

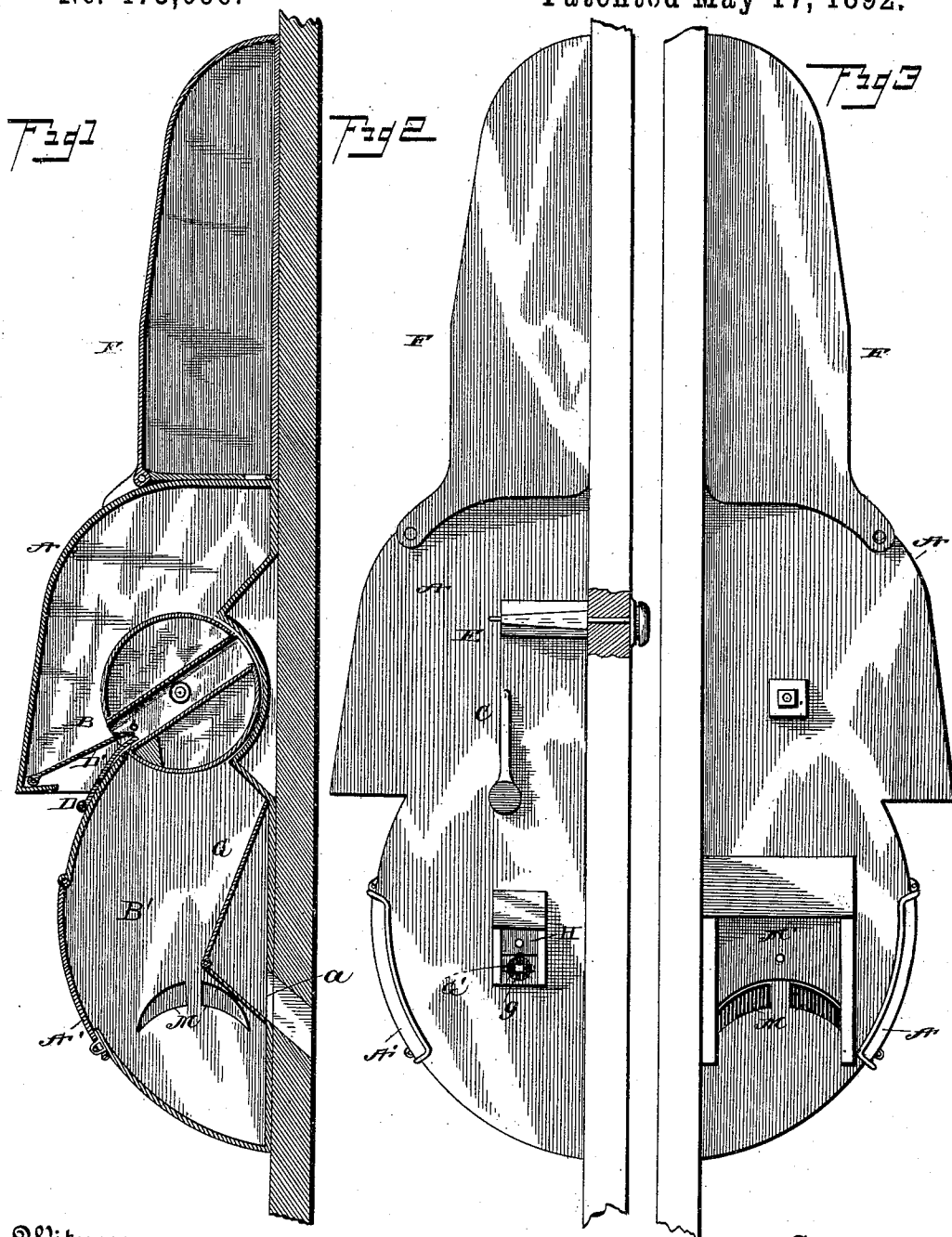
(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

W. C. THORNTON.
HOUSE DOOR LETTER BOX.

No. 475,096.

Patented May 17, 1892.



Witnesses

John J. Irvine
Wm. J. L. L. L.

