No. 672,226.

Patented Apr. 16, 1901.

# C. J. DORTICUS.

## HAND STAMP FOR POST-OFFICE USE.

(No Model.)

(Application filed Sept. 2, 1898. Renewed Aug. 27, 1900.)

Fig. 1.

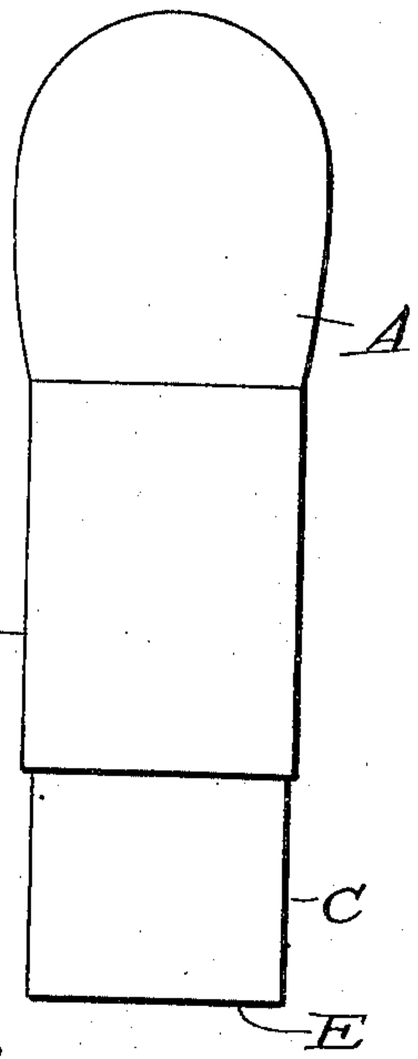


Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.

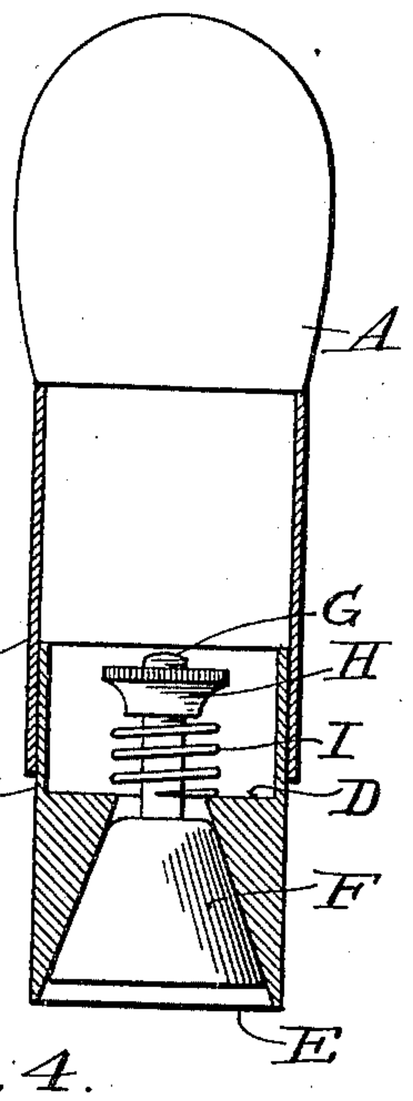


Fig. 4.

