C. H. H. BAILEY.

ASSORTING AND ROUTING CASE FOR POST OFFICES.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 8, 1909.

956,925. Patented May 3, 1910.

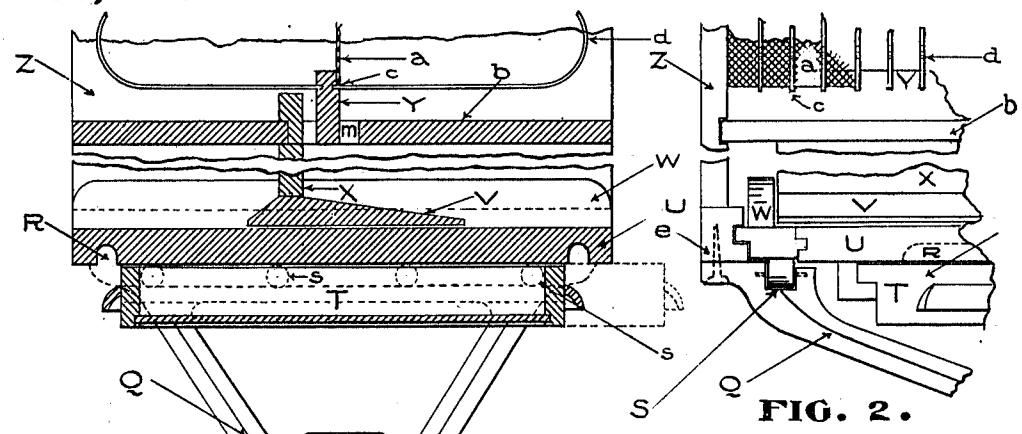

FIG. 2.

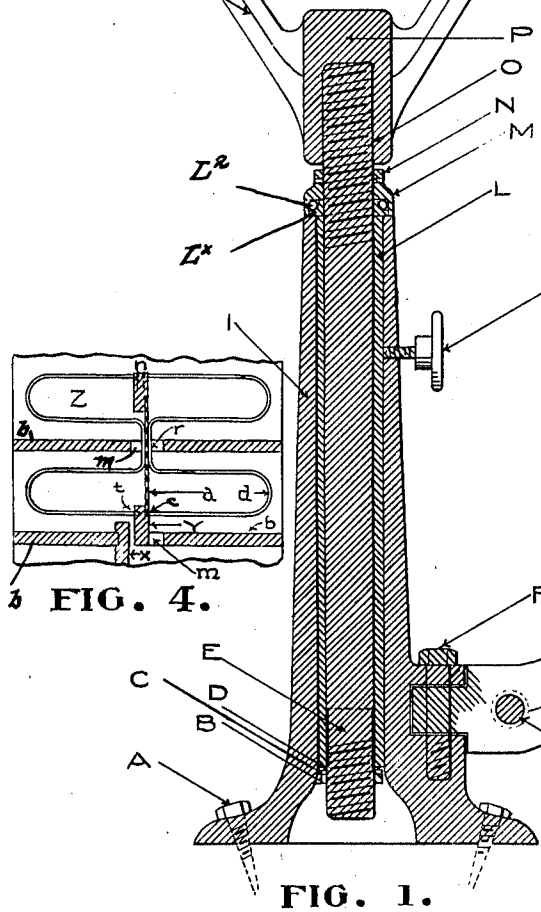

FIG. 4.

FIG. 1.

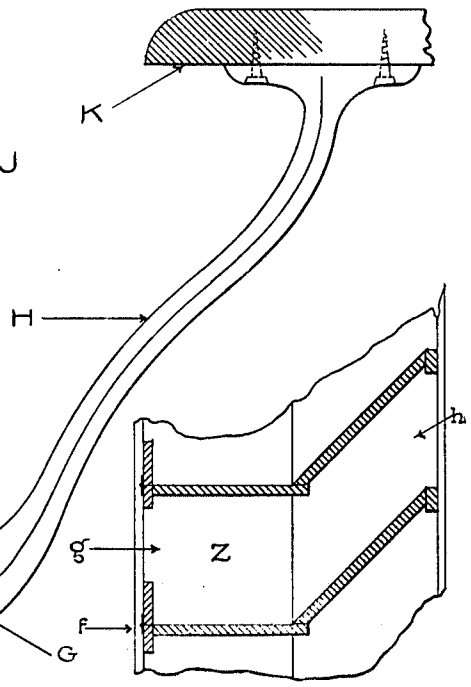

FIG. 3.

WITNESSES:

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ASSORTING AND ROUTING CASE FOR POST-OFFICES.

956,925. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 3, 1910.

Application filed July 8, 1909. Serial No. 506,629.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES H. H. BAILEY, of South Braintree, in the county of Norfolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in an Assorting and Routing Case for Post-Offices, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has for its object the production of a novel and efficient article of furniture particularly adapted for use in post offices, technically known as an assorting and routing case, so constructed and arranged that while occupying a minimum of floor-space the improved case presents a maximum of accessibility, a wide range of vertical and angular adjustment, and great ease and convenience of operation.

In the present embodiment of my invention the upper part or head of the article of furniture, arranged for the assorting and routing of mail matter, is mounted upon a vertically adjustable standard or base in such manner that the head can be revolved upon a vertical axis, the standard or base in practice being fixedly attached to the floor.

