H. S. GILBERTSON.

ENVELOP.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 20, 1916.

1,319,525. Patented Oct. 21, 1919.

Fig. 1.

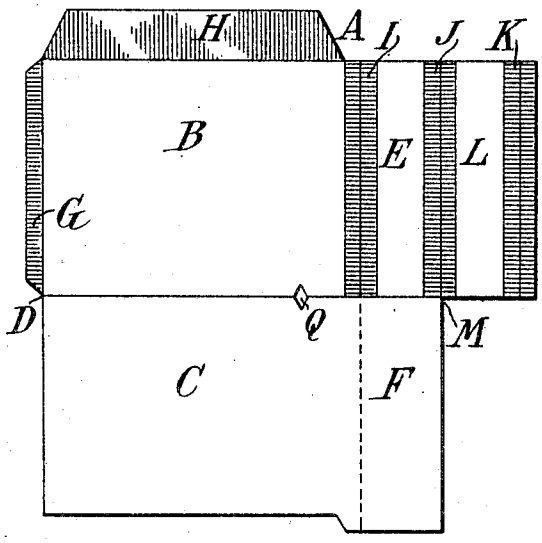


Fig. 2.

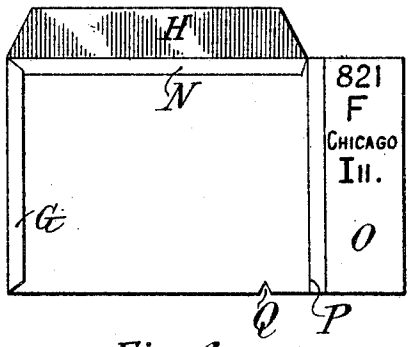


Fig. 3.

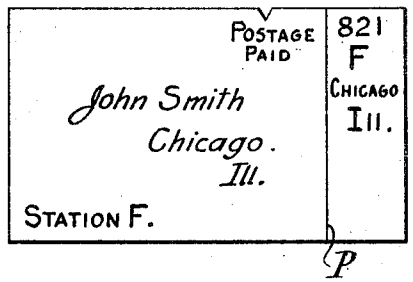


Fig. 4.

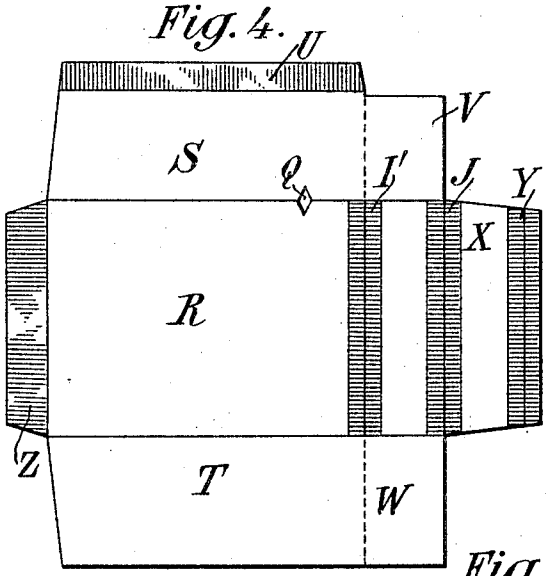


Fig. 5.

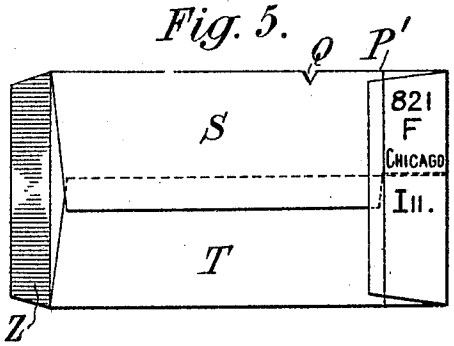
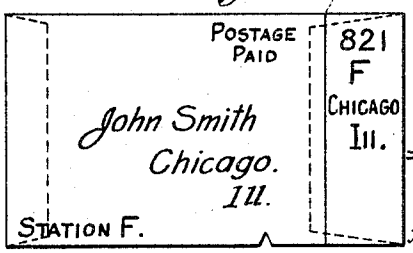


Fig. 6.



