

## *Early Patent Envelopes*

This exhibit will display some of the earlier examples of envelopes that were awarded patents for their designs, or were precursors, to patented envelopes. The most well known of these are the envelopes designed was by Lewis Leeds. Leeds applied for a patent in 1861 for an envelope that included a die cut hole with a lattice-work bridge across it. The stamp was supposed to be affixed on top of the lattice and adhere to the enclosed letter. When it entered the mails, the envelope was to be postmarked with town and date of origin and when the letter was removed, the stamp with origin postmark would be preserved with the letter.

After Leeds applied for his patent, he discovered that the idea had been previously patented, but never manufactured, by Benjamin Morison. After the Morrison patent was purchased by Leeds, various forms of the envelopes saw limited production by Leeds in partnership with a various backers including Vaux, Franklin and a brother. They were ultimately a failure because post office regulations required that stamps not be cancelled with a dated postmark. It is estimated that fewer than 25 examples survive.

Later envelopes shown include some patents that were never produced as well as the popular window envelopes and easy open envelopes.

### **French "Marion" Patent Envelope**

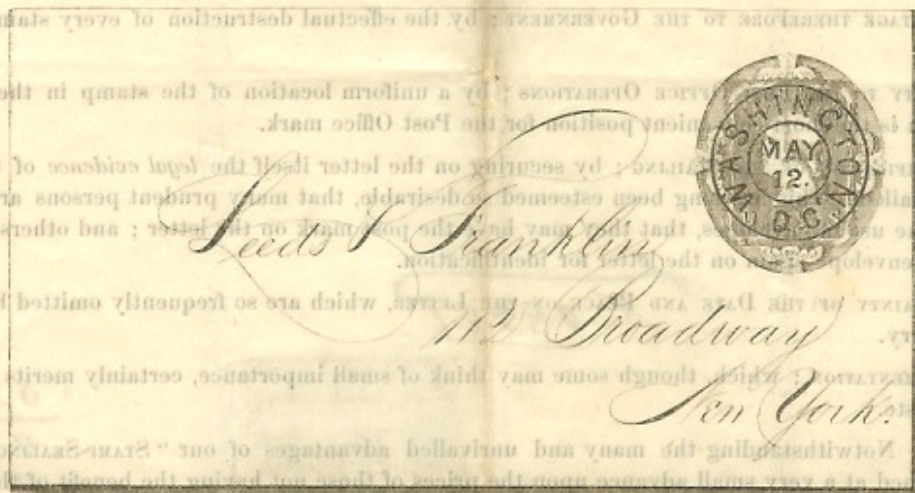


used March 2, 1849 within France

*The envelope invented by Mr. Marion, a Paris stationer, included two large holes - one on front and one on reverse so that the departure and arrival postmarks would be preserved on the original letter. This invention was approved by the French Minister of Finance in March 1846.*

Leeds & Franklin's Patent

**STAMP-SEALING AND POST-MARK-PRESERVING  
ENVELOPES;**



MANUFACTURED FOR THE TRADE, AND SOLD BY

**WILLIAM P. LYON,**

**ENVELOPE MANUFACTURER,**

**No. 537 PEARL-STREET, near Broadway,**

**NEW-YORK**

The preservation on the letter itself of the Post Mark and Postage Stamp—generally destroyed with the detached cover—has long been deemed a matter of the first importance. This desideratum is now triumphantly secured by LEEDS & FRANKLIN'S ingenious invention.

THIS PATENT ENVELOPE has a simple window opening at the right hand corner, through which, by use of the postage stamp, the letter and envelope are sealed fast, together; so that when the letter is removed from its cover, the postage stamp, and with the post mark placed thereon, must remain permanently adhering to the letter.

Many obvious advantages must arise from the general use of this envelope.

*First.*—INCREASED SAFETY by additional sealing; the stamp connecting the envelope and letter securely together; and this is never liable to be omitted, though the sticking of the flap is frequently neglected or imperfectly done.

