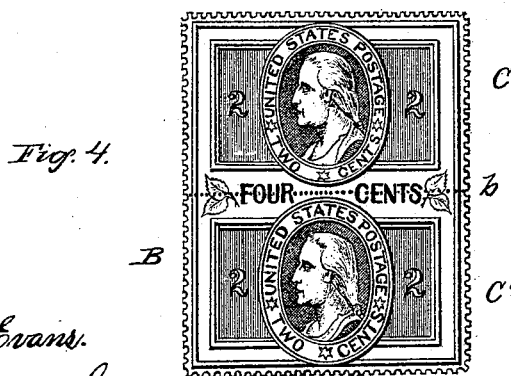
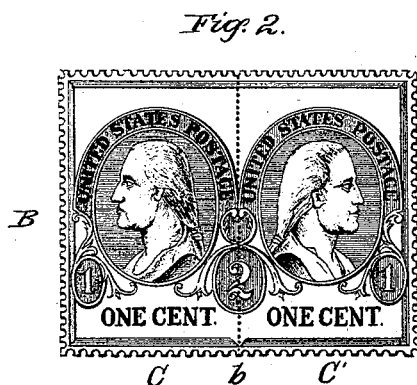
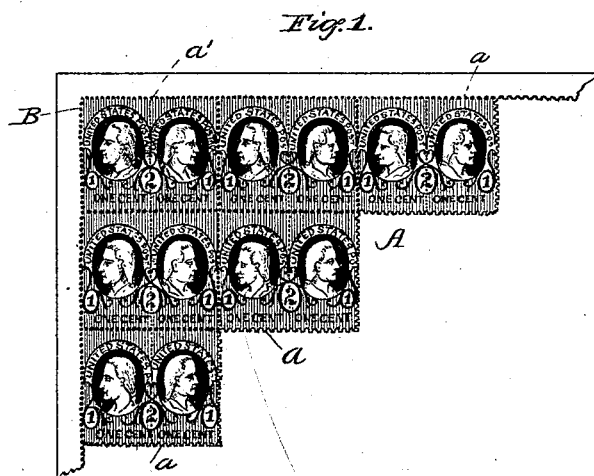


(No Model.)

G. M. BRIGHT.  
POSTAGE STAMP.

No. 492,912.

Patented Mar. 7, 1893.



WITNESSES.

*Victor J. Evans.*  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE M. BRIGHT, OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA.

## POSTAGE-STAMP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 492,912, dated March 7, 1893.

Application filed September 14, 1892. Serial No. 445,839. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GEORGE M. BRIGHT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Abingdon, in the county of Washington and State of Virginia, have invented a new and useful Postage-Stamp, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a new and improved postage stamp designed for governmental postal service, and so constructed and arranged as to be more convenient, efficient and economic than the stamps heretofore provided. It is well known that the public demand for the "one" and "two" cent stamps is much greater than for any other denomination, and that, since in business and other correspondence ordinary letters coming under the head of "first class matter" now require the "two cent" stamp, the latter is in greater demand and usually present in greater quantities than the "one cent" stamps or stamps of higher denomination. It also frequently happens that a person requiring a "one cent" stamp to cover postage on "second class matter" is for various reasons, such as extreme distance from a point of stamp distribution, unable to secure a stamp of the required denomination and is forced to affix a "two cent" stamp instead, thus occasioning personal loss, and, when the stamp is canceled, swelling "the percentage by cancellation" of the postmaster to the amount of excess postage. Furthermore, where a person only has a supply of "one cent" stamps on hand and needs a two cent stamp, there may be said to exist a popular prejudice against the use of two of the former, as this is practically objectionable, for obvious reasons. Accordingly it is the object of my invention to overcome all such objections and deficiencies, and to reduce the expense and complexity of the manufacture and distribution of postage stamps in general, by providing what I specifically term "a divisible stamp" of a prescribed denomination as a whole yet manually divisible or separable into two equal independent parts, each half or part being a stamp of half the valuation of the unit stamp. Thus, for instance, with two cents as the value of the whole or unit stamp, it is so formed as to be readily divided by the consumer into two independent one cent stamps.

For the attainment of the above objects my invention consists, substantially, of a unit stamp of prescribed denomination or valuation printed, impressed, or otherwise formed on a suitable unit sheet of paper or other material of desired shape and size, said unit sheet being rendered centrally divisible and separable by spaced perforations arranged in a straight line forming the central divisional line of the unit sheet.

My invention consists further in providing some identifying symbol or figure on the unit sheet coincident with the divisional line and overlapping or overlying both sides of said line in such manner that when said unit sheet is torn apart into two stamps smaller in size and valuation, there will remain on each half or sub-stamp a fragment of said symbol or figure to show that it had formerly been one half of an uncanceled unit-stamp of higher valuation.

