S. J. STEPHENS.

ENVELOP.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 28, 1907.

906,958. **Patented Dec. 15, 1908.**

Fig. 1.

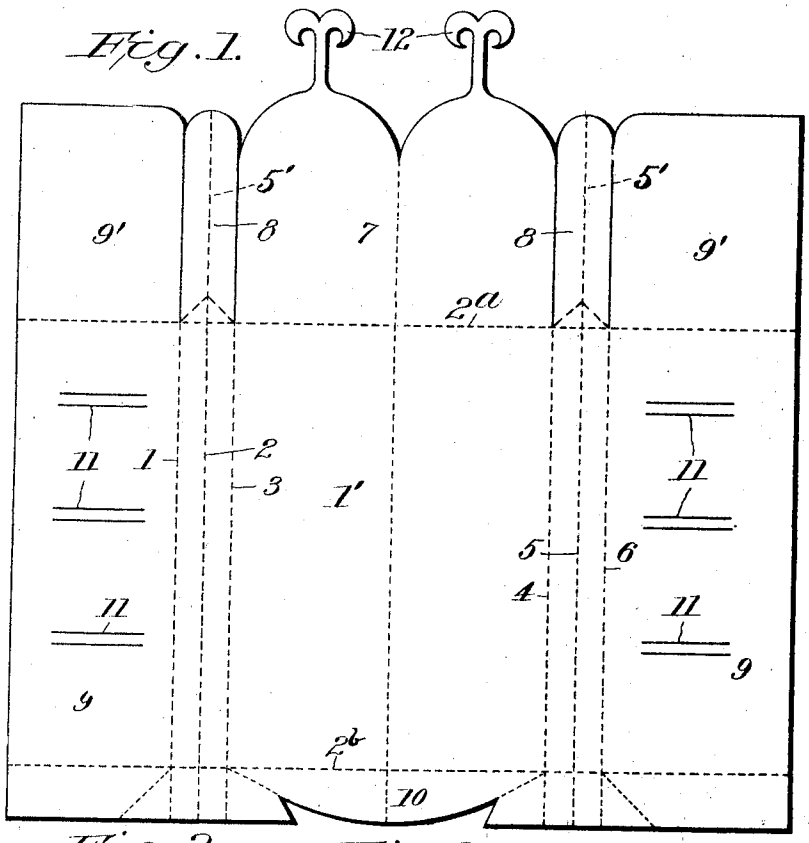


Fig. 2.

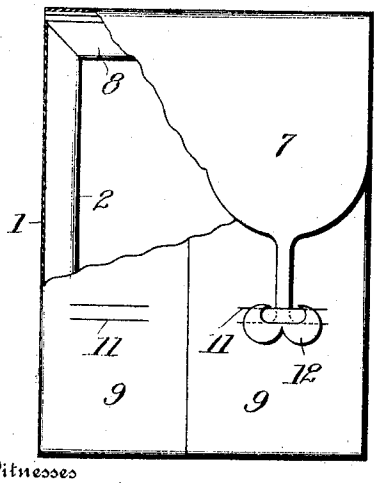


Fig. 3.

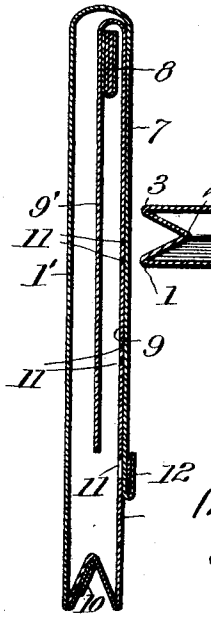
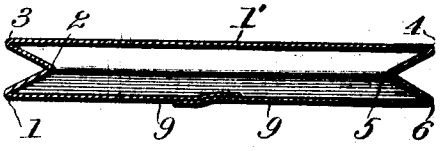


Fig. 4.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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ENVELOP.

No. 906,958. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 15, 1908.

Application filed March 28, 1907. Serial No. 365,045.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SADIE J. STEPHENS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cainsville, in the county of Harrison and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Envelops, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to envelops.

One object is to provide an envelop embodying such characteristics that it cannot be opened without detection.

Another object resides in the provision of an envelop so formed that it may be expanded to accommodate letters or articles of comparatively great thickness or to receive letters of ordinary correspondence.

With the above and other objects in view, the present invention consists in the combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims, it being understood that changes may be made in the form, proportion, size and minor details, without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the drawings:—Figure 1 is a plan view of the blank from which my improved envelop is formed. Fig. 2 is a rear view of the envelop partly in section, illustrating the supporting means for the portion of the back which forms a lining and one wall of the envelop. Fig. 3 is an enlarged longitudinal sectional view. Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional view of the envelop in its folded condition.