Inventor

William C. Thornton,
By his Attorney
J. R. Littell,

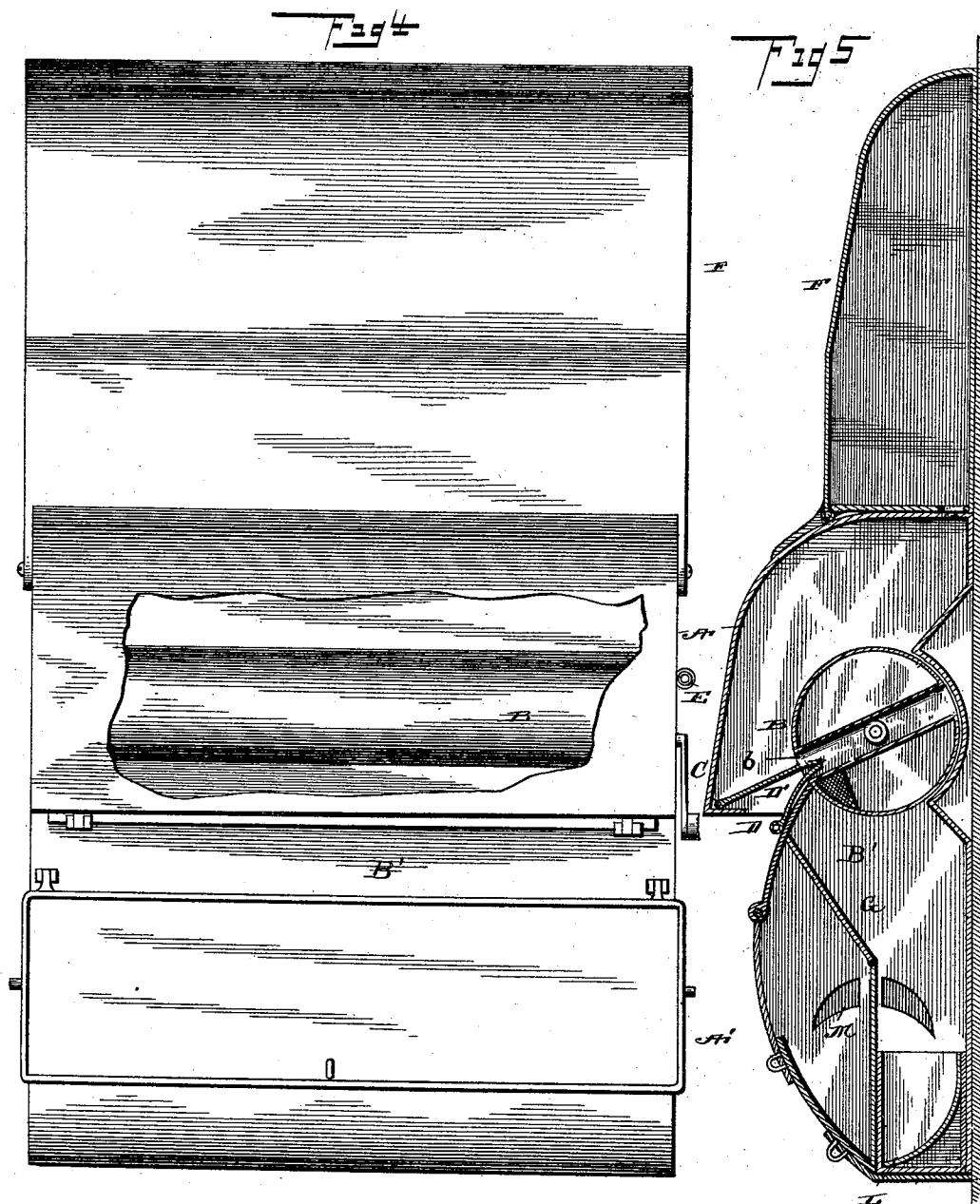
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM CLARK THORNTON, OF JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI.

HOUSE-DOOR LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 475,096, dated May 17, 1892.

Application filed June 10, 1891. Serial No. 395,775. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM CLARK THORNTON, residing at Jefferson City, in the county of Cole and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates more particularly to a combined delivery and collection box in which the letters to be mailed and the delivered letters are inserted in the same opening and deposited in their respective boxes for collection or delivery, as the case may be.

