

J. H. WITTMANN:
 ENVELOP.
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978,421.

Patented Dec. 13, 1910.

Fig. 1.

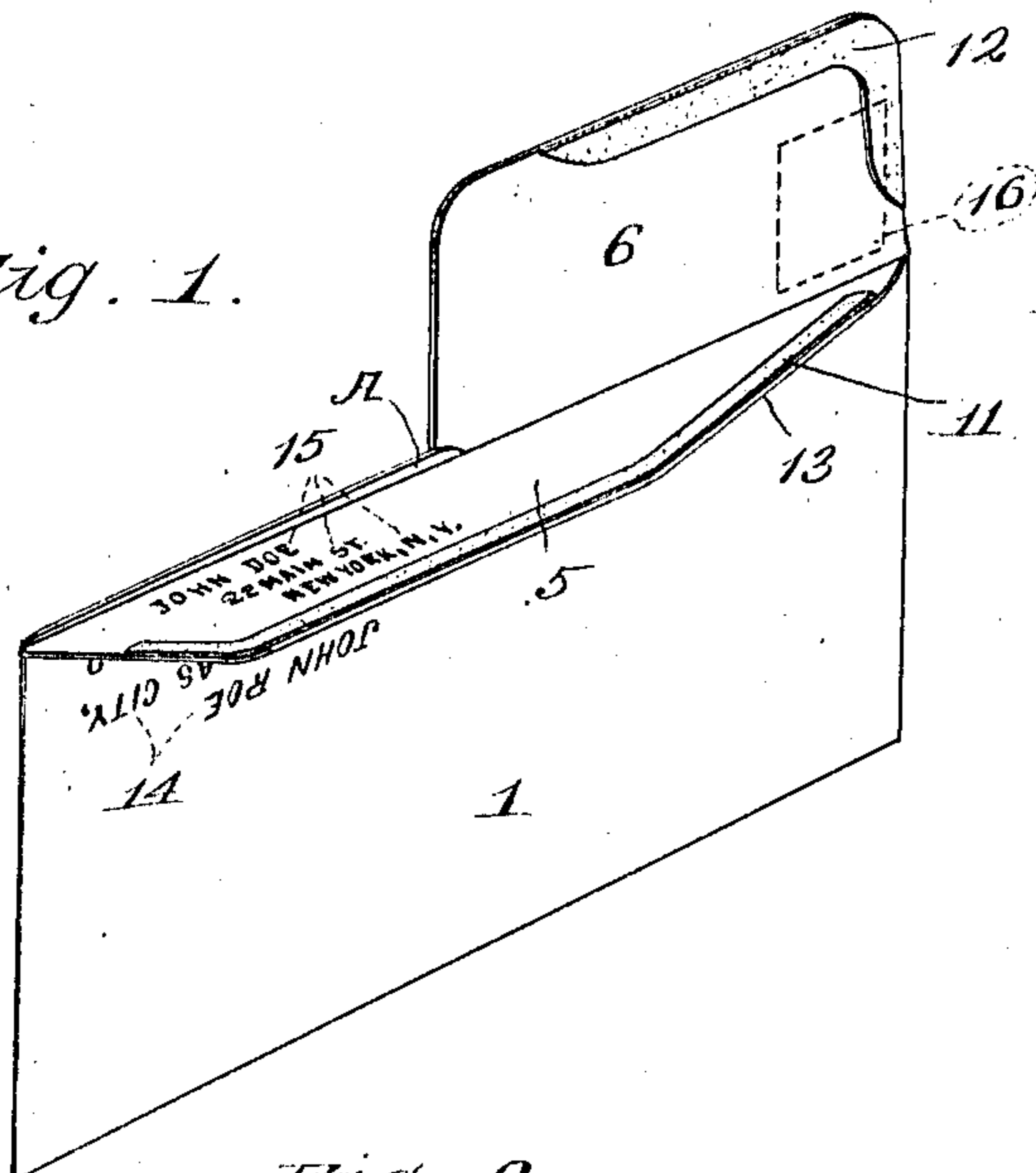


Fig. 4.

