In the twentieth century, President Calvin Coolidge was a man of few words—but those that he spoke were his own. The only notable exception came when he was called upon to dedicate Aeolian Hall for Boston music lovers. A member of the Boston Symphony Orchestra helped Coolidge prepare this specialized talk. Years later, however, when a collection of Coolidge's speeches was being compiled, he told his publisher: "That Aeolian Hall talk is pretty good, but it isn't mine. Keep it out!"

Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Brain Trust" included, at one time or another, some of modern history's most distinguished ghosts. Among those who drafted Roosevelt's speeches were Samuel I. Rosenman, Rexford G. Tugwell, Harry Hopkins, Raymond Moley, playwright Robert E. Sherwood, Stanley High, and Adolf A. Berle. While F.D.R. put the finishing touches on their product and often translated it into his own eloquent terms, the Brain Trusters take credit for such memorable Rooseveltian phrases as "rendezvous with destiny," "horse-and-buggy age" and "Martin, Barton and Fish." Thus, knowingly or unknowingly, today's college student is studying—and perhaps drawing inspiration from—ghosted documents.

Ghostwriting is by definition a cynical trade. One well-known writer ghosted a book and then wrote a laudatory preface for it under his own name. For Christmas, one embittered ghost sent his "author" an autographed copy of their book.

Literary ghosts are paid in various ways. Some get a flat fee that can amount to as much as $30,000 for a summer's work. Some charge ten cents a word. Some get paid by the week—$250 is a minimum; $500 is more common. Other ghosts fight for shares of their books' royalties. The publisher of a relatively undistinguished comedian recently offered a ghost a $5,000 advance plus a third of all royalties up to $90,000.

Ghosting in sports figures is one of the most lucrative tasks, but it must be done well. "The sports public is fairly sophisticated," a newspaper syndicate executive remarked. "It won't accept an ghosted by Alexander Hamilton, James and John Jay. The most generous historian is George Washington, who left more than his immortal speech. As an ex-President, he is also known to have written the Nullification Proclamation. George a famous historian, wrote President An- ton's speeches. The Library of Congress has the manuscript of a Johnson speech—written in Bancroft's handwriting with a few crawled in by Johnson.