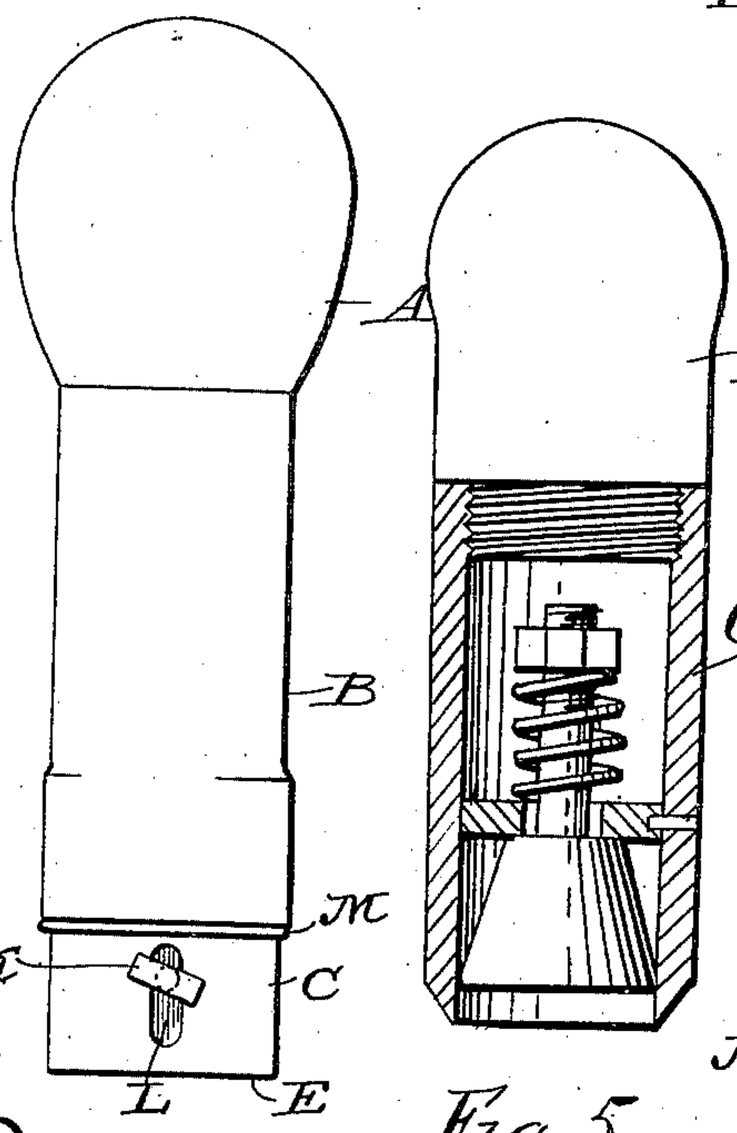


Fig. 5.

WITNESSES

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CLATONIA J. DORTICUS, OF NEWTON, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR TO THE DORTICUS MANUFACTURING CO., OF COLORADO.

## HAND-STAMP FOR POST-OFFICE USE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 672,226, dated April 16, 1901.

Application filed September 2, 1898. Renewed August 27, 1900. Serial No. 28,128. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CLATONIA J. DORTICUS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Newton, in the county of Sussex and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Hand-Stamps for Post-Office Use, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has relation to that class of hand printing-stamps particularly designed for use in minor post-offices in canceling stamps or postmarking mail-matter; and it consists in the peculiar construction thereof hereinafter described, and particularly set forth in the claims.

In my application for Letters Patent filed of even date herewith (Serial No. 690,125) I have shown and described and claimed generically several forms of hand-stamps for post-office use, in each of which the part which imprints the postmark is mounted yieldingly in a jacket and with its imprinting-surface normally above the plane of the striking edge of said jacket, and in each of which also the construction is such as that the printing-face of the die which imprints the postmark may assume a position inclined to the striking edge of the jacket, whereby when the striking edge of the jacket is brought into contact with the surface to be postmarked the die will move forward in the jacket and imprint on said surface the data to be indicated by the stamp and will be instantaneously withdrawn to and held in its normal position, and if said striking edge is not caused to hit said surface squarely said die will be enabled to assume a plane parallel to said surface and will imprint the whole of its matter thereon, thus assuring an unblurred and complete impression of the entire postmark under all ordinary circumstances of use. The die, or that portion of the stamp which forms the postmark, is in all post-office stamps the expensive part thereof, and as said die or printing portion in all previous proposals with which I am acquainted is brought into contact with the surface to be imprinted with the whole of the force exercised by the user said die wears out much more rapidly than it does in the present construction, in which the die—that is to say, the printing portion of the stamp—contacts the surface to be imprinted with much less force than does the striking edge of the jacket, whereby the life of the printing portion of the stamp is prolonged in comparison with those previously used and proposed.

Among the several forms of devices shown in my said application Serial No. 690,125 there are several which in common with each other are further distinguished from previous proposals in that the connection between the jacket and the handle is a separable one, whereby provision is made by which the jacket only, which forms a very inexpensive part of the structure, largely because it is not formed to print any material part of the postmark, is required to be replaced when its striking edge becomes worn from use. Hence the use of these latter forms of my invention involves a minimum expenditure for renewal of parts, in addition to including a postmarking-die having a maximum length of life. In some of the latter forms of my devices the construction is such as to both cancel stamps and postmark letters or other articles, and in one of the same (which is made the subject-matter of my application Serial No. 690,849, filed September 13, 1898) the parts are of special form throughout, while the other construction (made the subject-matter of my application Serial No. 690,850) is such as to utilize the postmarking and stamp-canceling die now used in post-offices and necessitates but slight change therein to adapt it to the jacket.

The present application is generic to that type of the invention above referred to, in which the connection between the handle and the jacket is a separable one, and is specific to a subordinate species of the invention, in which the stamp is intended for postmarking or canceling alone, and in which the handle is vertical (instead of substantially horizontal, as in the other forms referred to) and must be separated from the jacket in order to afford access to the die and the means for supporting the die yieldingly in the jacket. This subordinate species may be embodied in different forms of mechanism, some of which, differing from each other in minor details, are shown in the accompanying drawings.

Figure 1 is a side view, and Fig. 2 a section, of one form of device constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 3 is a side view, and Fig. 4 a section, of a slightly-modified form thereof; and Fig. 5 is a section of a third form of the invention.

In the several forms of the device herein shown there is employed a handle and a cylinder, within which latter is mounted a die for postmarking or stamp-canceling, as the case may be, and a spring for supporting said die normally in elevated position with its imprinting-surface above the lower edge of said cylinder and with the walls of the cylinder and die of such relative construction as that the die will be movable laterally within the cylinder. In each form the die and the spring supporting it are wholly inclosed within said cylinder, the handle projects vertically above the cylinder, and the connection between the handle and cylinder is of such nature as to permit one to be removed from the other to afford access to the die when it is desired to remove the latter for renewal or repair. The cylinder inclosing the die is hereinafter termed a "jacket."

