

No. 648,035.

Patented Apr. 24, 1900.

G. KÜHNE.

ENVELOP, LETTER CARD, OR THE LIKE.

(Application filed Nov. 12, 1898.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

Fig. 1.

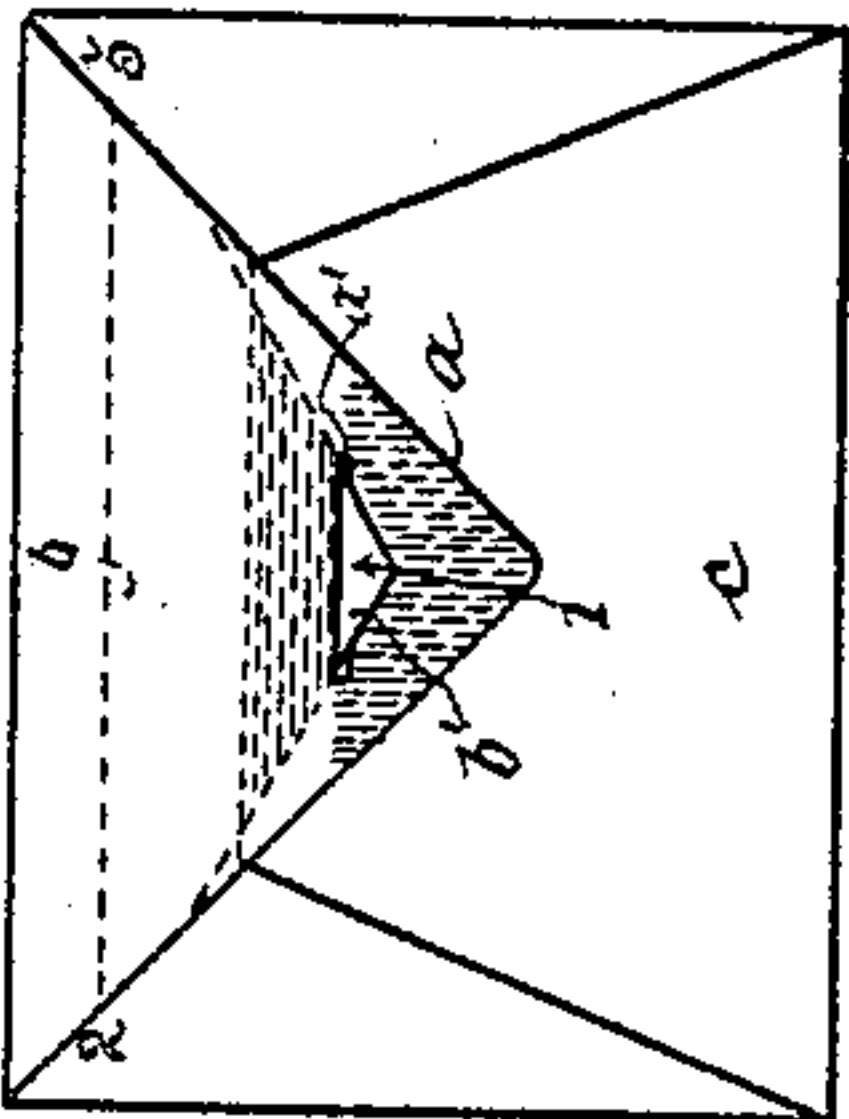


Fig. 6.

