

No. 643,992.

Patented Feb. 20, 1900.

W. O. TAYLOR.

STAMP ORDER AND DELIVERY CASE.

(Application filed Mar. 29, 1897. Renewed Aug. 8, 1899.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

FIG. 6.

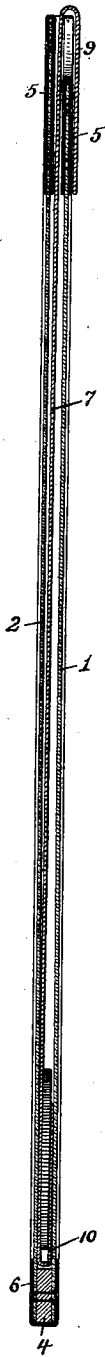
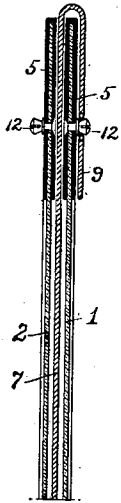


FIG. 1.

FIG. 7.

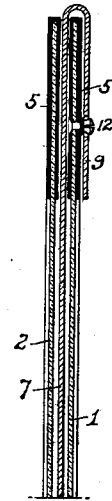
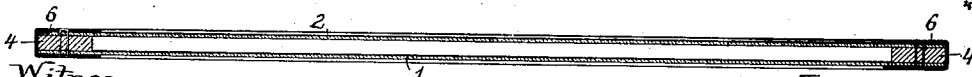


FIG. 2.



Witnesses:
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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

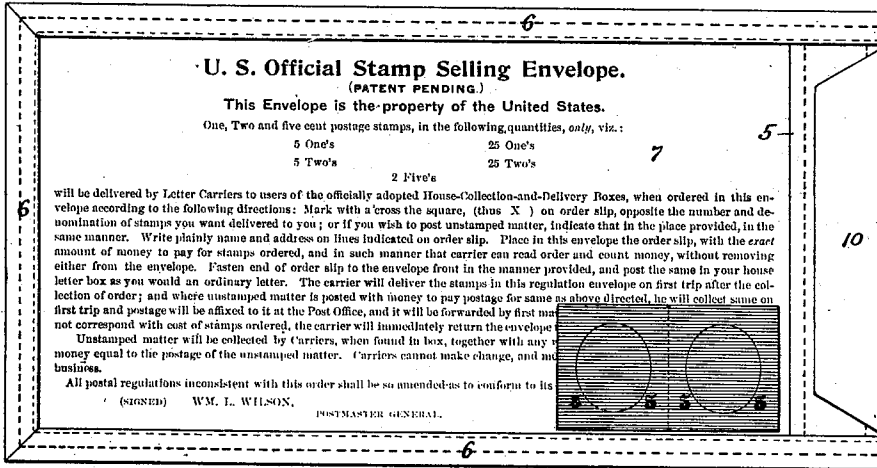


FIG. 4.

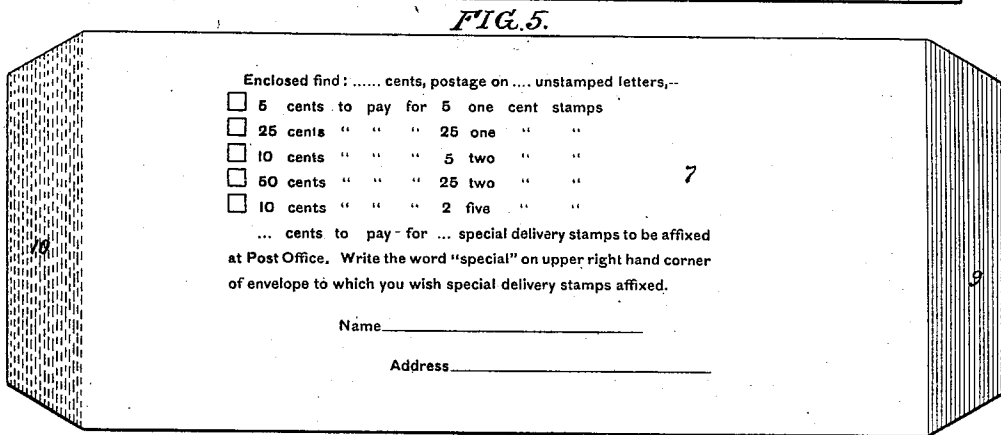


FIG. 5.

