

Oct. 31, 1950

J. A. FRAMPTON

2,527,925

ENVELOPE

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Fig. 1.

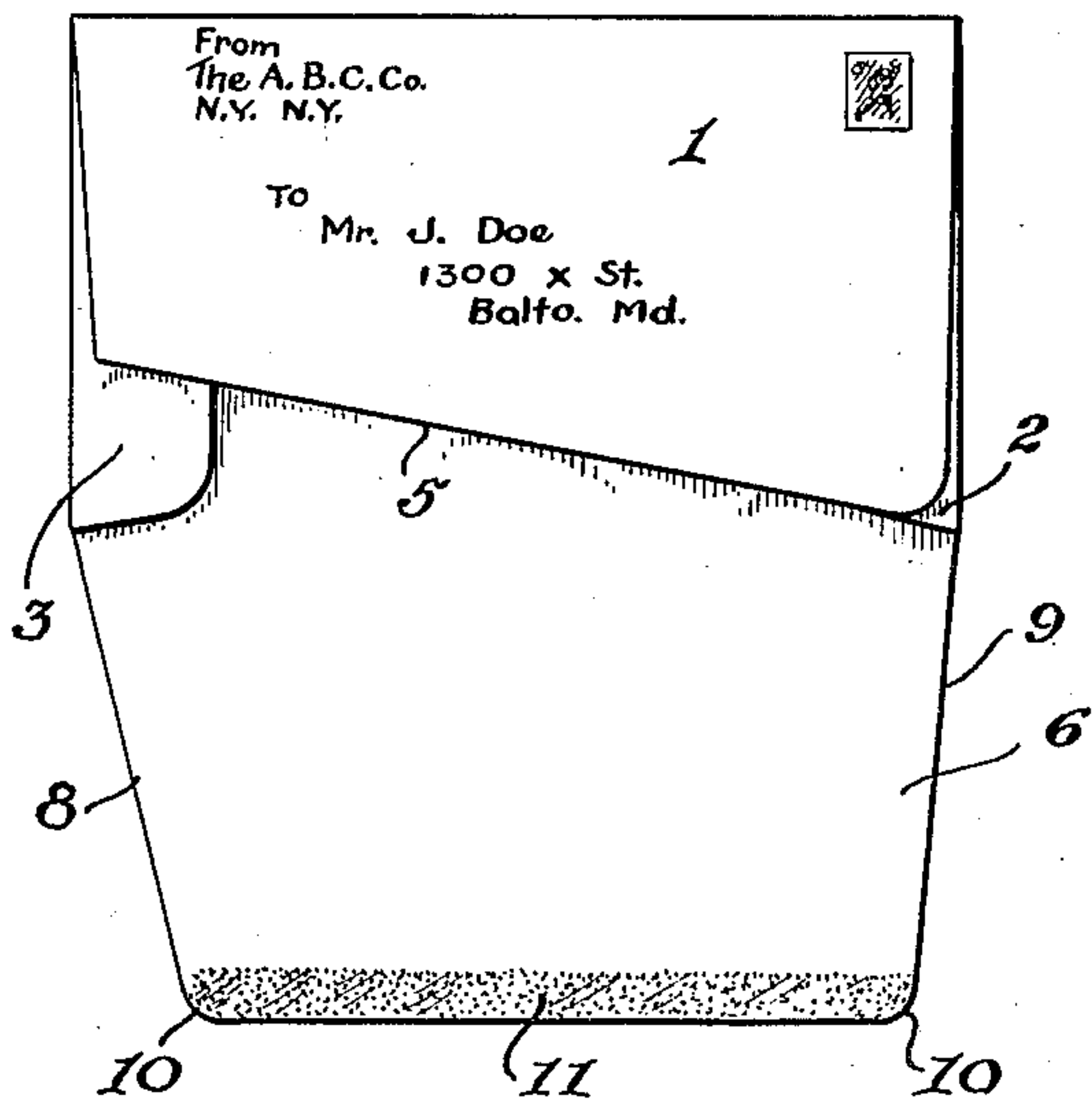


Fig. 2.

