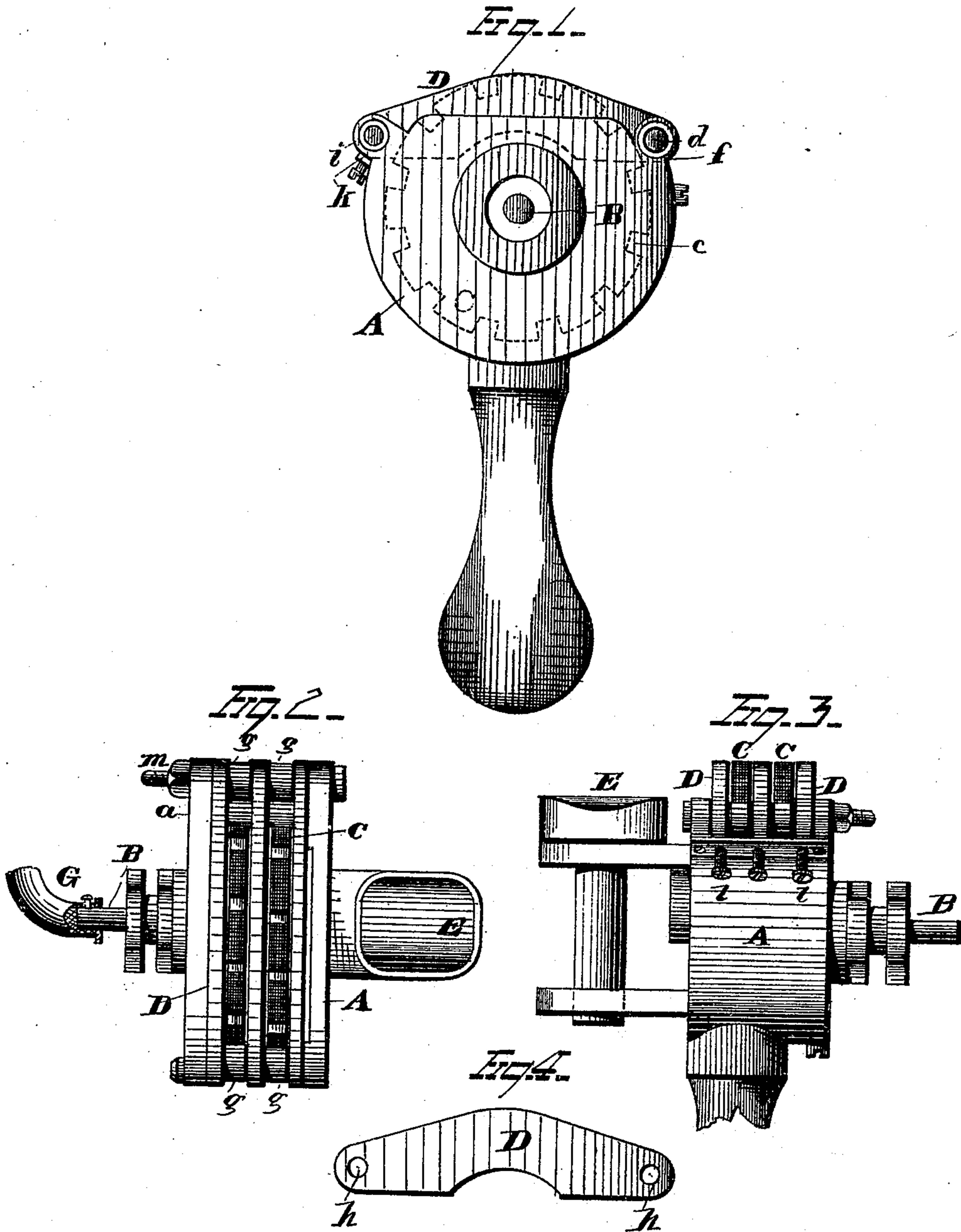


G. F. ALMY.
PERFORATING STAMP.

No. 189,009.

Patented April 3, 1877.



WITNESSES
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE F. ALMY, OF DELPHOS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF HIS RIGHT TO H. M. CLARK, OF TOLEDO, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN PERFORATING-STAMPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 189,009, dated April 3, 1877; application filed February 19, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE F. ALMY, of Delphos, in the county of Van Wert and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Canceling-Stamps; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use it, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification.

My invention relates to improvements in canceling-stamps; and consists, in the first place, in the peculiar construction of the several parts; and, secondly, in transmitting motion to the canceling device through the medium of flexible shafting, as will herein-after be more fully set forth and claimed.

In the drawing, Figure 1 represents a side view of a hand-stamp embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a face view, showing the shaft by which, through the medium of the flexible shafting connected therewith, the canceling device is operated. Fig. 3 shows an end view, representing the regulating device. Fig. 4 is a detached side view of the scarifier-regulator.

My invention is principally designed to be used for the cancellation of postage-stamps, for which purpose it is especially adapted, though it may be used with marked advantage over the present devices in all cases where the latter are employed.