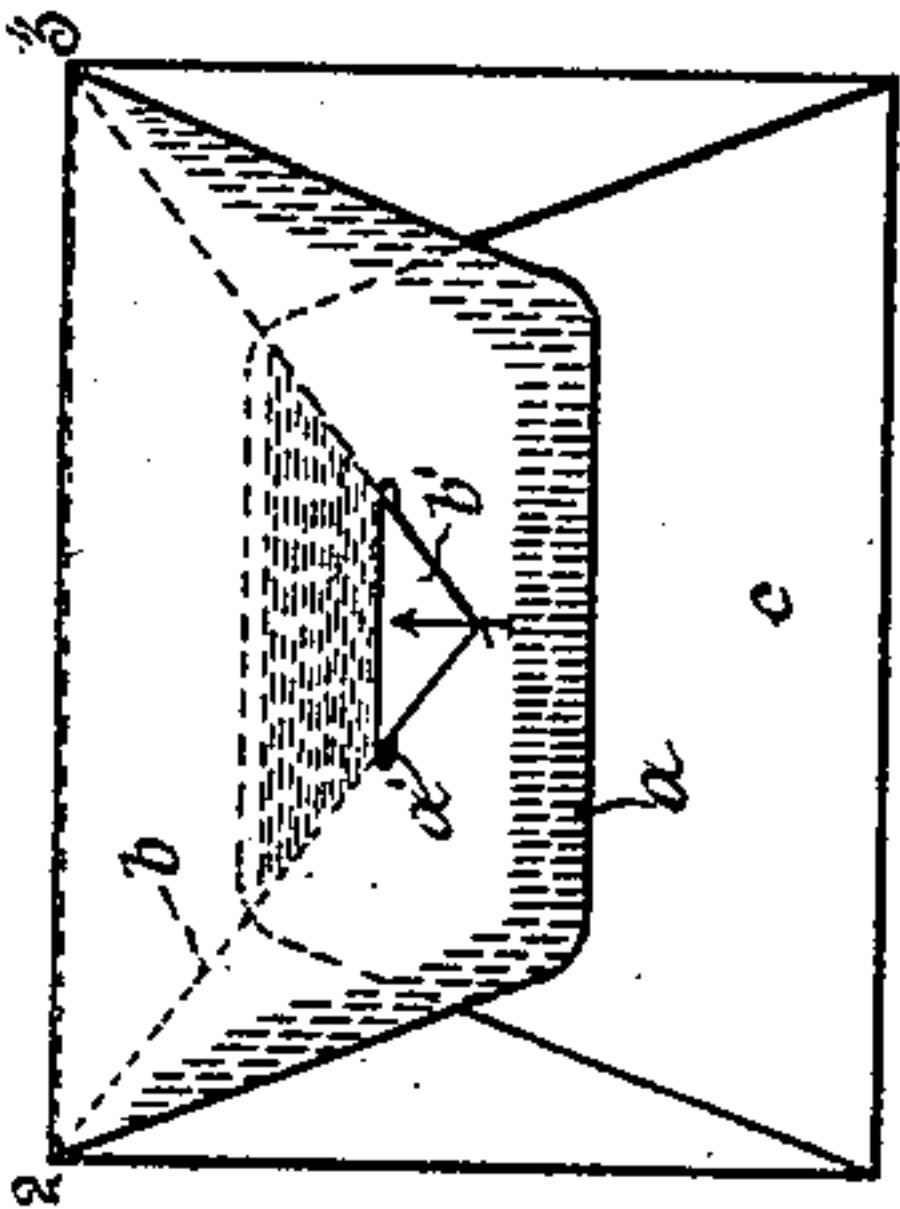


Fig. 8.

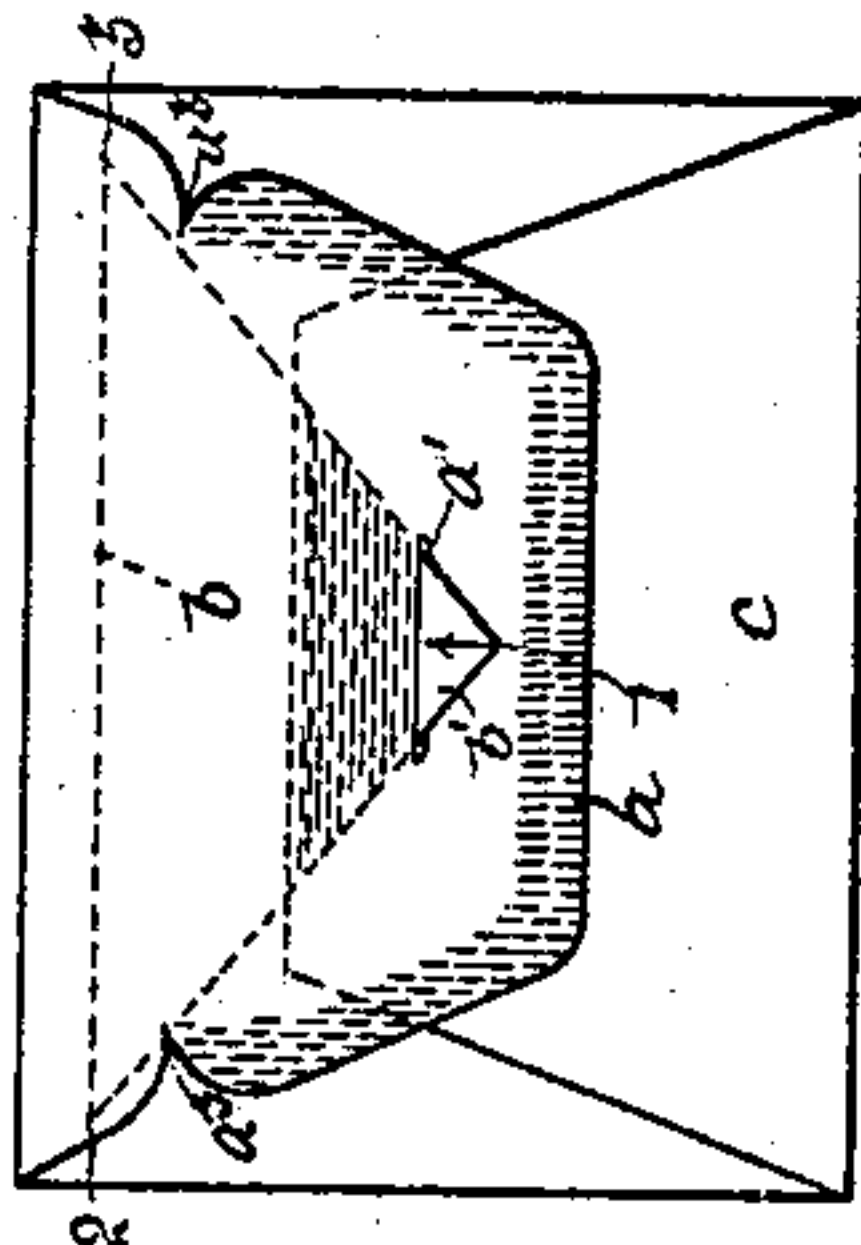


Fig. 2.

