No. 769,536. PATENTED SEPT. 6, 1904.

J. Q. DIXON.

DOUBLE RETURN ENVELOP.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 2, 1904.

NO MODEL. 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1

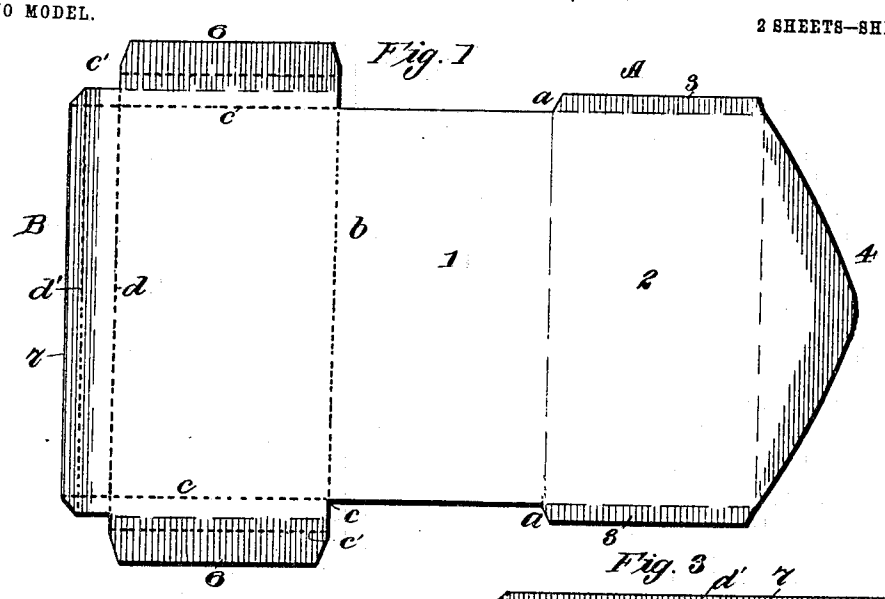


Fig. 3

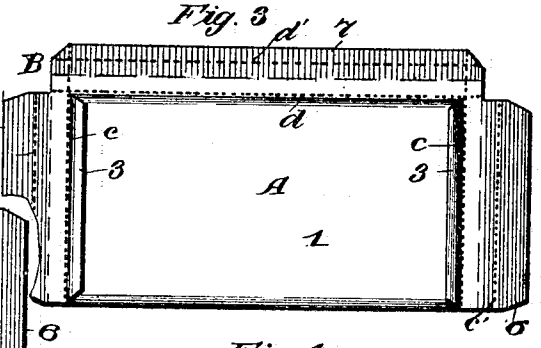


Fig. 2

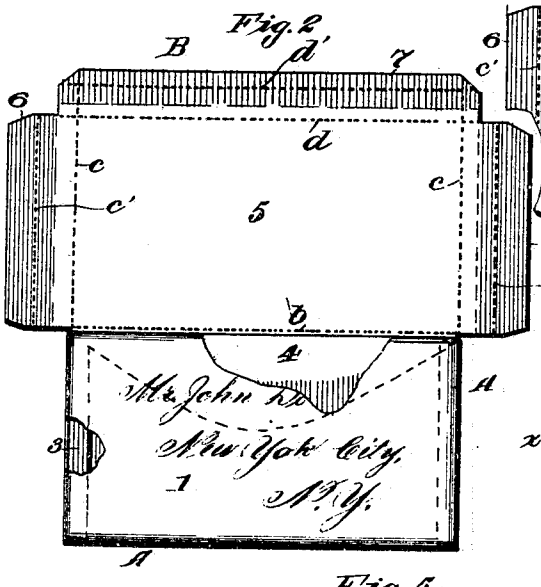


Fig. 4

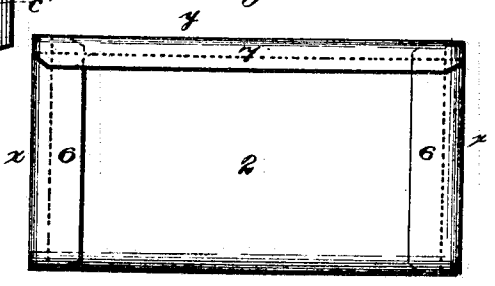
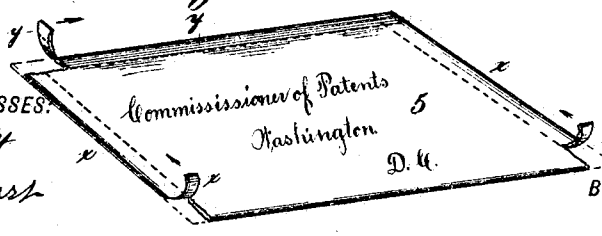


Fig. 5



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NO MODEL. 2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 6

