

No. 639,959.

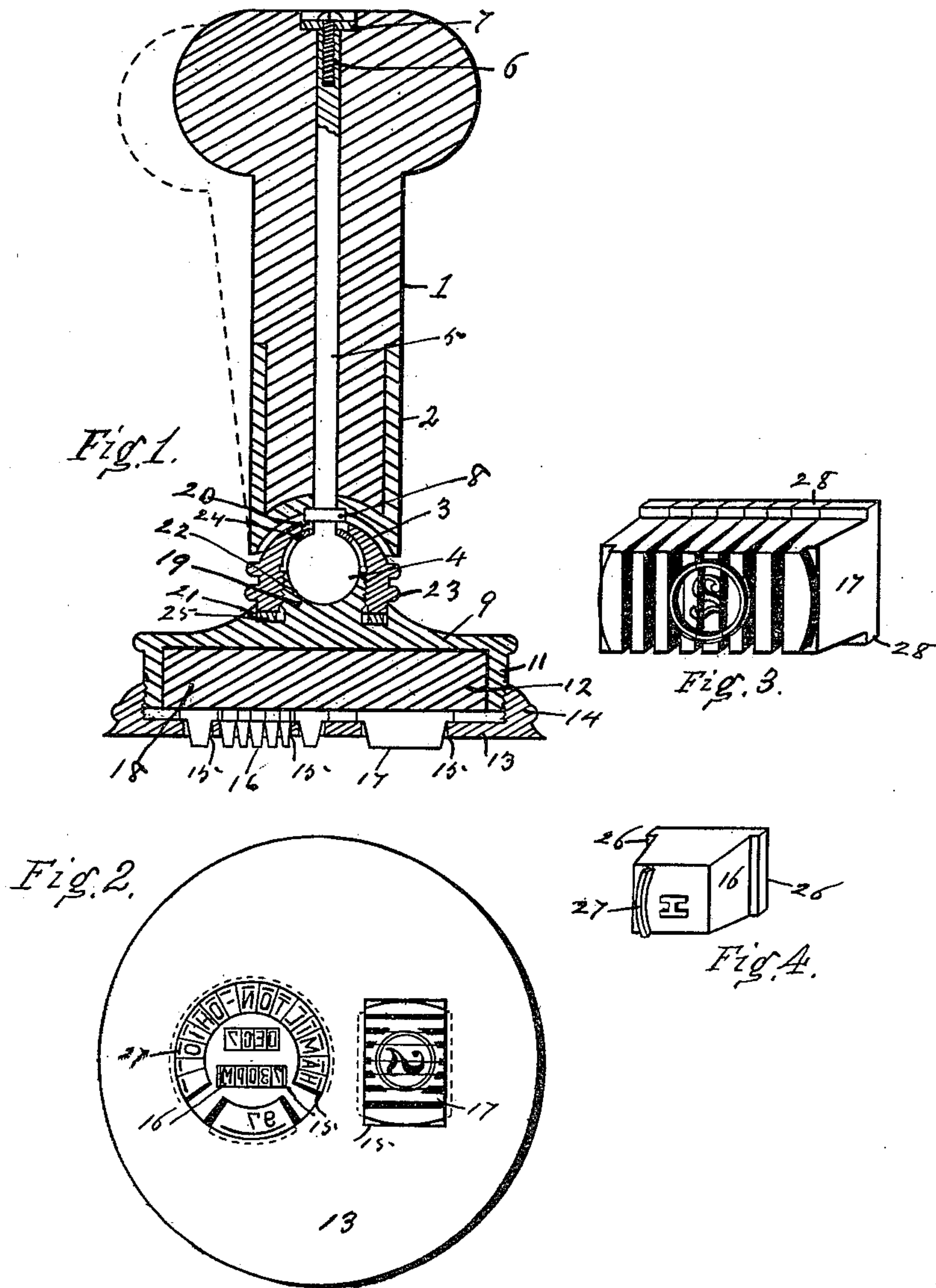
Patented Dec. 26, 1899.

F. J. BECKER.

HAND STAMP.

(Application filed Dec. 12, 1898.)

(No Model.)



WITNESSES  
J. J. Richardson  
James B. Smith

Frank J. Becker, INVENTOR  
By Robert S. Carr Atty.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK J. BECKER, OF HAMILTON, OHIO, ASSIGNOR TO THADDEUS A. NEELY, OF MUNCIE, INDIANA.

## HAND-STAMP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 639,959, dated December 26, 1899.

Application filed December 12, 1898. Serial No. 699,062. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FRANK J. BECKER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Hamilton, in the county of Butler and State of Ohio, have  
5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hand-Stamps, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to hand-stamps of that class used in post-offices for dating and canceling the stamps on letters or other mail-matter; and the objects of my improvement are to provide means to cause the type to automatically conform themselves to uneven surfaces and to provide a universally-adjustable  
15 handle that will automatically adjust itself to the position of the operator's hand in relation to the surface to be stamped. These objects are attained in the following-described manner, as illustrated in the accompanying  
20 drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a vertical section of the stamp; Fig. 2, an inverted plan. Figs. 3 and 4 show the improved form of the type.