WITNESSES:

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ENVELOP.

1,319,525. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 21, 1919.

Application filed June 20, 1916. Serial No. 104,699.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY S. GILBERTSON, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at No. 57 Harrison street, East Orange, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Envelops, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to envelops and aims to provide certain improvements therein.

The invention is particularly designed for use in connection with return envelops which are usually inclosed in advertising letters and other mail matter to which it is desired to obtain replies. In some classes of advertising where a large percentage of responses is certain to be obtained it is sometimes advisable to inclose a self-addressed envelop duly stamped for reply. In most cases, however, the percentage of responses is small and the expense of stamped return envelops is unjustified. At the same time, this percentage can be increased by the prepayment of replies. The principal object of the present invention is to facilitate a method by which only those replies which are received may be prepaid. The invention also provides a means by which such mail matter can be easily and economically handled by the post office without danger of loss.

To this end I provide an envelop which will be usually self-addressed and which has a coupon attached thereto or forming an integral part thereof, the coupon bearing either the name of the original sender or an identifying symbol of some suitable kind. Preferably also, the envelop will bear on its body portion a legend such as "Postage prepaid" or some other indication to the collecting post office which will indicate that the envelop is to be duly forwarded to the address and which may serve in lieu of a stamp for purposes of cancellation by the collecting post office. The invention also includes certain other features of improvement which will be hereinafter more fully described.

Referring to the drawings which illustrate several forms of the invention,—

Figure 1 is a plan view of one form of envelop blank suited for the purpose;

Fig. 2 is a view of the envelop of Fig. 1, folded and in condition for use;

Fig. 3 is a view of the reverse side of the envelop of Fig. 2 with the flap sealed;

Fig. 4 is a plan of a modified form of envelop;

Fig. 5 is a view of the envelop when folded; and

Fig. 6 is a view reverse to Fig. 5 showing the envelop sealed.

In a preferred form of the invention such as illustrated in Fig. 1, for instance, the coupon is made as an integral part of the envelop body, but other constructions may be adopted which will secure the same result.

Referring first to Fig. 1, let A indicate the blank as a whole which is formed with a body portion comprising the parts B and C, the part C being folded over upon the part B along a line such as D. Both the parts B and C have coupon ends designated by the reference letters E and F respectively. At the extreme left the part B is preferably formed with a flap G and at its top portion with a sealing flap H. The flap G is gummed as is also the sealing flap H, and the coupon end E is also preferably provided with three bands of gum I, J and K. In folding the blank the body portion C is folded along the line D and the coupon end F is thereby brought into contact with the coupon end E and adheres thereto along the gummed bands I and J. This leaves a portion L of the coupon end E extending beyond the envelop and this is folded back along the line M over the top of the coupon end F. The flap G is folded over the end of the body portion C. When the operation is complete an envelop is provided which has a letter-receiving recess N as shown in Fig. 2, which is adapted to be closed by the sealing flap H, and beyond the letter-receiving recess is the coupon O.

The face of the envelop will ordinarily be provided with the name of the advertiser and the coupon will have applied thereto either the advertiser's name, or some indicia which will represent the advertiser, such, for instance, as a number or letter together with the name of the city, as indicated in Figs. 2 and 3. In use the envelop will be inclosed with the advertising matter

