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DATING ATTACHMENT FOR WRAPPING MACHINES

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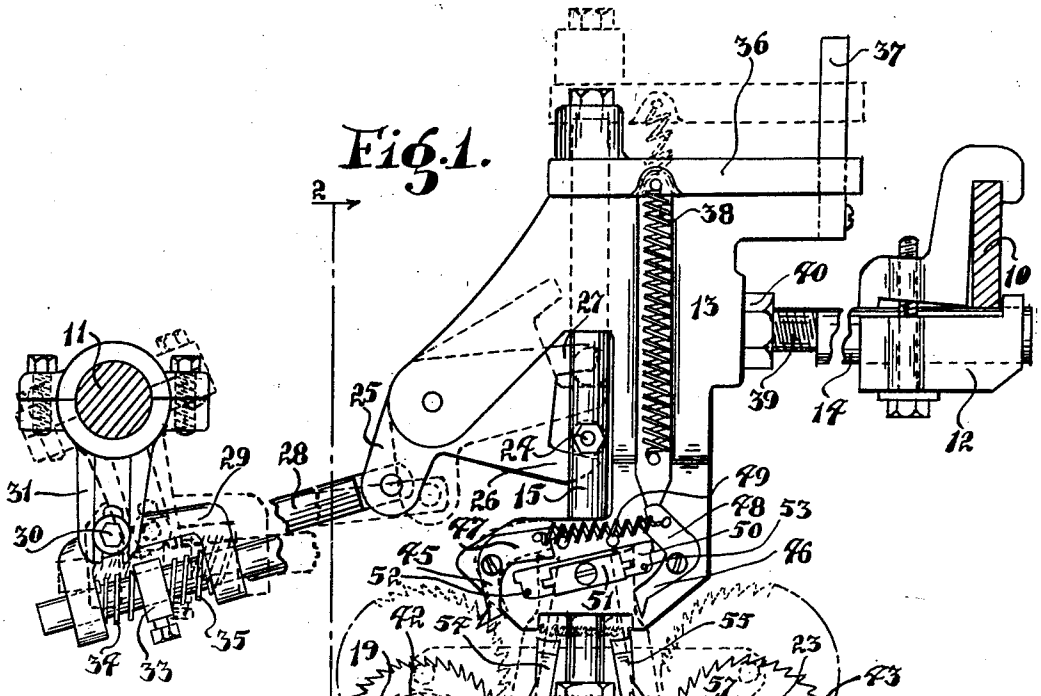


Fig. 1.

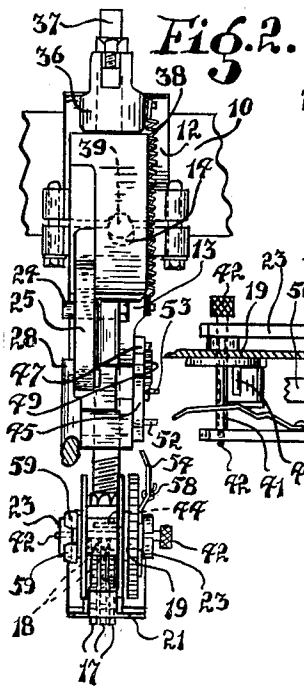


Fig. 2.

Fig. 4.

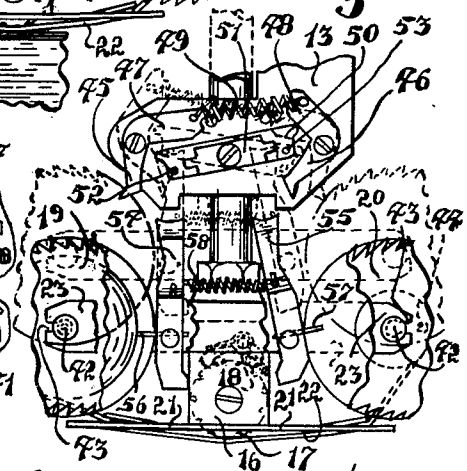


Fig. 3.

Maximilian H. Kern

INVENTOR

BY Frank P. Wentworth

his ATTORNEY.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

MAXIMILIAN H. KERN, OF RICHMOND HILL, NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO ROBERTS NUMBERING MACHINE COMPANY, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, A CORPORATION OF NEW YORK

DATING ATTACHMENT FOR WRAPPING MACHINES

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My invention relates to a dating attachment for wrapping machines and more particularly to a mechanism adapted to be applied adjacent the feed shelf of such a machine for impressing identifying marks upon each sheet of paper before it is fed to the mechanism for applying it to a package.

