

Oct. 9, 1934.

A. C. BENEDICT

**1,976,321**

DUPLEX ENVELOPE

Filed March 25, 1932

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

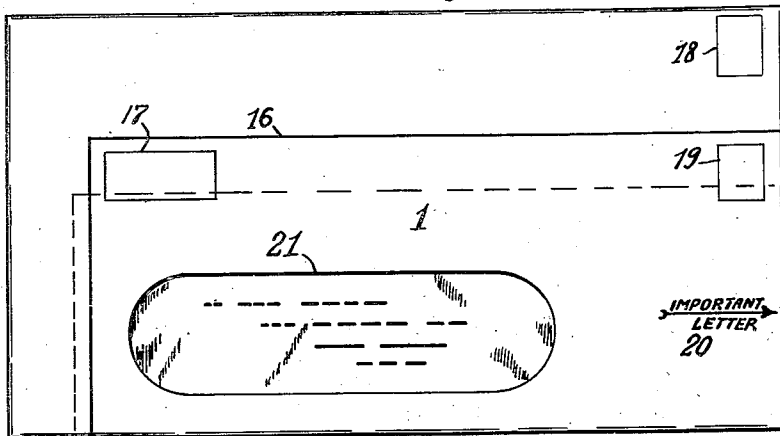
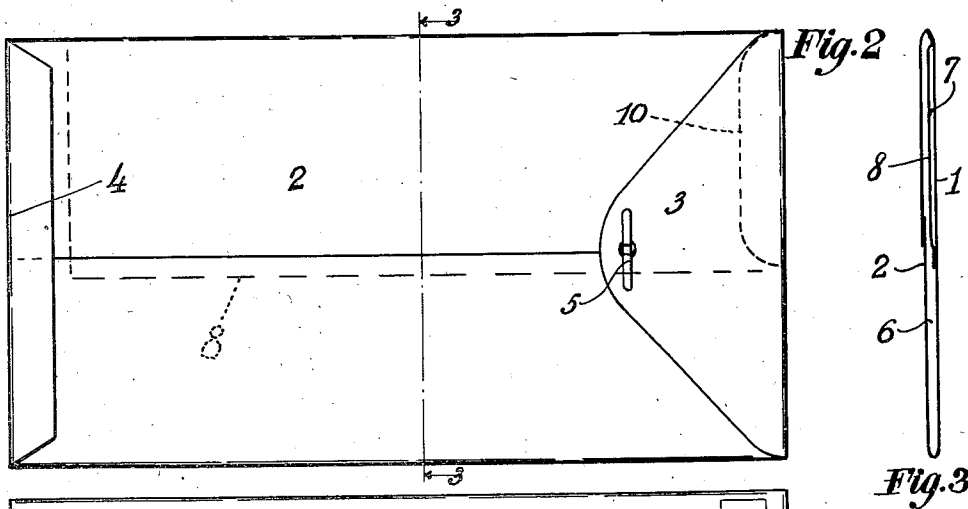
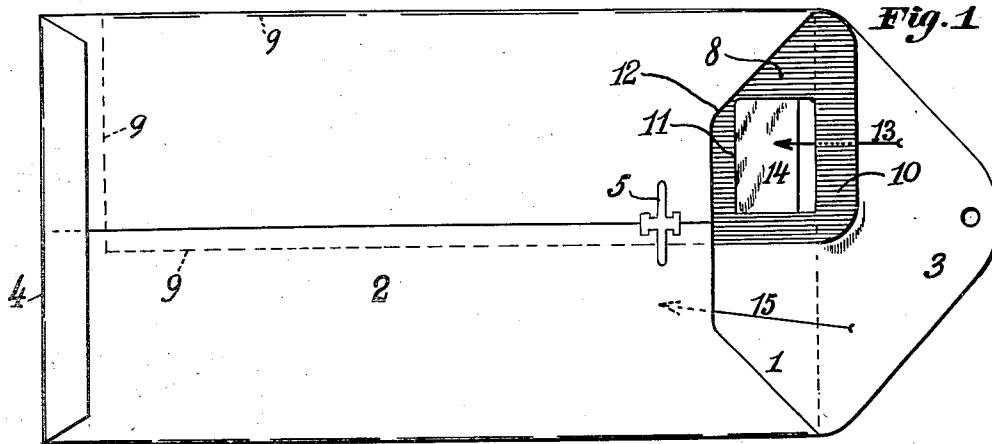


