

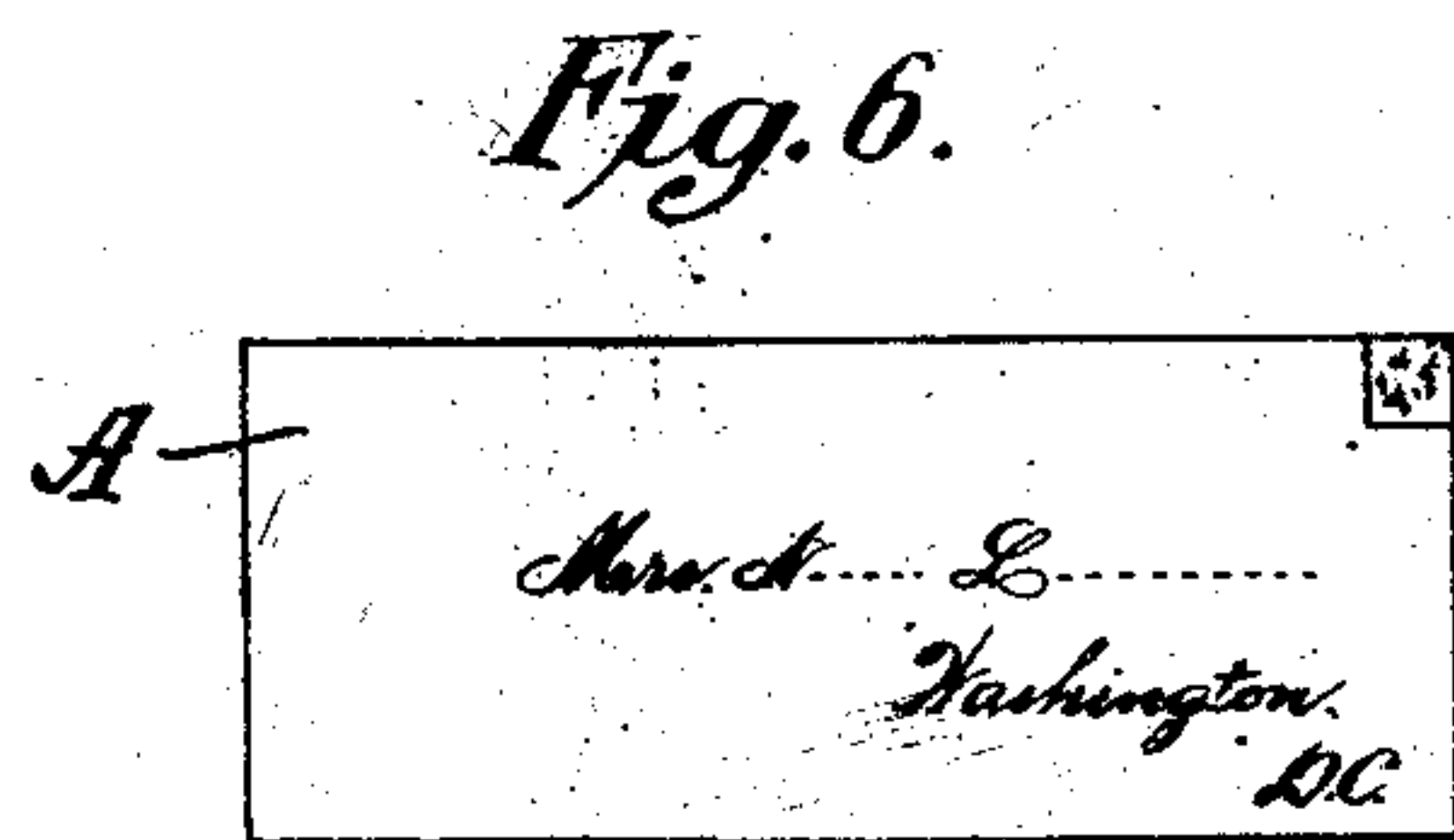
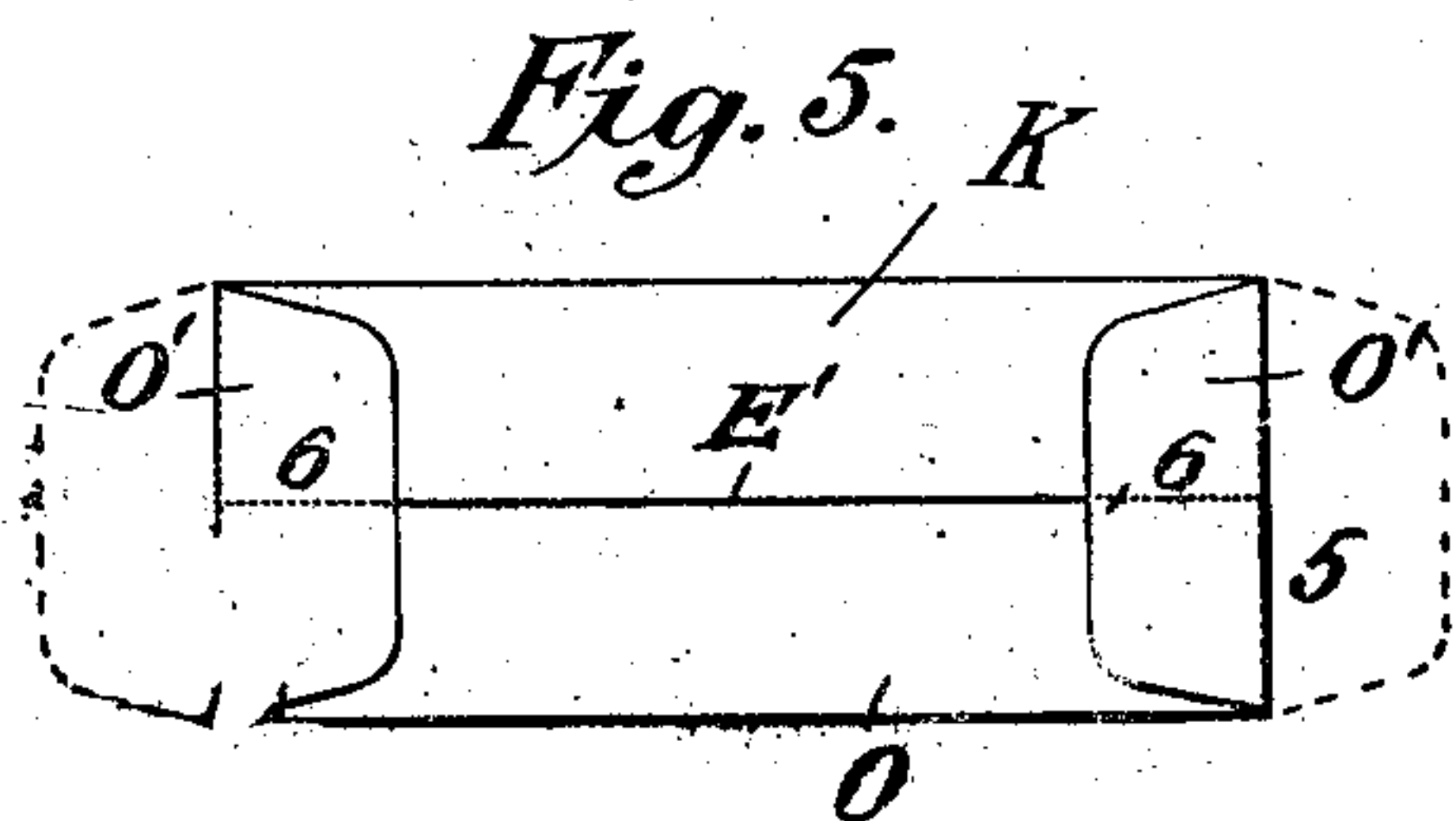