In the merchandising of certain perishable products, it is desirable for the manufacturer to indicate upon the package the date or other information showing when the merchandise was packed. This precludes the possibility of false claims as to the quality of the merchandise when delivered to the distributor.

The dating attachment of the invention is required to operate under constantly varying conditions due to the gradual depletion and readjustment as to the height, of the stack of sheets upon the feed shelf of the machine, and to meet this condition, I so construct the attachment that in its functioning, it will automatically adjust itself to such changing conditions. I furthermore provide means whereby the support for the type-carrying head may be adjusted toward and from the feed shelf so as to bring the parts to a position where a proper impression will be made at any point within the range of variation of the height of the stack of sheets upon the feed shelf.

The actuating means operating upon the type-carrying head is so constructed as to not only permit the automatic adjustment of these members in the manner above referred to, to compensate for the varying height of the stack of sheets upon the feed shelf, but to also ensure the making of the impression by a staccato blow and under yieldable pressure.

In mounting the dating attachment of my invention upon the wrapping machine, it is essential that it be so adjusted as to meet the various conditions found in the machine. Furthermore, it is essential that, notwithstanding the structural limitations imposed by the wrapping machine mechanisms, the dating attachment be so constructed as to permit the control of the location of the data applied thereby in relation to the sheet, thus enabling an inspector to expose this data at any time without complete destruction of the package.

In order to ensure a legible imprint and at the same time avoid the necessity for the employment of an inking mechanism in the attachment, I employ an ordinary typewriter ribbon having an automatic feeding attachment operative upon the spools thereof, and an automatic reversing mechanism. The use of the ink ribbon not only ensures a substantial, uniform, clean imprint, but permits the operation of the dating attachment at the speed of the wrapping machine. The automatic ribbon shift mechanism is actuated in part by a device controlled by the diameter of the roll of ribbon upon either spool and in part by the actuation of the type-carrying head of the dating attachment.

In addition to the characters above enumerated, I provide a special construction of ribbon mount which will facilitate a changing of the ribbon spools when required.

The invention consists primarily in a dating attachment for wrapping machines embodying therein a support positioned above the feed shelf of the feeder for a wrapping machine, a rod slidably mounted in said support, a head carried by said rod, printing characters carried by said head, means supporting and feeding an inked ribbon in relation to said printing characters, a bell crank lever, a lost motion connection between said lever and said rod, a crank member carried by a rock shaft forming a part of a feeder, and connections between said rock shaft and said bell crank lever; and such other novel features of construction and combination of parts as are hereinafter set forth and described and more particularly pointed out in the claims hereto appended.

Referring to the drawings,

Fig. 1 is a side view of a dating attachment embodying the invention;

Fig. 2 is a view thereof on line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a view of the reciprocatory head, broken away to disclose details of the ribbon feed and ribbon shift mechanism;

Fig. 4 is a detail view of the construction

by which the ribbon spools are mounted upon the head.

Like numerals refer to like parts throughout the several views.

In the accompanying drawings, I have shown an embodiment of the invention as applied to a wrapping machine, showing merely such parts of said machine as are incidental to the actuation of the dating attachment. In the drawings, 10 indicates a cross bar above the feed shelf of the wrapping machine, and 11 a rock shaft controlling certain mechanisms of the sheet feeder.

Secured to the bar 10 by means of a clamp mechanism 12 is a support 13 which support is connected with said clamp mechanism by means of a spacer rod 14.

The support 13 has a vertically extended bearing therein, in which is slidably mounted a rod 15 having a head 16 at the lower end thereof, in which is mounted a plurality of digit wheels 17 projecting from the bottom of this head. I employ digit wheels of the character commonly used in ordinary numbering heads, acted upon by detent pawls 18 to permit any desired setting or change of setting of the printing characters to permit the use of different codes at different times. In the drawings, three such wheels are shown, but the number of wheels employed is largely a matter of choice.

The head 14 is extended upon opposite sides of the axis of said digit wheels 17 and is provided with suitable mounts which will be more fully described hereinafter, for ribbon spool carriers 19 and 20, the bottom of the head being provided with a face plate 21 to direct a ribbon from a spool on one of said carriers across the face of the digit wheels to the other spool carrier. The ribbon is shown at 22.

The laterally extended portion of the head is shown as cross bars 23 positioned upon opposite faces upon the head.

Carried by the rod 15 is an impact stud 24 by means of which power for actuating the head is applied thereto by a bell crank lever 25 one arm of which is forked as shown at 26 and 27 and the other arm of which is connected by a link 28 with a yoked fitting 29 mounted upon a bearing pin 30 secured to a crank 31 upon the shaft 11.

