## MAINE

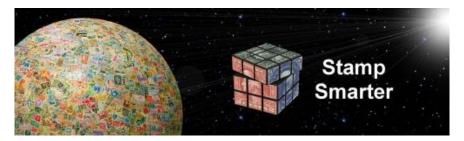




## "Official Business" State Departmental Offices Illustrated Covers

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. With the Postal Act of March 3, 1845, the rates were changed to be based on the weight of the letter rather than the number of pieces of paper 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 agencies and departmental offices, which are typically located at the state capitol. The state departmental 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 agency or department, the envelopes are arranged in chronological order.

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.

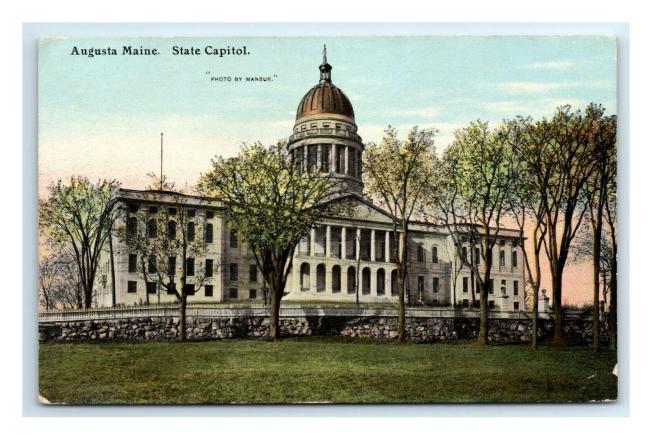
Mike Ludeman

mike@ludeman.net

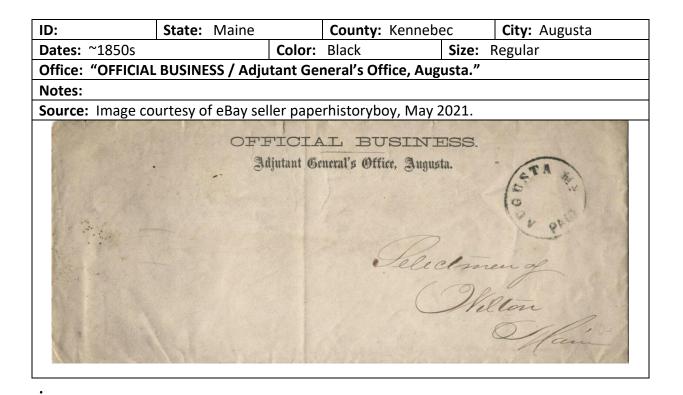
July 2021

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## Maine (State House) Capitol Building Constructed 1832, Remodeled in 1852, 1860 and 1890-1891.



Postcard image courtesy eBay seller 207surfdude, June 2021.



ID: **State:** Maine County: Kennebec City: Augusta **Dates:** 17 July 1862 – 1870s Size: Regular Color: Gray Office: "ADJ'T-GENERAL'S / OFFICE" Notes: "State of / Maine" in center. Source: Image courtesy of Philamercury Cover Census #26844, May 2021. ADJ'T-GENERAL'S OFFICE.

ID: **State:** Maine County: Kennebec City: Augusta **Dates:** 28 Apr 1865 **Color:** Black on gold Size: Regular Office: "HEAD QUARTERS, / Adjutant General's Office," Notes: " **Source:** Image courtesy of eBay seller yefzin, June 2021.



ID: County: Kennebec City: Augusta **State:** Maine Color: Black Size: Legal **Dates: 25 Feb 1932** Office: "BANKING DEPARTMENT, / State House," Notes: With label on reverse from "STATE BANKING DEPARTMENT", in blue. **Source:** Image courtesy of eBay seller tohncoverman, June 2021. After 5 days, return to BANKING DEPARTMENT, State House, AUGUSTA, MAINE. Tugusta Tust !!
Dugusta Tug SEALED BY EXAMINER STATE BANKING DEPARTMENT AUGUSTA, MAINE

ID: State: Maine County: Kennebec City: Augusta

Dates: ~1880s-17 May 1895Color: Gray-greenSize: Regular

Office: "Council Chamber."