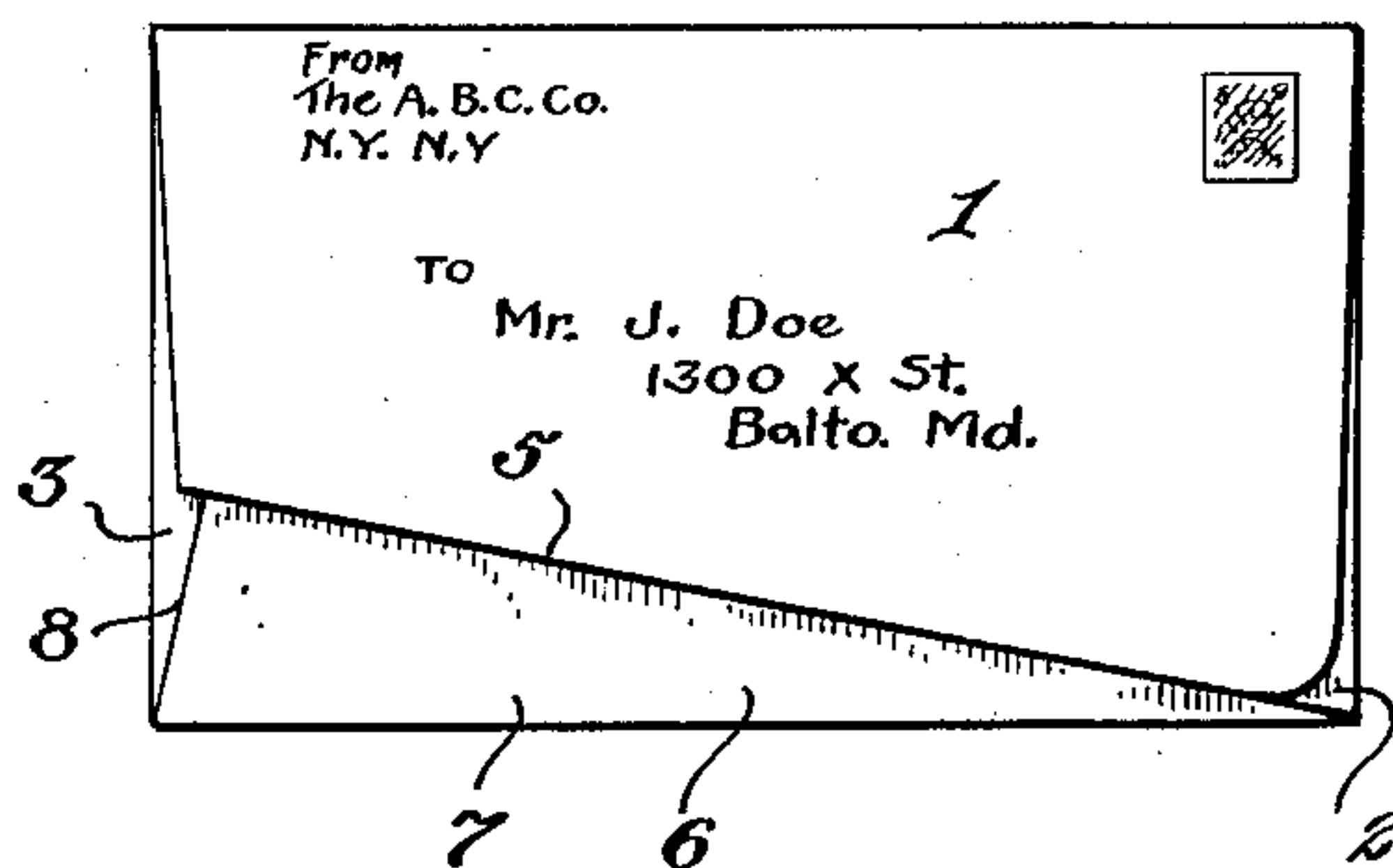


Fig. 3.