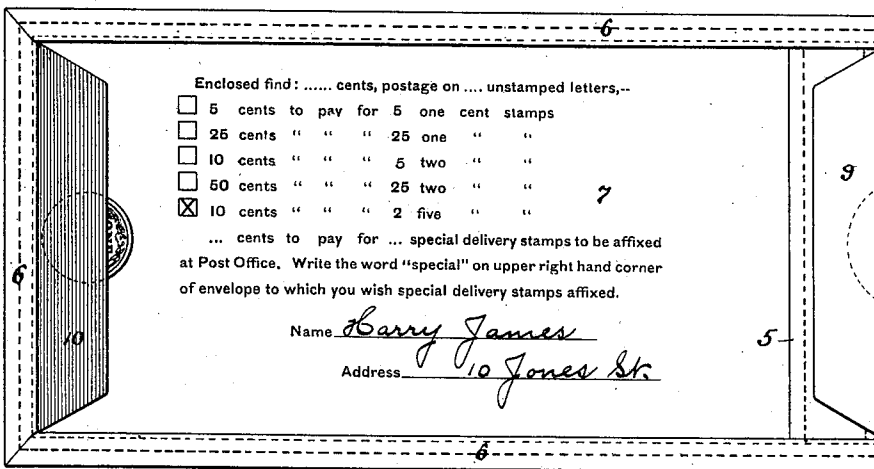


FIG. 3.

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Inventor: William O. Taylor by his Attorneys, Howson & Howson

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

WILLIAM O. TAYLOR, OF NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO THE
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STAMP ORDER AND DELIVERY CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 643,992, dated February 20, 1900.

Application filed March 29, 1897. Renewed August 8, 1899. Serial No. 726,597. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM O. TAYLOR, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Norristown, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, have invented a Stamp Order and Delivery Case, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to provide an efficient form of envelop whereby to facilitate the ordering of postage-stamps through the medium of a house letter-box and the delivery of the ordered stamps by the mail-carrier to the person ordering them. This object I attain in the manner hereinafter set forth, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal sectional view, on an enlarged scale, of a stamp order and delivery envelop constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a transverse section of the same. Fig. 3 is a front view, on a smaller scale, of the envelop prepared for delivery to the mail-carrier and containing an order for stamps. Fig. 4 is a view of the envelop as delivered by the mail-carrier containing stamps to fill said order. Fig. 5 is a view of the order-sheet removed from the envelop. Fig. 6 is a longitudinal section of an envelop and order-sheet designed for the continued use of the same order-sheet, and Fig. 7 is a similar view of another form of envelop and order-sheet designed for the same purpose.

The postal department of the Government has recently undertaken to utilize the mail-carriers as a means whereby the purchase of stamps is facilitated, an added duty of each carrier being to receive orders for stamps from persons located on his route and to deliver the stamps so ordered. Such method of purchasing stamps is facilitated by the use, which in some cities has become quite extensive, of house mail-boxes having provision both for receiving mail-matter and for delivering mail-matter to the carrier.

The requirements of a perfected plan of selling postage-stamps through the medium of the mail-carrier are as follows:

First. The buyer should be enabled to order, pay for, and receive stamps without the necessity of seeing the carrier, as this would

necessitate watching for his arrival and oftentimes result in undue delay in the work of the carrier.

Second. The delivery of stamps should be made by the carrier at the same time the order with the money to pay for the stamps is received by him, thus avoiding any delay to the buyer and making it unnecessary for the carrier to return on another trip to deliver the stamps. It is obvious, too, that immediate exchange of stamps for money will reduce to a minimum the liability of loss or error and the amount of time and labor required to effect the transaction.

