No. 895,053. PATENTED AUG. 4, 1908.

W. D. SMITH.

QUICK OPENING ENVELOP.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 14, 1908.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1

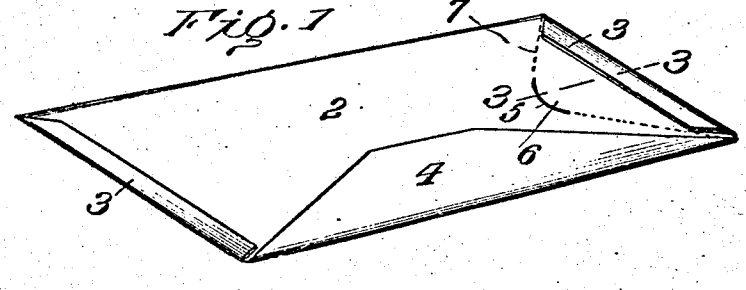



Fig. 2

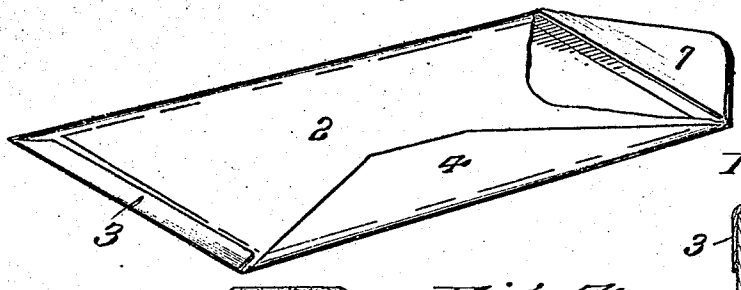



Fig. 3.

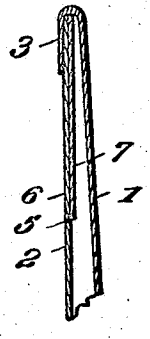



Fig. 4

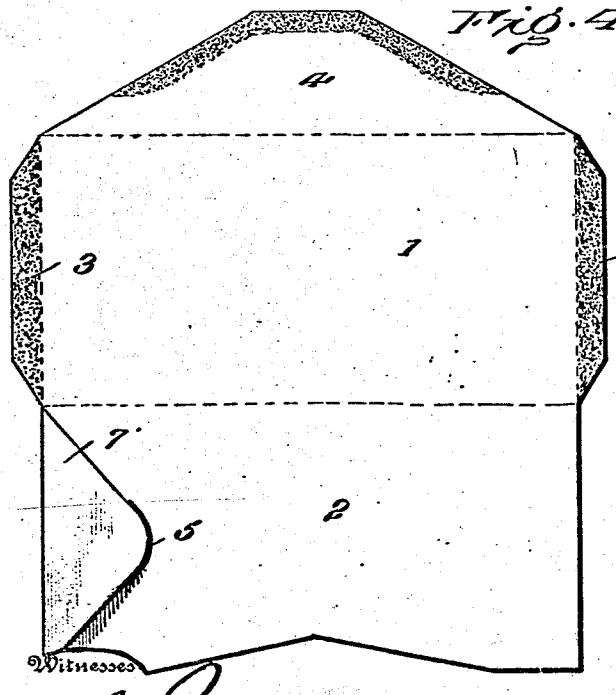
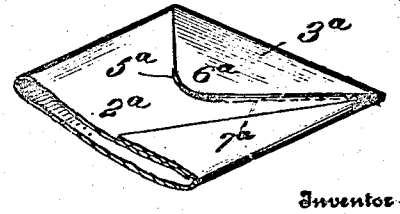



Fig. 5.




Inventor.

W. D. Smith

Witnesses

By Ramsey, Attorneys

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 8.

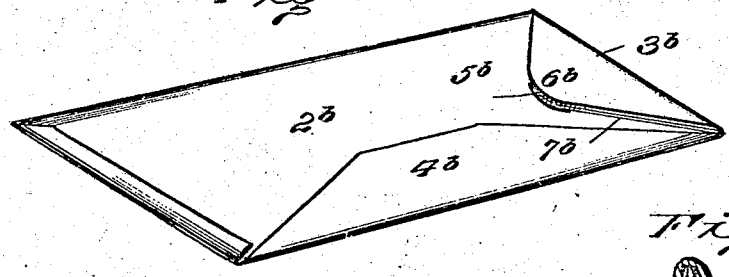



Fig. 10.

