July 7, 1953 G. WEITZNER 2,644,634

SELF-CONTAINED ENVELOPE OPENER AND CONTENTS EJECTOR

Filed April 22, 1950 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1.

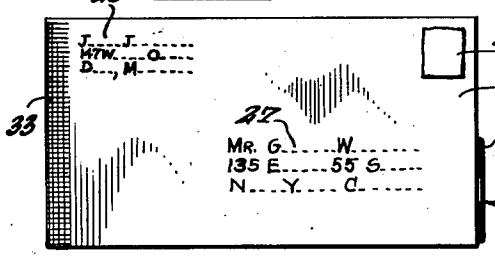


FIG. 2.

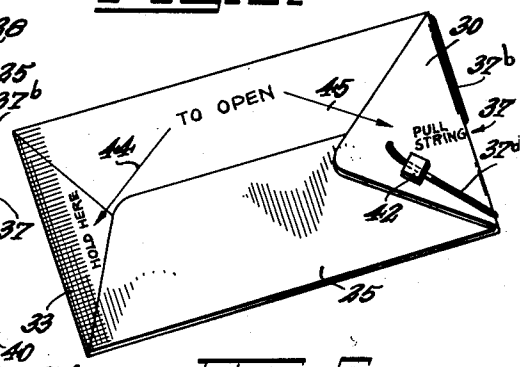


FIG. 3.

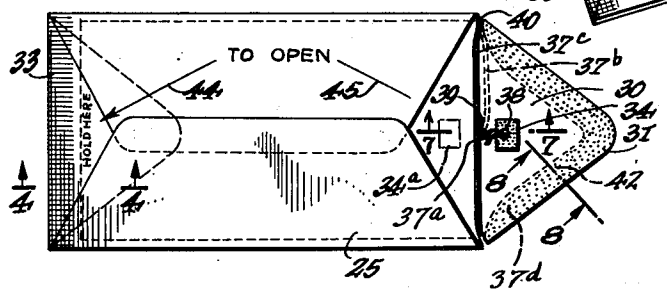


FIG. 5.

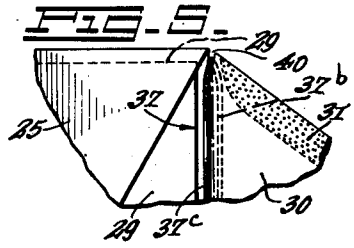


FIG. 4.

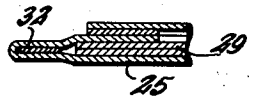


FIG. 7.



FIG. 8.

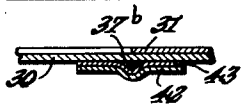


FIG. 9.

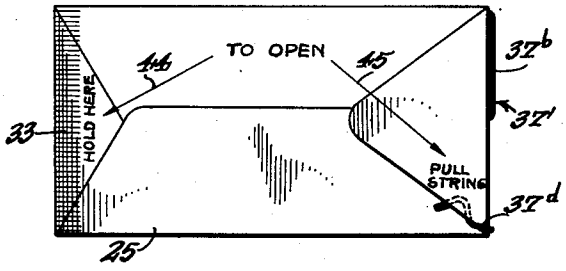


FIG. 10.

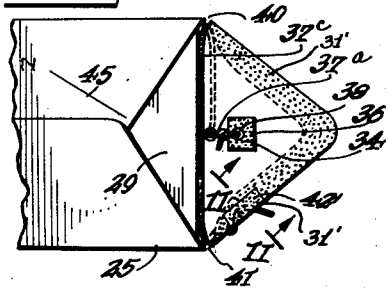


FIG. 6.

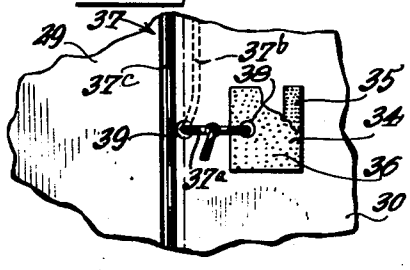
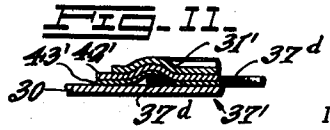


FIG. 11.



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FIG. 12.

