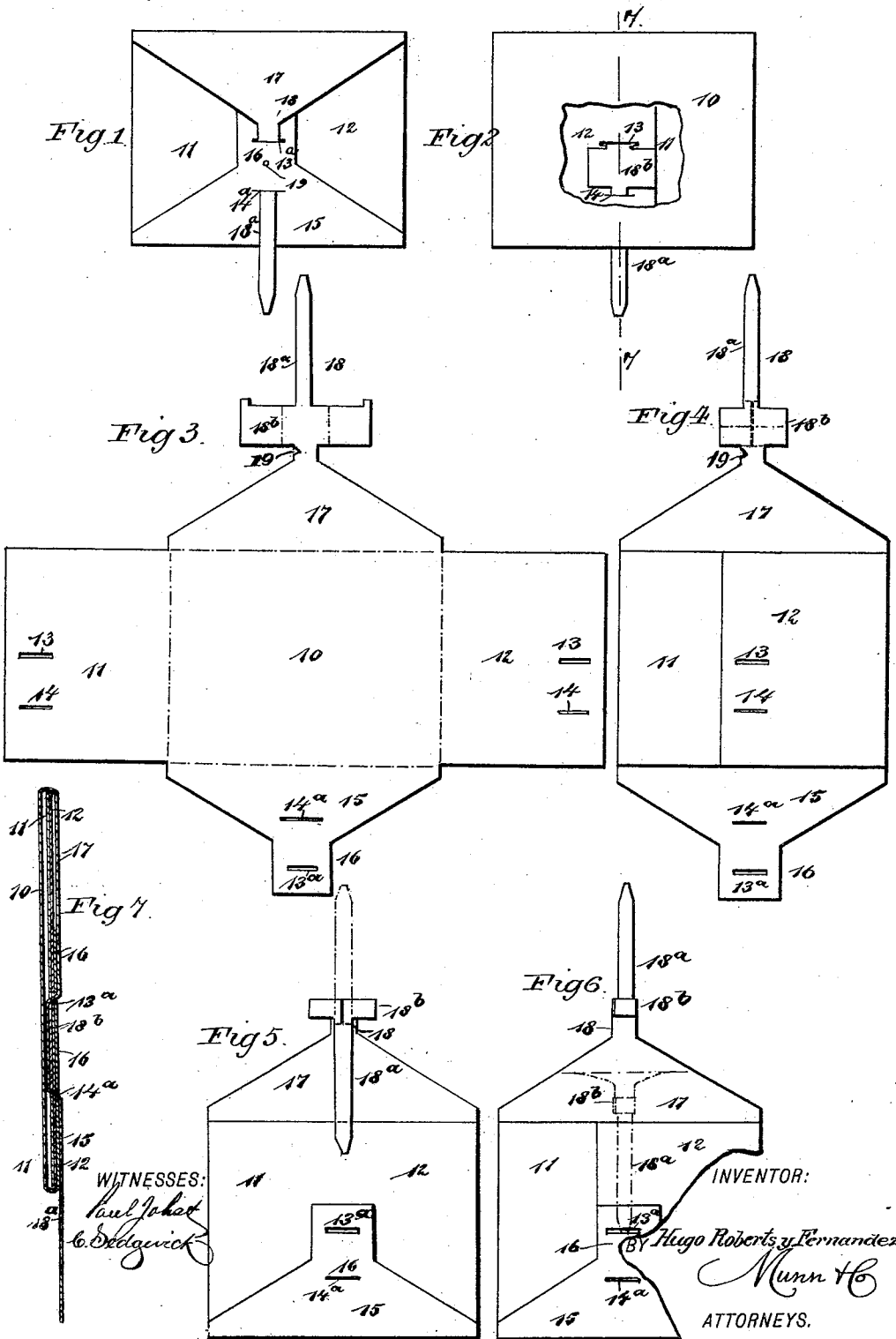


(No Model.)

H. ROBERTS Y FERNANDEZ.
ENVELOPE.

No. 484,674.

Patented Oct. 18, 1892.



WITNESSES:

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ENVELOPE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 484,674, dated October 18, 1892.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HUGO ROBERTS Y FERNANDEZ, of Havana, Cuba, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Envelopes, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to an improvement in envelopes, and has for its object to construct an envelope from but one piece and to provide a means whereby glue or a cement will not be needed in fastening the parts of the envelopes together, and whereby when said parts are united the envelope cannot be entered without tearing sundry of the parts; and a further object of the invention is to provide a means of fastening which will be novel, simple, and effective and capable of being conveniently and expeditiously manipulated by any person.

