N. W. GREASON.

LETTER HOLDER.

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1,367,375.

Patented Feb. 1, 1921.

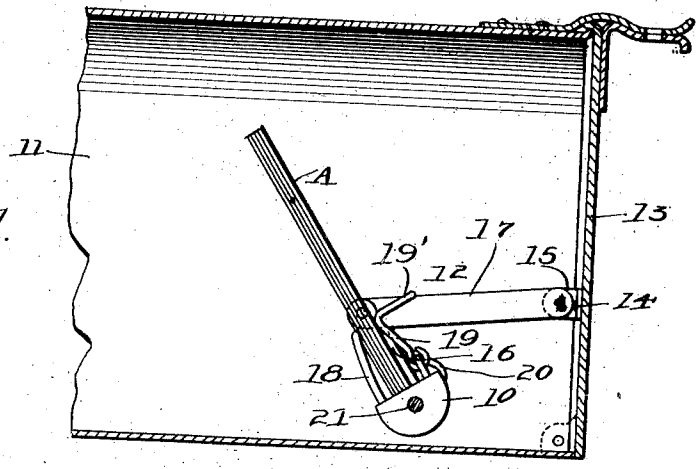


Fig. 1.

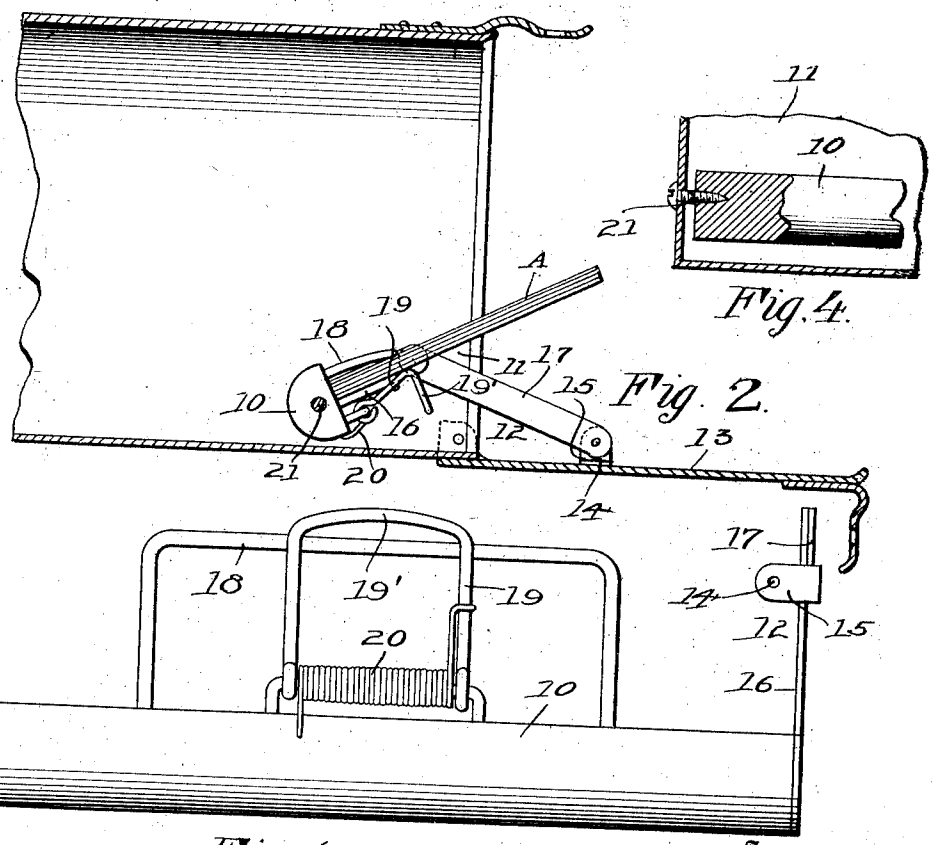


Fig. 2.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 3.

Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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LETTER-HOLDER.

1,367,375. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 1, 1921.

Application filed February 8, 1919. Serial No. 275,918.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NORMAN W. GREASON, a subject of the King of Great Britain, residing at St. Marys, in the Province of Ontario and Dominion of Canada, have invented new and useful Improvements in Letter-Holders, of which the following is a specification.