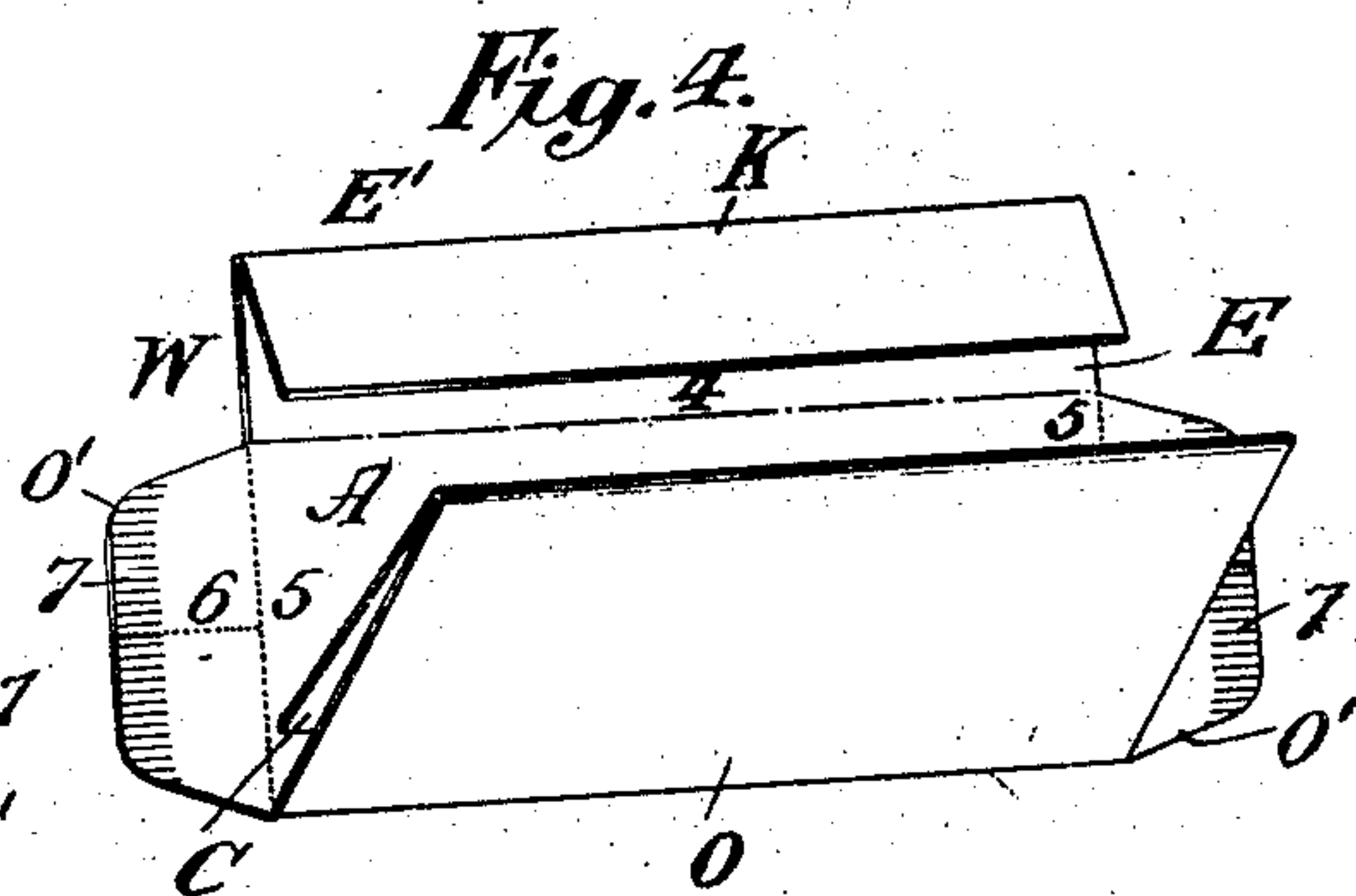