In the drawings, 1 represents the handle or  
25 stem, provided with ferrule 2. The lower extremity 3 of the ferrule is formed concave or cup-shaped. Ball 4 is formed integral with stem 5, that occupies the axis of the handle and is rigidly fastened therein by means of  
30 screw 6, which clamps the handle between washer 7 and collar 8, formed on the stem near the ball thereon. Casing 9, preferably circular in form, has a depending annular flange 11, that forms chamber 12. Said flange  
35 is threaded on the outer surface to adjustably engage with base 13 by means of internal threads formed on its upwardly-projecting annular flange 14. Said base contains slots  
40 15, of any desirable form, in its surface and adapted to receive the respective dating and canceling type 16 and 17.

A suitable yielding or elastic substance 18, preferably india-rubber, occupies the entire space of chamber 12 in the casing and  
45 serves to keep the type properly in place in the slots in the base. The top portion of the casing in the line of its axis terminates in an externally-threaded boss 19, and an annular groove 21, formed in the top of the casing, encircles its base. The end of the boss is formed

with a concave recess or socket 22 to snugly engage with ball 4 and form a universal or ball-and-socket joint. The ball is retained in the recess or socket 22 by means of internally-threaded cap 23 being adjustable on the boss  
55 19. Said cap contains an axial opening 20 in its top for the stem and collar thereon to be passed therethrough and to permit a limited lateral movement therein of that portion of the stem between the collar and the ball. A con-  
60 cavo-convex washer 24, formed of some suitable yielding substance, as leather, rubber, or felt, may be interposed between the ball and the cap to permit movement of the handle, while it is clamped sufficiently tight to  
65 prevent the parts from rattling. Washer 25, formed also of similar suitable yielding material, is seated in annular groove 21 to press the edge of cap 23 and lock it in proper adjustment on the boss against becoming loose  
70 during the jarring action of the stamp.

The dating-type 16 are each preferably in form the inverted frustum of a pyramid, with their sides converging toward the face and with lips 26 projecting from opposite sides  
75 of their respective bases to engage with the inside of base 13 on opposite sides of the slots 15 therein.

The face of each type has an appropriate character raised thereon to collectively set  
80 up the desired name, date, &c. The type to be used in the circular slot are formed in such manner that opposite sides thereof will coincide with radii of the arc of the slot, and in addition to the appropriate character the segment 27 of a circle is also raised thereon.  
85 The type 17, which form the canceling portion of the stamp, are thin and wide, with lips 28 projecting from the large ends to engage with the base on opposite edges of the  
90 slot that contains them. Any appropriate character or design may be raised on their faces collectively. When the type are properly arranged and inserted from above  
95 through the slots in the base and the base is engaged with the casing, the tops of the type may be pressed with more or less force against the elastic substance 18, in which manner they are retained in proper position and are  
100 permitted to automatically conform them-



selves to uneven surfaces and resume their normal positions by the reaction of the elastic or flexible backing 18.

In the use of a hand-stamp the position of the operator's hand does not always carry the handle of the stamp in a position perpendicular to the stamping table or surface, which will result in one portion of the edge of the stamp making a heavier or the only impression. This objection is overcome by means of the ball-and-socket joint, which permits the handle to take the proper slant at the first stroke of the stamp on the table and to retain or automatically change its position, as best suited, to the continued or changed position of the operator's hand in relation to the table.

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

1. The combination with a hollow casing, a handle thereon adjustable at different angles thereto, an elastic cushion within the hollow of the casing, a base formed with slots and adjustable on the casing toward the face of the cushion, and type formed separately with lateral shoulders and with convergent sides and arranged through the slots in the base under the pressure of the cushion, where-  
30 by an independent lateral and longitudinal

movement of each type is permitted in conforming to different surfaces.

2. The combination with a cylindrical casing, a handle, a ball-and-socket joint engaging the handle with the casing, an elastic cushion within the casing and a base formed with curved slots and adjustable on the casing toward the cushion therein, of type each formed with outwardly-convergent sides and having a flange on its face in the arc of a circle to correspond with the curvature of the slots in the base, said type being maintained in the slots under more or less pressure by the cushion, whereby the face of the type may conform to planes at different angles to each other as represented by undulatory surfaces.

3. The combination with a casing, a base adjustable thereon and formed with slots for type having convergent sides of type formed with convergent sides and depending loosely through the slots and a yielding substance interposed between the casing and base and arranged to exert more or less pressure on the type as desired.

FRANK J. BECKER.

Witnesses:

J. J. RICHARDSON,  
ROBERT S. CARR.