“To the Bag”

“I am afraid that the Founders may have had less weighty reasons than fear of scheming foreigners for excluding non-citizens from the presidency. (James C. Ho, President Schwarzenegger – Or At Least Hughes, Winter 2004.) The provision most likely targeted Alexander Hamilton, born in the Virgin Islands. The product of an adulterous relationship, he was raised poor and fatherless. John Adams called him a "bastard Bratt of a Scotch Pedlar," and the aristocratic Virginians looked down their noses at him. Brash and brilliant, he could have been a contender. Instead, as the first Secretary of the Treasury, he managed to put the new nation on a secure financial footing. For that, I suppose we should thank the Founders for their short-sightedness – but we should not credit them with honorable, if misguided, motives.

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