To compensate for the varying stroke required of the head 16 with a change in the height of the stack of sheets upon the feed shelf, which stack is indicated at 32, I provide not only the forked arm of the bell crank lever 25, to afford a lost motion connection between said lever and the rod 15, but provide the link 28 with an adjustable block 33 positioned within the yoke 29 and between the opposite faces of said block and the arms of the yoke 29, balanced coiled springs 34 and 35 to impart a yielding thrust to the head through said bell crank lever 25. The adjustability of the block 33 also permits of the adjustment of the quantity of movement of the head thus controlling the force of the blow by the printing character upon the uppermost sheet of paper in the stack 32 upon the actuation on the attachment. This adjustment supplements other adjustments in securing accuracy in the timing of the making of the imprint and the quality of such imprint.

The rod 15 is provided with an enlarged head 36 one end of which is slidably mounted upon a guide rod 37. Secured to the support 13 and acting upon this enlarged head 36 is a low tension expansion spring 38, the function of which is to normally impart downward movement of the rod 15 and the head 16 carried thereby.

As a further means of adjustment for controlling the timing of the impact of the printing mechanism with a sheet upon the stack 32, I connect the rod 14 with the support 13 by means of a screw thread 39 upon said rod and eccentrically thereof. The turning of the rod 14 will raise or lower the support 13 in its entirety and this adjustment may be fairly accurate. I employ a lock nut 40 for holding any adjustment of the support 13 made by means of the screw threads 39 upon the rod 14.

Each carrier 19 and 20 for a spool of ribbon, comprises a ratchet wheel having a hollow shaft 41 through which a screw 42 passes. The end of one of the cross bars 23 has a slotted portion 43 to receive the screw 42, the inner end of this slotted portion being enlarged to accommodate an enlarged portion of the screw. The end of the screw cooperates with screw threads in the other cross bar 23. This construction is for the purpose of preventing possible escape of a ribbon spool and its carrier from the head 16 and to permit the convenient removal of the carrier and the spool for replacement of the latter, even though the head may be located at a point which is not readily accessible. Each carrier 19 and 20 is provided with a pin 44 to cause the ratchet and the spool to turn in unison during the feeding movement of the ribbon. This mechanism is duplicated at opposite ends of the cross bars 23, the teeth upon the ratchet wheels 19 and 20 being oppositely set.

Carried by the support 13 are two push pawls 45 and 46 each having a heel as 47 or 48. Also mounted upon the support 13 is a rocking plate 50 the opposite ends of which are adapted to engage alternatively, the heels 47 and 48. Carried by the plate 50 and extending through openings therein is a friction device 51 which by engagement with the support 13 will normally prevent the spring 49 acting upon either heel 47 and 48 from imparting movement to this plate.

The plate 50 carries two studs 52 and 53 by

means of which the plate may be moved to cause one pawl 45 or 46 to be positioned in the operative relation to its ratchet wheel forming part of the carrier 19 or 20. Mounted upon studs carried by one of the cross bars 23 are two pivotal thrust members 54 and 55, the hubs of which respectively carry a plate 56 or 57 projecting beneath the ratchet wheels 19 and 20 respectively so as to be engaged by a ribbon upon a spool carried by either of these carriers when the diameter of this ribbon becomes such as to require a reversal of the direction of run of the ribbon.

Normally, both thrust members 54 and 55 are moved toward each other by a light coiled spring 58 in which position they will pass between the studs 52 and 53 carried by the plate 50. When, however, either of these studs is oscillated as a result of the action of the wound ribbon thereon, it will be moved to a position where upon the succeeding actuation of the attachment it will engage the stud 52 or 53 with which it cooperates and by imparting oscillatory movement to the plate 50, move one of the pawls 45 or 46 out of its engaging relation to the ratchet wheel with which it cooperates, and the other pawl into the operative relation to the other ratchet with which it cooperates.

Since the movement of the ribbon resulting in the actuation of the reversing mechanism occurs only when the head 16 is approaching its uppermost position, it is obvious that a thrust member when oscillated will first pass in back of a stud 52 or 53. To meet this condition, I make the thrust members of light spring metal so that with the descent of the head carrying same, the member will ride over its cooperating stud but remain in a position to engage it upon the next upward movement of the head.

To prevent overrunning of either carrier 19 or 20, I provide one of the cross bars 23 with a spring-retard device 59 acting upon the side of ribbon spool mounted upon the carrier.

