

1,057,840.

Fig. 6.

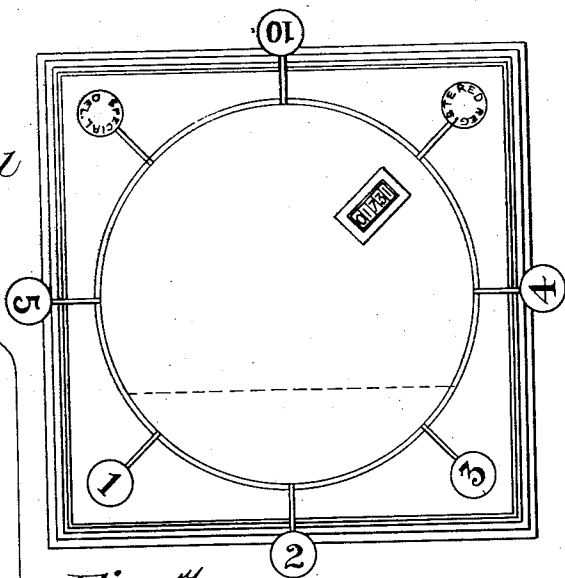
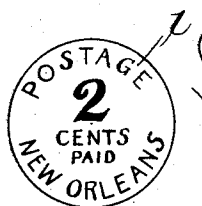
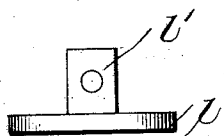


Fig. 1.

Fig. 7.

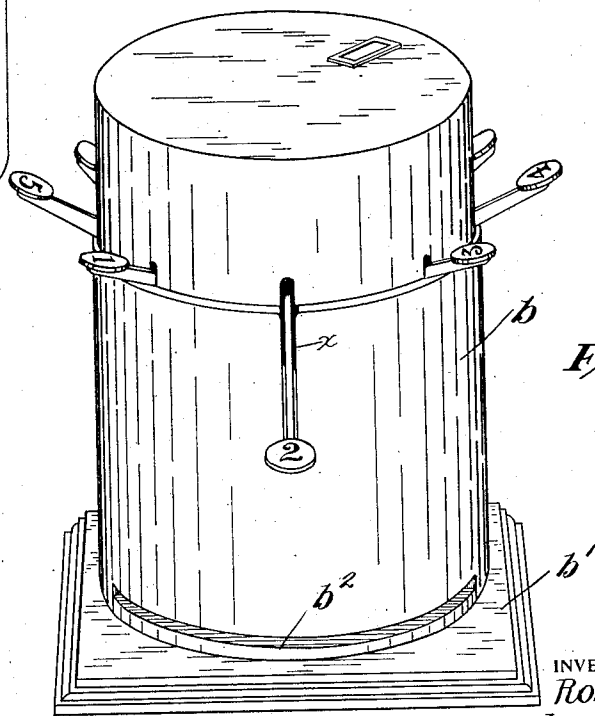


Fig. 2.

WITNESSES

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POSTAGE STAMPING MACHINE.
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Patented Apr. 1, 1913.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

1,057,840.

Fig. 3.

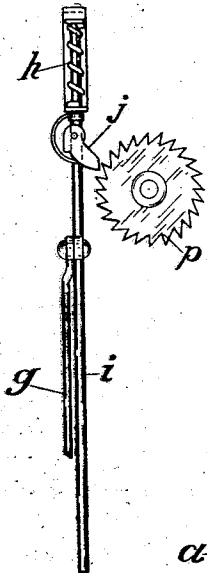


Fig. 4.

