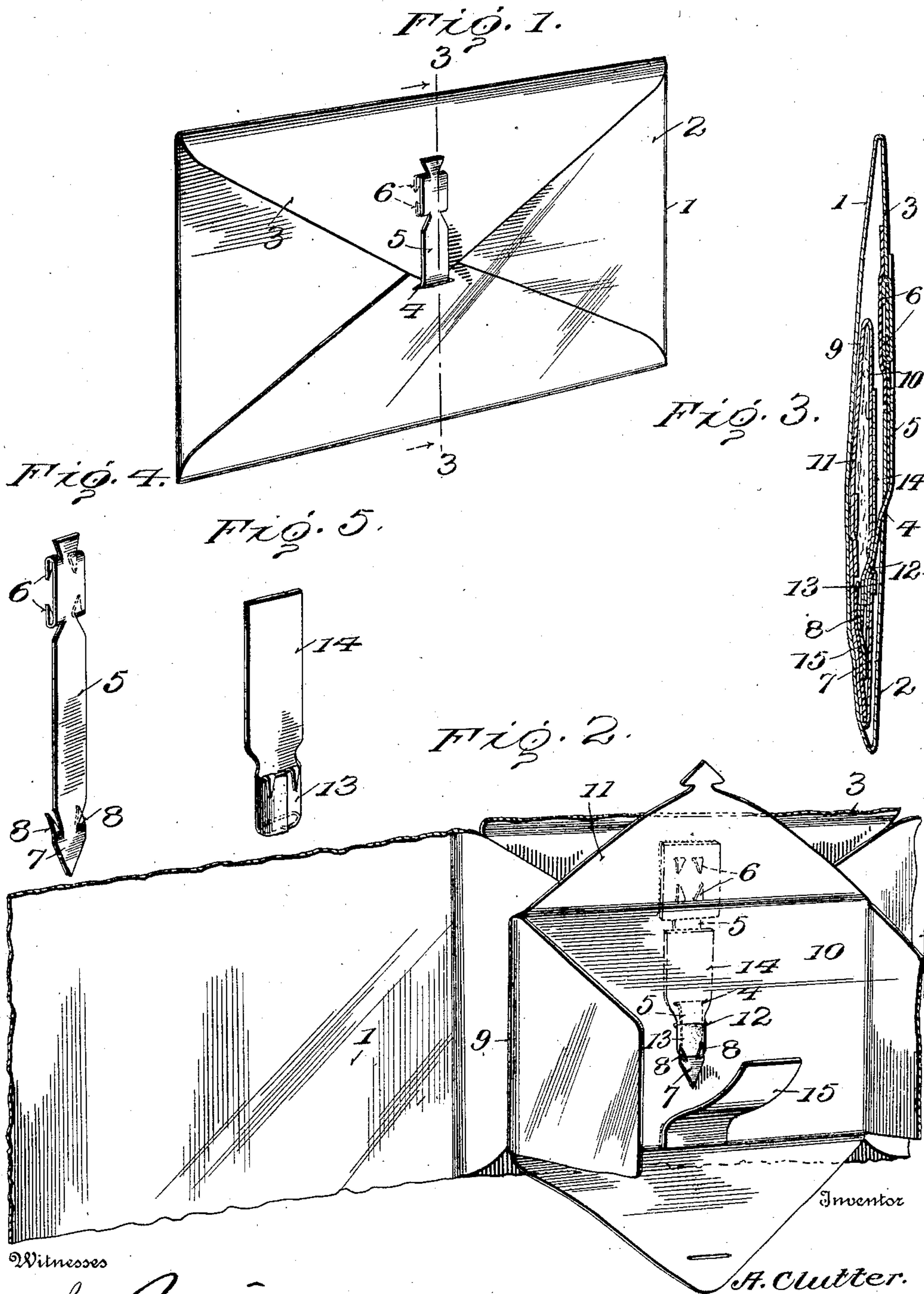


A. CLUTTER.  
MAILING DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 15, 1909. RENEWED APR. 23, 1910.

976,783.

Patented Nov. 22, 1910.



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALEXANDER CLUTTER, OF YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO.

## MAILING DEVICE.

976,783.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 22, 1910.

Application filed January 15, 1909, Serial No. 472,480. Renewed April 23, 1910. Serial No. 557,267.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ALEXANDER CLUTTER, citizen of the United States, residing at Youngstown, in the county of Mahoning and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mailing Devices, of which the following is a specification.

This invention comprehends certain new and useful improvements in mailing devices, and the invention has for its object a simple, durable and efficient construction of safety envelop that is adapted to be closed in a peculiar manner so as to render necessary the mutilation of the envelop in order to effect the opening thereof, thereby obviating the liability of money or other valuables being surreptitiously abstracted from the envelop by a person tampering with the mails.

With this and other objects in view that will more fully appear as the description proceeds, the invention consists in certain constructions and arrangements of the parts that I shall hereinafter fully describe and then point out the novel features thereof in the appended claims.

For a full understanding of the invention and the merits thereof, and to acquire a knowledge of the details of construction, reference is to be had to the following description and accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a rear perspective view of a mailing device constructed in accordance with my invention; Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing the inner and outer envelops torn open; Fig. 3 is an enlarged section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1; and Figs. 4 and 5 are detail perspective views of the fastener and guard respectively.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawing by the same reference characters.

