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ENVELOP.

997,999.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE J. HARTKE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Envelops, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to an envelop of the class shown and described in Letters Patent No. 532,206 granted January 8th, 1895, to A. D. Klaber which is known to the trade by the name "Neostyle."

The Neostyle envelop as shown in the patent and as heretofore made is open to several objections. One of these is that during the filling operation the loose side flap is held in place only by reason of the fact that it projects a short distance beneath, or, to state it differently, is partly overlapped by the adjacent side of the bottom flap but otherwise it is not engaged by any part of the envelop that would have a tendency to hold it in place. Being loose and disengaged, except as aforesaid, when the envelop is being filled, it is sometimes forced upward and outward and freed from engagement with the bottom flap. This is apt to happen frequently unless the operator is experienced. Another objection to the Neostyle envelop as heretofore made is that even after it is filled and sealed, the loose flap is sometimes freed from its engagement with the top and bottom flaps and forced out. This may happen when pressure is suddenly exerted upon the sealed envelop, especially when several of them are piled up, one upon another, immediately after being sealed. When first sealed a considerable volume of air is imprisoned in the envelop and the sudden expulsion of this air incident to compressing the pile of envelops, blows the loose flap out. Again the loose flap is sometimes forced out as the mail is being distributed or otherwise handled. This will happen if the envelop with its inclosure is so handled that the inclosure is thrown against the loose flap, especially if the inclosure is heavy. It has been proposed to overcome these objects by providing the loose side flap with a tongue in the form of a hook, and so uniting the fixed side flap and the bottom flap as to form a pocket which is occupied by the hook and the stop for engaging the hook and preventing it from being accidentally withdrawn from the pocket. In the manufacture of this im-

proved Neostyle envelop, in the precise form in which it was first proposed to make it, some difficulties in the application of the gum were encountered and it was also found desirable to change the shape of the pocket in order to avoid the possibility of tearing the hook, when the loose flap is intentionally withdrawn for inspecting the contents of the envelop.

The object of the present invention is to provide an envelop which has all the advantages of the Neostyle modified as above described and which, at the same time shall be free from the objections last above pointed out.

To this end the invention consists in the features of novelty that are hereinafter described.

In the accompanying drawing which is made a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a diagrammatic representation of a partly folded blank from which an envelop embodying the invention is made. Fig. 2 is a similar view of the envelop completed and in readiness to be loaded and sealed.

A represents the front of the envelop, B the top or sealing flap, C the bottom flap, D the loose side flap and E the remaining side flap, the flaps C and E being fixedly secured together as hereinafter described.

Both figures of the drawing show the side flaps folded to the positions which they occupy in the completed envelop, Fig. 1 shows the top and bottom flaps as they appear in the blank, the positions which they occupy in the completed envelop, after the blank is folded on the dotted lines *a* and *a'*, being indicated by the dotted lines *b* and *c*, respectively.

In folding the envelop, the side flap E, is first folded down upon the front A. The loose side flap D is then folded down upon the front, and also upon the side flap E to the extent of a portion which overlaps it. The bottom flap C is then folded down upon the front A and also upon both of the side flaps. A portion of the bottom flap overlaps and lies upon the outside of a portion of the loose side flap but they are not united in any way. A portion of the bottom flap C also overlaps and lies upon the outside of a portion of the side flap E, and limited areas of the surfaces of their overlapping portions are fixedly united or secured together by any suitable adhesive substance as shown by the shade lines F, thus leaving other limited

areas of the surfaces of the overlapping portions ununited forming a pocket as shown at *f*. This adhesive substance may be applied to either or both of the said flaps, C and E, indifferently. The shade lines on the several flaps are not intended to show to which of the flaps the adhesive substance is initially applied, but, rather, to show the relative areas of the united and the ununited surfaces of the overlapping portions of the several flaps when the envelop is complete and sealed or ready to be sealed, which may be done by the line of gum *b'*, on flap B.

It will be observed that the gum F unites only limited portions of the overlapping portions of the bottom flap C and the side flap E. It extends continuously and uninterruptedly completely past and around the end of the tongue *d*, thence over it and thence downward, terminating in a portion *f'*, which forms a stop adapted to engage the upwardly projecting hook *d'* formed on the tongue *d*. This stop extends downward below the top of the hook *d'* and prevents its direct movement toward the side of the envelop which carries the loose flap. The ununited portion of the overlapping portions of the flaps C and E form the pocket *f*, which is of ample size to accommodate the tongue and hook and in addition provides a clearance below the tongue which will permit it to move downward and enable the hook to clear the stop when the loose flap is purposely withdrawn. This latter is an important desideratum, because in the action of withdrawing the loose flap, the natural tendency of the pressure of the thumb thereon, is to move it downward and this downward movement enables the tongue to be withdrawn from the pocket without bringing the hook in contact with the stop *f'*, whereby the liability of tearing the hook is avoided. On the other hand, when the envelop is being loaded, and its front and back necessarily spread apart, the tendency will be for the loose flap to move upward and escape from beneath the overlapping edge of the bottom flap, but this upward

movement relatively to the bottom flap is absolutely prevented by the engagement of the tongue with the stop. In the form originally contemplated, the pocket was the result of a complete interruption in the line of gum and the hooked tongue projected through this interruption. It was found however that, in applying the gum, there was a tendency to spread outward from the edges of the gummer and when applied would have an irregular or ragged outline, whereas in order to avoid its coming in contact with any part of the loose flap and at the same time bring it to the necessary close proximity to the hook, it must be applied with considerable nicety. This is one of the reasons for making the line of gum continuous in the vicinity of the hooked tongue but in addition to this advantage in the manufacture, the continuity of a line of gum makes the completed envelop stronger.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

As a new article of manufacture, an envelop having a front, and bottom flap and a fixed side flap, said bottom and side flaps having overlapping portions, a loose side flap opposite the fixed side flap, having a tongue provided with a hook presented upward and lying between said fixed side flap and the bottom flap, and a line of gum uniting limited surface areas of said overlapping portions of the bottom flap and fixed side flap and leaving limited surface areas of said overlapping portions ununited, thereby forming a pocket which is occupied by said hooked tongue and leaves clearance below it, the line of gum extending continuously around the end and over the top of the hooked tongue and thence downward forming a stop for engaging the hook of the tongue and preventing its upward or outward movement.

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Witnesses:

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