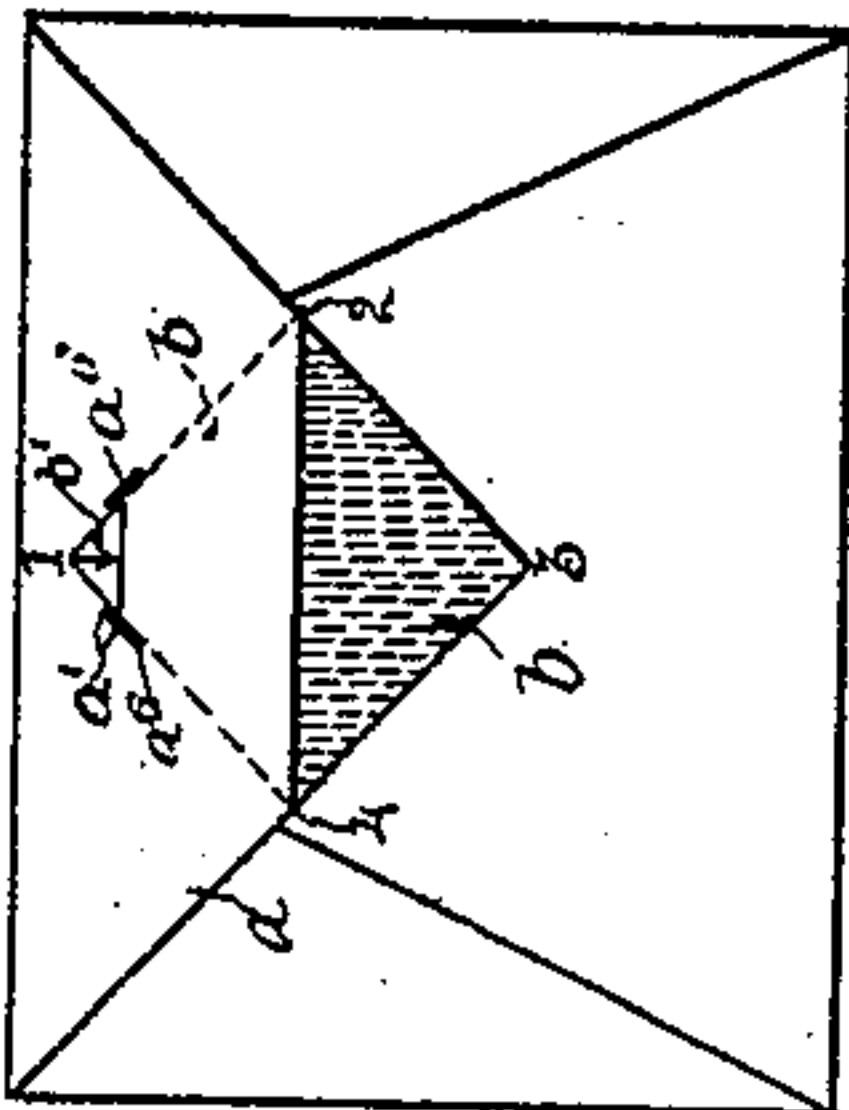


Fig. 4.

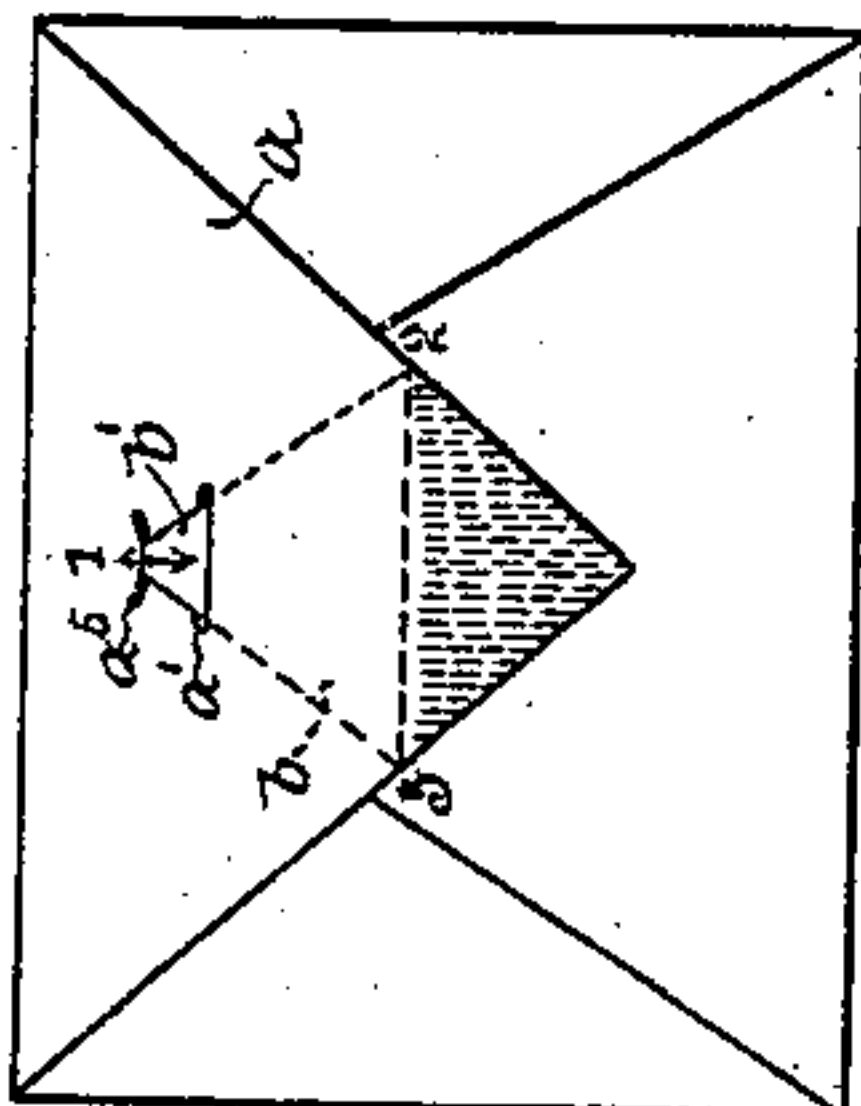


Fig. 7.