Notes: "STATE OF MAINE" now above seal.

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller philatelicphinds, June 2021.



ID: State: Maine County: Kennebec City: Augusta

Dates: 11 Mar ~1870s Color: Gray Size: Regular

Office: "Educational Dep't."

Notes: "STATE OF MAINE" above seal.

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller postal38, April 2021.



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ID: State: Maine County: Kennebec City: Augusta

**Dates:** ~1880s – 5 Apr 1893 | **Color:** Light brown | **Size:** Regular

Office: "Educational Dep't"

Notes: "STATE OF MAINE" above seal. New Return statement vertically at left edge.

**Source:** Image courtesy of eBay seller postal38, April 2021.



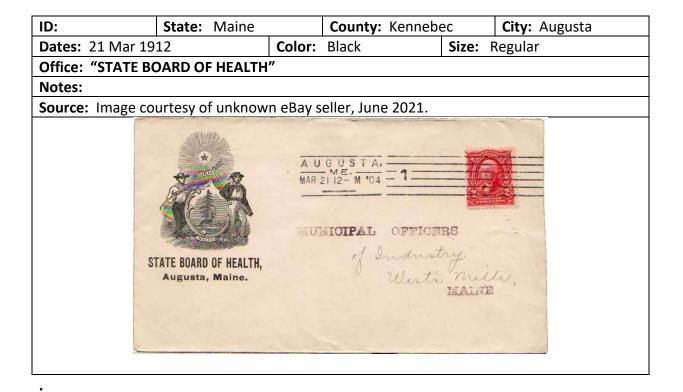
ID: State: Maine County: Kennebec City: Augusta

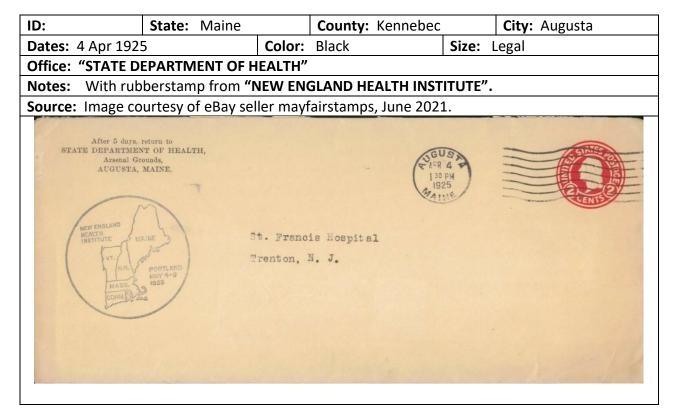
Office: "EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT"

Notes: "STATE OF MAINE" above seal.

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller halfmoon28a, June 2021.







ID: State: Maine County: Kennebec City: Augusta

Office: "State of Maine /HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES."

**Notes:** The corner card is embossed.

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller cimce1, May 2021.



Closeup of embossed corner



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ID: State: Maine County: Kennebec City: Augusta

Dates: ~1860-29 Feb 1864 | Color: Gray | Size: Regular

Office: "HOUSE OF / Representatives."

Notes: "State of / Maine" in center.

Source: Image courtesy of John Becker, post on Stamp Community Family, Feb 28, 2016,

URL = https://www.stampcommunity.org/topic.asp?TOPIC ID=48160



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ID: State: Maine County: Kennebec City: Augusta

Dates: ~Late 1880s Color: Black Size: Regular

Office: "HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES."

Notes:

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller halfmoon28a, June 2021.



Dates: 24 Feb 1902 Color: Blue Size: Regular

Office: "State of Maine / HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES."

Notes: "STATE OF MAINE" now above seal.

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller stamps-plus, June 2021.