Third. If for any reason the plan of immediate delivery of stamps by the carrier is not adopted, the carrier simply taking orders to the post-office and returning with the stamps on his next round, the order-card should be returned in the same inclosure with the stamps, and both stamps and order-card, with the name and address of the person ordering, should be in plain sight without opening said inclosure.

Fourth. The purchaser should be enabled to buy stamps in stated amounts only in order to facilitate the transaction, and to this same end the purchaser should be required to furnish the exact sum to pay for the stamps ordered.

Fifth. The purchase-money for stamps should be delivered to the carrier in such manner that he may readily and with the use of but one hand be enabled to verify the amount.

Sixth. If the carrier should find a shortage in the money presented in payment for stamps ordered, he should be protected against a possible charge of having removed or taken any of the money.

Seventh. For the protection of the purchaser stamps should be delivered in such form and manner that if there should be an error or shortage in them as delivered the purchaser could establish this fact.

Eighth. Provision should be made against the liability of stamps becoming damaged through being carried about, thus avoiding inconvenience or loss either to the buyer, post-office, or carrier.

Ninth. Provision should be made against

liability of a carrier taking an order from a box without noticing it. This might easily happen if an order were deposited with other matter for collection unless some provision were made for bringing the order to the notice of the carrier.

Tenth. An intending purchaser whenever giving an order for stamps should have at hand instructions as to the proper method of ordering and paying for the stamps in order to obviate the delay which might otherwise be caused by failure to comply with the prescribed conditions.

For the purpose of meeting all of these requirements I have devised what may be termed a "stamp order and delivery case," the construction and use of which I will now proceed to describe, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

The stamp order or delivery case or envelop consists of a front 1 and back 2, both of which should be of celluloid, mica, gelatin, or other transparent material. Between the front and back of the envelop, at the top, bottom, and one end of the same, are interposed narrow strips or filling-pieces 4, so as to separate the front and back of the envelop to any desired extent, and at the remaining end of the envelop both the front and back of the same are preferably bound, as shown at 5, to protect their edges, the binding being comparatively deep, so as to provide surfaces of considerable width, to either of which may be secured a flap upon an order-card, to be inserted in the envelop, as hereinafter explained. Around the top, bottom, and closed end of the envelop also extends an outer binding 6, so as to hold the various parts of the envelop together and impart to it strength sufficient to resist any rough handling to which it may be subjected. The order-sheet 7 to be used in connection with this envelop has printed upon one face information as to the number and denomination of the stamps likely to be furnished by this method, together with spaces for the name and address of the person ordering the stamps, as shown in Fig. 3, and said order-card also has by preference at one end a flap 9 and at the other end a flap 10, each of these flaps being gummed upon one side. Upon the back of the order-sheet are instructions as to the proper method of ordering and paying for stamps, as shown in Fig. 4. A stamp order and delivery envelop of this character provides for various methods of ordering and delivering stamps—for instance, according to one method the letter-carrier is provided with like envelops containing blank order-cards and stamps in quantity and denomination to fill any of the orders for which the order-card is designed. The householder marks upon the order-card the number and denomination of stamps required and deposits in the envelop, with the order-card and between the same and the transparent front of the envelop—coins or notes of sufficient value to pay for the stamps ordered and then

seals down the flap 9 upon the binding 5 of the front of the envelop, so as to close the open end of the envelop and prevent the abstraction of either order-card or money therefrom without destroying the flap, so that the carrier is protected from any charge of abstracting money from the envelop. On receiving such an order-envelop from a house letter-box and verifying the correctness of its contents the carrier immediately deposits in the receiving-compartment of the box a sealed envelop containing stamps in number and denomination as ordered, carrying with him to the post-office when he returns there the envelop containing the order and money in payment therefor. When the envelop is received at the post-office, the proper attendant pulls off the sealed flap and removes the order-card and money from the envelop, the internal flap of the order-card facilitating the withdrawal of the money from the envelop by engaging with the same and causing its withdrawal simultaneously with the order-card.

