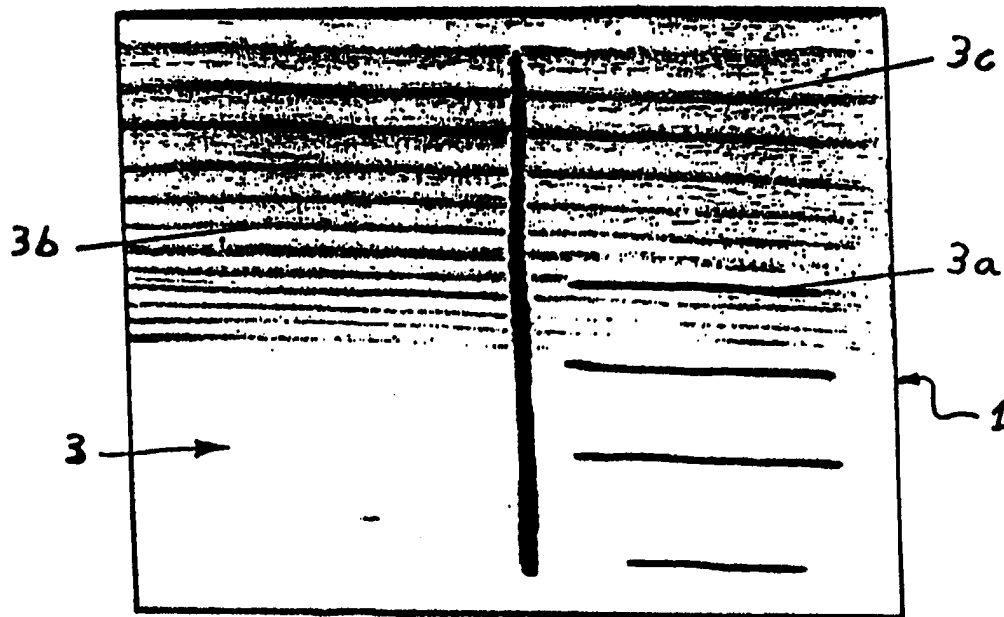




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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/FI98/00147 (22) International Filing Date: 18 February 1998 (18.02.98) (30) Priority Data: U970091 20 February 1997 (20.02.97) FI (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: TURUNEN, Tero, Juhani [FI/FI]; Kauppakatu 9 A 9, FIN-80100 Joensuu (FI).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p><b>Published</b> <i>With international search report. In English translation (filed in Finnish).</i></p>

(54) Title: THE ECOLOGICAL POSTCARD



(57) Abstract

The object of this invention is the ecological postcard, which is used for transmitting different messages and congratulations, which has the wooden stem part (4) with printings (2a). It is characteristic of the invention that the printings (2a) are coloured offset printings.

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## THE ECOLOGICAL POSTCARD

The object of this invention is the ecological postcard, which is in accordance with the introduction of claim 1.

The currently known postcards are made of paper, cardboard or thick and inflexible wood. The disadvantage of these postcards is that the manufacture of paper causes damage to the environment. In addition, the manufacture of these postcards consumes a remarkable amount of energy. People post and give postcards to each other in order to gladden the receiver. The disadvantage of this is that this is done with a poisonous postcard. This is especially harmful when the receiver is allergic to paper.

The aim of this invention is the ecological, non-polluting postcard.

The disadvantages mentioned above can be removed and the aim defined above can be reached with the ecological postcard, which is in accordance with the invention, of which it is characteristic what has been defined in the characteristics parts of the claims.

The most important advantage of the invention is that the ecological postcard is natural, coloured and flexible. The invention is harmless also when exposed to children: because the card is printed with non-poisonous printing colours, it can even be eaten. It is safe to dispose of an ecological postcard for example by burning, and it can be utilized in lighting a fire. The ecological postcard is very flexible and durable due to its principle of crosswise structure and its thinness. Due to its flexibility, the ecological postcard passes through the automatic sorting systems of the post completely intact. Each card is individual, because the fibres of wood give each card a different background figure. Different background figures can be utilized in printing to create e.g. different shades. The variability of the background figure can be increased by using different kinds of wood and also so called diseased wood, such as curly birch.

In what follows, the invention will be described in detail referring to the enclosed designs.

Figure 1 represents an ecological postcard, which is in accordance with the invention, seen at a straight angle towards the picture side.

Figure 2 represents an ecological postcard, which is in accordance with the invention, seen at a straight angle towards the address side.

