June 21, 1927. 1,633,369

W. H. HOLLAR, JR

ENVELOPE

Filed June 12, 1926

FIG. I.

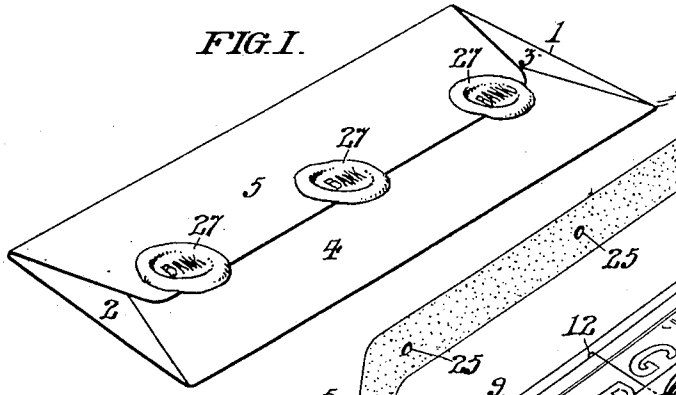


FIG. II.

FIG. III.

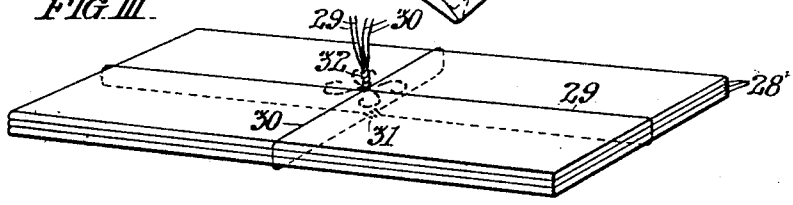
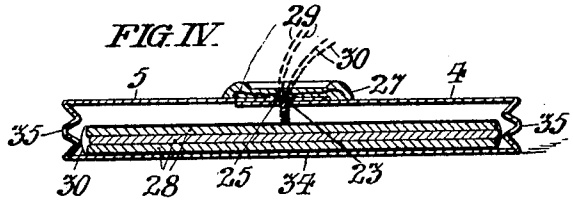


FIG. IV.



INVENTOR:
WILLIAM H. HOLLAR, JR.
by William E. Page
Attorney.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. HOLLAR, JR., OF DREXEL HILL, PENNSYLVANIA.

ENVELOPE.

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It is the present practice for banks and other fiduciary organizations to transmit, by mail, valuable documents, such as stock and bond certificates, promissory notes, and other negotiable instruments, in envelopes provided with ordinary sealing means. Despite the usual precautions; such envelopes may be fraudulently opened by any person having temporary custody of the same, and without any indication upon the exterior of such an envelope that it has been thus opened. Thefts of such documents under such circumstances are frequently effected and, in most cases, without discovery of the guilty party; because of the large number of persons through whose hands such mail passes. If such mail is officially registered or insured; the loss falls directly upon the Government which is also burdened with the cost of maintenance of what is termed the "Secret Service," the principal purpose and function of which is to minimize, as far as possible, such losses.

Therefore, the principal object and effect of my invention is to provide an envelope with means so constructed and arranged that it may be utilized to seclude such documents, in such manner that whenever the envelope is opened, that fact is manifested by its sealing means which are continually exposed for inspection. In the form of my invention hereinafter described, such an envelope includes a flexible member extending within the envelope closure, of such character as to securely engage a document therein and having its ends presented exterior to the envelope where they may be imbedded in a seal of frangible material; so that, although such document secluding means is in no sense "burglar proof", it is of such character as to manifest both to the official registry clerk who receives it for mailing and to the ultimate recipient addressee, if any attempt has been made to open it.

My invention includes the various novel features of construction and arrangement hereinafter more definitely specified.

In said drawings; Fig. I is a perspective view of an envelope embodying my invention in triple sealed condition for mailing, or other transmission.

