July 9, 1940. E. B. BERKOWITZ 2,207,142

ENVELOPE

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Fig. 1.

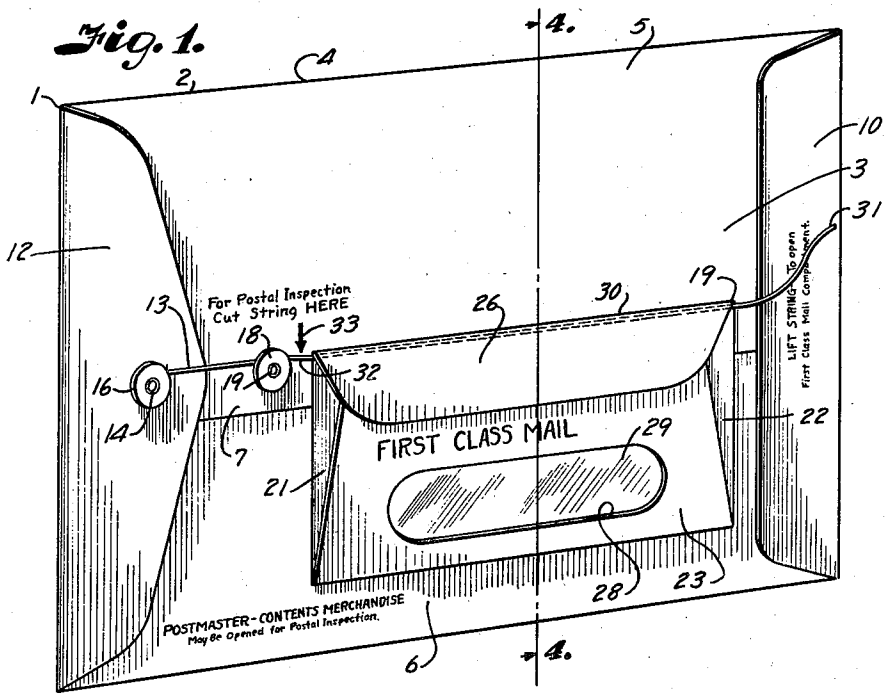
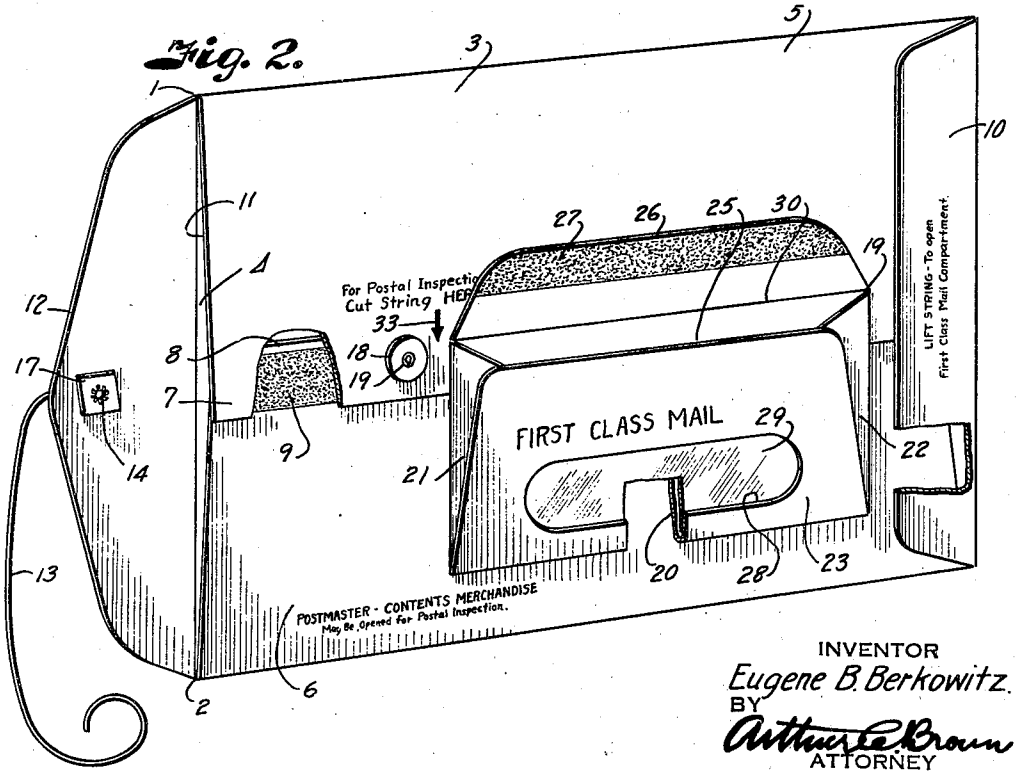


