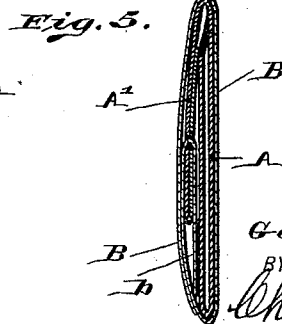
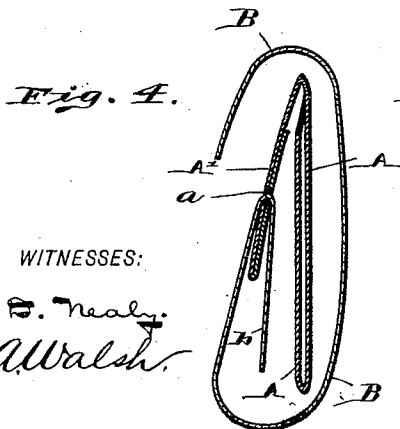
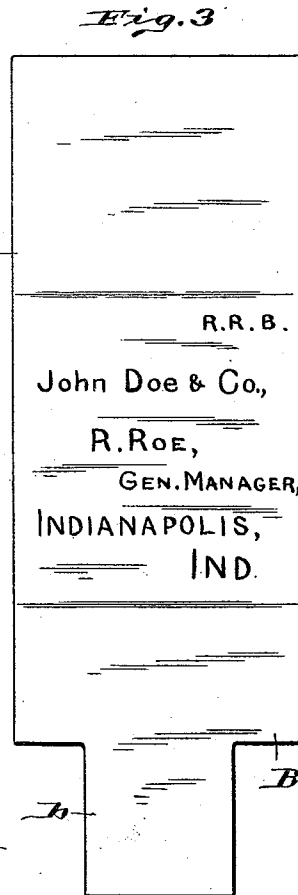
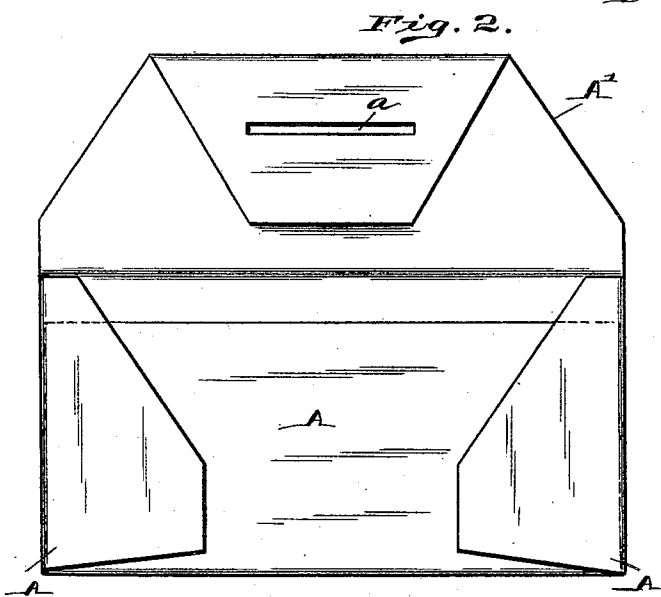
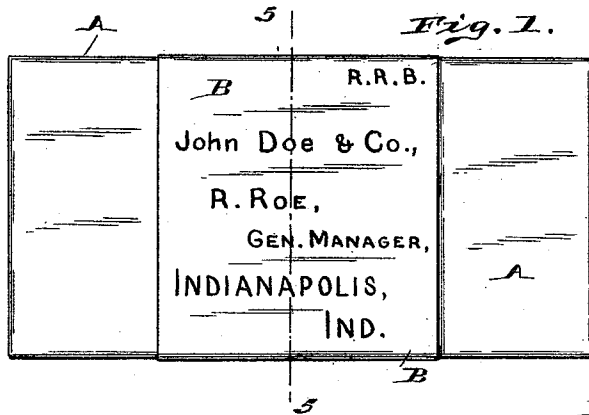


(No Model.)

G. SOUTHARD.
ENVELOPE.

No. 536,821.

Patented Apr. 2, 1895.



WITNESSES:

H. S. Neely.
J. A. Walsh.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE SOUTHARD, OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

ENVELOPE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 536,821, dated April 2, 1895.

Application filed October 8, 1894. Serial No. 525,254. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE SOUTHARD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Indianapolis, in the county of Marion and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Envelopes, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my said invention is to provide an envelope capable of repeated use, and yet capable of being sealed during each use.