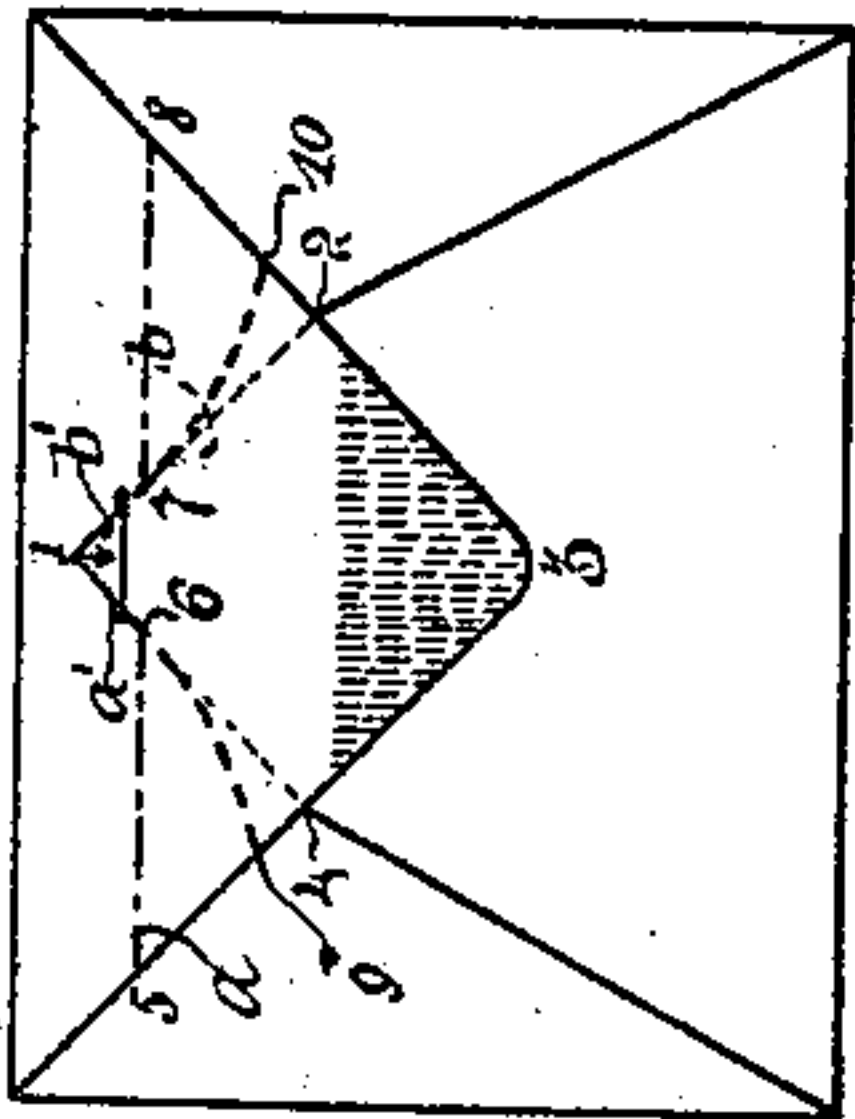


Fig. 3a. Fig. 3b.