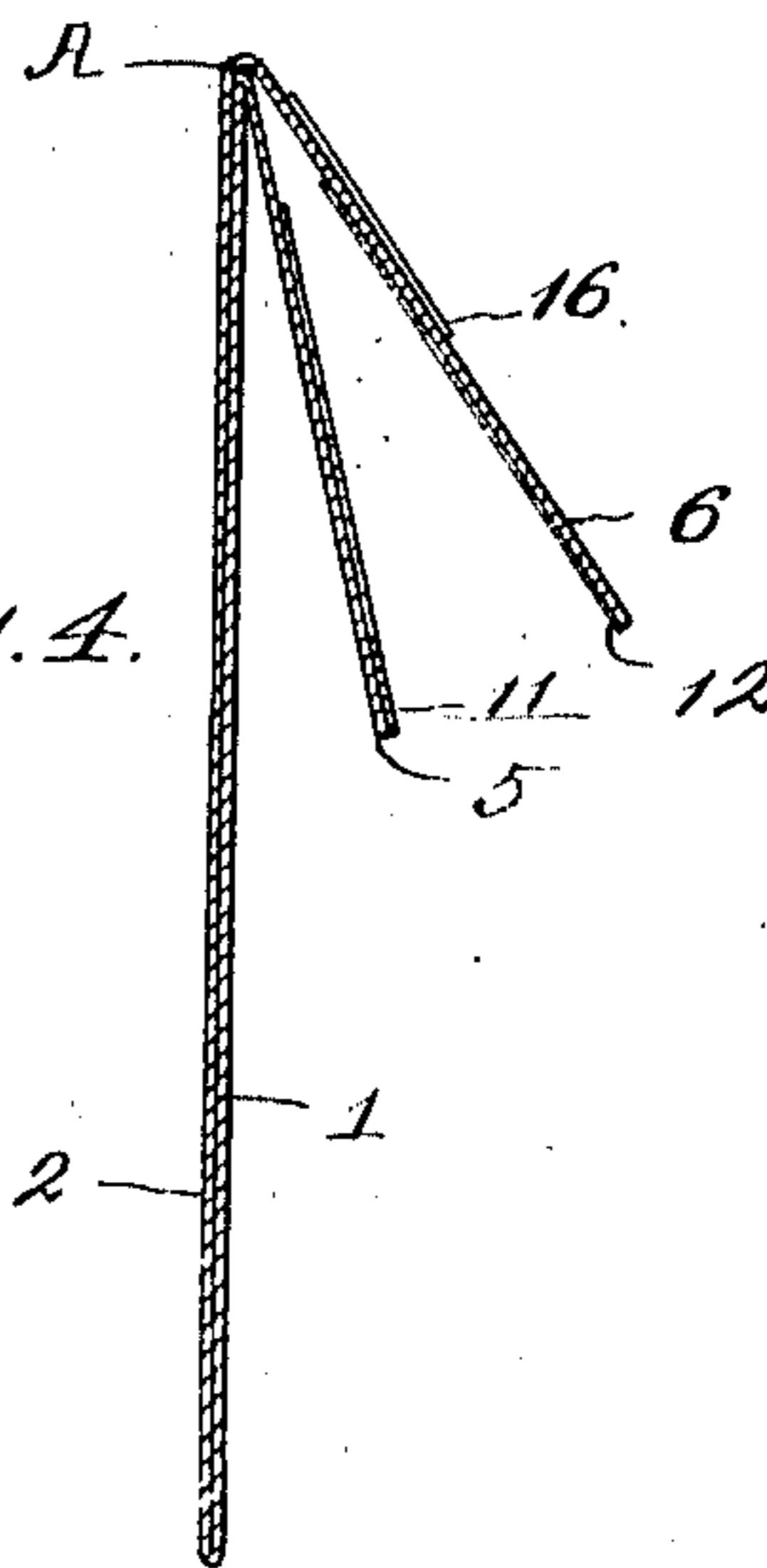


Fig. 2.

