

(No Model.)

L. P. CALLMEYER.

MEANS FOR DETECTING THE OPENING OF SEALED ENVELOPES.

No. 482,073.

Patented Sept. 6, 1892.

Fig. 1

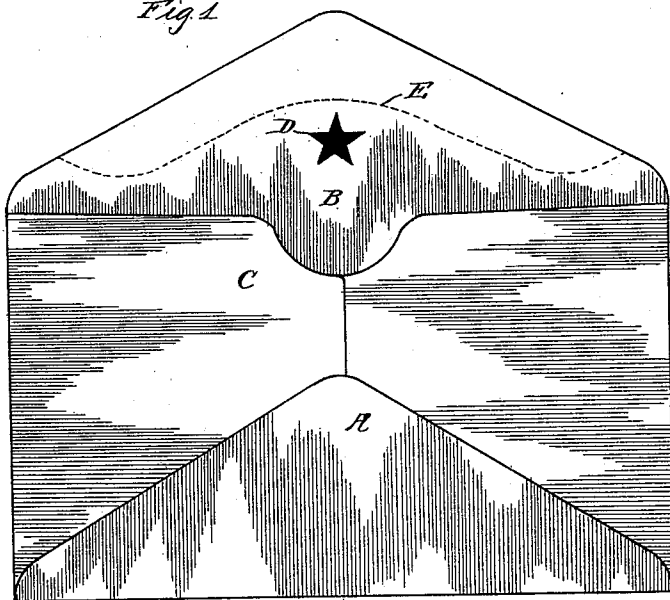
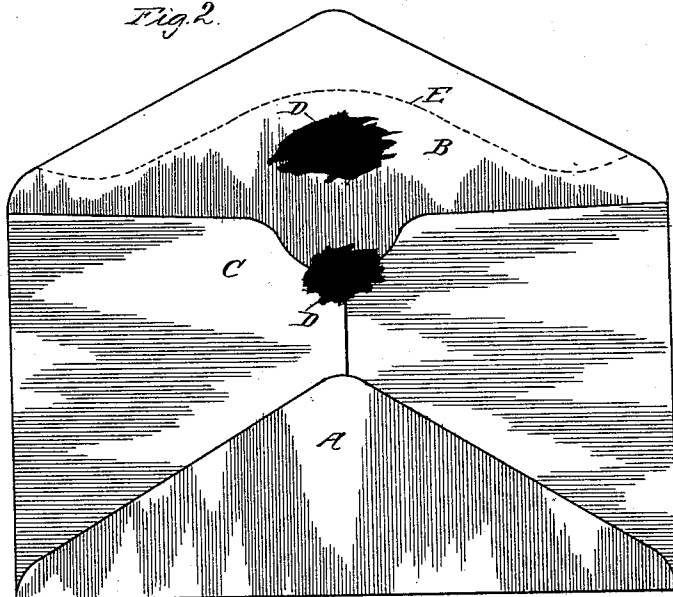


Fig. 2



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MEANS FOR DETECTING THE OPENING OF SEALED ENVELOPES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 482,073, dated September 6, 1892.

Application filed July 25, 1891. Serial No. 400,711. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LÉONIE P. CALLMEYER, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Madison, county of Morris, State of New Jersey, have invented and made a new and useful invention in means for detecting when an envelope, after having been once sealed, has been unlawfully opened in transit from the sender of the same to the one to whom it is directed, of which the following is a specification.

It is well known that in order to open an envelope which has been sealed with gum, without detection, it is only necessary to soften the gum by moisture. This is usually done by steaming, and after such an operation the envelope is readily resealed so that the fact that it has been opened cannot be known with certainty.

The object of my invention is to prevent any person from unsealing an envelope by moisture without the fact being apparent; and to this end it consists in the means herein specified and claimed.

In order that persons skilled in the art may understand, construct, and use my invention, I will proceed to describe it, referring to the drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a representation of my invention as applied to an envelope previous to sealing. Fig. 2 is the same, showing the appearance of the envelope after the same has been opened by softening the gum by moisture.

A is the envelope proper.

B is the flap to which gum is usually applied.

C is the part of the envelope to which the flap B is sealed.

D is a spot of ink, composition, or substance applied to the under side of the flap of the envelope, so that when sealed it is between the flap B and the part C, and concealed from view.

E represents the gum under the flap B.

The material which I impress upon the flap or other part of the envelope under the flap is ink or other suitable composition which when dry is stable and when moist runs or spreads over the surfaces of the envelope rapidly. The design for printing said ink on the envelope is immaterial. I do not confine myself to any particular design nor to the particular composition of ink.

To illustrate how my invention is to be performed, I will describe the operation. Before the envelope is closed by sealing, ink or composition of the nature hereinbefore described is placed or printed in any manner upon the under side of the flap or on the part C of the envelope, so that when sealed it will lie between said two surfaces. The envelope with its contents are now ready for mailing. Should any one attempt to open the envelope unlawfully by moisture, the said ink composition which is between the gummed surfaces will immediately run or spread over and into the paper, so that when resealed and again opened by the legitimate or rightful receiver of the envelope it will be readily seen that it has been previously opened and investigation may be demanded. The importance of this or other means of detection will be apparent to those who have suffered for the want of it.

Having now fully described my invention and the manner in which I have embodied it, what I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The herein-described envelope having soluble or fugitive ink applied to its inner surface and adapted to be covered and inclosed by a flap, substantially as described, said soluble or fugitive ink being slightly removed from the line of gum for securing the flap, substantially as described.

LÉONIE P. CALLMEYER.

Witnesses:

VIRGINIE CALLMEYER,
AMOS C. RATHBUN.