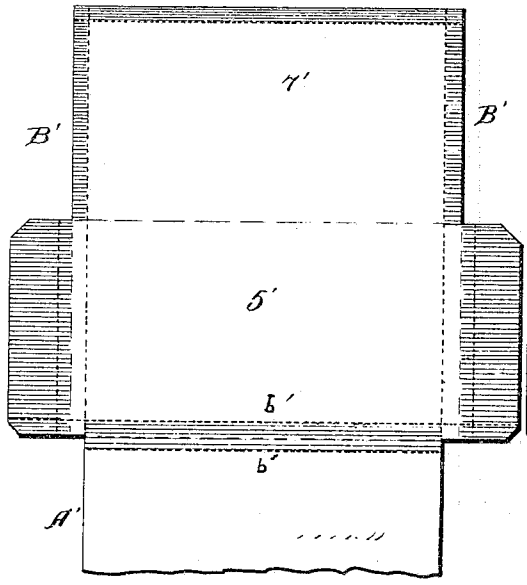


Fig. 8

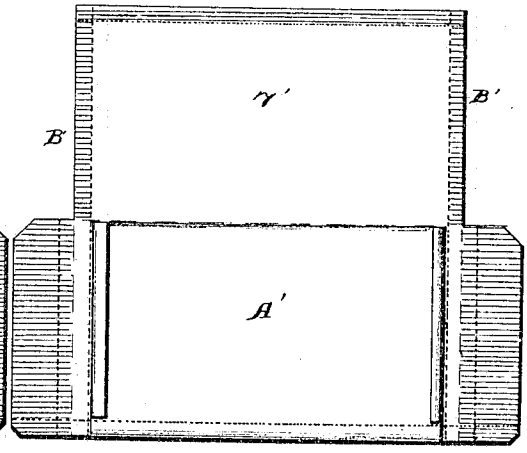


Fig. 9

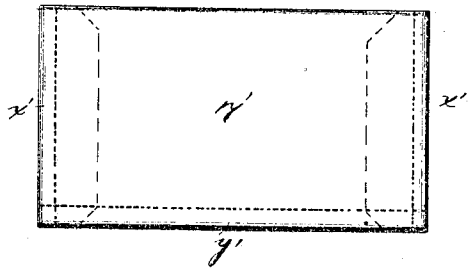


Fig. 7

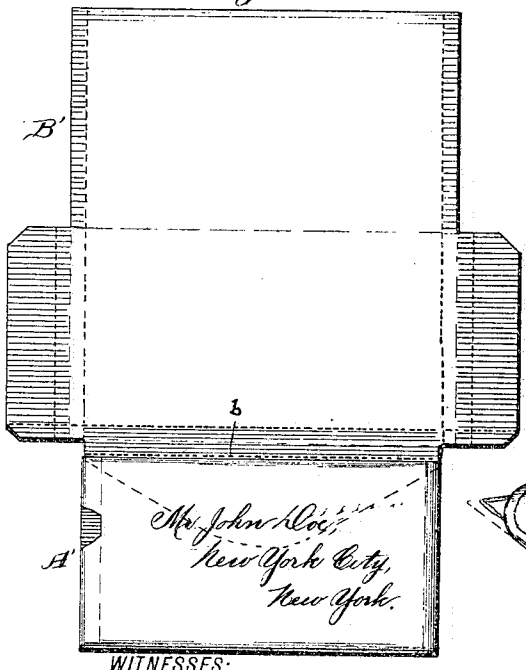
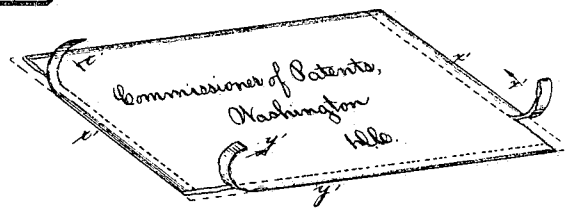


Fig. 10



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No. 769,536. Patented September 6, 1904.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES Q. DIXON, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

DOUBLE RETURN-ENVELOP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 769,536, dated September 6, 1904.

Application filed April 2, 1904. Serial No. 201,348. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES Q. DIXON, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, have invented an Improved Return-Envelop, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is an improvement in that class of envelops known as "double" or "return" envelops and which are constructed of a single blank adapted to be folded, one portion being adapted to be folded within the other and serving as the return-envelop proper when the outer portion is detached by the addressee.

The details of construction, arrangement, and combination of parts are as hereinafter described, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which illustrate two forms of return-envelops that are similar in general features and differ only in some details.

Figure 1 is a plan view of a blank from which my improved return-envelop is formed. Fig. 2 illustrates the envelop in the form assumed when the return-envelop proper has been duly folded and formed. Fig. 3 is another view illustrating the next step in the folding operation—that is to say, when the inner or return envelop is folded upon the outer one and before the gummed edges of the latter are folded upon it. Fig. 4 is a plan view of the complete envelop when duly folded and ready for transmittal by mail. Fig. 5 is a perspective view illustrating the operation of tearing off the edges of the outer envelop. Fig. 6 is a plan view of the main portion of the blank by which a modified form of envelop is produced. Figs. 7, 8, 9 correspond, substantially, to Figs. 2, 3, 4, in that they illustrate the several folding operations. Fig. 10 is a perspective view corresponding to Fig. 5 and illustrating the operation of tearing off the edges of the outer envelop.