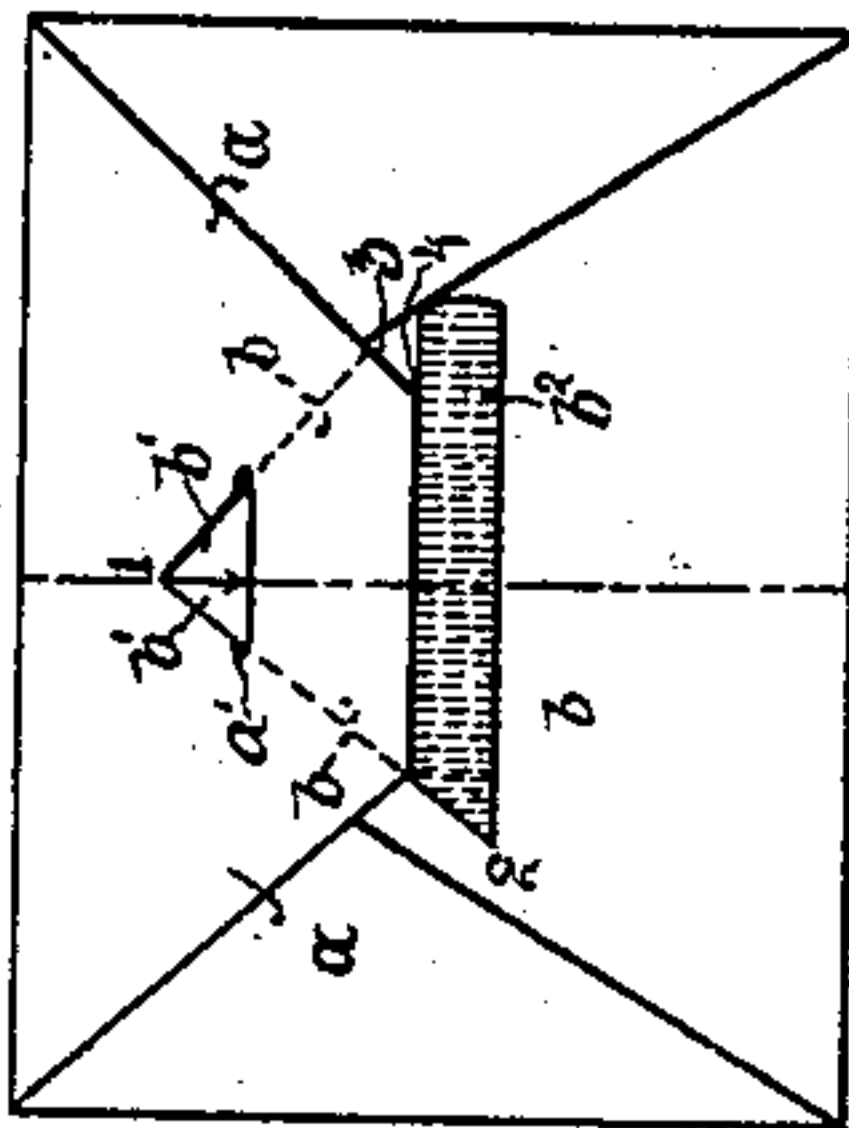
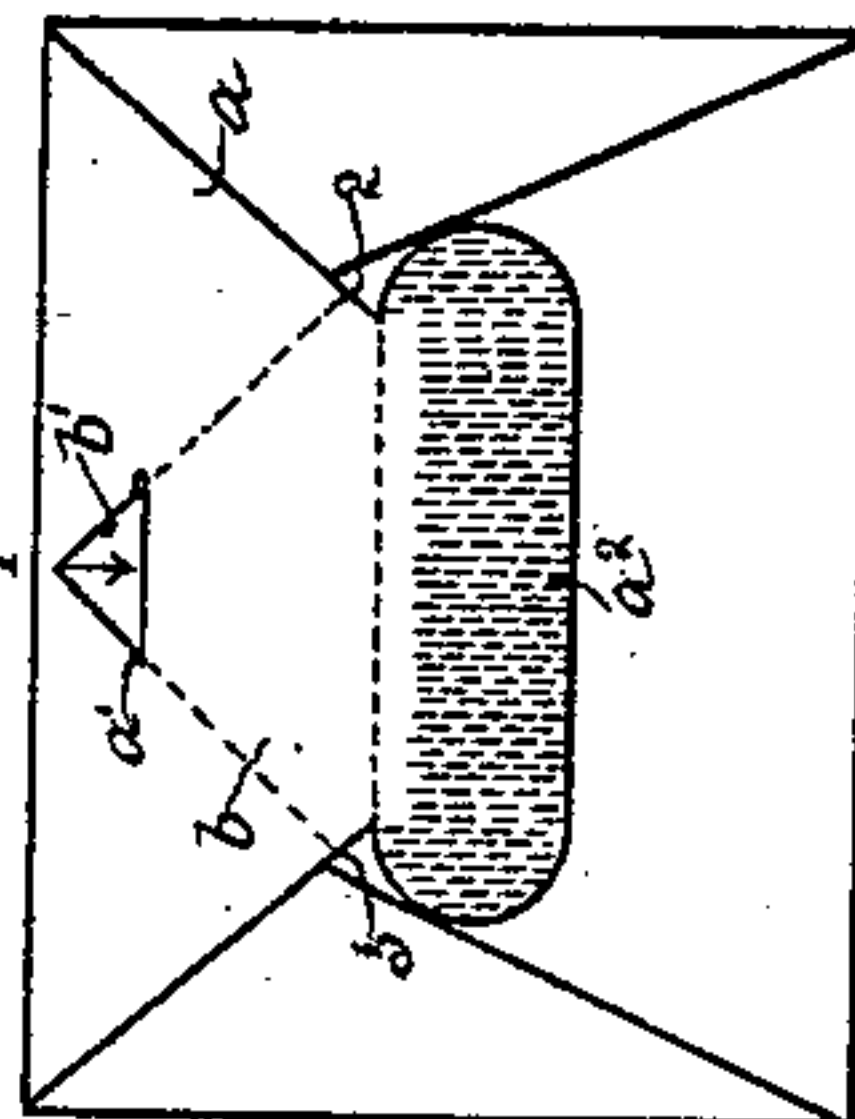


Fig. 5.