If the amount of money contained in the envelop with an order-card is not the proper amount to be paid for the stamps ordered on said card, the carrier places the sealed envelop in the receiving-compartment of the letter-box, so that when the householder removes the mail-matter from said receiving-compartment he finds the order-envelop and contents returned to him intact in order that the mistake may be corrected, and if on receiving a sealed envelop containing stamps ordered by him he finds upon inspection of the stamps through the transparent side of the envelop that the number and denomination of the stamps contained therein do not agree with the order-card he can immediately return the envelop intact to the delivery-compartment of the box, so that in making his next round the carrier may return the envelop to the post-office for correction of the mistake. In no case, therefore, does the carrier have access to the contents of the envelop whether such contents are stamps or cash. Hence no opportunity is afforded for speculation by the carrier, nor can he reasonably be accused of such speculation. If a mistake is made by the householder, the envelop is returned without being opened, and the same is true in the case of a mistake by the carrier. As a modification of this plan the letter-carrier may be supplied with a number of stamps of each denomination for which the order-card is intended and upon receiving an order-case containing an order for stamps with the proper amount of cash to pay for the same he may select from his stock stamps in number and denomination sufficient to fill the order, and after tearing off the flap 9 of the order-card and removing said card and the money from the envelop he may place in the envelop the desired stamps, reinsert the order-card, and seal down the flap 10 upon that face of the envelop between which and

the order-card the stamps are contained, so that the stamps cannot be removed without tearing off said flap 10. The envelop, with the stamps contained in it, can then be immediately deposited by the carrier in the letter-box with other mail-matter which he may be delivering at the time.

By another method the letter-carrier does not act directly in the sale of stamps, but simply carries the order for stamps, with the accompanying cash, from the householder to the post-office, where the order is filled by inserting the required stamps in the envelop, together with the order-card, resealing the latter by means of the flap 10, and returning the envelop, with its order-card and stamps, to the householder on the letter-carrier's next round. The stamps being inserted between the back of the card and one transparent face of the envelop and the order being visible through the other face of the envelop, the name and address of the person ordering the stamps are visible to the carrier, and both the order and stamps being in view it can be readily seen without opening the envelop whether the order has or has not been properly filled.

In cases where it is desired to use the same order-card for a considerable period I can adopt the method of fastening shown in Fig. 6, using any ordinary form of separable fastening, one portion 12 of which is secured to the bound edge of the transparent face of the envelop, while the other portion of the fastening is secured to the outer flap of the order-card, so that the envelop can be sealed and unsealed without removing or mutilating said flap. In another form of this envelop the fastening device may be upon the face only of the envelop, as shown in Fig. 7.

Having thus described my invention, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. The combination of an envelop having a transparent front with a card adapted to fit within said envelop, said card having folded flaps at both the inner and outer ends, and provision for securing either flap to that portion of the envelop over which it is folded. 45

2. An envelop consisting of a back, a transparent front, and a border connecting them around the top, bottom and one end of the envelop, the back and front being disconnected at the other end of the envelop and the border on the front of the envelop at said open end being widened. 50

3. An envelop consisting of a back, a transparent front, a border connecting them together around the top, bottom and one end of the envelop, and independent borders for the back and front at the open end of the envelop. 55

4. An envelop consisting of a back, a transparent front, a border connecting them together around the top, bottom and one end of the envelop, and independent borders for the back and front at the open end of the envelop, said independent borders being wider than the border around the top, bottom and end. 60

5. An envelop consisting of a transparent front and back, united around the top, bottom and one end of the envelop, but disconnected at the other end, a stamp-order card adapted to fit in said envelop, and provision for securing a sealing-flap to both the front and back of the envelop at the open end of the same. 65

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses. 70

WILLIAM O. TAYLOR.

Witnesses:

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JOS. H. KLEIN.