*Fig. 4*

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DUPLEX ENVELOPE

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3 Sheets-Sheet 2

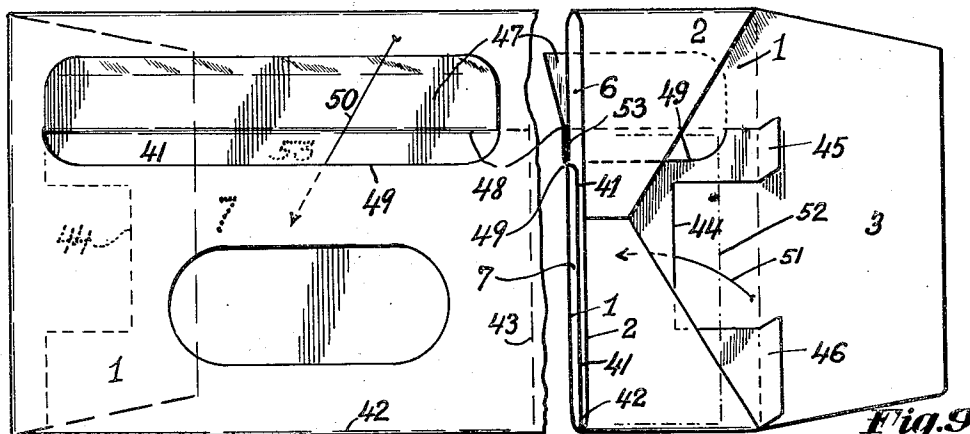
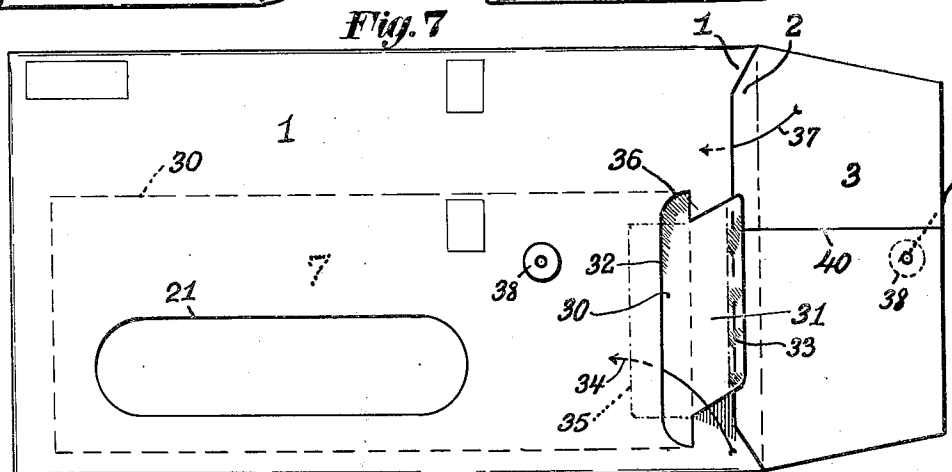
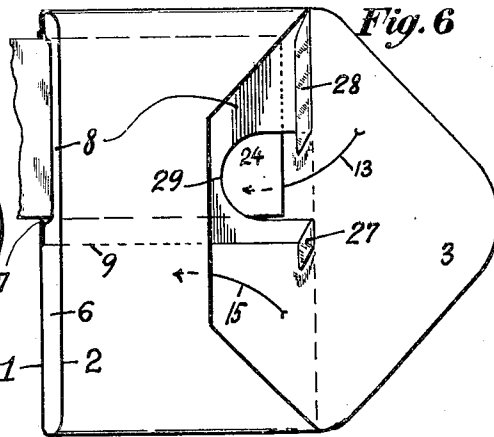
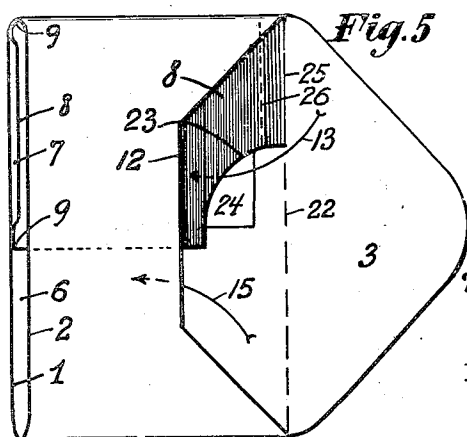
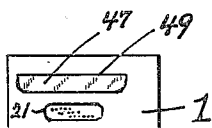


