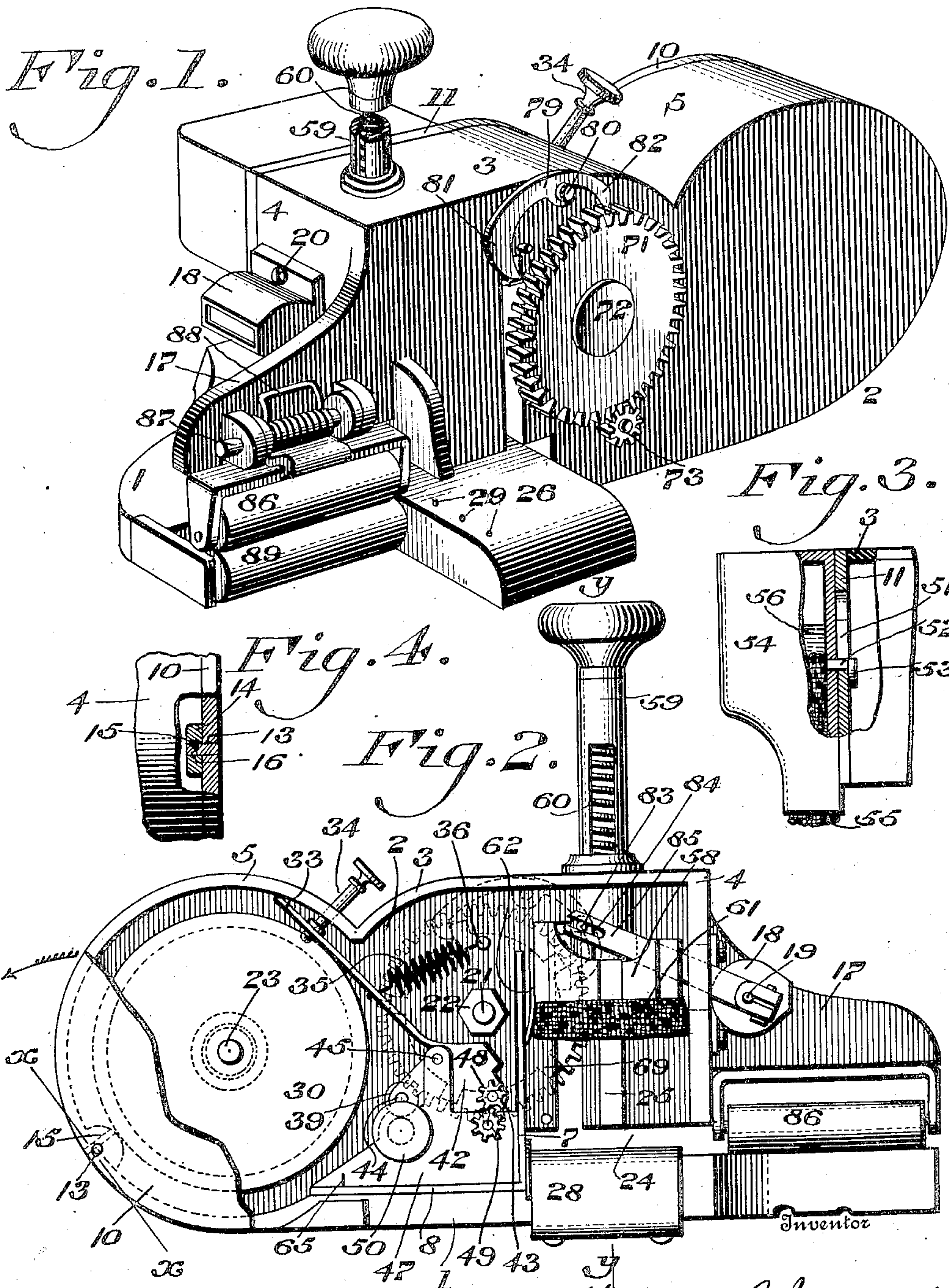


F. L. JENNINGS.
 STAMP AFFIXER.
 APPLICATION FILED JULY 24, 1907.

Patented Nov. 10, 1908.
 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

903,576.