Fig. II is a perspective view of said envelope, in which a document has been secured by quadruple binding means and which is ready for sealing.

Fig. III is a perspective view, showing a plurality of documents secured together by double binding means, in accordance with my invention, but of simpler form than is indicated in Fig. II.

Fig. IV is a transverse, sectional view of an envelope of bellows form, adapted to seclude such a package of a plurality of documents as is indicated in Fig. III, but which may be expanded or contracted to contain a larger or smaller package.

In each of said forms of my invention, the envelopes are conveniently formed of a primarily plane sheet of heavy tough paper 1 having inner flaps 2 and 3 and outer flaps 4 and 5; said flaps 2, 3, and 4 being stuck together with suitable adhesive material, and said flap 5 being left open as in Fig. II, but provided with dried adhesive material 7 at the edge thereof which may be moistened to cause it to adhere to the other flaps in the closed position shown in Fig. I.

Referring to the form of my invention shown in Figs. I and II; the holder for the document or documents 9 is a quadruple binder, conveniently formed of fine copper wires 10, 11, 12, and 13. As indicated, said binder 10 extends longitudinally with respect to the document 9, forming a bight encircling it intermediate of its width; the ends of said binder being twisted together at 15. Said binders 11, 12, and 13 extend transversely with respect to said document 9, forming bights encircling the same with their ends engaging the binder 10; the ends of said binders being separately twisted together at 16, 17 and 18.

Said inside envelope flaps 2 and 3 have respective perforations 20 and 21 registering with the end perforations of the series of three perforations 23 in the envelope flap 4; and the ends of said wire binders 10, 11, 12, and 13 are primarily extended through said registered perforations in the envelope flaps, as indicated in Fig. II. Said envelope flap 5 has a series of three perforations 25 adapted to respectively register with said perforations 23 in the envelope flap 4, when said flap 5 is folded to closed position, as shown in Fig. I. Preliminary to such closure of the flap 5, the adhesive 7 thereon is moistened and the binder wires aforesaid thrust through the respective perforations 25 which register therewith. Thereupon, said flap 5 may be pressed to cause the adhesive 7 to stick to the flaps 2, 3 and 4. The ends of the binder wires 10, 11, 12 and 13 are

then bent upon the exterior of the envelope, substantially parallel with the flap 5, and imbedded in sealing means 27 including a body of frangible material, such as ordinary sealing wax, fused upon the exterior of the envelope and adherent thereto.

In the form of my invention shown in Figs. III and IV; a plurality of three documents 28 are packed in a single bundle secured with the binder comprising the wires 29 and 30 respectively encircling the same longitudinally and transversely. Said wires are primarily twisted together in transverse relation at 31, intermediate of their length, and have their ends twisted together at 32 for extension through the flaps of the envelope. Of course, such package may be inserted in an envelope of the specific construction shown in Figs. I and II; the ends of the wires 29 and 30 being extended through the perforations 23 and 25 respectively intermediate of the length of the envelope flaps 4 and 5, and said binder ends be bent and secured by the central sealing means 27 as above described. However, for packages comprising a plurality of documents, I find it preferable to provide an envelope of bellows form, as indicated at 34 in Fig. IV; it being understood that the bellows edges 35 of such an envelope are extensible transversely to the plane of its flaps 4 and 5 to receive more or less bulky packages of documents 28, or other articles. As indicated in Fig. IV; the ends of the wires 29 and 30 which are primarily extended together through the registered openings 23 and 25 in the respective envelope flaps 4 and 5, are bent substantially parallel with the plane of said flap 5 and imbedded in the sealing means 27.

Of course, my invention is applicable for transmission of articles other than negotiable paper documents. For instance, envelopes of the type indicated in Fig. IV may be used to inclose boxes of jewelry, laces, and other commercial articles of value.

