

No. 661,064.

Patented Nov. 6, 1900.

F. M. MERRIDEW.
ENVELOP.

(Application filed Mar. 7, 1900.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

Fig. 3.

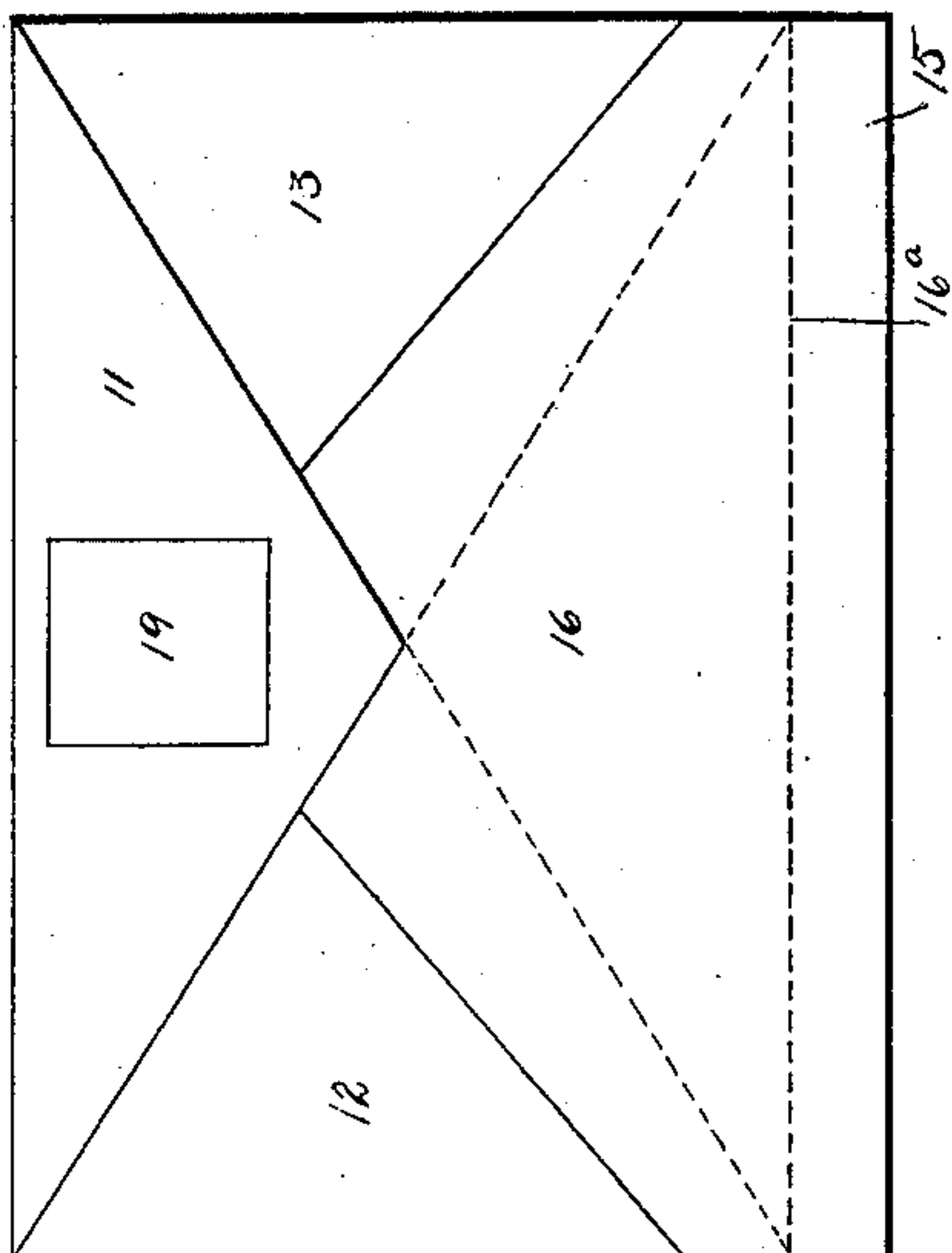


Fig. 5.