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

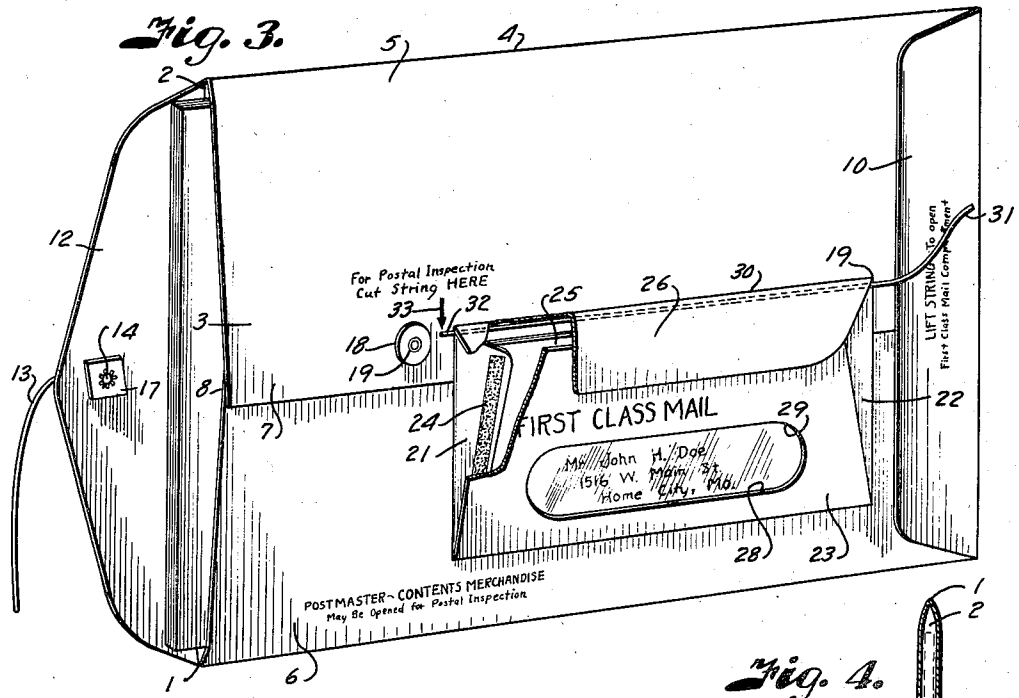


Fig. 4.

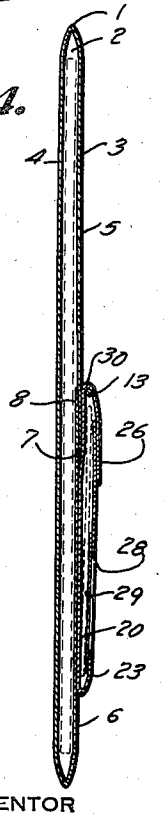
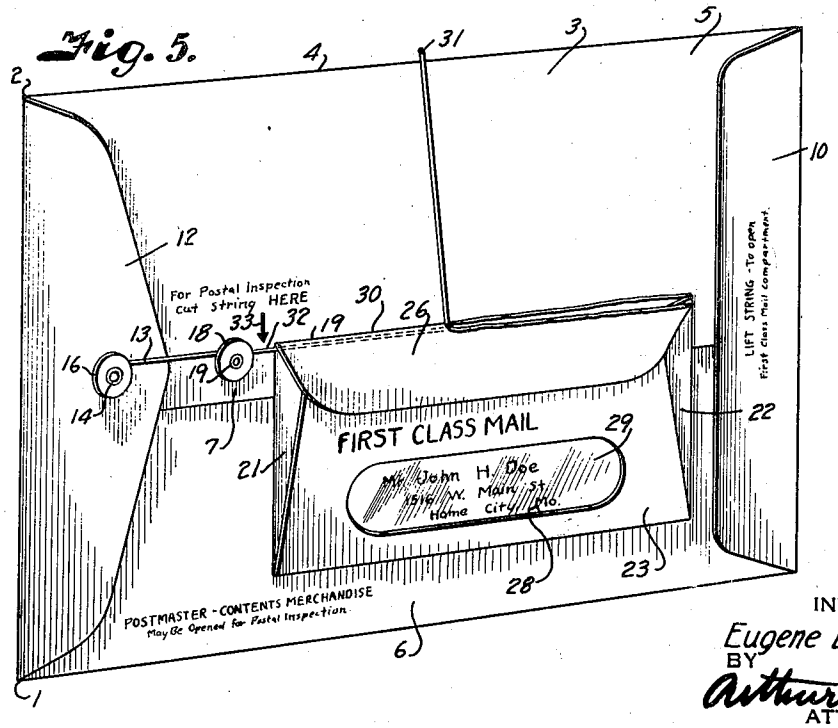