\*\*TATE OF MAINE\*\*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.\*\*

\*\*TATE OF MAINE\*\*

\*\*TAT

Monograph [US-02(ME)]

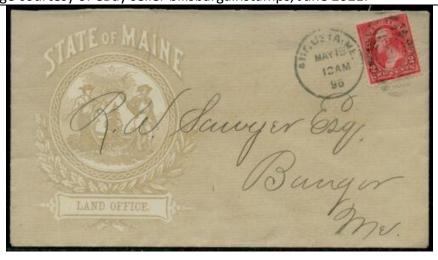
ID: State: Maine County: Kennebec City: Augusta

Dates: 15 May 1896 | Color: Green-gold | Size: Regular

Office: "LAND OFFICE."

Notes:

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller billsbargainstamps, June 2021.



City: Tegus ID: **State:** Maine County: Kennebec Color: Blue Size: Regular Dates: 1 June 1894 Office: "GOVERNOR'S OFFICE / National Home for Disabled Vol. Soldiers." **Notes:** Source: Image courtesy of V F Thomas, Maine Postal History website, April 2021. (URL= http://www.vfthomas.com/Mainepostalhistory/KennebecCounty/Augustapostalhistoryhome.htm ) GOVERNOR'S OFFICE. EASTERN BRANCH, National Home for Disabled Vol. Soldiers. Togus, Me.
Return in 10 days if not called for. OFFICIAL BUSINESS. Capt. CHAS. E. NASH, Sec'y Com. of Arrangements, The Maine Farmers Almanac Press AUGUSTA, Me.

ID: State: Maine County: Kennebec City: Augusta

Office: "PENSION BUSINESS / AUGUSTA, ME."

**Notes:** 

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller larrysellcovers, June 2021.



ID:State:MaineCounty:KennebecCity:AugustaDates:20 April 1888Color:GraySize:Regular

Office: "PENSION OFFICE."

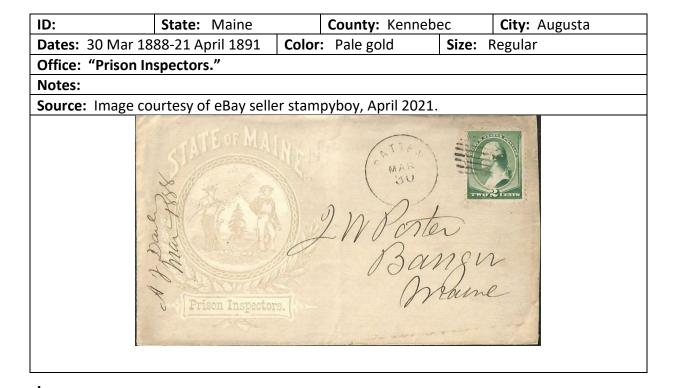
Notes:

**Source:** Image courtesy of eBay seller covercrazy2, June 2021.



Letterhead from enclosure





Dates: 20 Apr 1908

Color: Black

Size: Regular

Office: "MAINE STATE PRISON."

Notes:

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller nalwife, June 2021.

After 6 days, return to The Warden, MAINE STATE PRISON, THOMASTON, MAINE.

Maine STATE PRISON, THOMASTON, MAINE.

Me

Me

ID: State: Maine County: Kennebec City: Augusta

Dates:14 Feb 1864 - 9 May 1866Color:GoldSize:Regular

Office: "SECRETARY'S / OFFICE" in arc.
Notes: "State of / Maine" in center.

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller billsbargainstamps, June 2021.



ID: State: Maine County: Kennebec City: Augusta

Dates: 20 May 1869/1870 Color: Rose-gray Size: Legal

Office: "SECRETARY'S / OFFICE

**Notes: "State of / Maine"**; new design of lettering in center.

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller hgitner, May 2021.



