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W. E. SWIFT, JR.

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CHURCH COLLECTION ENVELOPE AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME

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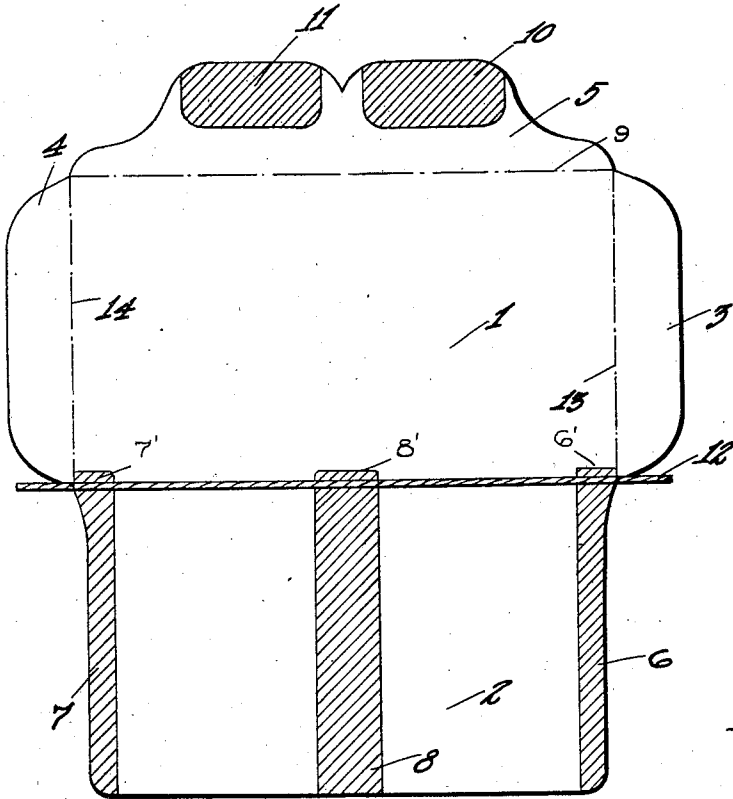


Fig. 1.

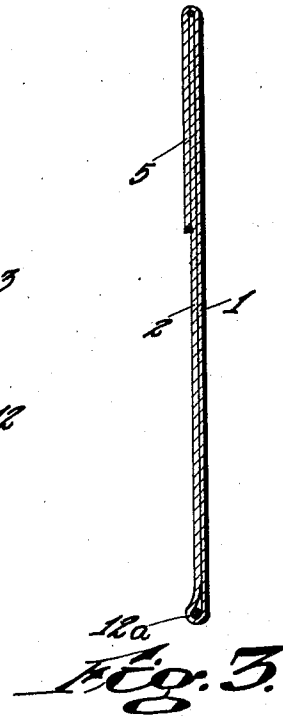


Fig. 3.

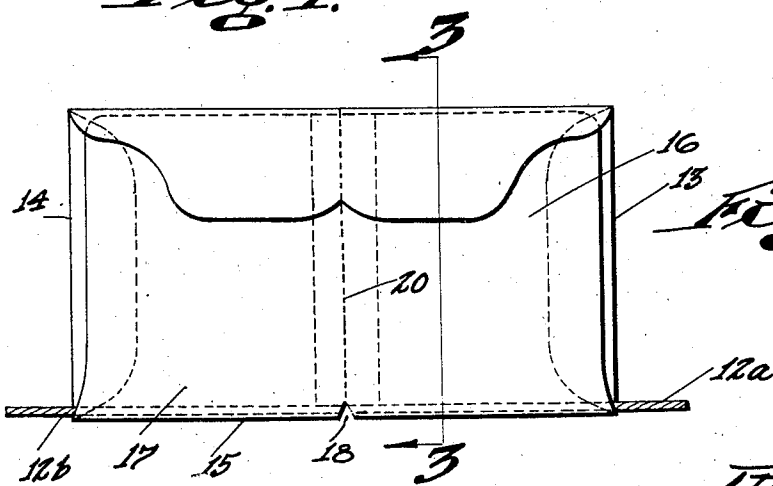


Fig. 2.

