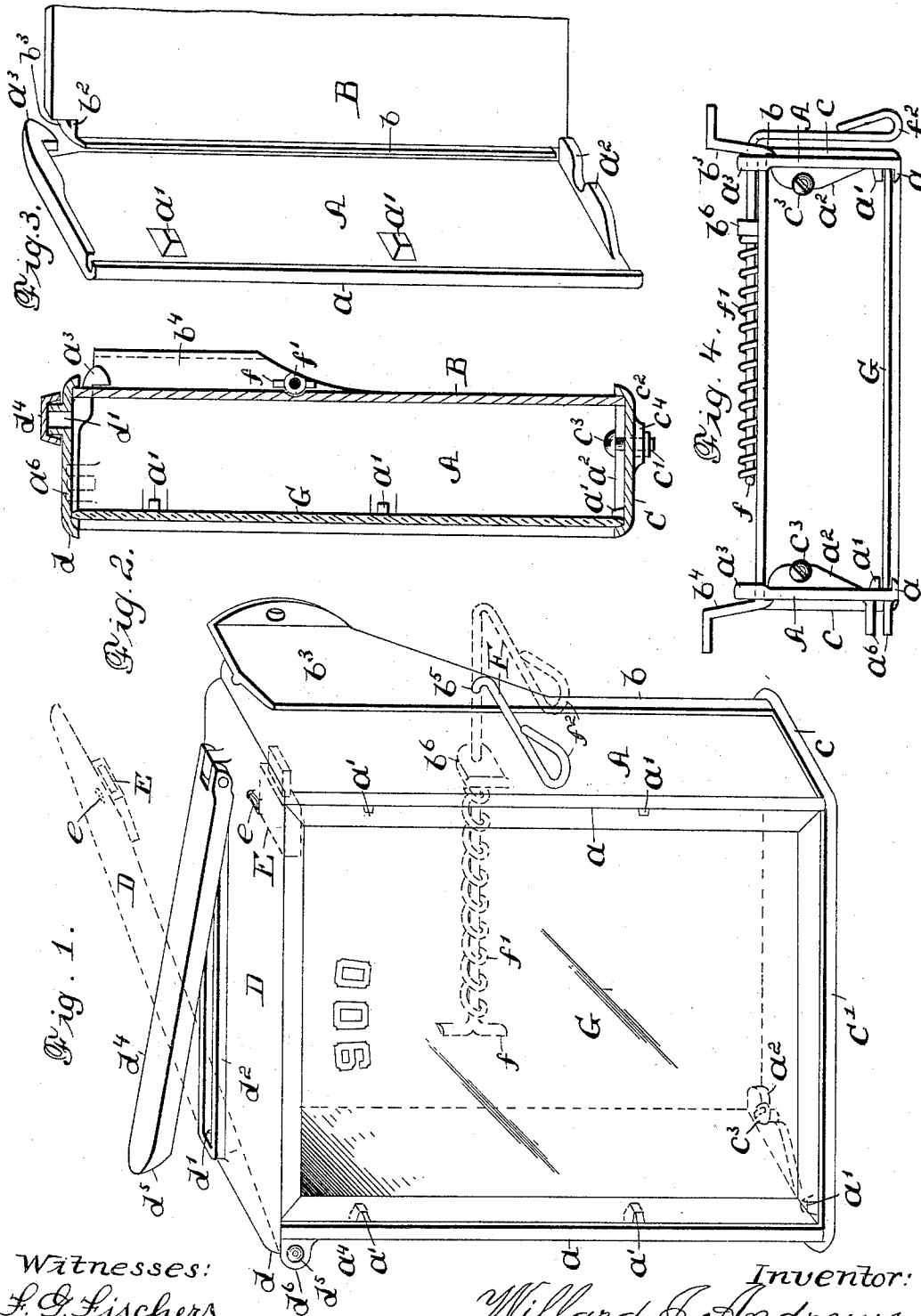


(No Model.)

W. J. ANDREWS.
HOUSE LETTER BOX.

No. 467,586.

Patented Jan. 26, 1892.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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HOUSE LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 467,586, dated January 26, 1892.

Application filed February 13, 1891. Serial No. 381,274. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLARD J. ANDREWS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Kansas City, in the county of Jackson and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Boxes; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, such as will enable others to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification.

My invention consists in the novel construction and combination of parts, which will first be fully described, and specifically pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a view in perspective of the improved letter-box, showing the transparent front plate, the paper-clamp upon the end of the box and also in dotted lines, the lock securing the top or cover to one side of the box, and the position of the top or cover when opened to remove the letters. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the letter-box. Fig. 3 is a perspective view in detail of the end and a broken view of the back portion of the box, showing the interlocking portions. Fig. 4 is a plan view of the box with the top removed.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

In the construction of my improved letter-box A A represent the vertical sides, which are made of the proper length and width. The forward edge portion of each one of the sides A A is bent nearly at right angles and in the direction of the other, so as to form the flanges *a a*. Upon the inner side portion of the said sides A A, a short distance in rear of the flanges *a a* and vertically in line, are made the lugs *a' a'*.

B is the back of the box, the vertical edge portions *b* of which are bent forward at right angles and one edge portion *b* extended a short distance over the outer side portion of one of the sides A and the other bent edge portion extended over the outer side portion of the other side A.