The attachment shown in the drawings is made as a separate article of manufacture to be used upon existing machines. When so made it is desirable to so construct the attachment that it may be adjusted in relation to its supports in a manner to make the impression, with a reasonable range of variation, within any desired portion of the sheet of paper. It is obvious that the clamp 12 may be adjusted laterally of its supporting bar 10 for placing the imprint at a desired point laterally of the sheet. The use of a clamp constructed as shown, however, also permits the supporting rod 14 to be moved back and forth in relation to the front edge of the sheet. The use of the block 33 permits the lengthening or shortening of the link 28 between it and the bell crank lever 25 to accommodate the working conditions of the attachment to any change of its position accomplished through the adjustment of the rod 14. The crank 31 may be adjusted longitudinally of the shaft 11 to permit of adjustment of the attachment, as a whole, along the rod 10. These adjustments last referred to, however, are used solely when installing the attachment upon a machine, since when the attachment is once in position it is seldom necessary to change its setting with relation to the stack of paper. This is also true of the eccentric setting screw 39 and the block 33.

The operation of the herein described attachment is substantially as follows:

In mounting the attachment upon the wrapping machine in connection with which it is to be used, the clamp 12 and the crank 31 are adjusted along the rod 10 and the shaft 11 until the support 13 is so positioned as to secure the desired positioning of the data laterally of the sheets upon the stack 32, and these parts are then firmly secured in relation to said rod and said rock shaft. Before setting the clamp 12, the rod 14 is longitudinally adjusted in relation to the clamp so as to ensure the making of the imprint in the desired position with relation to the forward edge of such sheets.

In feeders for machines of the type to which the attachment is to be applied, the feed shelf must be so adjusted as to bring the uppermost sheet of the stack within the range of a mechanism for separating the topmost sheet from the stack and advancing it in relation to other mechanisms (the pickers) not shown and having no particular bearing upon the present invention. During the operation of the machine there is an intermittent readjustment of the height of the shelf to compensate for the gradual lowering of the stack 32 with a continued operation of the machine, so as to maintain the top of the stack in approximately the same horizontal plane at all times. There is, however, considerable variation as to the plane of the top of the stack at different times during the operation of the machine.

Since the extent of downward movement of the head 16 and its type-carrying members or digit wheels 17 is limited by the engagement of the enlarged head 36 with the top of the support 13, it is essential to so position said support 13 by the turning of the rod 14 as to ensure the lowermost position of said head being such as to engage the uppermost sheet upon the stack 32 when the top of this stack is on its lowermost plane. This adjustment is necessary to ensure the making of a proper imprint at all times, but does not place any limitation as to the operativeness of the printing characters, since impressions may be made without the head reaching the lowermost plane for which the support 13 is

set. Impressions may be made within a considerable range of variation in the elevation of the uppermost sheet of the stack, since the engagement of the enlarged head 36 with the top of the support 13 is not necessary to the making of an impression.

In adjusting the height of the support 13, the effective throw of the bell crank lever 25 will be changed so that following such an adjustment, the collar 33 is disconnected from the link 28, and said lever 25 is oscillated until the upper fork arm 27 is engaged with the stud 24 upon the rod 15 while the enlarged head 36 is engaged with the top of the support 13.

When the parts are in this position said collar 33 may be adjusted to the right, Fig. 1, so as to tension the spring 35 since it is desirable to have a slight yielding pressure exerted upon the lever 25 during the making of all impressions. The tensioning of the spring 35 may be very slight, but a cushioning effect in the blow even though the level of the top of the stack 32 be at its lowermost point when making the impression, is desirable.

The adjusting screw 39 is normally so set as to permit the head to descend slightly below the lowermost point where impressions are to be made. The adjustment of the link 28 in relation to the yoke 29 for properly positioning the arms 26 and 27, results in an automatic adjustment of the working conditions, to the height of the stack.

When the attachment is set as described, power may be applied to the wrapping machine. The positioning of the mechanisms of the feeder of this machine, preparatory to the picking up and advancing of a sheet from the stack 32, is accompanied by a rocking movement of the shaft 11. This rocking movement is contra-clockwise, so that the crank 31, through the bearing 30, will carry the yoke 29 to the right, thus causing oscillation of the lever 25 in a manner to cause the fork 26 to engage the under side of the stud 24 and raise the rod 15 and head 16. This movement is against the tension of the light spring 38, which has a normal tendency to force the rod 15 and the head 16 downwardly. The spring 34 has a cushioning action in the raising of the head.

During the upward movement of the rod 15 and head 16, the topmost sheet is picked up from the stack 32 and advanced by the mechanisms of the feeder toward the mechanism of the wrapping machine, which advance movement continues during the entire upward movement of the head and during the following downward movement thereof.