Witnesses:

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Inventor:

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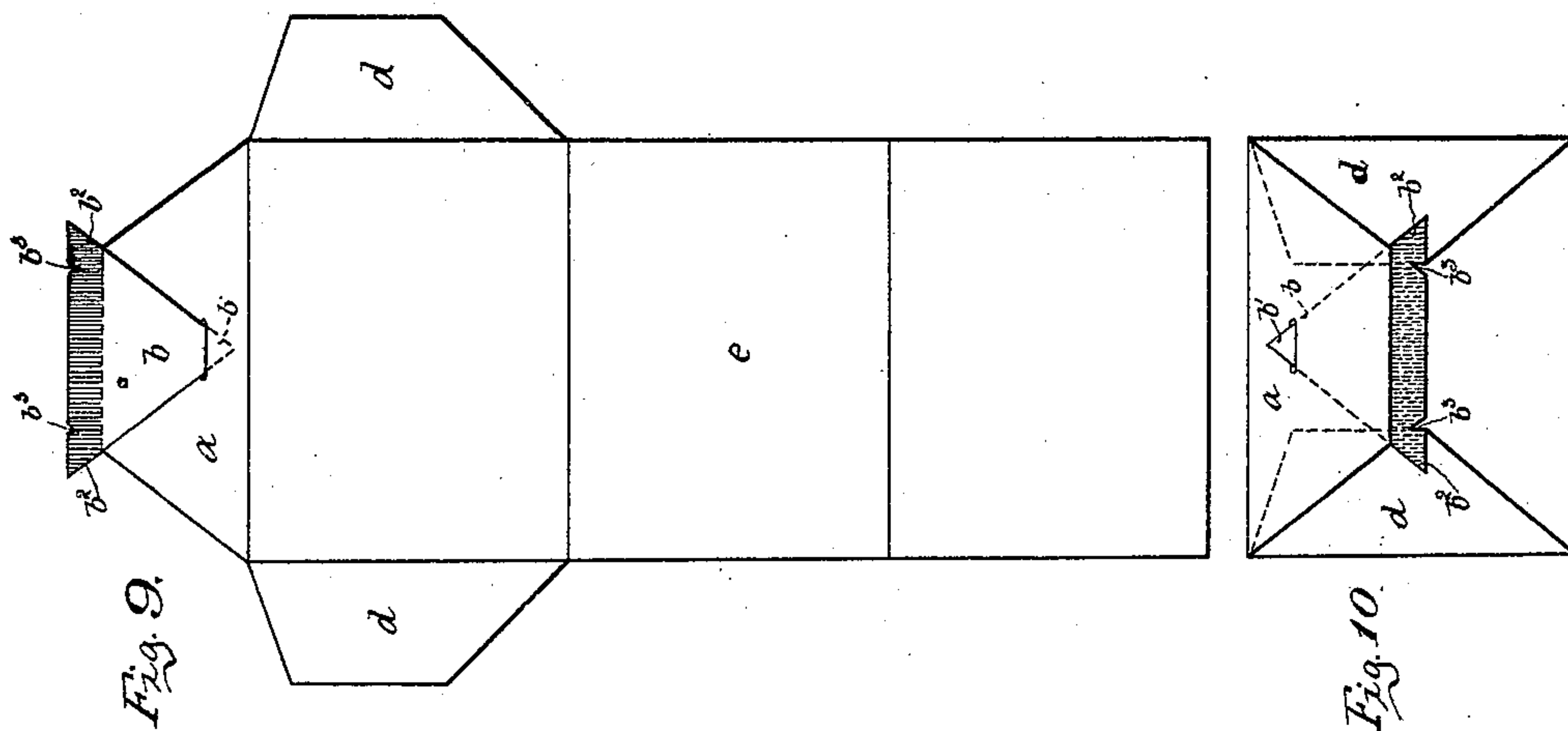
G. KÜHNE.

ENVELOP, LETTER CARD, OR THE LIKE.

(Application filed Nov. 12, 1898.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.



Witnesses:

*Wm. Hoff*  
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*Georg Kühne*  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORG KÜHNE, OF DRESDEN, GERMANY.

## ENVELOP, LETTER-CARD, OR THE LIKE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 648,035, dated April 24, 1900.

Application filed November 12, 1898. Serial No. 696,281. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GEORG KÜHNE, a subject of the King of Saxony, residing at Dresden, Germany, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in or Relating to Envelops, Letter-Cards, or the Like, (for which applications for Letters Patent have been made in Great Britain, No. 22,360, dated October 24, 1898; in Switzerland, No. 19,564, dated October 22, 1898; in Austria, dated October 22, 1898; in Hungary, No. 15,148, dated October 24, 1898, and in France, No. 270,315, dated October 27, 1898,) of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in envelops, and has for its object to provide a ready and convenient means whereby the envelop may be opened by the recipient without the necessity of employing a cutter or mutilating the envelop by tearing the same open with the fingers. The invention is equally applicable to letter-sheets wherein a sealing-flap is employed for closing the same, and in carrying it into practice use is made of what I shall term an "opener," which in its preferred form consists of a substantially-triangular piece of relatively stronger and stiffer paper than that from which the envelop or letter-sheet is formed, which opener is confined beneath the flap when sealed to close the envelop, but with its apex projecting through a substantially-straight slot in the body of the said flap, but unattached thereto, so as to be readily grasped and drawn upwardly, thereby severing the flap along the edges of the opening. In the preferred form, also, the severing or angularly-diverging edges of the opening are arranged with certain relation to the edges of the flap, whereby when the envelop is opened a secondary flap will be torn from the main flap and may be subsequently used to again close the envelop.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, Figures 1, 2, 3<sup>a</sup>, 3<sup>b</sup>, 4, and 5 show forms of envelops with an opener having its apex projecting through a slot in the body of the flap and extending upwardly or away from the edge of the flap itself, whereby when the envelop is opened the flap is severed downwardly, and in these forms it is obvious that the edges of the opener must intersect the edges of the flap above the gummed surfaces

for uniting the flap with the body of the envelop. Figs. 6, 7, and 8 illustrate forms of envelop wherein the opener projects through a slot in the body of the flap, located near its edge, the flap in these instances being severed upwardly in opening the envelop, and, as in the former instances, the apex of the opener is entirely free and unattached to the body of the flap. Fig. 9 is a view of a letter-sheet in its open position, and Fig. 10 is a view of the same sheet and showing the position of the opener with its apex projecting through the slot in the body of the sealing-flap.