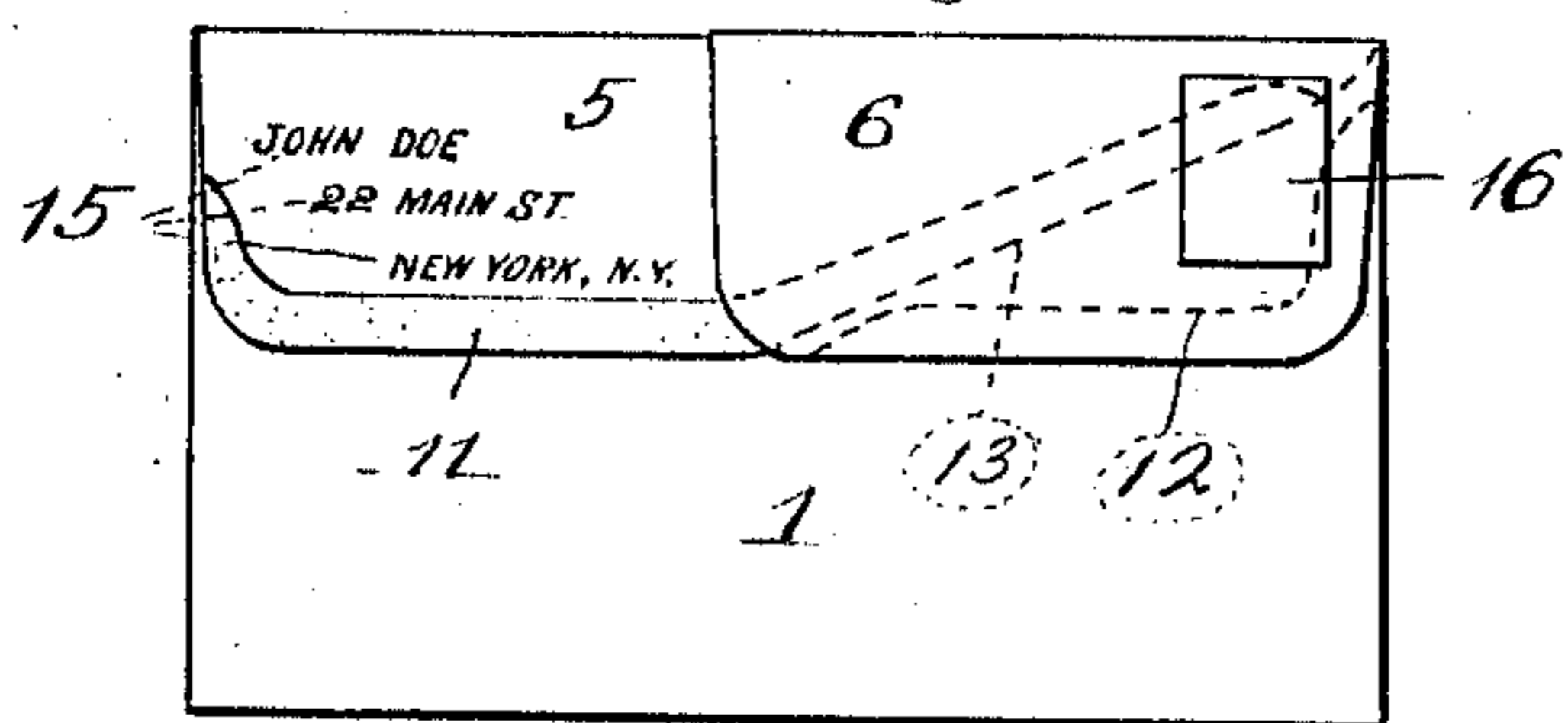


Fig. 3.