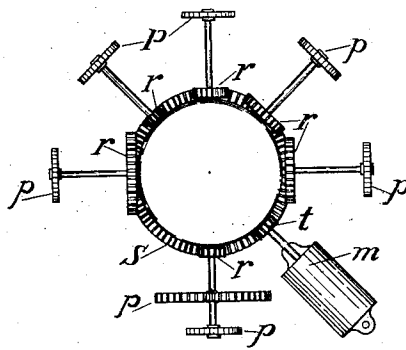
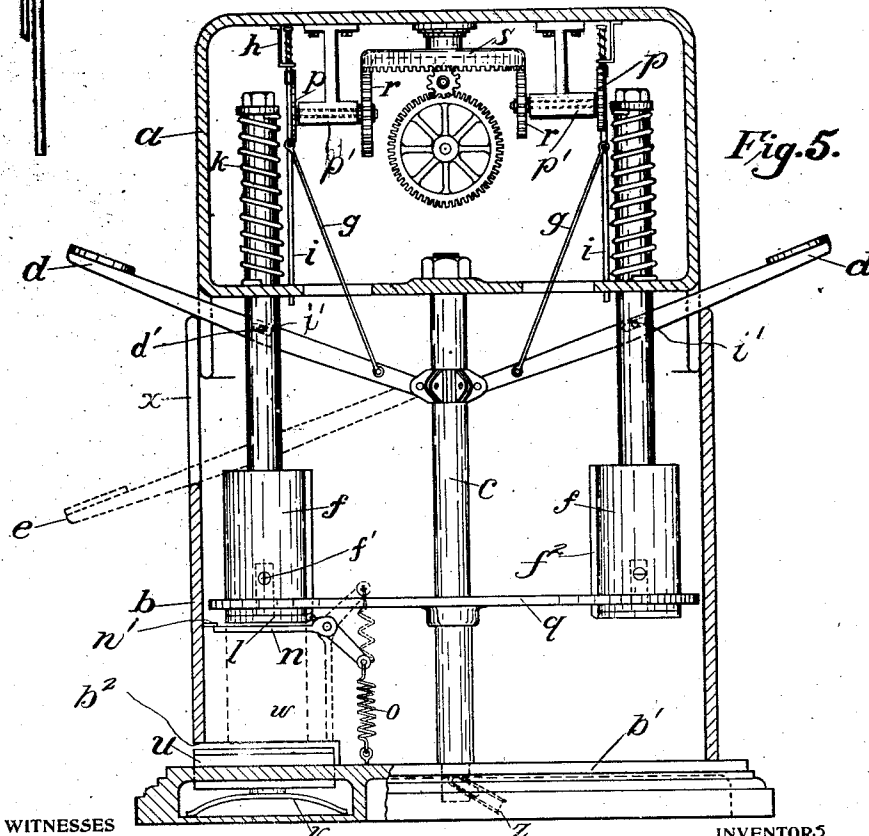


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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POSTAGE-STAMPING MACHINE.

1,057,840.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Apr. 1, 1913.

Application filed November 13, 1912. Serial No. 731,219.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, ROBERT J. JOBIN and JOSEPH A. PRAT, citizens of the United States, residing at New Orleans, in the parish of Orleans and State of Louisiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Postage-Stamping Machines; and we 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.

Our invention relates to improvements in postage stamping machines, and it consists in the constructions, combinations and arrangements herein described and claimed.

An object of our invention is to provide an improved machine adapted to stamp the required postage amount on mail matter and to automatically register the amount so stamped.

A further object of our invention is to provide a simple and inexpensive machine adapted to stamp on various different mail matter the required amount and character of postage and also a designation of the mailing point.

In the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this application, and in which similar reference symbols indicate corresponding parts in the several views:—Figure 1 is a plan view, illustrating one embodiment of our invention; Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the construction shown in Fig. 1; Fig. 2 is a fragmentary elevation of the connection between the stamping die and registering device; Fig. 4 is a bottom view of the crown wheel and intermeshing pinions shown in Fig. 5. Fig. 5 is a vertical axial section of our improved construction; Fig. 6 is a side view of the detachable stamping die; and Fig. 7 shows the faces of several of the different stamping dies employed.

Referring to the drawings, *b* indicates a cylindrical casing formed integral with, or secured to, a base *b*¹, and provided with an aperture *b*² for the insertion of mail matter; a platen *u* being supported by a spring *v* on the base *b*¹ within said aperture. An inking pad *n* is pivotally supported on the base *b*¹ above the platen *u*, and yieldingly maintained against a stop *n*¹ by a spring *o*. A hollow cap *a* is rotatably mounted within said casing *b* by a spindle *c* journaled in the base *b*¹; said spindle being shown se-