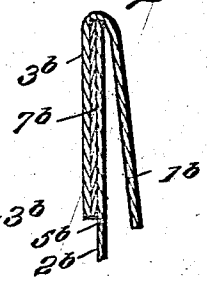



Fig. 9.

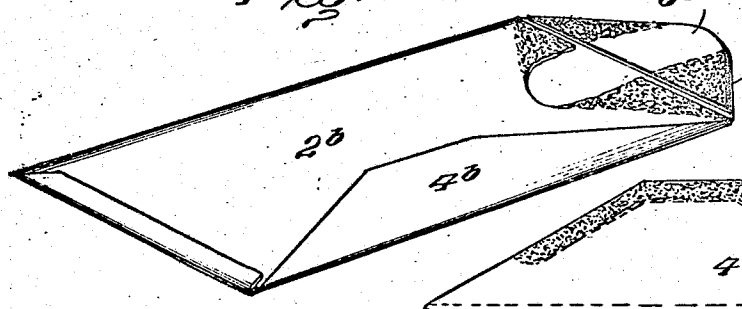



Fig. 7.

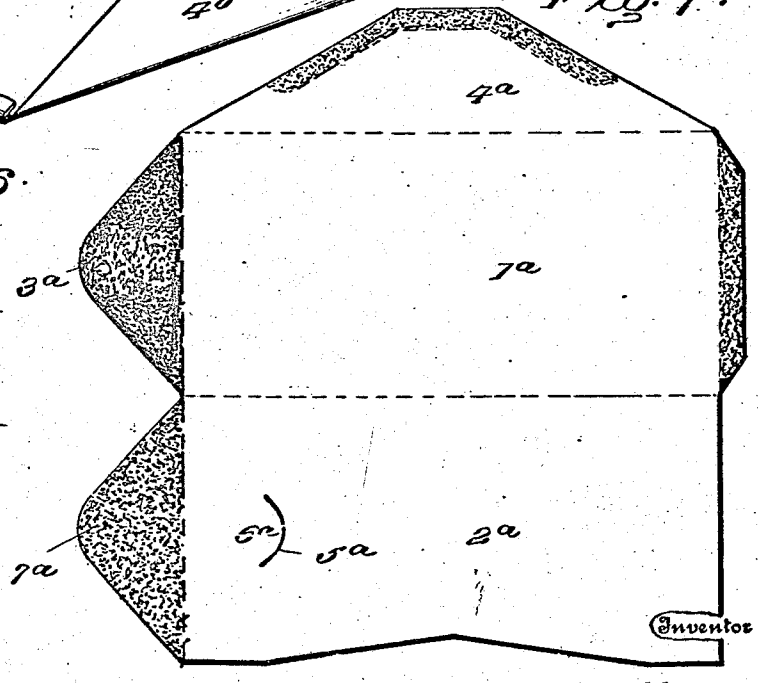
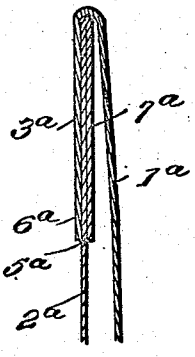



Fig. 6.




Witnesses

W. D. Smith

Inventor

By Thos. Macy, Attorneys

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WALTON DUANE SMITH, OF PROPHETSTOWN, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-THIRD TO FRED L. ADAMS AND ONE-THIRD TO JOHN A. FIRMAN, OF PROPHETSTOWN, ILLINOIS.

## QUICK-OPENING ENVELOP.

No. 895,053. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 4, 1908.

Application filed March 14, 1908. Serial No. 421,099.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WALTON D. SMITH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Prophetstown, in the county of Whiteside and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Quick-Opening Envelops, of which the following is a specification.

It is well known that the usual method of opening an envelop after the latter has been sealed, is to tear off one end of the latter, which is obviously unsatisfactory as it leaves the envelop in a ragged, unsightly condition, and which is also inconvenient since it is difficult to remove the contents of the envelop and it is generally necessary to squeeze the latter edgewise or blow into the same. Furthermore, if the inclosed letter fills the envelop flush out to the end, which is frequently the case, and the envelop is opened by tearing off one end, the contents of the envelop are necessarily mutilated.

The object of this invention is an improved and ingenious envelop, which may be effectually and quickly opened without any danger of mutilating the contents thereof, and from which the contents may be readily removed.

With this and other objects in view that will more fully appear as the description proceeds, the invention consists in certain constructions and arrangements of the parts that I shall hereinafter fully describe and then point out the novel features thereof in the appended claims.