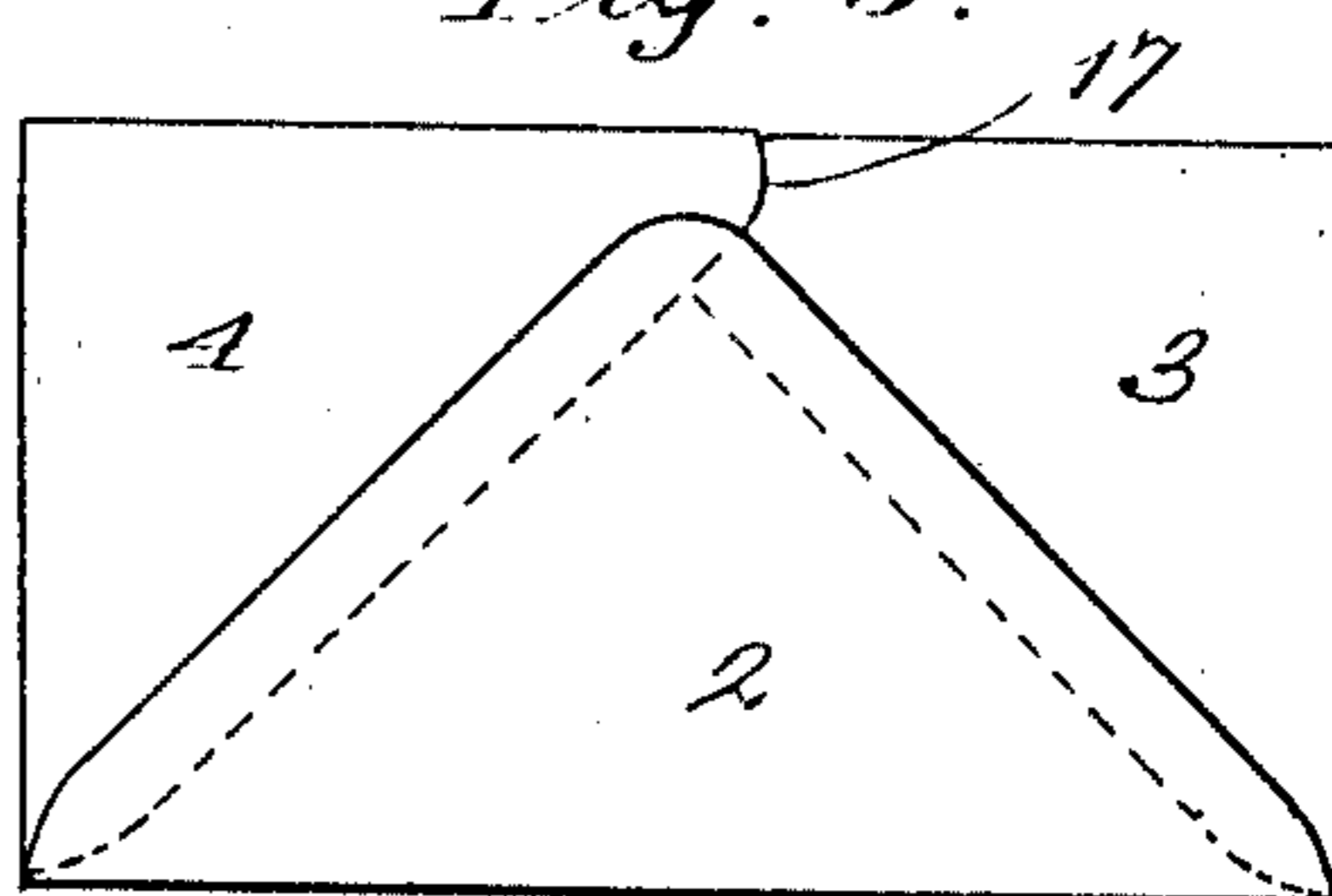
