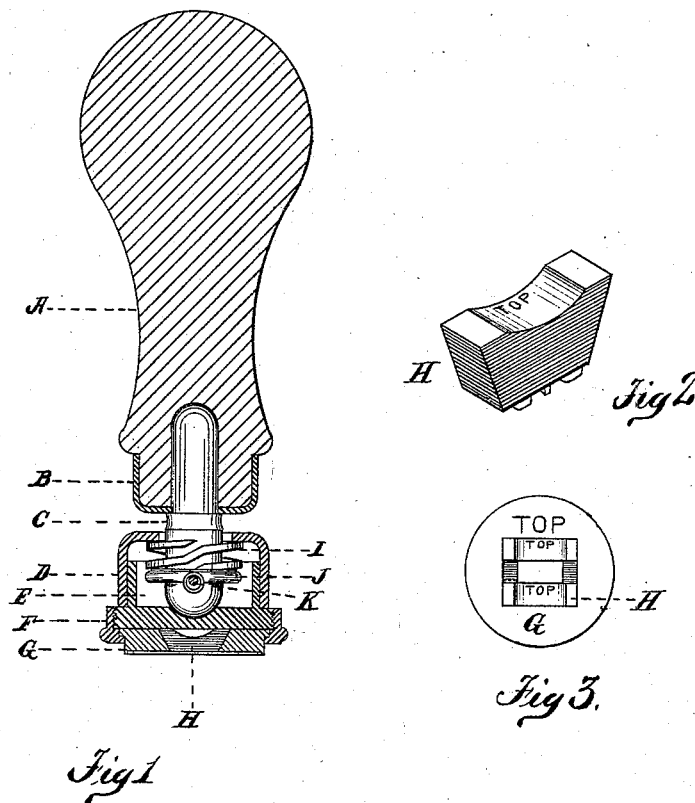


J. MURDOCK, Jr.
Hand-Stamp.

No. 217,546.

Patented July 15, 1879.



WITNESSES:
Ino R. Woods
Geo P. Tangueman

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES MURDOCK, JR., OF CINCINNATI, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN HAND-STAMPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **217,546**, dated July 15, 1879; application filed April 15, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES MURDOCK, Jr., of Cincinnati, Hamilton county, Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hand-Stamps, of which the following is a specification.

My invention belongs to that class of hand-stamps which consist, essentially, of a printing-die with a handle attached. Such stamps are used for canceling, marking, and dating purposes, and it is well known that if the die is not impressed squarely upon the printing-surface a perfect impression cannot be made. To obviate this it is common to make such stamps with the die arranged so as to be flexible with regard to the handle.

When changeable dates are used in dies it is an annoying matter to properly place them. If put in from the face of the die, a set-screw must be used to hold them. This gets loose and allows the dates to fall out and get lost. If put in from the back of the die, the die must be turned over to see if the dates are in properly. This gives the dates another chance to fall out. This annoyance occurs every day, not in a printing-office, the home of types, but in post-offices and commercial offices, where manipulation of devices is not provided for or welcome, and where little demand for skill will often condemn a really good and useful contrivance.

Devices for use in such places must contain within themselves the elements of certain and convenient adjustment.

The object of my invention is to provide a neat, substantial, and simple flexible joint for the handles of stamps, and to provide dates which can be placed in proper position from the back of the die without the necessity of looking at the face of the die.

My invention consists of a handle provided with a shank having a ball-shaped end, a flange upon the shank, and a spring upon the flange, combined with a die-holder having a seat for the shank; and a ferrule or cap inclosing and compressing the spring, and a uniting-pin passing through the shank, the cup, and a joint-flange upon the die-holder.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a vertical section of my improved stamp; Fig. 2, a perspective view of one of the dates, and Fig. 3 a reverse view of the die.

A is the handle, and C is a shank projecting from it. E is the die-holder.

The shank is rounded at its bottom end, as

shown, and fits a cavity in the top of the die-holder, by which means the die-holder is rendered capable of rocking in any direction with reference to the handle.

The shank has a flange, J, near its lower end, and above this flange is placed the spring I.

The die-holder has an annular flange upon its upper surface, as shown.

The ferrule or cap D is placed over the shank and fits upon the flange of the die-holder.

The hole in the top of the cap D is large enough to permit the shank to play freely side-wise within it.

The top of the cap D rests upon the spring and compresses it. The cap thus serves to inclose the spring, &c., and to hold the parts together.

A pin, K, is put through both sides of the cap D and die-holder flange, and through a hole across the shank, playing freely within the latter.

The pin is riveted at each end, and fastens the parts permanently together.

This device allows free flexation without shake or looseness, the spring taking up all slack without interfering with free action.

The die-holder is threaded and furnished with the milled nut F, which holds the die G in place.

The die G is provided with a dovetailed recess for the reception of the dates H.

On the back of the die, at the top, is stamped the word "Top," as shown in Fig. 3, in which two dates are shown in position. One of the dates is shown enlarged in Fig. 2. The dates are recessed or relieved in the back, so as to bear squarely.

In the recess is stamped the word, "Top," as shown. This word is placed at the top side of the date, and is to indicate the position of the letters, &c., upon the face of the date. These dates cannot be reversed in the die without discovery from the back.

I claim as my invention—

In a hand-stamp, the flanged die-holder E, flanged shank C, spring I, cap D, and uniting-pin K, passing through the die-holder flange, through the cap D, and through the shank C, substantially as specified.

JAS. MURDOCK, JR.

Witnesses:

J. W. SEE,

J. D. RING.