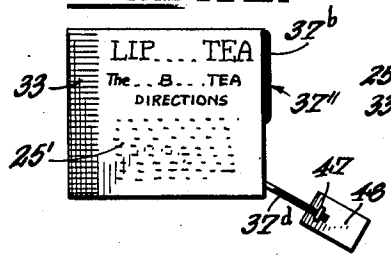


FIG. 13.

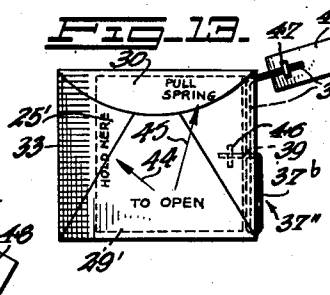


FIG. 14.

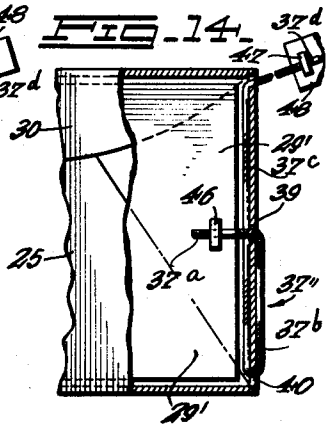


FIG. 15.

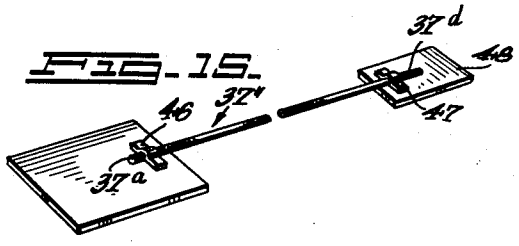


FIG. 17.

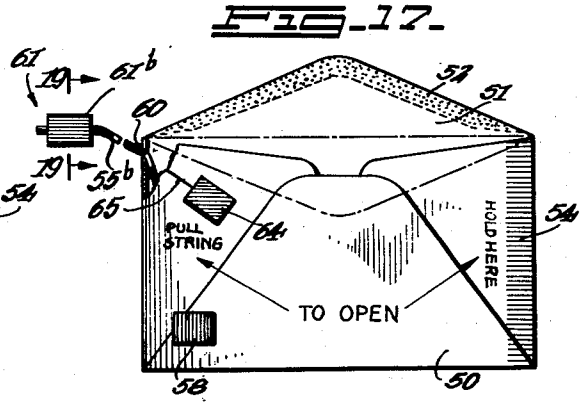


FIG. 16.

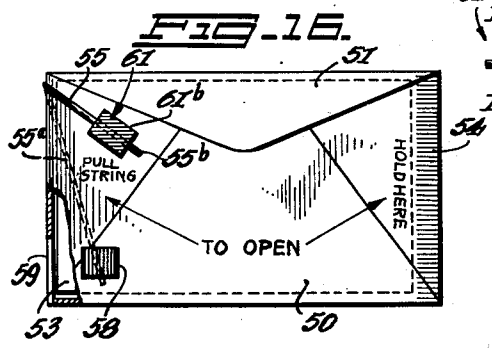


FIG. 18.

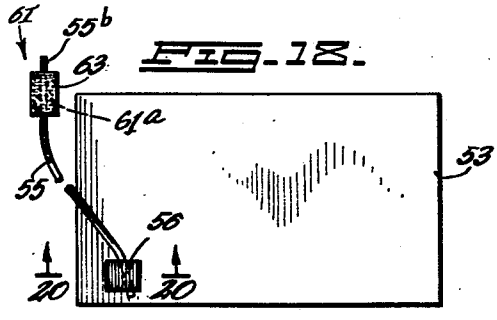


FIG. 19.

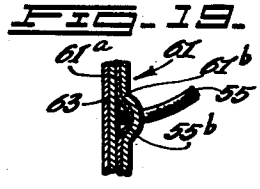


FIG. 20.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,644,634

SELF-CONTAINED ENVELOPE OPENER AND CONTENTS EJECTOR

Geza Weitzner, New York, N. Y.

Application April 22, 1950, Serial No. 157,506

1 Claim. (Cl. 229—86)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in envelopes.

More particularly, the present invention proposes a novel envelope construction which will completely enclose an inserted article and which is provided with means arranged in a manner so that the envelope may be quickly opened and the article removed from the envelope all in one motion without the necessity of touching the article to remove it from the envelope.