Upon the completion of the contra-clockwise movement of the crank 31, its direction of movement is reversed and it receives a clockwise movement. During this clockwise movement the link 28 rocks the bell crank lever 25, the downward arc of the yoke arm 26 permitting the spring 38 to force the rod 15 and head 16 downwardly. The speed of the downward movement, however, is controlled by the movement of the yoke arm and the bell crank lever. Toward the limit of this downward movement, the printing characters upon the digit wheels 17 engage, through the ribbon 22, the topmost sheet of paper upon the stack 32. Immediately following this engagement, the arm 26 passes from its engagement with the stud 24, the other arm 27 immediately thereafter being engaged with, or striking, the top of this stud so as to apply a staccato blow to the stud and give a sharp printing impact of the printing elements through the ribbon with the topmost sheet of the stack 32. The engagement of said arm 27 with the stud 24 is under a yielding pressure from the spring 35, which spring yields to compensate for changes in the height of the stack at the time of the engagement of the ribbon and the type members therewith.

The yoke 29 has movement about the bearing pin 30 to accommodate the movements of the link 28 to the arc of movement of the arm of the bell crank lever 25 with which it is connected.

The head 16 and rod 15 descend by gravity, aided to a certain extent by the spring 38, which latter is used merely to accelerate the downward movement of these parts, and take advantage of the lost motion connection between the stud 24 and the bell crank lever 25, in compensating for any difference in speed of the stud 24 and the forked arm of said lever.

By this construction, the difficulties of accurately timing the movements of the lever 25 with those of the head 16 are avoided, and a yielding blow during the making of the imprint is secured. By using the springs 34 and 35 disposed upon opposite sides of the block 33, I not only secure a cushioning action between the actuating means for the head 16 and the crank 31 at the end of the downward stroke of said head, but a similar action at the limit of the upward movement thereof upon the engagement of the head with the support 13. At points intermediate the opposite limits of the movement of said head, the tension of the springs 34 and 35 will automatically be equalized.

The normal tension of each of the springs 34 and 35 is greater than that of the spring 38.

By the mode of operation above referred to, the effective quantity of movement of the bell crank lever 25 may be varied by different settings of the machine, notwithstanding that the crank 31 has a fixed quantity of movement with the shaft 11.

When mounting a ribbon spool upon the carrier 19 and 20, it is merely necessary to

remove the screw 42 from the hollow shaft 41 of each carrier. As the screw is released, the enlarged portion of the screw passes from the enlargement of the slotted portion so as to permit the screw to move through the slot as the carrier is moved away from the digit wheels. The spring retard device 59 serves merely as a brake to prevent overrunning of the spool and readily yields to permit the movement of the carrier into or out of engagement with the cross bars 23. The ribbon 22 is run from the spool upon one carrier, as 20, across the plate 21 and the face of the digit wheels 17, to the spool upon the other carrier 19.

The plate 50, by engagement with the heel 48, holds the pawl 46 out of engaging relation to the ratchet wheel of the carrier 20, the spring 49 acting upon the heel 47 moving the pawl 45 into engaging relation with the ratchet wheel upon the carrier 19. This is the setting as shown in Figs. 1 and 3 of the drawings.

With the downward movement of the head 16, the carrier member 19 moves away from and out of engaging relation with the pawl 45. Upon the upward movement of the head, the ratchet tooth of the wheel of the carrier 19 engages the pawl 45 and thus causes the rotation of the carrier to the extent of one tooth. This operation continues until the diameter of the ribbon upon the spool upon the carrier 19 is sufficiently great to engage the plate 56 so that upon the subsequent actuation of the ratchet wheel of the carrier 19, the thrust member 54 will be moved to a position with its upper end behind the stud 52. With the next downward movement of the head 16, the thrust member 54 passes over said stud by reason of its flexibility, and will remain in this position, shown in Fig. 3, so that upon the next upward movement of the head it will engage said stud, rock the plate 50 and oscillate the pawl 45 to move it out of its engageable relation with the ratchet wheel upon the carrier 19 and cause the spring 49 to rock the pawl 46 into its engageable relation with the ratchet wheel upon the carrier 20.

Normally, the friction device 51 will resist movement of the plate so as to maintain either pawl 45 or 46 in the position in which it is set until said plate 50 has been actuated by one or the other thrust member 54 or 55.

The spring 58 normally holds both thrust members out of the operative relation to the studs 52 and 53, the engagement of the heels of said thrust members with the sides of the head 16 limiting the pivotal movements thereof when they are actuated in a manner to operatively position them in relation to said studs.

In the embodiment of the invention shown in the drawings, the feeding of the ribbon occurs at the limit of each upward movement of the head 16, and as a result of such movement. The actuation of the pawls for reversing the direction of the feed of the ribbon occurs as a result of the actuation of one or the other of the carriers, toward the limit of the upward movement of the head 16, and as a result of the turning of the carrier by the push pawl 45 or 46. This condition is shown in dotted lines in Figs. 1 and 3.