C is the bottom of the box, the edge portions of which are bent in an upward direction against the outer portions of both sides

and ends of the box, forming the flange *c*. Upon the inner side and lower end portion of each one of the sides A A are rigidly attached the horizontal forked lugs *a² a²*. Upon the inner side and upper end portion of each one of the sides A A is attached a hook *a³*, which extends a short distance beyond the rear vertical edge portion of said side. In the back B, directly opposite the hooks *a³ a³* at each upper corner, is made the notches *b² b²*.

D is the top of the box, the edge portions of which are bent at right angles and in a downward direction against both sides and ends of the box, forming the flange *d*.

Upon the upper and outer end portion of one of the sides A is rigidly attached the forked lug *a⁴*, and upon an end portion of the top B is attached a single flat lug *d⁰*. Through the lugs *a⁴* and *d⁰* are made registering perforations *a⁵*, through which perforations is inserted the pintle *a⁶*.

In the top D is made a longitudinal opening *d'*, and extending around said opening and a short distance in an upward direction is a flange *d²*. To the outer side portion of the top D and near one end of the opening *d'* is hinged one end of a cover *d⁴*, upon the longitudinal edge portions of which is the downwardly-extended flange *d⁵*, which flange extends over the flange *d²* around the longitudinal opening *d'*.

To the under side portion of the top D and at the vibrating end of said top is secured firmly a lock E, the bolt *e'* of which is made to enter a slight depression or keeper in the inner side of the plate A opposite the bolt of said lock.

To the back B in rear of one of the flanged portions *b* at the upper end of the box is rigidly attached an extension-plate *b³*, and to the portion of the back B in rear of the other flanged portion *b* is attached a similar extension-plate *b⁴*, both of which plates extend at right angles to and a suitable distance from said back B and upwardly to the notched portion *b²* of the said back. Through one of the extension-plates *b³* is made a transverse perforation *b⁵*. In a horizontal line with the perforation *b⁵* and rigidly attached to the outer side portion of the back B is a perfo-

rated lug b^6 . Through the perforations b^5 in the lug b^6 is extended one end of a rod F, which end is bifurcated at f . Around the rod F and between the bifurcated end f and the lug b^6 is placed a coiled spring f' . The other or clamping end f^2 of the rod F is bent at right angles and extended across the side A of the box from the perforation b^5 .

G is the front of the box, which consists of a plate of transparent material, such as glass, mica, &c., and extends from one side A to the other and is secured between the flanges a and the lugs a' of each respective side.

In assembling the separate parts of the box the back B is first placed within the flange c and with its lower edge resting upon the bottom C. The sides A A are then set in place, the hooks a^3 of which enter the notch b^2 in the back B and engage or interlock with the portions of the said back beneath said notch and also engage with the inner edge of the extension-plate b^3 , which prevents the hook from moving outwardly from said notch. A perforation c' is then made through the bottom C of the box in line with the forked portions of the lug a^2 , and a bolt c^2 , provided with a head c^3 at one end and screw-threaded at the other, is inserted in said perforation within the box, which head c^3 impinges upon the said forked lug a^2 . Upon the screw-threaded end of the bolt upon the under side of the bottom C is fitted a nut c^4 , so that upon the insertion of the bolt c^2 and the adjustment of the nut c^4 thereon the sides, bottom, and back are held firmly together, and with the aid of but one bolt to each side A.

In the top D of the box and over the key-hole of the lock E is a key-hole e , so that the contents of the box cannot be removed without releasing the bolt from its engagement with the side A of the box.

The mail—such as letters—is dropped through the opening d' , the cover d' being first lifted the proper height, and such mail is constantly seen through the transparent front G, and the necessity of opening the box to ascertain whether mail has been deposited in the box is thus obviated.

To remove the mail, the key is inserted in the key-hole e on the top D, which turns upon

its hinge or pintle a^6 , and the hand is admitted to remove the letters.

Newspapers and packages which are not admissible within the opening d' , and are often liable to be dropped upon the ground, are secured in my invention to the box, and for this purpose the bent end portion or clamp f^2 of the rod F is seized by the hand and drawn outwardly from the side A of the box, the spring f' around the said rod yielding for that purpose. The papers are then placed against the side A of the box and between the clamp f^2 and said side and the hold upon the clamp released, which clamp grasps the package and all danger of accidental removal is prevented.

I am aware that spring-clips have been used in connection with a letter-box. In my invention, however, the strength of the clamping parts increases as it is drawn out.

The box is ordinarily secured to the side of the outer door to a shop or residence, a screw or nail being inserted through the flanges b^3 , which extend the box outside of the moldings. When desired, the address of the owner of the box may be placed within the box and secured to the inner side of the front G, so that the postman may be informed of the occupant of the house, and said address may be painted or otherwise affixed to the said front.

Having fully described my invention, what I now claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a letter-box having a suitable notched back and a bottom, the combination therewith of sides having hooks at one end and lugs at the other end, said lugs being detachably secured to said bottom portion of said box, substantially as described.

2. The combination, with a letter-box having suitable perforated carrying-lugs, of a self-retracting rod provided with a bifurcated portion at one end and a bent clamping portion at the other and a spring, substantially as described.

WILLARD J. ANDREWS.

Witnesses:

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