A designates the handle in each form. In the forms shown in Figs. 1 to 4, inclusive, this handle is provided with a depending tube B, within the lower end of which latter is inserted the upper end of a jacket C. Within the lower portion of said jacket there is mounted a die F or F', which is in the form of a frustum of a cone, and said die has a vertically-extending shaft or rod G or G', which is encircled by a coiled spring I or I', the upper end of which bears upon a nut H or H', threaded upon said shaft, and the lower end of which has a suitable support, as hereinafter described. This spring operates to hold the die normally in elevated position and with its imprinting-surface above the lower or striking edge E of the jacket, and its tension is such as that when said edge E is brought into contact with the surface to be printed the force of the impact thereby created overcomes the power of the spring, and the die moves forward in the jacket and imprints on said surface and is immediately returned to and held in its elevated position. This insures a clean unblurred impression.

As stated above, the wall of the jacket contiguous to the die and said die are of such relative forms as to permit the latter to move laterally within the jacket. This is important, in that it assures a complete impression of all the matter on the die whether the striking edge E hits the surface to be printed at a slight inclination to the plane of said surface (and thus with greater force at one place than another) or in a plane parallel to said surface. In the form shown in Fig. 5 the jacket C'' is attached by screw-threads directly to the handle, the tube B being dispensed with.

Referring to Fig. 2, it will be seen that the jacket C has an offset D at about its longitudinal center, that it widens rapidly from said offset to its edge E, and that the spring I is seated directly upon said offset, while in the form shown in Fig. 4 the offset D' is very slight, and the inclination of the walls of the jacket is correspondingly slight, and a ring J rests upon said offset and affords the support for the spring I'. In the form shown in Fig. 5 the wall of the portion of the jacket which contains said die is vertical, and a ring J' is attached to said wall for the purpose of supporting said spring.

In each form of device the opening through which the rod or shaft of the die projects is of greater diameter than said rod or shaft, so as to not interfere with the lateral play of the die.

The die F' (shown in Fig. 4) is intended for postmarking and is of that well-known construction thereof in which the dating portion is removable. In this event the screw K, which secures said dating portion in place, projects through an opening L in the jacket, which opening is so proportioned to the screw as to permit the latter to move longitudinally and laterally thereof.

If desired, the jacket may be formed or provided with a ring or offset to limit the inward movement of said jacket within the tube B, as shown at M, Fig. 4.

When access to the die is desired, the jacket is withdrawn from the tube B, within which it is held by friction in the constructions shown in Figs. 1 to 4, inclusive, or the handle is unscrewed from the jacket with the construction shown in Fig. 5. When this has been done, the tension of the spring supporting the die may be adjusted, or the die may be readily removed from the jacket, if desired.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim is—

1. In a hand-stamp, the combination of the handle, a jacket removably connected with said handle and having a plain striking edge, and an imprinting-die, carrying all the printing characters yieldingly supported in said jacket with its imprinting-surface normally above the plane of said striking edge and separable from said jacket.

2. In a hand-stamp, the combination with the handle, of the jacket removably connected thereto and having a striking edge, and the die movably mounted in said jacket with its imprinting-surface normally above the plane of said striking edge, said jacket and die being relatively constructed so that the die may assume a position inclined to the striking edge of the jacket when the die is in printing position.

3. In a hand-stamp, the combination of the jacket, a handle closing the upper end of said jacket and rigidly and removably connected therewith, and a yieldingly-supported die, removably mounted in said jacket with its printing-surface normally above the striking edge thereof.

4. In a hand-stamp, the combination of the jacket having a striking edge, a die in the

lower portion of said jacket having a rod or shaft in the upper portion thereof, a spring encircling said rod or shaft and operating to support the die yieldingly in said jacket with its printing-surface normally above said striking edge, and a handle closing the upper end of said jacket and rigidly and removably connected therewith, substantially as described and for the purposes set forth.

5. A hand-stamp, comprising a handle having a depending tube, a jacket removably inserted in said tube and having a rigid connection therewith, said jacket having a striking edge, a die mounted in the lower portion of said jacket and having a shaft in the upper portion thereof, and a spring engaging said shaft and operating to support said die yieldingly in the jacket with its imprinting-surface normally above the plane of said striking edge, said die and its yielding support being removable from the jacket and said handle closing the upper portion of the jacket.

6. The herein-described hand-stamp, consisting of a handle having a depending tube, a jacket removably inserted in said tube and projecting below the same, said jacket having a striking edge, a die in the lower portion of said jacket and formed relatively thereto to permit lateral play, a shaft extending from said die into the upper portion of said jacket, a nut threaded on the upper end of said shaft, a spring in the upper portion of said jacket, engaging said nut and operating to hold the die normally elevated within the jacket and to return it to its elevated position instantaneously upon the completion of an imprint, substantially as described.

Signed at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, this 1st day of September, A. D. 1898.

CLATONIA J. DORTICUS.

Witnesses:

C. J. STOCKMAN,

E. F. GENNERT.