The invention consists in the novel construction and combination of these several parts, as will be hereinafter fully set forth, and pointed out in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar figures of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a rear elevation of the envelope sealed. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the envelope, it being in the same position shown in Fig. 1 and the front of the envelope broken away to disclose the fastening device in position. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the blank from which the envelope is formed. Fig. 4 is a plan view of the blank partially folded. Fig. 5 is a plan view of the envelope viewed from the back, illustrating a further step in the method of folding. Fig. 6 is a view similar to Fig. 5, illustrating the last movement performed in securing the envelope; and Fig. 7 is a central vertical section through the sealed or closed envelope, the section being taken on the line 7 7 of Fig. 2.

The blank from which the envelope is constructed is formed as shown in Fig. 3. The body 10 of the blank, or what may be termed the "body," is rectangular in shape, as indicated in dotted lines. The body is provided with two side flaps 11 and 12, which flaps are of a width equal to the width of the body and of such length that when the flaps are folded over upon the body they will fold one

upon the top of the other, the lower flap extending some little distance beneath the upper one. Each of the flaps is provided with two transverse slots 13 and 14, the upper slot 13 being located in each case at or near the center and near the outer edge, the lower slot 14 being placed about an equal distance between the lower edge of the flap and the upper slot immediately beneath the latter. The lower portion of the body is adapted to be closed by a flap 15, which is angular in form, somewhat triangular in part, the point of the free angle being truncated, and on this truncated portion a square extension 16 is produced, constituting an integral portion of the flap. In the extension 16 a slot 13^a is transversely made, and a second slot 14^a is produced in the body of the flap parallel with the slot 13^a. The slots 13^a and 14^a are the same distance apart as the slots 13 and 14 of the side flaps, so that by this arrangement when the side flaps are folded one upon the other the slots produced therein are brought in registry, and when the lower flap is folded up upon the side flaps the slots 13^a and 14^a therein register with the slots of the side flaps. The body is further provided with an upper flap 17, which is essentially of the same shape as the lower flap, except that the square extension 16 is substituted by a cross-shaped appendage 18, which may be denominated a "tongue." This tongue 18 comprises a straight or body arm or member 18^a and a cross arm or member 18^b of much greater width and located near the body of the flap.

In Fig. 4 the side flaps are shown as folded one upon the other. In Fig 5 the lower flap is shown as folded up upon the side flaps, which now constitute the back of the envelope, and in Fig. 4 the cross member 18^b of the tongue is illustrated as being folded over upon itself at each end upon the score-lines shown in Fig. 3, whereby this member of the tongue is doubled and reinforced, and the folded parts may be glued one to the other, if so desired.

When it is desired to close the envelope, the operation is as follows: The cross member of the tongue is bent upon itself longitudinally upon the score-line shown in Fig. 4, whereupon the straight portion of the tongue will be carried downward, as illustrated in

Fig. 5, and the width of the cross-arm will be reduced by half. The straight member 18^a of the tongue is then carried upward to the position shown in dotted lines, Fig. 5, crossing the cross member 18^b, and the ends of this cross member are then folded over upon each other and upon the straight member, as shown in Fig. 6. Thus the tongue is reduced, practically, to an equal width throughout its length, and it is introduced first through the slots 13^a and 13 of the side and lower flaps, and thence out through the lower slots 14^a and 14, as indicated in Fig. 1. In Fig. 6 the tongue is illustrated in dotted lines as just entering the upper slots.

By reducing the width of the cross member of the tongue that member may be carried through the upper slot, and remains folded temporarily within the envelope. By taking the envelope in one hand and pressing it at top and bottom or at the sides, so as to spread it, the tongue where it is connected with the upper flap may be grasped and held while the free or lower end is drawn downward. This movement will cause the cross member 18^b of the tongue to expand, as shown in Fig. 2, from which figure it will be observed that it is in the same form as before it was manipulated and as shown in Fig. 4. As the cross member of the tongue is so much wider than the slots 13^a, 13, 14^a, and 14, and lies between these slots, it will be an utter impossibility for the tongue to be removed from the body of the envelope without tearing the latter.

If in practice it is found desirable, a cut may be made in the tongue 18 of the envelope at one side, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4, in order to increase the sensibility of the tongue, and while the envelopes do not need to be glued or otherwise cemented it may be convenient in some instances to glue the edges of the tongue to the body to prevent loss of parallelism in the former.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. An envelope-blank comprising body 10, having bottom and end flaps, each provided with a pair of slots to register when the flaps are folded, and the top flap having a cruciform tongue 18, the vertical member 18^a of which is adapted to pass through the said three pairs of slots, while the transverse member 18^b is of greater width than the said slots, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. An envelope provided through its rear side with upper and lower transverse slots and with a closing flap having a cruciform tongue 18, adapted to be passed inwardly through the upper slot and outwardly through the lower slot, the transverse arm 18^b being adapted to be folded to pass through upper slot and then unfolded to prevent withdrawal of the tongue, substantially as set forth.

HUGO ROBERTS Y FERNANDEZ.

Witnesses:

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