2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

F. W. BROOKS.

Postal-Card.

No. 203,409. Patented May 7, 1878.

Fig. 1.

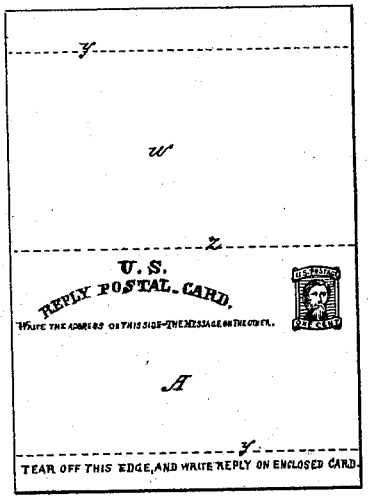


Fig. 1a.

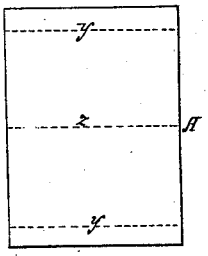


Fig. 4.

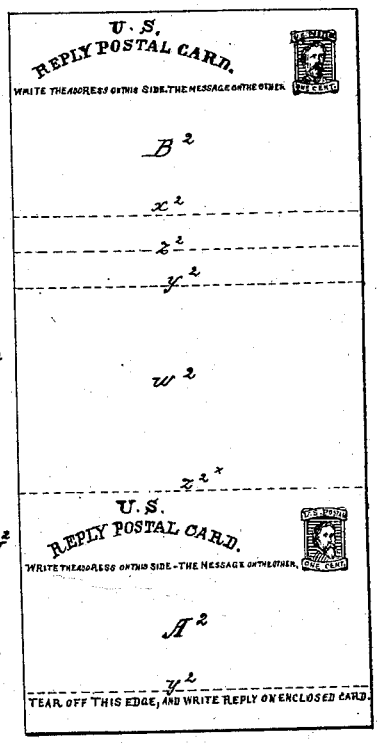


Fig. 2.

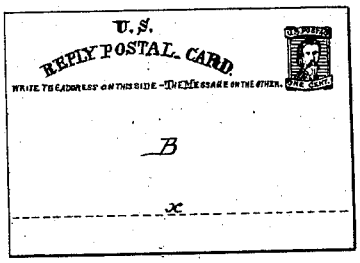


Fig 4a

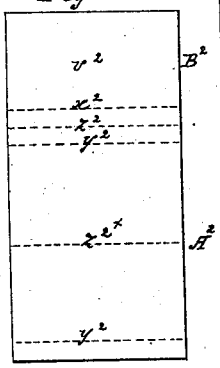


Fig. 2a.

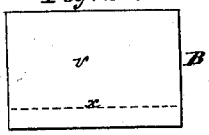


Fig. 5.

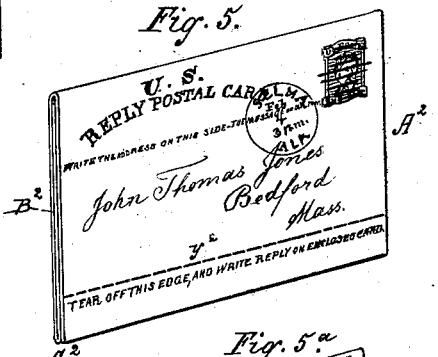


Fig. 3.

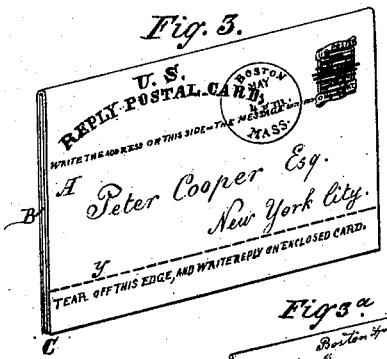


Fig. 6.

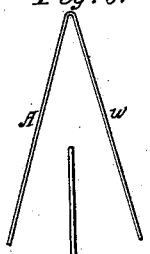


Fig. 7.

Fig 3a

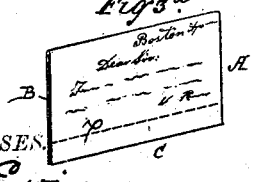
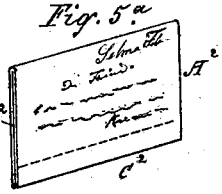


Fig. 5a



WITNESSES.

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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Postal-Card.

No. 203,409. Patented May 7, 1878.

Fig. 8.

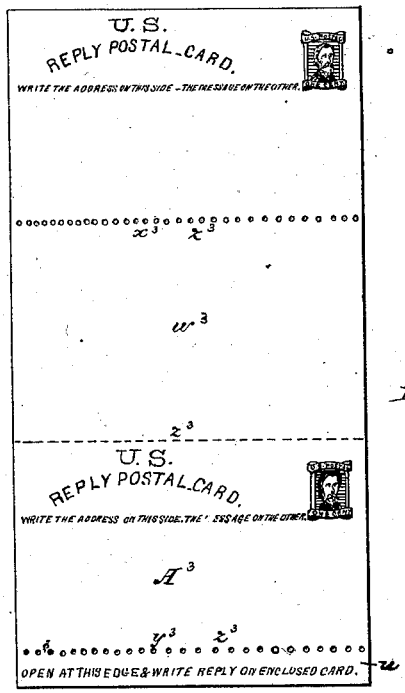


Fig. 9.