Witnesses
 P. E. Nagle.
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Frank L. Jennings.
 By Frederick H. Fairbank.
 Attorneys

F. L. JENNINGS.

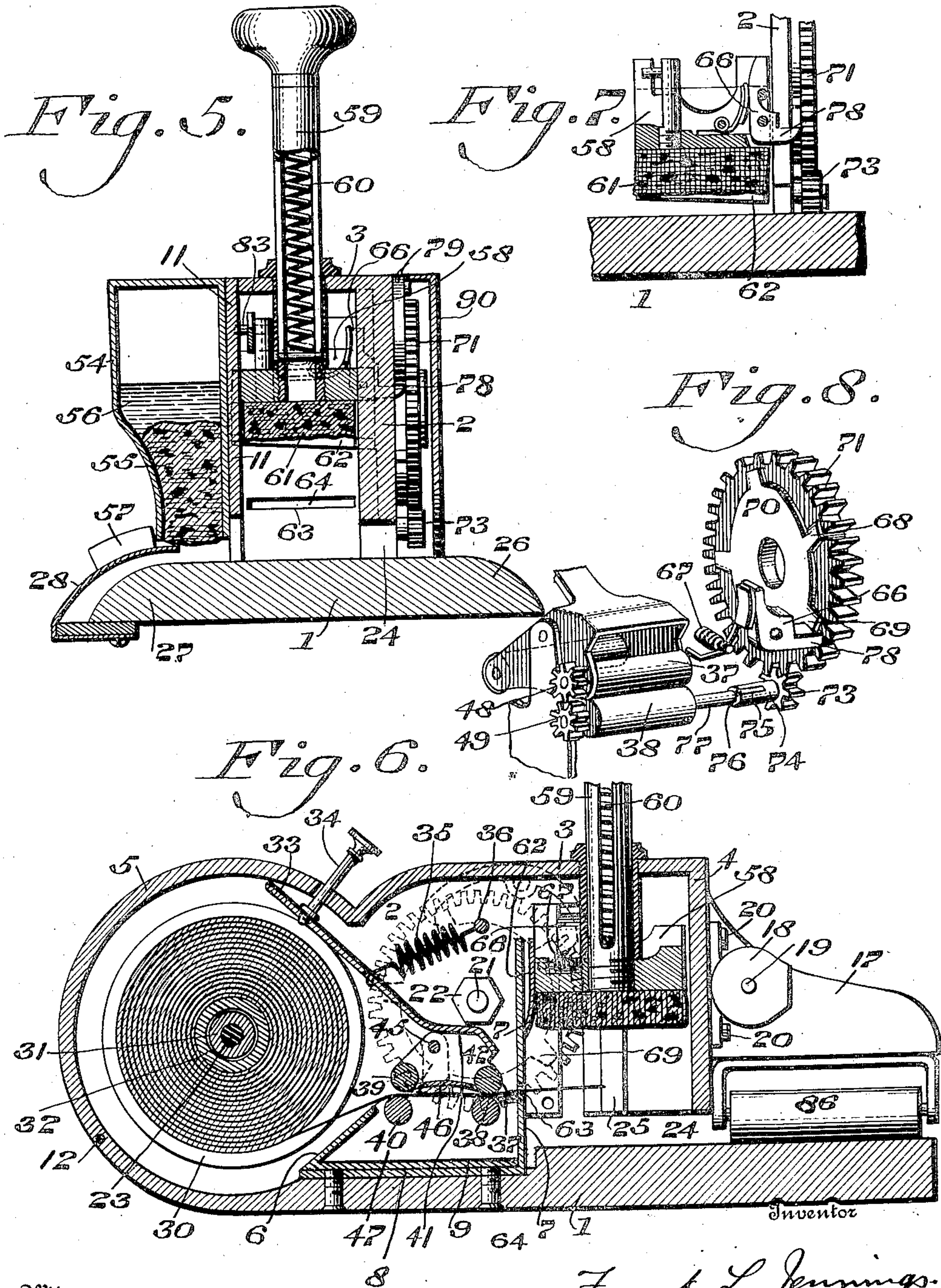
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P. H. Nagle.
L. Nouville.

Frank L. Jennings.
By *Frederick H. H. H. H. H.*
Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK L. JENNINGS, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO
CHARLES T. WRIGHT, OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY.