# Leed's Patent Envelopes

## Advertising Circular with 1¢ - Second Page

*Second.*—SECURITY AGAINST IMPROPER INTERSION; the letter and envelope being firmly attached by the stamp, the inclosure cannot be inspected even if the flap be clandestinely opened.

*Third.*—SAFETY AGAINST ABSTRACTION OF VALUABLE ENCLOSURES. If the flap be left unsealed, or opened with felonious intent, it will still be impossible to open the letter and take thence bank notes and drafts without so mutilating the envelope as to insure detection.

*Fourth.*—SECURITY FOR THE PRE-PAYMENT OF THE POSTAGE; as the stamp, when once properly placed in this window, cannot be removed without its destruction.

*Fifth.*—ADVANTAGE THEREFORE TO THE GOVERNMENT; by the effectual destruction of every stamp in its first use.

*Sixth.*—FACILITY TO THE POST OFFICE OPERATIONS; by a uniform location of the stamp in the upper right hand corner, which is the most convenient position for the Post Office mark.

*Seventh.*—VERIFICATION OF THE MAILING; by securing on the letter itself the legal evidence of the time and place of it being mailed. This has long been esteemed so desirable, that many prudent persons are constrained to dispense with the use of envelopes, that they may have the post mark on the letter; and others take the precaution to pin the envelope again on the letter for identification.

*Eighth.*—CERTAINTY OF THE DATE AND PLACE ON THE LETTER, which are so frequently omitted by writers, in carelessness or hurry.

*Ninth.*—ORNAMENTATION; which, though some may think of small importance, certainly merits the approval of all persons of taste.

*Tenth.*—*Cost.* Notwithstanding the many and unrivalled advantages of our "STAMP-SEALING ENVELOPES," they will be furnished at a very small advance upon the prices of those not having the benefit of this patent.

As indicative of the estimate placed upon this improvement by those perhaps best capable of judging of its importance, we subjoin a few out of a long list of leading public men, bankers, &c. who have united in recommending its introduction into general use.

Hon. Geo. Opdyke, Mayor, N.Y.; Hon. B. F. Mustier, N.Y.; Hon. Jas. Harper, late Mayor, N.Y.; Hon. Horace Greely, N.Y.; Hon. Henry J. Raymond, N.Y.; Geo. D. Lyman, Pres. Bank Clearing House, N.Y.; A. P. Halsey, Pres. Bank of New-York; S. Baldwin, Pres. New-York Exchange Co. N.Y.; Geo. B. Coe, Pres. American Exchange Bank, N.Y.; E. W. Hows, Pres. Park Bank, N.Y.; Geo. Ellis, Cashier Bank of Commonwealth, N.Y.; Chas. J. Martin, Pres. Home Insurance Co.; Munn & Co. Scientific American; J. Smith Hensons, N.Y.; D. Appleton & Co. N.Y.; Abram Wakeman, Post Master, N.Y.; Jno. G. Palfrey, Post Master, Boston; C. J. E. Thorpe, Post Master, Baltimore; Thos. Smith, Pres. Bank of North America, Phila.; Geo. M. Troutman, Cashier of Western Bank, Phila.; J. B. Lippincott & Co. Phila.; Edward Tyler, Cashier Suffolk Bank, Boston; C. H. Warner, Cashier Bank of Commerce, Boston; C. T. Robbins, Cashier Merchant's Bank, Providence; Prof. B. Silliman, New Haven, Ct.; Silliman & Dana, American Journal Science; E. C. Scranton, Pres. Elm City Bank; also Post Masters in all parts of the country.

These Envelopes should be for sale by all Stationers.

Those who desire to see and test this invention, may enclose to my address one or more postage stamps, and will receive at once by mail equivalent value in samples, with prices.

WM. P. LYON,

No. 537 Pearl-Street, near Broadway, New-York.

### SPECIAL NOTICE.

The undersigned is again largely engaged in the manufacture of ENVELOPES OF EVERY SIZE, STYLE, QUALITY AND DESCRIPTION, which he offers to the trade at lowest possible prices.

