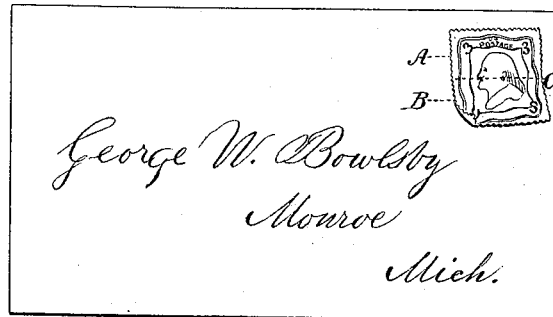


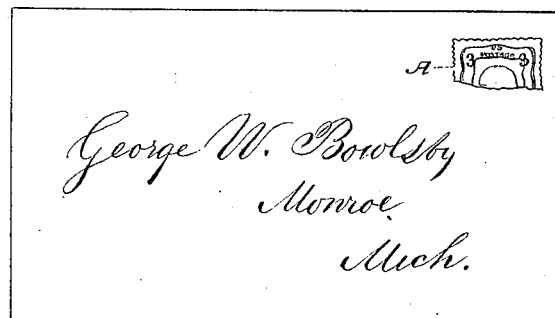
*G. W. Bowlsby,  
Postage Stamp.*

*N<sup>o</sup> 51782.*

*Patented Dec. 26, 1865.*



*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*

*Witnesses.*

*W. H. Baerman*

*C. V. Cook*

*Inventor.*

*George W. Bowlsby*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE W. BOWLSBY, OF MONROE, MICHIGAN.

## IMPROVEMENT IN POSTAGE-STAMPS, &c.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 51,782, dated December 26, 1865.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GEORGE W. BOWLSBY, of Monroe, in the county of Monroe and State of Michigan, have invented a new and Improved Mode of Preventing the Second Use of Postage - Stamps; and I hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The nature of my invention consists in applying the adhesive substance to only a portion of the under surface of the stamp, so that when the stamp is attached to the letter or other mailable matter it will leave the remaining part, which is not made adhesive, projecting—that is, not adhering to the letter.

It also consists in the tearing off of the projecting part of the stamp by the postmaster before the letter is put into the mail, and so totally destroying the stamp past all further recovery and use.

To enable others to understand and use my invention, I will proceed to describe it.

I apply the adhesive substance to the upper half of the back of the stamp only, leaving the lower half of the back of the stamp bare, so that it will not adhere when wetted and applied to the letter or other mail-matter on which it is placed. The object of this is to leave the upper half of the stamp remaining on the letter after the lower half of the stamp

is torn off by the postmaster, instead of defacing the stamp with ink, as is now practiced.

In the accompanying drawings the same letters of reference indicate like parts.

A B, Fig. 1, is the stamp. A is the upper half adhering to the letter. B is the lower half, to be torn off by the postmaster. C is the line of perforations across the middle of the stamp in the line of separation, to complete the tearing in a neat manner.

In Fig. 2, A is the fragment of the stamp remaining on the letter and adhering to it when it enters the mail, the lower half having been torn off by the postmaster.

The object of this invention is to totally destroy the stamp, so that it cannot be washed or otherwise cleaned and reused, as is now much done.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The destruction of the postage-stamp by tearing off a portion of it by the postmaster before it enters the mail.

2. The preparation of the stamp in the manner substantially as described, so that this may be done.

GEORGE W. BOWLSBY.

Witnesses:

W. H. BEEMAN,  
C. V. COOK.