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,207,142

ENVELOPE

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Application March 10, 1939, Serial No. 260,969

5 Claims. (Cl. 229—72)

This invention relates to envelopes wherein mail matter of different classes is transported as a single parcel, for example catalogs, books, or articles of merchandise are contained in one compartment arranged to be opened for inspection so that it may take the lower postal rates, while letters, invoices, and the like, requiring higher class postage, are contained in an attached compartment that is adapted to be sealed.

In envelopes of this character the latter compartment is of smaller size and is applied to a face wall of the larger compartment with the sealing flap spaced inwardly from the edges of the larger compartment. When the enclosures are placed in the larger compartment and the smaller compartment sealed, it is extremely difficult to open the sealed flap of the smaller compartment for the reason that the contents in the larger compartment renders the envelope extremely rigid and there is insufficient flexure thereof to permit ready entrance of an opening tool under the tightly sealed flap of the smaller compartment.

It is, therefore, the principal object of the present invention to provide an envelope of this character constructed to facilitate opening of the sealing flap of the smaller compartment.

In accomplishing this and other objects of the invention, as hereinafter pointed out, I have provided improved details of structure, the preferred form of which is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an envelope constructed in accordance with the present invention, the closure flaps of the respective compartments being closed to retain their respective contents.

Fig. 2 is a similar perspective view of the envelope prior to closing of the flaps of the respective compartments, parts of the envelope structure being broken away to better illustrate construction thereof.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the envelope showing the closure flap of the larger compartment opened for inspection of the contents, and illustrating a portion of the smaller compartment broken away and in section.

Fig. 4 is a cross-section through the envelope on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the envelope illustrating opening of the sealing flap of the smaller compartment.

Referring more in detail to the drawings:

1 designates an envelope having a compartment 2 which is formed from a blank of foldable material to provide front and back walls 3 and 4, the front wall being formed by flaps 5 and 6 having overlapping edges 7 and 8 secured together in the process of manufacture of the envelope by sealing gum 9, the overlapped portions providing the seam on the longitudinal median line of the envelope. One end of the compartment is closed by a flap 10 formed as part of the back wall 4 and sealed over the ends of the flaps 5 and 6. The opposite end of the compartment has an insert opening 11 which is adapted to be closed by a flap 12 also formed as a part of the back wall 4 and foldable over the flaps 5 and 6 forming the front wall.

In order to secure the flap 12 so that it may be readily opened for postal inspection of the contents, a flexible fastening element such as a string 13 is attached to the flap 12 at a point in line with the overlapped edges 7 and 8 of the flaps 5 and 6, the string being preferably secured by wrapping an end thereof about an eyelet 14 securing a button 16 that is anchored to the face side of the flap. The eyelet extends through the flap and also attaches a reinforcing button 17 which cooperates with the button 16 forming a secure anchor for the string.

Attached to the front wall of the envelope, adjacent the folded over closure flap, is a button 18, the attachment being effected by an eyelet 19 in the same manner as the button 16.

The string 13 is of sufficient length so that when the flap is closed it may be wrapped about the button 18, as shown in Fig. 1, and leave a sufficient length to extend to adjacent the opposite end of the envelope.

The smaller or first class compartment 19 is also formed of a blank of flexible material having a rear wall 20 provided with side and bottom flaps 21, 22 and 23 which are sealed together at their ends by gum 24, as indicated in Fig. 3, in the manner of a conventional envelope. The compartment 19 has an insert opening 25 which is adapted to be closed by a sealing flap 26 extending from the rear wall 20 and provided with sealing gum 27 so that after the enclosure has been inserted through the opening 25 the gum may be moistened and sealed to the front wall that is formed by the flaps 21, 22 and 23.