The object of my invention is to provide a device of this character consisting of a few parts simply assembled and thoroughly efficient in their various functions; and it consists in the peculiar construction and arrangement of these parts, all of which will be fully described hereinafter, and pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a transverse vertical section of my improved device. Fig. 2 is an end view. Fig. 3 is a view of the opposite end. Fig. 4 is a front view, and Fig. 5 a somewhat different construction.

Referring to the drawings, A designates a box or casing of any suitable or preferred construction and within which is journaled a delivery device B, which serves as a closure for a deposit-box B'. The delivery device may be of any well-known or preferred construction, and consists, substantially, of a cylinder provided with a longitudinal diametrical slot *b*, extending therethrough and which is adapted to receive mail-matter to be deposited. For operating the delivery device a crank-arm D is provided without the box. The box or casing A has an opening D, adapted to register with the slot in the delivery device, and for the purpose of guiding mail-matter into said slot two guide-plates D' D' may be employed, which are hinged one at each side of the opening D and project inwardly and normally engage the slot *b*. In connection with the letter-box an alarm device E and a newspaper-box F may also be employed. It will be understood, however, that the construction of the delivery mechanism *per se*, the alarm mechanism, and paper-box form no part of my present invention,

such subject-matter being embodied in my application filed of even date herewith and serially numbered 395,774.

Near the lower end of the box B' and between the end pieces is journaled a slide-plate G, said plate being journaled at its lower end and of such length as to just barely touch the cylindrical delivering device with the upper edge. One of the journals of the plate G is squared or shaped polygonally, as at *g*, and opposite said squared journal the end of the box is cut away to permit a key G' to engage the end of the journal, and a slide H is arranged upon the exterior of the box adapted to cover said opening when the key is not upon the journal. By turning the key either backward or forward the upper end of the slide-plate is swung either backward or forward, and the letters, after being delivered by the delivery device, will strike upon said plate and be slid either forward or backward, according to the incline of the slide-plate.

The box A is adapted to be secured to the outside of the door, and, if desired, a slot *a* may be produced therein just above the lower edge of the slide-plate, said slot registering with a slot in the door, and by turning the key forward the letters will be conducted to the slot in the door and deposited within the house. When the occupant desires to mail a letter for collection, the key is reversed. Consequently the slide-plate, and the letters are slid forward into the box, from which they are removed by the carrier through the door A' hinged to the forward side of the box A. If desired, the slot *a* may be omitted and a vertical partition K arranged in the bottom of the box B' below the adjustable slide-plate, dividing the lower portion of the box into a forward and rear compartment, the forward compartment being the collection-box and the rear one being the delivery-box, the collection-box being opened by the carrier and the delivery-box by the occupant. The collection-box has its forward side curved inward and downward to properly assemble the letters deposited therein, and a supplemental box or drawer L is usually arranged in the delivery-box and formed with a curved side to assemble the letters and prevent clogging. An opening M is produced in one end of the collection-box, by means of which a sight into

the box can be had without opening the same. This opening is also closed by a slide M', whereby the box is rendered weather-proof.

When an occupant desires to mail a letter 5 for collection, the slide covering the polygonal-shaped journal is raised, the key inserted, and the slide-plate thrown rearward. The letter is then inserted between the guide-plates, the crank operated, and the letter will 10 be delivered to the slide-plate and conducted to the collection-box. The slide-plate is then reversed, and when the carrier comes the letter will be delivered to the delivery-box or through the door and the alarm sounded.

15 It is obvious these boxes can be made any size and used upon hotel, post-office, and street collection-boxes.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

20 1. The combination, with a letter-box provided at its upper end with an opening, of a delivery device normally closing said opening and adapted to deposit mail-matter in the box,

and a plate journaled in the box and adapted to be adjusted to deflect deposits into either 25 a collection or delivery compartment, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination, with a letter-box provided with an opening at its upper end and with apertures in its side closed by a slide, of 30 a delivery device normally closing said opening and adapted to deposit mail-matter into the box, and a plate journaled in the box and adapted to be adjusted to deflect deposits into either a collection or delivery compartment, 35 one of the journals for said plate having an angular end for the engagement of a key and a slide for covering the same, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in 40 presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM CLARK THORNTON.

Witnesses:

DANL. GUNDELFINGER,
B. S. MORROW.