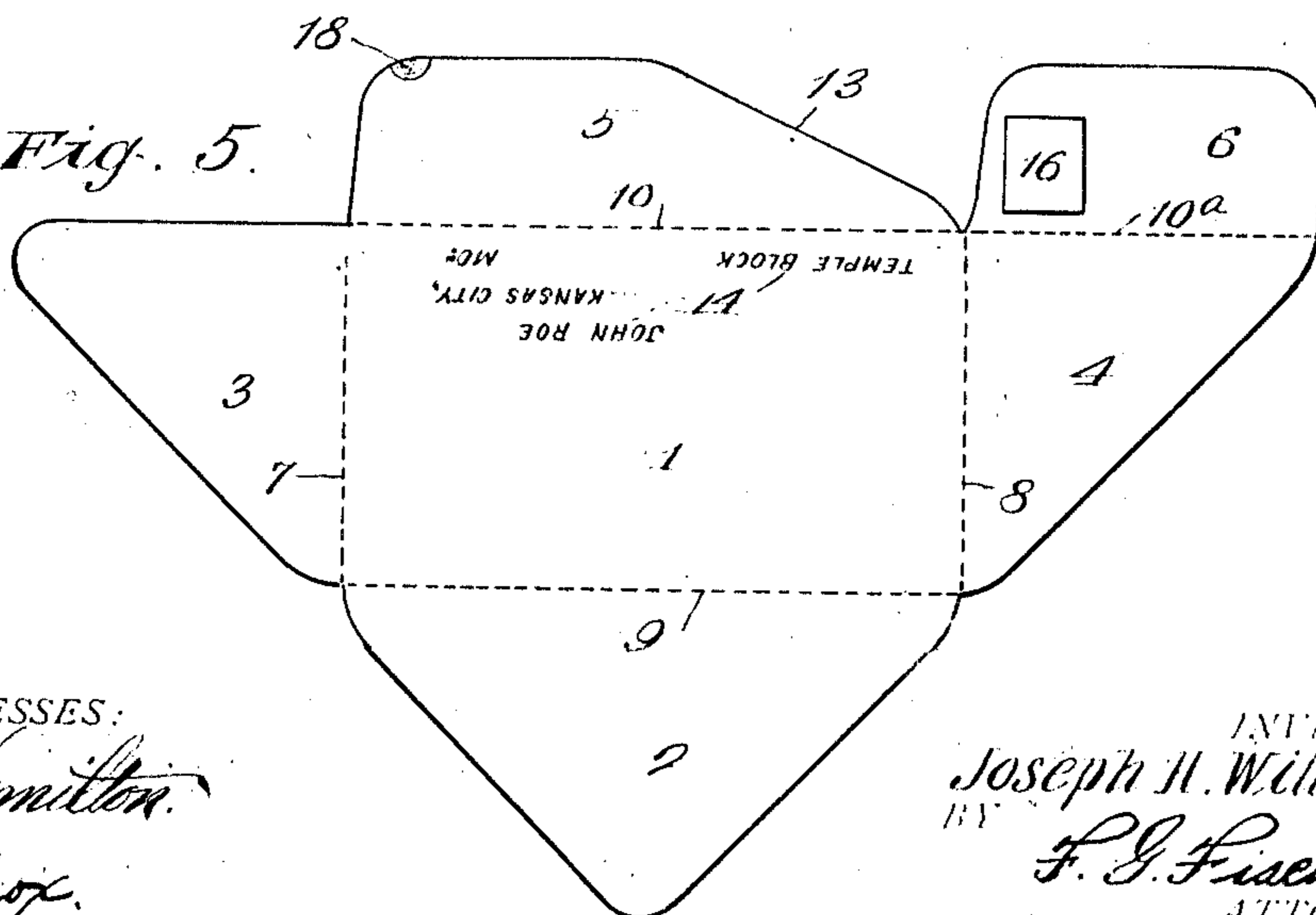


