on gold		<b>Size:</b> Regular
<b>Office:</b> "COURT OF APPEALS. / ANNAPOLIS" around edge of seal			
<b>Notes:</b> New design, in red; dated using enclosure.			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller calloohcallay11, May 2021.			

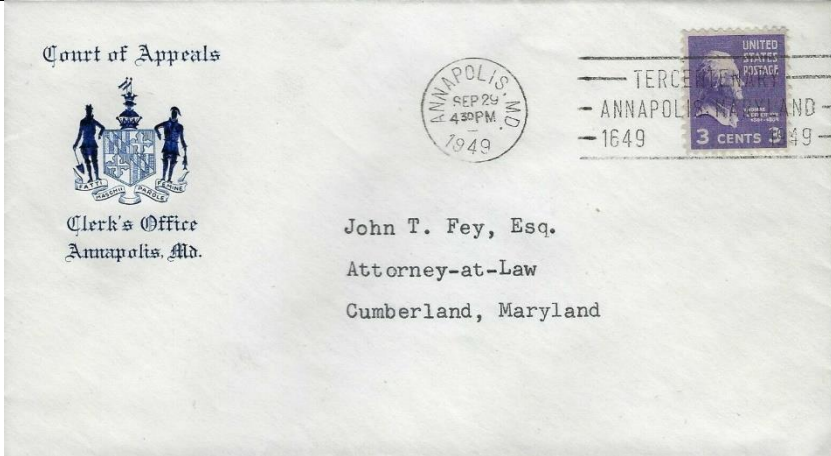


Enclosure



## Maryland: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

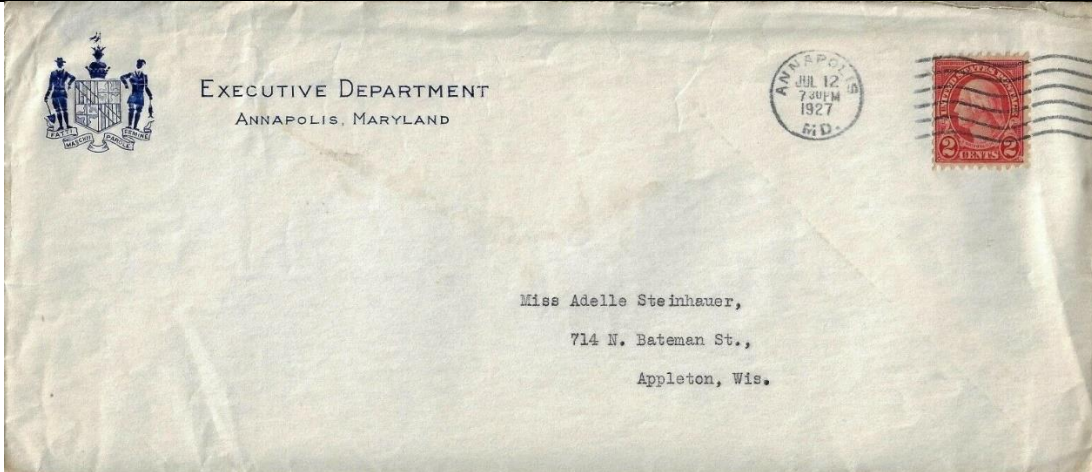
<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Maryland	<b>County:</b> Anne Arundel	<b>City:</b> Annapolis
<b>Dates:</b> 4 May 1934	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "COURT OF APPEALS" in oval seal; "CARROLL T. BOND / CHIEF JUDGE"			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller nunbleb, June 2021.			
			

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Maryland	<b>County:</b> Anne Arundel	<b>City:</b> Annapolis
<b>Dates:</b> 29 Sep 1949	<b>Color:</b> Blue	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "Court of Appeals / Clerk's Office"			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller schubbs, June 2021.			
			