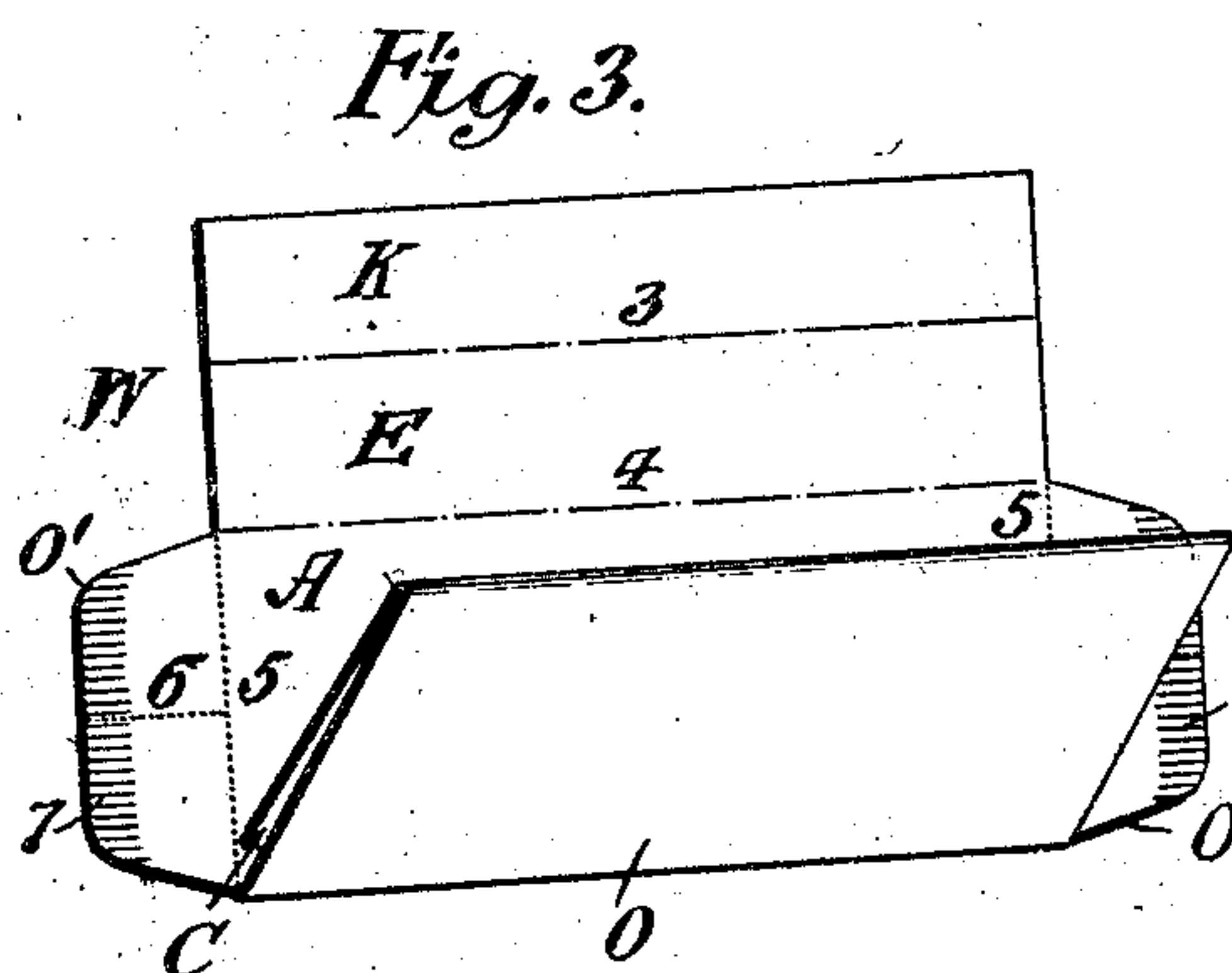
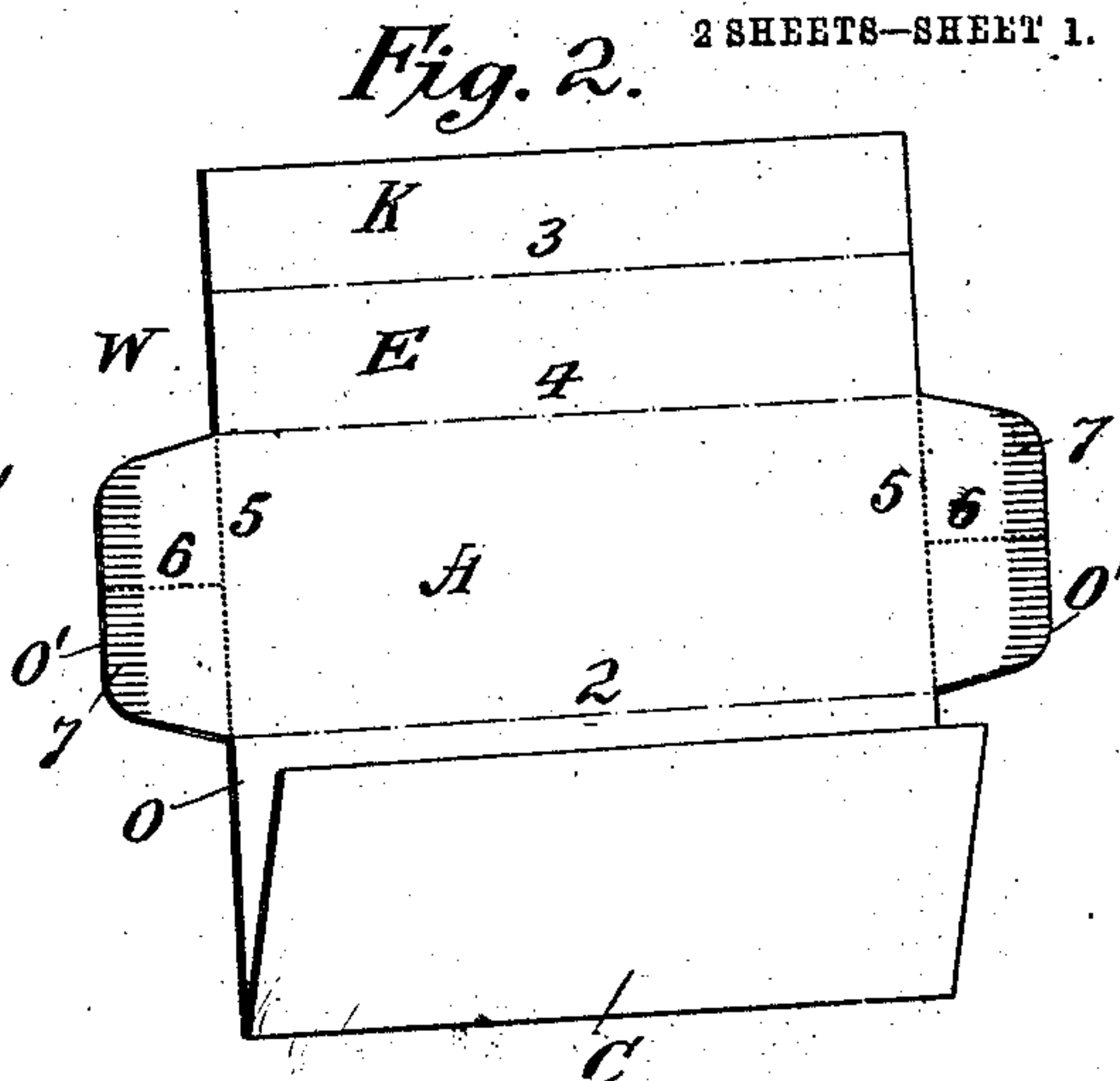