Figure 3 represents an ecological postcard, which is in accordance with the invention, seen at a straight angle towards the edge.

In figure 1 the picture side 2 of the ecological postcard 1 shows the following parts: the actual picture part 2a and the figure of the wood fibre 2b. The picture part 2a has been printed on the picture side 2 of the card, and it consists of the sun and an island and their reflections. The figure of the wood fibre 2b is placed so that the strong fibre figure in the lower part of the picture side 2 reflects water and the milder fibre figure in the upper part of the picture side 2 reflects the sky. The stem part 4 of the ecological postcard 1 is of pine wood, and it can be made of two thin plates cut from wood, which have been joined together crosswise, which makes it flexible, it does not break and has the pleasant smell of pine. The card is easy to write on, because the surface of wood, in other words the stem part 4 of the card, is hard and smooth enough.

In figure 2 the address side 3 of the ecological postcard 1 shows the following parts: the address lines 3a, the text part 3b and the place of a stamp 3c. The address lines 3a have been printed on the address side 3 of the card. Space has been left for the text part 3a and the place of a stamp 3c, as in the currently known postcards.

In figure 3 the edge of the ecological postcard 1 shows the stem part 4 which consists of two thin pieces of veneer 4a which have been joined crosswise with the joining substance 4b.

The ecological postcard which is in accordance with the invention is used in the same way as the currently known paper cards. No stamp is required if the manufacturer of the card applies for the permission of posting so that the postage is included in the price of the card.

It is clear to a professional of this field that the invention is not limited only to the example described above; instead it can vary within the limits of the claim presented later on. For example, the shape of the card can be other than rectangle, e.g. circular or oval. The card can be made of other kinds of wood besides pine.

## CLAIM

1. The ecological postcard, which is used for transmitting different messages and congratulations, which has the wooden stem part (4) with printings (2a), known for the fact that the printings (2a) are coloured offset printings.
2. The ecological postcard, which is in accordance with claim 1, known for the fact that the printings (2a) are silk-screen printings.
3. The ecological postcard, which is in accordance with claim 1, known for the fact that the stem part (4) is 0,4 - 0,8 mm thick.
4. The ecological postcard, which is in accordance with claim 1, known for the fact that the stem part (4) consists of two thin pieces of veneer (4a) which have been joined crosswise with a joining substance (4b).
5. The ecological postcard, which is in accordance with claim 1, known for the fact that the stem part (4) is flexible, so that the automatic sorting systems of the post do not damage it.

