

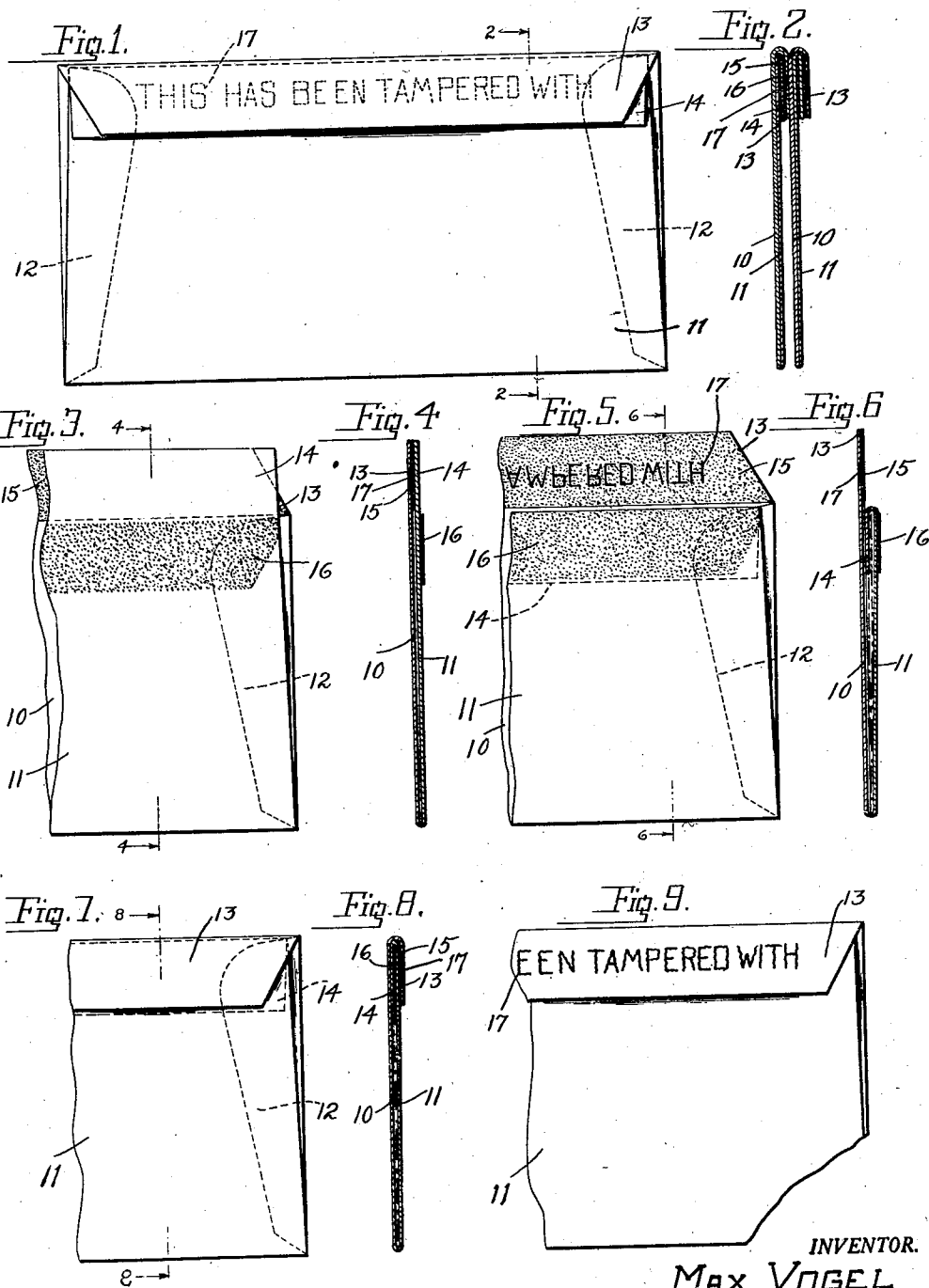
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SAFETY ENVELOPE

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SAFETY ENVELOPE

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The present invention relates to safety envelopes, particularly of the type in which cooperating adhesive surfaces are provided on the closing flap and upon another portion of the envelope, the two adhesive surfaces being brought into contact in closing the flap to thus seal the envelope. The adhesive is of a type which will preferably not stick on the paper itself, even when moistened, but will firmly stick to the same adhesive substance, a suitable substance of this character being a solution of para rubber in gasoline. For convenience this substance because of its property of adhering to itself without the necessity for moistening it, will hereinafter be referred to as dry adhesive.

