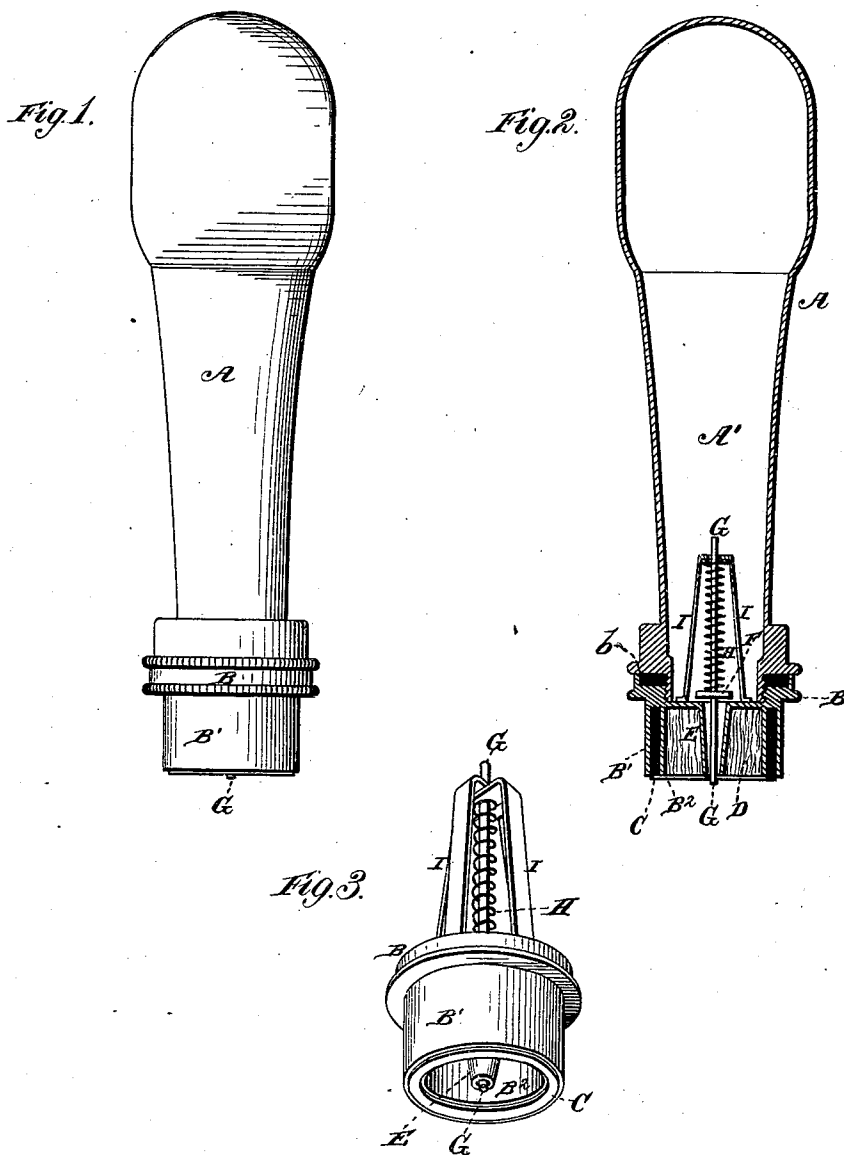


(No Model.)

A. M. DARRELL.
Liquid Stamp Canceling Device.

No. 243,221.

Patented June 21, 1881.



WITNESSES

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ARMISTEAD M. DARRELL, OF WASHINGTON, D. C., ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF
TO ALEXANDER M. KENADAY, OF SAME PLACE.

LIQUID STAMP-CANCELING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 243,221, dated June 21, 1881.

Application filed June 2, 1880. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ARMISTEAD M. DARRELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington city, in the District of Columbia, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Stamp-Canceling Devices; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to an improved means for indelibly canceling stamps by the application of a liquid which will chemically act on the coloring-matter upon the face of the stamp, and upon the fiber or material of the stamp itself, to completely discolor the one and consume or destroy the other; and it consists in the device hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of the improved device; Fig. 2, a sectional view of the same; Fig. 3, a perspective view of the dropper-tube valve and rubber cushion detached.

The handle A is of suitable shape to be conveniently grasped by the hand, and is made hollow to form a reservoir, A', to hold a quantity of liquid. The lower end of the handle is covered by a screw-cap, B, provided with a packing, b, between it and the handle, and formed with double cylindrical walls B' B², between which is secured a ring of sheet-rubber, the edge of which will project a sufficient distance from the cylinders B' B² to form an annular cushion, C, for the face of the stamp.

A tube, E, is secured to and passes through the central part of the cap B, and communicates with the reservoir in the handle, and allows a limited quantity only of the liquid from the reservoir to pass through the tube at a time, as the tube will hold but a limited amount, and as the liquid will not escape from the end of the tube until the pressure is released from the stamp, which will serve to instantly close the valve.

The upper face of the cap B forms a seat for

a valve, F, that covers the upper end of the tube E, and is permanently secured to the middle part of the needle G, the lower end of which passes down through the dropper-tube E, and projects slightly from its end, so that when the face of the stamp is pressed against an object the needle will be pushed up into the tube and the valve will be lifted from its seat to allow the liquid to flow into the tube from the reservoir. The upper end of the needle G is enveloped by a coiled spring, H, and is held in place, but allowed to slide freely in a vertical position by plates I, secured at their ends to the upper face of the cap-plate B. The spring H is interposed between the plates I and the valve, and encircles the needle G, and serves to hold the valve upon its seat and to restore it to position when it has been raised by the needle.

By the means above described a limited quantity only of the liquid will be deposited at each blow struck upon the face of the stamp, so that there will be no danger of flooding or smearing the face of the envelope by the use of the stamp. The space between the rubber and tube is filled with cotton or other absorbent material, D, that acts as a blotter upon the liquid dropped from the tube to properly spread it over the face of the stamp.

The reservoir is filled with a solution having such chemical properties as to so act upon the colored ink, or upon the fiber of the paper composing the stamp, that it will either totally change the color of the ink or destroy the fabric of the paper.

In some inks it is necessary to use an alkali, and in others an acid is required to permanently change the color of the face of the stamp. When an alkali is employed a solution of soda, potash, or ammonia will answer a good purpose, and when an acid is to be used a vegetable acid is preferably employed, such as acetic, tartaric, or oxalic acid.

When the surface to be acted upon is of such refractory nature that weak solutions will not affect it, a diluted solution of sulphuric acid may be employed, which will completely destroy the texture or surface of any fibrous material.

Although the above solutions are enumerated, I do not confine myself to the use of them, as other chemical agents may be employed, and the stamp itself may be used with any fluid
5 as a stamp-canceler, or for similar use, without departing from my invention.

I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

10 A stamp-canceling device consisting of a reservoir-handle, A, and a cap, B, provided with a dropper-tube, a spring-actuated valve, and a recess filled with fibrous blotting mate-

rial, the stem of the valve projecting beyond the outer end of the tube, so that on striking the device upon the face of a stamp a limited
15 quantity of liquid to destroy the stamp is deposited thereon and spread, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ARMISTEAD M. DARRELL.

Witnesses:

WM. H. ROWE,

A. G. HEYLMUN.