The device consists of a casing, A, of any suitable metal, in which is journaled the shaft B. One side *a*, of this case A is made removable, as shown. In Fig. 1 said side *a* has been removed, in order to show more perfectly the construction of adjacent parts. On shaft B one or more disks, C, are secured, so as to revolve or oscillate with the shaft. The periphery of this disk or disks is roughened, so as to present a file or rasp surface, and is made sufficiently sharp as to act as a scarifier on the surface of the article to be canceled or destroyed. In the drawing these scarifiers C are represented with notches *c* cut in them. These depressions or notches serve to collect the particles of paper which are abraded, and which may be carried into the casing by the revolution of the scarifiers, and

thus prevent the clogging of said parts. It has also been found in practice that the scarifier operates better when its periphery is roughened in sections only than when its periphery presents an unbroken roughened surface. These notches *c* can, however, be dispensed with, if desired. Instead of a disk or wheel, as before described, the scarifier may be constructed in the form of a sector, and the operation of the device will be substantially the same. D represents the scarifier-regulator, by which the depth to which the scarifier can cut is controlled. The said regulator is represented as constructed in three separate parts, all hinged at *d*. These parts could, however, be rigidly attached to each other at the end *d*—in fact at both ends; but I prefer the construction represented in the drawing.

In case the scarifier consists of but one disk or segment the regulator would comprise only two parts, extending on the two sides of the scarifier. The several parts of the regulator are hinged at *d* on a bolt, which passes through the projection *f* of the casing, and are kept the required distance apart by collars *g* on said bolt.

The opposite end of the regulator is provided with slots *h*, through which passes the round bolt *m*, the end of which is provided with a screw-thread for the accommodation of a nut, so as to permit a ready removal of said bolt *m*, if desired. The several parts of the regulator are likewise separated at this end by similar collars *g g*. To bracket *i* of casing A is secured a plate, K, through which pass three small screws, *l*, whose ends abut against the under side of the three parts of the regulator D. When the scarifier makes a deeper cut than required, the screws are tightened or so turned as to push the regulator outward, which the slots *h* in the same permit, which brings the surface of the regulator in a plane nearer to that of the scarifier than before said operation, and thus lessens the depth to which the scarifier can cut. When it is desired to obtain an opposite result, the screws are loosened or so turned as to allow the regulator to be pushed inward, by which the distance between the two planes

in which the surfaces of the regulator and scarifier respectively lie is increased, and likewise the depth to which the scarifier can cut. Such a regulating device could be applied to both ends of the regulator, if desired, but it answers all the purposes if placed only as shown.

In case the stamp-canceler is used for post-office purposes, I combine with the same the post-marking stamp E, the surface of which is rounded to correspond with the curvature of the canceling device. This may be attached thereto in any suitable manner.

To the end of shaft P is attached, in any suitable and effective manner, the flexible shafting G, by which power is transmitted from any suitable motor to the scarifier. When the stamp is held in the right hand the end of the shaft to which the flexible shafting is attached will project to the right, and said shafting will not interfere with the operation of stamping, nor with the free use of the left hand of the operator. The stamp-canceler can be handled freely; can be controlled to assume any required position; in fact, can be handled almost as freely as if entirely disconnected from any extra motive-power. The motion imparted to the scarifier may be rotary or oscillatory, but I prefer to use the former. The scarifier should revolve rapidly, as its operation is more effective and satisfactory than when a low rate of speed is maintained. When used, the stamp is grasped by the handle, placed on the article to be operated upon, and a slight back-and-forth or oscillating motion given to the handle, by which the stamp is rocked, so as to bring a certain required length of the scarifier in contact. This motion may be imparted as quickly as the dexterity of the operator permits, the speed of the scarifier insuring the completeness of the cancellation. The device can and should be so adjusted as to scrape off hardly more than the coloring or ink of the

surface of the article to be canceled, which, in the case of a postage-stamp, would be sufficient to prevent its successful use. For this reason it is especially adapted for the cancellation of postage-stamps, where it is essential that the envelope should not be mutilated. Its practical operation is very satisfactory, for its revolutions are so rapid that the parts of the article to which the scarifiers are applied, are canceled almost instantly and completely, at least so for all practical purposes.

In place of flexible shafting, flexible belt-ing may be employed as the equivalent thereof, or any other flexible connection between the shaft and the power.

In place of the disks described an emery-wheel may be used, having a smooth periphery, and a very satisfactory result will be obtained.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a hand canceling-stamp, the combination of one or more independent disks C, the stamp-frame arranged to be nearly flush with the periphery of the disk or disks, said disks roughened on their periphery, and provided with notches c, with a revolving shaft, B, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. The combination of disk or disks C, shaft B, regulator D, and regulating-screws l, substantially as and for the purpose described.

3. In a hand canceling-stamp, the regulator D, provided with slots h, in combination with regulating screw or screws l, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

GEORGE F. ALMY.

Witnesses:

H. P. EYSENBACH,
B. J. BROTHERTON.