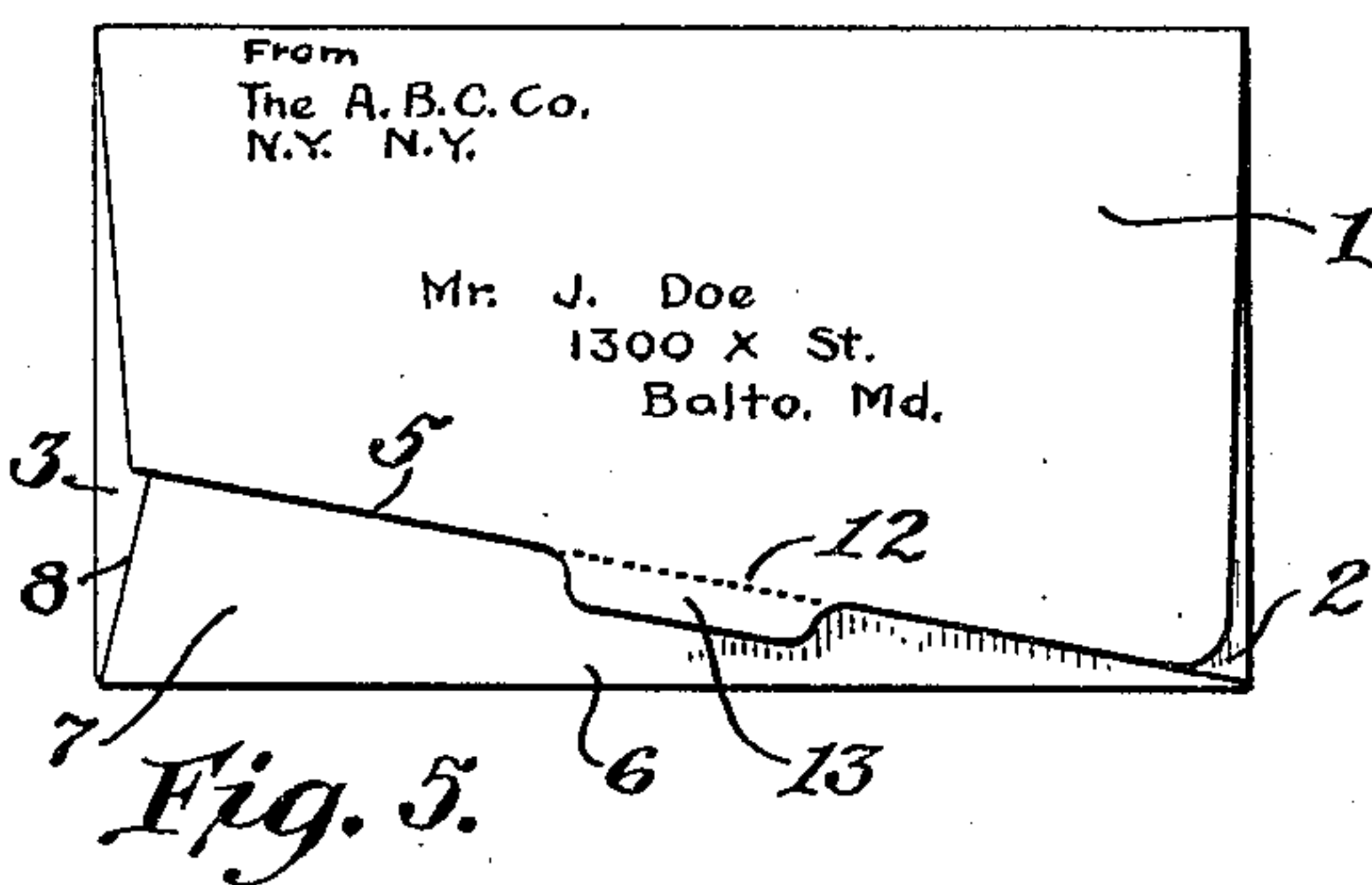
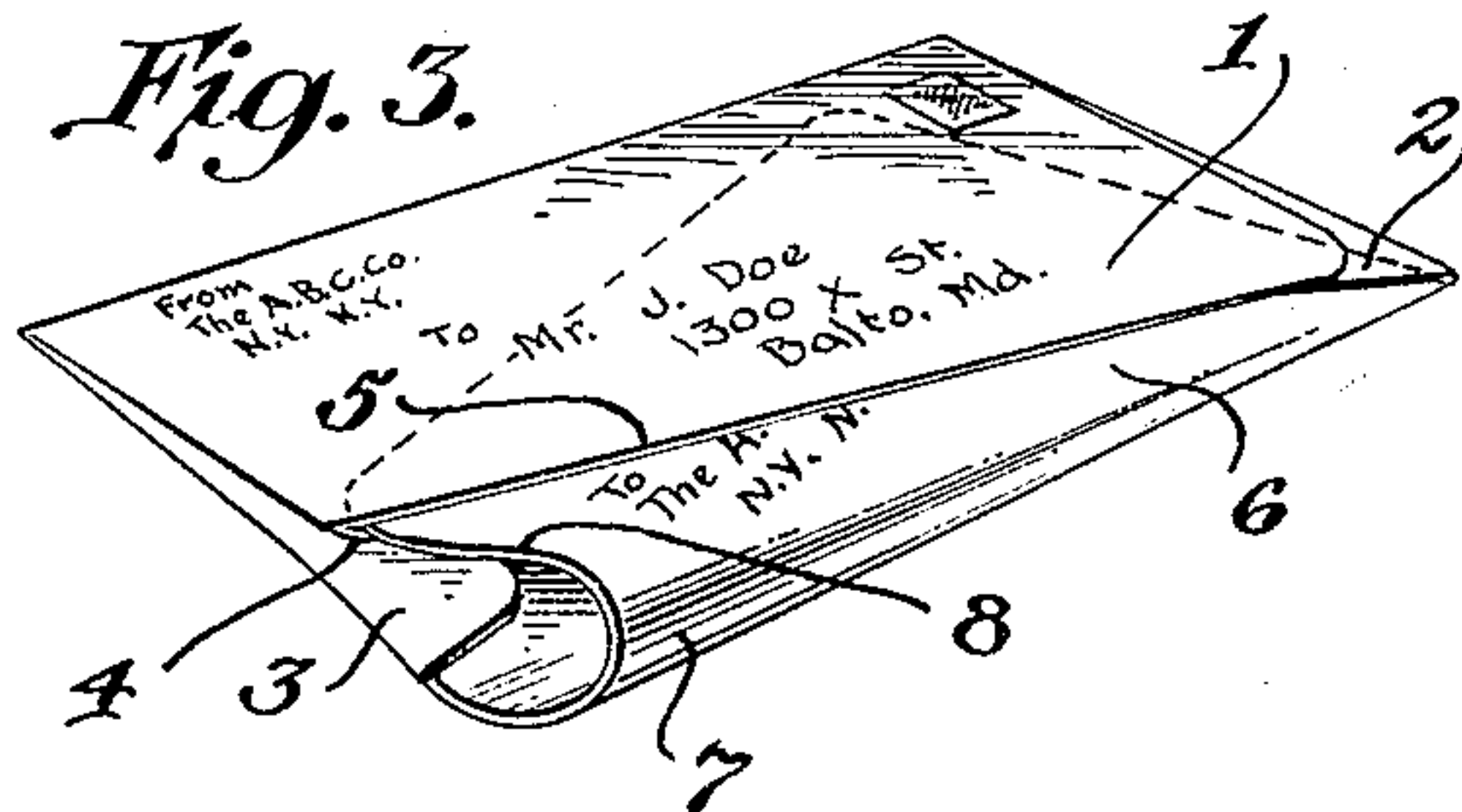