STAMP-AFFIXER.

No. 903,576.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 10, 1908.

Application filed July 24, 1907. Serial No. 385,335.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK L. JENNINGS, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city and county of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Stamp-Affixer, of which the following is a specification.

My present invention consists of a novel construction of stamp affixer by employment of which the stamps are positively fed into the proper position above the article to be stamped, and affixed thereon in a reliable and efficient manner.

It further consists of a novel construction of feeding rollers for the stamping mechanism.

It further consists of a novel manner of securing the moistening mechanism with respect to the casing of the device.

It further consists of other novel features of construction, all as will be hereinafter fully set forth.

For the purpose of illustrating my invention I have shown but one form thereof since this embodiment best illustrates the principles of my invention, in the accompanying drawings, although it is obvious that the various instrumentalities of which my invention consists can be variously arranged and organized and that my invention is not limited to the precise arrangement and organization of these instrumentalities as herein shown.

Figure 1 presents a perspective view of a device embodying my invention, the same being viewed from the rear. Fig. 2 presents a side elevation of the same, certain parts thereof having been removed for the sake of clearness. Fig. 3 presents a side elevation, partly broken away, of the moistener and a portion of the casing. Fig. 4 presents a broken section on line $x-x$, Fig. 2. Fig. 5 presents a section on line $y-y$, Fig. 2. Fig. 6 presents a longitudinal vertical section of my device, certain parts being removed for the sake of clearness of illustration. Fig. 7 presents a transverse sectional view of a portion of the device showing more clearly certain parts seen in Figs. 5 and 6. Fig. 8 presents a broken perspective view of a portion of the device showing more clearly the stamp feeding rollers and the actuating means therefor.

Similar numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts in the figures.

Referring to the drawings:—My stamp affixer and sealer comprises primarily a frame, a stamp holding device, stamp feeding mechanism, cutting and impressing mechanism, and moistening and sealing means. The frame comprises a base 1 to which is secured in any suitable manner, a side 2 and top 3, an end 4 and a circular flange 5. To the base of the frame 1 is secured by any suitable means, here shown separable, a guard 6 and an upright guide 7 here united by bases 8 and 9 and secured to the base of the frame by screws and solder, as best seen in Fig. 6.

The frame is closed preferably by two plates or sides 10 and 11, of which 10 is preferably of approximate circular shape to fit the flange 5, and 11 covers the remainder of the opening shown in Fig. 6 and is secured to the top, bottom and end or any parts thereof in any suitable manner. The plate 10 is pivoted at 12, as best seen in Fig. 4, by means of a pin 13 projecting into any suitable boss or fixed portion 14. A pin 15 at right angles to the pin 13 lies within a groove therein and permits free movement of said pin 13 and consequently of the disk or plate 10 about the center of this pin as an axis while preventing withdrawal of the same while the pin 15 is in place. A bracket is secured to or projects from the end 4 of my frame for the proper support of the sealing mechanism and a counter of any suitable character 18 actuated preferably by oscillation of its shaft 19 is secured to the same end of the frame by screws 20. The back or face 2 of my machine is preferably apertured for a stud 21 inserted from the outside and held in place by nut 22 for purposes hereinafter stated. A stud 23 is likewise secured within the back in any suitable manner and an opening 24 is provided above the base and beneath the affixer to permit free movement of the envelopes therein while they are being acted upon by my machine, and permit a series of stamps to be affixed.

Within the frame of the machine are located a guide 25 upon the inside of the frame part 2 and a corresponding guide upon the plate 11 which it has not been considered necessary to show, but which is located directly opposite the guide 25 and which co-operates with it to insure true movement of the affixing plunger. Upon opposite sides of the base, I have formed extensions there-

of, 26 and 27, which steady the machine against rocking and of which extension 27 forms a support for the moistener guide 28 secured to the frame in any suitable manner. At 29 I place a scale to indicate the position of the envelop for successive stamps.

