

(No Model.)

D. SKUTSCH.
SAFETY ADDRESS STAMP.

No. 464,085.

Patented Dec. 1, 1891.

Fig. 1

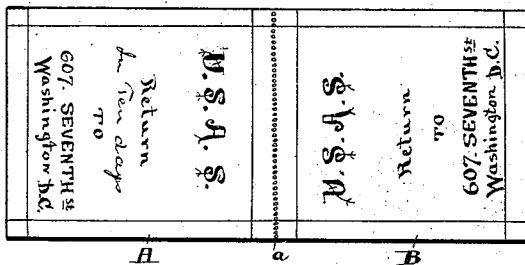


Fig. 2

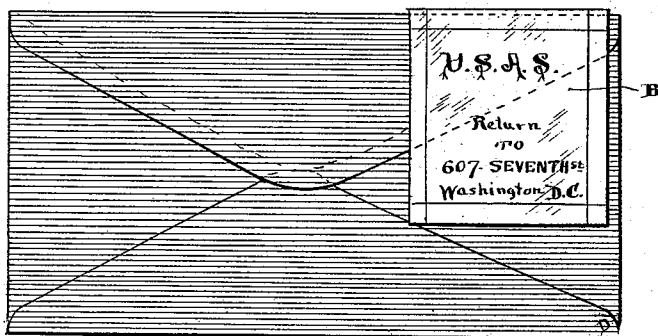
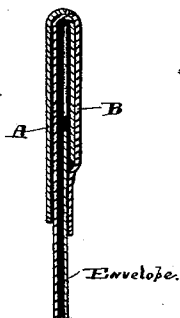


Fig. 2



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID SKUTSCH, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

SAFETY ADDRESS-STAMP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 464,085, dated December 1, 1891.

Application filed January 3, 1891. Serial No. 376,667. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DAVID SKUTSCH, of St. Louis, in the county of St. Louis and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful
5 Improvements in Safety Address-Stamp; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon,
10 which form part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a face view of my improved safety address-stamp. Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view of an envelope with a stamp applied. Fig. 3 is a rear view of an envelope
15 with stamp attached.

My invention is an improved address-stamp to be used in connection with the general means of intercommunication, notably letters, packages, and other matter transmitted
20 through the mails. Its objects are, first, to afford additional assurance to safe delivery to party addressed or otherwise increased certainty of return to the sender of the matter transmitted without unsealing thereof; second,
25 to furnish additional security against any unauthorized opening or tampering with such matter.

This invention consists in a stamp of flexible material, preferably of two or more connected parts, readily attachable to any card,
30 envelope, package, &c., and which bears an impression, imprint, design, lettering, or other suitable information on one surface in the manner and substantially as hereinafter set
35 forth. Both parts may be suitably enlarged, so as to cover the face of the envelope or package entirely and covering other portions sufficiently to give room for all necessary information to be printed thereon and to insure at
40 the same time absolute safety against surreptitious opening of any part of the same without danger of detection.

In the accompanying drawings the stamp consists of a strip or piece of flexible material adapted to be folded upon itself, forming
45 two parts A B. The part A has printed upon it the name and address of sender or any design, &c., by which the safe return of the letter to the writer, if not delivered to the addressee, is insured, and on part B is printed
50 the same or similar matter or directions.

Parts A B are connected, but distinguishable, by a division-line on which the stamp is folded, preferably a line of perforations, so that the parts can be separated and also more readily
55 folded. The printed matter on parts A B preferably face in opposite directions, though on the same side of the strip, and the opposite face of the strip is gummed, like ordinary stamps.

Where a stamp is intended to entirely cover one side of the matter transmitted, blank spaces for any suitable inscription are left upon its surface.

The use of said stamp in ordinary correspondence is in the following manner: A stamp, to be placed by the party addressed upon the envelope containing his reply to original writer, having been inclosed in the letter, or partly attached to one of the sheets
60 of the same, the letter is sealed and a safety address-stamp moistened and affixed to any suitable part of the envelope, part B being attached, say, to the back of the envelope at the flap side thereof and part A being turned
65 over the edge and attached to the front face of the envelope. Thus the stamp serves both as a seal and as a precaution against unauthorized opening of the letter and also as a means for conveying the desired information
70 exhibited thereon. In the event of the removal, change of address or name, death, or any other cause—such as illegible address, error in statement in place of destination, street-number, business, or other conceivable reason
75 for the non-delivery of the letter thus provided with a safety address-stamp—the letter will be returned to the correct address of the sender or disposed of as directed upon the stamp, and at all events, if sent to the Dead-
80 Letter Office it will be returned in accordance with the address or designation indicated on the stamp attached or inclosed. The importance of the arrangement here indicated lies principally in the fact that it overcomes suc-
85 cessfully the main cause of the loss, miscarriage, or erroneous disposition of letters caused by the haste with which the vast masses of letter-writers dash off carelessly illegible or incomplete addresses, such as a presup-
90 posed full name or confused figures on their letters.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

5 A duplex stamp for the purpose specified, consisting of a strip of flexible material entirely gummed over one of its faces and adapted to be attached to an envelope or sheet by
10 folding it upon itself over the edge of the envelope, so that its folds embrace the envelope and the gummed surfaces of the folds adhere to the opposite faces of the envelope, and having on the opposite outer faces of the

folds printed addresses or directions which will thus appear on the front and back of the envelope and be permanently attached thereto, substantially as set forth.

15 In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

D. SKUTSCH.

Witnesses:

C. W. SEVILLE,
J. R. MANSFIELD.