Fig. 8

Fig. 10



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DUPLEX ENVELOPE

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3 Sheets-Sheet 3

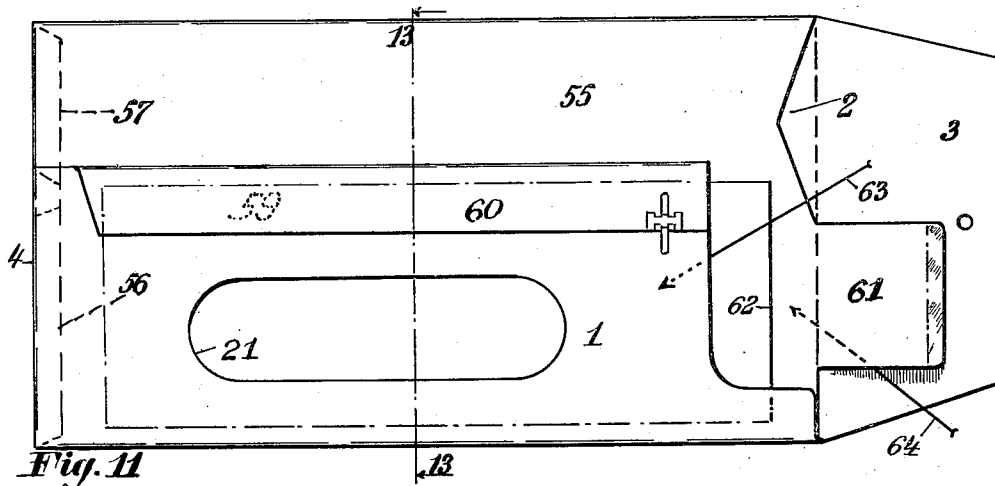


Fig. 11

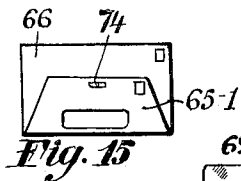


Fig. 15

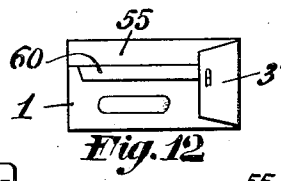


Fig. 12

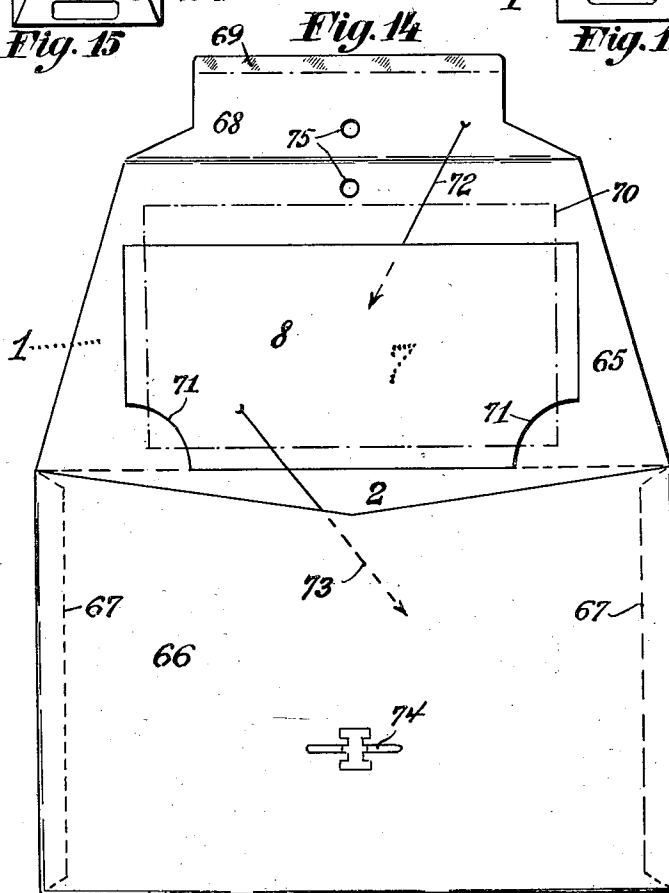


Fig. 14

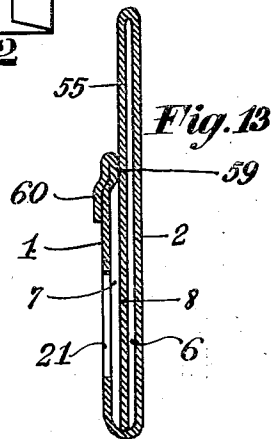


Fig. 13

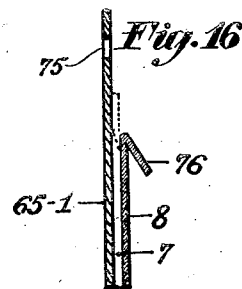


Fig. 16

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

1,976,321

## DUPLEX ENVELOPE

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Application March 25, 1932, Serial No. 601,100

22 Claims. (Cl. 229—72)

This invention relates to improvements in duplex mailing envelopes of the kind having two different compartments, one of which is designed to contain first and other classes of mail matter while the other compartment is designed to contain mail matter less than first class. Such duplex mailing envelopes, their uses and advantages are known in the art and need no further description.

entrance ends of two different modifications of my duplex envelope.

Fig. 7 is a front view of a duplex mailing envelope showing a still further modification.

Fig. 8 is a front view of a part of an envelope before the letter compartment is sealed and showing another modification.

Fig. 9 shows the corresponding back view of the envelope shown in Figure 8.

Fig. 10 is a miniature front view of the closed envelope in Figure 8.

Fig. 11 is a front view of an envelope which illustrates a quite different construction and modification from the preceding views.

Fig. 12 is a miniature front view of the envelope in Figure 11.

Fig. 13 is a sectional view taken on line 13—13 of Figure 11.

Fig. 14 illustrates a still further modified construction showing the envelope open.

Fig. 15 is a miniature closed front view of envelope in Figure 14.

Fig. 16 is a detailed sectional view of a modification of the closing large flap and smaller compartment closure of the envelope in Figure 14.

Throughout this specification and the claims, that side of the envelope which exhibits or bears the address will be called the front of the envelope and the opposite side the back. The smaller compartment will be called the letter compartment and the larger compartment will be called the catalogue compartment. These terms are merely explanatory and are not used for purposes of limitation.

Referring now to Figures 1 to 4 inclusive, the front of the envelope is marked 1, the back 2 and the closing flap 3. 4 is the permanently closed end. Any usual and suitable closing means such as 5 may be used for accessibly closing the envelope.

