

W. J. WOOLDRIDGE.
PRIVATE MAILING CARD.
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 16, 1906.

961,829.

Patented June 21, 1910.

Fig. 1.

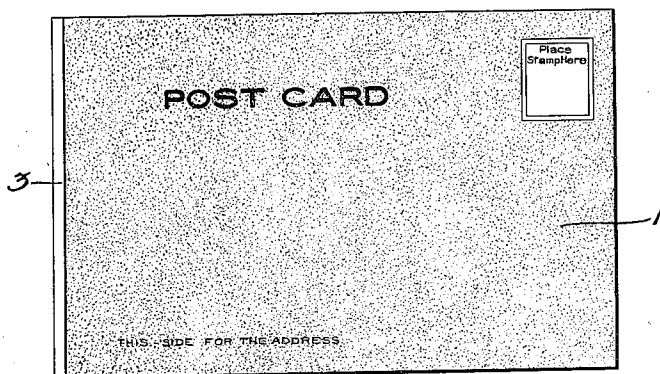


Fig. 2.

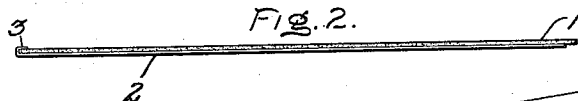


Fig. 3.

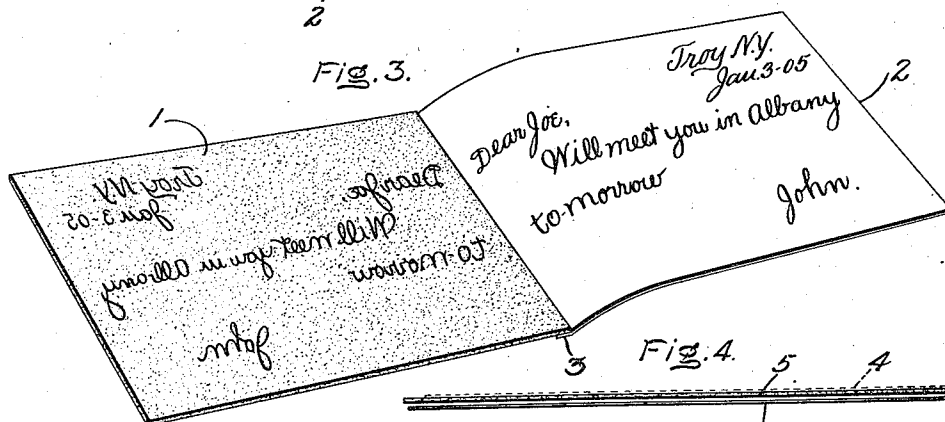


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.

WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PRIVATE MAILING-CARD.

961,829.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 21, 1910.

Application filed February 16, 1906. Serial No. 301,323.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM J. WOOLDRIDGE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Schenectady, county of Schenectady, State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Private Mailing-Cards, of which the following is a specification.

My present invention relates particularly to an improvement in post cards or private mailing cards, and to means whereby the message to be carried by the card may be imprinted on it in a reversed position, or so that it reads from right to left. This unnatural arrangement of the letters makes the card practically illegible except when held before a mirror to restore the letters to their proper positions and to make the words read from left to right. Not only does such a card afford amusement because of the difficulty encountered by the uninitiated in deciphering the message but it may also be used to advantage in communicating information of a private nature without disclosing the nature of that information to postmen or others through whose hands the card may pass.

To secure the above recited effect I provide the mailing card with a detachable leaf or flap on which the message is first written and from which it is transferred to the card by folding the flap over against the card.

It will be apparent that if the flap and card are of the same kind of paper and have the same sort of surface then the ink will practically all remain where it is deposited by the pen, for under such conditions the two surfaces will have the same absorbing power and the one which first receives the ink will have a much longer time in which to act, particularly if the message is long. Furthermore the imperfect image obtainable by such an arrangement is quite comparable to the irregular markings ordinarily found on the face of a blotting pad and consequently would be quite unsuited for transmitting information according to applicant's invention. To overcome this difficulty I make the post card and its detachable leaf or flap of such material that the card has a high ink absorbing power while the flap has little or no power to take the ink into its pores, with the result that ink deposited on the leaf by the pen of the

writer remains liquid on or near the surface of the leaf until absorbed by the air, and I find that this interval is long enough to permit the sender to fill an entire leaf with writing before any appreciable quantity of the ink dries, the result being a sharp, clear cut transfer of all the letters when the leaf is folded over against the body of the post card to print the reversed image.