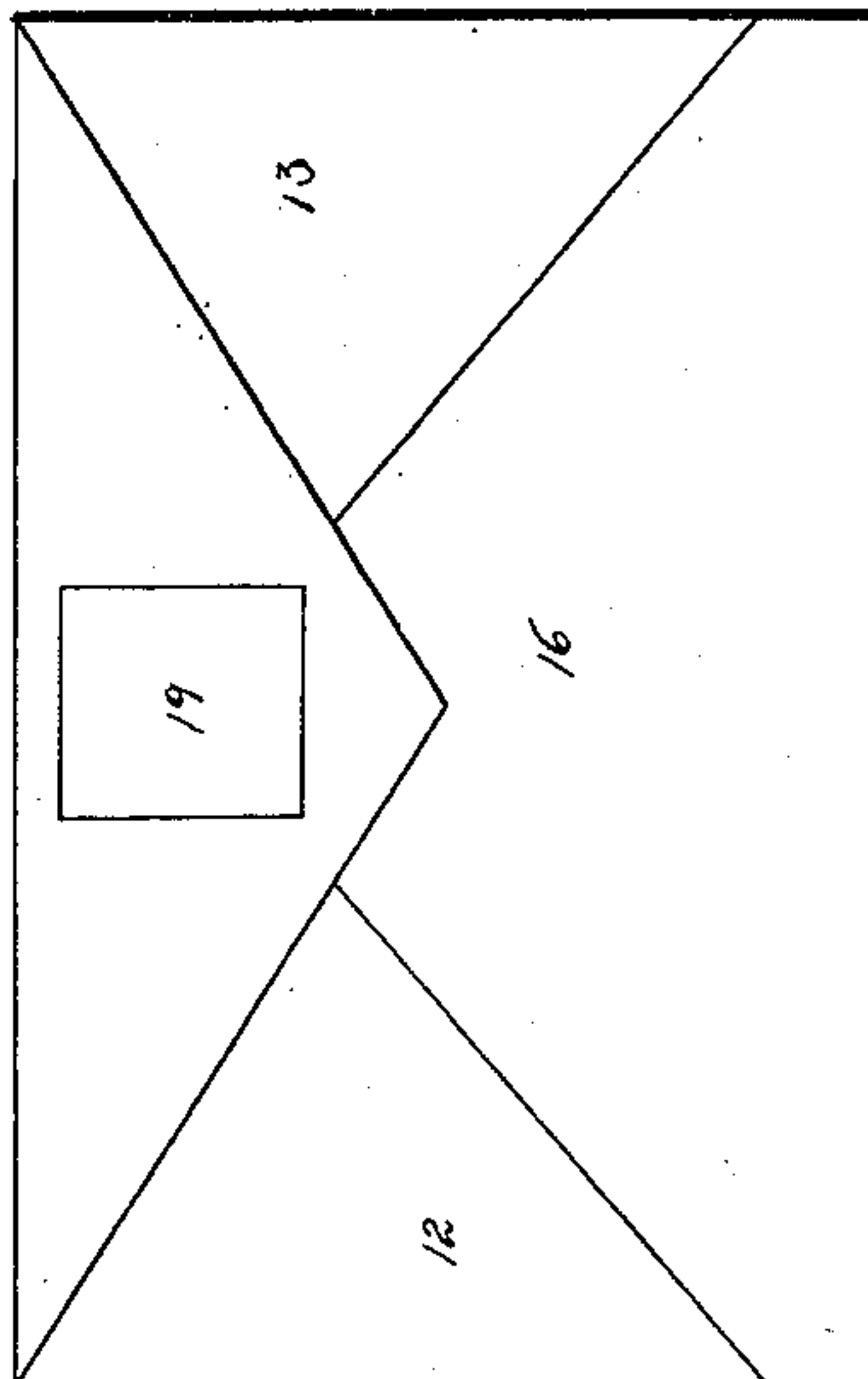


Fig. 2.