The envelope itself forms a catalogue compartment 6. Within the latter and against the front of the envelope there is formed a letter compartment 7 by means of a partition 8 of paper, the three sides 9 of which are pasted against the front, while the fourth side is free and terminates in a free sealing flap 10 which is gummed on the side facing the front 1 of the envelope. The partition 8 is provided with a window or cut out 11 adjacent the sealing flap 10 and the window is exposed to view when the envelope is open as in Figure 1, the back of the envelope being correspondingly cut away as at 12 for this purpose. The top edge 9 of the partition need not necessarily be pasted down.

The broad object of this invention is to generally improve the construction and design of duplex mailing envelopes with a view of greater efficiency. Another object of the invention is to provide a duplex mailing envelope so arranged that when the larger compartment is opened it will at once appear that there is also a smaller compartment containing a separate letter or other enclosure strikingly exposed to view, so that the latter will not be overlooked and accidentally destroyed or thrown away with the envelope. Conversely, such a construction embodies the advantage of instantly calling to the attention of the person filling the envelope the absence of a letter before the envelope is closed.

Another object of my invention is to improve certain existing types of duplex envelopes in a manner to locate the entrances to the two compartments at the one end of the envelope.

Still another object of my invention is to provide a duplex mailing envelope in which the large flap which may close the entire envelope is arranged to appear on the front side thereof, whereby to keep both entrances to the compartments as well as the address and the exposed letter in view when the envelope is opened and closed.

Still another object is to provide certain novel features whereby the appearance of the duplex envelope becomes more striking thus gaining greater attention.

With these and other objects in view, all of which will appear hereinafter, my invention is embodied in a duplex envelope designed and constructed as hereinafter set forth and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which

Fig. 1 is a back view of a duplex mailing envelope embodying my invention showing the envelope open.

Fig. 2 is a back view of the same envelope showing it closed.

Fig. 3 is a sectional view on the line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Fig. 4 is a front view of the closed envelope ready for mailing.