By using ordinary digit wheels 17, these wheels may be set in any desired manner to imprint a code marking which may be changed from day to day so that the date of the application of a wrapper to any package may be definitely determined by anyone familiar with the code. At the same time, however, the meaning of the code may be kept secret, if desired. Of course ordinary dater wheels may be used, that is, wheels indicating the different months of the year, days of the month and the year.

I have hereinbefore explained the setting of the machine for the purpose of locating the imprint upon the sheet in any desired manner. This locating of the imprint may be merely for the purpose of securing convenient access to the marking, or it may be necessitated by the operations of the feeder in completely removing a sheet from the top of the stack 32. This feeding movement involves the picking up of the topmost sheet, its advance to feed rollers and the subsequent feeding of the sheet by these rollers. As the head 16 is raised by the contra-clockwise oscillation of the shaft 11, the mechanisms of the feeder are being actuated to pick up the sheet upon which an impression has just been made. During the continued ascent of the head 16, the sheet so picked up is being fed away from the stack, and this feeding movement may continue throughout the major portion of the descent of the head. It is obvious, however, that before the impression can be made upon the following sheet, the preceding sheet must have been moved to an extent to expose the portion of the sheet upon which the impression is to be made.

The adjustment of the supporting rod 14 may be relied upon to so position the support 13 that the sheet being removed from the stack will have passed the printing position before the head 16 reaches the stack upon the succeeding impression. This adjustment, however, may not be desirable. In such cases, the impressions may be delayed slightly by merely releasing the collar 33 and moving the link 28 to the right, thus increasing the effective stroke of the head as a result of the rocking of the bell crank lever 25. The lost motion connection afforded by the gap between the forked arms 26 and 27 permits this adjustment, which has to do with the timing of the making of the impression in

relation to the timing of the delivery of the sheet in its entirety.

It is not my intention to limit the invention to the precise details of construction shown in the accompanying drawings, it being apparent that such may be varied without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

Having described the invention, what I claim as new and desire to have protected by Letters Patent, is:—

1. A dating attachment for wrapping machines embodying therein a support positioned above the feed shelf of the feeder for a wrapping machine, a rod slidably mounted in said support, a head carried by said rod, printing characters carried by said head, means supporting and feeding an inked ribbon in relation to said printing characters, a bell crank lever, a lost motion connection between said lever and said rod, a crank member carried by a rock shaft forming a part of a feeder, and connections between said rock shaft and said bell crank lever.

2. A dating attachment for wrapping machines embodying therein a support positioned above the feed shelf of the feeder for a wrapping machine, a rod slidably mounted in said support, a head carried by said rod, printing characters carried by said head means supporting and feeding an inked ribbon in relation to said printing characters, a bell crank lever, a lost motion connection between said lever and said rod, a crank member carried by a rock shaft forming a part of a feeder, a link pivotally connected with said bell crank lever, means carried by said crank member in which said link is slidably mounted, and resilient means acted upon by said last named means and operative upon said link, whereby a variable movement may be imparted to said bell crank lever with a fixed movement of said crank member.

3. A dating attachment for wrapping machines embodying therein a support positioned above the feed shelf of the feeder for a wrapping machine, a rod slidably mounted in said support, a head carried by said rod, printing characters carried by said head, means supporting and feeding an inked ribbon in relation to said printing characters, a bell crank lever, a lost motion connection between said lever and said rod, a crank member carried by a rock shaft forming a part of a feeder, a yoke pivotally mounted upon said crank member, a link slidably mounted in the arms of said yoke and pivotally connected with said bell crank lever, a block carried by said link within said yoke, and springs seated between the opposite sides of said block and the opposite arms of said yoke.

4. A dating attachment for wrapping machines embodying therein a support positioned above the feed shelf of the feeder for a wrapping machine, a rod slidably mounted in said support, a head carried by said rod, printing characters carried by said head, means supporting and feeding an inked ribbon in relation to said printing characters, a bell crank lever, a lost motion connection between said lever and said rod, a crank member carried by a rock shaft forming a part of a feeder, a yoke pivotally mounted upon said crank member, a link slidably mounted in the arms of said yoke and pivotally connected with said bell crank lever, a block carried by said link within said yoke, springs seated between the opposite sides of said block and the opposite arms of said yoke, and means adjustably mounting said block upon said link.

5. A dating attachment for wrapping machines embodying therein a support positioned above the feed shelf of the feeder for a wrapping machine, a rod slidably mounted in said support, a stud carried by said rod, a head carried by said rod, printing characters carried by said head, means supporting and feeding an inked ribbon in relation to said printing characters, a bell crank lever having one of its arms forked, the arms of said forked arm being positioned upon, and spaced from, the opposite sides of said stud, a crank member carried by a rock shaft forming a part of a feeder, and connections between said rock shaft and said bell crank lever.