 ID:
 State: Maine
 County: Kennebec
 City: Augusta

 Dates: 10 Dec 1872
 Color: Rose-gray
 Size: Legal

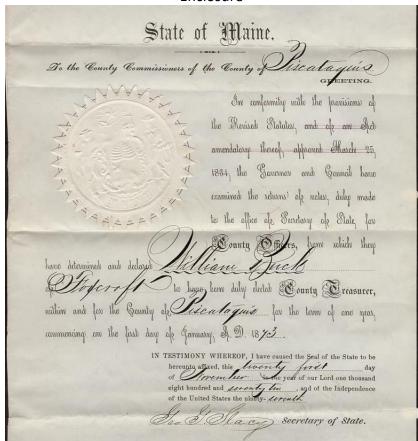
Office: "Secretary's Office"

Notes: "STATE OF MAINE" with seal, the earlier design, also with contents.

**Source:** Image courtesy of eBay seller coversplus, June 2021.



**Enclosure** 



ID: State: Maine County: Kennebec City: Augusta

Dates: 22 Feb 1898 | Color: Blue | Size: Regular

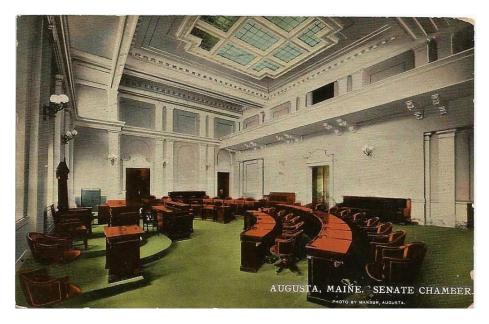
Office: "SECRETARY OF STATE,"
Notes: Printed on 2 cent PSE.

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller redporsche911, July 2021.



ID: County: Kennebec City: Augusta **State:** Maine Color: Black **Dates:** 15 Dec 1939 Size: Regular Office: "SECRETARY OF STATE / State House" Notes: With handstamp from "AUTO REGISTRATION BRANCH". **Source:** Image courtesy of eBay seller cantdog, June 2021. After 5 days, return to SECRETARY OF STATE State House
AUTO AUGUSTA, MAINE
41 COLA MAINE
BANGOR, MAINE Secretary of State State House Augusta, Maine loquested Return NG.

## Maine (State House) Capitol Building The Senate Chamber, 1913



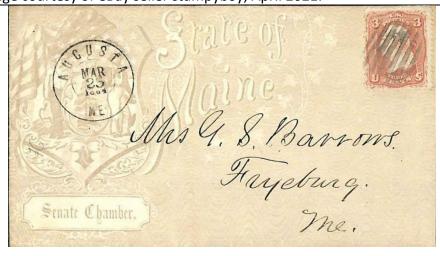
Postcard image courtesy eBay seller stemerdude, June 2021.

ID:State: MaineCounty: KennebecCity: AugustaDates: 25 Mar 1864Color: GraySize: Regular

Office: "Senate Chamber"

Notes: "State of / Maine" in center.

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller stampyboy, April 2021.



ID: State: Maine County: Orono City: Orono

Dates: 22 Aug 1891 Color: Black Size: Regular

Office: "MAINE STATE COLLEGE / DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS."

Notes:

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller stamps-plus, June 2021.

MAINE STATE COLLEGE.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS, ORONO, MAINE:

MAINE STATE COLLEGE.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS, ORONO, MAINE:

MAINE STATE COLLEGE.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS.

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Dates: 18 Jan 1898-16 May 1900 | Color: Gray | Size: Regular |

Office: "State Library."

Notes:

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller covercrazy2, June 2021.

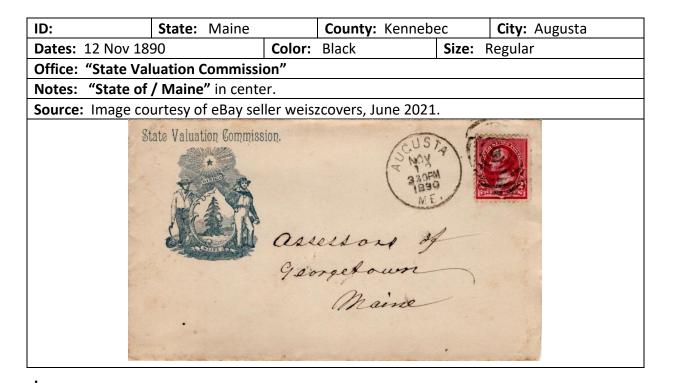
AUGUSTA-ME.

