

M. K. KELLOGG.
Postage and Revenue Stamp.

No. 77,887.

Patented May 12, 1868.

Fig. 1

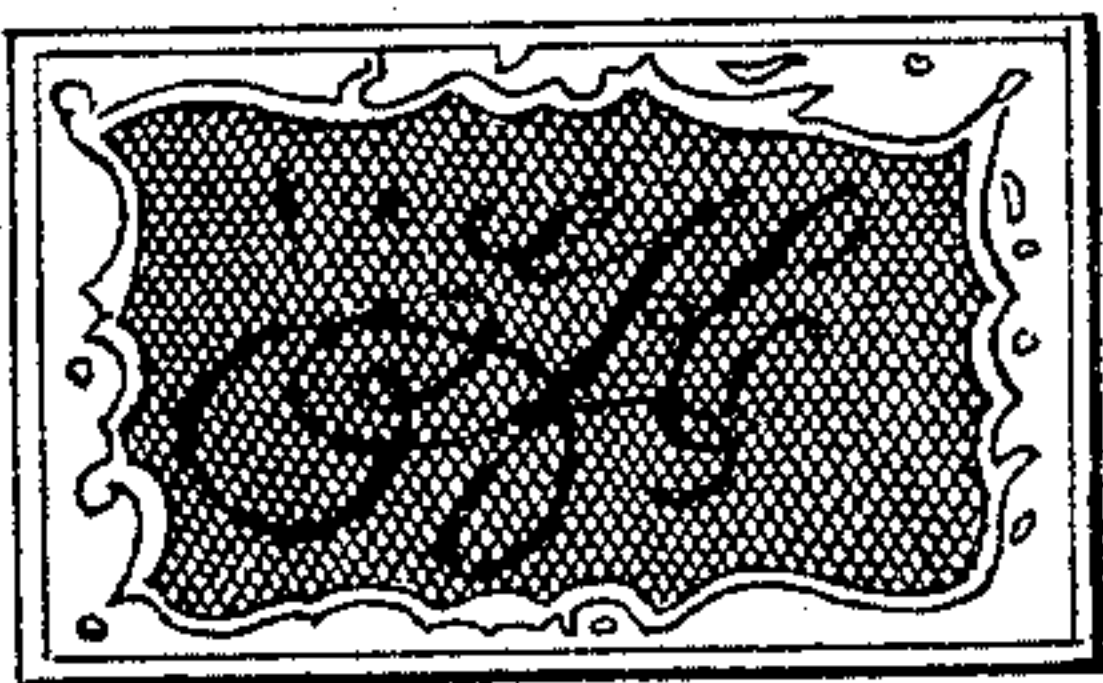


Fig. 2



Witnesses:

Inventor:

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by
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United States Patent Office.

MINER KILBOURNE KELLOGG, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

Letters Patent No. 77,887, dated May 12, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN POSTAGE AND REVENUE-STAMPS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, MINER KILBOURNE KELLOGG, of the city of Baltimore, in the State of Maryland, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Postage and Internal-Revenue Stamps; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a stamp made after the manner of my improvement before it is cancelled.

Figure 2 is a view of the stamp, cancelled.

The object of my invention is to secure the United States Treasury from fraud, by preventing the successful use of self-adhesive internal-revenue stamps, as well as postage-stamps, after they are once cancelled by any kind of writing-fluid; and also to provide for effectually cancelling postage-stamps without injury to the fragile articles which may be contained in letters or other packages transported by mail.

The nature of my invention consists in printing a stamp with two separate blocks or plates, on each of which is engraved a separate or different design, so made that both designs shall interweave in such manner that the lines or figures shall not cross or lie upon each other, and both containing the numerals designating the value of the stamp, and such words or devices as are deemed necessary to indicate clearly its purpose.

One of said designs is printed in fixed or oil-color, which may be prepared in the usual manner of making printers' ink. The other design is made of a water-color, prepared as follows: Take, of honey, three parts, and of isinglass, or other suitable animal or vegetable gluten, seven parts, and mix these materials together with hot water, in such quantity as may be desired to make a vehicle suitable for mixing pigments. With this vehicle any of the well-known pigments may be ground, and an opaque or body color formed, which may be used in the same way as printers' ink.

This compound will not be absorbed by nor penetrate paper, but it will adhere firmly and dry upon its surface, bearing without injury any ordinary amount of handling or friction to which stamps are subjected before they are used, but such color will be quickly removed by the application of water to it.

After a stamp or a check, which is printed with both oil and water-colors, as above described, has been cancelled by writing upon its face with an ink, the base or solvent of which is spirit, acid, or water, such ink may be removed by either of these solvents, but at the same time the engraved design, which is printed in water-color, will also be removed with it; so that the removal of the writing-ink, the solvent of which is acid or water, necessarily removes the water-color design; and the solvent which will remove writing-ink, the solvent of which is of an oily nature, will necessarily remove the oil-color design. In any case, one or the other design must be destroyed in an attempt to extract the writing-ink with which the stamp was cancelled; and as the two printed designs are of different tints or colors, the removal or defacement of either would be instantly detected, and the second use of the stamp thereby frustrated.

The advantages of my improvement over stamps hitherto made are as follows: It is impossible to remove the written cancellation without ruining the stamps for further use. It would be found very difficult and expensive to counterfeit the two designs, and even should this be successfully accomplished, the spurious plates could not be used in reprinting that part of the genuine stamp destroyed by the removal of the cancelling-ink, except at such great expense of time as to be impracticable and profitless, because the defaced design can be restored only by reprinting it on one stamp at a time, and by hand, a process which would require great dexterity and a skilful eye, and which, if not done with the greatest accuracy, would be detected at a glance, by the absence of that exact correspondence in the composition of the lines and the devices of the two colors which is so marked a feature of the genuine stamps.

When my improved stamp is attached to wood, glass, metal, or other substance impervious to water, it can be detached only by wetting its upper side, and this will, in most instances, destroy it.

As the stamps are so readily cancelled by the application of water to their printed surfaces, it will be seen

that the cancellation of postage-stamps can be effected with great facility by employees of post offices, by simply passing a moist sponge over the stamps.

I am aware that it is not new to employ, in the printing of stamps, a fugitive and a fast color, and therefore I do not desire to cover this feature broadly. The gist of my invention consists in employing fugitive ink or water-color, which is so prepared that it will not be absorbed by the paper upon which it is put, and in so disposing this color in a design upon a stamp that it will not cross the lines or characters made in permanent ink, so that when the fugitive color is removed in part or entirely, the non-fugitive design will still indicate the character or denomination of the stamp or check.

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

So printing a revenue or postage-stamp or check requiring cancellation, with a non-fugitive color, and also with a fugitive ink or color, composed of the ingredients herein described, that the fugitive color shall lie in the blank places left after printing with the non-fugitive color, substantially as described.

MINER K. KELLOGG.

Witnesses:

JOS. H. GALE,
JOHN A. WILE.