The details of my invention will be better understood by reference to the accompanying drawing in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation of the front of a post card having a flap or leaf attached to the left hand edge and folded around against the back of the card; Fig. 2 is an edge view of the same; Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the back of the card, with the leaf open; Fig. 4 shows a modification in which the detachable leaf is secured to the front of the card; Fig. 5 shows my invention applied to illustrated post cards; and Fig. 6 shows a modified connection between the card and its detachable leaf.

Referring to Figs. 1-3, the post card 1 may be of the size and shape of the Government post cards and is of such composition that it will readily absorb or take up ink. To the front of this card is attached a flexible leaf 2 which may be bent around against the back of the card as shown in Fig. 2. I prefer to cement or otherwise attach it to the card only along the edge 3, using a cement which although securely holding the leaf 2 in place while being handled at the stationer's will nevertheless permit detachment of the leaf from the card without materially defacing the card or tearing the leaf. The detachable leaf or flap 2 may consist of any flexible material having such a surface that it will not readily absorb ink but will keep the ink in a liquid condition on its surface. Paper with an extra hard surface will fulfil these requirements and give a good transfer but I prefer to use a prepared paper or cloth having a filling of wax or other moisture resisting medium and having a surface which will readily take ink from a pen and yet will not absorb the ink to an appreciable extent but will keep it on the surface and yield a sharp reverse image when the leaf is folded over against the card.

After the reverse image has been im-

printed as above described the leaf 2 may be detached from the card, leaving the latter in condition for mailing.

In order that a rough uneven stub may in no case be left on the card when the leaf is detached I make the leaf tough enough to prevent tearing and rely on the insecure attachment between leaf and card to permit their separation without defacement of the card. This result may be readily attained by making the leaf of cloth such as is sometimes used by draftsmen for tracing purposes, or by using "full rag" paper stock.

The modification illustrated in Fig. 4 shows a detachable leaf 4 secured to the front of the card 5 at the right hand edge so that when the cards are on exhibition at the stationer's the leaf is in position before the front or address side of the card and leaves the back of the card exposed, this feature being of particular importance when the back bears a printed picture such as that shown in Fig. 5. The message may be written on the leaf when in the position shown in Fig. 4 after which the leaf is folded against the back of the card as shown in dotted lines, thus effecting a transfer of the message to the card. The leaf may then be torn away and the card mailed.

Fig. 5 shows my invention applied to an illustrated post card 6, the detachable leaf 7 being of such size that it covers only that part of the card which is not illustrated. The illustration may be printed on the card by photographic or other process and while the picture or other printing may be arranged in the normal way to read from left to right I prefer to print them reversed as

shown in Fig. 5, so that when the written message is completed the whole card will appear normal if held before a mirror.

It will be understood that the landscape shown in Fig. 5 is used only by way of illustration and that if desired this part of the card may be printed with humorous pictures or writings arranged in reverse order so as to be legible, together with the written message, when viewed in a mirror.

Fig. 6 shows a modified connection between the card 6 and leaf 7; the card being grooved at 8 to permit detachment of the leaf, though it should be understood that the method of attachment shown in Figs. 1 and 4 are also applicable to the card and leaf shown in Fig. 5.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is:

1. The combination with a mailing card having a surface of high ink absorbing power, of a leaf secured thereto having a surface of low ink absorbing power.
2. The combination with a mailing card, of a flexible leaf detachably secured to said card and consisting of wax-filled cloth.
3. The combination with a mailing card, of a flexible leaf secured to said card and consisting of tough material having a surface substantially non-absorbent for ink, said leaf being shorter than said card and arranged to fold against a part thereof.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 27th day of January, 1906.

WILLIAM J. WOOLDRIDGE.

Witnesses:

B. L. HUFF,
M. C. OLSON.