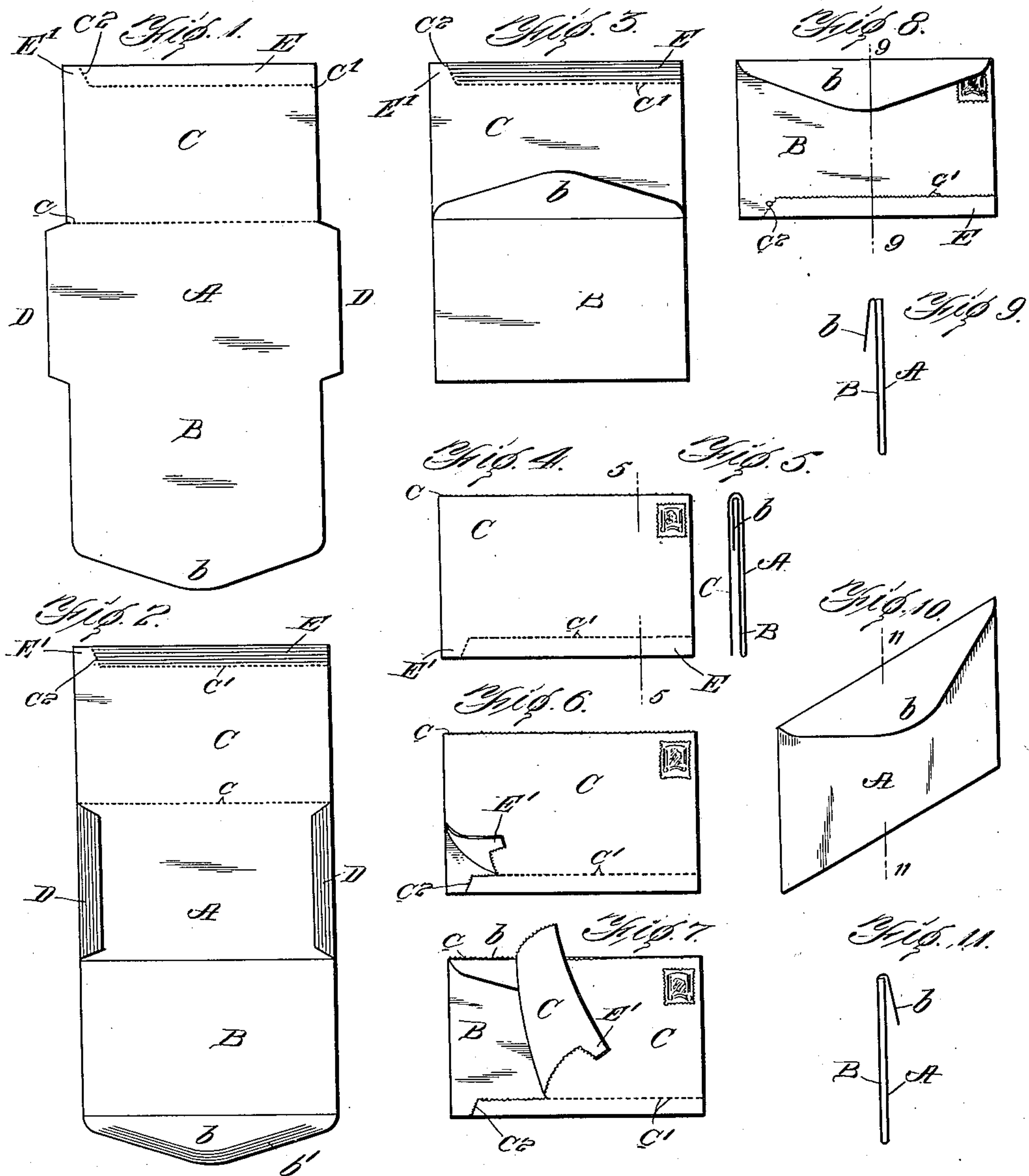


No. 886,449.

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T. C. WEST.
RETURN ENVELOP.
APPLICATION FILED MAR. 21, 1907.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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RETURN-ENVELOP.

No. 886,449.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 5, 1908.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, TIMOTHY C. WEST, a citizen of the United States of America, residing in Richmond, in the county of Henrico and State of Virginia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Return-Envelops, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to that class of envelopes known as "return envelopes" which are of such construction that they may be made to inclose a letter and then sealed, addressed and stamped in the usual way, and which may be used by the addressee to receive a reply letter and then sealed, addressed and stamped in the ordinary manner. Letters Patent of the United States No. 690,500, granted to me January 7, 1902, shows an envelop of this general kind. In that patent, however, the original address remains on the envelop which received a reply letter, while according to my present invention, the envelop is provided with a part to receive the original address which may be readily detached by the original addressee, thus providing an envelop for the reply letter, blank on one side as usual and containing the address for the reply letter on the opposite side.