So far as I am aware, it is broadly novel to provide an envelope with article holding means extending from the outside to the inside of the envelope, through the wall of the latter, in such position as to directly engage an article within the envelope, and hold the flaps of the envelope together and in such position as to be imbedded in sealing means exterior to the envelope. However, generic claims for envelopes of that character are included in my copending application Serial No. 100,330 filed April 7, 1926 for Letters Patent of the United States, with specific claims for such envelopes provided with means particularly adapted for securing lock keys. Therefore, I do not desire to limit myself to the precise details of construction, arrangement, or method of use of my invention above described, as it is obvious that various modifications may be made therein without departing from the essential features of my invention, as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. The combination with an envelope formed of flexible sheet material, comprising overlapped and adherent flaps, and normally open only at one edge and there provided with a closure flap; of binding means for securing an article of approximately the dimensions of the interior of said envelope, including a plurality of flexible wires arranged to encircle such article longitudinally and transversely, the ends of said holder wires being twisted together and extended outwardly through registered perforations in said overlapped flaps; the ends of said holder wires being bent exterior to said closure flap, substantially parallel with the latter; and sealing means including a plurality of bodies of frangible material, fused upon the exterior of said envelope, and adherent thereto, and respectively imbedding the ends of said transversely extending binder means; whereby it is necessary to break a plurality of said seals to release the article from said inclosure.

2. The combination with an envelope formed of flexible sheet material, including adhesive flaps, and normally open only at one edge and there provided with a closure flap; of holding means for securing an article of approximately the dimensions of the interior of said envelope, including a plurality of flexible wires arranged to encircle such article longitudinally and transversely, the ends of said holder wires being twisted together and extended outwardly through registered perforations in said overlapped flaps; and sealing means including a plurality of bodies of frangible material, fused upon the exterior of said envelope, and adherent thereto, and respectively imbedding the ends of said holder wires; whereby it is necessary to break a plurality of said seals to release the article from said inclosure.

3. The combination with an envelope formed of flexible sheet material, including overlapped flaps, and normally open only at one edge and there provided with a closure flap; of holding means for securing an article of approximately the dimensions of the interior of said envelope, including means arranged to encircle such article, longitudinally and transversely; said holding means being extended outwardly through perforations in said overlapped flaps; and sealing means including a plurality of bodies of frangible material, upon the exterior of said envelope, and adherent thereto, and respectively engaging the extended parts of said holding means; whereby it is necessary to break a plurality of said seals to release the article from said inclosure.

4. The combination with an envelope; of

article holding means for securing an imperforate article, including a plurality of flexible elements arranged to encircle such article, the ends of said holder elements being extended outwardly through perforations in said envelope; and sealing means including a plurality of bodies of frangible material, exterior to said envelope, attached thereto, and respectively engaging the ends of said holder elements; whereby it is necessary to break a plurality of said seals to release the article from said inclosure.

5. The combination with an envelope; of holding means for securing an imperforate article in the envelope inclosure, including a flexible element arranged to encircle such article and having its ends extending to the exterior of said envelope in different regions, in spaced relation; and respective sealing means, upon the exterior of said envelope, independently securing the respective ends of said holding means, in spaced relation.

6. The combination with an envelope, normally open only at one edge and there provided with a closure flap; of holding means for securing an imperforate article in the envelope inclosure, including a flexible element arranged to encircle such article and extend through a perforation in said flap; and sealing means including a body of frangible material, fused upon the exterior of said envelope, and adherent thereto, and imbedding the ends of said holder element; whereby it is necessary to break said seal to release the article from said inclosure.

7. The combination with an envelope; of holding means for securing an imperforate article in the envelope inclosure, including an element arranged to encircle the exterior of said article and having a protruding element extending exterior to said envelope; and frangible sealing means, upon the exterior of said envelope, arranged to engage said protruding element; whereby it is necessary to break said seal to release such article from said envelope.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, this eleventh day of June, 1926.

WILLIAM H. HOLLAR, JR.