SAMPLES FURNISHED. Orders thankfully received and promptly executed.

I will be happy to see my customers, and the trade generally, at my new and central place of business.

WM. P. LYON.

## Back Page



1¢ affixed to back page, over lattice as shown in back-lighted image above

The Only Reported Example Of This Circular

# Leed's Patent Envelopes

## Advertising Circular with Label, Oval Opening, Perforated Envelope



31 December 1861 unsealed circular sent from Flushing, New York, label allowed to pass as 1¢ stamp



### Stamp Sealing and Postmark Preserving Envelope.

By the use of the ordinary envelope we lose the advantage of preserving upon the letter itself the Post Mark and Postage Stamp, which are generally thrown aside with the unattached envelope, and it is also difficult to identify the letter and envelope as belonging together, after they have been once separated.

We have prepared an envelope with one or more openings, through which, by the use of the postage stamp, the letter and envelope are sealed fast together, and when the letter is removed from the envelope, the postage stamp and any post mark placed thereon remains adhering to the letter.

We claim that the following advantages must arise from the general use of this or a similar system of envelopes, provided the Post Office Department sanctions it, so far as to print a clear and distinct post mark on such Postage Stamps, or if preferred, directly on the letter, through an additional opening, made especially for that purpose.

**First.**—Sealing the letter independent of the envelope by the stamp, thus making the operation of stamping the most perfect security for the sealing; and the stamp having to be put on the front of the letter before it can be sent, this sealing is not liable to be neglected.

**Second.**—Sealing the letter and envelope fast together, and thus increasing the difficulty of substituting envelopes, or of removing the enclosure, either by violence or from neglect of sealing, or from bursting, in consequence of bad gumming.

**Third.**—Securing to the Government the destruction of the stamp in opening the letter, or its general preservation thereon.

**Fourth.**—Defining the location of the stamp on the letter, and this in the most convenient position for the post office mark.

**Fifth.**—Securing on the letter itself the legal evidence of the time and place of mailing, and giving information as to the Post Office and State from which the letter is sent.

**Sixth.**—Preserving an evidence of the action of the Post Office in regard to the punctual mailing of letters.

**Seventh.**—Supplying by the public stamp any private deficiency in the neglect of dating the letter.

An envelope affording all these advantages can be furnished at a very little, if any additional cost, and it is quite probable that if one were adopted which depended exclusively on the stamp for sealing, it might be produced much cheaper than if made in the ordinary way.

LEEDS & VAUX,  
110 Broadway, New York.

Extract from the "COMMERCIAL RECORD," of Boston, November 24th, 1861.

"At a recent meeting of the Newcastle (Eng.) Chamber of Commerce, a communication was read from Glasgow, calling attention to the inconvenience arising from the use of envelopes in commercial communications, from the difficulty of procuring dates of postal and delivery of letters, and urging the desirability that the post marks should always appear on the letters themselves. The Chamber expressed the opinion, that in business letters it would be much better to avoid the use of envelopes."



affixed over lattice as  
shown above

**The Only Reported Example Of This  
Leeds & Vaux Circular**

## Leed's Patent Envelopes

Oval Window - with and without blind stamped patent notice



11 February 1862 Philadelphia to Lewis Leeds at Washington  
stamp incorrectly used away from the window, letter announces purchase of Morison patent



19 October 1861 Philadelphia to Lewis Leeds at New York City  
stamp correctly used over lattice

# Leed's Patent Envelopes

## Perforated Envelope with 1¢



unused envelope with rectangular window and perforations for side opening  
New - York Leeds & Franklin 112 B'W private postmark with their "Broadway" address

**The Only Reported Example**

# Leed's Patent Envelopes

## Dual Window



addressed envelope with two windows, one for postmark and one for stamp  
New - York Leeds & Franklin 112 B'W private postmark with their "Broadway" address

**The Only Reported Example**

## Leed's Patent Envelopes

Rectangular Window - with and without blind stamped patent notice



28 April 1863 Cincinnati, Ohio to La Porte, Indiana, stamp correctly used over lattice  
"Pat. June 19 1860" stamp of the date of Morison patent