Figs. 5 and 6 are views, broken away, of the

In use, a properly folded letter 14 is placed in the letter compartment 7 by inserting it through the opening of the letter compartment under the sealing flap 10 as indicated by the arrow 13 in Figure 1, and a catalogue or like matter is inserted in the envelope as indicated by the arrow 15 and the sealing flap is pasted against the closing flap 3.

The letter is now sealed as a first class piece of mail and thereafter the envelope is accessibly closed in the usual manner by folding the closing flap 3 and securing it by the fastener 5.

The back of the closed envelope as shown in Figure 2 appears as an usual accessibly closed envelope. The front of the envelope as shown in Figure 4 may be provided with a printed outline 16 indicating a letter and other marks or outlines such as indicated at 17, 18, 19 and 20 for a return card, the placing of the proper postage for different classes of mail, attention calling legends and the like. The front of the envelope may be provided with the usual address window 21. The printed matter on the front of the envelope may of course be varied or partly eliminated as one desires.

An envelope constructed and used as hereinabove described possesses the advantage that when it is filled, the two compartment entrances are conveniently at one end and it shows at a glance through the window 11 whether a letter has been properly placed in the letter compartment before the envelope is closed. Also, the letter compartment being against the front of the envelope insures the proper placing of the address to appear in the address window 21.

The recipient cannot fail to note that there are two classes of mail within the envelope. When the flap 3 is opened and the catalogue removed, he cannot fail to observe the letter through the window 11 and see the entrance to the letter compartment. And as a further means of calling attention to the letter, the partition 8 may be of a different color from that of the envelope. Of course, the letter may also have a striking distinguishing color to still further attract attention.

Figure 5 illustrates a modification in which the partition 8 terminates at the folding line 22 of the envelope flap 3. In this case the partition has a cut away portion at 23 to serve as a window or means for exposing the letter 24.

The letter compartment is here sealed by pasting the free edge 25 of the partition 8 against the front 1 of the envelope, the edge being gummed to the dotted line 26 for this purpose.

Figure 6 illustrates a further modification in which the letter partition 8 terminates in a plurality of sealing flaps 27 and 28 between which there is a cut out 29 which serves as a letter exposing window. The flaps 27 and 28 are pasted against the flap 3 the same as in Figure 1. They are shown perspective. In both Figures 5 and 6 the other details of the envelopes have been omitted.

Figure 7 illustrates a duplex envelope which embodies the same advantages as the foregoing, but which in addition possesses an attention calling feature in that the envelope closing flap with its seam is folded down on the front 1 and not on the back 2. The letter sealing flap is sealed on the outside of the front and appears in full view when the envelope is opened. For this purpose the partition 30, corresponding to the partition 8, terminates in a sealing flap 31 which is slipped through a vertical slit 32 in the front 1.

The flap is gummed as at 33 and may be of less width than the partition 30. In this case the letter is inserted in the direction indicated by the arrow 34 and lies in the letter compartment 7 between the partition and the front as heretofore. Thereafter the flap 31 is folded and pasted down against the front 1 on the outside of the envelope as indicated by the dotted lines 35. The sealed letter will now appear not only in the address window 21 but also at the corners 36 of the flap 31 as is obvious.

A catalogue is inserted in the envelope, see arrow 37, after which the flap 3 which in this case is a part of the back 2 is folded over and accessibly closed by means such as 38.

Figures 8, 9 and 10 illustrate an envelope which has the same general features and advantages described above in connection with Figures 1 to 6 besides certain other novel features of construction whereby to provide a striking appearance and calling attention to the two classes of mail in the envelope. In this instance the envelope has a front 1, a back 2 and a flap 3 as above described. The partition 41 is pasted against the front of the envelope on three sides but not at the bottom. As shown in Figure 9, the bottom 42 of the partition is not pasted at all. The one end 43 of the partition is pasted along its edge to the front, while the other end has a cut out window portion at 44 and two sealing flaps 45—46 shown only in Figure 9 which latter are pasted against the envelope flap 3 the same as in Figure 6. Entrance to the letter compartment is from the outside in the front 1 of the envelope. The top of the partition 41 is formed with a letter sealing flap 47 along the top folding edge 48 of the partition, said flap 47 being passed through a slit 49 in the envelope front from inside the envelope to the outside thereof and the top edge of the partition 41 below the flap 47 is pasted to the front of the envelope at the outside thereof as shown at 53 immediately above the slit 49.