Stamp holding device.—This comprises a roller consisting of faces 30 united by a short tube or core 31, which fits over and is suitably secured upon the stud 23 as best seen in Fig. 6. About the tube 31, I loosely mount a roller 32 upon which the stamps in the form of a strip are wound so as to rotate freely within the faces 30 should the rotation of the roller about the stud 23 be in any way retarded. The roller 32 will allow for the entire rotation of the roll of stamps if desired. I provide a brake for the roll of stamps in the form of a lever arm 33, which, among other uses, is adapted, when pressed by the pin 34, to engage the circumference of the roll of stamps when this roll is full and to have a braking or retarding effect thereon at this time. This arm 33 is normally held away from its braking or retarding action by means of a spring 35 attached to any fixed point 36.

The stamp feeding mechanism.—The stamps are adapted to be fed by means of rollers 37 and 38 between which the band of stamps passes and which grip this band when the arm 33 is in the position shown in Fig. 6. The band of stamps first, however, passes over the guard 6, which supports them if they be in the least slacked and may be made to support them at all times if desired, and then between rollers 39 and 40. The rollers 37 and 39 are mounted in a box or casing whose top 41 is preferably rigid with or made from the same material as the lever arm 33, this box being formed in the form illustrated, by bending down the sides 42 thereof to form supports for the pivots of these rollers at 43 and 44. This frame or casing is pivoted at 45 within arms 46 projecting from sides 47 of the frame which carries the guard 6. Also within this same frame, pivots are formed within the sides 47 for the rollers 38 and 40. Upon the shafts of the rollers 37 and 39, as best seen in Fig. 2, I place intermeshing gears 48 and 49 and upon the shaft of the roller 40, I place a preferably milled wheel 50. The gears 48 and 49 are in mesh in the position shown in Figs. 2 and 6, but lose this meshing position when the lever 33 is depressed. At the same time, the rollers 37 and 38 are released and the rollers 39 and 40 are drawn together and may be brought completely together if the depression of the lever arm 33 be great enough. This is the position for initial threading of the band of stamps through these rollers. The roll of stamps is placed upon the roller 32 and enough of the roll is drawn off to permit of insertion within the

rollers. The lever arm 33 is depressed preventing further movement of said roll of stamps. The end of the stamp band is fed between the rollers 39 and 40, the roller 40 being turned to draw the band of stamps therebetween thus feeding the stamps between the rollers 37 and 38, which, as above stated, are at this time separated sufficiently to permit the band to pass freely therebetween without necessity of operation of said rollers.

Moistening mechanism.—Within the plate 11, as best seen in Fig. 3, I provide key hole slots 51, preferably two or more in number, within which fit keys 52 headed at 53 and supporting a moistener 54 within said slots, said moistener comprising a casing closed except at the bottom thereof and provided with a sponge or other suitable medium 55 for application of the moistening medium which is inserted in the form of liquid 56. This moistener is supported directly above the projection 27 of the base of my machine and within reach of the envelopes which pass over the guide 28 against guard 57, so that envelopes passed through at this point are moistened in the proper position for the stamp.

Stamp cutting and impressing mechanism.—Upon guides 25, I mount a plunger head 58, which is operated by means of handle 59 and opposed by spring 60. This plunger mechanism carries at its lower end, a pad 61 and, at one side, a knife 62, which is intended to cooperate with a knife edge 63 in the frame part 7, said knife being at the bottom of the aperture 64 in said frame part 7. Either knife 62 or 63 is placed slightly at an angle as seen in Fig. 5 in order that they may sever the stamps passing through said aperture 64 to the best advantage. I preferably place my stamps in such a manner that when a stamp division is opposite the point 65, there are two stamps between that point and the knife 63 and a third stamp projecting beyond for severance by knife 62. Suitably pivoted upon the plunger head 58, I secure a pawl 66 held normally in the position shown in Fig. 8 by a spring 67. This pawl is in the position to engage the spurs 68 and 69 of a star or spur wheel 70, which is arranged to rotate simultaneously with a gear wheel 71 pivoted upon the stud 21 and retained there by the head 72, as best seen in Fig. 1. This gear 71 meshes with a gear 73 rigidly secured to a sleeve 74 whose groove 75 permits the sleeve to pass over a spline 76 upon the shaft 77 of the roller 38. In this manner, the spur wheel and gear 71 are made to operate the roller feeding mechanism by which my stamp strip is advanced with each movement of the plunger head, the end 78 of the pawl slipping over the spurs of the wheel 70 in its downward movement and engaging there-