Envelope structures heretofore in use were for the most part unsatisfactory for the use of such cooperating adhesive surfaces, particularly because of the fact that the adhesive surfaces would be apt to stick together prematurely, would be exposed to dust and dirt when they were out of contact with each other with the flap open, and on the contrary it was not possible to stack the envelopes, or run them in a printing press or typewriter with the flap closed without the adhesive surfaces becoming stuck together. It has been proposed in certain instances to place a protective strip of removable paraffin paper, cloth, or the like between the adhesive surfaces to prevent premature sticking, but this was expensive and inconvenient, and was not reliable as the strip was not a permanent part of the envelope, and would be apt to become displaced. It is proposed in the present invention to provide a protective flap for one of the adhesive surfaces which in one position protects the adhesive surface of the closing flap when the latter is folded in superimposed relation and in another position exposes such adhesive surface, and which flap is further adapted to be folded into the envelope about the upper edge of the contents to retain them, and with the closing flap forms a double protective closure means.

Another object is to provide a safety envelope which will disclose any attempt to open or tamper with the envelope. An envelope employing adhesive substance of the type proposed herein cannot be opened as an ordinary gummed flap envelope can by steaming, but can be opened by employing a suitable solvent for the adhesive substance, as for instance gasoline or alcohol. It is an object of the present invention to provide means which will give an indication if the envelope has been in contact with such solvent, and to this end I particularly propose to provide a marking which

when contacted by such solvent will stain through the paper, spread or otherwise show that the envelope has been tampered with.

With the above and other objects in view an embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawing, and this embodiment will be hereinafter more fully described with reference thereto, and the invention will be finally pointed out in the claims.

In the drawing—

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the rear side of an envelope, according to one illustrated exemplary embodiment of the invention, the same being shown in its unsealed relation.

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view, taken along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, and showing another envelope in the same relation adjacent thereto.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary plan view, with the two flaps folded upwardly preparatory to inserting an enclosure, and showing one of the adhesive surfaces exposed.

Fig. 4 is a vertical sectional view taken along the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary plan view, showing the flap at the upper edge of the back portion folded into the envelope about the upper edge of the enclosure.

Fig. 6 is a vertical sectional view taken along the line 6—6 of Fig. 5, the enclosure being shown in dot-and-dash lines.

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary plan view showing the closing flap closed and sealed.

Fig. 8 is a vertical sectional view taken along the line 8—8 of Fig. 7, the enclosure being shown in dot-and-dash lines.

Fig. 9 is a fragmentary plan view showing the manner in which the marking shows when the envelope has been subjected to a solvent in an unauthorized attempt to open it.

Similar reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawing.

Referring to the drawing, the envelope, according to the illustrated exemplary embodiment of the invention, comprises a front or address-side portion 10, side flaps 12—12 bent inwardly from the side edges of the portion 10, and a back portion 11, suitably secured, as by the usual pasting methods, to the side flaps. A closing flap 13 is provided at the upper edge of the front portion 10 and another flap 14 is provided at the upper edge of the back portion, the folds of the two flaps coinciding, and the flap 14 being of such extent as to substantially coincide with the flap 13. For

this purpose it may be of exactly the same size or it may be larger.

A strip of dry-adhesive 15 is provided on the inner side of the flap 13, and a similar strip of dry-adhesive 16 is provided on the back portion 11, adjacent its upper edge, and in such relation as to be contacted by the dry-adhesive 15 when the flap 14 is folded in and the closing flap 13 folded down, and to be covered by the flap 14 when the latter is folded downwardly upon the outer side of the back portion.