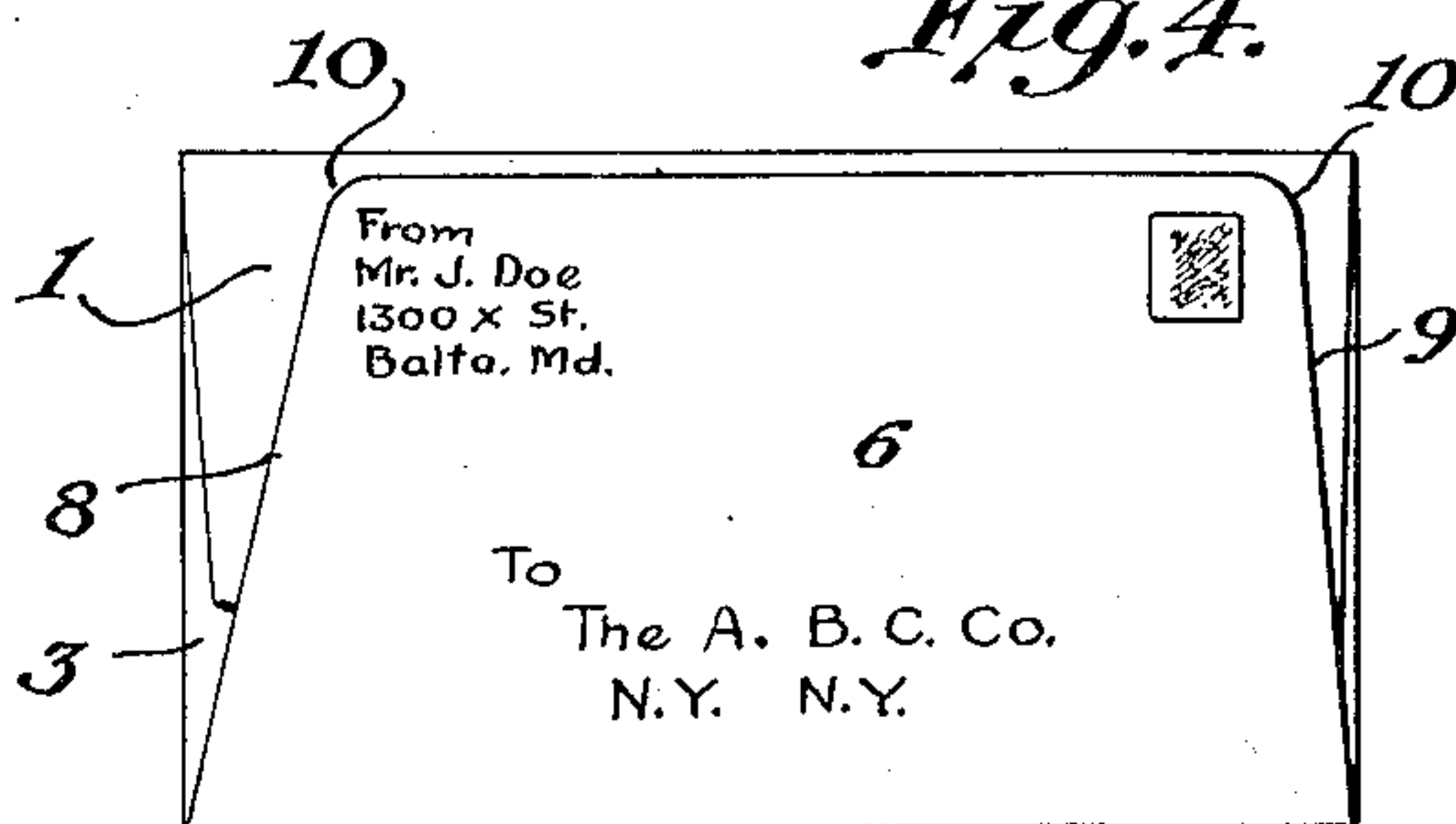


