

The mail you might find in your attic

Shown here are examples of various forms of mail that turned up in someone's attic, basement...and even on the bottom drawer of an old desk that was about to be discarded. None of the items here is worth a goldmine, but they *are* worth good money.

What you should do if...

Nearly everyone will, at some point in life, discover some old correspondence to/from family members of the past—some many decades old. And most of the time both the envelopes and their contents will be found together and intact. Why? Simply because such things were keepsakes and are generally full of memories for someone long ago.

Aside from their value as family artifacts, these correspondences usually are not, quite frankly, of much monetary value. After all, most stamps used to frank mail over the past 75 years are still worth only pennies—even when on envelopes that went through the mail. Not only that, but the writing in the correspondences of most people does not contain information of much historic value.

But don't ever be too quick to throw out such old pieces of paper!

Sure, you may want to keep them for sentimental value, but it's also a good idea to get an expert to look them over just in case.

Just in case? That's right. You might be surprised. For instance:

- Mail from the World War II or even the Vietnam war era may have unusual markings and routings visible on the outer envelopes. Such items are in big demand by collectors.

- Letters inside the envelopes may convey the writer's impressions of unusual historic events of his time; i.e., the Kennedy assassination.

- Though 99% of all 20th century stamps are common and not valuable at all, there are some that actually do have value (such as high value stamps with a face value of \$1.00 or more).

- Mail to/from various foreign countries can sometimes be quite valuable. For instance, an old correspondence by a family with their relative in post WWII occupied Berlin can be highly sought after.

- If any such correspondence is from the pre-1900 period, it can possibly be of value for numerous reasons—especially letters to/from soldiers and sailors involved in wars.

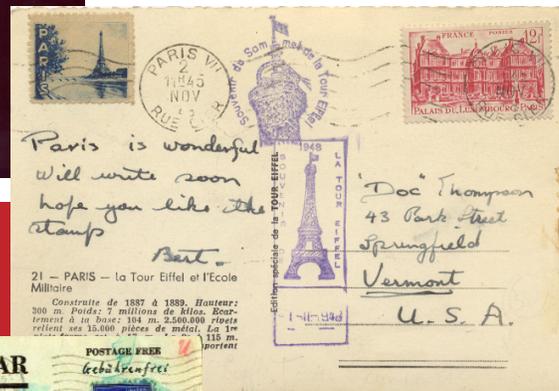
So those letters gathering dust in your attic might be worth something after all. We buy this kind of material all of the time. Keep us in mind!



The free frank of Edith Roosevelt, widow of President Theodore Roosevelt. From her home in Oyster Bay, N.Y., in 1939. Value: \$100-\$150.



Early and scarce Boston, Mass., machine cancel on unusual advertising cover with colorful enclosure in 1900. Value: \$125-\$175.



A postcard mailed on November 11, 1945 (European Armistice Day for World War I), from the post office at the top of the Eiffel Tower. Note special Eiffel Tower cancels and souvenir poster stamp at left. Value: \$100.

Cover from German prisoner of war at POW camp in Concordia to his family back home. Value: \$200.



Postally used items relating to baseball are highly sought after. A cachet on this airmail cover showing Doubleday Field at Cooperstown, N.Y. Value: \$125.

