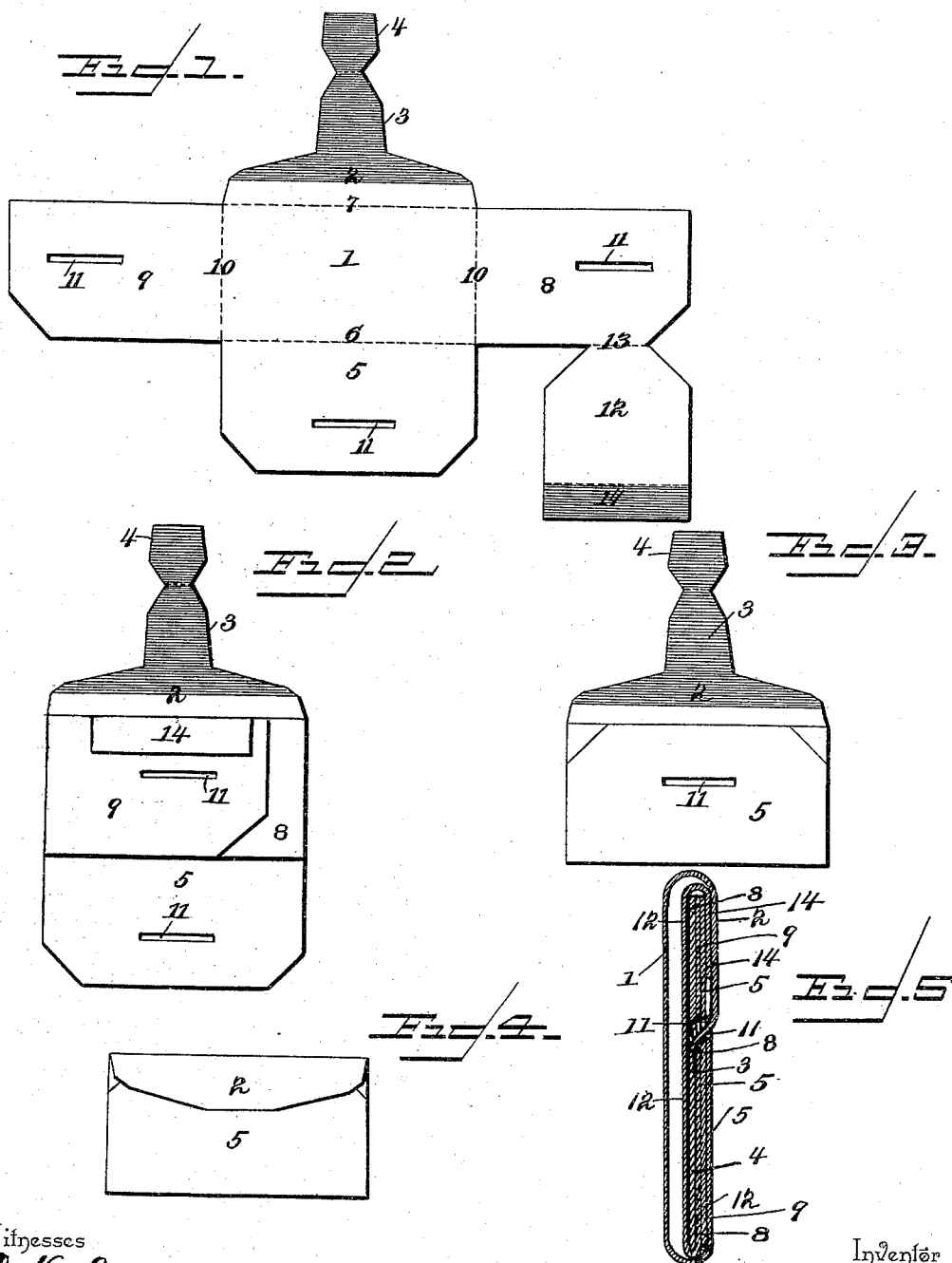


(No Model.)

J. T. WEBBER.
ENVELOPE.

No. 493,847

Patented Mar. 21, 1893.



Witnesses

E. H. Stewart.
J. H. Siggers

By *his* Attorneys,

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Inventor

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN T. WEBBER, OF RED LODGE, MONTANA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO
CHARLES W. HARDING, OF SAME PLACE.

ENVELOPE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 493,847, dated March 21, 1893.

Application filed September 29, 1892. Serial No. 447,313. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN T. WEBBER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Red Lodge, in the county of Park and State of Montana, have invented a new and useful Envelope, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in envelopes, and the object in view is to produce an envelope that may be readily manufactured at a reasonable cost, and which is so constructed as to be absolutely proof against opening without its destruction, and without evincing evidence of such opening.

In the envelope commonly used, it is a well-known fact that by the application of steam to the flap thereof the mucilage, or sticky substance with which said flap is coated, may be so softened as to render the flap easily removable, and such means has often been employed by unauthorized persons and pilferers for the purpose of inspecting the contents of the envelope and removing them if desired. After the same have been accomplished, the flap could be readily resealed and no evidence of the opening of the envelope be apparent to the receiver. By my invention, however, I propose to avoid this objection and produce an envelope having the characteristics and securing the advantages set forth in the above, whereby the same is especially desirable for use by express companies carrying money, or in the registered mails of the Government.