Upon the inner side of the flap 13 a marking 17 is provided, the same being produced by printing or stamping with an ink or other suitable contrastingly colored substance that is soluble in the same substance that will dissolve the adhesive. Adhesive of the type employed herein is soluble in gasoline or alcohol, and a suitable marking substance which is also soluble in these liquids is aniline ink. I have shown the marking in the form of the words "This has been tampered with", reversely printed on the under side of the flap 13, so that if subjected to the solvent after sealing these letters will stain through the paper and be visible as shown in Fig. 9. It will be understood that the marking may also be in the form of a design, and that it may be placed upon either or both surfaces of either or both of the flaps 13 and 14, and/or it may be placed upon either or both of the adhesive strips 15 and 16.

Before use and when stacked the closing flap 13 and the protective flap 14 are both folded down upon the back surface, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, so that both adhesive strips are concealed and are out of contact by reason of the interposition of the protective flap 14 between them. The envelope may thus be printed upon, inserted in a typewriter, sorted, or otherwise handled as an ordinary envelope, as no portion carrying the dry-adhesive strips are exposed, or disposed in such relation as to prematurely contact each other. To insert an enclosure the flaps are turned upwardly, as indicated in Figs. 3 and 4, and may both be grasped and spread outwardly, thus widening the opening and providing guide surfaces for more convenient insertion of the enclosure than with the usual type of envelope. Thereupon the flap 14 is folded into the envelope over the upper edge of the enclosure, thereby retaining and protecting it, as shown in Figs. 5 and 6, and the closing flap 13 is then folded down bringing the adhesive strip 15 into contact with the exposed adhesive strip 16. By slight pressure applied to the outer side of the flap 13 the adhesive strips are homogeneously joined and the envelope is thus sealed. In this latter relation the upper edge of the enclosure is protected by the double fold of the two flaps.

I have illustrated and described a preferred and satisfactory embodiment of the invention, but it will be obvious that changes may be made therein, within the spirit and scope thereof, as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In an envelope, front and back portions, a closing flap carried at the upper edge of said front portion and foldable along said edge in two

directions, a second flap carried at the upper edge of said back portion and foldable in two directions respectively into contact with the inner and outer surfaces of said back portion, both of said flaps being foldable downwardly in overlying relation to the outer side of said back portion and in which position said closing flap is adapted to overlie said second flap, an adhesive substance on the inner side of said closing flap, said side being disposed inwardly in said folded-down relation of said flap, an adhesive substance on the outer side of said back arranged to be covered by said second flap when the latter is folded downwardly upon the outer side of said back portion and to be contacted by said adhesive substance on the closing flap when said second flap is folded upon the inner side of said back portion, the adhesive substance upon said closing flap adapted to adhere to the adhesive substance upon said back upon contact therewith.

2. In an envelope, front and back portions, a pair of foldable flaps on the upper edges of said portions, an adhesive substance upon one side of one of said flaps, the second flap being free of an adhesive on both sides and foldable about the upper edge of the portion of the envelope carrying said second flap from engagement with one surface of the envelope portion to engagement with the other surface, an adhesive substance upon the outer surface of the envelope adapted to be disposed and concealed beneath the second flap in the one folded position of said second flap at one side of said envelope portion and adapted to be exposed in the other folded position of said second flap at the other side of said envelope portion, said first-mentioned adhesive substance adapted to adhere to said second-mentioned adhesive substance upon contact therewith, said flaps adapted in one folded position to lie in substantially parallel relation to said front and back portions and below the respective upper edges thereof with said adhesive substances out of contact with each other, and with said second flap in its said other folded position to expose said second-mentioned adhesive substance to superimposition of said other flap thereon with said first-mentioned adhesive substance contacting with said second-mentioned adhesive substance.

3. In an envelope, front and back portions, one portion having an adhesive section upon one side spaced from its upper edge, a protective section between said adhesive section and said upper edge free of an adhesive on both sides and adapted to be folded upon said adhesive section to cover it, the other portion having an adhesive section upon one side adjacent its upper edge, one of said adhesive sections adapted to be folded upon the other adhesive section, said protective section in one position adapted to be interposed between said adhesive sections, one of said adhesive sections adapted in another position of said protective section to be folded upon the other adhesive section without said protective section interposed whereby said adhesive sections contact each other, one adhesive section adapted to adhere to the other adhesive section upon contact therewith.

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