The improved device comprises a blank formed with a front portion 1′ having a bottom flap 10 at one end and a closure flap 7 at the other end and with back flaps 9—9 at the sides of the front flap, one being wider than the other, and with lining flaps 9′—9′ at one end of the back flaps. The front 1′ is separated from the back flaps by expansible portions produced by creasing the material along the lines indicated at 1—2—3 and 4—5—6. The bottom flap 10 is separated from the front 1′ and the back flaps 9—9 by a foldable line indicated at 2^b, and the closure flap 7 and the lining flaps 9′—9′ are separated from the body of the envelop by a crease indicated at 2^a, the creases being formed in the material in the usual manner to facilitate the folding. Extending from the ends of the expansible portions 1—2—3 and 4—5—6 are tongues 8, the tongues extending between the closure flap 7 and the lining flaps 9′—9′, and separated therefrom by clefts or slits. The tongues are adapted to be folded centrally throughout their lengths along the dotted lines 5′. The back flaps 9—9 are each provided with spaced parallel transverse slits 11, and the tongues 12, the barbs of the tongues adapted to engage the material released by the corresponding slits 11 when the envelop is folded, as indicated in Fig. 2 and as hereafter explained.

To fold my improved envelop for use the blank is first folded along the line 2^b, and then folded along the lines 1, 2 and 3 and 4, 5 and 6 to form the sides of the envelop, it being understood that the portions of the material between the creases 1, 2 and 3 and 4, 5 and 6 form the sides of the envelop. As the material is creased along the lines 2 and 5 in a direction opposite respectively to the folding along the lines 1 and 3 and 4 and 6, the sides of the envelop are rendered expansible. This folding of the envelop brings the back flaps 9 into overlapping engagement when folded, as shown, in Figs. 2 and 4, the overlapping portions being secured by any suitable adhesive substance in the usual manner.

The bottom flap 10 beneath the crease 2^b has its meeting places as the result of the folding of the material glued together, the adhesive substance of the bottom flap passing between the folds of the creases at the bottom of the envelop if desired.

The tongues 8 having been creased along the line 5′ in the aforesaid steps are then directed over toward each other in their folded condition, as shown, and glued one within the other to form a firm supporting member over which the lining formed by the parts 9′ is folded and directed into the envelop.

I provide the lining 9′ by reason of the fact that the back flaps 9 are provided with oppositely disposed series of slits 11 to form released strips between them with which cooperate the barbed tongues 12 of the closure flap 7.

When a thin sheet of paper is inclosed in the envelop, the barbed tongues 12 will interlock with the lowermost strips 11, while if papers of medium thickness, the tongues will coöperate with the intermediate strips 11 and with the uppermost strips 11 in the

event of the envelopment of correspondence or other material of a comparatively great thickness. The tongues 12, as well as the inner face of the sealing flap itself are provided with an adhesive substance, whereby when tampered with the envelop will indicate that an attempt has been made to open the envelop by persons other than the intended recipient.

From the foregoing it will be readily appreciated that by reason of the expansible side of the envelop, the latter can be expanded according to the thickness of correspondence or other material and that obviously if the envelop is expended to any extent the sealing tongues of the sealing flap must interlock with the locking strips 11 other than the ones at the bottom of the envelop.

What is claimed is:—

1. An envelop comprising a front portion having a closure flap at one end, back flaps each having a slit intermediate its ends and also having a lining flap at one end, said back flaps extending from the sides of the front portion and spaced from the front by expansible portions having tongues adapted for overlapping relation at the mouth of the envelop to support said lining flap, and a bottom flap, said closure flap having means for coöperation with said slits of the back flaps to seal the envelop, said lining flap terminating short of the bottom flap and free of the back flaps when the envelop is folded.

2. An envelop comprising a front portion having a closure flap at one end, back flaps each having slits intermediate its ends and also having a lining flap at one end, said back flaps extending from the sides of the front portion and spaced from the front by expansible portions having tongues, each tongue being directed over the mouth of the envelop and foldable longitudinally upon itself, one tongue fitting within the other folded tongue when disposed across the mouth of the envelop, said lining flap being directed over said tongues when the envelop is folded, and a bottom flap; said closure flap having means for coöperation interchangeably with pairs of said slits of the back flaps to close the envelop, said lining being free of the back flaps when the envelop is folded.

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

SADIE J. STEPHENS.

Witnesses:
G. R. Wilson,
J. E. Peterson.