Inventor: Willard. Everett Swift, Jr.  
By G. H. Knevels  
attorney

## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CHURCH COLLECTION ENVELOPE AND  
METHOD OF MAKING THE SAMEWillard Everett Swift, Jr., Worcester, Mass., as-  
signor to United States Envelope Company,  
Springfield, Mass., a corporation of Maine

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7 Claims. (Cl. 229—69)

The present invention relates to envelopes of the multi-pocket type, which are used, for example, for church collection purposes.

In such envelopes, each pocket has designated thereon the particular church activity or fund which is destined to receive the contribution placed in said pocket,—thus enabling a contributor to make such disposition or division of his offering as he sees fit, before sealing the closure flap or flaps of the several pockets.

The use of such envelopes requires the expenditure of much time and labor by the church treasurer, or other custodian of the collected funds, in keeping separate, for counting or totaling purposes at least, the contributions directed to one designated church activity from those directed to another designated church activity. Following division of each envelope, so that all the pockets of a given designation can be collected or assembled separately from those of the other designation, the handler of these envelopes is still confronted with the task of opening and emptying each pocket individually, and since tearing off the pocket edges for this purpose might mutilate or destroy any offerings in the form of paper money or checks, it has heretofore been necessary to employ for the emptying of each individual pocket, the usual time-consuming expedients, such as cutters, or other opening devices, that are required to effect the complete opening of any sealed inclosure.

The present invention in a large measure overcomes these difficulties by the equipment of each individual pocket with a rip string or cord, thus allowing a number of such pockets to be opened and emptied at a single operation. By the novel method hereinafter described of incorporating such rip strings in the multi-pocket envelope structure, the latter, without detriment to its ability to be separated or divided into its component pockets or compartments, can still be readily and cheaply manufactured. Other and further objects and advantages of the invention will appear from the following detailed description thereof, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which—

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the blank for the multi-pocket envelope of my invention, showing the mode of application of the rip string.

Fig. 2 is a rear view of the completed envelope, with its pockets closed and sealed.

Fig. 3 is a section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Like reference characters refer to like parts in the different figures.

The blank shown in Fig. 1 is of the general form

usually employed for church-collection envelopes, the same providing a rectangular body portion 1 which forms the envelope's front wall, and a back flap 2, the latter at its edges adapted to overlap the folded-in end flaps 3 and 4 and providing the marginal bands of glue 6 and 7 for adhesion to said flaps 3 and 4 respectively, thereby to form the envelope's back wall. The back flap 2 also provides the usual central band 8 of glue, for adhesion to the front wall 1, thus to provide the envelope with two pockets or compartments that are open at the top along the line of fold 9 of the closure flap 5, the latter having gummed areas 10 and 11, adapted to be moistened and stuck down against the back wall 2, for the sealing of the individual pockets.

In the manufacture of my envelope, the bands of adhesive 6, 7 and 8, instead of terminating as usual at or just short of the line of fold between body portion 1 and back flap 2, are carried across said line, as shown at 6', 7', and 8'. Before the flat blank thus gummed is folded in the usual manner at 13, 14 and 15, to complete the envelope, a single length of string 12 is laid across the gummed portions 6', 7' and 8', being held against undue displacement by the sticky character of said gummed areas. The ends of said string 12, as shown in Fig. 1, project appreciably beyond the end limits of rectangular body portion 1, so that upon the usual folding operation that completes the back wall of the envelope, by overlapping the flap 2 on the in-folded end flaps 3 and 4, the string 12 becomes permanently incorporated in the two-pocket envelope structure thus formed; when the glue dries at 6', 7', and 8', the string 12 becomes firmly attached to the bottom fold 15 of the envelope material, so as to effectually resist any longitudinal pull applied to either end of said string where it projects beyond the outer lower corners of the two envelope pockets 16 and 17.

