No. 878,234. PATENTED FEB. 4, 1908.

W. A. PRIDMORE.

COMBINED ENVELOP AND LETTER SHEET.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 3, 1907.

Fig. 1.

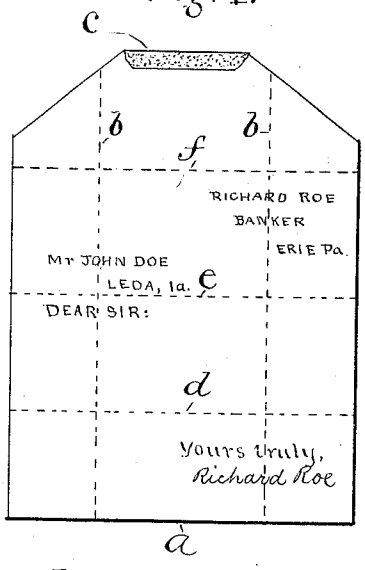


Fig. 2.

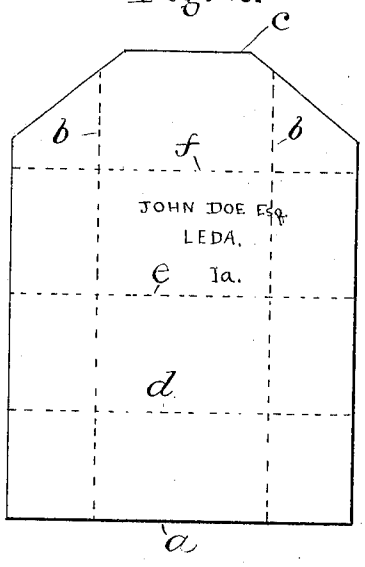


Fig 3.

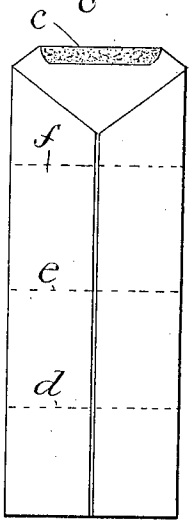


Fig. 4.

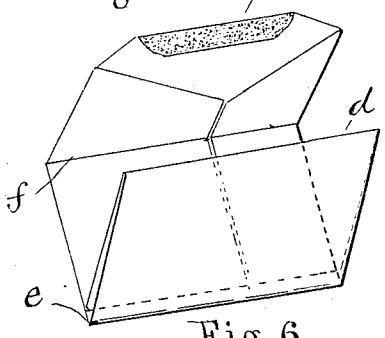


Fig. 5.

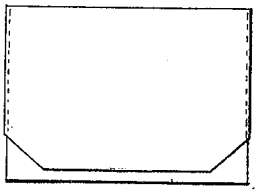


Fig. 6.

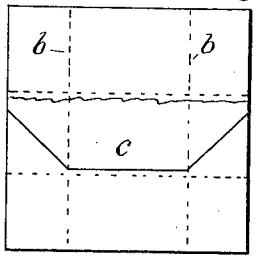


Fig 7.

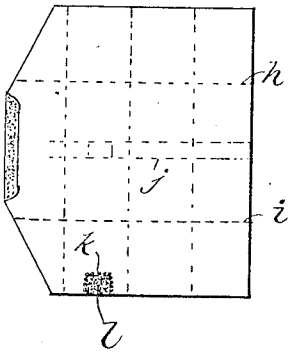
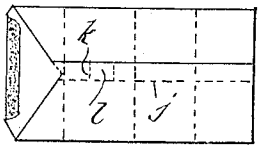


Fig. 8.



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L. P. Lane.
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Inventor:
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By David K. Fletcher
his Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM A. PRIDMORE OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

COMBINED ENVELOP AND LETTER-SHEET.

No. 878,234. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 4, 1908.

Application filed September 3, 1907. Serial No. 391,137.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. PRIDMORE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Combined Envelops and Letter-Sheets, of which the following is a description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which corresponding letters of reference in the different figures indicate like parts.

The object of my invention is to provide a simple form of letter-sheet which may be so shaped and manipulated that a portion thereof may form a pocket for the reception of the remaining part when folded to enter the pocket, so that the sealing of the flap forming a part of the pocket portion, may serve to secure the main part of the folded sheet within said pocket so that the latter may form an envelop therefor, whereby unauthorized inspection may be prevented. I accomplish said object in the manner hereinafter more particularly described and claimed.

In the drawings, Figure 1, is a face view of a letter sheet embodying the features of my invention, Fig. 2, is a back view thereof, Fig. 3, is a view thereof as it would appear when the first two folds are made, Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing said sheet as it would appear when next to the last stage of folding, Fig. 5, is a face view of the envelop as it would appear when sealed, Fig. 6, is a back view of the sheet as it would appear after opening and unfolding the letter, Fig. 7, is a face view of a portion of a sheet showing a modified construction, and Fig. 8, is a view showing the same as it would appear when partially folded.