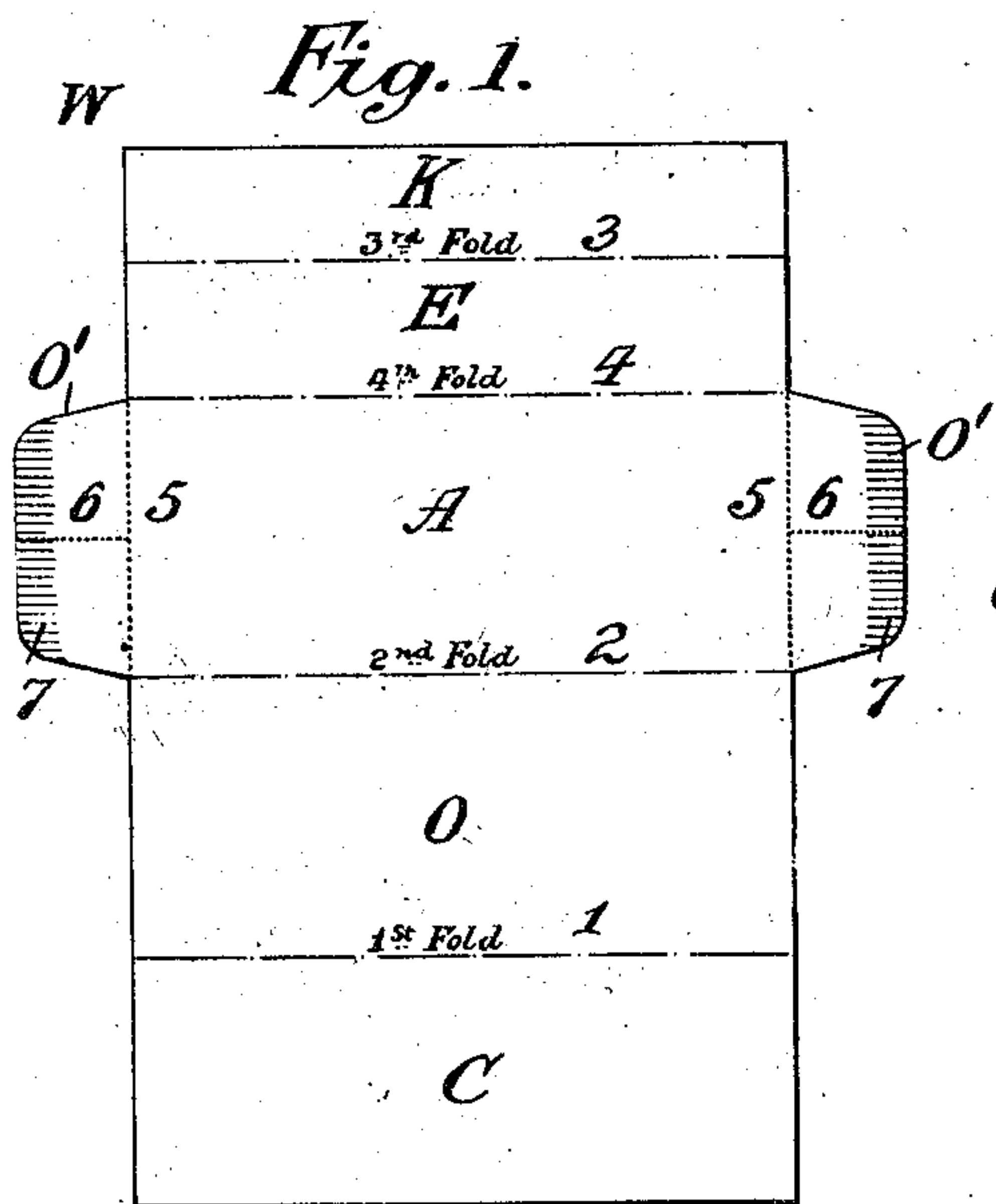
No. 849,771.