Fig. 5.



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ENVELOPE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 229—73)

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The invention relates to envelopes generally, but it will be described more particularly here in connection with that type commonly known as return envelopes.

When the envelopes of the present invention are used as return envelopes they are originally sent as third class mail, the flap being inserted to prevent loss of the contents. The envelope returns as first class mail; the flap having been withdrawn and sealed.

In the use of this type of envelope it is very desirable that the flap, when inserted for third class mail, extend nearly the full depth of the envelope and be of nearly the full width of the envelope throughout its depth, so as to securely hold the contents.

Heretofore, if a flap as described above were used, very considerable difficulty would be encountered in removing it, and the flaps would often be torn during this operation, rendering the envelope unfit for return use.

The object of the present invention is to provide an envelope which will securely hold the contents while going as third class mail, by using a flap of great depth and width, and providing a construction by which the flap can be withdrawn, for the return trip, with the greatest ease and without danger of being torn or otherwise mutilated.

Various other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from the following detailed description when taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the envelope in open condition ready for the mail matter to be inserted;

Figure 2 is a plan view of the envelope after the flap has been inserted for third class mailing;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the envelope illustrating the flap in process of being withdrawn;

Figure 4 is a plan view of the envelope after the flap has been withdrawn and sealed for first class mailing; and

Figure 5 is a view similar to Figure 2 but illustrating a slight modification.

Referring to the drawings in more detail, the front of the envelope is indicated by numeral 1. The body of the envelope can of course be of various constructions, but in the specific embodiment illustrated the back has an inturned portion at each end, indicated by numerals 2 and 3. The front of the envelope, at one end, is sealed

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to the inturned portion 2, and the other end of the front of the envelope has an inturned portion 4, shown in Figure 3, and this inturned portion 4 is sealed to the inturned portion 3.

The front of the envelope has its edge cut on a diagonal from one end of the envelope to the other, as indicated by numeral 5. Thus, when the envelope flap 6 is inserted for third class mailing, a portion of the flap is left exposed, as indicated by numeral 7.