6. A dating attachment for wrapping machines embodying therein a support positioned above the feed shelf of the feeder for a wrapping machine, a rod slidably mounted in said support, a stud carried by said rod, a head carried by said rod, printing characters carried by said head, means supporting and feeding an inked ribbon in relation to said printing characters, a bell crank lever having one of its arms forked, the arms of said forked arm being positioned upon, and spaced from, the opposite sides of said stud, a crank member carried by a rock shaft forming a part of a feeder, a link pivotally connected with said bell crank lever, means carried by said crank member in which said link is slidably mounted, and resilient means acted upon by said last named means and operative upon said link, whereby a variable movement may be imparted to said bell crank lever with a fixed movement of said crank member.

7. A dating attachment for wrapping machines embodying therein a support positioned above the feed shelf of the feeder for a wrapping machine, a rod slidably mounted in said support, a stud carried by said rod, a head carried by said rod, printing characters carried by said head, means supporting and feeding an inked ribbon in relation to said printing characters, a bell crank lever having one of its arms forked, the arms of said forked arm being positioned upon, and

spaced from, the opposite sides of said stud, a crank member carried by a rock shaft forming a part of a feeder, a yoke pivotally mounted upon said crank member, a link slidably mounted in the arms of said yoke and pivotally connected with said bell crank lever, a block carried by said link within said yoke, and springs seated between the opposite sides of said block and the opposite arms of said yoke.

8. A dating attachment for wrapping machines embodying therein a support positioned above the feed shelf of the feeder for a wrapping machine, a rod slidably mounted in said support, a head carried by said rod, a spring having a normal tendency to force said rod and said head toward the feed shelf, printing characters carried by said head, means supporting and feeding an inked ribbon in relation to said printing characters, a bell crank lever, a lost motion connection between said lever and said rod, a crank member carried by a rock shaft forming a part of a feeder, and connections between said rock shaft and said bell crank lever.

9. A dating attachment for wrapping machines embodying therein a support positioned above the feed shelf of the feeder for a wrapping machine, a rod slidably mounted in said support, a stud carried by said rod, a head carried by said rod, a spring having a normal tendency to force said rod and said head toward the feed shelf, printing characters carried by said head, means supporting and feeding an inked ribbon in relation to said printing characters, a bell crank lever having one of its arms forked, the arms of said forked arm being positioned upon, and spaced from, the opposite sides of said stud, a crank member carried by a rock shaft forming a part of a feeder, a yoke pivotally mounted upon said crank member, a link slidably mounted in the arms of said yoke and pivotally connected with said bell crank lever, a block carried by said link within said yoke, and springs seated between the opposite sides of said block and the opposite arms of said yoke.

10. A dating attachment for wrapping machines embodying therein a support positioned above the feed shelf of the feeder for a wrapping machine, means whereby said support may be vertically adjusted, a rod slidably mounted in said support, a head carried by said rod, printing characters carried by said head, means supporting and feeding an inked ribbon in relation to said printing characters, a bell crank lever, a lost motion connection between said lever and said rod, a crank member carried by a rock shaft forming a part of a feeder, and connections between said rock shaft and said bell crank lever.

11. A dating attachment for wrapping machines embodying therein a support positioned above the feed shelf of the feeder for a wrapping machine, means whereby said support may be vertically adjusted, a rod slidably mounted in said support, a stud carried by said rod, a head carried by said rod, printing characters carried by said head, means supporting and feeding an inked ribbon in relation to said printing characters, a bell crank lever having one of its arms forked, the arms of said forked arm being positioned upon, and spaced from, the opposite sides of said stud, a crank member carried by a rock shaft forming a part of a feeder, and connections between said rock shaft and said bell crank lever.

12. A dating attachment for wrapping machines embodying therein a support positioned above the feed shelf of the feeder for a wrapping machine, a clamp member adapted to engage a transverse bar of the feeder and be adjustable along said bar, a spacer rod carried by said clamp and connected with said support, a rod slidably mounted in said support, a head carried by said rod, printing characters carried by said head, means supporting and feeding an inked ribbon in relation to said printing characters, a bell crank lever, a lost motion connection between said lever and said rod, a crank member adjustably mounted upon a rock shaft forming a part of a feeder, and connections between said rock shaft and said bell crank lever.