PATENTED APR. 9, 1907.

W. A. COOKE, JR.
COMBINED LETTER SHEET AND ENVELOP.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 20, 1906.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 7.

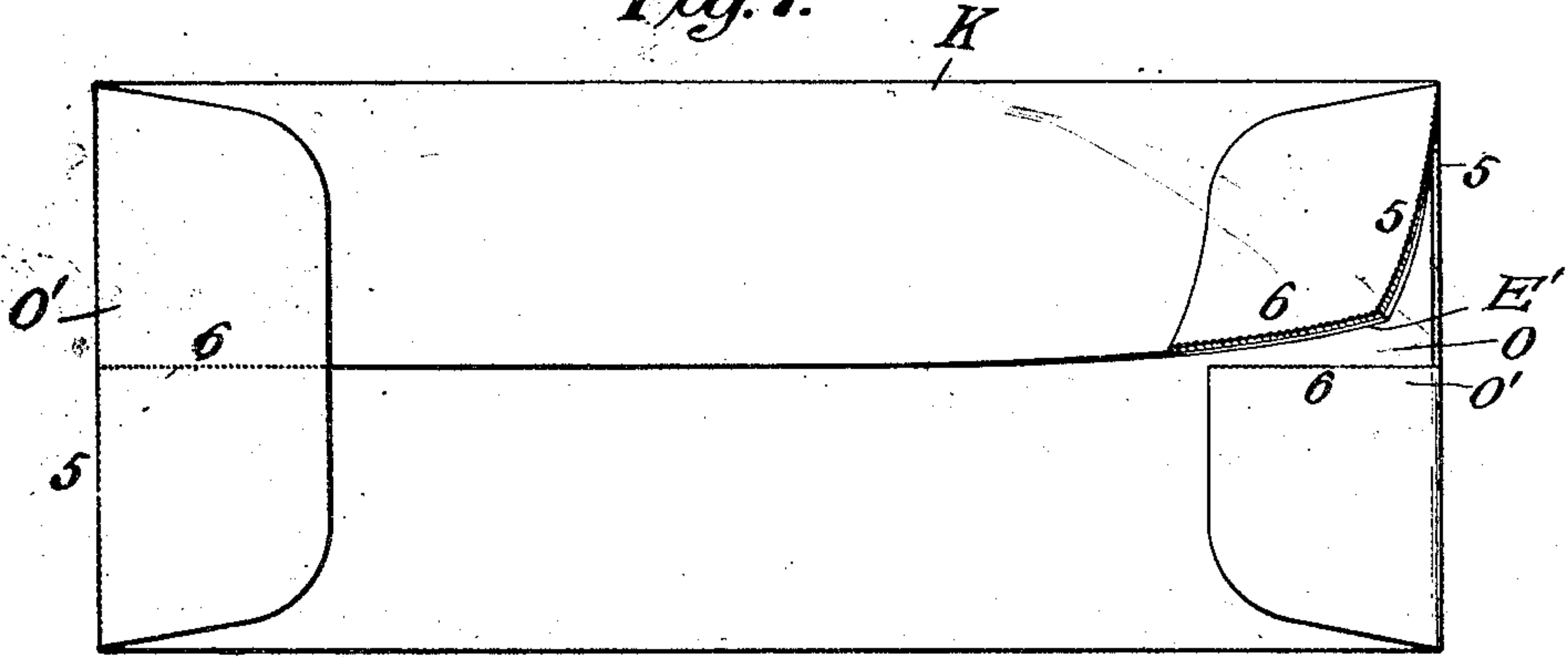


Fig. 8.

