Feb. 27, 1923. 1,446,669

J. F. SHERLOCK

ENVELOPE

Filed Apr. 28, 1917 2 sheets-sheet 1

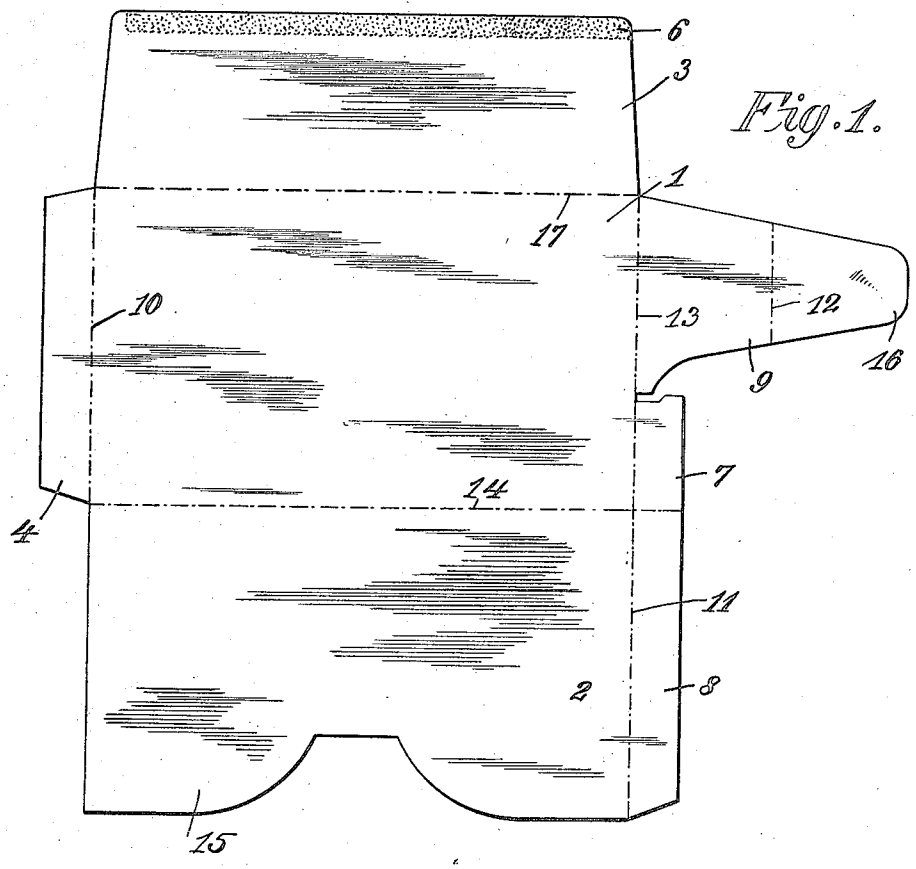


Fig. 1.

