

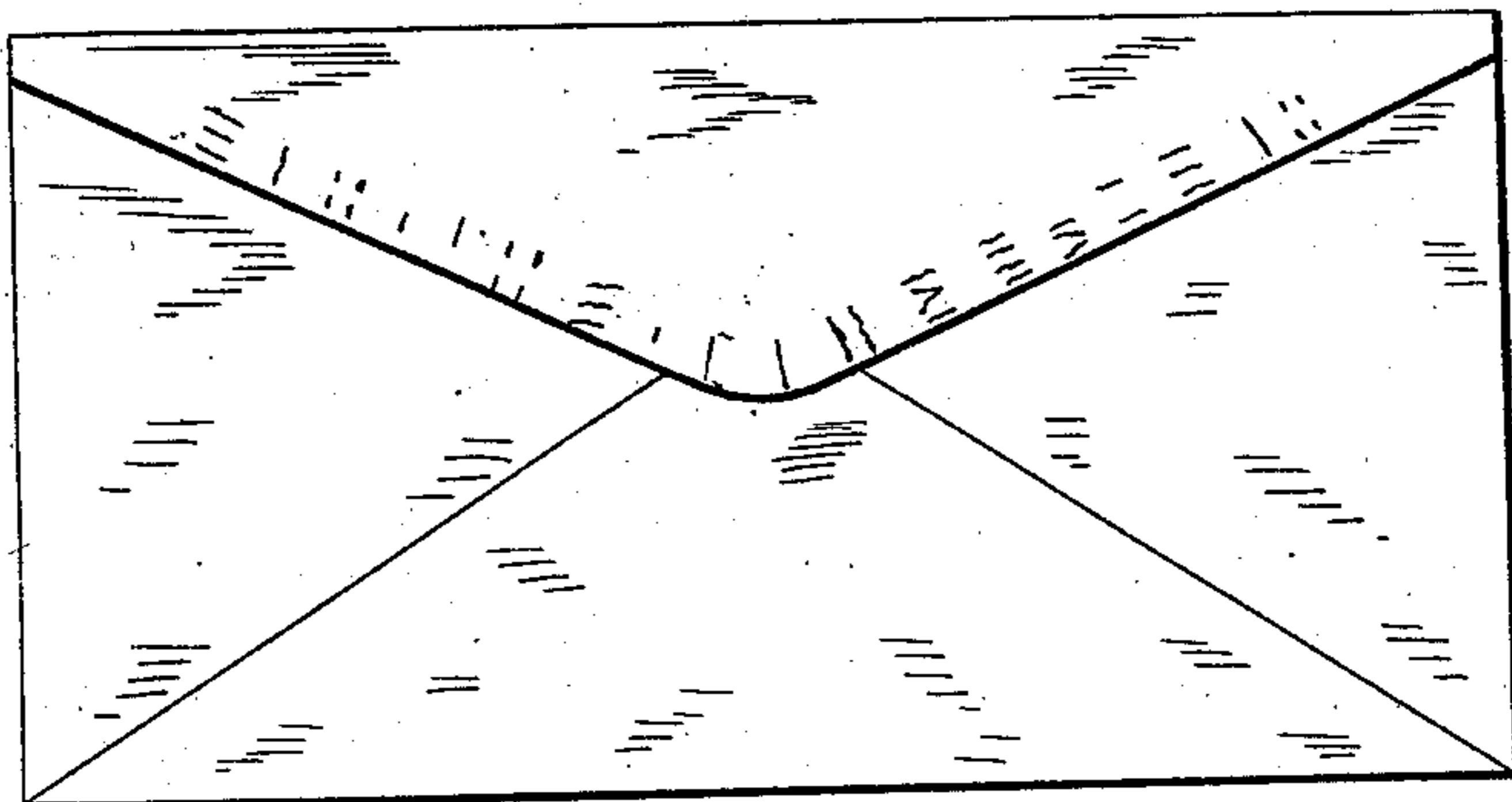
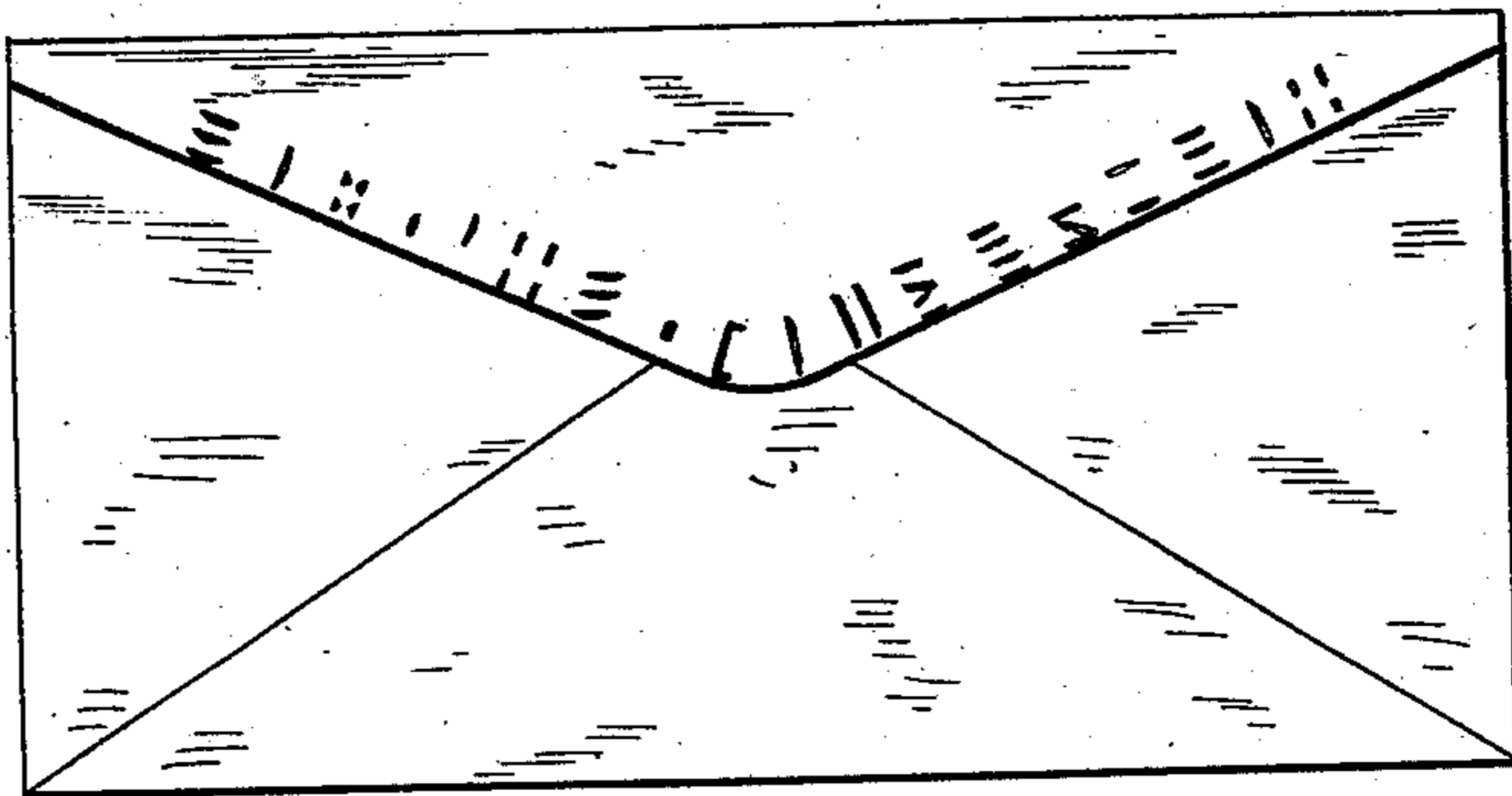