For a full understanding of the invention and the merits thereof, reference is to be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved quick opening envelop, showing the latter sealed; Fig. 2 is a similar view thereof, showing the ripping tongue torn open; Fig. 3 is a section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1; Fig. 4 shows a blank from which my improved envelop is constructed; Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a portion of an envelop showing a modified form thereof. Fig. 6 is a longitudinal section of the modification shown in Fig. 5; Fig. 7 is a view showing the blank from which the modified form of envelop above described, is constructed; Fig. 8 is a perspective view of an envelop, showing another modification thereof, and the envelop sealed; Fig. 9 is a similar view of such modified form of envelop, showing the ripping tongue torn open; and, Fig. 10 is a sectional view of this latter form.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawings, by the same reference characters.

My improved envelop is constructed of a blank of paper or other suitable material, and comprises a front 1 and a back 2, the front being formed with end flaps 3 and a sealing flap 4. The back 2 is formed with a relatively short and preferably curved slit 5 extending therethrough and forming a ripping tongue 6, the curved ends of the slit extending towards the adjacent end of the back 2. A reinforce 7, which is preferably constructed of a separate strip, is correspondingly curved at one end to conform to the slit 5, and is secured, as by an adhesive, to the inner surface of the back 2, so as to extend over the ripping tongue 6, with its curve end in alinement with the slit 5, the side edges of said reinforce preferably diverging, as shown, and extending from the ends of the slit to the respective corners of the adjacent end of the back.

The parts of the blank are secured together in the usual way, to form the envelop, the end flaps 3 overlapping the back 2, and being pasted, or otherwise suitably secured thereto. These end flaps are preferably cut away, as shown, so as not to extend beyond the diverging edges of the reinforce 7, when pasted in position.

In the practical use of my improved envelop, after a letter or the like is inserted therein, the envelop is closed by securing the sealing flap 4 to the back 2. When it is desired to open the envelop, the end of the latter, provided with the ripping tongue 6, is bent slightly, so that the ripping tongue may be readily grasped by the thumb and finger, said tongue being then pulled toward the adjacent end of the envelop, and being obviously caused, by the reinforce 7, to tear along the diverging side edges thereof and to the respective corners of the adjacent end of the envelop. It will thus be seen that the envelop is quickly opened, and is provided with a marginal recess, by means of which the contents of the envelop are readily accessible and may be easily removed therefrom.

In one modification of the invention, as

clearly illustrated in Figs. 5, 6 and 7, the reinforce $7^a$ is formed integral with the end of the back $2^a$ adjacent to the ripping tongue $6^a$, and is folded inwardly and secured to the inner surface of the back. In this case, the end flap $3^a$ adjacent to the ripping tongue, is enlarged, and is the same size and shape as the reinforce, said end flap being secured to the outer surface of the back and extending to the slit $5^a$, to form a three-ply ripping tongue.

In another modification of the invention, (Figs. 8, 9 and 10) the end flap $3^b$ adjacent to the ripping tongue $6^b$, is enlarged and tapered, as shown, said end flap being secured to the outer surface of the back $2^b$, with its tapered end extended over the ripping tongue $6^b$ and in alinement with the slit $5^b$. In this case, the reinforce $7^b$ is preferably secured to the inner face of the end flap $3^b$, and also to the outer face of the back $2^b$. This construction is more simple than the other forms, but, however, is not so efficient, since when the ripping tongue is torn open, a portion of the back $2^b$ extends within the margin of the ripping tongue, so that after the envelop has been opened, the ripping tongue can be pasted to this marginal extension without showing that the envelop has been opened, and thus permit the same to be illegally tampered with (see Fig. 9).

From the above description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, it will be apparent that I have provided a simple, durable and efficient construction of envelop, which may be easily and cheaply manufactured at practically no increase in cost over the ordinary envelop, and which, when torn open, is left in a neat condition, so that it may be employed for filing purposes or the like, the ripping tongue being preferably torn off even with the end of the envelop, when the latter is used for filing purposes.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim is:

An envelop of the character described, consisting of a front, a back, end flaps, and a sealing flap, the back being formed with a curved slit extending therethrough and forming a ripping tongue, and a substantially triangular reinforce secured throughout its length to the inner surface of the back contiguous to the ripping tongue, with its apex in alinement with the slit and with its side edges diverging from the ends of the slit to the respective corners of the adjacent end of the envelop, the end flap adjacent to the ripping tongue being folded over and secured to the outer surface of the back between the lines of the sides of the reinforce, as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WALTON DUANE SMITH. [L. S.]

Witnesses:
P. H. SMITH,
MATTSON H. BALDWIN.