

DE W. C. BREED.
Canceling Stamp.

Patented March 1, 1881.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DE WITT C. BREED, OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

CANCELING-STAMP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 238,210, dated March 1, 1881.

Application filed May 14, 1880. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DE WITT C. BREED, a citizen of Buffalo, residing at Buffalo, in the county of Erie and State of New York, have
5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Canceling-Stamps for Post-Office Use; 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
10 which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

15 My invention consists of certain novel devices or combinations of devices in canceling-stamps provided with rotary cutters, the construction and operation of which will be understood by the following description.

20 In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a longitudinal section of my canceling-stamp. Fig. 2 is a detached view of a rotating tube, with the cutter attached to the stem thereof. Figs. 3, 4, and 5 are detached views.

25 The handle of the stamp is represented at A, Fig. 1. It is made hollow, and the cutter, with the devices for operating the same, is placed therein; and it is also provided with a ferrule or ring, B, attached by means of screws
30 C. By means of a spring, I, and other devices, the stroke or action of the handle upon the cutter is elastic; and by means of another spring, M, the stroke or action of the handle upon the printing-plate or sliding head is also elastic;
35 but both of these features will be hereinafter more fully described.

The sliding head D works in the ferrule C, and is provided with a disk or face-plate, E, Fig. 4, which may be cast with the type or letters thereon for printing the name of the post-office and State—as, “Buffalo, N. Y.” This plate has a recess for inserting type for printing the date, these removable pieces being held in place by means of a set-pin, F, provided with a
40 spring, G. Arranged to operate in the central recess of this face-plate is a cutter, O, having a double or V-shaped edge, or rather two sets of double edges set crosswise, as shown in Fig. 5. The object of this double and cross
50 edge is to enable the cutter to deface or injure the stamp, and in doing so to choke the double

edge, and thus prevent injury to the envelope, while the cross-edge also co-operates for the same purpose.

The nut N is fixed in the handle A by means
55 of screws L, and is provided internally with spiral grooves to receive the traveling tube K, Fig. 2, which is made with spiral grooves *k'* to fit the spirals in nut N. On the lower end of this tube K is a stem, P, which carries the
60 cutter O. Said tube has an internal shoulder, *k*, looking upward and forming a seat for the spring I, and it also has an external shoulder, *p*, looking downward, and serving as a stop to the downward motion of the sliding stem P,
65 by striking the narrowed throat of thimble *b*, in which the stem slides.

Inserted into the tube K are the lower ends of the plunger H and coiled spring I, the latter resting on the shoulder *k* just mentioned,
70 and pushing up said plunger by a thrust action on the under side of the head of the plunger confined in the cavity of the handle. By this arrangement the handle A, when operating the stamp, gives an elastic stroke of
75 the cutter O, which in striking the paper is pushed upward, or rather the handle A descends, while the cutter rests on the paper. As the handle A thus descends, the nut N, acting on the spirals *k'* of the tube K, sets the latter
80 in rotation, and thus slightly rotates the cutter O and abrades or defaces the postage-stamp on which the cutter operates; and when this contact of the cutter and postage-stamp is broken the expansion of spring I drives the tube K
85 and cutter down (in relation to the handle A) to their original position before the stroke. This downward motion of the cutter and tube K is arrested by means of the shoulder *p*, which comes in contact with the narrowed throat of
90 the lower end of thimble *b*, as already mentioned. In like manner the head D is arranged with a coiled spring, so as to recede in the handle. The tube *d* has its lower end inserted into the socket of the head D, while said tube
95 is fitted to and slides on the thimble *b*; and the lower end of a coiled spring, M, rests on the shoulder *d'*, and thus pushes the tube and sliding head D both downward, the upper end of the spring bearing against the nut N. The
100 downward motion of the tube *d* on the thimble *b* is arrested by the contact of shoulder *c* of

the thimble with the shoulder d' of the tube, and the upward motion of said tube is limited by the nut N, or its contact with the upper end of the tube. Thus under the action of the
 5 separate springs I and M both the cutter O and the sliding head D give an elastic stroke on the letter. As the stroke is given the type on the face-plate of head D first comes in contact with the paper, thus printing the name of
 10 the post-office and the date—as, "Buffalo, N. Y., April 16, 1880." When the head D is thus arrested in its downward motion by contact with the paper which is being printed, the handle A continues to descend and the head D re-
 15 cedes or rises in the handle. At the next step the cutter O strikes the letter or postage-stamp, when the tube K and stem P are thus both pushed upward in the handle; or, in other words, the handle descends toward the letter
 20 where the type and cutter rest. This downward motion compresses the two springs I and M, and the plunger H advances downward in the tube K, which in turn is pushed upward in the nut N with a slight rotation,
 25 already described.

In operating with the stamp the ink-pad should be struck lightly; but the letter must receive a blow sufficient to drive the sliding head D upward, thus compressing the coiled
 30 spring M until the cutter O is on a line with

the type or face plate E, as seen in dotted lines, Fig. 1, and also to drive the cutter into the paper and abrade the surface thereof. This stroke first does the printing by means of the face-plate E, and when the cutter strikes
 35 the letter both the sliding head D and spiral tube K, with cutter O, rise in relation to the handle A, thus giving a slight rotation to the cutter in the nut N or handle, and consequently both cutting and scraping or abrading the
 40 paper stamp.

Having described my invention, I claim—

1. In combination with the hollow handle A, the plunger H, provided with the coiled spring I, the traveling tube K, having the spi-
 45 ral threads k' , working in nut N, and the stem P, guided by the thimble b , and carrying the crucial and double-edged or V-shaped cutter O, substantially as set forth.

2. In a canceling-stamp, the cutter O, having
 50 a double and V-shaped edge for giving a positive but shallow cut, in order to destroy or deface the stamp without injuring the envelope, substantially as set forth.

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

DE WITT C. BREED.

Witnesses:

SETH J. THOMAS,
 C. P. SAMPSON.