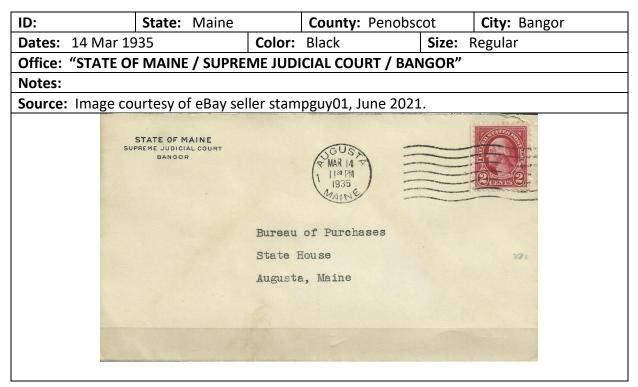
Jan 18 10 - AM 98

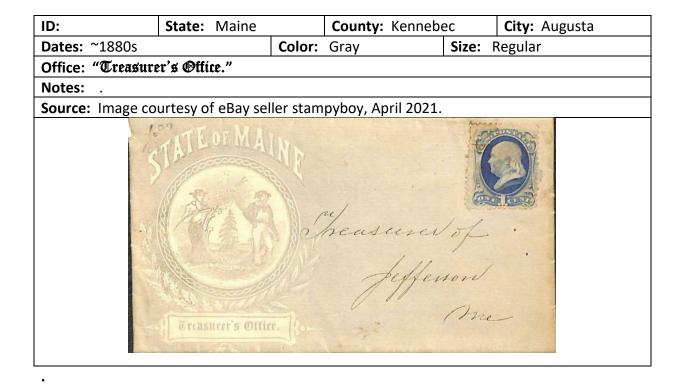
Salem

Mass.

Balem







City: Augusta ID: **State:** Maine County: Kennebec Color: Gray **Dates:** ~1880s Size: Regular Office: "Treasurer's Office."

**Notes:** Return statement printed vertically at left; preprinted two lines: "Treasurer of" and

"Maine".

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller stampyboy, April 2021.



ID: State: Maine County: Kennebec City: Augusta

**Dates:** 6 Oct 1893 – 6 Oct 1898 **Color:** Gray Size: Regular

Office: "Treasurer's Office."

Notes: Return statement printed vertically at left; two lines: "Treasurer of" and "Maine",

Pre-printed or maybe simply a rubber stamp.

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller covercrazy2, April 2021.



ID:State: MaineCounty: KennebecCity: Augusta

Dates: 24 Mar 1905Color: BlueSize: Regular

Office: "STATE OF MAINE / DEPARTMENT OF VITAL STATISTICS."

Notes:

**Source:** Image courtesy of V F Thomas, Maine Postal History website, April 2021. (URL= http://www.vfthomas.com/Mainepostalhistory/KennebecCounty/Augustapostalhistoryhome.htm.)



## Part 2

## **MAINE**

## County & City Agencies "Official Business" Envelopes

**Arranged by County and City** 

Dates: 27 May 1901

Color: Red

Size: Regular

Office: "Maine State Fair"

Notes:

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller covercrazy2, June 2021.

SEPT. 3 4 5 6 MAY OFFICE MAINE STATE FAIR, ME.

January Maine State Fair, ME.

Waterville Marse

Return In Type Days 170

GEO, H. GLARKE, Socretary, North Anson, Maine.