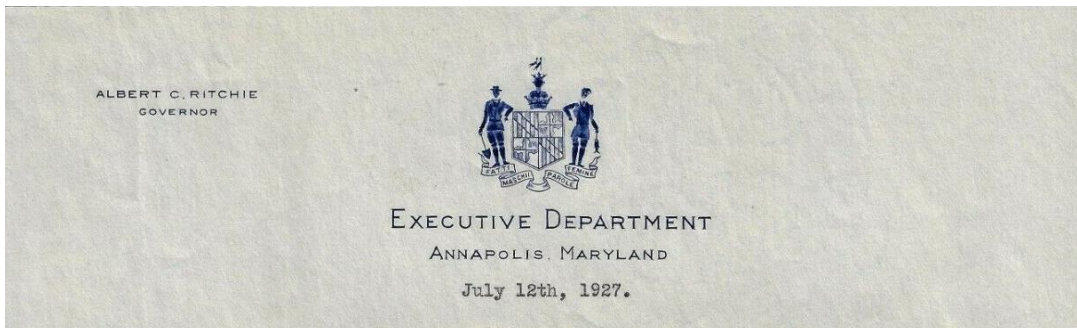


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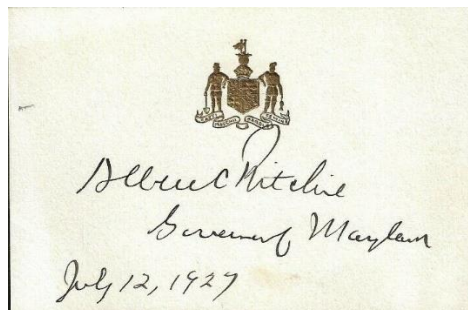
<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Maryland	<b>County:</b> Anne Arundel	<b>City:</b> Annapolis
<b>Dates:</b> 12 July 1927	<b>Color:</b> Blue	<b>Size:</b> Legal	
<b>Office:</b> "EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT"			
<b>Notes:</b> With letterhead and autograph card from Governor Albert Ritchie, who served from Jan 14, 1920 to Jan 9, 1935.			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller jeneezirish35, May 2021, from Adelle Steinhauer Autograph collection.			



Letterhead

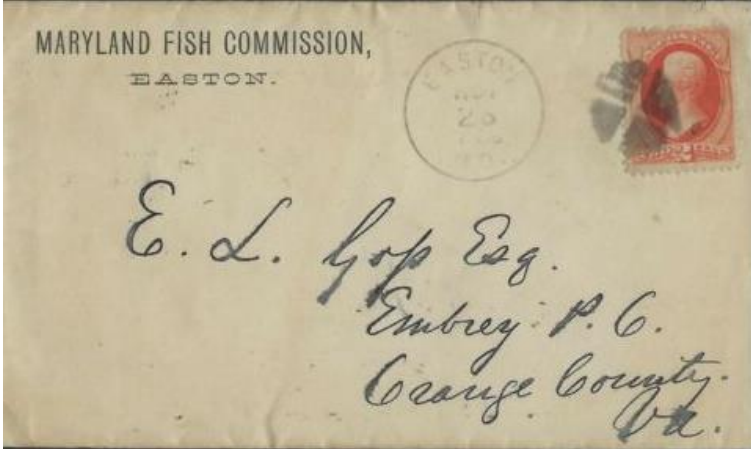



Card with state seal and Governor's autograph





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<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Maryland	<b>County:</b> Talbot	<b>City:</b> Easton
<b>Dates:</b> 26 Nov 1883	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "MARYLAND FISH COMMISSION,"			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller jeneezirish35, June 2021.			
			

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Maryland	<b>County:</b> Anne Arundel	<b>City:</b> Annapolis
<b>Dates:</b> 7 Dec 1877	<b>Color:</b> Green	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "TREASURY DEPARTMENT. / COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE" around edge of seal.			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of feldman, Philamercury cover census #1424.			
			