The object of the invention is to provide a simple, inexpensive and efficient attachment for rural and similar mail boxes designed to receive and hold letters under such conditions as to facilitate the removal thereof from the box, to insure the movement of the same into the box as the lid or door of the latter is closed so that the mail matter may be effectually protected from rain or moisture gaining access to the box near the opening thereof, and whereby when the box is opened by the mail carrier or collector, the mail is projected within convenient reach and may be removed bodily from the box without the inconveniences now experienced, particularly in the collection of mail during rainy, cold and otherwise severe weather by necessitating the carrier, in order to lift the mail from the bottom of the ordinary box to remove his gloves and thus suffer exposure and discomfort.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device for the purpose indicated which may conveniently be applied to any of the ordinary forms or types of mail boxes now in common use without in other respects modifying the construction of such receptacle.

Further objects and advantages will appear in the course of the following description, it being understood that changes in form, proportion and details may be resorted to within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In the drawing:—

Figure 1 is a sectional view of a mail box to which an attachment embodying the invention has been applied, the box being shown closed.

Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the box open and the position of the holder under those conditions.

Fig. 3 is a detail view of the holder detached.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary detail view showing the manner of mounting the rocker within the box.

The attachment which embodies a rocker 10 is adapted to be connected with and arranged within a mail box of any ordinary type such as indicated at 11, a flexible or jointed arm 12 being extended from one end, preferably, of the rocker to the door 13 of the box, where it may be attached as at 14 by means of a screw or the equivalent thereof. At the outer extremity said connection consists of the bracket 15 and at its inner end of an arm 16 secured to the rocker, the said bracket and arm being connected by a link 17, so that when the door of the box is closed, the rocker by communication of motion thereto from the door, will be turned inward and backward whereas when the door is opened the rocker will be swung forward as indicated in Fig. 2 so as to project the ends of the articles of mail matter shown at A in position to be readily grasped by the mail carrier. For clamping the mail matter to the rocker the latter may be provided with any suitable and preferred construction of means, consisting, for example, of an extended looped jaw 18 and a coöperating spring jaw 19 having a thumb loop or grip 19′. The spring jaw is preferably provided with an actuating spring 20 serving to maintain a yielding closed relation of the jaws to engage the letters and other mail matter interposed therebetween. When the door of the box is opened for the purpose of introducing the mail matter, the rocker which is fulcrumed or pivoted relative to the box by pins 21 is tilted forward so that the clamp is readily accessible and after the letters have been inserted between the jaws of the clamp the closing of the door of the box will tilt the rocker rearwardly and while holding the mail matter out of contact with the floor or bottom of the box, so that it is protected from moisture, will project the same rearwardly away from the door and hence out of the reach of any rain or moisture which might be driven by the wind or otherwise through the door opening around the closure. Again when the door is opened by the carrier, the movement thereof is communicated to the holder which is rocked forward to project the ends of the letters through the door opening where they may be easily grasped in one movement and disengaged from the clamp, so that all incon-

veniences and loss of time so far as the carrier is concerned is avoided.

It will be seen moreover that the only connection between the box and the holder is that necessary to secure the terminal bracket of the flexible connection to the door, and insert the threaded or other pivot pins 21 through the side walls of the box to terminally engage the ends of the rocker.

What I claim:

1. In combination, a mail box, a hinged door therefor, a semi-cylindrical member arranged transversely within the box and pivoted between the sides thereof for rocking movement, clamping jaws carried by said member for engaging the letters, a link having connection with said member and with the door of the box, whereby tilting movement is imparted to the member to project the clamped letters rearwardly or forwardly by the closing and opening movements of the door, and said member and clamping jaws being maintained or wholly disposed within the box in any of their positions as and for the purpose specified.

2. In combination, a mail box, a hinged door therefor, a semi-cylindrical member journaled between the sides of the box in parallelism with the open end thereof, resilient clamping jaws carried by the flat side of said member and coöperating to engage the letters positioned between said jaws, one of said jaws projecting above the other and at right angles thereto to provide a finger engaging portion to facilitate the opening of said jaws, an arm rising from one end of said member, a link pivotally connected with said arm and with the door of the box, whereby tilting movement is imparted to the member to project the clamped letters rearwardly or forwardly by the closing and opening movement of the door, and said member and clamping jaws as a unit being wholly disposed within the box in any of its positions.

3. In combination, a mail box, a hinged door therefor, a semi-cylindrical member journaled between the sides of the box and adjacent the open end thereof, clamping jaws carried by said member for engaging the letters and holding the latter positioned upon the flat side of said member, a link connecting the member with said door, whereby the letters are projected through the door opening when the door is opened and projects the letters rearwardly and at an obtuse angle to the door opening when the door is closed, said member with its clamping jaws being wholly disposed within the box in any of its positions.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

NORMAN W. GREASON.