Like letters and figures of reference in the several views indicate the same parts.

In Fig. 1 the lining *b*, outlined by Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 4, coincides at the bottom with the point of the flap *a*. The point *b'* projects through a slot *a'* in the flap *a*. The portion shaded by dotted lines represents the gum on the inner side of the lining *b* and serves to secure the envelop. If the point *b'* is seized with the fingers and pulled over in the direction of the arrow—that is to say, downward—then the edges 1 4 and 1 2 cut through the paper of the flap. Consequently a triangle 4 1 2 will be cut out of the flap *a*, while the triangle 4 3 2 remains sticking to the envelop. The flap thus cut through can then be folded back. Thus only the triangular portion 4 1 2 of the flap-lining is operative. If the part played by the triangular shape is considered, it will be seen that this shape provides without any further arrangements the point *b'* required for seizing in order to open the envelop. Then, owing to such shape, the cutting through of the flap on the lines 1 4 and 1 2 takes place gradually. If the lining had been of a shape limited at the top by lines 4 5 6 1 7 8 instead of 1 4 and 1 2—that is to say, by a horizontal edge 5 8 with a projecting point 6 1 7—it would have been necessary to sever the flap along the line 5 8 all at once, which is obviously not easily possible; but the severing will be gradual if the straight lines 1 4 and 1 2 be replaced by curved lines—such as, for instance, 1 9 and 1 10.

It is clearly not imperative that the point 4 3 2 of the flap *a* should coincide with a portion of the lining, as only the triangular portion 4 1 2 is operative. In order to econo-



mize in weight, either the lower portion of the flap may be removed or the part *b* may be made shorter, provided that the cutting edges extend to or pass into the edges of the flap, so as to cut it throughout the whole of its width.

Fig. 2 shows the lining *b* again as a rectangle 1 2 3 4; but the flap *a* terminates at the bottom at the line 4 2, so that the portion 4 2 3 of the lining *b*, which is gummed on its under side, is exposed. As long as the lining *b* has a part projecting beyond the flap and the triangle 4 1 2 is operative in cutting said part may be of any desired shape. Therefore it may be of a different shape from the part 4 2 3 of Fig. 2. Two constructions to illustrate this are shown in Figs. 3<sup>a</sup> and 3<sup>b</sup>, only half of each being shown. In Fig. 3<sup>a</sup> the whole lining has the shape of an equilateral triangle, and the severing taking place along the sides of the triangle the flap will be cut from the point *a'* down to the two lower corners. In Fig. 3<sup>b</sup> the operative edge 1 3 reaches the lateral edge of the flap a little above the corner, then continues along the edge of the flap down to 4, and then joins a projecting portion *b*<sup>2</sup>, gummed on the inner side.

In Figs. 2, 3<sup>a</sup>, and 3<sup>b</sup> the lining *b* effects both the closing and the opening of the letter, the former with its lower and the latter with its upper portion.

In Fig. 4 the lining is made lower. It has the shape of a triangle 1 2 3, the base of which is above the gummed portion of the point of the flap. The same applies to the example illustrated in Fig. 5, except that in this case the corners of the triangle are cut off at 2 and 3. In envelopes with short linings, as in Figs. 4 and 5, the part of the flap projecting beyond the base of the opening device may have any desired shape, Fig. 5 showing an example in the part *a*<sup>2</sup>, extended beyond the points 2 and 3.

The second series of examples (shown in Figs. 6, 7, and 8) has the common feature that the lining *b* has its point *b'* projecting downward. Owing to this fact and also to the shape of the flap and lining made to suit the special purpose, a new flap, although a shorter one, is produced when tearing the closed flap, by means of which shorter flap and a layer of gum on its inner side, which is not utilized when the envelop is first used, the envelop can be again closed after tearing the outer covering. The person receiving the letter can therefore, after having read it, close it again in the original envelop in order to prevent unauthorized persons from seeing it. The letter can be therefore retained closed in the original envelop and with the original postal stamp, which may have a legal importance, as in fixing the date of receipt or posting.

In Fig. 6 the lining has the shape of an equilateral triangle 1 2 3, the base of which is situated in the fold or joint of the flap *a*, the point *b'* protruding between the fold and the gummed portion through a slot *a'*. In opening the flap is torn along the lines 1 2 and 1 3, the

lower portion of the flap remaining adhering to the envelop, while the upper one can be bent back. The part 1 2 3 forms also a new flap which can be closed as its point projects beyond the lower flap *c* and is provided on its inner face with a layer of gum, (indicated by the horizontal dotted lines.) Of course this layer of gum must not be used when the envelop is closed for the first time.