13. A dating attachment for wrapping machines embodying therein a support positioned above the feed shelf of the feeder for a wrapping machine, means whereby said support may be connected with a part of the feeder, a spacer rod adjustably mounted in said means and connected with said support, whereby the position of said support in relation to said means may be varied, a rod slidably mounted in said support, a head carried by said rod, printing characters carried by said head, means supporting and feeding an inked ribbon in relation to said printing characters, a bell crank lever, a lost motion connection between said lever and said rod, a crank member carried by a rock shaft forming a part of a feeder, and connections between said rock shaft and said bell crank lever.

14. A dating attachment for wrapping machines embodying therein a support positioned above the feed shelf of the feeder for a wrapping machine, a clamp member adapted to engage a transverse bar of the feeder and be adjustable along said bar, a spacer rod adjustably mounted in said clamp and connected with said support, whereby the position of said support in relation to said clamp may be varied, a rod slidably mounted in said support, a head carried by said rod, printing characters carried by said head, means supporting and feeding an inked ribbon in relation to said printing characters, a bell crank lever, a lost motion connection between said lever and said rod, a crank member adjustably mounted upon a rock shaft forming a part of

a feeder, and connections between said rock shaft and said bell crank lever.

15. A dating attachment for wrapping machines embodying therein a support positioned above the feed shelf of the feeder for a wrapping machine, a rod slidably mounted in said support, a head carried by said rod, printing characters carried by said head, ribbon spool carriers each including a ratchet wheel rotatably mounted upon said head upon opposite sides of said printing characters, said ratchet wheels having their teeth oppositely set, push pawls pivotally mounted upon said support, means normally holding one of said pawls out of the operative relation to the ratchet wheel with which it co-operates, and the other pawl in the operative relation to the ratchet wheel with which it co-operates, means for alternately positioning said pawls in the operative relation to said ratchets, a bell crank lever, a lost motion connection between said lever and said rod, a crank member carried by a rock shaft forming a part of a feeder, and connections between said rock shaft and said bell crank lever.

16. A dating attachment for wrapping machines embodying therein a support positioned above the feed shelf of the feeder for a wrapping machine, a rod slidably mounted in said support, a head carried by said rod, printing characters carried by said head, ribbon spool carriers each including a ratchet wheel rotatably mounted upon said head upon opposite sides of said printing characters, said ratchet wheels having their teeth oppositely set, push pawls pivotally mounted upon said support, each of said pawls having a heel, a spring connecting said heels, a pivotal bar mounted upon said support with its ends in operative relation to said heels, a friction retard device carried by said pivotal bar and engaging said support, a bell crank lever, a lost motion connection between said lever and said rod, a crank member carried by a rock shaft forming a part of a feeder, and connections between said rock shaft and said bell crank lever.

17. A dating attachment for wrapping machines embodying therein a support positioned above the feed shelf of the feeder for a wrapping machine, a rod slidably mounted in said support, a head carried by said rod, printing characters carried by said head, ribbon spool carriers each including a ratchet wheel rotatably mounted upon said head upon opposite sides of said printing characters, said ratchet wheels having their teeth oppositely set, push pawls pivotally mounted upon said support, each of said pawls having a heel, a spring connecting said heels, a pivotal bar mounted upon said support with its ends in operative relation to said heels, a friction retard device carried by said pivotal bar and engaging said support, normally inoperative means carried by said head adapted to be actuated by the ribbon upon one of said spools, whereby said bar will be automatically actuated to move one of said pawls out of the operative relation to its ratchet wheel and permit the other pawl to move into the operative relation to its ratchet wheel, a bell crank lever, a lost motion connection between said lever and said rod, a crank member carried by a rock shaft forming a part of a feeder, and connections between said rock shaft and said bell crank lever.

18. A dating attachment for wrapping machines embodying therein a support positioned above the feed shelf of the feeder for a wrapping machine, a rod slidably mounted in said support, a head carried by said rod, printing characters carried by said head, ribbon spool carriers each including a ratchet wheel rotatably mounted upon said head upon opposite sides of said printing characters, said ratchet wheels having their teeth oppositely set, push pawls pivotally mounted upon said support, each of said pawls having a heel, a spring connecting said heels, a pivotal bar mounted upon said support with its ends in operative relation to said heels, a friction retard device carried by said pivotal bar and engaging said support, studs carried by said pivotal bar, yieldable thrust members carried by said head, means normally holding said thrust members out of the operative relation to said studs, means carried by each thrust member adapted to be actuated by the ribbon upon a spool for positioning one of said thrust members to automatically actuate said bar and reverse the direction of the ribbon feed, a bell crank lever, a lost motion connection between said lever and said rod, a crank member carried by a rock shaft forming a part of a feeder, and connections between said rock shaft and said bell crank lever.

In witness whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature this 12th day of May 1930.

MAXIMILIAN H. KERN.