The flap 23 constitutes the addressing face of the envelope and for convenience may be provided with a window opening 28 wherethrough the printed address on the enclosure may be exposed so as to eliminate the necessity of addressing the envelope. In the illustrated instance the window opening 28 is shown as cov-

ered by a transparent strip 29. The smaller compartment is attached to the front wall of the larger compartment by applying adhesive to the face of the rear wall 20 and effecting its seal against the underlying portions of the flaps 5 and 6, the smaller compartment being arranged on the larger compartment so that the fold line 30 of the sealing flap 26 is in substantial registering alignment with the buttons 16 and 18 and in the space between the flap 10 and the button 18, as clearly shown in the drawings. With the sealable compartment in this position, the free end of the string 13 is adapted to be extended along the fold line 30 when the sealing flap is opened so that when the flap is folded and sealed to the flap 23, in retaining an enclosure, the free end of the string lies thereunder with the terminal 31 projecting from the end of the flap opposite the button 18. The terminal end of the string may, therefore, be grasped and sufficient lifting pressure applied to tear through the fold line of the seal flap as shown in Fig. 5.

Printed, or otherwise applied on the envelope, adjacent the button 18, is an instruction to the postmaster indicating that the portion 32 of the string which extends between the button 18 and the adjacent end of the seal flap may be severed so that the string may be unwrapped from the button to allow opening of the closure flap of the larger compartment. The point of severance is preferably indicated by an arrow 33 so that sufficient string is left to facilitate unwinding from the button.

In using an envelope constructed and assembled as described, the catalog or other enclosure is inserted in the large compartment through the insert opening 11. The letter, invoice, or the like, is then folded and inserted in the smaller compartment so that the address thereon is visible through a window 28. The flap 12 is then folded over to close the insert opening 11 and the string attached thereto is drawn taut and wrapped about the button 18. The free end of the string is then placed along the fold line 30 of the sealing flap 26 so that the terminal end thereof projects beyond the sealing flap. The gum 27 is then moistened and the flap folded on the line of fold over the string to seal against the flap 23 as shown in Fig. 1.

When the envelope is received by the addressee, the sealed compartment is readily opened by grasping the projecting end of the string and drawing it through the folded edge of the sealing flap as shown in Fig. 5. The string is then unwound from the button 18 to release the closure flap of the larger compartment. Should the postal authorities desire to inspect the contents of the larger compartment, the string would have been cut as indicated by the arrow 33 and unwound from the button 18, which leaves the severed end of the string under the sealed flap as shown in Fig. 3.

After inspecting the contents, that portion of string attached by the button 16 is again looped around the button 18 to close the flap 12. After inspection the portion of the string underlying the seal flap remains serviceable for facilitating opening of the sealed compartment by the addressee.

Attention is directed to the fact that the construction of the envelope compartments may be varied in accordance with best envelope manufacturing practices and that other construction may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. An envelope including a compartment for containing one class of postal matter and having a closure flap for retaining said matter, a compartment attached to said first compartment for containing a different class of postal matter and having a sealing flap provided with a fold spaced from the closure flap when said closure flap is closed, a flexible member attached to said closure flap, and a button on the envelope at a point intermediate said flaps for anchoringly retaining the free end of the flexible member, said member being of sufficient length to extend under the fold of said sealing flap to effect severance thereof.

2. An envelope including a compartment for containing one class of postal matter and having a closure flap for retaining said matter, a button on the closure flap, a compartment attached to the first compartment for containing a different class of postal matter and having a sealing flap provided with a fold spaced from the boundaries of the closure flap, a button carried by the envelope at a point between the fold line and the closure flap, and a string adapted to connect said buttons for retaining the closure flap and having length to extend under said sealing flap for effecting severance of said sealing flap.

3. An envelope of the character described having a closure flap, a string and button fastener for retaining the closure flap in closed position, and means on said envelope forming a second compartment having a sealing flap provided with a fold arranged in substantially registering alignment with said string when secured to the button, said string being of sufficient length to extend completely along said fold line and leave an end by which the string may be grasped to effect severance of said sealing flap.

4. An envelope of the character described having a closure flap, a string and button fastener for retaining the closure flap in closed position, and means on said envelope forming an enclosure compartment having a sealing flap spaced from said button and having a fold line arranged in substantially registering alignment with said string when secured to the button, said string being of sufficient length to extend completely along said fold line and leave an end by which the string may be grasped to effect severance of said sealing flap.

5. An envelope of the character described having a closure flap, a string fastener on the closure flap, a cooperating string fastener on the envelope spaced from the closure flap, means on said envelope forming a second compartment having a seal flap provided with a fold line arranged on a line passing approximately through the cooperating fastener, and a string connecting said fasteners and having a free portion to underlie the sealing flap at said fold when said free portion is drawn taut from said cooperating fastener.

EUGENE B. BERKOWITZ.