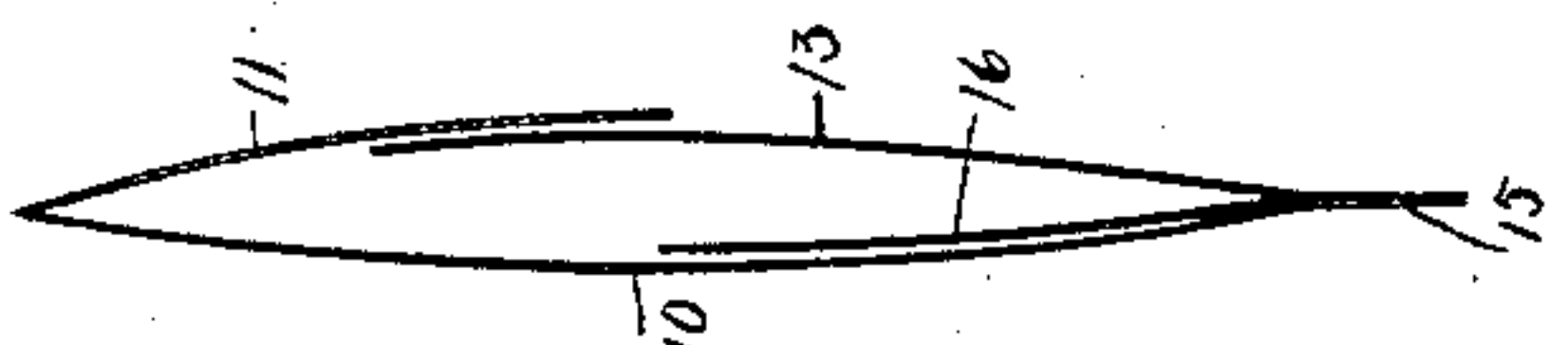


Fig. 1.