The manufacture of the envelope is completed by making a cut or notch 18, Fig. 2, in the central portion of the bottom fold 15; this severs the string 12 in the zone of adhesive attachment that separates the two compartments, thus providing for the compartment 16 its own independent rip string 12a, and for the compartment 17 its own independent rip string 12b, as shown clearly in Fig. 2. The notching or cutting shown at 18 can be effected in any suitable manner; if desired, it can be performed simultaneously with the usual operation of perforating or weakening the envelope material along the line 20, Fig. 2, this being done to facilitate the tearing apart of the two

sealed compartments or pockets 16 and 17, preparatory to the opening and emptying of the same.

In the use of the duplex church-collection envelope here shown, the contributor before closing and sealing the flap 5 places in each pocket of the envelope the amount of money which he wishes to give to the particular church activity or fund designated on the face or front of said pocket; thereafter, when the envelopes of all the contributors have been collected, it devolves upon the church treasurer, or other custodian of the collected funds, to keep separate, for counting or totalling purposes at least, the contributions directed respectively to the two different church activities or funds. The procedure with envelopes of my invention is as follows:— A plurality of the sealed envelopes, no greater in number than can be handled conveniently, are arranged uniformly in stacked relation, with their front walls 1 all facing the same way and with their rip strings all disposed along the same edge of the stack or pack; by this arrangement, all the pockets 16, 16 are lined up with each other, and all the pockets 17, 17 are lined up with each other. With one hand firmly grasping such a stack at the lined up pockets 16, 16, all the projecting ends of the several strings 12b can be seized by the fingers of the other hand and so pulled as to tear or rip open all of the pockets 17, for the simultaneous emptying of the contents of said pockets. Then, shifting the grip of the stack to the other emptied pockets 17, 17, all of the strings 12a can be seized for the opening simultaneously of all of the pockets 16,—thus obtaining by one opening operation in each case the emptying of a multiplicity of pockets, and at the same time keeping segregated the emptied out contents of the two sets of differently designated pockets. Or, if desired, before any of the rip strings are pulled, the so-stacked envelopes can be divided or torn apart in multiple on their registering lines 20, 20, thus to separate all the pockets 16, 16 from all the pockets 17, 17. Then, a single pull on the several strings 12a will empty all of the pockets 16, 16, and a single pull on all of the strings 12b will empty all of the pockets 17, 17.

I claim,

1. A multi-pocket envelope for church collections and the like, having a rip string contained within and projecting beyond the two ends of one of the envelope's marginal folds which is common to its several pockets, said string being severed at a point between adjacent pockets.

2. An envelope for church collections and the like, having front and back walls joined adhesively intermediate their ends to partition the enclosure into a plurality of pockets, and a rip string contained in a fold common to all the pockets between said walls and held in place by the said adhesive partition, said string being severed at a point in alinement with said adhesive partition.

3. A multi-pocket envelope of the class described, in which each pocket, along a marginal edge of the envelope common to all pockets, is equipped with an independent rip string with one end of each string projecting beyond a corner of the envelope.

4. A multi-pocket envelope of the class described providing a rip string for each pocket, each of said strings being held in place by reception of same in adhesive connecting the front and back walls of the envelope and providing a partition between adjacent pockets.

5. A multi-pocket envelope of the class described providing, for each pocket, an independent rip string, all of said strings being in alined relation, with an end of each string projecting through and beyond a corner of its associated pocket, and adhesive connections between the walls of each pocket which serve to position and hold each string at a plurality of points in its length.

6. In the manufacture of envelopes whose front and back walls are joined adhesively intermediate their ends to provide a plurality of pockets, the improvement which consists in incorporating a string in the fold between said walls, and then, upon formation of the multi-pocket structure, severing said string in the zone of adhesive connection of said walls, thereby providing each pocket with an independent string for use in ripping open same.

7. In the manufacture of envelopes, each divided into two compartments by an intermediate adhesive connection between the front and back walls thereof, the improvement which consists in disposing a string, prior to the folding and sticking of each envelope, along the marginal line of fold between said walls, with its ends projecting beyond said folding line, and then, after the folding and sticking operation, severing said string in the zone of said intermediate adhesive joining of said walls, thus to furnish each compartment of the envelope with an independent rip string.

WILLARD EVERETT SWIFT, JR.