The end of the flap 6 which is adjacent to the cut away portion of the front 1, is also cut on a rather sharp diagonal, as indicated by numeral 8; and the opposite end of the flap may have a slight taper, as indicated by numeral 9. The corners of the flap are preferably rounded, as indicated by numeral 10, and the free edge is gummed for first class mailing, as indicated by numeral 11.

It will be noted that the depth and width of the flap are substantially the same as the depth and width of the envelope, but by reason of the diagonal cut 5, the diagonal cut 8, and the exposed portion 7, the flap is withdrawn without the least difficulty, as will be briefly described below. Of course, the construction also greatly facilitates the insertion of the flap, but the greatest difficulty has been encountered in withdrawing flaps.

When the addressee receives the envelope, third class, to open the same it is only necessary to grasp the exposed portion 7 of the flap, with the thumb or fingers and the flap will readily and without any difficulty whatever be withdrawn to a position as illustrated in Figure 3, forming a large loop, which is then grasped and the flap entirely withdrawn. Thus the flap is withdrawn very quickly, without the least trouble, and without any danger of the flap or envelope being mutilated, even though the flap is of substantially the full width of the envelope and extends to the bottom thereof or substantially to the bottom thereof.

This most desirable feature of the invention results from the novel construction, including the provision of the exposed portion, by which one end of the flap is grasped and largely withdrawn, the exposed portion being made possible by the diagonal cut 5 of the envelope front; this withdrawal of one end of the flap, to form the loop, is also greatly facilitated by the diagonal cut 8 of the end of the flap adjacent the exposed portion, for it is apparent that with the provision of the diagonal cut 8 there is no resistance to the withdrawal of that end of the flap as would be

the case if the edge of the flap ran along or close to the edge of the envelope; and the provision of the diagonal cut 5 of the envelope front also facilitates removal of the flap by reason of the fact that it materially lessens the extent to which one end of the flap must be withdrawn before that end is clear or substantially clear of the envelope. It will be understood, of course, that when one end of the flap is removed or moved to the position shown in Figure 3, the envelope is practically open, for then by grasping the loop the entire flap pulls right out. Of course, the envelope may carry suitable indicia or instructions concerning the proper manner of withdrawing the flap.

When the envelope is ready to be returned, first class, the edge of the flap is sealed along the upper edge of the envelope, as shown in Figure 4, thereby covering the original address and exposing the address to which the envelope is to be returned first class.

With reference to the slightly modified form shown in Figure 5, the diagonal edge 5 of the envelope front carries by a scored line 12 a gummed tab 13. If desired, this tab may be provided for greater precaution in third class mail, and if used it is sealed to the flap 6, as shown in Figure 5. The use of such a tab in sending third class mail is allowed by postal regulations. And as the tab is scored it may easily be separated upon receipt, and does not interfere with the withdrawal of the flap in the manner heretofore described.

While I have particularly described the invention in connection with its use as a return envelope, it will be apparent that the novel features are applicable to all envelopes which may be used unsealed.

Having fully described the invention, what I claim is:

1. An envelope having a flap adapted to be inserted in the envelope for third class mailing, the flap having substantially the depth and width of the envelope, the envelope on its front having a cutaway portion adjacent one end to expose a portion of the flap, and the end of the flap adja-

cent the cutaway portion being cut on a diagonal, the cutaway portion of the envelope front, the exposed flap portion, and the diagonal cut of the flap all cooperating to facilitate withdrawal of the flap.

2. An envelope having a flap adapted to be inserted in the envelope for third class mailing, the flap having substantially the depth and width of the envelope, the envelope front being cut on a diagonal from one end to the other, providing an exposed flap portion at one end of the envelope, and the end of the flap adjacent the exposed portion being cut on a diagonal, the diagonal cut of the envelope front, the exposed flap portion, and the diagonal cut of the flap all cooperating to facilitate withdrawal of the flap.

3. An envelope having a flap adapted to be inserted in the envelope for third class mailing, the flap having substantially the depth and width of the envelope, the envelope front being cut on a diagonal from one end to the other, providing an exposed flap portion at one end of the envelope, the end of the flap adjacent the exposed portion being cut on a diagonal, the diagonal cut of the envelope front, the exposed flap portion, and the diagonal cut of the flap all cooperating to facilitate withdrawal of the flap, and a gummed tab detachably connected to the edge of the diagonal cut front and adapted to be sealed to said flap when inserted in the envelope.

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