In carrying out my invention, I form the envelop from a blank having three main body portions of substantially the same size and shape. The middle portion is formed with side wings which are folded inward and are cemented to one of the end body portions of the blank which contains a sealing flap of the usual kind. The other end body portion has a line of perforations between it and the main body portion, and it is folded over on the two other body portions along the line of perforations, said body portion thus folded over upon the other two is provided with a suitable adhesive along its longitudinal edge inclosed by a line of perforations. This glued portion, however, does not extend the entire length of the longitudinal edge of the envelop, but an unglued portion or tongue is left in one corner which may be taken hold of to start the operation of tearing off the folded over body portion when the envelop is received by the original addressee.

My invention will be better understood from a description of the accompanying drawings, in which

Figure 1 shows the blank from which the envelop is made. Fig. 2 shows this blank

with the side wings folded over upon the middle body portion and with glue applied where needed. Fig. 3 shows the original envelop completely folded and ready for use to receive the original letter. Fig. 4 shows this envelop sealed, addressed, stamped and ready to mail. Fig. 5 shows a transverse section of the envelop on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4. Figs. 6 and 7 illustrate how the envelop is opened by the original addressee. Fig. 8 shows the appearance of the envelop after the body portion containing the original address is completely removed. Fig. 9 shows a transverse section through this envelop on the line 9—9 of Fig. 8. Fig. 10 is a perspective view of the same envelop with the flap turned over and ready to seal the reply message. Fig. 11 is a transverse section on the line 11—11 of Fig. 10.

The blank shown in Fig. 1 consists of three main body portions, A, B, C, which are of substantially the same size. The central body portion A, is provided with narrow side wings, D, and the end body portion, B, is provided with a sealing flap, *b*. The end body portion, C, has a line of perforations, *c*, between it and the central body portion, A, and it is also provided with a line of perforations, *c'*, extending from one side edge to near the opposite side edge and joining a line of perforations, *c''*, extending to the longitudinal edge. In this way a portion, E, is inclosed by perforations, while a portion, E', is connected with the main body portion, C, without intervening lines of perforations. Glue or other suitable adhesive is applied to the portion, E, in the manner indicated in Fig. 2, and also to the flap, *b*, as indicated at *b'*. Glue is also applied to the side wings, D, as indicated. In this condition the first pocket to receive the original letter or inclosure is made by bending the body portion B over upon the body portion, A, and causing the wings, D, to adhere thereto in the manner indicated in Fig. 3. In this condition the envelop is ready for the market. The original letter is placed in the envelop when in the condition shown in Fig. 3, and this envelop is sealed by bringing the body portion, C, over upon the body portion, B, moistening the glue at E and causing it to adhere to the lower edge of the body portion, B, in the manner indicated in Fig. 4. The envelop is then addressed and stamped and is ready for mailing. When received by the original addressee it may be opened in the

manner indicated in Figs. 6, 7 and 8. The addressee takes hold of the tongue, E', which is not glued to the envelop, and tears along the lines of perforations, c^2 , and then along the lines of perforations, c' and c , in the manner indicated in Fig. 7. When this is done the sheet, C, containing the original address will be entirely removed, as indicated in Fig. 8, except that the portion E remains but this does not contain any part of the address and does not materially affect the appearance of the envelop which, in this condition, is substantially the same as an ordinary envelop,— it is ready to receive the reply message or inclosure and the flap, b , may be turned over in the manner indicated in Figs. 10 and 11 and the address applied to the sheet, B, in the usual manner.

My patent above mentioned shows an envelop somewhat similar in some respects to that herein shown and described, but the new envelop has the advantage of providing a part to receive the original address which may be entirely removed before sending the reply letter. The address for the reply letter may be written on the sheet, B, before the original letter is mailed if desired, and if so applied, it will be covered by the portion C when the envelop is first mailed but after the part C is removed, the return address will be exposed and the sender of the reply message

need only inclose the reply letter and seal the envelop.

I claim as my invention:—

A return envelop composed of a middle body portion having side wings, an end body portion of the same dimensions as the middle portion having a sealing flap and folded over upon the middle body portion and secured to the folded in side wings, and a third portion of the same dimensions as the middle body portion adapted to receive the original address having a line of perforations between it and the middle body portion being unsecured to other parts of the envelop at its opposite ends above the side wings, and provided with a portion along its longitudinal edge bounded by perforations and containing an adhesive adapting it to be secured to the opposite end body portion and provided also with a tongue at one corner to one side of the adhesive-containing-portion whereby the opening of the envelop can be commenced and thereafter the envelop can be readily torn along the lines of perforations provided in said second mentioned end body portion.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name.

TIMOTHY C. WEST.

Witnesses:

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