curely maintained in position by a pad lock *z* to prevent surreptitious access to or tampering with the interior of the machine. A series of die plungers *f* are slidably mounted in the rotatable cap *a*, and normally maintained in elevated position by spiral springs *k*; said several plungers being provided with screws *f*¹ for engaging the perforated ears *l* on dies *l* for detachably securing the latter in position. The several dies *l* are formed to stamp on various different mail matter the required amount and character of postage, together with a designation of the mailing city or point; thus, Fig. 7 shows several dies for stamping, respectively, two-cents postage, "Special Delivery," and "Registered." The plungers *f* are provided with splines *f*² and extend slidably through a guide disk *q* secured to the rotatable spindle *c*; said disk being suitably apertured to prevent interference with the inking pad *n* during downward swing of the latter. A series of levers *d* are pivoted on the rotatable spindle *c* and provided with slots engaging pins *d*¹ on said die plungers *f* for actuating the latter; said levers being connected by links *g* with rods *i* slidably supported in the cap *a* and normally maintained in elevated position by springs *h* cooperating with the plunger springs *k*. The rods *i* carry spring-pressed pawls *j* in engagement with ratchet wheels *p*, which latter are secured to spindles journaled in brackets *p*¹ on the cap *a* and carry at their inner ends pinions *r* of different selected diameters in mesh with a crown wheel *s* journaled on said cap. A registering device *m* is mounted within the cap *a* in position for convenient reading from the exterior thereof, and is provided with a drive pinion *t* in mesh with said crown wheel *s*.

As shown in the drawings, the actuating levers *d* are normally locked in inoperative position by engagement with the top of the stationary casing *b*, and said casing is provided with a vertical slot *x* for permitting downward swing of the actuating lever of any desired die when the rotatable cap *a* has been shifted to bring said desired die in operative position above the inking pad *n* and platen *u*; the upper end of said slot *x* being preferably rounded to facilitate accurate positioning of the dies.

From the above description, it will be clear that each lever *d*, upon being depressed to actuate its die, will draw down the rod *i*

and rotate the corresponding pinion *r* to shift the crown wheel *s* through a distance proportionate to the diameter of said pinion; thereby actuating the registering device *m* through the pinion *t*. The several pinions *r* are formed of different diameters proportionate to the postage amounts indicated by the dies operatively connected thereto; thus the die for stamping two-cents postage will have a pinion *r* of proper diameter to shift the registering device *m* through two units, a die for stamping one cent will have a pinion of a diameter one-half that of the two-cent die, a die for stamping "Special Delivery" will have a pinion of a diameter five times that of the two-cent die, etc.

Our invention obviates the present necessity of rehandling mail which has passed through a canceling machine without proper cancellation of the postage stamps, since the impression made by our invention can be used only for the letter on which it is stamped, and the canceling machine will stamp the mailing time or date on such letter.

The use of our invention by government departments employing penalty envelopes will automatically register the amount of postage used, and in sub-stations and post-offices of the third class and fourth class, it will eliminate many of the present inconveniences and delays, and furnish an accurate account of the stamps canceled.

We have illustrated and described preferred and satisfactory constructions, but changes could be made within the spirit and scope of our invention.

We claim:—

1. In a postage stamping machine, the combination of a casing provided with an aperture for the insertion of mail matter, a revoluble cap closure for said casing, a series of stamping dies and die-actuating means

carried by said cap, a shiftable ink pad adapted to be engaged by the respective dies upon actuating of the latter, a registering device, and independent connections between said several die-actuating means and said registering device for operating the latter.

2. In a postage stamping machine, the combination of a closed casing provided with a slot and with an aperture for the insertion of mail matter, a cap revolubly mounted on said casing, a series of stamping dies carried by said cap within said casing, actuating means for said dies normally locked in inoperative position by said casing and adapted to be shifted into registry with such slot for permitting actuation of any desired die, a registering device, and independent connections between said several die-actuating means and said registering device for operating the latter.

3. In a postage stamping machine, the combination of a rotatably-mounted cap, a series of stamping dies and die actuating means carried by said cap, a gear wheel journaled concentrically within said cap, a registering device provided with a drive pinion in mesh with said gear wheel, a series of operating pinions meshing with said gear wheel, spindles carrying said several operating pinions, ratchet wheels carried by said spindles, rods slidably mounted in said cap, pawls carried by said rods in engagement with said ratchet wheels, and independent link connections between said several die-actuating means and sliding rods.

In testimony whereof, we affix our signatures, in presence of two witnesses.

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