Referring to the drawings, *a* represents, generally, a sheet of paper adapted to be folded upon itself from opposite side edges inwardly, substantially upon the lines *b*, *b*, so that the edges, when so folded may meet substantially in a line midway between the outer edges or, if preferred, so that one may overlap the other. In the example shown, said sheet is cut away at the upper edge, preferably in the shape indicated, sufficiently to form an extension or flap *c* which is provided with the usual adhesive material upon its surface for sealing, said sealing portion extending between the lines *b b*, of the longitudinal folds. The edge upon which the flap is formed is, by preference, intended as the top of the sheet for writing purposes and when the letter is written, as indicated in Fig. 1, and the longitudinal folds made therein, it would present the appearance shown in Fig. 3. The partially folded sheet is then intended to be folded transversely upon the lines *d*, *e* and *f*, respectively, in the manner indicated in Fig. 4. It will thus be seen that the portion above the line *f* forms a pocket for the reception of the folded part extending below the line *e*, and when said part is inserted therein, said pocket, which constitutes the novel feature of my invention, becomes in effect an envelop, presenting the appearance shown in Fig. 5. When the flap *c* is sealed, the letter is protected against unauthorized manipulation or inspection and can only be opened by tearing off the flap or by severing some part of the folded sheet.

In opening the letter, I prefer to cut the same upon the line *f*, in which case the back of the sheet, when unfolded, would present the appearance shown in Fig. 6, with the severed flap *c* adhering thereto.

As stated, the pocket formed from one part of the sheet for the reception of the folded portion of another part, constitutes the prominent feature of novelty of my invention. It would be obvious to those skilled in the art that the width of said pocket should be such as to permit the folded portion to freely enter it. The allowance necessary for this purpose, however, need be but very little and in practice is so slight as to be incapable of illustration upon the drawings without undue exaggeration. I prefer to indicate the location of the longitudinal and transverse folding lines respectively by means of water or other distinctive marks or ruling in order to insure the proper degree of accuracy in the folds; the lines *b b* being upon the face and the lines *d*, *e* and *f* upon the back of the sheet. It is obvious that they need not be shown entirely across, but only at, or a short distance from the edges. The letter may be addressed either before it is folded, as shown in Fig. 2, or after it is folded and sealed.

In Figs. 7 and 8, I have shown a modification of said invention in which the sealing flap *g* is placed upon the side edge of the sheet and the two first folds made upon the lines *h*, *i*, which are placed far enough from said top and bottom edges to permit one to overlap the other upon the dotted line *j*. In said overlapping portion, I cause perforations *k*

to be made so as to form a flap *l* of small area having adhesive material thereon to enable said flap to be pasted upon the edge or part which it overlaps as shown in Fig. 8. This feature forms an extra security against tampering with the letter and may be found desirable where inclosures are to accompany the letter.

My improved device possesses the advantage that it may not only be made at less than the cost of an ordinary envelop and letter sheet, but after having passed through the mail, would retain the postmark which would often prove a feature of vital importance as a matter of evidence.

Inasmuch as the pocket will serve to keep the folded portion in place unless a special attempt is made to open the same, it is obvious that for circular purposes there need be no adhesive material upon the flap *c*.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:—

1. A combined envelop and letter-sheet primarily folded inwardly from opposite edges in substantially parallel folds, then folded transversely to form a series of not less than three folded sections, the section at one end of the sheet, as primarily folded, forming a pocket into which is inserted the section at the opposite end.

2. A combined envelop and letter sheet primarily folded inwardly from opposite edges in substantially parallel folds, then folded transversely to form a series of not less than three folded sections, the section at one end of the sheet, as primarily folded, forming a pocket for the reception of the section at the opposite end, and means upon one wall of the inclosing section for adhesively securing the same to a wall of the inclosed section.

3. A combined envelop and letter sheet primarily folded inwardly from opposite edges in substantially parallel folds, the portion between said folds at one end being provided with adhesive material thereon to form a sealing flap, then folded transversely to form a series of not less than three folded sections, the section provided with said flap forming a pocket, of which said flap constitutes a part, for the reception of the section at the opposite end; whereby the outer wall of said latter section may be adhesively secured to said flap.

4. A combined envelop and letter-sheet having a preliminary sealing flap upon one edge and a final sealing flap arranged, when folded upon itself, to form a pocket to receive a section of the folded sheet to one wall of which pocket said flap may be adhesively secured.

5. A combined envelop and letter-sheet having a preliminary sealing flap upon one edge thereof for attaching opposite edges of the sheet to each other by folding the sheet inwardly in parallel folds, and a final sealing flap upon an adjacent edge provided with adhesive material upon its inner face between the lines of said fold which folds are extended to include said flap to form a pocket for the reception of a section of a subsequent fold to one wall of which pocket said flap may be sealed.

6. A combined envelop and letter-sheet having a preliminary sealing flap upon one edge and a final sealing flap upon an edge of said sheet at right angles to said preliminary sealing flap, the latter being folded inwardly upon itself to form inner and outer walls for inclosing a section of the folded sheet.

7. A combined envelop and letter-sheet having a preliminary sealing flap along one edge to permit the opposite edge to overlap and be secured upon a line substantially midway between the edges of the sheet, and a final sealing flap formed upon an edge at right angles to said overlapping edges, said overlapping edges being arranged to include a part of the final sealing flap to form one wall of a pocket for the reception of a section of the folded letter.

8. A sheet of the class described, arranged to be folded primarily from opposite edges inwardly, a flap for securing the inwardly folded edges together, said flap having a line of perforations along its length, and a sealing flap upon an adjacent edge, said sealing flap having inner and outer walls, one of which is provided upon its inner face with adhesive material for attaching it to a section of the folded letter when projected between said walls.

In testimony whereof, I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses, this 31st day of August, 1907.

WILLIAM A. PRIDMORE.

Witnesses:

D. H. FLETCHER,

CARRIE E. JORDAN