

(No Model.)

D. J. AYRES.

POST OFFICE LETTER BOX CASE AND MEMORANDUM.

No. 570,862.

Patented Nov. 3, 1896.

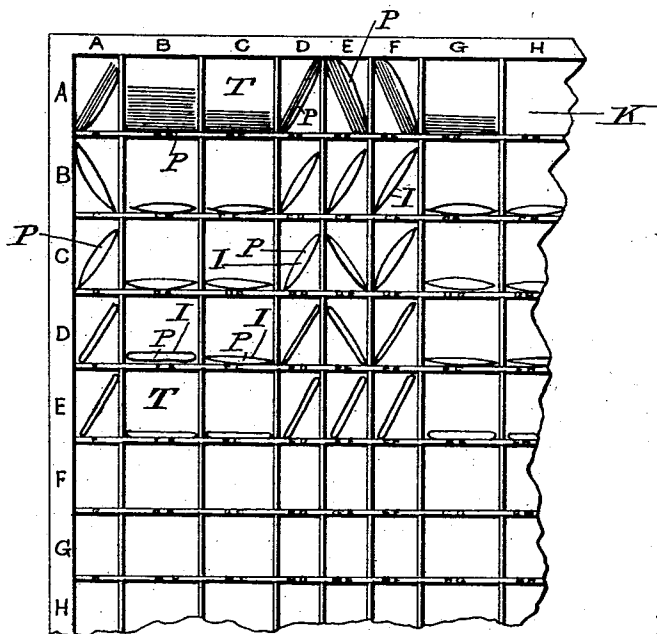


Fig. 1.

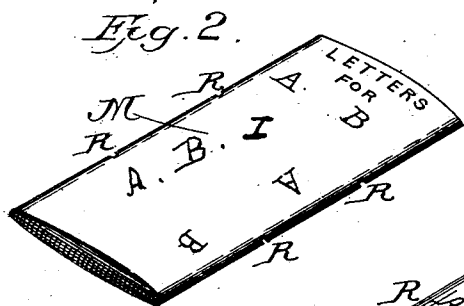


Fig. 2.

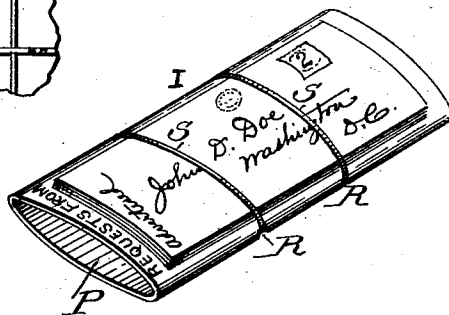


Fig. 4.

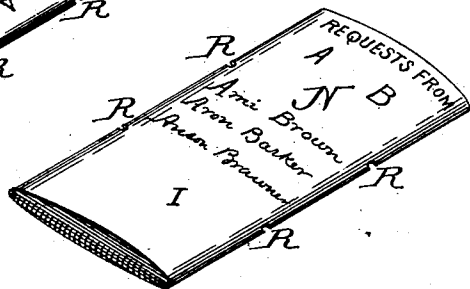


Fig. 3

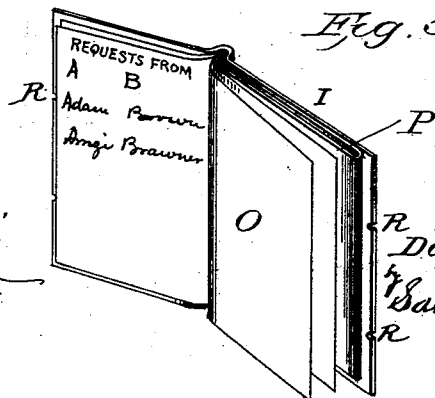


Fig. 5.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID J. AYRES, OF KEOKUK, IOWA.

## POST-OFFICE LETTER-BOX CASE AND MEMORANDUM.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 570,862, dated November 3, 1896.

Application filed January 2, 1895. Serial No. 533,575. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, DAVID J. AYRES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Keokuk, in the county of Lee and State of Iowa, have

invented a new and useful Improvement in Post-Office Letter-Box Cases and Memorandums, which is made and used substantially as set forth hereinafter, and as shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—  
Figure 1 is a front elevation of part of the letter-box case and label memorandum therein. Figs. 2 and 3 illustrate the memorandum envelop or label as an envelop. Fig. 4 illustrates the same with letters strapped to it. Fig. 5 illustrates the same as a book.

This invention consists in providing post-office delivery-cases with indicators arranged to remain permanently the outfit or property of individual boxes or cells, and with the letters belonging therein when there are any, to remain in the cells when there are no letters, and to go with the letters when taken out in hand for examination, so as to avoid chance of there being any vacant cells except that from which letters are taken, into which they can be put back by mistake, so as to cause subsequent errors, and in improved indicators adapted for this purpose, and various details therein.

The letter-cases K are made with rectangular divisions forming boxes or cells T, suited to hold letters on their side edges or flat or part each way, and convenient for removal for examination and return. These cells are lettered in series laterally and vertically for the initials of given and surnames to which the individual cells are devoted, or with the titles of classes of letters or packages, or in any suitable manner desired.

Each box or cell T is provided with an indicator I of the form set forth, or of any suitable form, as a card or paper or an envelop, which I used to call "dummies," which are arranged to be handled with the letters when taken out for examination, and to remain permanently with the cells as their outfit or property, whether they contain letters or not, to avoid a chance of any cells being vacant except the one from which letters are taken, into which they can be put back by mistake

with serious results. This indicator bears on its front face M the initial letters or titles of the letters or packages its cell is devoted to, so as to act as a label for such cell. Its other face has a prepared surface N, adapted to the writing and erasure of names or memorandums as to letters to be looked out for forwarding or other purpose; and it has a pocket P between the two face surfaces for holding request slips or cards relating to such letters. It may be made in the form of either an envelop open at the top to receive the request-papers and form the pockets, or as a book, Fig. 5, with the pocket in one back or between them, and with memorandum-leaves between the back parts. These indicators, whichever way they are made, have notches R on their side edges adapted to receive elastic straps S, band-like, to hold letters.

Various modifications may be made.

I claim—

1. A post-office case having cells, for letters or packages, each provided with an indicator adapted to be handled with its letters and bearing *indicia* of the names or classes of letters the cell is devoted to, on one face, and on another face a surface prepared for writing and erasing memorandums, and immediately a pocket for cards or slips, and having notches on its edges to receive elastic straps for letters, substantially as set forth.

2. A post-office case having cells for letters or packages each provided with an indicator adapted to be handled with its letters and to remain permanently therewith in the absence of letters to avoid mistakes.

3. A post-office case having cells for letters or packages, each cell provided with an indicator adapted to be handled with its letters and bearing *indicia* of the names or classes of letters to which the cell is devoted on one face, and a surface on the other face adapted for the writing and erasure of memorandums, and immediately a pocket to retain memorandum cards or slips.

4. A post-office case having cells for letters or packages each cell provided with an indicator adapted to be handled with its letters and to remain permanently with it, and bear-

ing initial letters or *indicia* of the names or classes of letters to which the cell is devoted.

5 5. A post-office case having cells for letters or packages each cell provided with an indicator adapted to be handled with its letters and to remain permanently with it and bearing on one face a label or index of the names

or class of letters to which the cell is devoted, and on another face a prepared surface adapted for the writing and erasure of names. 10  
DAVID J. AYRES.

Witnesses:

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