Another object of the present invention proposes the construction of an envelope characterized by an envelope body which may be designed to completely enclose and keep clean such articles as letters, greeting cards for birthdays and the like, advertising circulars, tea bags, different types of surgical dressings—Band-Aids and the like and other similar articles which can be conveniently placed within an envelope.

A further object of the present invention proposes providing the envelope body with a string which has one end projected to the exterior of the envelope body through at least one opening formed therein in a manner so that by the simple expedient of pulling that projected end of the string the envelope body will be opened after it has been closed.

The present invention further proposes several different methods of securing the other or inner end of the string to the article contained within the envelope body so that continued pulling on the string after the envelope body has been opened will cause the article to pull out of the open side of the envelope body eliminating the necessity of touching the article to remove it from the envelope body.

Still further, the present invention proposes forming the envelope body opposite the side which is to be opened by pulling the string in such a manner that a convenient hand hold may be had on that opposite side while pulling the string without gripping the adjacent side of the contained article in a manner so that the article is always free to be pulled out of the envelope body.

A still further object of the present invention proposes novel means for attaching the projected one end of the string to the outside of the envelope body in a manner to prevent unintended pulling of that projected end of the string.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide envelopes having the advantages set forth above which is simple and durable and which can be manufactured and sold at a reasonable cost.

For further comprehension of the invention,

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and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, and to the appended claim in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings forming a material part of this disclosure:

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view of an envelope constructed in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a rear perspective view of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a rear elevational view, but with the flap of the envelope in its open position prior to being sealed shut.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged partial longitudinal sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged detailed view of a portion of Fig. 3.

Fig. 6 is an enlarged detailed view, with a part thereof broken away, of another portion of Fig. 3.

Fig. 7 is an enlarged partial longitudinal sectional view taken on the line 7—7 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 8 is an enlarged sectional view taken on the line 8—8 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 9 is a rear elevational view of an envelope constructed in accordance with a modification of the present invention.

Fig. 10 is a view similar to a portion of Fig. 9, but with the closure flap in its open position prior to being sealed shut.

Fig. 11 is an enlarged sectional view taken on the line 11—11 of Fig. 10.

Fig. 12 is a front elevational view of an envelope constructed in accordance with a still further modification of the present invention and for containing a tea bag.

Fig. 13 is a rear elevational view of Fig. 12.

Fig. 14 is enlarged detailed view of a portion of Fig. 13 with a portion thereof broken away to reveal interior constructions.

Fig. 15 is a perspective view of the tea bag after being removed from the envelope illustrated in Figs. 12 to 14.

Fig. 16 is a rear elevation of a modification of the envelope for containing a greeting card and with a portion thereof broken away to reveal interior constructions.

Fig. 17 is a view similar to Fig. 16, but illustrating the envelope prior to being sealed shut and with a portion thereof broken away to reveal interior constructions.

Fig. 18 is a rear elevational view of the card to be used in the form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 16 and 17.

Fig. 19 is an enlarged cross sectional view taken on the line 19—19 of Fig. 17.

Fig. 20 is an enlarged sectional view taken on the line 20—20 of Fig. 18.

The envelope, according to the first form of the present invention illustrated in Figs. 1 to 8, includes an envelope body 25 formed of paper material as is generally known in the art to which the present invention pertains. The front face of the envelope body 25, see Fig. 1, is plain for the name and address of the addresser 26, the name and address of the addressee 27 and the usual stamp 28 so that the envelope can be used to mail a letter, advertising circular or similar article 29 positioned within the envelope body 25.

As clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 3, one end of the envelope body 25 is open and formed with a closure flap 30 which is to be used for closing the open end of the envelope body after the article 29 has been placed therein. The inner face of the free edge portions of the closure flap 30 is provided with the usual mucilage 31, see Figs. 3 and 8, for sealing the closure flap in its envelope closing position.

The end of the envelope body 25, opposite the closure flap 30, is sealed together by an intervening layer of mucilage 32, see particularly Fig. 4, and the application of pressure forming indentations 33 on the two faces of the envelope body, as shown in Figs. 1 to 3. Sealing together that opposite end of the envelope body 25 retains the inserted article 29 from being inserted completely to that end of the envelope body, see Fig. 4, providing a convenient hand hold at that opposite end of the envelope body for a purpose which will become clear as this specification proceeds.