8 October 1863 Philadelphia to Francestown, New Hampshire, stamp correctly used over lattice  
N.S. Lawrence envelope maker's corner card

## Leed's Patent Envelopes

### Rectangular Window



8 February 1864 Washington D.C. To Keewille, New York, stamp correctly used over lattice  
"U.S. Sanitary Commission." imprint



4 June 1869 Utica to Cooperstown, New York, stamp partially over lattice  
the latest reported usage

# Unknown Manufacturer

## Postal Stationery Patterns



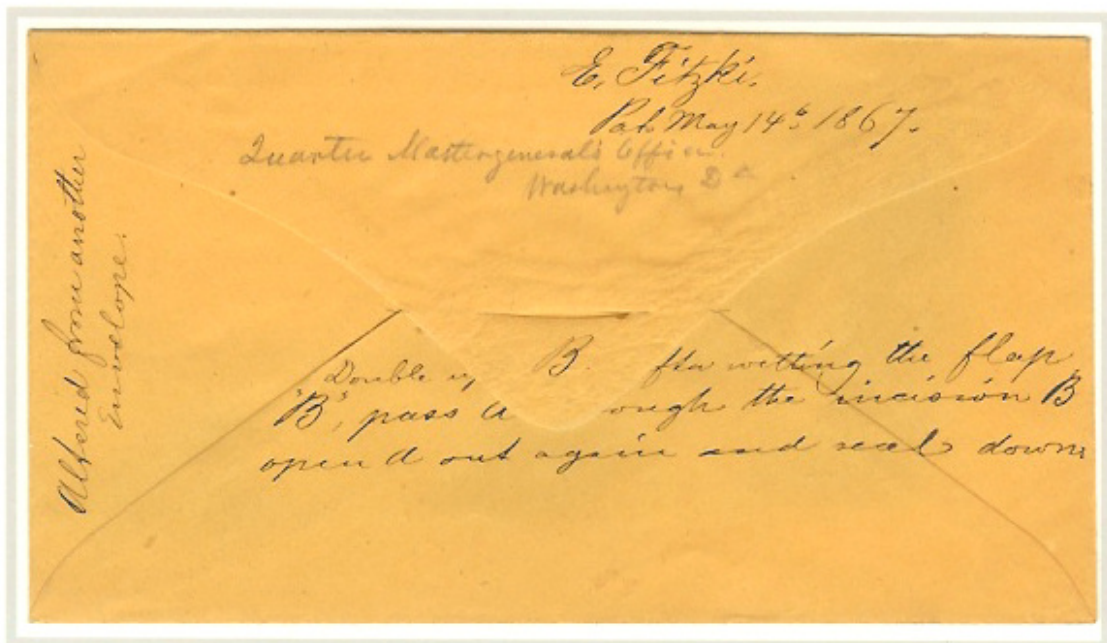
3¢ 1861 issue postal stationery, rectangular die cut, stamp gummed, side opening



3¢ 1861 issue postal stationery, oval die cut, side opening

# E. Fitzki Patent Envelopes

## Secure Sealing Flap

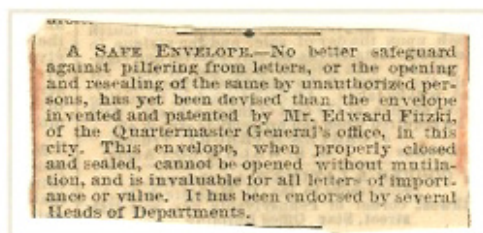


Edward Fitzki's mock-up submitted for patent on May 14, 1867



Edward Fitzke's completed unused envelope with "E. Fitzki's Lock Envelope"

