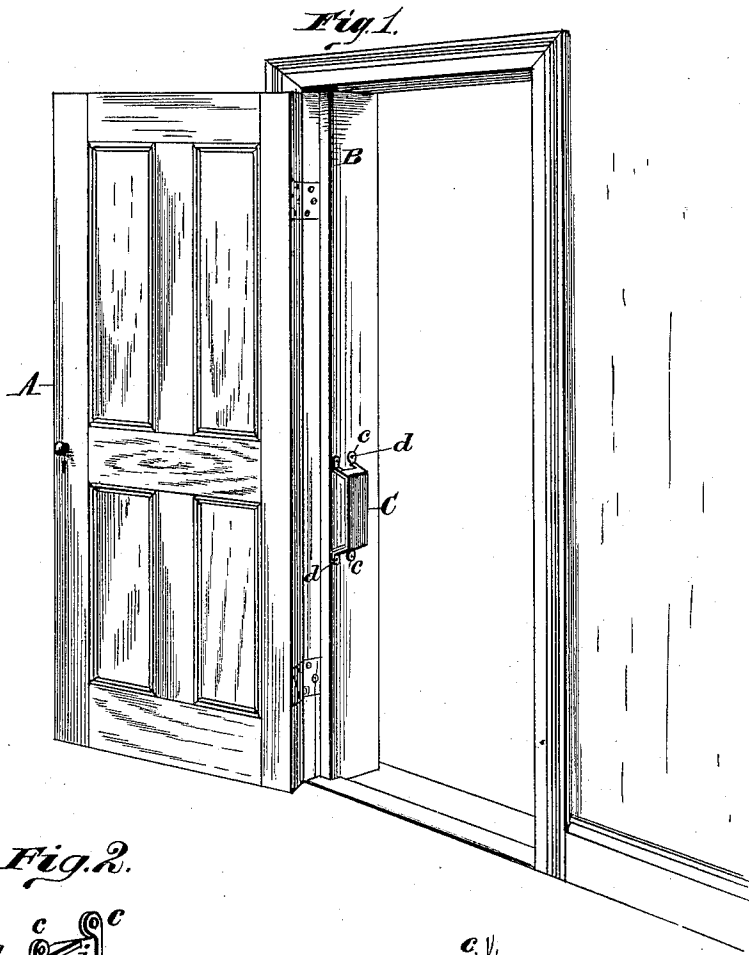
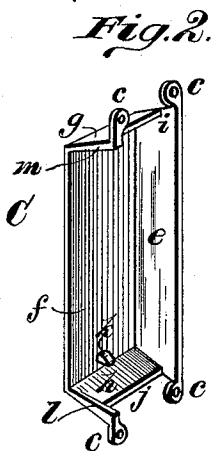
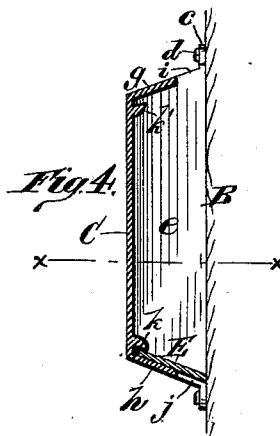
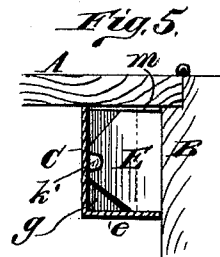


(No Model.)

E. G. HELLER.
LETTER BOX.

No. 391,710.

Patented Oct. 23, 1888.



Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ELI GEORGE HELLER, OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA.

LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 391,710, dated October 23, 1888.

Application filed January 16, 1888. Serial No. 260,834. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ELI GEORGE HELLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Hastings, in the county of Adams and State of Nebraska, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Boxes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to letter-boxes which are ordinarily placed at the doors of rooms, halls, or offices, and especially to boxes of this sort which are constructed and arranged to be opened by the opening of the hall-door or the room-door, but to remain closed so long as said door is closed.

