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SYSTEM FOR VALIDATING MAIL BY POSTAL CERTIFICATION

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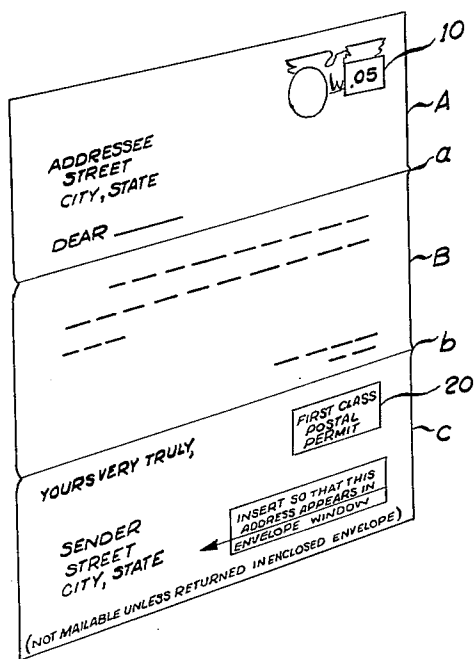


Fig. I

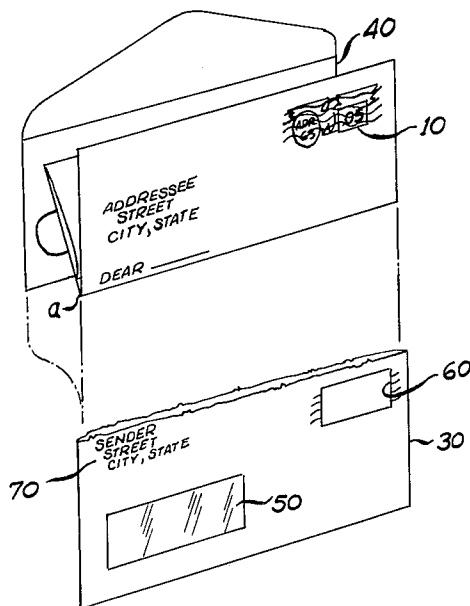


Fig. II

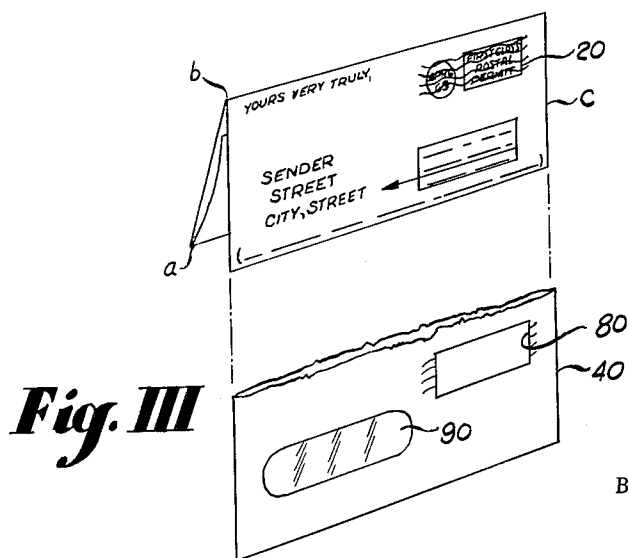


Fig. III

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**SYSTEM FOR VALIDATING MAIL BY
POSTAL CERTIFICATION**
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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in a system for validating a mailing piece such as a letter, proxy or ballot, by postal certification of time of mailing and receiving and it is among the objects thereof to apply the postage direct to the letter or other contents of a mailing envelope and expose the same for cancellation through an open window in the envelope.

Most business transactions are conducted by use of the mails; notably negotiations for the sale and purchase of goods and property because proof of mailing a letter creates the presumption that it was received by the addressee and the acceptance of a proposal made through the mails by a reply by mail is a legally binding contract. Another common and important use of the mails is to send out and receive voting proxies from stockholders of corporations. Proof of mailing and acceptance of proposals to establish existence of contractual relations or the authenticity of a voting proxy may be of great importance and legal significance.

The present invention deals with a more or less automatic or self-certifying mailing device which prima facie establishes mailing time of the original piece of mail and its return.

