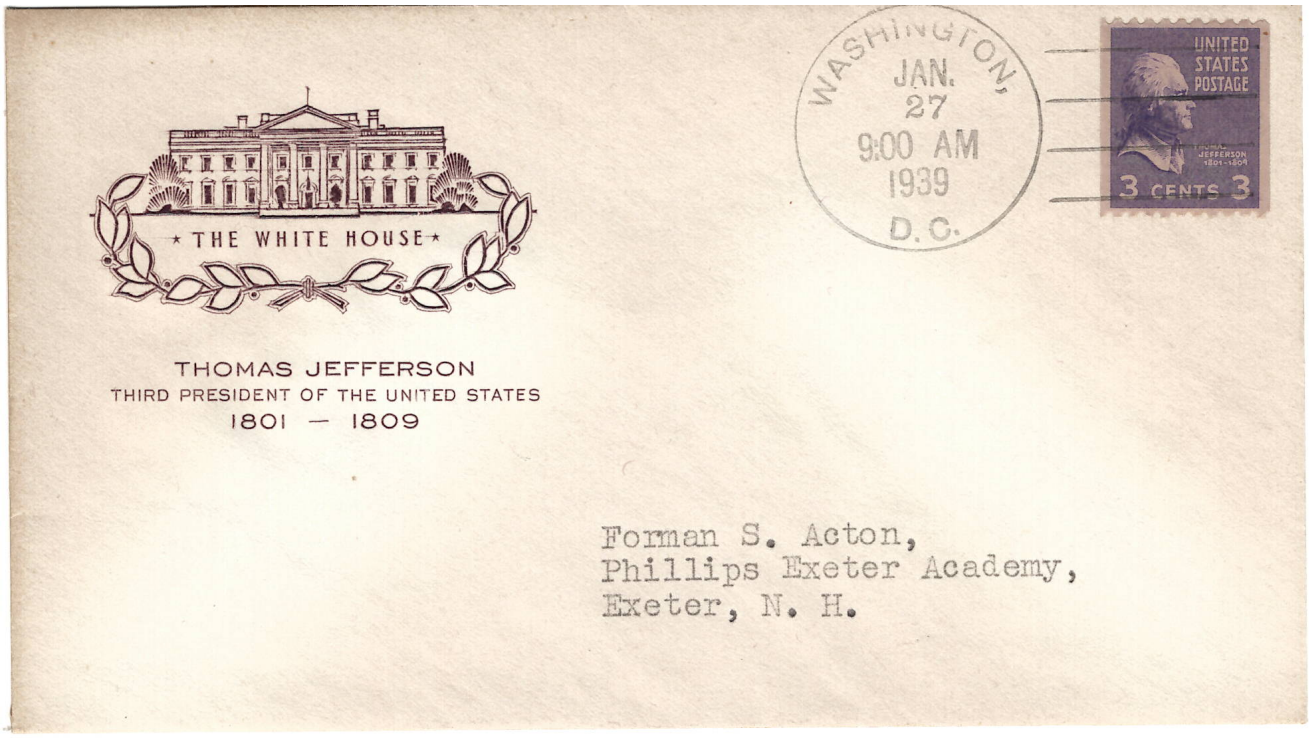
Cover Story

Wm. Slaninko



Addressed to an elite preparatory school
Cover pays the first class rate January 27,1938
Canceled with a 3.1 cm circular date stamp with 4 killer bars 2.7 cm
Franked with a **scarce** endwise vertical coil
Only 0.025% of coil stamps were vertical endwise coils

- **House of Farnam Cachet**
- House of Farnam-founded 1937 by Harlan D. Farnam in Cleveland, Ohio.
- It was sold in 1938 to Vera and William Mc Loud-they ran the firm for 40 years
- Sold to John Halliday in 1978
- House of Farnam produced steel intaglio line engraved cachets; engraver Ralph Zimmerman
- Firm was sold to Mike Zoeller of Artmaster in 1988
- Artmaster began having financial problems in 2002 and closed in 2004.

- This cover caught my eye when I saw the address (Phillips Exeter Academy)-an elite preparatory school.
- I went to Google and looked up Forman S. Acton-he had quite a résumé.
- He was born 1920 died 2014 age 93.
- Phillips Exeter Academy 1939
- Princeton B.S. 1943, M.S. 1944 Chemical engineering
- Drafted 1944, worked at **Oak Ridge Manhattan Project**
- After WW II earned degree in Applied Mathematics at Carnegie Institute of Technology
- National Bureau of Standards-Institute for Numerical Analysis at UCLA
- Worked on first digital computer **SWAC** (Standards Western Automatic Computer)

- Became an expert and teacher on the **IAS Machine-one of the first computers**
- Worked with **John Turkey**-who coined the terms **"Software"** and **"bit"**
- Worked with **Thomas Kurtz** who invented the **BASIC** computer language
- In 1963, made an extended visit to the **Indian Institute of Technology** Kanpur, India
- Established the school's early computing facilities and courses
- At Princeton- was professor of Computer Science until his retirement in 1989
- Philanthropist: incorporated the Forman S.Acton Educational Foundation in 2014