Fig. 7 shows that the base 2 3 of the lining need not reach the fold of the flap (its joint with the rest of the envelop) when the operative edges 1 2 and 1 3 coincide with the edges of the flap. As regards the sealing for the second time, the same remarks apply to the constructions shown in this and the following figures as have been made with reference to Fig. 6.

On examining Fig. 8 it will be seen that one is not bound to keep to the hitherto-assumed shape of the portions of the flap projecting beyond *b*. The recesses of the flap *a* at *a*<sup>3</sup> *a*<sup>3</sup>, which must extend at least as far as the edges 1 2 and 1 3, limit the gummed portion of the flap *a* at the top and prevent the upper portion of the flap from sticking after the flap has been torn asunder.

The arrows drawn in all the figures on the point *b'* may be printed on the envelops, so as to indicate how to manipulate them. The point *b'* need be exposed or left free only to a sufficient extent to enable it to be seized with two fingers. If it projects considerably, a slot *a*<sup>5</sup>, as in Fig. 4, may be arranged, into which its point may be introduced to prevent it from being bent and injured in transport. The tearing may be facilitated by recesses or notches *a*<sup>6</sup>, Fig. 2, or perforations along the lines on which the tearing is to be effected. If the point *b'* projects from a slot *a'*, the perforations lying in the direction of the operative edges adjoin said slot, as in Fig. 2.

Letter-cards or the like may be formed in accordance with this invention, as they are nothing but a sheet of paper and envelop combined, so that no inventive idea is involved for such modifications. Several constructions of letter-cards according to this invention are illustrated in Sheet II of the drawings, in which Fig. 9 shows a letter-sheet with an opening device spread out flat, Fig. 10 showing the same closed.

The sealing is effected by means of the two lateral portions *d* and the flap *a*, to the lower surface of which is secured the opener *b*. The latter has in this case its point *b'* projecting upward, as in Figs. 1 to 5. The sealing is effected by the gum layer indicated by dotted lines at the base of the opener *b*, which (somewhat as in Figs. 3<sup>a</sup> and 3<sup>b</sup>) projects beyond the lower edge of the flap *a*. The recesses or cut-away parts at *b*<sup>3</sup> enable the central portion of the gummed part which is to be secured onto the back of the sheet *e*, situated below the portions *d*, to be properly fastened in spite of the part *e* being lower than the parts *d*, or, vice versa, enable the corners *b*<sup>2</sup>



to be properly secured onto the flaps *d*, situated on a slightly-higher level.

In the letter-cards shown in Fig. 11 in their closed positions, but with the developed position of the flap indicated by dotted lines, the opener *b* has its point *b'* projecting downward, as in Figs. 6 to 8. According to Fig. 11 the point *b'* projects through a slot *a'* in the flap, and the portions to be gummed of the flap *a* appear accordingly in Fig. 13 as in Fig. 6.

Of course the opener if provided with gum on the back, can form, when the envelop has been once opened, a flap for a second closing. The opening takes place in the same manner as in an envelop, only the two lateral portions *d* must be also opened, which is easily done.

The back of the opener may be provided in all constructions with printed matter or the like.

I claim—

1. A paper envelop such as herein described having a sealing-flap for closing the same with a slit in the body of said flap and an opener of relatively-stronger material attached to and located beneath said flap when closed and having diverging edges with the apex projecting through the slit in but unattached to the flap; substantially as described.

2. A paper envelop such as herein described having a sealing-flap with gum for uniting its edge to the body of the envelop, with a slit in the body of the flap above the gummed edge, and an opener of relatively-stronger material attached to and located beneath the flap and within the gummed edge when sealed and having angularly-diverging edges with the apex projecting through the slit in but unattached to the flap; substantially as described.

3. An envelop such as herein described, having a sealing-flap with gummed edges for uniting it to the body of the envelop with a slit in the body of the flap above the gummed edge but near the apex of the flap and an opener of relatively-stronger material located

beneath and attached to the flap when sealed and having angularly-disposed edges diverging toward the base of the flap, the apex of the opener projecting through and unattached to the flap; substantially as described.

4. A paper envelop such as described having a sealing-flap with gummed surfaces for uniting its edges to the body of the envelop and with a substantially-straight slit in the body of the flap and an opener of relatively-stronger paper attached to and confined beneath the flap when sealed and of substantially-triangular shape with its apex projecting through the slit in but unattached to the flap; substantially as described.

5. A paper envelop such as described, having a sealing-flap with gummed surfaces for uniting its edges to the body of the envelop and with a substantially-straight slit in the body of the flap near the center of its outer edge, and an opener attached to and confined beneath the flap when sealed and of substantially-triangular shape with its base-line parallel with the top of the envelop and its apex projecting through the slit in, but unattached to the flap; substantially as described.

6. A paper envelop such as herein described having a sealing-flap with gum for uniting its edges to the body of the envelop and with a substantially-straight slit in the body of the flap near the center of its outer edge and an opener confined beneath the flap when sealed and of substantially-triangular shape with its base-line parallel with the top of the envelop and its apex gummed on the under surface and projecting through the slit in, but unattached to the flap, whereby said opener forms when the envelop is open, a secondary flap for again closing the envelop; substantially as described.

In witness whereof I hereto set my hand in the presence of the two subscribing witnesses.

GEORG KÜHNE.

Witnesses:

OTTO WOLFF,  
HUGO DUMMER.