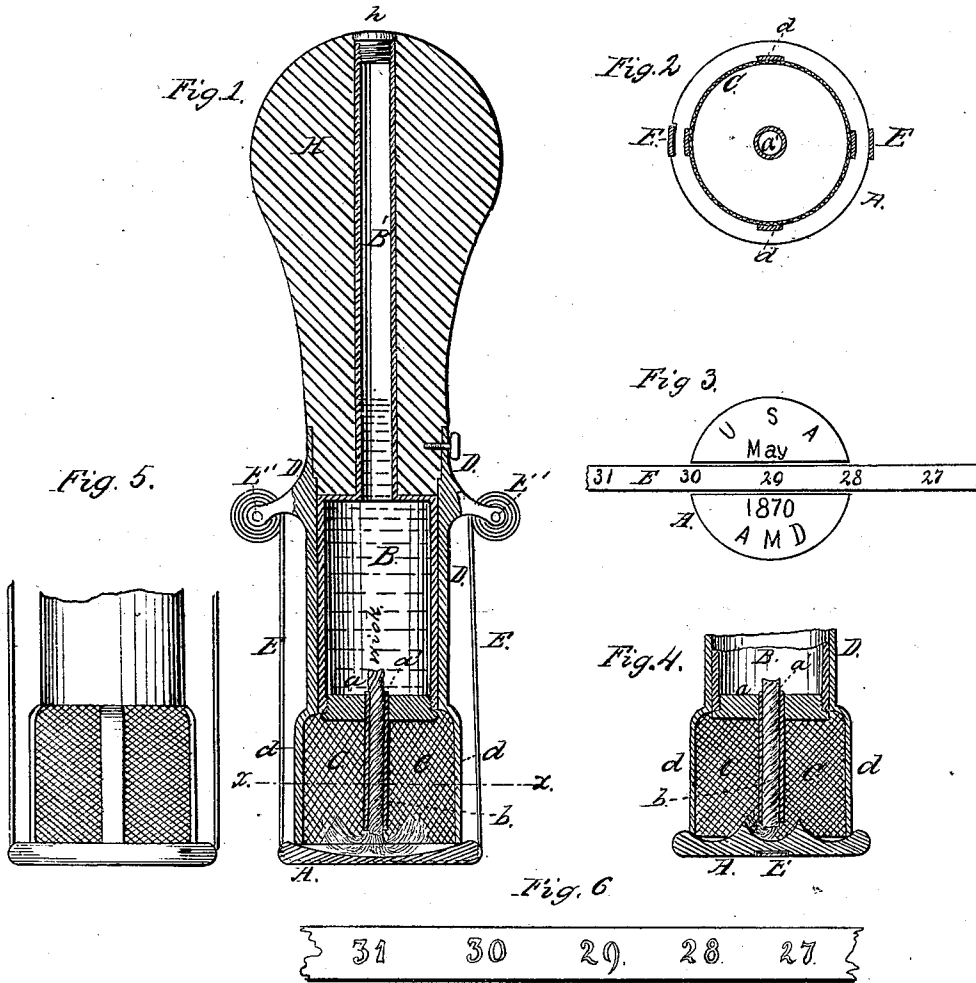


*A. M. Darrell.*  
*Branding Stamp.*

*N<sup>o</sup> 111,436.*

*Patented Jan. 31, 1871.*



*Witnesses.*  
*Jolon Brown*  
*Edw T Brown*

*Inventor.*  
*Aemistead M. Darrell*

# United States Patent Office.

ARMISTEAD M. DARRELL, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF, SOLON C. KEMON, AND LYSANDER HILL, OF SAME PLACE.

Letters Patent No. 111,436, dated January 31, 1871.

## IMPROVEMENT IN BRANDING-STAMPS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ARMISTEAD M. DARRELL, of the city and county of Washington and District of Columbia, have invented a new and improved Device for Canceling-Stamps; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal section;

Figure 2 is a cross-section through line *x x* of fig. 1;

Figure 3 is a face view of the die-plate and movable strip;

Figure 4 is a section, showing a modified construction of die-plate;

Figure 5 is a side elevation of the lower portion of fig. 1; and

Figure 6 is an enlarged view of the movable strip.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts in the several figures.