Referring to the drawings:—Figure 1 is a plan view of the blank, from which my envelope is constructed. Fig. 2 is a similar view, the end flaps being folded. Fig. 3 is a similar view of the envelope ready for use. Fig. 4 is a similar view of the envelope sealed. Fig. 5 is a transverse section through Fig. 4. Like numerals of reference indicate like parts in all the figures of the drawings.

In forming the envelope blank I employ what I shall term the main section 1, which is rectangular in shape and is provided at its upper side with the sealing flap 2, whose under side is coated with mucilage, or other sealing substance. The flap has its outer edge curved in the usual manner, though its point

is extended to form an elongated narrow tongue 3, whose free end, in the present instance, is folded upon itself at 4, whereby the tongue is made double. The two adjacent surfaces of the tongue are left uncoated with mucilage, while the external surfaces of both the tongue and its extension are coated. If desired this extension of the tongue may be omitted, though for purposes hereinafter apparent, I prefer to employ the same. At the lower side of the section 1 is the bottom flap 5. The section 1 and the flap 5 are divided by the longitudinal fold line 6, and the sealing flap 2 and section 1 are likewise divided by the fold line 7. At each end of the section 1, there are formed side flaps 8 and 9, which are divided from the section 1 by the fold lines 10. The outer, lower corners of these flaps 8 and 9 are preferably cut away, as shown, and said flaps are designed to fold over upon the section 1, and are of a width agreeing therewith. The flaps 8 and 9 and the bottom flap 5 are each provided with a transverse slot 11, which slots, when the said flaps are folded upon the section 1 and upon each other, all align. To the flap 8, at the lower edge thereof, there is formed an extension, or what I shall call a guard flap 12, the same being separated from the flap 8 by the fold line 13. This flap 12 is greater in length than the width of the flap 8 and is in transverse alignment with the slot 11 thereof. The surplus of stock in the flap 12 forms a folding edge 14, which is provided with a coating of mucilage, or other sticky substance. This completes the construction of the blank, whose parts are assembled, as follows:

The guard flap 12 is first folded upward upon the end flap 8, after which the latter flap is folded over and upon the section 1. The flap 9 is then folded upon the flap 8, after which the folding edge 14 is folded over and upon the flap 9 and is pasted thereto. Thus it will be seen that the flaps 8 and 9 are secured in position. The bottom flap 5 is next folded upon the flaps 8 and 9 and the folding edge. This completes the envelope, and it will be seen that the slots 11 in the three flaps all register and would extend to the interior of the envelope were it not for the guard flap,

which prevents this. The contents of the envelope having been placed in position in order to seal the same the mucilage surfaces of the flap 2, tongue 3 and its extension 4 are all dampened, and the folded tongue inserted into the slots. Such insertion is facilitated by introducing a pen-handle, pencil, paper-cutter, or other similar office device between the tongue and its extension, and thus pushing the tongue into the slot. When in position the tongue adheres firmly at each side to the guard flap on one side and the flap 8 on the other, while the sealing-flap 2 adheres to the exterior of the bottom flap 5. It will thus be seen that it is impossible to open the sealing flap by steam or other agency designed to soften the mucilage, as the tongue is guarded by the inner and outer layers of paper from the action of the steam, and any attempt to withdraw the same would be resisted to such an extent that the tongue would tear before submitting to withdrawal. The preservation of the tongue intact will be evidence that the letter has been untampered with; while its rupture will bear evidence of tampering. As the slots occur immediately at the junction of the tongue with the sealing flap, and said sealing flap is held securely against the surface of the envelope, there is no chance of any mail matter, or other object with which the envelope may come in contact, of becoming interposed between the tongue and envelope and accidentally rupturing the same.

35 An envelope constructed as herein described, is particularly adapted for use by express and other messenger companies, as well as the mails, when employed for transmitting letters of importance, or those containing remittances.

40 Having described my invention, what I claim is—

1. The herein-described envelope, consisting of the rectangular section 1, the folding

bottom flap 5, the side flaps 8 and 9, each of which is provided with a corresponding slot which aligns when the flaps are folded upon the section 1, the sealing flap 2 at the upper edge of the section 1 and provided with a centrally extending tongue having a coating of mucilage and adapted to be inserted within the slots, and the guard flap 12 adapted to fold upon and extending from the lower edge of the side flap 8 and at its upper edge adapted to fold outward upon the flaps 8 and 9, substantially as specified.

2. The herein-described envelope, consisting of the main section 1, provided at its opposite ends with the flaps 9 and 8, the bottom flap 5 at the lower edge of the section 1, and corresponding slots 11 formed in the sections 8, 9 and 5, the sealing flap at the upper edge of the section 1 whose point is extended to form a tongue provided near its free end with an extension, the outer sides of the tongue and extension being coated with mucilage and adapted to be inserted into the slots 11, and the guard flap 12 secured to the lower edge of the flap 8 and provided at its free end with an extension edge adapted to fold over upon the side flaps and sealed thereto, substantially as specified.

3. The herein-described envelope, the front wall of which is provided with a transverse slot, and the sealing flap of which is provided with a central extension or tongue whose end is folded over upon itself and whose outer sides are provided with mucilaged surfaces adapted to enter the slot, substantially as specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JOHN T. WEBBER.

Witnesses:

T. C. ROSS,
ROGER FLEMING.