ID: State: Maine County: Aroostook City: Ashland

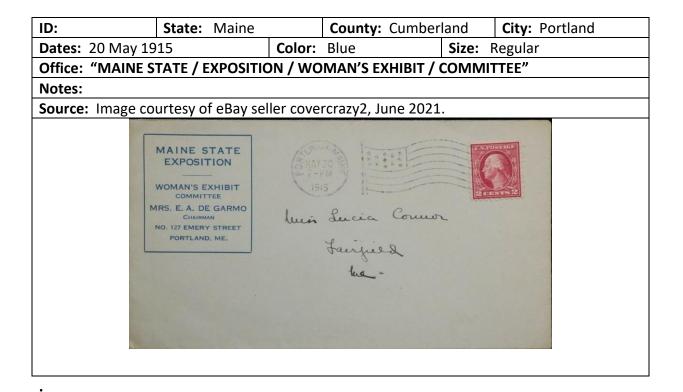
Dates: 14 Nov 1938 | Color: Black | Size: Legal

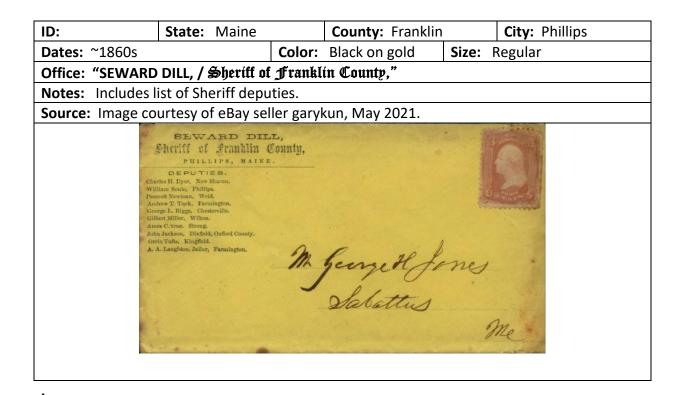
Office: "SELECTMEN / Easton, Maine,"

Notes:

**Source:** Image courtesy of eBay seller cantdog, July 2021.







ID: State: Maine County: Hancock City: Castine

Dates: 14 May ~1870s Color: Black Size: Regular

Office: "STATE NORMAL SCHOOL"

Notes: Name is changed

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller halfmoon28a, June 2021.



Dates: 9 May 1891 Color: Black on gold Size: Regular

Office: "PROBATE OFFICE,"

Notes:

Source: Image courtesy of V F Thomas, Maine Postal History website, April 2021. (URL=http://www.vfthomas.com/Mainepostalhistory/KennebecCounty/Augustapostalhistoryhome.htm)

PROBATE OFFICE,

AUGUSTA, ME.

Wannel Alcomb

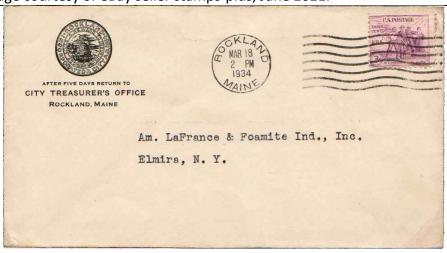
ID: State: Maine County: Knox City: Rockland