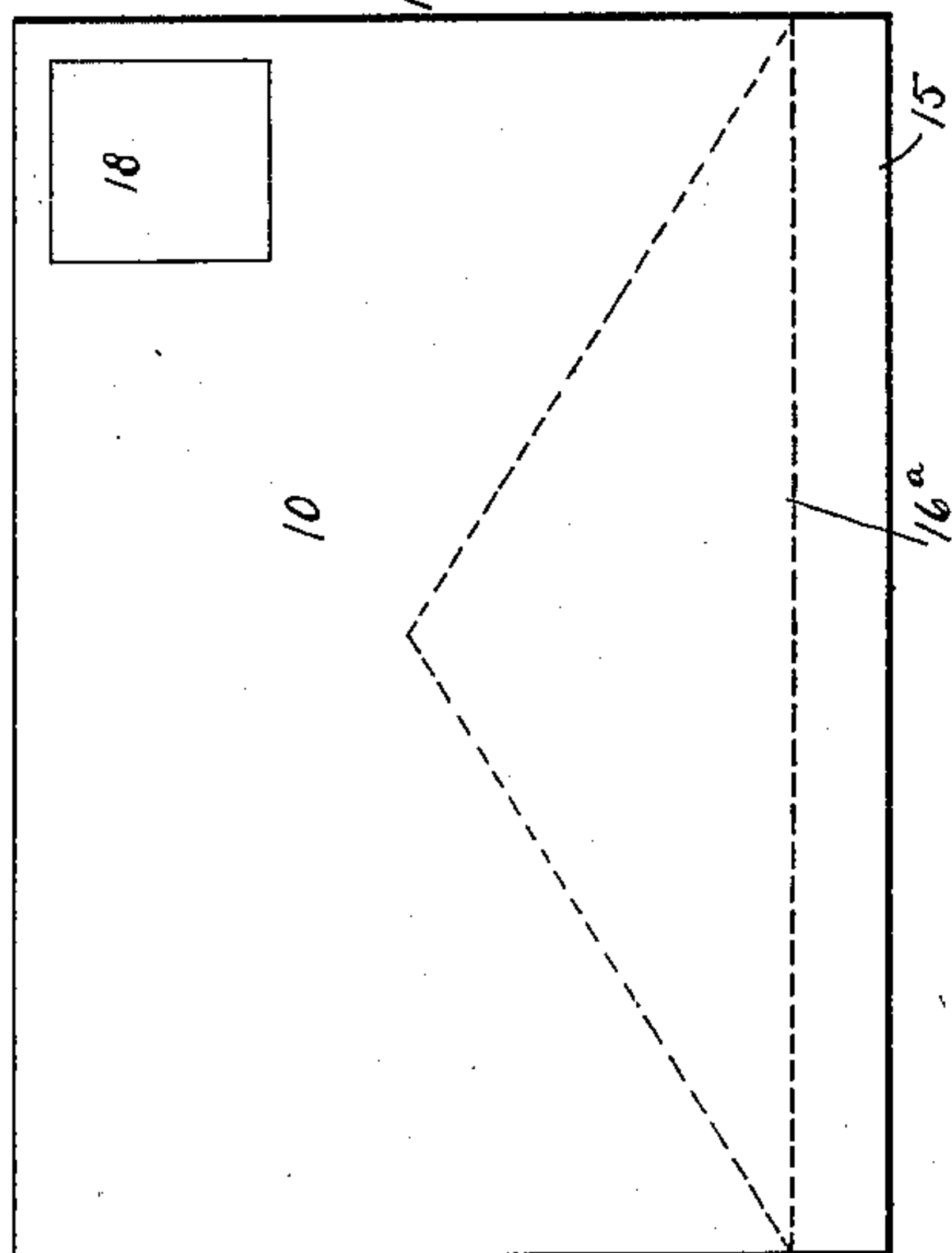
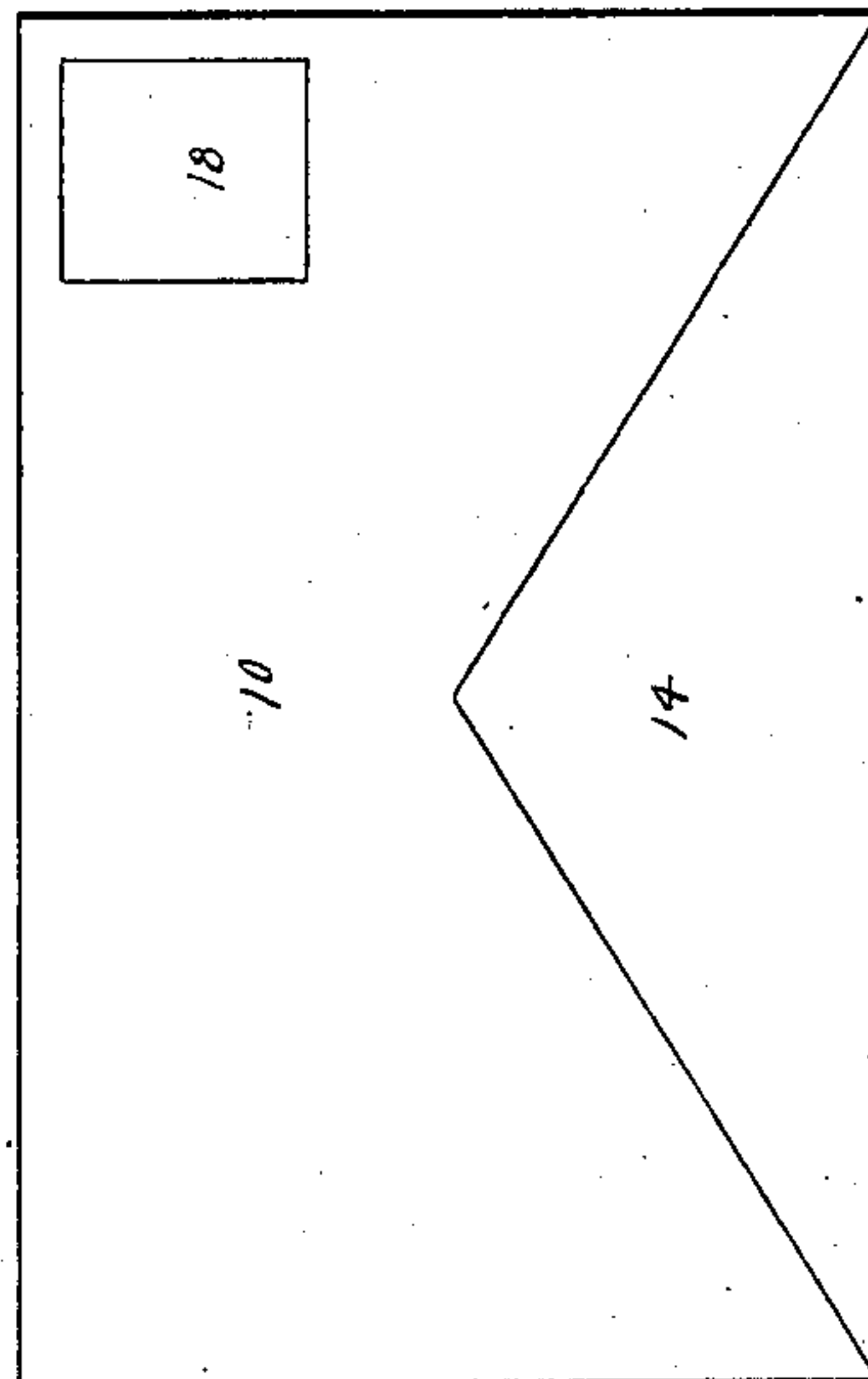