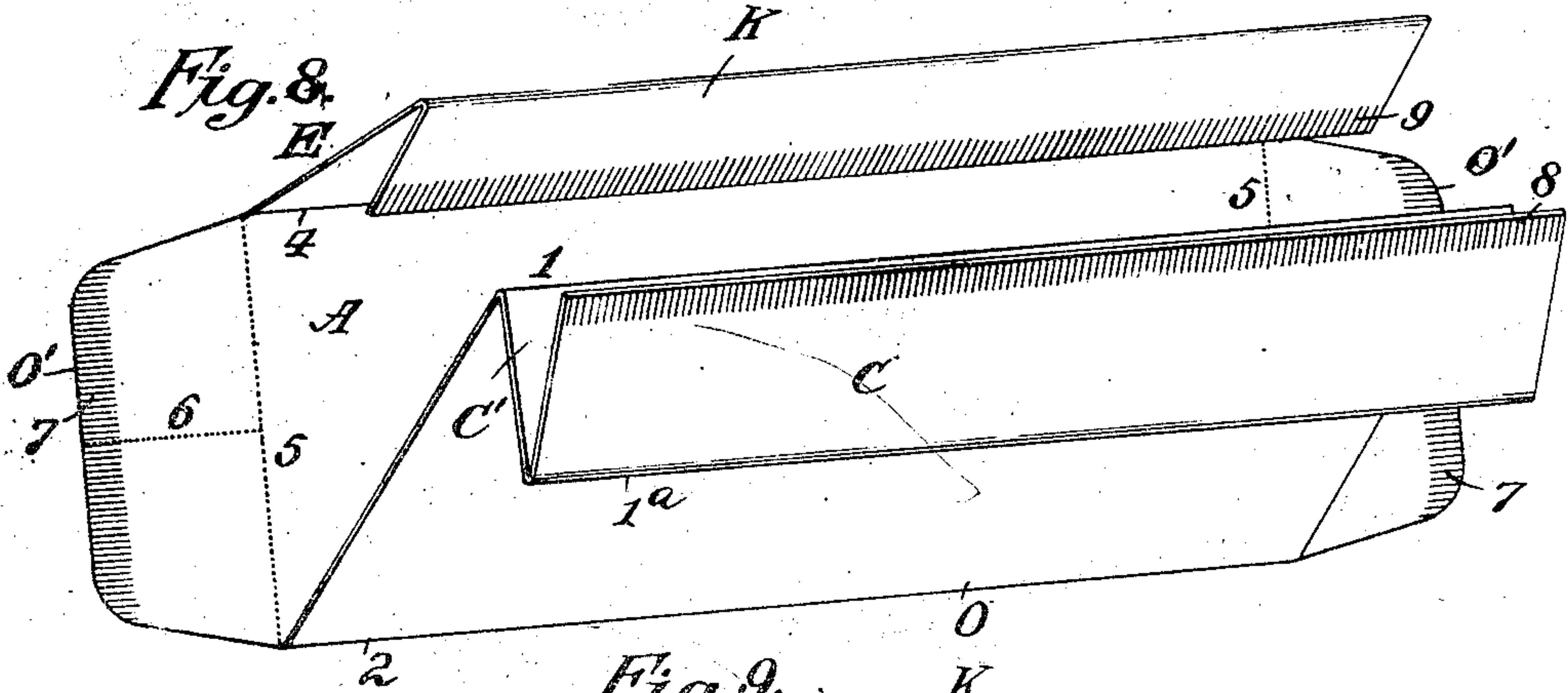
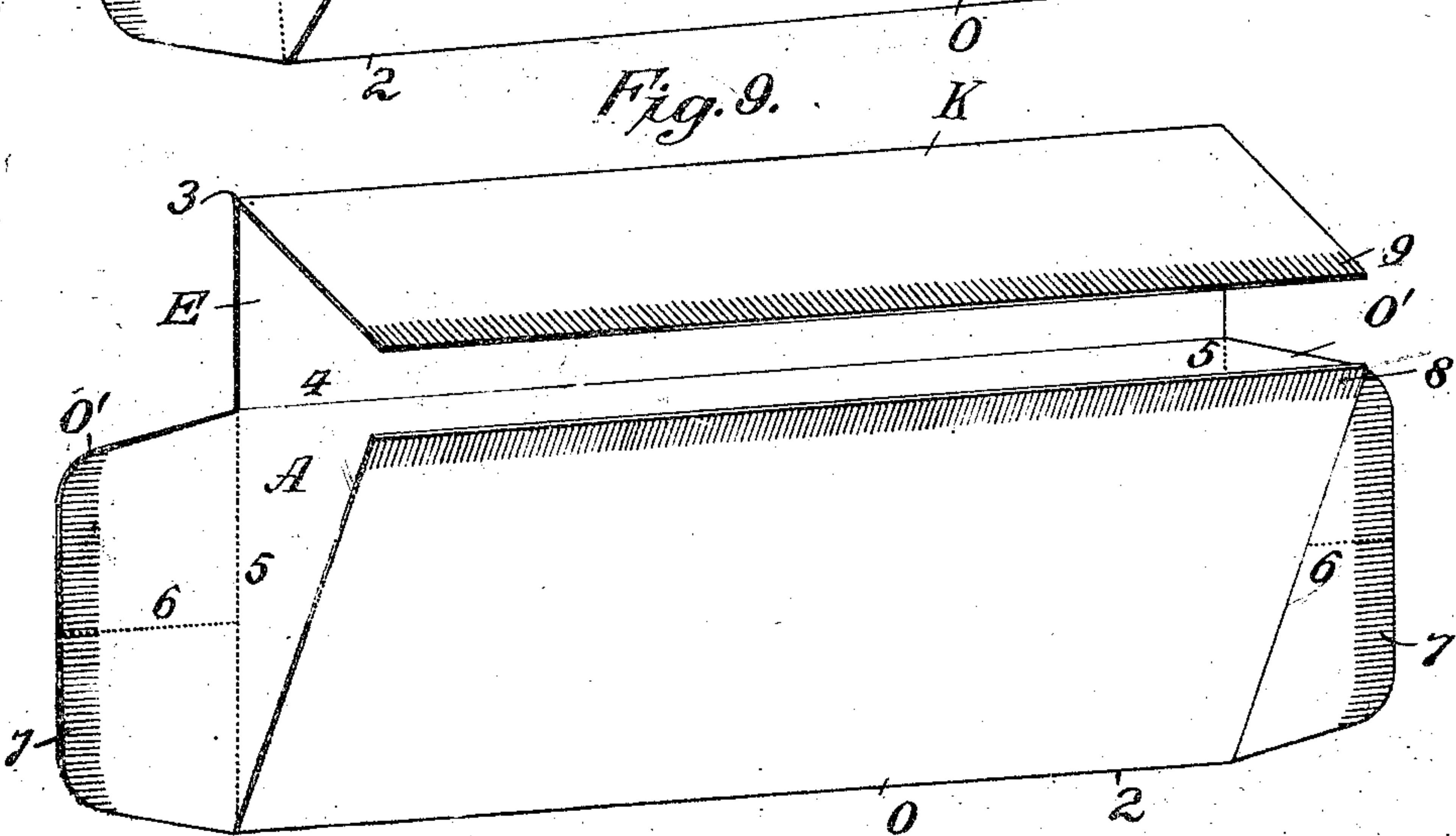