Referring in the first instance to Figs. 1 to 5, the numerals 1 and 2 indicate the two body portions of the inner or return envelop A, and 3 4 indicate its gummed side and end flaps.

5 indicates the body portion of the outer envelop upon which the superscription or first address is applied, as shown in Fig. 5, and 6 and 7 indicate the gummed side and end flaps of the same.

a indicates a line of fold between sections 1 2 of the inner or return envelop A, and a line of perforations *b* divides the outer envelop-section 5 from the body-section 1 of the return-envelop. The end flaps 6 of the first or outer envelop are similarly separated from the section 5 by lines of perforation *c*, and the end flap 7 is similarly separated by a line of perforations *d*. The side flaps 6 are further provided with a line of perforations *c'*, which is parallel to the line *c c*, and the end flap 7 has also a corresponding line of perforations *d'*, arranged parallel to the line *d*.

It will be understood that when the side and end flaps 6 and 7 of the first or outer envelop B are folded, as indicated in Fig. 4, the lines *c* and *c'* will coincide and the lines *d* and *d'* will similarly coincide, and that both these sets of lines will be entirely outside of the inner or return envelop A. Thus the outer or return envelop will be provided with projecting edge portions which may be termed "selvages," and that the same are adapted to be torn off, as indicated in Fig. 5.

I will now indicate the manner of folding the envelop-blank. The section 2 of the inner or return envelop A is first folded on the line *a* upon the section 1, as indicated in Fig. 2, and the gummed side flaps 3 are folded upon the back or section 1 and secured thereto. An end flap 4 may be tucked in between the sections 1 2, as indicated by dotted lines, Fig. 2, since it will not be required for use in the first transmittal, or not until the envelop A is to be returned to the sender. The next step consists in folding the return-envelop A which is thus formed upon the section 5 of the outer or first envelop B, as indicated in Fig. 3. Then the side and end flaps 6 and 7 of the outer envelop B are folded inward in the position indicated in Fig. 4, the edges *x* and *y* forming projections or selvages, which are entirely outside the inner envelop A. When the letter is received by the addressee, which in this case is indicated in Fig. 5 as the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C.," in order to obtain access to the contents of the letter the project-

ing edges or selvages *x y* are torn off, as indicated in Fig. 5. As previously intimated, the lines of tear and separation are formed by the coincident lines of perforation *c c'* and *d d'*, which are indicated in Figs. 1, 2, 3. When the portions *x y* have been thus separated, the section 5 of the outer or first envelop remains attached to the return-envelop A, but is to be separated therefrom along the line of perforations *b*. When this has been done, the inner or return envelop A will be completely separated from the outer or projecting portion B, and by drawing the end flap 4 out of the pocket formed by the folded sections 1 2 and folding it upon the outer side of the section 1 the return-envelop is ready for transmittal to the addressee or original sender, whose address is applied to the outer side of section 2, as indicated in Fig. 2.

In Figs. 6 to 10 I illustrate an envelop which is in the main similar to that before described. I will briefly indicate the differences in detail. A' indicates the inner or return envelop, and B' the outer or first envelop. Instead of a single line of perforations between the two envelops, as indicated at *b* in Figs. 1 and 2, I provide two parallel lines of perforations *b'*, and the end flap 7' is made of the same size as the body-section 5'. Thus when the blank is folded the lines *b'* coincide and the intervening portion forms a gummed selvage or projection of the complete envelop. The outer or end flap 7' when folded down, as indicated in Fig. 9, completely covers the back of the inner or return envelop A'. The letter is then ready for transmittal. Upon its receipt by the addressee he tears off the side and end selvages *x'* and *y'*, (see Fig. 10,) which leaves the inner or return envelop A' free. It will be seen that in this case the outer section 7' entirely covers and protects the back of the inner or return envelop, also that the two parts A' and B' are separated in the act of removing the projection or selvage *y'*.

In both forms of envelop the inner or return portion A or A' serves as a guide or edge along which the edges of the outer envelop are torn for the purpose of obtaining access to the interior and for completely separating the two parts and that this operation is effected without danger of damage to the inner envelop. In both cases the outer envelop prevents access to the inner one until the edges are torn away, as has been indicated.

The inner envelop may serve for transmittal of an ordinary letter or for money or merchandise.

The advantages of such form of double or return envelop are apparent and well understood.

What I claim is—

1. The improved return-envelop formed of a part A comprising body-sections 1, 2, the latter having gummed side and end flaps, the former provided with two parallel perforated lines which coincide when the flaps are folded and lie entirely outside the body-sections, and the outer or protecting part comprising a body-section which is separable from the inner or return envelop by a line of perforations and provided with gummed side and end flaps having lines of perforations which coincide and lie outside the inner envelop when the blank is completely folded substantially as described.

2. The improved blank for a return-envelop consisting of a part A formed of like body-sections 1, 2, the latter having gummed side and end flaps and an outer or protecting part comprising a body-section which is separable from the return part by a line of perforations and provided with side and end flaps each having two parallel lines of perforations, the same lying outside that portion of the body-section which corresponds in size to the body-sections of the return part, substantially as described.

JAS. Q. DIXON.

Witnesses:
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E. J. O'CONNELL.