Novel means is provided in connection with the closure flap 30 whereby one simple motion can be employed for opening that end of the envelope body and for withdrawing the article 29 from within the envelope body 25. That means is comprised of a tab 34 which is loosely adhered to the inside face of the closure flap 30 by a weakly adhering mucilage 35. The tab 34 is preferably formed of a piece of cloth material to be relatively strong and the mucilage 35 is a relatively weak one so that the tab can be pulled free of its attachment with the closure flap 30 very easily. The exposed face of the tab is provided with a layer of strong mucilage 36 which is to be moistened at the time the closure flap 30 is being sealed shut so that the tab will adhere itself to the exposed face of the inserted letter, advertising circular or other article 29. The area of the article 29 to which the tab 34 will adhere itself in the closed position of the closure flap 30 is indicated by the dot and dash lines 34^a in Fig. 3.

Arranged in connection with the tab 34 and forming part of the envelope opening and article ejecting means, there is a string 37. The string 37 has its inner end 37^a, see particularly Fig. 6, passed through a hole 38 formed in the free edge portion of the tab 34 and tied into a knot securely attaching that inner end 37^a to the tab. The string 37 then continues into a short portion 37^b projected through an aperture 39 formed at the junction of the envelope body 25 and the closure flap 30. That short portion 37^b projects along the outside face of the junction of the envelope body 25 and the closure flap 30 to an adjacent corner of the envelope.

At that adjacent corner of the envelope, the string 37 extends into the envelope body 25 through a small notch 40, see particularly Fig. 5, and has a long portion 37^c which extends along

the inner face of the junction of the envelope body 25 and the closure flap 30 to the corner of the envelope at the other side of the closure flap. At that corner at the other side of the closure flap 30, the string continues into an outer end portion 37^d projected to the exterior of the envelope body 25 through a notch 41, which is similar to the notch 40.

Means is provided for securing the projected outer end portion 37^d of the string 37 to the outer face of the closure flap 30 so as to retain the string against being accidentally pulled. That securing means comprises a sticker 42 of destroyable paper provided on its inner face with a layer of mucilage 43, see Fig. 8, by which the sticker is secured to the outer face of the closure flap 30 over the projected outer end portion 37^d of the string 37, as shown in Fig. 2.

The rear face of the envelope body 25, see Figs. 2 and 3, carries suitable indicia for indicating the manner of opening the envelope. That indicia is preferably imprinted on the envelope body 25 and includes the words "To Open" with an arrow 44 pointing to the indentations 33 and the words "Hold Here" imprinted adjacent those indentations 33 on the back face of the envelope body 25. Thus, the envelope body 25 is to be held in one hand at the indentations 33 so that the envelope body will be gripped without at the same time gripping the article 29 which is to be withdrawn from the envelope body 25. Extending from the words "To Open" there is a second imprinted arrow 45 pointing to the words "Pull String" imprinted on the outer face of the closure flap 30 adjacent the anchored outer end portion 37^d of the string 37, indicating that the outer end portion of the string is to be pulled.

The manner of using the envelope of the present invention is as follows:

The addresser after suitably addressing the front face of the envelope body and affixing the postage stamp 28, then inserts his letter, advertising circular or similar article 29 into the envelope body at the open end thereof. The mucilage 36 on the tab 34 and the mucilage 31 on the inner face of the closure flap 30 are then moistened and the flap folded to its position closing the open end of the envelope body 25 so that the mucilage 31 will secure that flap in its envelope closing position. Simultaneously, the mucilage 36 will adhere the tab 34, since the tab is loosely adhered to the inner face of the flap 30 by the mucilage 35, to the area on the article 29 indicated by the dot and dash lines 34^a in Fig. 3. The envelope is then ready to be posted in the usual manner.

When the envelope is received by the addressee, he follows the instructions imprinted on the back of the envelope body 25 for opening the same. First, the envelope body 25 is gripped in one hand at the indentations 33. Then, with the other hand, the addressee pulls the outer end portion 37^d of the string 37 breaking the destroyable sticker 42. Continuance of the pulling on the string 37 will first sever the junction of the envelope body 25 and the closure flap 30 opening that end of the envelope body 25 between the inner ends of the notches 40 and 41 for the withdrawal of the article 29. As pulling on the string 37 is continued in the same direction—away from the envelope body 25—the attachment of the inner end portion 37^a of the string to the tab 34 will cause that tab to be pulled free of the inner face of the closure flap 30 due to its attachment to that inner face by the weaker mucilage 35. However, as the tab 34 has been adhered to the

article 29 by the stronger mucilage 36, at the time that the closure flap 30 was closed, that continuance of the pulling on the string 37 will cause the article 29 to be withdrawn from the envelope body through the open end thereof.