There is thus formed a letter compartment 7 to which entrance is gained for insertion of a letter 52 in the direction of the arrow 50 through the slit 49 which serves as the top opening of the letter compartment which latter is formed between the front of the envelope and the partition 41. Thereafter the letter sealing flap 47 is folded down and pasted against the front of the envelope on the outside thereof, as shown in Figure 10. A catalogue may be inserted in the envelope in the direction of the arrow 51. In this case of course, the sealing flaps 45 and 46 may be pasted down when the envelope is manufactured. If they are not pasted down, the letter may be inserted at 44 as is obvious. In either case, the letter in the letter compartment is observable both in the address window and in the window at 44. The partition 41 is readily pasted in position after first slipping the sealing flap 47 through the slit 49. By making the partition of a color different from that of the envelope a pleasing and striking appearance of the front of the envelope may be developed.

Referring now to Figures 11 to 13 it will be seen that the main features of the invention have been retained in a modified envelope construction embodying other novel features for greater efficiency in use. In this case the body of the envelope is constructed in a manner different from the preceding ones. As seen in Figure 13 the envelope front 1 as herein defined reaches up only part way on the envelope. The back 2 is a continuation of the front and is then bent

back upon itself and behind the front 1 so to form the upper portion 55 of the front and the partition portion 8 between the front 1 and the back 2 behind the front 1. The flap 3 is integral with the back 2, see Figure 11 and the opposite end 4 of the envelope is closed by two flaps 56 and 57 which are parts of the front 1 and partition portion 55—8.

The front 1 need not be of the same length as the portion 55—8 but may be shorter and its left edge in the drawings pasted against the portion 55—8, which then of course will have a flap 57 the full height of the envelope.

The upper edge of the front 1 is pasted at 59 to the partition member 55—8 and a flap thereof 60 is bent forward and downward and pasted against the front 1 thereby providing a horizontal fold on the front of the envelope, see Figure 12. The flap 60 will appear as if it were to be opened to extract the letter, but this not being the case greater attention will be directed towards the real entrance to the letter compartment.

In addition, the front 1 is provided with the address window 21 and the partition has a sealing flap 61, Figure 11, which seals the letter compartment 7 by being pasted down against the front 1. A letter 62 is inserted in the compartment 7 as indicated by the arrow 63 and a catalogue is inserted in the envelope as indicated by the arrow 64. After the compartments have been filled the sealing flap 61 is sealed and the envelope flap 3 closed in the usual manner. When the latter is opened the recipient will at once see the sealing flap 61 of the letter compartment and also portions of the letter appearing at the corners of the flap.

Figures 14 to 16 illustrate an envelope in which the letter compartment is carried by the envelope flap 65 but nevertheless is pasted against the front of the envelope as herein defined. The front in this case serving as the envelope flap or vice versa.

Referring to Figure 14 the envelope is constructed of a flap 65—or flap forming front 1—in continuation of the back 2 which in turn is bent upwardly upon itself so to form a false front portion 66 as it might be called.

The ends of the envelopes are sealed and closed by flaps 67 which may be integral with the back 2 or with the portion 66. The flap front 65—1 terminates in a foldable tip 68 gummied as at 69.

The letter compartment 7 is formed by pasting a partition 8 against the front in a manner to receive the letter 70 and to expose it at the top and at the corners 71. The letter is inserted as indicated by the arrow 72 after which the letter sealing flap or tip 68 is pasted down to close the letter compartment. A catalogue may thereafter be inserted in the envelope as indicated by the arrow 73 and then the envelope front-flap closed by means as at 74, it being noted that in this case both the sealing flap 68 and the envelope flap-front 65—1 have matching apertures 75 for closing purposes.

Thus there is provided an envelope having the unusual frontal appearance seen in Figure 15 with the address appearing through the window 21 provided in the part-flap 65—1. The latter need not serve also as a sealing flap for the letter compartment as in Figure 14, because the letter compartment may have its own sealing flap 76 as shown in Figure 16 which shows said sealing flap in its position in full lines before the letter is inserted and its sealed position in dotted lines.

In this instance of course the tab 68 is omitted.

From the foregoing it will appear that in all cases the entrances to the two compartments are located at the same end or place in the envelope, except that an entrance to the letter compartment in Figure 8 is at the top thereof on the outside; also that entrances to both compartments are on the same side of the envelope so that both compartments are filled and emptied at practically one operation without turning the envelope.