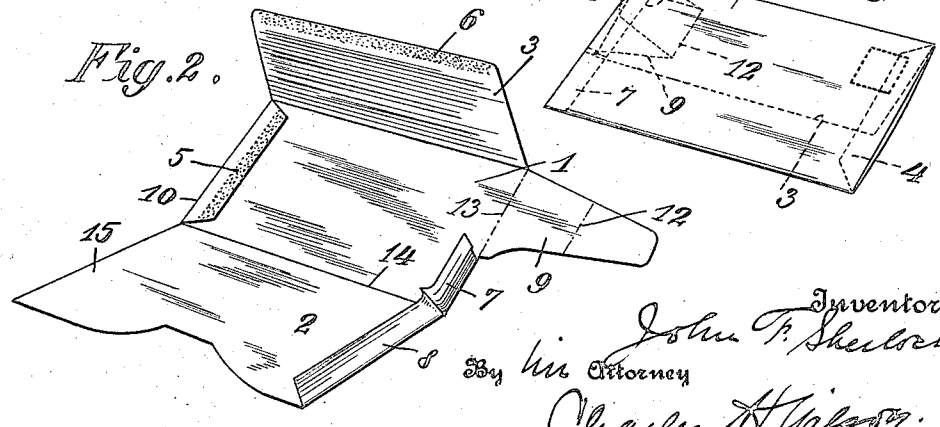


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

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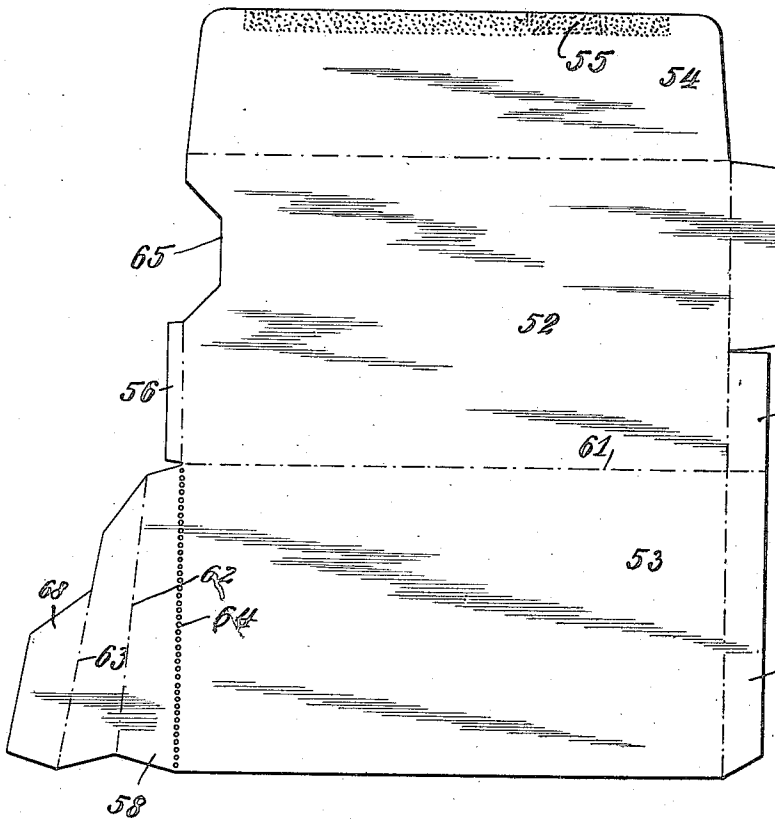


Fig. 4.

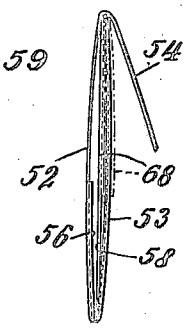


Fig. 7.

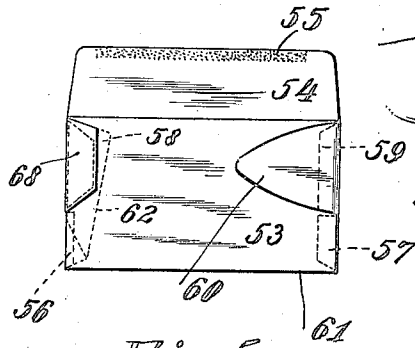


Fig. 5.

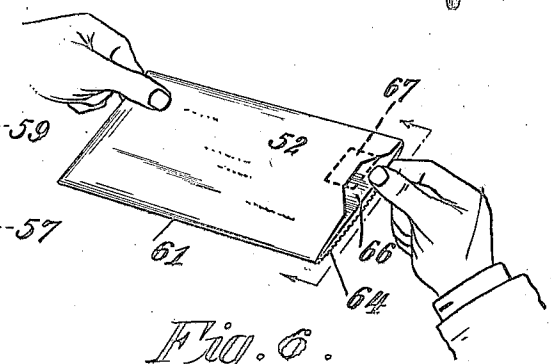


Fig. 6.

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1,446,669

Patented Feb. 27, 1923.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN F. SHERLOCK, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO CHARLES L. O'REILLY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

ENVELOPE.

Application filed April 28, 1917. Serial No. 165,168.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN F. SHERLOCK, residing at New York, in the county and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Envelopes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to envelopes, and one of the objects of the invention is to provide an envelope which will closely simulate a permanently sealed envelope, but which may be readily opened to permit the examination of the contents thereof, and then closed without disturbing the sealed portion thereof.

Another object of the invention is to provide an envelope of the above type in which the enclosure may be readily positioned therein, and in which there is no liability of the enclosure being lost therefrom during transit.

Another object of the invention is to provide a structure in which the stamp affixed thereto assists in forming a closure for the envelope.

A further object of the invention is to provide an envelope of the above type wherein a minimum amount of material is required in forming the same.

Other objects and aims of the invention, more or less specific than those referred to above, will be in part obvious and in part pointed out in the course of the following description of the elements, combination, arrangements of parts and application of principles, constituting the invention; and the scope of protection contemplated will be indicated in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings, wherein I have illustrated preferred embodiments of my invention:

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic view showing the blank from which an envelope constructed in accordance with one of the embodiments of my invention is formed.

Figure 2 is a view in perspective showing the envelope partially folded.

Figure 3 is a similar view showing the envelope completely folded.

Figure 4 is a diagrammatic view of a blank employed in forming an envelope constructed in accordance with another embodiment of my invention.

Figure 5 is a view in elevation, showing the envelope partially folded.

Figure 6 is a view in perspective showing the envelope completely folded, and showing the manner of opening the same.

Figure 7 is a view in end elevation of the envelope partially folded.

Referring now to the drawings, wherein similar reference characters refer to similar parts, the reference numeral 1 denotes the front of the envelope, 2 the bottom flap and 3 the closing flap. The front part 1 is provided with a side flap 4, the back of which is gummed, as at 5. It will be noted that the gummed portion is located on the rear surface of the flap 4. The closing flap is gummed as at 6. The front part 1 and the bottom flap 2 are also provided with flaps 7 and 8, said flaps in the present instance being integral with each other. The part 1 is also provided with a side flap 9.