Fig. 9.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM A. COOKE, JR., OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

COMBINED LETTER-SHEET AND ENVELOP.

No. 849,771.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented April 9, 1907.

Application filed April 20, 1906. Serial No. 312,811.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. COOKE, Jr., a citizen of the United States; residing at New York, borough of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in a Combined Letter-Sheet and Envelop, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to combined letter or note sheets and envelopes. These articles are usually made in a single piece cut out from a sheet of paper, and they are adapted to be folded to the form of an ordinary envelop in such a manner as to conceal the writing upon the sheet and are partly self-sealed to prevent unfolding and exposure of the written contents of the letter.

The object of the invention is, first, to produce a combined letter-sheet and envelop in which when folded and sealed the infolded part or parts of the sheet cannot be withdrawn, slipped out, or spread to expose the writing without tearing or defacing the sheet; second, to produce a combined letter-sheet and envelop in which when properly folded and sealed the writing is completely hidden from view and cannot be got at without breaking the seals or tearing the flaps of the folded sheet; third, to produce a combined letter-sheet and envelop in which the writing-surface shall be devoid of deeply-creased or perforated lines, so that the entire surface of the sheet shall be smooth, even, and have as perfect a writing-surface as ordinary writing-paper; fourth, to produce a combined letter-sheet and envelop in which the writing-surface shall be clean and devoid of adhesive material; fifth, to produce a combined letter-sheet and envelop which can be easily and quickly opened without danger of tearing the sheet, defacing the writing, or destroying the address, monogram, crest, date, &c., thereon; sixth, to produce a combined letter-sheet and envelop in which the top and bottom sections, which are infolded, are adapted to be positively and securely fastened together as an additional security against opening or spreading the folds of the letter-sheet.

The nature of the invention and the particular manner of making and using the same are fully set forth in the following description, which is to be read in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which—

Sheet I, Figure 1, represents a plan of the combined letter-sheet and envelop, showing the writing-surface, the folding lines, and the

end-sealing flaps. Figs. 2 to 5, inclusive, represent perspective views of the same, illustrating the successive steps of folding and sealing the sheet. Fig. 6 represents the back of the combined letter-sheet and envelop after being folded and sealed. Fig. 7 illustrates the method of opening the folded and sealed letter-sheet. Fig. 8 represents a letter-sheet in which the top flaps and the bottom foldable sections are adapted to be sealed together when folded. Fig. 9 represents a letter-sheet in which the bottom part is composed of a single section and which is adapted to be sealed to the top flap-section.

Referring to Sheet I, W designates a sheet of paper of a general rectangular form. The sheet is provided with slightly or faintly defined parallel folding-lines 1 2 3 4, which divide the sheet into a back section A, a first fold C, a second fold O, a top flap-fold K, and a fourth foldable section E. The ends of the back project beyond the edges of the other folds and are formed into end-sealing flaps O' O', which are divided from the back by weakened lines 5 5 substantially in line with the vertical edges of the foldable sections and are also divided transversely into two parts by means of weakened lines 6 6, which coincide with the folding-line 3 of the top flap-section when the latter is folded. These end-sealing flaps have on their upper surfaces at the outer edges comparatively narrow bands of adhesive, which are indicated by the parallel lines 7 7 on the same. The face of the letter-sheet, which is shown by Fig. 1, forms the writing-surface, which is coextensive with the sheet and is flat, smooth, and devoid of adhesive material. Hence the entire surface can be written upon, if necessary, there being nothing upon said surface to interfere with the writing or to soil the hands or clothing or which can be smeared over the paper by contact with the hand.

The first fold is made by folding the section C on the line 1, as indicated by Fig. 2, and then laying it down flat on the section O. The second fold is made by folding the section O on the line 2, as indicated by Fig. 3, and laying it down on the back A with the section C underneath. The next fold is made by folding the top flap-section K on the line 3 and laying it down on the section E, and the last fold is made by folding the section E on the line 4 and laying it down on the top of the folded section O with the section K underneath. The flaps O' O' are then

folded over on the weakened lines 5 5 and adhesively fastened to the backs or outer sides of the folded sections E and O, and, when thus folded and fastened, the doubled folded edge E' between the sections K E coincides with the transverse weakened lines 6 6 of the end-sealing flaps, as shown by Fig. 5. The sections K E are of necessarily less width than the sections C O and correspond to the width of the parts of the end-sealing flaps above the weakened lines 6 6, so that when the sections K E are folded down on top of section O the folded edge E' should invariably coincide with the weakened lines 6 6. It is preferred that the flaps should be divided by the weakened lines 6 6 into two equal parts and that the section K should correspond in width to these parts of the flaps, so that when folded down on section O the doubled edge E' will be about half-way between the top and bottom edges of the folded and sealed sheet; but this is not essential, and the parts above and below may be of unequal width, the third folding-line 3 being, however, correspondingly placed to coincide with it when the top flap-sections are folded.