with on its upward movement to advance the spur gear and gear 71 with each upward movement of the plunger head. The spur gear is prevented from reverse movement by a locking dog 79 pivoted at any suitable point as 80 in such position that the end 81 normally tends to overweight the end 82, holding the dog in position with the end 81 depressed except when the end 81 is engaged by the end 78 of the pawl. This occurs at the upper end of the stroke and therefore when the machine is not in use. When the end 82 is thus depressed, it engages with a spur of the wheel 70 and prevents rotation of said wheel and consequent feeding of said stamps. At any suitable point upon the plunger head 58, I secure a pin 83 which engages the edges of a slot 84 in lever 85, by which the shaft 19 of my counter is oscillated, causing a record of each movement of said plunger to be made.

The sealing mechanism.—Preferably upon the bracket 17, I mount a roller 86 pivoted upon shaft 87 and normally held in its downward position by the spring 88 in such manner that it shall engage roller 89 secured within the frame in any proper position, but preferably in such position that an envelop whose flap has been moistened beneath the sponge 55 may be sealed by passage between said rollers 86 and 89. In order to protect the gears 71 and 73 and dog 79 with their correlated parts from mechanical injury, dirt, etc., I provide a casing 90 which is secured thereto in any desired manner.

Operation.—The stamps are placed upon the roller 32 and started through the rollers 39 and 40 upon depression of the lever 33 and use of the milled wheel 50, thus passing the strip of stamps between the rollers 37 and 38. The lever 33 is then released and the rollers 37 and 38 grasp the strip and control its movement. These rollers are rotated by movement of the plunger 58 upon its upward stroke, so that the strip is fed forward sufficiently to project a single stamp past the knife 63 prior to the downward stroke of the plunger, at which time the knife 62 cuts off said stamp which is then impressed by the pad 61, the plunger at the same time placing pawl 66 in position for engagement with a new spur of the gear 70 and registering its movement. The flap of the envelop is then moistened beneath the moistener, and the envelop is closed and passed through the rollers 86 and 89.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. In a device of the character described, a stamp carrying roller, means for cutting stamps therefrom and impressing them, and

a feeding mechanism therebetween comprising a pair of grasping rollers, the upper of which is movable, means for rotating one of said rollers, a pair of auxiliary rollers lying upon opposite sides of the stamp strip, a pivoted frame carrying one of each pair of rollers, said frame lying between the planes determined by the axes of said pair of rollers, and means for moving said frame about its pivot.

2. In a device of the character described, a stamp receiving spool, an impressing and cutting mechanism therefor, and a combined feeding and spool retarding mechanism between them constructed to act upon the periphery of the roll of stamps.

3. In a stamp-affixing machine, the combination with a stamp-affixing mechanism, a strip-feeding and roller-retarding mechanism, a numbering device, means for actuating the numbering device with movements of the stamp-affixing mechanism, and means to positively render said actuating means inoperative during the downward movement of the stamp-affixing plunger.

4. In a device of the character described, a stamp carrying roller comprising faces, and a fixed tubular joining core and a tubular roller surrounding said core, combined with an impressing and cutting mechanism therefor and a combined feeding and roller-retarding mechanism between them.

5. In a device of the character described, a stamp receiving spool, an impressing and cutting mechanism therefor, feeding mechanism, a roller-retarding mechanism connected therewith, and means for depressing the roller-retarding mechanism and releasing the feeding mechanism.

6. In a device of the character described, a stamp receiving spool, an impressing and cutting mechanism therefor, feeding mechanism, a roller-retarding mechanism connected therewith, means for depressing the roller-retarding mechanism and releasing the feeding mechanism, and a numbering device cooperating with the feeding mechanism and mounted for actuation with the movements of the affixing mechanism.

7. In a device of the character described, a stamp receiving spool, an impressing and cutting mechanism, a combined feeding and roller-retarding mechanism between them, and a numbering device cooperating with the feeding mechanism and mounted for actuation with the movements of the affixing mechanism.

FRANK L. JENNINGS.

Witnesses:

C. D. McVAY,
E. C. GEYER.