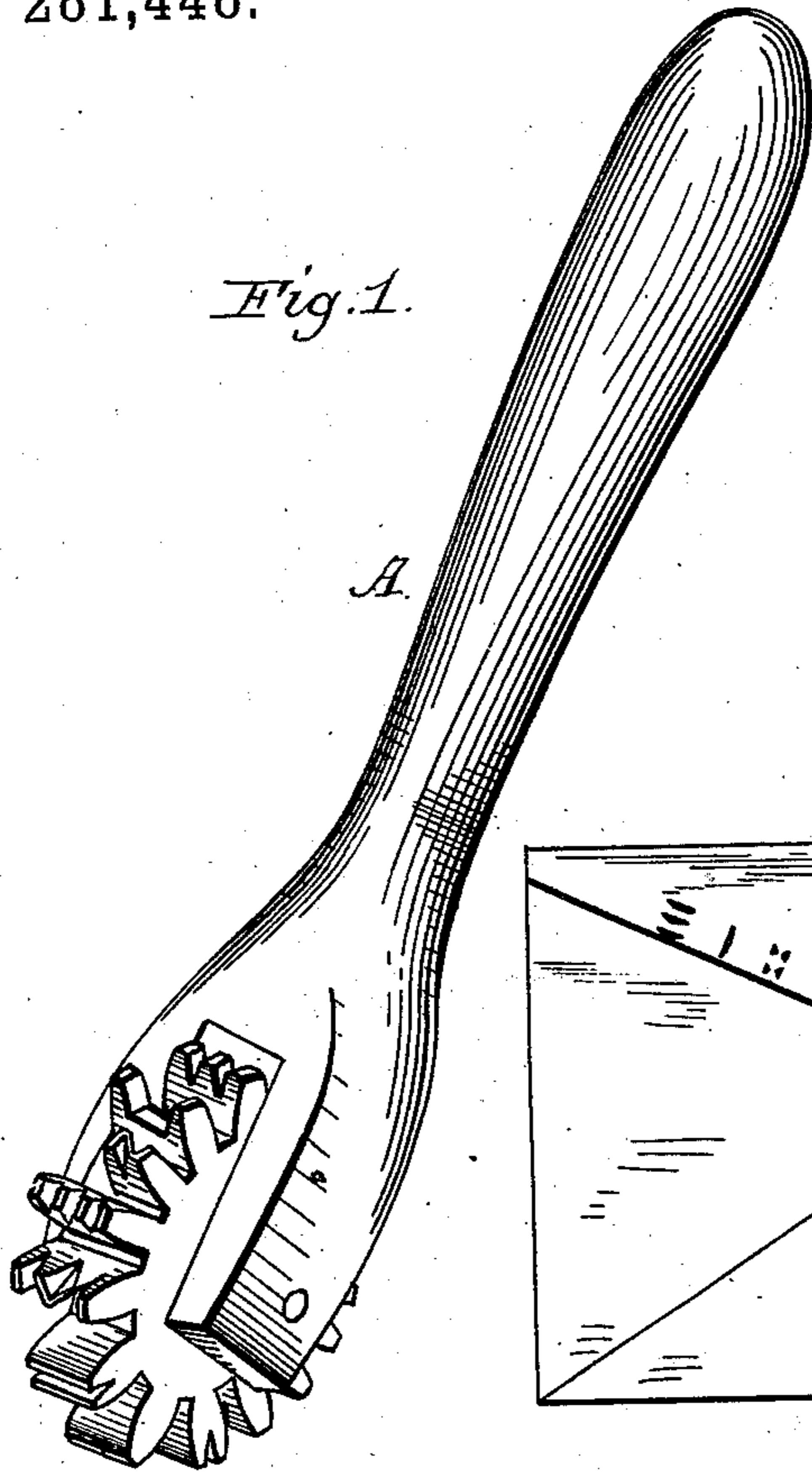
(No Model.)

