To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, Henry A. Steinke, a citizen of the United States, residing at Spokane, in the county of Spokane and State of Washington, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Return-Reply Envelops, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in envelopes of the return addressed type wherein initial sealing flaps and addressed return flaps are embodied in the original structure of the envelop blank so that when the sealing flap is broken on a folded line, and the contents of the envelop removed, the return addressed flap will be accessible for withdrawal from the interior of the envelop to be sealed to the body of the latter for the return of the reply.

It is a special feature of the invention to embody in this type of envelop an address disclosing portion so as to avoid addressing the envelop when the original letter is sent from the sender to the receiver, the device of my invention serving to conceal the address disclosing portion when the receiver returns the envelop to the original sender, thereby in both cases avoiding the necessity of addressing the envelop. In envelopes of this character the return addressed flap is initially disposed interiorly of the envelop and frequently interferes with insertion and withdrawal of the contents of the envelop when the latter is received from the sender.

Now in the present invention, a novel feature has been developed whereby the return addressed flap will be removably held in flat abutting relation with one of the body portions of the envelop so as not to in any way interfere with insertion of the contents into the envelop by the original sender, or withdrawal of the contents of the envelop by the original receiver.

A further and novel feature of the invention resides in the incorporation of the foregoing features in an envelop which may be formed of a one-piece blank, the only stock being added for the purpose of providing the addressed return flap.

Other objects and features of the invention will be more fully described in connection with the accompanying drawing, and will be more particularly pointed out in and by the appended claim.

In the drawing:—Figure 1 is a view of the envelop blank showing the same unfold- and flat. Fig. 2 illustrates the addressed return flap removably held beneath the wings of the back flap. Fig. 3 is a front view of the envelop after the front flap has been folded upon and sealed to the wings and illustrating the sealing flap unfolded or flat. Fig. 4 is a rear view of the envelop, with respect to Fig. 3, showing the flap sealed and ready to be forwarded from the original sender to the receiver. Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4 showing the envelop as it would appear after the original receiver had broken the sealing flap. Fig. 6 is a sectional view showing the disposition of the addressed return flap as it would appear after the contents had been removed by the original receiver. Fig. 7 is a view showing the addressed return flap withdrawn and sealed over the face of the envelop so as to conceal the address disclosing portion of the front flap.

Like characters of reference designate similar parts throughout the different figures of the drawing.

As illustrated, the envelop is formed from a one-piece blank which is divided to provide front and back flaps 1 and 2, respectively, which together form the body of the envelop. The back flap 2 is shown provided with relatively short wings 3, on its ends, and on its free margin the back flap 2 is provided with a return address flap 4. The front flap 1 is equipped with a transparent address disclosing portion 5 and is also provided with an initial sealing flap 6. The dotted fold lines clearly indicate the lines of fold of the several flaps. The addressed return flap is provided with a blank corner card 7 in addition to the address 8 of the initial sender. The front flap 1 is provided with a filled in corner card 9 which indicates the name of the original sender of the envelop.

In making up the envelop fully for sale as stock goods, the wings 3 are folded inwardly upon the back flap 2, as indicated in Fig. 2, and the addressed return flap 4 is previously folded into flat relation against the back flap 2. This addressed flap 4 is of sufficient length so that its end margins will lie beneath the wings 3 so that the addressed flap 4 will be held by the wings 3 in flat relation against the back flap 2. The length of the addressed flap 4 is such as to cause the lower margin thereof to extend downwardly abreast of and approximately below
the address disclosing portion 5 when the envelop is made up. Portions of the front flap 1, as indicated at 10, or portions of the front faces of the wings 3, may be gummed so as to adhere the front flap 1 to the wings 3 when the front flap 1 is folded into the position shown in Fig. 3. Thus it will be seen that the addressed flap 4 is merely frictionally held in position between the back flap 2 and the wings 3. The envelop, as shown in Fig. 3, is now ready for use, and when in the hands of the sender is ready for the contents to be inserted so that the address on the letter will be disclosed through the disclosing portion 5. The sealing flap 6 is not yet sealed but is gummed so as to be sealed against the outside face of the back flap 2, as shown in Fig. 4. When the initial receiver receives the envelop, he will tear the sealing flap on the line indicated by the legend designated at 11, the remainder of the sealing flap 6 being carried by the back flap 2. The contents will be removed and the envelop will assume the appearance shown in section in Fig. 5. Now when the initial receiver prepares his reply, he will first withdrawn the addressed flap 4 from the interior of the envelop. This will be greatly facilitated by reason of the fact that the addressed flap 4 is merely loosely held by the wings 3 in the position shown in Fig. 2. The contents will be placed in the envelop and the addressed flap 4 will then be sealed upon the front flap 1. In the most preferred construction, and especially where the envelop is provided with a disclosing portion 5, I desirably make the addressed flap 4 of such dimensions that it will cover the disclosing portion 5 so that any matter on the letter will not be accidentally readable through the disclosing portion 5. The printed address on the addressed flap 4, as indicated at 12, will avoid the necessity of addressing the envelop and the blank corner card 7 may be filled in as shown in Fig. 7. By reason of the fact that the addressed flap 4 covers the stamp 13, originally applied by the original sender, a stamp 14 may be applied to the addressed flap 4 without necessitating removal of the original stamp or causing any mailing confusion.

It is believed that the advantages and utility of my invention will be fully understood from the foregoing description, and while I have herein shown and described one specific form of my invention, it will be understood that I do not wish to be limited thereto except for such limitations as the claim may import.

I claim:

In a return reply envelop, front and back flaps forming an envelop body, said front flap having an address disclosing portion and an initial sealing flap adapted to be sealed against the outside face of the back flap, said back flap having wings adapted to be sealed to the inside face of said front flap and said back flap having a return addressed flap of sufficient length to underlap and lie between said wings and said back flap at the marginal portions of the address flap, said return flap being of sufficient width to lie abreast of and conceal the disclosing portion of the front flap when sealed upon the latter, substantially as described.

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

HENRY A. STEINKE.

Witnesses:
H. E. Smith,
Edna Broyles.