and it will be necessary only for those who wish to reply to the advertisement to place the letter or other inclosure in the letter-receiving recess N, seal it on the flap end and deposit the envelop in the mail without the inconvenience or expense of attaching a stamp. The letter will be collected in the usual way by the collecting post office, the words "Postage paid" or other similar indication being canceled, and the letter forwarded as first class mail. At the receiving post office such letters will be collected in stacks and placed under an ordinary cutting machine which will cut a large number of coupons at one time and the letters will then be distributed in the usual way either by carrier or otherwise. The receiving post office will sort the various coupons received in a day or other period, so that the coupons of various concerns may be separated out, and these coupons will then be presented to the various advertisers or other senders for redemption or be charged against a deposit. By this means the handling of the mail is facilitated, it being necessary only for the post office to collect in bulk the postal charges on all of the envelops of the concerns by whom they are issued, so that the delivery of the mail will not be delayed. The work of sorting the coupons may be done at leisure and by unskilled labor. The invention avoids the collection of due postage with its delays and liability of loss and restricts accounting for the postal service thus afforded to the advertiser to a postmaster or other responsible official of a particular post office.

The construction described facilitates the various operations thus referred to. In the use of ordinary envelops having a diamond shaped body certain portions thereof are composed of four thicknesses of paper and such envelops do not stack well for the cutting operation. In the preferred form of the present invention such portions are avoided. Furthermore, I have found that it is much preferable to provide a coupon which has at least three thicknesses of paper so that the coupon end which is to be cut off shall approach the body of the envelop including its contents in thickness or be equal thereto, particularly at the line of severance. This line, which is indicated at P, in Figs. 2 and 3, is best located near the end of the body portion. It will be observed that the gummed band I (see Fig. 1) is of sufficient breadth so that it not only serves to cause an adherence between the coupon end F and the coupon end E, but also serves to close the right hand end of the body portion of the envelop. Furthermore, this gummed band is wide enough so that extreme accuracy need not be observed in cutting the coupons by machine. It is at this line of severance that it is important for the coupon to be of sufficient thickness to at least approximately correspond with the thickness of the body of the envelop and its usual contents since otherwise the operation of cutting is difficult and inaccurate. It is best, however, to have the complete coupon of a given thickness throughout, (in the drawing three ply) in order that the coupon itself may be handled and stacked easily during the time when it is in use in the post office.

I have observed also that in the cutting of large stacks of envelops, the air contained within the envelop is apt to interfere to some extent with the proper stacking and cutting. To avoid this I prefer to form a vent such as Q in the envelop, which is shown as a mere notch cut in one edge of the body portion.

In the construction of Figs. 4, 5 and 6 the body portion R is formed with upper and lower sections S and T, designed to be folded down together and gummed together by the gummed band U. The coupon ends V and W will adhere to the gummed bands I′ and J′ and the coupon flap X will fold over these parts and its end gum to the top thereof by means of the gum band Y. The sealing flap Z is, in this construction, located at the end. It will be observed in this construction also that the coupon is composed of a plurality of thicknesses greater than two and that it is of even thickness throughout so that when it is severed it will lie flat and be easily stacked. The line of severance is indicated at P′ in Figs. 5 and 6. This line of severance may be designated by a line on the envelop or the material may be perforated or otherwise weakened at this point if desired.

While the principal use of my invention is that described, nevertheless, the invention finds other fields of usefulness where it is desired to keep an original record or voucher of mail matter either within or without the office which issues the same.

While I have shown and described several forms of the invention, it will be understood that I do not wish to be limited thereto since various changes may be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What I claim is:—

1. An envelop consisting of a body portion affording a receiving recess which is closed at one end, and a coupon afforded by a continuation of the body portion and extending from said closed end of the recess, the coupon being formed of more than two plies of material and having a thickness approximately equal to that of the body portion when the recess is normally filled.

2. An envelop consisting of a body portion affording a receiving recess which is closed at one end, and a coupon afforded by a continuation of the body portion and extending from said closed end of the recess, the

coupon being separable from the body portion and possessing a thickness approximately equal to that of the body portion when normally filled.

3. An envelop consisting of a body portion affording a receiving recess which is closed at one end, and a coupon afforded by a continuation of the body portion and extending from said closed end of the recess, the body portion having an air vent to the recess, and the coupon having a thickness approximating that of the body portion when normally filled.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

HENRY S. GILBERTSON.

Witnesses:

BERTHA AARONS,

JOSEPH S. LACAY.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."