It will also be observed that in all cases does the letter compartment entrance appear immediately upon opening the envelope flap 3. Also that in all cases except Fig. 8 must the letter compartment be sealed before the envelope flap is closed if first class mail is placed in the letter compartment. Colored paper may be used for the partitions to distinguish them from the body of the envelope and that in some instances unusual striking appearances may be produced. It will further be understood that the closing means or fasteners for the envelope flaps may be selected to suit. Printing directing matter may be placed wherever desired or necessary and other details may be added, modified or interchanged within the principle of the invention and the scope of the appended claims.

It will further be understood that where in the foregoing it has been said that the three edges of the letter compartment partition were to be pasted down this need not be done. Where one edge is sufficiently close to a fold of the envelope so as to be held by such fold the edge of the partition need not be pasted.

The flaps for closing the letter compartments have been shown gummied for use when a first class letter is inserted in the compartment. If mail less than first class is placed within the letter compartment, the sealing flaps will of course not be sealed but merely left open or tucked in to prevent the contents from falling out and the term sealing flap in the claims should be similarly understood. It should also be understood that when it is not desired to mail the letter compartment or envelope at first class postage, means for sealing its closing flap may be omitted.

The term exposing means, or similar reference, as used in the claims may be taken as applying to an exposure to view, and does not necessarily mean that there is exposure in every sense of the word, as when, for instance, transparent material such as sometimes heretofore used at address windows of envelopes may be employed at the exposing means. The exposing means may be located at any suitable place in the letter compartment, whether inside or outside the closure of the main or catalogue compartment.

I claim:—

1. A duplex envelope comprising a relatively large compartment open at one end, a flap integral with the front of the envelope for accessibly closing said large compartment on the back of the envelope, a partition secured within said large compartment against the front of the envelope forming a relatively smaller letter compartment within the envelope open at one end adjacent the aforesaid closing flap, a window in said partition for exposing a portion of a letter placed in said letter compartment within a cut away area of the back of the envelope when the latter is open and a sealing flap within said larger compartment for non-accessibly sealing the open end of said smaller compartment.