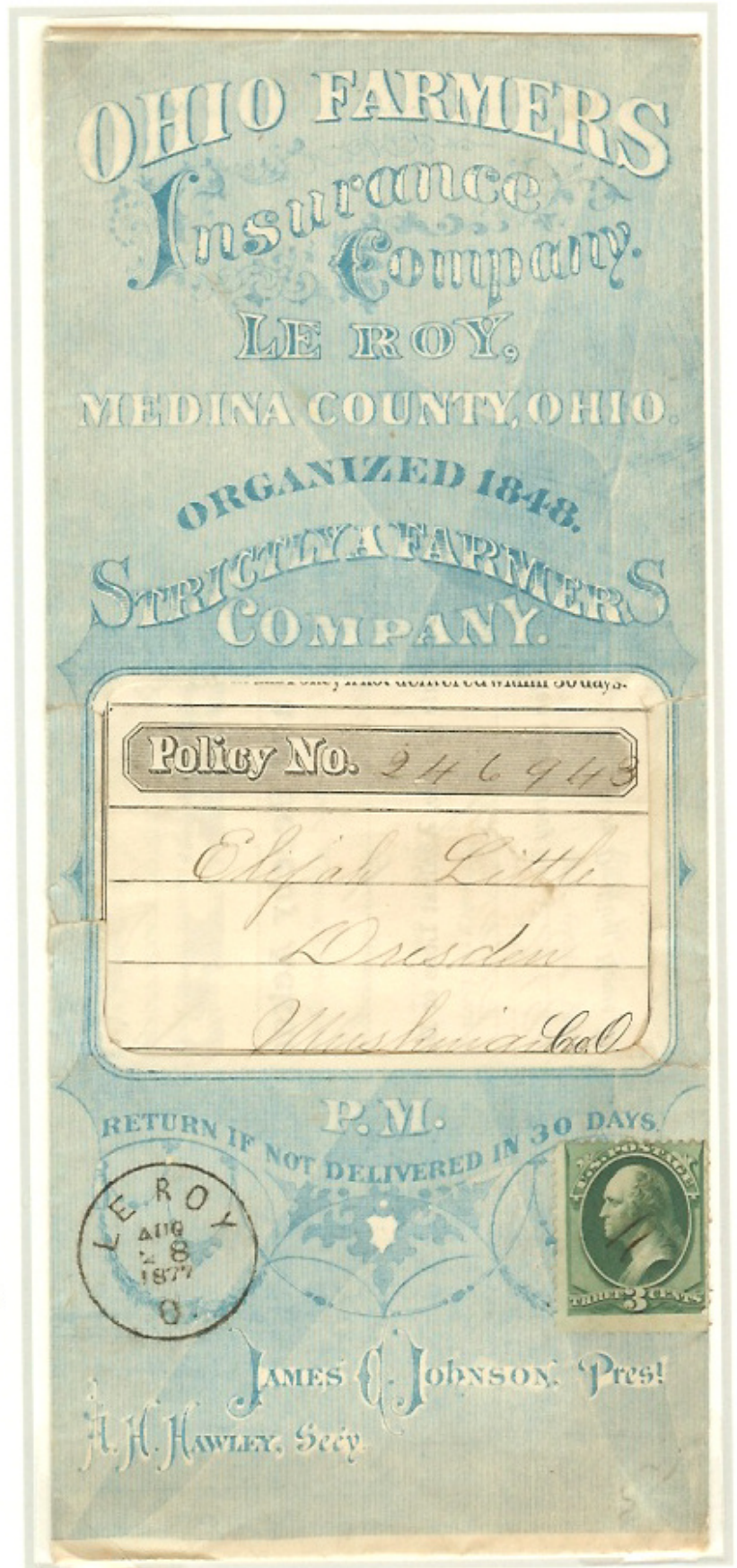
period newspaper notice of  
Edward Fitzki's envelope



# Window Envelopes

## Ohio Farmers Insurance

8 August 1877 Le Roy, Ohio



*The Ohio Farmers Insurance Company window envelopes are considered to be the earliest examples of the type. In this form, the idea of the window was not something that could be patented.*