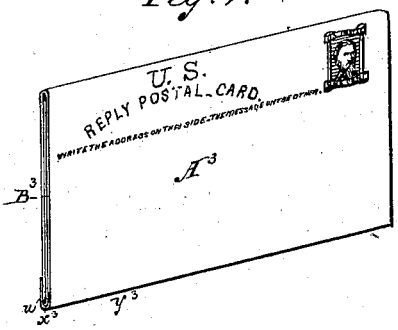


Fig. 10.

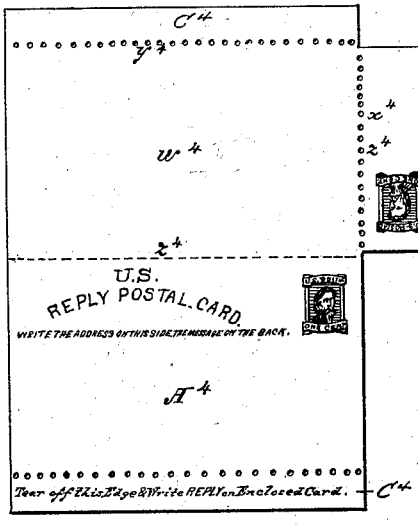
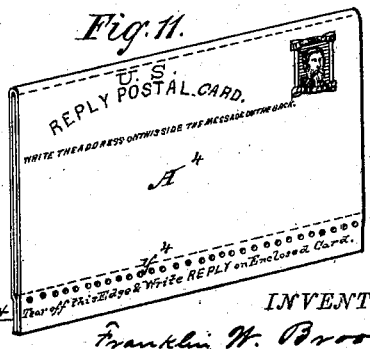


Fig. 11.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANKLIN W. BROOKS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN POSTAL CARDS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **203,409**, dated May 7, 1878; application filed March 18, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANKLIN W. BROOKS, of the city and county of New York, in the State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Postal Cards, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact specification.

This invention relates to those postal cards which provide for bringing back a reply to the original sender without expense, and with the least possible inconvenience to the person addressed.

The object of the present invention is to accomplish the general result above stated, and also certain important results never before accomplished, namely: first, the provision of a full-sized address-blank and a full-sized message-blank for each writer without departing from the fundamental characteristic of postal cards, the message in all cases to be on the exposed back of the card; second, the combination of two complete cards, each to bear its appropriate address, postmark, and message, so that the party receiving either will be furnished with a legal voucher, without departing from said fundamental characteristic of postal cards; third, the inclosure of one postal card within another for the purpose of obtaining a reply, with provision for readily inspecting the contents, and so that both surfaces of the reply-card are protected from becoming soiled or greasy by handling. Any attempt to inclose writing or other matter would consequently be detected at once, and the reply-card is delivered with clean writing-surfaces.

My said invention consists in the combination of a double postal card folded at one edge, for the first message, and an inclosed reply-card, with or without a removable edge having tearing-perforations, so arranged as to simultaneously disclose and sever said reply-card, as hereinafter more fully set forth.

Figures 1 and 2 of the accompanying drawing are face views of the blanks of a reply postal card illustrating this invention, and Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the said postal card as in use. Fig. 4 is a face view of the single blank of another form of reply postal card illustrating the same invention, and Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the product of said blank as in use. Figs. 6 and 7 are end views of the two parts as separated by the party who is to reply. Figs. 1^a 2^a, &c., are back views on a smaller scale of that which is shown in the respective figures correspondingly numbered. Fig. 8 is a face view of a blank, and Fig. 9 a perspective view of its product, illustrating another modification of the said invention. Fig. 10 is a face view of a blank, and Fig. 11 a perspective view of its product, illustrating still another modification.

Like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

In a preferred form this improved postal card is designed to be made from two blanks, Figs. 1 and 2, of the prescribed length from end to end, and the first of twice the prescribed width from top to bottom. This first blank, Fig. 1, which may consist of thin paper, is printed, on the lower half of its face, with the stamp and other matter which is to appear on the face of the product, including a line at the bottom reading "Tear off this edge and write reply on inclosed card," or to this effect. The second blank, Fig. 2, is a card sufficiently stiff to be handled readily, and is of one-half the width of the first blank from top to bottom, and is printed correspondingly with the lower half of the first blank, excepting said last line. The first blank, being folded face outward on a central line, *z*, Fig. 1, constitutes what I term the "double card" A, and the second blank, Fig. 2, constitutes the reply-card B. The latter is inclosed in the former, and they are pasted together or otherwise united at the lower edge, and perforated immediately above the composite edge C thus formed, as indicated by dotted lines *y x*. The knife-cut form of perforations represented in Fig. 3 is preferred as leaving a smoother edge than the ordinary round perforations. The cards are next trimmed and counted, and the whole process can be readily carried out by automatic machinery, and consequently with the requisite cheapness.