Fig. 4.



WITNESSES

Carl B. Larson
J. A. Stewart

INVENTOR

Francis M. Merridew

BY

E. J. Lister

ATTORNEYS

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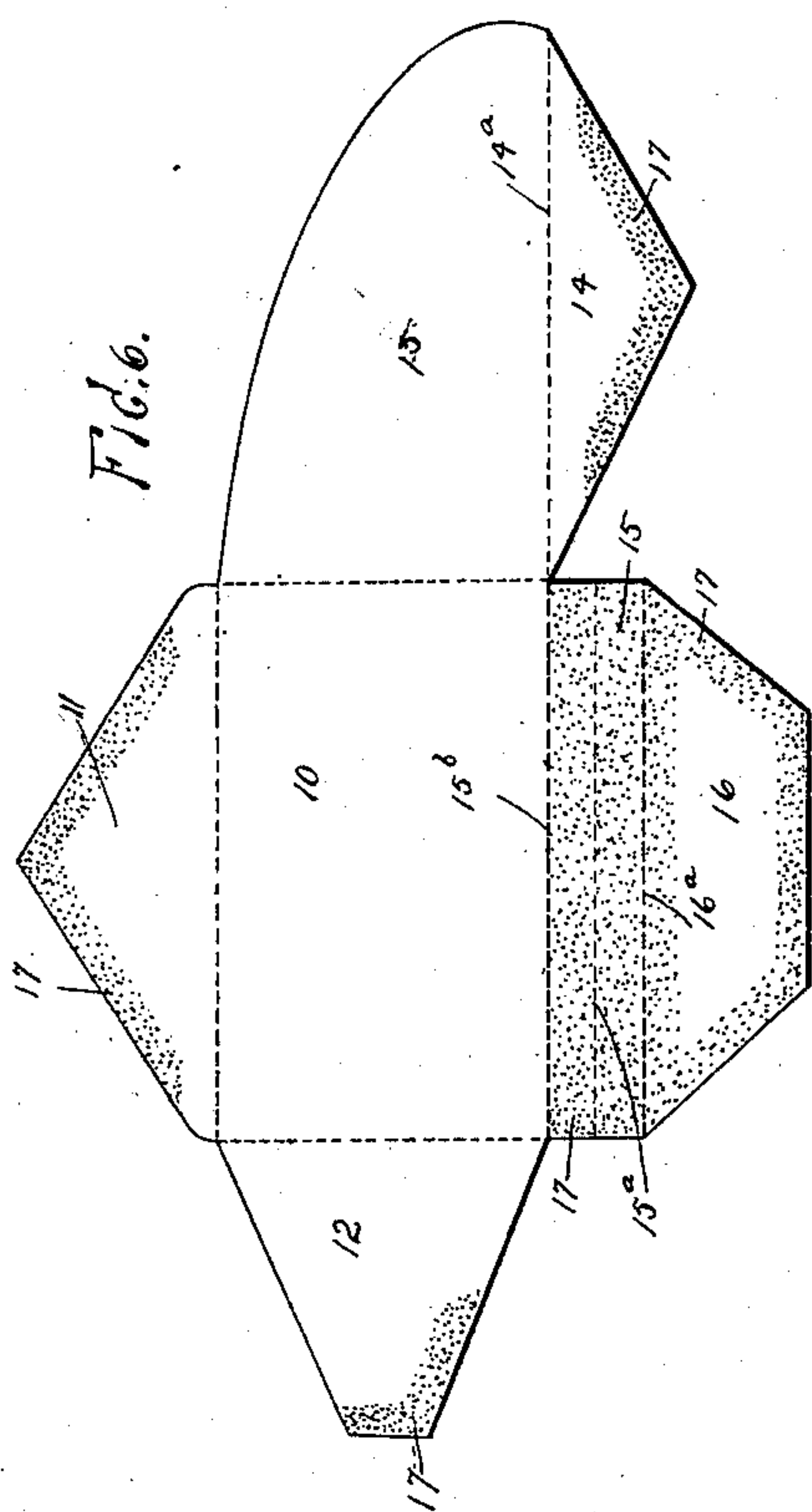
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WITNESSES

