

R. G. SMEATON.  
Branding-Stamp.

No. 196,711.

Patented Oct. 30, 1877.

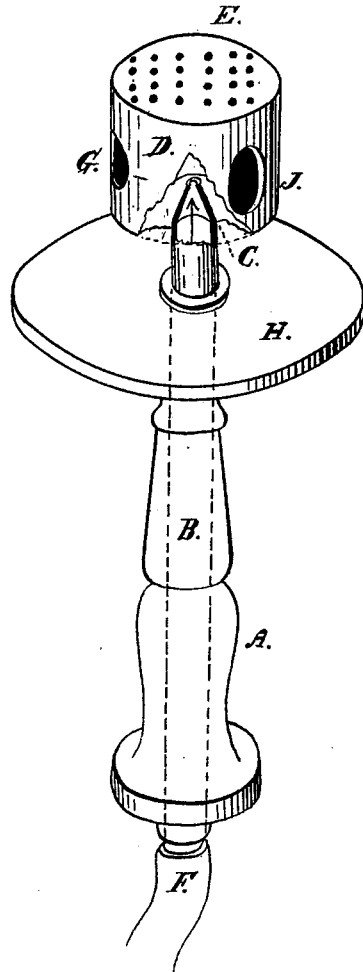


FIG. 1.

Witnesses:

*O. R. Erwin*  
*A. G. Studer*

Inventor:

*Robert G. Smeaton*  
*By Jas. P. Erwin*  
*Attorney.*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT G. SMEATON, OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.

## IMPROVEMENT IN BRANDING-STAMPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **196,711**, dated October 30, 1877; application filed July 21, 1877.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ROBERT G. SMEATON, of the city of Milwaukee, in the county of Milwaukee and State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Machines for and Process of Canceling Stamps and Instruments; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 of the accompanying drawing represents a perspective view of my invention.

The object of my invention is to furnish a device for canceling or defacing postage and other stamps and instruments, and also for marking or printing upon the same in such a manner that the characters cannot be erased, or the defaced or canceled stamp or instrument restored for repeated use, which end is accomplished by slightly burning the same with a flame and heated disk or die until they are slightly discolored, all of which is more fully explained by reference to the accompanying drawing, in which—

A represents the handle, which is provided with a tube, B, through its center. The tube B projects beyond the end of the handle, at which point it is, when in use, attached to a hose-pipe, by means of which gas is communicated to the tube B. The opposite end of the tube B is provided with a gas-burner, C.

D is a cylinder, which is securely attached to the handle. E is a perforated disk or die, which is securely attached to the walls of the cylinder D. The combustion of the gas takes place within the cylinder D, when the blaze is forced by the pressure of the gas against the disk E, which is heated until it will burn and discolor any ordinary paper or similar substance with which it is brought in contact. G are openings through the cylinder for the admission of air and the promotion of combustion. H is a disk or shield, the office of which is to reflect the heat and protect the hand of the operator.

A disk provided with raised letters or other figures may be used instead of the perforated disk, if desired.

My invention is operated in a similar manner to any ordinary stamp used for canceling postage-stamps, the gas being previously lighted for sufficient time to get the disk E well heated.

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

A branding stamp-canceler provided with a plate or disk, H, for the protection of the hand of the operator, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ROBERT G. SMEATON.

Witnesses:

K. SHAWVAN,  
J. B. ENOID.