Since the envelope body 25 was being held at the indentations 33, the article 29 was not being gripped and was free to be pulled from the envelope body by the string 37.

Heretofore, it has been customary when opening mailing envelopes to slit one end or one longitudinal side of the envelope body and to reach into the body to remove the contents. However, the slitting action often leaves raw edges on the paper stock of which the envelope is formed with a result that annoying cuts have been received when reaching into the envelope body. The arrangement of the string 37 in the present invention provides convenient means by which the envelope can be opened and the contents removed as one continuous operation without being subjected to the annoying cuts received when reaching into conventionally constructed envelopes to remove the contents.

In the modification of the invention illustrated in Figs. 9 to 11, the construction of the envelope is similar to that previously described differing merely in the means for anchoring the outer end portion 37^d of the string 37' to retain it against being accidentally pulled.

The securing means of the modification is characterized by the fact that the outer end portion 37^d of the string 37' after being projected to the exterior of the envelope body 25 through the notch 41, is bent about the adjacent edge portion of the flap 30 and secured to the inner face thereof by a destroyable paper sticker 42 having mucilage 43' on its inner face anchoring that outer end portion 37^d between the adjacent faces of the envelope body 25 and the flap 30 with the free end projecting from between those faces, as shown in Fig. 9, so that a grip can be had thereon.

From Figs. 10 and 11, it is apparent that the layer of flap sealing mucilage 31' is applied over the exposed face of the sticker 42' so that all of the free edges of the flap 30 will be secured to the envelope body when the closure flap is in its envelope closing position.

In other respects the form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 9 to 11 is similar to that illustrated in Figs. 1 to 8 and like reference numerals identify like parts in all of the views.

In the modification of the present invention shown in Figs. 12 to 15, the article 29' inserted into the envelope body 25' is in the form of a conventional tea bag. The inner end portion 37^a of the string 37'' is secured to the tea bag by the usual rust resistant staple 46, see Figs. 14 and 15.

Attached to the outer end portion 37^d of the string 37'', by means of a staple 47, is the usual tag 48 which is not adhered to the envelope body 25'. The front face of the envelope body 25' is imprinted with the name of the packer of the tea and pertinent data on the brewing of the tea, while the back face of the envelope body 25' is imprinted with the instructions for opening the envelope as in the previous forms of the invention.

The construction provides a convenient envelope for completely enclosing the tea bag 29' retaining the same clean and at the same time, by gripping the tag 48 and pulling thereon the string 37'' is caused to open the envelope body and to withdraw the tea bag 29' from the envelope body 25' with the tag 48 still gripped in one's hand for immersing the tea bag in hot water without ever having to handle the tea bag.

In other respects, the form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 12 to 15 is also similar to that illustrated in Figs. 1 to 8 and like reference numerals are used throughout to identify like parts.

In the final modification of the present invention illustrated in Figs. 16 to 20, the envelope is designed primarily for use with greeting cards—of the type used on birthdays, Valentine's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas—or the like which are imprinted on relatively stiff cardboard.

The envelope is characterized by an envelope body 50 having a closure flap 51 along one of its longitudinal edges and which is provided on the inner face along its free edges with sealing mucilage 52.

Adapted to be inserted into the envelope body 50 in the open position of the flap 51, there is an article 53 in the form of a greeting card imprinted on one face of relatively stiff cardboard or the like.

The one end of the envelope body 50 has its layers secured together by means of a mucilage or the like and provided with indentations 54 on the two faces thereof, providing a hand hold as in the previous forms of the invention.

A string 55 has an inner end portion 55^a secured to the rear face of the greeting card 53 adjacent one corner thereof by means of a tab 56 formed of cloth or other relatively strong material. The inner face of the tab 56 is provided with a layer of mucilage 57, see Fig. 20, by which it is adhered to the greeting card 53 and the inner end portion 55^a of the string 55. The exposed face of the tab 56 is colored red, as shown in Fig. 18, and the back of the envelope is imprinted adjacent one corner with a red marker 58, see Figs. 16 and 17, indicating that when the card 53 is properly positioned within the envelope body 50 the red colored tab 56 will be located beneath the red marker 58.