Carl B. Larson.
J. A. Stewart.

INVENTOR

Francis M. Merridew

BY

Edgar V. Venter

ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANCIS MELVILLE MERRIDEW, OF BOULOGNE-SUR-MER, FRANCE.

ENVELOP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 661,064, dated November 6, 1900.

Application filed March 7, 1900. Serial No. 7,637. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANCIS MELVILLE MERRIDEW, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain, residing at Boulogne-sur-Mer, France, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Envelops, of which the following is a full and complete specification, such as will enable those skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to envelops; and the object thereof is to provide an envelop in which a reply as well as the original letter may be remitted.

An envelop constructed according to my invention enables a correspondent to prepay reply-postage on a letter, and particularly upon a letter destined for a foreign country, thus meeting the demands of the projected international reply-postage-stamp system.

My invention consists of an envelop which may be of integral formation; and the gist of my invention consists of an auxiliary flap which is normally housed within the envelop and may be projected therefrom and secured to one face of the envelop to form a sealing device, whereby after the envelop has been opened it may be again closed up to carry a second or reply letter. The return postage-stamp is secured to the rear of the envelop, and when the auxiliary flap is secured in operative position to seal the envelop for the return of the letter it is caused to cover the front of the envelop and obscure partially or entirely the original address.

My invention consists in the construction and arrangement of parts hereinafter specified.

In the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which like reference characters denote like parts in the several views, Figure 1 is a front view of an envelop constructed according to my invention and showing the auxiliary flap in dotted lines. Fig. 2 is a transverse section thereof; Fig. 3, a rear view thereof, showing the return postage-stamp and showing the auxiliary flap in dotted lines; Fig. 4, a front view of the envelop with the auxiliary flap in operative position; Fig. 5, a rear view of the envelop with the auxiliary flap in operative position and showing the return postage-stamp connected with the rear flap, and Fig. 6 a plan view of

a blank of which the envelop is formed upon a diminished scale.