The object of my invention is to provide for inverting the box at will, so that either end may become the open top, each end being also constructed to receive and hold a plate, which closes it when said end is used as the bottom.

Figure 1 represents a perspective view from within the room of an open door, a door-frame, and a letter-box embodying my invention. Fig. 2 represents an enlarged detail perspective view of the box, taken from behind, the plate which closes the top or bottom being removed. Fig. 3 represents a detail view of this plate. Fig. 4 represents a vertical section of the box, taken on a plane through the two lugs for holding said movable plate, and looking toward the closed side of the box, the movable plate being at the bottom thereof. Fig. 5 represents a horizontal section on the line *xx* of Fig. 4.

A designates a door; B, the jamb, to which it is hung; C, the letter-box, which is stamped from a single sheet of metal, or cast from metal, and provided at its corners with flat perforated lugs *c*, for allowing said box to be fastened to said jamb by screws *d*. Said box is closed in front and at one side, *e*, but open at the rear, where the jamb acts as a wall, and at the other side, *f*, the latter being presented toward the door, so as to be closed thereby so long as the door is not opened. The opening of the door allows access to the interior of the box through the open side *f* thereof. The top and bottom of said box consist of a plate, *g*, and a plate, *h*, which extend from the front of the box part

of the way back to the jamb, leaving an opening, *i* or *j*, in each instance next to the latter. When a door opening inward to the left is used, as shown in Fig. 1, the opening *i* is the upper one, through which letters and other mail matter are dropped into the box. The lower opening, *j*, is closed by a removable plate, E, which fits under a lug, *k*, formed on the inner face of the front of the box just above the bottom thereof. The inner edge of said removable plate may be in the outline of an isosceles triangle, broad in the base and truncated at the point, where it fits under said lug *k*, as shown, or it may extend through a hole in the box at the same point designated for the lug *k*; but this shape is not essential, it being necessary only that the removable plate should cover the opening *j* and be reliably held in position to do so. To insure this last, a flange, *l*, is turned upward at the edge of lower plate, *h*, forming the bottom of the box, and the removable plate E is made to fit against the front of the box, the closed side *e*, and the said flange *l*, as well as the jamb B. The plate *g* is provided with a similar downwardly-facing flange, *m*, and the upper end of the front of the box is provided with a lug, *k'*, arranged like lug *k*. The removable plate E slips under this lug *k'*, and is held thereby when the box is inverted, the flange *m*, then upwardly facing, aiding said lug and the front and closed side of said box, in holding said removable plate E in place, so that it will close the lower opening, *i*, the opening *j*, then at the top, allowing the mail to be dropped through it into said box. When the box is in this latter position, it is attached to the other door-jamb and used with a door opening to the left, the similar construction of the box at top and bottom making it easily reversible without change of parts.

The box being outside of the room or hall which the door gives access to, the mail-carrier can easily drop in the mail through the opening *i* or *j*, which is uppermost, and cards or other small articles may be similarly deposited; but no one can have access to the contents of the box without opening the room-door or hall-door B, whether that door opens to the right or the left, and in either case the box is opened as soon as the door is.

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

- 5 1. A letter-box having an opening at top and another at the bottom, in combination with a removable plate adapted to close either of the openings, as shown, the box being provided with fixed lugs for holding said plate in place, substantially as set forth.
- 10 2. A letter-box having an opening at top and bottom and an opening in one side, in combination with a plate which closes either the top or bottom at will, and a room-door or

hall-door which closes said side opening when said door is closed and opens it when said door 15 is opened, substantially as set forth.

3. A letter-box having at each end an opening, a lug, *k* or *k'*, and a flange, *l* or *m*, in combination with a plate, *E*, arranged substantially as set forth. 20

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ELI GEORGE HELLER.

Witnesses:

T. J. DOWD,

FRANK DEFENDORF.