The end of the envelope body adjacent the red marker 58 is formed with a slit or opening 59 which extends from the adjacent corner toward the flap 51 for a considerable distance past that red marker 58. The outer end portion 55^b of the string 55 is projected to the exterior of the envelope body 50 through a notch 60 cut in the said end of the envelope body adjacent the flap 51, see Fig. 17.

Mounted on the outer end portion 55^b of the string 55 there is a destructible sticker 61 forming means for securing the outer end portion 55^b to the envelope body 50, at the back thereof, so that the string will not be accidentally pulled. That sticker 61 is formed of superimposed layers 61^a and 61^b of destructible paper which are secured together with the outer end portion 55^b sandwiched therebetween by means of a layer of mucilage 62. The exposed face of the sticker layer 61^a is formed with a layer of mucilage 63, see Figs. 18 and 19, by which the sticker can be secured to the rear face of the envelope body 50.

The outer face of the sticker layer 61^b is colored blue and the back face of the envelope body is imprinted with a blue marker 64, see Fig. 17, indicating where the sticker 61 should be adhered to the envelope body 50 by the mucilage 63. Extending from the blue marker 64 to the corner of the envelope body 50 provided with the notch 60, the back face of the envelope body

is imprinted with a line **65**, see Fig. 17, indicating the path the outer end portion **55b** of the string **55** should take when the sticker **61** is properly adhered in position over the blue marker **64**.

The back face of the envelope is imprinted with the instructions for opening the envelope body **50** and the front face thereof is plain to have the address material written thereon and the stamp adhered thereto, all as in the case of the first form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1 to 8.

The manner of using the modification of the invention illustrated in Figs. 16 to 20 is as follows:

With the greeting card **53** removed from the envelope body **50** as shown in Fig. 18, the front face thereof, not shown, is signed and with the envelope properly addressed, the card **53** is slipped into the envelope body so that the red colored tab **56** will be beneath the red marker **58** imprinted on the back face of the envelope body. With the sticker **61** located outside of the envelope body **50**, the string **55** is engaged into the notch **60**, as shown in Fig. 17, and the mucilage **52** on the flap **51** is moistened for sealing the flap in its closing position. The mucilage **63** is then moistened and the sticker **61** is adhered to the back face of the envelope body **50** over the blue marker **64**. The back of the envelope will then appear as shown in Fig. 16 and the addresser is then ready to post the envelope in the usual manner.

The addressee upon receiving the envelope follows the printed instructions on the back of the envelope for opening the same. The envelope body **50** is gripped in one hand at the indentations **54** and the projected outer end **55b** of the string **55** is pulled free from beneath the sticker **61**. While still gripping the envelope body **50** at the indentations **54** the string **55** is pulled away from the envelope body to open the end of the envelope body between the adjacent ends of the notch **60** and the slit or opening **59**. Further pulling of the string **55** will withdraw the card **53** from within the envelope body **50** through the open end thereof.

In this last form of the invention, it is essential that the slit or opening **59** be extended well into the envelope body **50** so that the inner end of that slot or opening will be beyond the attached inner end **55a** of the string **55**. This is necessary as the ability of the string to slit open the closed end of the envelope body **50** becomes greatly reduced the closer the operating portion

of the string approaches the attached end thereof.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise constructions herein disclosed and the right is reserved to all changes and modifications coming within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claim.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

An envelope comprising an envelope body, sealed at one end thereby shortening the cavity in the envelope body, a flap at the other end thereof to be folded over the envelope body, a tab weakly glued to the inner surface of said flap, said tab including a strong mucilage layer on the outer free surface thereof, a draw string secured to said tab and extending through an aperture in said flap adjacent the envelope body and then around the outer surface of said flap adjacent where the same is secured to the body of the envelope and then in a notch in one corner adjacent the edge of the body of the envelope and the flap point of connection and then to the inner side of said flap along the point of connection of the flap and body of the envelope to a notch diametrically removed from the first mentioned notch between the tab and body of the envelope and then to the outside of the envelope body to overlay the flap and be secured thereto whereby, when the flap is sealed, the tab on the flap will adhere to an inserted article in the envelope by the strong mucilage surface on the flap and will act to withdraw the article from the envelope when the draw string is actuated to tear open the envelope flap.

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