This invention relates to that class of stamps which indelibly marks an object by burning an impression into it with a heated die; and

The object of the invention is to so improve the stamp that it shall be self-heating, and, at the same time, be neat, durable, cheap, and convenient, the heating apparatus being as capable of adaptation to small hand-stamps as to the larger classes of spring-stamps, &c.

This object is accomplished by providing within the handle of the stamp a small lamp, the flame of which shall impinge against the reverse side of the die-plate; and

The invention consists in such arrangement, and in the details of construction which render the arrangement practicable, as hereinafter set forth.

In the drawing—

H is a handle, of wood or other material, secured to a casting, D, which may be of any suitable metal, and its lower end furnished with four or more uprights, *d*, within which is placed a wire-screen, C.

Centrally located within the casting D is a metal case, B, having an upper tube, B', which is closed at top by screw-tap *h*, case B being closed at bottom by screw-tap *a*, to which is secured the wick-tube *a'*, furnished with a closely-fitting wick, *b*.

Secured to the lower end of the uprights *d* is the die-plate A, which should be of such metal as will hold heat best.

On said die-plate A are cast, or otherwise raised on its lower face, such letters or characters as may suit to be branded on the stamp or paper.

On either side of casing D, and near the upper end thereof, are two lugs, to form the axes of the two small rollers E', on which is reeled a metallic strip, E

E, (very thin,) and having the dates or other characters stamped out, so that, when they are under the heat of the lamp, which is above plate A, the metal strip thereunder will be heated, together with the plate A and band alike, all save where the date is stamped out, thus leaving it legible.

The rollers upon which the metallic date-strip is reeled should be so arranged as, by one turn of a thumb-screw or wheel, to feed out just enough of said metal strip as will bring each date alternately under the center of the die-plate, and the slack taken up on the other roller.

The metallic date-strip traverses under the die-plate A within a groove or channel countersunk in the lower face of said die-plate, so as to bring the metal date-strip flush with the lower face of the die-plate A.

The reservoir B, incased within the hollow of casting D, is filled with alcohol from the top of handle H, through tube B', by removing screw-tap *h*.

The modification shown in fig. 4 is designed to facilitate the heating of the plate when the stamp is lying in a horizontal position, the die-plate being cast with a recess in its reverse side, into which projects the wick, so that in whatever position the stamp may lie the flame, besides being itself protected from currents of air, will constantly impinge against the metallic plate and keep it uniformly heated.

The air feeds around the end of the wick-tube to the flame.

If preferred, the handle H could be so shaped and weighted as to assume a vertical or nearly vertical position when laid down, and thereby keep the flame in constant contact with the die-plate.

I do not, of course, confine myself to the precise form of reservoir B shown in the drawing. If preferred, any other convenient form may be substituted, and it may occupy the whole interior of handle H, the latter, in such case, being made of metal or other suitable material.

It is obvious that, if the above-described hand-stamp be suspended in a suitable frame having a spring to throw the stamp up as soon as the hand that depresses it is removed, we shall have a convenient spring-stamp.

I contemplate its use in that way, and for that purpose, I may attach the device, that is to say, the material parts of it, in the manner substantially as described, to any form of apparatus employed in connection with spring-stamps.

Instead of filling the reservoir with spirits, gas may be employed, the end of a flexible drop-tube being attached in place of the screw-tap *h*, and a gas-burner being employed instead of the wick.

Having thus described my invention,

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A hand-stamp, containing a reservoir, B, wick *b*, and die-plate A, constructed and arranged substantially as described.

2. In a stamp, the combination of the movable metallic strip E with the die-plate A, the former

passing across the face of the latter, countersunk in a groove provided for the purpose, substantially as described.

ARMISTEAD M. DARRELL.

Witnesses:

SOLON C. KEMON,  
CHAS. A. PETTIT.