H. A. BUTTNER.

METHOD OF SEALING ENVELOPES.

No. 281,448.

Patented July 17, 1883.



*Inventor:*

*Henry A. Buttner*

*George E. Lenoir*

*Attorney*

*Witnesses.*

*E. W. Johnson*  
*W. R. Masson*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY A. BUTTNER, OF SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA.

## METHOD OF SEALING ENVELOPES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 281,448, dated July 17, 1883.

Application filed October 31, 1882. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HENRY A. BUTTNER, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at San Quentin, in the county of Marin and State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Methods of Sealing Envelopes; 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 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.

This invention relates to an improved method of sealing envelopes; and it consists in passing a tool which is provided with cutters over the sealed portion of the envelope, so as to cut through the paper and the adhesive material which secures the parts to each other, so as to leave corresponding indentations on the parts for the purpose of detecting whether the envelope has been tampered with in transit; and it is intended to afford a cheap substitute for the seals and more expensive safeguards that are now used in transmitting valuable letters and express envelopes.

In the annexed drawings I have shown in Figure 1 a tool for indenting or cutting the envelopes. Fig. 2 is a plan view of an envelope, showing the perforations; and Fig. 3 is a similar view, showing the appearance of the indentations after the envelope has been opened and resealed.

A represents the handle of the tool, which is bifurcated at its lower end for the reception of a suitable rotary cutter, which is provided on its periphery with cutters or knives of a sufficient length to cut through the sealed portion of the envelope. These knives or cutters may be shaped so that when they are pressed upon the paper they will leave suitably-shaped indentations, as a series of letters which will form words or other suitable emblems.

The tool hereinbefore described is passed over the sealed portion of the flap of the envelope with sufficient pressure to cause the knives or cutters to pass through the double thickness of the paper and the adhesive ma-

terial by which the flap is secured to the body of the envelope, making a series of clean cuts, the paper being depressed on the inner side of the lower sheet.

If any attempt is made to open the envelope by moistening the adhesive material which unites the parts and then closing the same, it will be readily detected, as when the parts have been once detached the cut will become closed, and it is difficult to place them together so that they will correspond with each other. The receiver of an envelope so protected can readily tell if it has been tampered with by the appearance of the indentations, and for valuable packages or letters the receiver will ordinarily be requested to open the same at the end or side, as is usually the case with valuable express packages which are sealed by sealing-wax, and to retain the envelope if the contents are not as represented. It is evident that this means of protecting the contents of an envelope is cheap and efficient, as no material—as sealing-wax—is employed to accomplish the desired end, and that the same may cheaply and readily be employed by post-offices in the transmission of registered and valuable letters.

In case the rotary knives or cutters are made for post-office use, they may be provided with cutters in the form of letters, which will impress the name of the post-office.

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

The improved method of sealing envelopes herein described, which consists in first sealing the flap and then indenting and cutting the sealed portion through the flap, adhesive material, and the part of the envelope to which the flap is secured, for the purpose of detecting if the seal has been tampered with, for the purpose set forth.

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

HENRY A. BUTTNER.

Witnesses:

A. G. HINMAN,  
FREDERICK WOOD.