Fig. 3 shows the face and one end of the product as it appears when delivered to the party who is to reply.

Fig. 3^a shows the exposed back bearing the message. This message-space of the double-card A is represented by *w* in Figs. 1 and 6 The other side of said card A is blank, as represented in Fig. 1^a, but is not designed to receive writing, and is incapable of such use

without separating the cemented edges, while the open ends of the product provide for inspecting the interior with the utmost facility.

The reply-card B has an ample message-space, *v*, on its back, being in all essential particulars an ordinary single postal card when severed from the double card A, as represented by Fig. 7; and this separation of the said reply-card is accomplished simultaneously with its disclosure by means of the perforations *y x*, the solid composite edge C below these perforations in the product being torn off, according to the directions thereon, by the party who is to reply. This gives said party, as illustrated by Figs. 6 and 7, the message received, with its address and postmark all on one piece of paper, for his file, and a complete postal card, B, on which to reply, the latter furnishing the original sender with a like complete voucher when it is returned to him. At the same time the message is always exposed, and the card is as convenient to handle as an ordinary single card.

Figs. 4, 4ª, 5, 5ª illustrate a modification of the invention above described. The separated cards are or may be precisely the same as those of the first product, except as regards relative thickness or weight of paper, as illustrated by Figs. 6 and 7. A single blank is employed in this modification, with two fold-lines, z^2 $z^{2\times}$, as indicated, and with the face of the reply-card B^2 printed at top. This part of the blank is first folded over on the line z^2, face outward. The part A^2 is then folded back on the line $z^{2\times}$, so as to cover B^2, and the printed outer edge is gummed down. The whole is then perforated and trimmed, and it is used precisely the same as the first form, with the same advantages, excepting the use of thin paper for the double card A.

The modification illustrated by Figs. 8, 9 consists in omitting any edge C C^2 to be torn off in the operation of disclosing and detaching the reply-card B^3, and in forming the rows of perforations y^3 x^3 so that they define folds as well as facilitate separating the reply-card, and so that they are formed in the flat blank. The blank is or may be otherwise precisely similar to the blank A^2 B^2, (shown in Figs. 4, 4ª,) except as shortened by the omission of the stock between the adjacent lines x^2 y^2 in Fig. 4.

A narrow flap, *u*, at the bottom of the double card A^3, is pasted or gummed down upon the back of said card to seal it, as represented in Fig. 9, and the reply-card B^3 is disclosed and severed by inserting a pen-knife blade or the like between the reply-card and the back of the double card, and drawing it along so as to cut through the perforations x^3 y^3. The printed directions at the lower edge of the double card should consequently be changed to read "Open at this edge and write reply on inclosed card," or to this effect.

The separated cards present substantially the same appearance in end view as represented by Figs. 6 and 7, and the same general advantages are retained, excepting the use of thin paper and provision for separating the cards by tearing off the edge at which they are united.

The modification represented by Figs. 10 and 11 consists in uniting the blanks of a double card, A^4, and a reply-card, B^4, at one end of the latter. This leaves both the longitudinal edges of the reply-card smooth, which is important to facilitate handling it in the post-offices. The fold-line z^4 between the two parts of the blank is perforated, as in the last previous modification. The card B^4 is folded face outward on the back of leaf w^4 of the card A^4, and the latter is folded face outward, so as to inclose the former. The two lower edges of the double card are then pasted together or otherwise united, and then perforated to form a detachable edge, C^4. By tearing off this edge the reply-card is exposed, and the reply-card can then be torn off at the perforations x^4. The general advantages of the improved card manufactured according to this last modification are the same as those of the card shown in Figs. 8 and 9.

The employment of the common round perforations is illustrated by Figs. 8, 9, 10, 11. Either form may be employed in all the modifications, and the details of lettering, color and quality of paper, mode of fastening, &c., will vary according to the demands of the post-office authorities.

In the first form of the improved card, Figs. 1 to 3ª, inclusive, the perforation of the inclosed card may preferably be omitted, so as to cause it to preserve smooth edges, the strips of paper which remain attached to the reply-card being unobjectionable as projections, owing to their thinness, while they distinguish said card from an ordinary single card.

The following is what I claim as new and of my own invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, namely:

1. A double postal card with a fold at one edge, and with a reply-card inclosed within said double card, each card being adapted to carry a full-sized message, and with the message of each card permanently connected with its address and postmark.

2. A double postal card with a fold at one edge, and with a reply-card inclosed within said double card and united therewith at one edge, this edge being perforated so that by tearing it off the inclosed card will be simultaneously disclosed and severed, as herein specified.

FRANKLIN W. BROOKS.

Witnesses:
ISIDOR GRAYHEAD,
SPENCER L. HILLIER,
JAS. L. EWIN.