W. THAYER.

RETURN ENVELOP.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 12, 1911.

1,091,172.

Patented Mar. 24, 1914.

FIG. I.

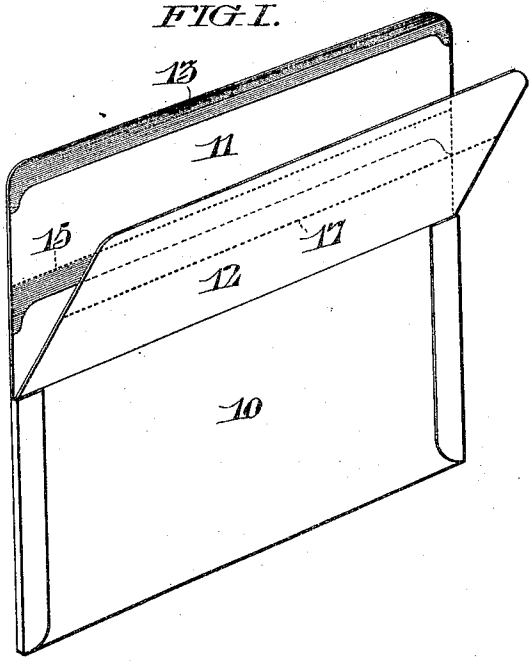


FIG. III.

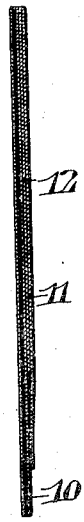


FIG. IV.

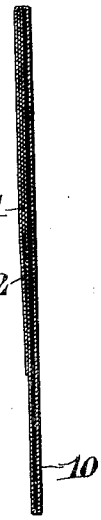
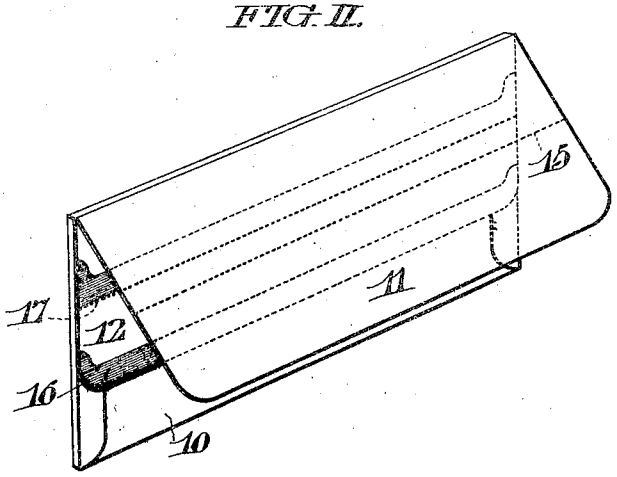


FIG. II.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WALTER THAYER, OF MERION, PENNSYLVANIA.

RETURN-ENVELOP.

1,091,172. Specification of Letters Patent. **Patented Mar. 24, 1914.**

Application filed May 12, 1911. Serial No. 626,715.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WALTER THAYER, of Merion, in the county of Montgomery and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Return-Envelops, whereof the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

The object of the invention is to provide a return envelop with free flaps along both sides of the pocket; one flap being longer that the other, and both flaps having severance lines and gummed strips on their inner adjacent faces, as will be hereinafter fully described and claimed. This object I attain by the construction shown in the accompanying drawing, in which;

Figure I is a perspective view of an envelop embodying my invention; Fig. II is a similar view showing the two flaps folded over to one side of the envelop, prior to sealing the gummed edge of the longer outer flap to the body of the envelop, below the edge of the inner shorter flap; Figs. III and IV are transverse vertical sections through the envelop in different stages of use.

My improved mailing envelop is shown in its initial condition in Fig. I where the pocket 10, is provided along one edge with a flap 11, and along the other edge with a flap 12. Flap 11, is a little longer than flap 12, to the extent of the width of the gummed strip 13, on its back.

For initial use the two flaps 11, and 12, are folded together down on one side of the envelop, (see Fig. II), and because the flap 11, is longer than the flap 12, the gummed strip 13, of the former may be used to seal the envelop without involving the shorter flap 12, which rests intact between the flap 11, and the side of the pocket 10.

For first use the address and postage stamp are placed on the exposed side of flap 11, and near its lower edge, or at least below the rouletted line 15, which facilitates the subsequent removal of the lower half of this flap.

The first receiver, after opening the envelop, by a paper opener, as far as possible, along the line of the gummed strip, tears off the part of the flap 11, below the line 15. Flap 12, is provided with a gummed strip along its lower edge, as shown at 16, and flap 11, having been shortened so as to extend only to line 15, flap 12, is now the longer of the two by the width of this gum strip, so that when the two flaps are folded coincidently down over the other side of the envelop the pocket is again closed, and may be sealed by use of the gummed strip 16, leaving intact so much as remains of flap 11. The address and postage stamp for this use are placed upon the back of flap 12, near its lower edge or at least below the rouletted line 17.

The second addressee after opening the envelop removes the lower half of flap 12, by tearing it along the line 17, so that the envelop now possesses two flaps still of unequal length, each having a single gummed strip.

The envelop can be used a third time and also a fourth time, as will be obvious from the above description.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

An envelop provided along both sides of its pocket with flaps, both of which may be folded co-incidently to either side of the pocket with alternate exposure of addressing surfaces upon each flap, said flaps being initially of different lengths, and provided on their adjacent inner faces with spaced gummed strips, said gummed strips being so spaced that the flap may be successively shortened in alternation with continual maintenance of their unequal lengths, and with the gummed portion of the longer flap beyond the edge of the shorter, thereby permitting the flap which is for the time being, the longer, to be gummed to the side of the envelop with the other flap intact beneath it.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, this eleventh day of May 1911.

WALTER THAYER.

Witnesses:
JAMES H. BELL,
E. L. FULLERTON.