As the writing is confined to the surface of the sheet and this surface is covered by folding the sections in the manner just described, it is completely hidden and cannot be seen or exposed by opening out the folded top flap-section from the section O; neither can the infolded top and bottom sections C O be pulled out without tearing the sheet, owing to the fact that the edge of the section C is infolded and pocketed between section O and the back section A. When the sheet is folded and sealed in the manner described, it takes the form of an envelop, as shown by Fig. 6.

To open the letter-sheet, the finger or an implement, such as the blade of a knife or paper-cutter, is inserted under the doubled or folded edge E' and pressed outward, thereby causing the folded edge to bear against the inner ends of the weakened lines 6 and tear the end-sealing flaps O' O' apart on these lines and also tear them away from the ends of the back section A on the lines 5 5, thereby releasing the sections K E, so that they can be opened out flat. The bottom sections C O are opened by pressing them outward, so as to tear the parts of the end-sealing flaps below the weakened lines 6 6 from the back A on the weakened lines 5 5, and when these flaps are thus released and opened out the entire writing is exposed to view. The double-folded edge E' being much stronger than the weakened lines 6 6 of the sealing-flaps when the sheet is to be opened by pressing the folded edge outward, the weakened lines yield readily and easily, and there is no danger of tearing the folded edge E', as would happen if the edge E' were single instead of double. It is important to

preserve the integrity of the top sections K E, because the address, date, crest, monogram, &c., are printed upon one or both of these sections and would be destroyed if they should be torn in opening the sheet.

A means of further securing the letter-sheet against being tampered with and the writing from being seen by unauthorized eyes is illustrated by Figs. 8 and 9. The former figure shows a letter-sheet of exactly the same form as the one heretofore described; but in addition to the adhesive on the end-sealing flaps a narrow strip of the surface, which is indicated by 8, contiguous to the edge of the bottom section C and on the back thereof, is coated with the adhesive, so that it may be sealed to the outer edge of the top flap-section K when the sheet is folded. In order that this additional sealing may be effected, the folding of the bottom section C is changed slightly, a folding-line 1^a being employed, so that a supplementary fold C' can be made, which is of the same width as the top flap-section K. The section C in this form is turned upward on the folding-line 1, so that it will be above the section O, and the supplementary fold C' is folded on the line 1^a and laid down on the section C, thus bringing the adhesive strip outside, so that when the top flap-section K is turned its outside surface contiguous to its free edge will overlie the adhesive strip 8, and when the adhesive is moistened the two meeting edges adhere together. The top flap-section K may also have its surface adjacent to its free edge coated on the outside or back with the adhesive, as at 9, if desired. When the top and bottom sections are thus sealed, the folded sheet is still more secure.

Fig. 9 illustrates a form of the sheet in which the bottom section C is omitted and the section O has an adhesive applied to its back surface in a strip 8, contiguous to its free edge, and the top flap likewise has the adhesive on its back surface in the same manner as described in connection with Fig. 8; but this strip of adhesive may be omitted, if desired. In this short sheet with a single bottom section the sealing together of the top flap-section K and section O makes the folded sheet perfectly secure against unauthorized opening.

I claim—

1. A combined letter-sheet and envelop consisting of a sheet of paper comprising a back section having end-sealing flaps thereon which are divided transversely by weakened lines into two parts, bottom sections and top flap-sections, the bottom sections foldable together on top of the back section and the top flap-sections foldable to form a relatively narrow flap with a doubled edge, which coincides with the transverse weakened lines of the end-sealing flaps, substantially as described.

2. A combined letter-sheet and envelop consisting of a sheet of paper divided by transverse folding-lines into a back section having end-sealing flaps divided therefrom by weakened lines and provided with transverse weakened lines which divide it into two parts, bottom sections which are foldable together over on top of the back section, and relatively narrow top flap-sections which are foldable over on top of the folded bottom section so that the double folded edge is between the top and bottom edges of the folded bottom sections thus forming a relatively narrow flap, said doubled edge, when said sections are thus folded and fastened by the end-sealing flaps, coinciding with the transverse weakened lines of the end-sealing flaps, substantially as described.

3. A combined letter-sheet and envelop consisting of a sheet of paper in which are comprised a back section having extensions at the end that form end-sealing flaps which are divided from the back section and also divided into two parts transversely by weakened lines, foldable bottom sections of the same width as the back section, and foldable top flap-sections adapted to be folded together over and on top of the back section and the top flap-sections adapted to be folded together on top of the folded bottom sec-

tions so as to form a top flap-section of less width than the back and folded sections, and of the same width as the space above the weakened lines of said end flaps.

4. A combined letter-sheet and envelop consisting of a sheet of paper divided into a back section having end-sealing flaps thereon which are divided from the back section and also divided into two parts transversely by weakened lines, foldable bottom sections of substantially the same width as the back section, foldable top flap-sections of less width than the back and bottom sections and corresponding to the parts of the end-sealing flaps above the transverse weakened lines, whereby when the bottom sections are folded over and on top of the back section and the top flap-sections folded down on top of the bottom folded sections, the double-folded edge of the top flap-section coincides with the transverse weakened lines of the end-sealing flaps, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the invention above set forth I have affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM A. COOKE, JR.

Witnesses:

WILTON C. DONN,
HANS AMRHEIN.