My improved mailing device consists essentially of an outer envelop 1 which is of the ordinary or any approved construction or design, except that it is formed in its rear wall 2 at a point preferably in proximity to the extremity or apex of the sealing flap 3 with a relatively short slit 4 extending therethrough. The sealing flap 3 carries a fastener 5 that is formed of a suitable strip of sheet metal which is attached at one end to the sealing flap in any approved

manner, and in the present instance is formed at such end with a plurality of attaching spurs 6 clenched through the sealing flap, as shown. At its other end, the fastener 5 is formed with a head 7 that is substantially spear-shaped, and the barbs 8 of which normally assume positions off-set from the plane of the head. This outer envelop 1 is designed to contain a relatively small inner envelop 9 that is substantially of ordinary formation and within which is placed the letter, money or other inclosure, the inner envelop being inserted in the outer envelop with its integral wall 10 toward the rear and with its sealing flap 11 arranged toward the front, that is, oppositely to the sealing flap 3. The inner envelop is formed in its rear wall 10 with a horizontal slit 12 which is arranged substantially in vertical alinement with the slit 4 and from which depends a reinforcing guard 13. This guard is positioned within the inner envelop and is constructed of comparatively heavy paper or the like that has substantially the form of a sleeve or flattened tube, the guard being maintained in position through the instrumentality of an extension tab 14 passing through the slit 12 and affixed to the rear face of the rear wall 10, as shown. The inner envelop 9 is also equipped with a protecting flap 15 which is secured at one end to the rear wall 10 and which has its other end free from the wall and adapted to extend over the reinforcing guard 13 for a purpose to be presently disclosed.

In the practical use of a mailing device embodying the improvements of my invention, the letter or other article of value is initially placed in the inner envelop 9 which is closed by its sealing flap 11. This inner envelop is then inserted in the outer envelop 1, as before described, and the sealing flap 3 is folded over against the rear wall 2 to close the outer envelop with the other envelop 9 therein. The fastening strip 5 is inserted through the slit 4 and then through the slit 12, it being observed that while the head 7 is passing through the slits just mentioned, the barbs 8 are pressed to assume positions substantially in the plane of the head. After the head has been inserted through the slit 12 of the inner envelop, and has been projected through the reinforcing guard 13, the barbs 8 are relieved of pressure so as to return to normal position in oblique relation to the plane of the head,



whereupon a slight movement tending to retract the fastener, serves to positively engage the barbs with the reinforcing guard. The outer envelop 1 is thereby held securely closed so that in order to effect the opening thereof, it becomes necessary to forcibly retract the head 7 of the fastener, which is of course accompanied by the tearing of both the inner and outer envelops, and this serves to indicate clearly any tampering with the mailing device. Inasmuch as the protecting flap 15 is arranged to extend over the reinforcing guard 13, it will be observed that this flap is adapted to be positioned between the latter and the contents of the inner envelop to prevent the head 7 from becoming possibly engaged with and mutilating the articles placed therein.

From the foregoing description, in connection with the accompanying drawing, it will be apparent that I have provided a mailing device which must be mutilated to effect the opening thereof, thereby guarding against surreptitious abstraction of valuables therefrom; which is comparatively simple in structure and embodies to a marked degree the characteristics of durability and lightness, and which consists of comparatively few parts that may be easily and cheaply manufactured and readily assembled.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim is:

1. A safety mailing device comprising an outer envelop having a sealing flap, an inner envelop placed within the outer envelop, a metallic fastener secured to the sealing flap and adapted to be inserted through corresponding walls of the envelops and engaged with the inner envelop on the interior thereof, and a protecting flap secured within the inner envelop and extending partially over the said wall thereof to prevent the fastener from injuring the contents of the envelop.

2. A safety mailing device comprising an

outer envelop having a sealing flap, an inner envelop placed within the outer envelop and designed to contain an article of value, the inner and outer envelops being formed in their walls adjacent to the sealing flap with alining slits, a metallic fastener secured to the sealing flap and inserted through the slits and engaged with the inner envelop on the interior thereof, and a protecting flap secured within the inner envelop and adapted to extend substantially over the slit therein to prevent the fastener from coming in contact with the article of value.

3. A safety mailing device comprising an outer envelop, an inner envelop contained in the outer envelop, the said envelops being formed in their walls adjacent to the sealing flap with alining slits extending there-through, a reinforcing guard disposed within the inner envelop and in the form of a flattened tube leading from the slit therein, and a metallic fastener secured to the sealing flap and inserted through the slits and projecting into and engaged with the guard.

4. A safety mailing device comprising an outer envelop having a sealing flap, an inner envelop contained in the outer envelop, both of said envelops being formed in their walls adjacent to the sealing flap with alining slits extending therethrough, a guard disposed within the inner envelop and in the form of a flattened tube leading from the slit therein, the tube being provided with a tab extension passing through such slit and fixed to the opposite face of the corresponding wall of the inner envelop, and a metallic fastener secured to the sealing flap and passing through the slits and projecting into and engaged with the guard.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ALEXANDER CLUTTER. [L. s.]

Witnesses:

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