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J. E. HIGGINS, CHARLES MERRIAM, AND CURTIS O. LUCE, OF BRANDON, VERMONT.

Letters Patent No. 92,825, dated July 20, 1869.

## IMPROVEMENT IN HAND-STAMPS.

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

Be it known that we, J. E. HIGGINS, CHARLES MERRIAM, and CURTIS O. LUCE, of Brandon, in the county of Rutland, and State of Vermont, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hand-Stamps; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the operation and construction of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side view of the stamp as prepared for use.

Figure 2, an end view, showing the face with which the impression is made.

Figure 3, a section through the type-wheels and casing on an enlarged scale.

Figure 4, the key for turning the type-wheels.

Figures 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, other parts shown separately.

This invention consists in the peculiar construction and arrangement of a series of type-wheels with a view to post-marking letters, papers, &c., showing the month, day, hour, and place of mailing or stamping.

The type-wheels, made of suitable metal, are so constructed that the letters or figures are raised upon the outer edge or periphery, which is wider than the general thickness of the wheels, the interior of the wheels being hollowed out, so as to allow the operation of the spring-catch *s*, one end of which is attached to the inner surface of the case *A*, and the other catches in notches in the inner edge of the flange of the type-wheels, as shown in fig. 5, the dotted lines indicating the position of the spring *s*.

Referring to fig. 3, *a*, *b*, *c*, and *d*, are the type-wheels or disks; *A* *A*, the outer casing; *s* *s* *s*, the spring-catches; and *t* *t*, the plate, to which are attached the springs *s* *s*, which regulate the type-wheels *b* and *c*.

The plate *t* *t* is more fully shown in fig. 8, where *v* is a projection, placed so as to fit into the loop *w*, to hold the plate in position.

Fig. 9 shows the interior of the case *A*.

The reverse side of the type-wheel *a* is shown at fig. 6, fig. 5 showing the hollow side of the same.

The type-wheels are operated by the key shown in fig. 6, having a larger and smaller end to fit the key-studs *k* *k* and *h* *h*.

The small type-wheel *e* is constructed in the same manner as the larger wheels, the catch-spring regulating it being attached to the inside of the cap *P* *P*.

This small *A. M.* and *P. M.* wheel may be dispensed with by combining it with the wheel *d*, if desired, or placing the letters on wheel *d*, the same being made wider for that purpose.

The cancelling-stamp *m* is attached to the cap *P*, and can be used at the time of stamping.

The reverse side of the stamp is the same as shown in fig. 1, with the exception of the small key-stud *h*.

The place of mailing is placed on the face of the stamp, in raised letters, as shown in fig. 2.

As will be seen in fig. 3, the type-wheels *a* and *d* are turned or adjusted by the larger key-stud *k* *k*, and the wheels *b* and *c* by the smaller key-stud *h* *h*.

When the type-wheel is brought into the proper position, so that the letters or figures to be stamped upon the document are brought to the face of the stamp, the spring-catch *s*, acting as a pawl, holds the wheel in position until it is desired to change the date or hour.

By this method of constructing the type-wheels, and regulating and adjusting them by a double key and spring-catch or pawl, the stamps may be made lighter than usual, and a greater variety of letters and figures placed upon them.

Having thus described our invention,

What we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The spring-catch *s*, in combination with the recessed type-wheel and cap *A* or plate *t*, constructed and operating substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

2. The arrangement and combination of the wheels *a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, and *e*, plate *t* *t*, springs *s* *s* *s*, cap *P*, and case *A*, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

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CHARLES MERRIAM.

CURTIS O. LUCE.

Witnesses:

FRANK E. BRIGGS,

E. SELDEN.