My invention further comprises certain other auxiliary details of construction and arrangement of parts, all of which will be more fully described hereinafter, and specifically pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings I have shown several forms to which my invention is adapted, any of which can be employed, as desired.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification—Figure 1 is a plan view, with parts broken away, of a stamp-sheet showing a number of unit stamps separably united in one large sheet. Fig. 2 is a detail plan view of a single unit stamp detached from the sheet. Fig. 3 is a similar view showing the unit stamp divided into its two equal sub-stamps; and Fig. 4 is a plan view of a modified form of unit stamp.

Like letters and numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several views of the drawings.

Referring to Fig. 1, A indicates a large stamp-sheet comprising, as is usual, a number of single stamps, B, separately and visibly united at their marginal lines by a series of spaced perforations, *a a*, whereby any number of unit-stamps B may be readily torn from the sheet as occasion may demand. The back of each stamp is suitably mucilaged, in the ordinary manner.

In carrying out my invention, the unit-stamp B may approximate in size and design the well known "two-cent" stamp, with this difference, that, although its superficial area is about equal, it is centrally divided by spaced perforations,  $a'$ , arranged in a straight line, into two independent sub-stamps, C and C', each having its individual design, or color, and valuation mark, and connected together at their mutual boundary line,  $b$ , thus constituting a unit-stamp of a valuation double the valuation of each portion C or C'.

D designates a valuation symbol, mark, or figure for the unit stamp, which is so arranged at the line  $b$  as to overlap and project on both sides of said line leaving a fragmental portion on each sub-stamp C or C', so that when the unit stamp B is torn into two sub-stamps C, C', each of the latter will retain thereon a fragment of said valuation mark, figure or symbol D, as clearly shown in Fig. 3. In Figs. 1, 2 and 3, the mark D is a figure "2" showing the value of the unit stamp to be "two cents," while in said figures each sub-stamp C or C' has an independent valuation mark "1" showing each sub-stamp to be valued at one cent. In Fig. 4, however, I have shown the valuation mark D as a line of letters, and also an additional symbol in the form of two leaves mounted on diverging stems united at the line  $b$ . This arrangement would be equivalent to the figure "2" in Figs. 1, 2 and 3.

On the surface of the unit stamp B I have illustrated the conventional design comprising a likeness surrounded by the approved ornamental design and lettering; and furthermore, I have arbitrarily illustrated the unit stamp as a "two cent" stamp and each sub-stamp as a "one cent" stamp. It will, however, be understood that I do not restrict myself to such arbitrary arrangement, since each sub-stamp may be of any higher denomination and any unit stamp of double the value of a sub-stamp, as shown in Fig. 4 wherein the sub-stamp is a "two cent" stamp and the unit stamp a "four cent" stamp. If preferred, the perforations  $a$  between any two adjacent unit stamps B in the sheet A can be formed slightly larger, or different in shape, than the perforations  $a'$  between the sub-portions C and C' of the unit stamp. By such relative difference of perforations  $a$  the unit-stamp can be readily torn from the sheet without any danger of subdividing any stamp B, which might happen if both series of

perforations were of the same size and shape. This construction is clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

In Figs. 1, 2 and 3, I have shown the divisional line  $b$  between the sub-portions C and C' as a perpendicular line, but said line  $b$  can be a horizontal line as shown in Fig. 4. Under some circumstances the latter arrangement might be preferred inasmuch as it serves to and more equally divide the superficial area of the unit stamp B.

My improvement will be found to simplify the cost and labor of manufacture, distribution and sale of stamps, will be more convenient and economical to the consumer, and will fulfill a recognized postal want.

It is obvious that my invention is applicable to any kind of stamps by simple change of design and valuation marks.

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

1. A divisible postage-stamp of prescribed valuation, shape and design, divisible and separable into two independent sub-stamps of independent design, each equal in value to one half of the whole or unit stamp, as set forth.

2. A divisible unit stamp for revenue purposes of approved material, shape, design and valuation centrally divisible by spaced perforations into two independent sub-stamps, each sub-stamp being equal in valuation to one half the valuation of the unit stamp, said unit stamp having a valuation mark, symbol or figure so arranged that a fragment of said mark, symbol or figure will remain on each division or sub-stamp when the unit stamp is divided, as set forth.

3. A divisible postage stamp comprising a sheet of paper of prescribed size provided with an approved design, and rendered centrally divisible into two equal portions by a series of spaced perforations, and a valuation mark or figure upon said sheet intermediate the two portions, so that when the unit stamp is divided a fragment of said valuation mark or figure will be on each portion, substantially as specified.

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

GEORGE M. BRIGHT.

Witnesses:

GEORGE STUART,  
JOHN R. LYON.