Dates:8 Mar 1934Color:BlackSize:Regular

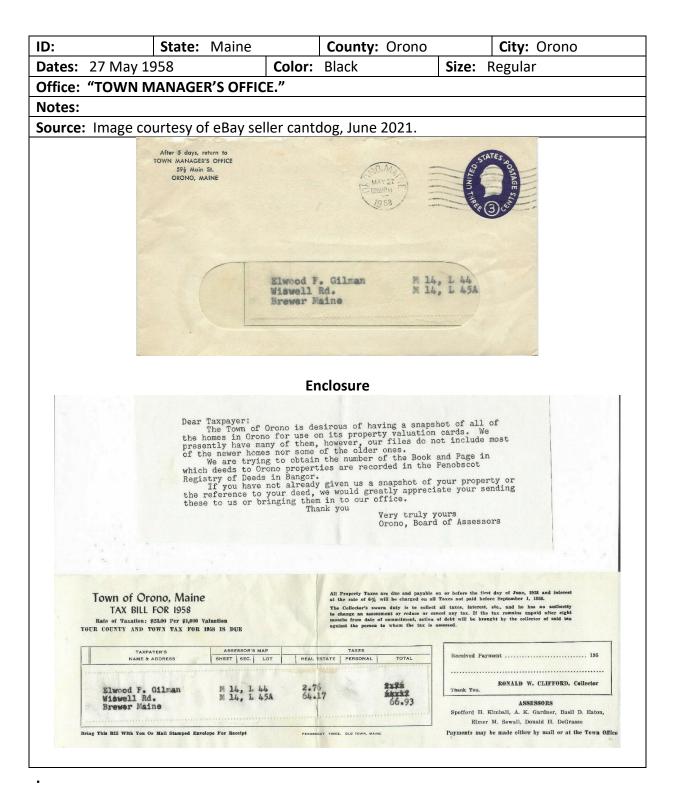
Office: "CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE"

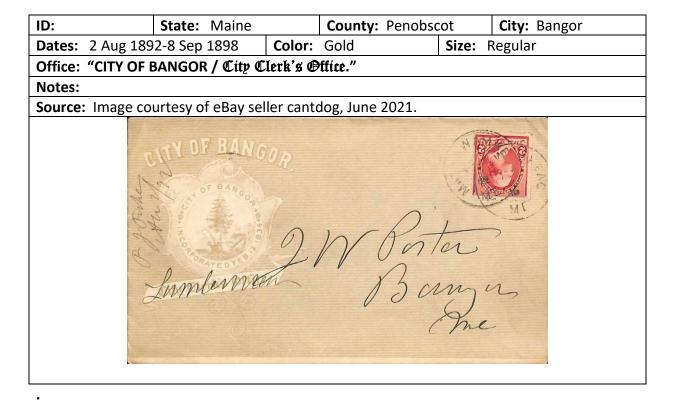
Notes:

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller stamps-plus, June 2021.

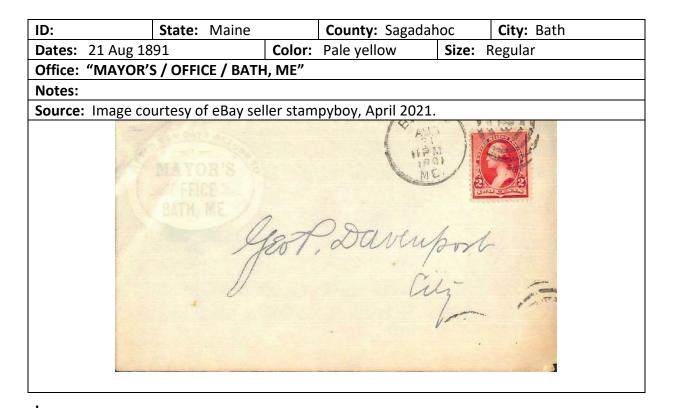


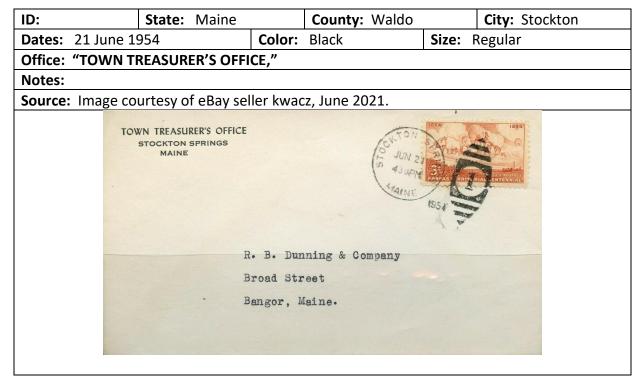
ID: **State:** Maine County: Lincoln City: Boothbay **Dates:** 3 July 1904 Color: Black Size: Regular Office: "JOHN E. KELLEY / Treasurer and Collector." **Notes:** Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller covercrazy2, June 2021. After 5 Days Return to John E. Kelley, Treasurer and Collector. albert M. Matthews Backseiver Maine **Enclosure** PLEASE PRESENT THIS BILL WHEN YOU SETTLE. malbert R. matthews Your State, County and Town Tax for the Year of 1904 is as follows: Poll ..... \$ 3 0 0 Discount..... Personal Estate ..... Total Balance... Total Tax..... RATE OF TAXATION: \$19.80 on \$1000. SPECIAL NOTICE. By a vote of the town at the last annual meeting, a discount will be allowed those who voluntarily pay their taxes to the Treasurer, as follows: If paid on or before Aug. 15, 5 per cent.; Nov. 1, 3 per cent Dec. 1, 2 per cent. And all taxes remaining unpaid on the 15th day of D-cember, 1904, the collector shall proceed to collect according to the Statute made and provided. JOHN E. KELLEY, TREASURER AND COLLECTOR.