# Window Envelopes

## Ohio Farmers Insurance

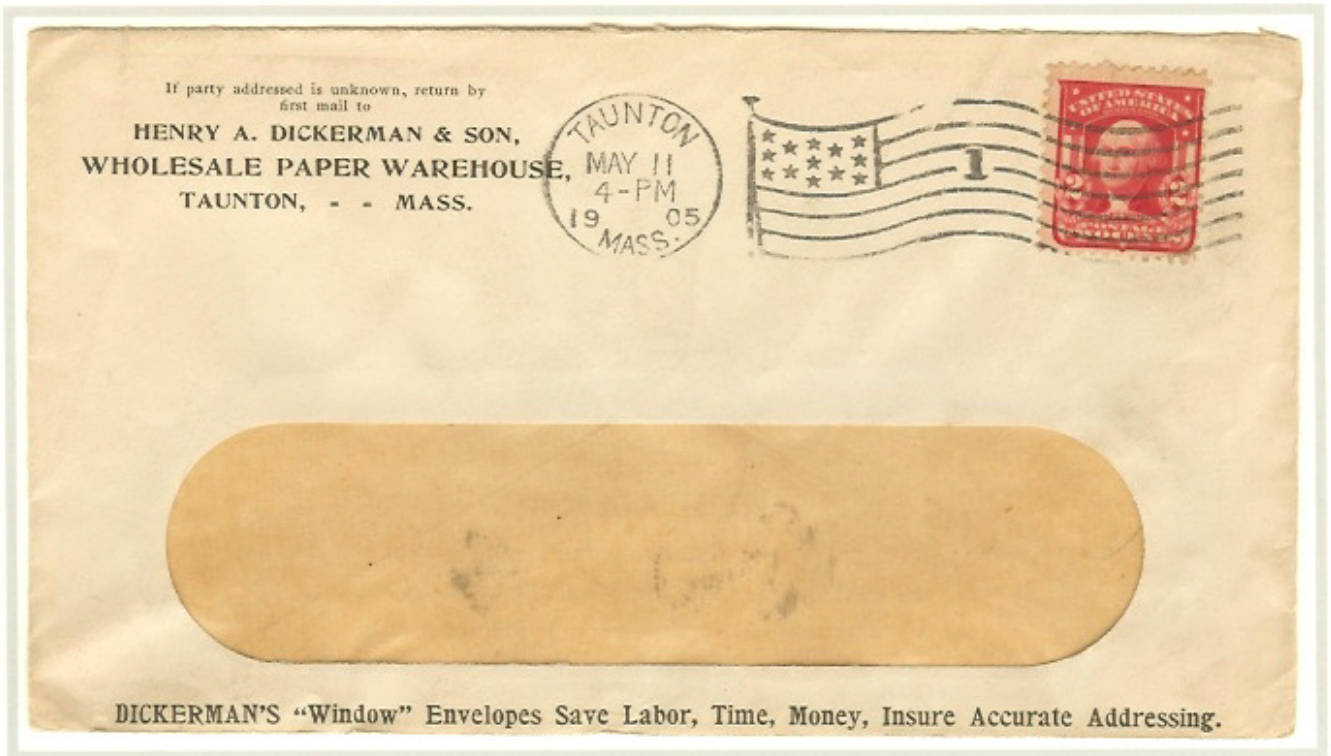
16 March 1887 Le Roy, Ohio



*The Ohio Farmers Insurance Company window envelopes are considered to be the earliest examples of the type. In this form, the idea of the window was not something that could be patented.*

# Patent Window Envelopes

Outlook Envelope Company



Patent date of 6-10-1902 on verso, used in 1905



Patent date of 6-10-1902 on verso, used in 1908

# Patent Window Envelopes

## Transo Paper Company



Patent date of Aug 9, 1904 on verso, made of one piece of paper, used in 1913 by manufacturer



Patent date of Aug 9, 1904 on verso, made of one piece of paper, used in 1907, earliest reported

# Patent Envelopes

## Flynn Pull Open Business Envelope



Patent holder corner card, used by Kelsey Furnace Company in 1892



Patent holder corner card, used by Kelsey Furnace Company in 1894