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(54) **Printing postage stamps with embedded information**

(57) A digital printing apparatus is disclosed for printing on a receiver a postal image having invisible embedded information in response to a digital image having a plurality of pixels each having at least one pixel value and input information to embedded. The digital printing apparatus receives the digital image and the input information. The receiver includes a plurality of perforated peelable portions or a mailing envelope. The ap-

paratus responds to the input information and the digital image for modifying a predetermined number of pixel values of pixels in the digital image with the input information so that the input information is embedded in the digital image and prints a postal stamp image on the receiver in accordance with the modified digital image having the embedded information wherein the embedded information is invisible to unaided human eyes that can subsequently be extracted.

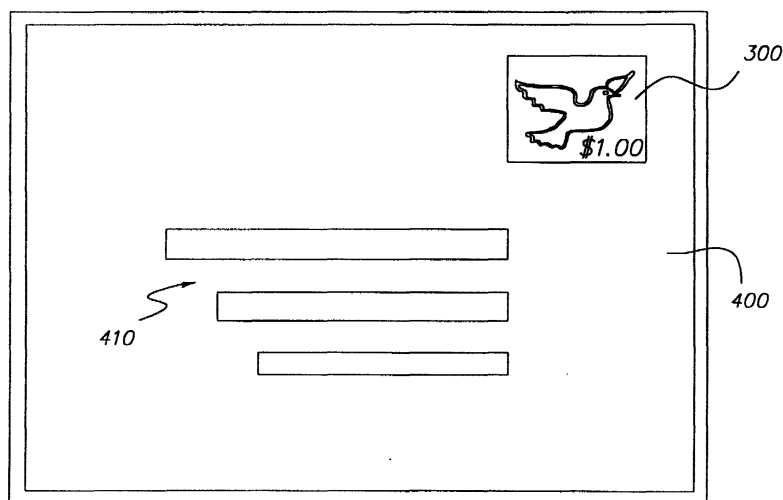


FIG. 4



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 20 3552

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Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 8 June 2001	Examiner Reule, D
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