Fig. 1

4

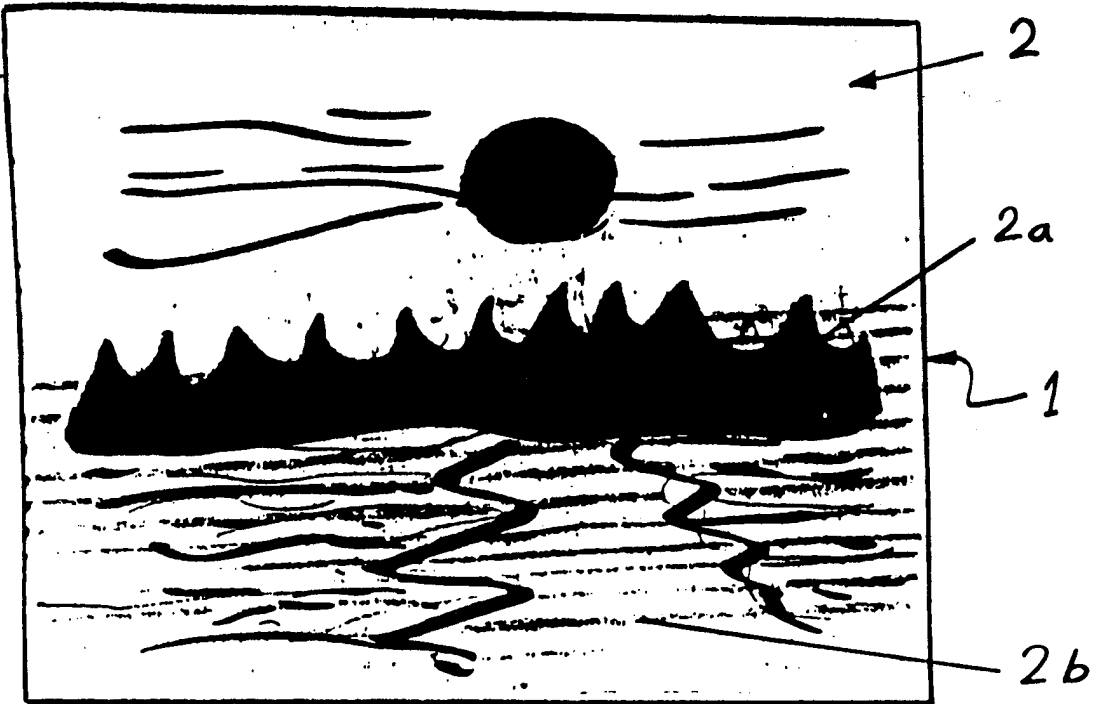


Fig. 2

3b

3

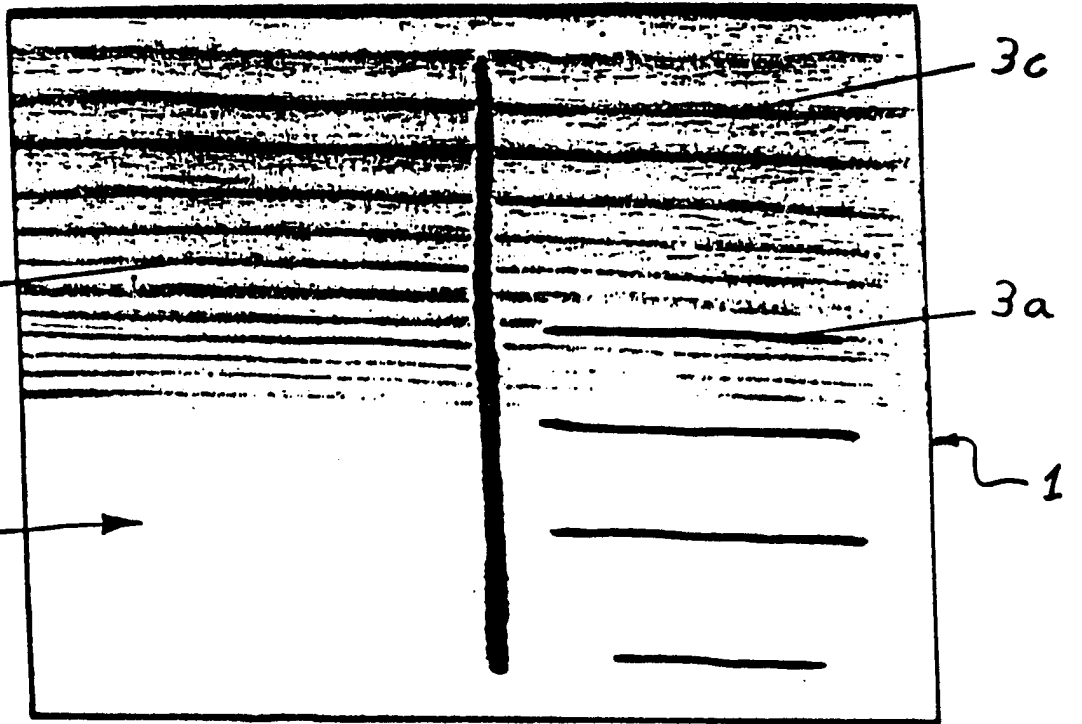
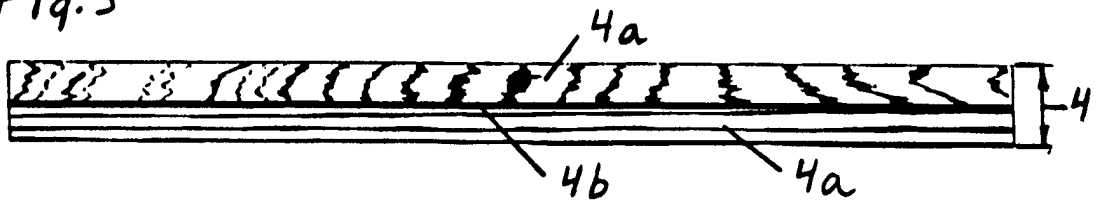


Fig. 3



## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FI 98/00147

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER												
IPC6: B42D 15/02, B41M 1/38 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC												
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Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.										
X	FR 2491393 A (ROBERT CARLOS), 9 April 1982 (09.04.82), page 1, line 38 - page 2, line 3, figure 1 --	1-5										
A	DE 19507230 A1 (EIDOS GMBH), 12 Sept 1996 (12.09.96), abstract --	1-5										
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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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