Fig. 5.



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ENVELOP.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH H. WITTMANN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Kansas City, in the county of Jackson and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Envelops, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in envelops for mailing purposes, and my object is to provide a simple envelop, of new and novel form which may be employed for the double purpose of transmitting a letter to an addressee and in returning an answer to the addressor.

The envelop may be used in the transmission of any class of mail-matter, and among the advantages derived from its use are: that economy in time and expense is obtained as the same envelop is used in the round-trip from sender to receiver and back to the sender, and that the sender on return of the envelop has a complete record of the receiver's address, together with the postal dates showing when the envelop passed through the mails on the outgoing and return trips.

In order that the invention may be fully understood, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 shows a perspective view of my improved envelop in open position. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the envelop in closed position. Fig. 3 is a rear elevation of the envelop in closed position. Fig. 4 is an enlarged vertical section of the envelop in partly closed position. Fig. 5 shows a blank from which the envelop is formed.

In carrying out the invention I employ a blank consisting of a front portion 1, a back portion 2 integral with the lower part of the front portion, back portions 3 and 4 integral with the sides of front portion 1, a reversible primary flap 5 integral with the upper part of the front portion 1, and a secondary flap 6 integral with the upper part of the back portion 4.

The back portions 3 and 4 are first folded along the dotted lines 7 and 8, respectively, against the rear side of the front portion 1, and back portion 2 is folded along the dotted line 9, and against the rear sides of the back portions 3 and 4, the edges of which it overlaps as shown in Fig. 3, and is pasted thereto in the customary manner, to complete the body portion of the envelop which has an opening A for the insertion

or removal of mail-matter. Flaps 5 and 6 which are on opposite sides of opening A, are adapted to be folded along the dotted lines 10 and 10^a, and are provided with gummed edges 11 and 12, respectively, for sealing the envelop. Flap 5 is beveled or cut away as indicated at 13 at its side adjacent flap 6 so that when the envelop is closed as shown in Fig. 2, the gummed edge 12 of flap 6 may be pasted to the front portion 1 of the envelop to seal the same.

In practice, the addressor's address, as indicated at 14, is inscribed upon the upper front portion 1 of the envelop, so that flap 5 may be folded down to hide the same as shown in Fig. 2, and expose the addressee's address, inscribed upon said flap, as indicated at 15. Flap 15 may then be secured in said folded position when sealing the envelop by pasting the gummed edge 12 of flap 6 to the front portion 1 of said envelop. The envelop is now ready for the outgoing trip to the addressee, and for this purpose the secondary flap 6 is provided with either a franking privilege or a stamp 16. On receipt of the envelop, the addressee gains access to the contents thereof by severing the secondary flap 6, which can be readily done by inserting a paper-knife in the opening 17 between the unsealed overlapping parts of the back portions 3 and 4 and running said knife along the dotted line 10^a. After flap 6 has thus been cut off, the contents of the envelop can be readily removed. The envelop is now ready for use by the addressee, who, after placing his answer therein, seals the same by folding flap 5 down against the rear side of the envelop, and pasting its gummed edge 11 against said rear side. By thus reversing the flap the addressee's address is hidden and the addressor's address is alone exposed to view so that there need be no confusion on the part of the postal employees when returning the envelop to the addressor.

In sending a class of mail not requiring the envelop to be sealed, the contents may be held therein by folding flap 6 within said envelop and over said contents, and in this instance flap 5 is held down to cover the addressor's address by any suitable metal fastening device (not shown), or one of its corners may be provided with gum as indicated at 18 to be pasted against the front portion 1 of the envelop. The addressee, on removing the contents of the envelop and after

inserting his reply therein, folds flap 5 backward and downward within said envelop to hold the contents therein, to conceal his address and to expose the address of the addressor.

If preferred the envelop may be arranged to safely carry mail-matter not requiring the envelop to be sealed by omitting the gum between the overlapping edges of the back portions 2 and 3, and closing flaps 5 and 6 by sealing the latter, as shown in Fig. 2. The mail-matter can then be readily inserted in the envelop by leaving back portion 3 open, after which the latter can be readily secured in closed position (Fig. 3) by folding it beneath the edges of back portions 2 and 4.

While I have shown and described the preferred form and use of my invention, I do not limit myself to the exact form shown, as it is obvious that slight changes may be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. For instance, the addressee's address may be placed on the body of the envelop and the addressor's address on the primary flap, which is folded within the envelop on the outgoing trip and withdrawn to close envelop, and cover addressee's address and expose addressor's ad-

dress on return trip. The secondary flap which has been used to close the envelop on outgoing trip may be disposed of as seen fit by addressee.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. An envelop consisting of a body portion having an opening therein for insertion and removal of mail-matter, a flap at one side of said opening to close the same on outgoing trip, and a flap at the opposite side of said opening to close the same on return trip.

2. An envelop consisting of a body portion having space for an address and an opening for insertion and removal of mail-matter, a primary flap on one side of said opening, having space for an address and adapted to close envelop and cover address on body portion thereof on return trip, and a secondary flap at opposite side of said opening, adapted to close envelop on outgoing trip.

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

JOSEPH H. WITTMANN.

Witnesses:

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