In folding the envelope, the side flap 4 is first folded over upon the dotted line 10 upon the front flap 1, as clearly shown in Figure 2 of the drawings. The side flaps 7 and 8 are also folded over on line 11, as clearly indicated in Figure 2 of the drawings. The side flap 9 is then folded upon the line 12 and is again folded upon the line 13 over upon the front part 1 of the envelope. The bottom flap 2 is then folded upon the line 14 and its marginal edge 15 is fastened to the flap 4 as by means of the gum 5. When these operations have been completed it will be noted that a pocket has been formed between the front part 1 and the bottom flap 2, one end of which is sealed by means of the gum 5. The flap 9 takes the position indicated in Figure 3 of the drawings, lying in folded position between the front flap 1 and the bottom flap 2 with the end 16 thereof extending substantially flush with the side of the envelope so that when the sealing flap 3 has been folded over along the line 17 and sealed to the back of the bottom flap 2, the end of flap 9 will be slightly exposed, as clearly shown in Figure 3 of the drawings. In this last named figure of the drawings the device is shown as it is intended to be used, and it will be noted that although the device has the appearance of a permanently closed envelope, access can be had thereto by grasping the end 16 of the flap 9 and pulling said flap from between the sealed portion of the envelope, whereby the contents thereof may be exam-

ined, and whereupon the flap 9 can then be folded and inserted between the sealed parts of the envelope, as clearly indicated in Figure 3 of the drawings.

It will be noted that the flaps 7 and 8 when folded between the front part 1 and the bottom flap 2, form an end abutment and prevent the enclosure from slipping from the envelope.

The embodiment of my invention illustrated in Figures 4 to 7 inclusive is quite similar in some respects to the embodiment of the invention last above described. In this embodiment the front part 52, as the bottom and sealing flaps 53 and 54 respectively, the latter of which is provided with the gummed marginal portion 55, which gummed portion terminates short of the opposite ends thereof. The front part 52 is provided with a side flap 56 and also with a side flap 57 upon the opposite end. The bottom flap 53 is also provided with the side flaps 58 and 59, the latter of which is a continuation of the flap 57 of the front part 52. The front part 52 is also provided with an end flap 60.

In forming the envelope of the blank constructed as above described, the flaps 56, 57, 59 and 60 are all folded over upon their respective supporting members and the bottom flap 53 is then folded over along the line 61, whereupon the sealing flap 54 may be folded over and sealed to the back of the closing flap 53. When this has been done it will be noted that a pocket has been formed by the folded portions which is opened upon the end of which the flap 58 is located, permitting the enclosure to be inserted into the envelope at that end whereupon the flap 58 may be folded upon itself on the lines 62 and 63, and then again folded upon line 64, the latter of which is shown as perforated, any may then be tucked within the envelope in a position to confine the enclosure therein. The front portion 52 of the envelope is also provided with a cutaway portion 65, which comes directly opposite the flap 58 when the envelope is folded, thereby exposing a folded portion 66 of said latter flap, so that when the stamp indicated at 67 is positioned upon the envelope the affixing thereof will permanently attach the folded portion 66 to the front portion 52 to the envelope, thereby permanently closing that end of the envelope. Access to the envelope may be had, however, by withdrawing the flap 60, whereby the contents thereof can be inspected if desired.

In Figure 5 of the drawings a slightly different manner is shown of folding the flap 58 in that the end 68 of said flap is shown as being inserted between the sealing flap 54 and the back of the closing flap 53, and it will be noted that inasmuch as the gum 65 of said sealing flap does not extend completely to the end thereof, said flap will not be fastened to this end 68. The object of this construction is to more closely simulate a completely sealed package, inasmuch as each end of the envelope is apparently closed, one end by the flaps 57, 59 and 60, and the opposite end by the flaps 66 and the parts 68 of the flap 58. In opening the envelope it is merely necessary for the recipient to grasp the part 66 between the thumb and finger, as shown in Figure 6 of the drawings, and withdraw the flap 58 from within the folded part of the envelope, whereby the seal provided by the stamp 67 will be broken.

Having thus described the various embodiments of my invention it will be seen that I have provided a structure well adapted to attain, among others, all the aims and objects above pointed out in a simple yet efficient manner.

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

An envelope, comprising a front portion having at one side a relatively wide bottom flap, and on the opposite side a relatively wide closing flap provided with sealing gum, the said front portion having a relatively narrow gummed side flap extending between the said bottom flap and the said closing flap whereby the said bottom flap may be sealed on one end to the said narrow side flap, the other end of the said bottom flap having a relatively narrow side flap, and the said front portion having a short narrow side flap extending part way across the edge of the said front portion and forming a continuation of the said side flap of the bottom flap, and the said front portion having adjacent to the said narrow short side flap a folding side flap whereby when the said bottom and closing flaps are sealed together the said folding flap may have its fold introduced into the envelope and its end exposed at the open side thereof.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JOHN F. SHERLOCK.

Witnesses:
EMMA WEINBERG,
MORRIS R. WEINBERG.