As is well known, there are many users of envelopes who transmit papers regularly back and forth between different branches of the same business. The most conspicuous example of such use is what is known as "railroad service," where the agents and officers of a railroad are constantly sending papers to each other, many of which are bulky and require envelopes of thick, strong, heavy paper. Such envelopes are very expensive, if a single use is to terminate their capability of service; but if a means can be devised whereby they can be used many times, or until destroyed by ordinary wear, they become, on the contrary, very inexpensive considering the service rendered. I have devised a plan by which such large heavy expensive envelopes can be cheaply sealed at each use, and continually re-used, with only the loss of a light cheap sealing strip. Such an envelope embodying my invention will be first fully described and the novel features thereof then pointed out in the claims.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, which are made a part hereof, and on which similar letters of reference indicate similar parts, Figure 1 represents such an envelope sealed up and ready for transmission. Fig. 2 illustrates such an envelope open and ready to receive its contents. Fig. 3 shows the sealing strip separately. Fig. 4 is a sectional view illustrating the envelope and sealing strip while the latter is in process of being put in place, and Fig. 5 a similar view to Fig. 4 showing the envelope fully sealed by means of the sealing strip, and ready for transmission.

The use is simple and will be readily understood.

The body of the envelope A has a flap A' in which is a slit *a*. At the point where said slit occurs the edge of the paper is preferably

folded over, and the flap thus doubled at this point, making it stronger than it otherwise would be, but obviously this is not essential to my invention. In using this envelope, the matter to be transported is first inserted therein and the flap folded down to about the position shown in Fig. 4, when the narrow end *b* of the sealing strip B is inserted in the slit *a*, and said sealing strip is then bent at the point of junction between its narrower and wider portions, which is, when fully in place, at the point of said slit *a*, and said sealing strip is then bent downwardly around the lower edge of the envelope, and brought over the upper edge, and the whole pressed together and sealed, as shown in Fig. 5,—the extreme end of the sealing strip being preferably ready gummed for that purpose.

When it is desired to open the envelope, the sealing strip is torn in two and thrown away, while the envelope itself is not injured, and is ready for further use.

The sealing strip itself is shown as a plain piece of paper of uniform width the greater portion of its length, but narrower for a short distance at one end, the narrow end being designed to enter the slit *a* in the flap of the envelope, and thus hold the strip securely against slipping off the envelope when the latter is sealed. This varying width construction is of considerable utility, as, when used, the slit *a* does not need to be so wide as it otherwise would, while the shoulders formed between the narrower and wider portions of the strip come against the surface of the flap, and thus bring the strip to the desired position, so that when folded and sealed the address will be exposed at the point required; but obviously the strip might be made of the uniform width, and the slit extended, without departing from my invention, although the result would be slightly inferior. As will be readily understood, these sealing strips may be ready printed with a variety of addresses, equal to the requirement of the business, and an envelope may be addressed, in such cases, by simply selecting from such sealing strips one bearing the desired address and sealing the envelope with it.

By the use of my envelope only a comparatively small quantity of envelopes need to be provided, while the number of sealing strips

will be the same as that required heretofore for the envelopes themselves. These being mere slips of cheap paper, of course the total expense is much reduced.

5 Having thus fully described my said invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination, with an envelope having a slit in its flap, of a strip B adapted to
10 bear an address and to inclose the envelope, one end of said strip when in place on the envelope being loosely inserted in said slit, whereby the strip is prevented from being
15 slipped off the envelope, and the other end brought around past the slit and sealed upon that portion with which it there comes in contact, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

2. The combination, with an envelope having a slit in its flap, of a sealing strip B one
20 end whereof is adapted to be inserted in said slit, the remainder of said strip then being folded in the reverse direction and wound

around the envelope and sealed onto itself, the inserted and folded portion thus forming
25 a secure means for preventing the removal of the strip except the seal is broken and the strip destroyed, after which the entire strip is easily removed, enabling a new one to be inserted in its place, substantially as and for
30 the purposes set forth.

3. The combination with an envelope having a slit to receive the end of a temporary renewable sealing strip, of such sealing strip
35 having a narrow end adapted to enter said slit, the shoulders between the narrow and wide portions of the strip thus determining the distance the same shall enter, substantially as set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my
40 hand and seal, at Indianapolis, Indiana, this 3d day of October, A. D. 1894.

GEORGE SOUTHARD. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

JOSEPH E. LUDLUM,
JAMES A. WALSH.