In the practice of my invention I form an envelop of which the blank is shown in Fig. 6, 10 being the rectangular front portion of the envelop and 11 the upper rear flap. Connected, respectively, with the ends of the rectangular front portion of the envelop 10 are laterally-directed flaps 12 and 13, which are folded together to produce the side portions of the rear of the envelop, and connected with the lower portion of the flap 13 is the auxiliary flap 14, which is folded within the envelop and the purpose of which has hereinbefore been set forth. The auxiliary flap 14 is folded upon the score-line 14^a. (Shown in Fig. 6.) Connected with the lower portion of the part 10 of the envelop by means of an intermediate strip 15 is a flap 16, which forms the lower rear portion of the envelop. In folding the several parts of the envelop to produce a complete article the flaps 13 and 12 are folded together, as shown in the several views of the drawings, and the strip 15 is folded centrally upon the score-line 15^a, bringing the inner edge portion of the flap 16, which is denoted by the score-line 16^a in Fig. 6, into registration with the lower edge portion of the envelop part 10, and the flap 16 is then directed upwardly and secured to the flaps 12 and 13, exteriorly thereof, thus producing the completed envelop shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the drawings.

It is noted that the flaps 11, 12, and 16, strip 15, and auxiliary flap 14 are all suitably provided with mucilage or other adhesive substance, as shown by the dotted areas 17 in Fig. 6, and in folding the several parts above described to produce the complete envelop these adhesive areas are caused to engage with the parts against which they are folded, excepting the adhesive parts of the flap 11 and auxiliary flap 14, the former of which constitutes the securing-flap of the envelop or the part which is secured to the rear of the envelop after the contents thereof have been inserted therein, and the latter of which is simply folded upwardly within the envelop upon the score-line 14^a and is not brought into use until the envelop has been opened and is again closed for its re-

turn. The strip 15 is entirely coated with the adhesive substance 17, and its line of connection with the part 10 of the envelop at 15^b is perforated, as well as is the score-line 5 16^a, whereby when the envelop is in folded position said strip 15 may be torn from the body of the envelop, thus allowing the contents to be withdrawn therefrom. When this has been done, the flap 16 will still be 10 engaged with the body of the envelop by means of its adhesive coating, and the auxiliary flap 14 may be drawn down and brought up into position in engagement with the front of the envelop or the front of the part 10 15 (shown in Fig. 4) and secured to said part by means of its adhesive coating 17. The envelop is thus again effectually sealed and may be returned with its contents.

The sending or forwarding stamp 18 is im- 20 pressed upon the front surface of the part 10 of the envelop in the usual or any desired position, and the return-stamp 19 is imposed upon the flap 11, which forms a part of the rear portion of the envelop, or upon any other 25 suitable portion of the envelop. When the envelop is returned, the stamp 18 has of course been canceled, and the stamp 19 will have remained uncanceled and of full value to defray cost of return carriage.

30 It is evident that the envelop above described presents material advantages over those at present in use, as a supplementary closure is carried thereby for return transmission, hidden within the envelop. Further, 35 a single envelop may according to my invention do double service, and the sender or original transmitter of the envelop may be able to prepay reply-postage for the return

thereof, thus avoiding the necessity of the original addressee affixing a return-stamp. 40

I do not limit myself to the specific construction and arrangement of parts herein set forth, but reserve the right to vary the same within the scope of my invention.

Having fully described my invention, I 45 claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

An envelop, comprising a main or front portion 10, laterally-directed flaps 12 and 13 connected therewith and one of which is provided 50 at its lower edge portion with an auxiliary flap 14, said main or front portion being provided at its upper edge with a projecting flap 11, and at its lower edge with a detachable strip 15, with the lower edge of which is con- 55 nected a flap 16, said flaps 11, 12 and 16 being provided with adhesive material, and said strip 15 and auxiliary flap 14 being also thus provided, the relative arrangement and construction of parts being such that when said 60 flaps 12, 13 and 16 are folded and secured together, and said strip 15 is folded upon itself, said auxiliary flap 14 will lie within the resultant envelop, said flap 11 being arranged to be folded and connected with the remain- 65 der of the envelop to effectually seal the same, substantially as shown and described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name, in presence of the subscribing witnesses, this 21st 70 day of February, 1900.

FRANCIS MELVILLE MERRIDEW.

Witnesses:

B. DUCAMP,
J. CAUX.