## **Part 2**

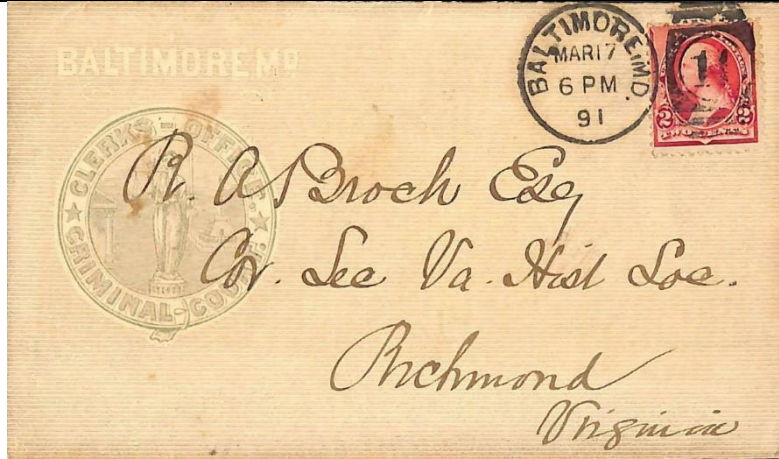
# **MARYLAND**

## **County & City Agencies “Official Business” Envelopes**

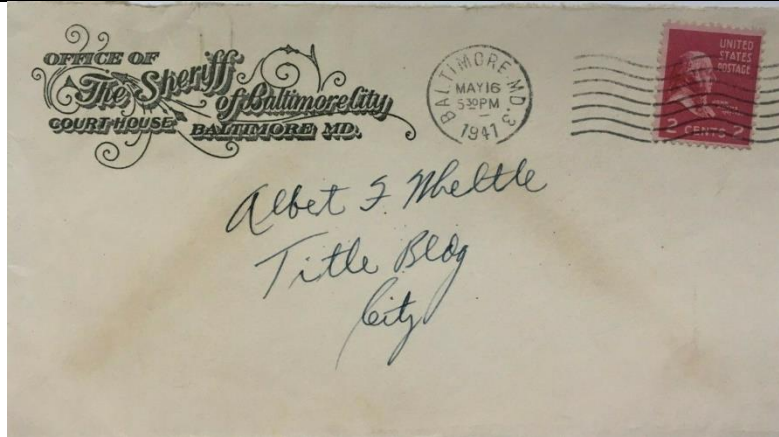
**Arranged by County and City**

## Maryland: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

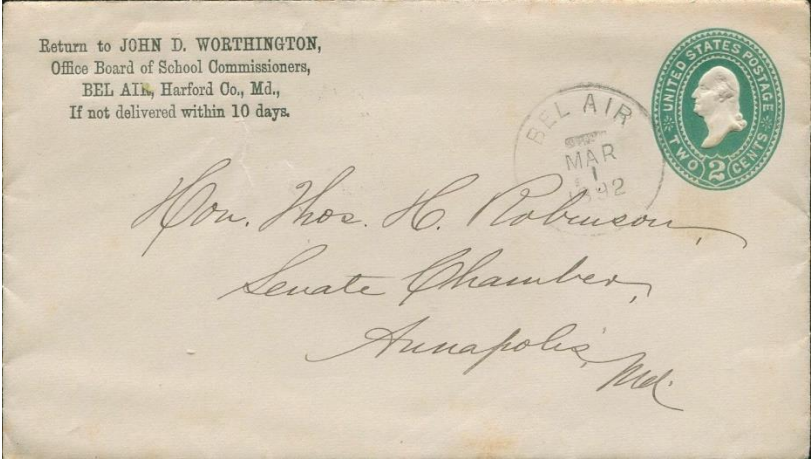
<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Maryland	<b>County:</b> None	<b>City:</b> Baltimore
<b>Dates:</b> 17 Mar 1891	<b>Color:</b> Orange	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "CLERKS – OFFICE / CRIMINAL COURT" around seal.			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller stampyboy, April 2021.			



<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Maryland	<b>County:</b> None	<b>City:</b> Baltimore
<b>Dates:</b> 17 Mar 1891	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "OFFICE OF / The Sheriff of Baltimore City".			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller stampyboy, April 2021.			



# Maryland: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Maryland	<b>County:</b> Hartford	<b>City:</b> Bel Aire
<b>Dates:</b> 1 Mar 1892	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "Office Board of School Commissioners,"			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller wolfestamp, June 2021.			
			



## Part 3

# MARYLAND

## Private Business’s Using designs similar to the “Official Business” Envelopes

Arranged by County and City

**No covers identified.**

## Part 4

# MARYLAND

## Federal Department & Agency Envelopes

### Used within the State

Arranged by County and City

# Maryland: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Maryland	<b>County:</b> None	<b>City:</b> Baltimore
<b>Dates:</b> 13 Oct 1909	<b>Color:</b> Blue	<b>Size:</b> Legal	
<b>Office:</b> "TREASURY DEPARTMENT / OFFICE OF COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS".			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller postchris, June 2021.			