ID: **State:** Maine **County:** Penobscot City: Bangor **Dates: 25 June 1900** Color: Purple Size: Regular Office: "Eastern Maine State Fair" Notes: Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller goodcovers1, June 2021. BETURN IN FIVE BAYS TO Eastern Maine State Fair. BANGOR, MAINE A 11 0 0 04 SEASON OF .... 1900. Exhibition Days, C.W. Fernold So. Levant AUGUST 28, 29, 30 & 31 Maine.





City: Biddeford ID: State: Maine County: York Dates: 19 Oct ~1880s Color: Pale green Size: Regular Office: "MUNICIPAL COURT / CITY OF BIDDEFORD. OFFICE," Notes: Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller 920bas, June 2021. **Enclosure - Letterhead** MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE -CHARLES S. HAMILTON, JUDGE. EDWIN J. CRAM, RECORDER. Biddelorg, Me., Oct 19 th

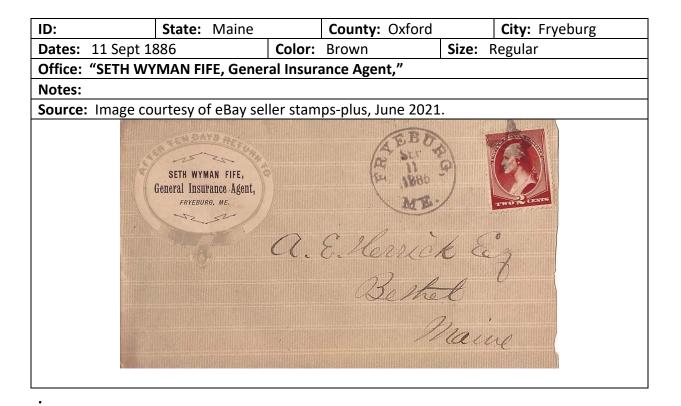
ID:	State: Maine		County: Waldo		City: York Village
<b>Dates:</b> 1 Oct 1923		Color:	Black on gold	Size: Regular	
Office: "TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,"					
Notes:					
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller brainyeros, May 2021.					
	RETURN IN 5 DAYS TO COLLECTOR'S OFFICE ORK VILLAGE, MAINE	Mis 1 V	ss Esther Park, Vinchester Street,	O DCT 11 FM 1923	PAYS 8

### Part 3

## MAINE

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

**Arranged by County and City** 



ID:State: MaineCounty: WaldoCity: Branch Mills

Dates:11 Sept 1886Color:BrownSize:Regular

Office: "SETH WYMAN FIFE, General Insurance Agent,"

Notes: Printers imprint on flap: "The Maynard-Goough Co., Printers, Worcester, Mass.

The Maynard-Gough Co., Printers, Worcester, Mass

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller stamps-plus, June 2021.



### Part 4

## **MAINE**

## Federal Department & Agency Envelopes

**Used within the State** 

**Arranged by County and City** 

| County: Unknown | City: Unknown | County: Unknown | City: Unknown | County: Unknow