The invention will become more apparent from a consideration of the accompanying drawing constituting a part hereof in which like reference characters designate like parts and in which:

FIGURE 1 is a plan view of a piece of mail such as a letter or proxy;

FIGURE 2 is a view in perspective of the mail of FIGURE 1 folded for insertion in an envelope; and,

FIGURE 3 is a view of the mailing piece of FIGURE 1 folded in a different manner for returning the same in a second envelope.

In the drawings, the mailing piece of FIGURE 1 is folded to consist of three sections A, B and C by folding along the lines *a* and *b*. The section A is provided with the addressee's name, street number, city and state or other mailing designation. The body portion B is for the message and the body portion C is provided with the sender's return address and other nomenclature by way of instructions, etc. Besides the address in the area A, it is provided with a postage stamp or mailing permit designated by the numeral 10 and the area C is likewise provided with a postage stamp or mailing permit 20.

There are two envelopes provided for mailing a letter or mailing piece of FIGURE 1; an envelope 30, FIGURE 2, and an envelope 40, FIGURE 3. By folding the contents or mailing piece, as shown at the top of FIGURE 2, with the addressee's name and address exposed, as shown, and inserting it together with the envelope 40 in the envelope 30, the addressee's name and address will be exposed through the glassine window 50 and the postage stamp or permit 10 will be exposed through the open or uncovered window 60 in the upper righthand corner of envelope 30. The sender's name and address is printed

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in the upper lefthand corner of the envelope 30, as shown at 70, FIGURE 2. When the envelope 30 is closed and sealed and sent through the mail, the post office will cancel out the mailing postage or mailing permit by stamping it through the open window 60, as shown by the curved lines in the upper part of FIGURE 2. When the addressee receives the mail and opens envelope 30, he will withdraw the mailing piece of FIGURE 1 and open it, as shown in FIGURE 1, read its contents and if it is a proxy, he will sign it. He will then return it by folding it for insertion in envelope 40 which has an open window 80 for exposing the postage or mailing permit 20 and a glassine covered window 90 through which the sender's name and address is visible. By folding the mailing piece of FIGURE 1 in the manner shown in the upper portion of FIGURE 3 and inserting the same in envelope 40, it is ready for mailing when the flap is sealed and when received by the post office the postage or mailing permit will be cancelled, as shown by the wavy lines in the upper part of FIGURE 3.

The result of handling of the mailing piece with the envelopes as provided herein will produce a certification of the time of mailing the original piece by the sender to the addressee and the time of mailing by the addressee to the original sender with the result that when it is received by the sender it has the postal stamp with the mailing date on two portions of the mailing piece; namely, the portion A and the portion C.

In the case of using the two-envelope system of mailing the same piece as proxies by mail, it would be impossible to slip in forged proxies because of the validation needed through the application of the cancellation stamp to the postage or mailing permit on two separate areas of the proxy; namely, the A and C areas with the signature appearing therebetween in the B area.

It is of course evident that the method of validating mail by postal certification may be suited for balloting absentee or other votes if adopted for that purpose.

Although one embodiment of the invention has been herein illustrated and described, it will be evident to those skilled in the art that various modifications may be made in the details of construction without departing from the principles herein set forth.

I claim:

1. The combination with a mailing piece having postage applied thereon, of a pair of envelopes each having an open window located to expose the postage for cancellation by the postal authorities, said mailing piece having the addressee's name and address in one area and the sender's name and address in another area to which areas separate postage is applied so that when inserted in one envelope with an open window for exposing the postage, the addressee's name and address will appear through a window in the envelope and by inserting the mailing piece another way in the other envelope the sender's name and address will appear through a window of that envelope and the postage will be exposed through the open window of said envelope.

2. The combination with a mailing piece having postage applied thereon, of a pair of envelopes each having an open window located to expose the postage for cancellation by the postal authorities, said mailing piece

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having the addressee's name and address in one area and the sender's name and address in another area to which areas separate postage is applied so that when inserted in one envelope with an open window for exposing the postage, the addressee's name and address will appear through a glassine window in the envelope and by inserting the mailing piece another way in the other envelope the sender's name and address will appear through a glassine window of that envelope and the postage will be exposed through the open window of said envelope.

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