2. A duplex envelope comprising a relatively large compartment open at one end, a flap inte-

- gral with the front of the envelope for accessibly closing said large compartment on the back of the envelope, a partition secured within said large compartment against the front of the envelope
- 5 forming a relatively smaller compartment within the envelope open at one end adjacent the said closing flap, a window in said partition adjacent the open end of the said smaller compartment for exposing a portion of a letter placed therein
- 10 within an open space in the back of the envelope when the latter is open, a sealing flap integral with said partition for non-accessibly sealing the open end of the smaller compartment, the said large compartment closing flap being adapted to
- 15 conceal said partition and its letter window when the envelope is closed.
3. A duplex envelope comprising an envelope body forming a relatively large compartment closed on three sides and open at the fourth side, a partition within said large compartment forming a relatively smaller compartment closed on three sides against the front of the larger compartment and open at the fourth side in symmetrical relation with the said closed and open
- 20 sides of the larger compartment, a sealing flap integral with said partition for non-accessibly closing the open end of the smaller compartment, a window in said partition for exposing a portion of a letter placed within the smaller compartment before and after the same is sealed, a closing flap integral with the front of the envelope for accessibly closing the larger compartment and overlapping the sealing flap of the smaller compartment.
- 25 4. A duplex envelope comprising a relatively large compartment open at one end, a flap integral with the back of the envelope for accessibly closing said large compartment on the front of the envelope, a partition secured within said large compartment against the front of the envelope forming a relatively smaller compartment within the envelope open at one end adjacent the said closing flap, a sealing flap formed by said partition and disposed on the front of the envelope through a slit therein, said flap being adapted to non-accessibly seal the smaller compartment on the outside of the envelope front, said closing flap being adapted, when closed on the front of the envelope to overlap said sealing flap.
- 30 5. In a duplex envelope a compartment adapted to contain first class mail having a window for exposing to view an address on a letter placed ready for mailing inside said compartment and visual means in said compartment for exposing to view a portion of said letter other than the portion exposed through the said address window, when said compartment is closed.
- 35 6. In a duplex envelope adapted for mailing at the same time things at first class and other classes of postage, said envelope having a first class letter compartment, said compartment having openings other than an address window, said openings adapted to expose to view a portion of a letter placed for mailing in said compartment when the latter is closed as for mailing.
- 40 7. In a compartment envelope adapted for the joint mailing of a letter at first class postage and things at other classes of postage, said envelope having a first class letter compartment, visual means in said letter compartment other than an address window for exposing to view a portion of the contents of said compartment when the latter is closed as for mailing.
- 45 8. In a compartment envelope adapted for the joint mailing of things at first class and other classes of postage, said envelope having a compartment adapted for first class mail and a second compartment for other classes of mail, exposing visual means in said first class mail compartment other than an address window, said visual means adapted for exposing to view a portion including at least a part of one or more edges of a letter placed therein and said compartment being closed as for mailing.
- 50 9. In a compartment envelope as described in claim 7 a flap for accessibly closing a second compartment after insertion of mail and overlapping said exposing means when said flap is in the closed position.
- 55 10. In a compartment envelope adapted for the joint mailing of things at first class and other classes of postage, a compartment adapted for first class mail and a second compartment adapted for other classes of mail, exposing visual means in the first class mail compartment whereby a portion of a letter inside of the first class mail compartment ready for mailing can be seen after the latter compartment is sealed, a flap for closing said second compartment after insertion of mail, said flap arranged to overlap said exposing means when it is in the closed position.
- 60 11. A duplex envelope as described in claim 4, and letter exposing means in the said smaller compartment whereby a letter sealed in said smaller compartment as for mailing is exposed in part, said large compartment closing flap overlapping said exposing means when it is in the closed position.
- 65 12. A duplex envelope comprising a main compartment, a flap integral with the front of the envelope for accessibly closing the said compartment, a partition secured within the envelope forming a smaller compartment, a sealing flap for closing said smaller compartment on the front of the envelope, said sealing flap formed by said partition and disposed on the front of the envelope through a slit therein, an end portion of said partition inside of the envelope adjacent the said main compartment closing flap and extending beyond the back of the envelope so that it is exposed to view when the said main compartment flap is opened, said end portion having an opening through which a portion of a letter placed inside the smaller compartment as for mailing can be seen from vertically above said opening when said main compartment closing flap is fully opened.
- 70 13. A duplex envelope as described in claim 12, said partition end portion adapted as a flap with means for inaccessibly closing the said letter compartment when said sealing flap is closed and sealed.
- 75 14. A duplex envelope comprising a relatively large compartment open at one end, a flap integral with the back of the envelope for accessibly closing said large compartment on the front of the envelope, a partition secured within said large compartment against the front of the envelope forming a relatively smaller compartment within the envelope open at one end adjacent the said closing flap, a second flap formed by said partition and disposed on the front of the envelope through a slit therein, said second flap being adapted to close the smaller compartment against the outside of the envelope front, the first mentioned flap being adapted when closed on the front of the envelope to overlap said second flap.
- 80 15. The combination with an envelope having a loose closing flap, of a second envelope formed in combination with said former envelope and

having a sealing flap in which the second envelope is provided with means other than the usual address window whereby are exposed to view the contents of the second envelope when the sealing flap is sealed.

16. An envelope as described in claim 15 in which the exposing means is overlapped by the flap of the larger envelope when said flap is in the closed position.

17. An envelope as described in claim 15 in which the entrance of the second envelope is overlapped by the non-sealing flap of the former envelope when the latter is in the closed position.

18. An envelope as described in claim 15 in which both flaps are positioned on the front of the envelope when closed.

19. A duplex envelope with a first class letter compartment, exposing visual means in said compartment other than an address window whereby the contents of said compartment is exposed to view when the compartment is closed as for mailing and a false entrance flap on the outside of the envelope for indicating the existence of the letter compartment and directing attention toward the exposing means.

20. The combination described in claim 15, both envelopes formed from a single blank of paper suitably folded.

21. A duplex envelope having a compartment adapted for mailing things at first class with visual means in said compartment other than an address window whereby the contents of said compartment is exposed to view when the said compartment is closed as for mailing, an open entrance to said compartment, and a second compartment with an open entrance, the respective compartment entrances and the said exposing visual means being at the same side of the envelope.

22. In a duplex envelope having a main compartment having a loose closing flap and a letter compartment having its own distinct loose closing flap, a visual opening other than the usual address window in said letter compartment through which the contents of said letter compartment can be seen from vertically above said opening when the closing flap of said letter compartment is in the closed position.

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