The revolubility of the head provides greater convenience for the user, and enables the back or front of the head to be turned to the position most accessible for the insertion or removal of mail matter, while economizing the floor-space occupied, a great desideratum in post office work.

Assorting and routing cases now in use, so far as known to me, are supported upon tables having the usual supporting legs, and they not only take up an undue amount of room but are also inconvenient and more or less inaccessible for free and comfortable work.

The various novel features of my invention will be fully described in the subjoined specification and particularly pointed out in the following claims.

Figure 1 is a vertical section of an assorting and routing case embodying one form of my present invention, taken through the vertical center of the standard or base, the upper part of the head or case proper being broken out to save space; Fig. 2 is a partial front elevation of the head or case proper, viewing Fig. 1 from the right hand side; Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional detail of a modified form of construction, to be referred to; Fig. 4 is a vertical section through the head or case proper, showing the front and back shelving and the upright wire partitions used in connection therewith.

Referring to Fig. 1, the standard or base comprises an upright tubular metal casting I, constituting a shell, enlarged at its foot to form a firm support, which rests upon and is preferably fixedly secured to the floor by suitable fastenings A, the bore of the shell receiving a vertically adjustable tube or sleeve L held in adjusted position by a suitable set screw J. At its upper end the sleeve L has secured to or forming part of it a cone or ball-race L^x for anti-friction balls L^2 held in place by the upper ball-race or member M, screwed onto the threaded part of a rod E and held in place by a washer and lock nut at N. The upper end of this rod has screwed upon it the hub P of a casting having upturned, divergent branches Q on which the head or case proper is mounted, as will be described, the rod E extending down through the sleeve L and being revoluble therein. Herein the lower end of the rod is threaded at C to receive a lock nut B, a washer D being interposed between it and the bottom of the sleeve, to prevent longitudinal movement of rod E in the sleeve.

I have shown a seat K on an arm H attached at F to the lower part of the shell I, the arm being provided with a suitable foot-rest G.

From the foregoing description it will be apparent that the rod E and attached casting P, Q can revolve easily within the sleeve L, being vertically sustained by the ball-bearing L^x, L^2, M, referred to, and by raising or lowering said sleeve the rod and parts carried by it will be adjusted vertically, the set screw J maintaining the desired vertical adjustment.

The upright sides Z of the head or case proper are screwed to the branches Q, Fig. 2, the sides being grooved to receive shelves *b* which extend from front to back of the case, the lower, enlarged portions *e* of the sides Z being grooved to form guides for a horizontal, sliding member U resting on rollers S sustained in sockets in the upper parts of the branches Q. This member U forms the bottom of the case, and it is slidably mounted so that it may be drawn out from the front or back of the case, according to the position of the person at work, and when so

drawn out it forms a convenient shelf upon which mail matter will be laid to be assorted or routed into the compartments above.

When not in use as a shelf the member U is pushed in out of the way, as shown in Fig. 1, suitable finger-grooves R being provided in the underside of said member by which it may be drawn outward.

A drawer T is mounted on the underside of the member U and so arranged that it is accessible from the back or the front of the case, and end pieces W on said member prevent mail matter thereon from falling to the floor when said member U is drawn out for use as a shelf.

Immediately above the sliding member, and extending transversely of the case, is an upright partition X, to the bottom of which is secured an extension piece V, of considerable width from front to back, to add to the effective depth of the sliding member U when it is pulled outward into operative position.

Upright back-boards Y extend from one to the other side Z, and bent wire partitions *d* are attached thereto, as shown in Fig. 4, the wire being bent to form say three loops, the upper and lower ones extending outward between the shelves *b* while the intermediate bend is reversed, and continuous around the back of a shelf, the latter being cut out at the back at *m* to allow the passage of the wires. The outwardly extended bends form partitions, as will be apparent, and the ends of the wires are suitably attached at *n* and *c*, Fig. 4, to the back-boards Y. This style of partition can be made very cheaply, it is light in weight, will not collect dust, and permits the shelves *b* to be pulled out if desired, to thereby free mail matter from the partitions when such matter is to be removed from the case.

Between the back-boards a wire-mesh partition *a* is provided, fastened in place at top and bottom to the back-boards and at the ends to the sides Z.

In Fig. 3 I have shown a modified form of construction, particularly adapted for newspapers, the pigeon-hole having its bottom inclined from the entrance *h* and horizontal therefrom to the outlet *g*, which latter is partly closed by a hinged door *f*. Said door prevents the papers thrown into the pigeon-hole at *h* from sliding through and dropping onto the floor, the horizontal portion of the bottom serving to stop the momentum of the papers as they slide down the inclined part adjacent the entrance or inlet end *h*.

From the foregoing description it will be apparent that the head or case proper may be revolved to any convenient position for the operator, so that he can work at the back or front of the case without changing his own position.

The partition U when not in use is out of the way and inclosed within the limits of the head, but when in use it can be drawn out in either direction to form an extended shelf at either the front or the back of the head, as desired. Vertical adjustment of the head is readily effected, so that it will be at the height most convenient for the user, the standard or base sustaining the head in a strong and durable manner, and with the greatest economy as to space.

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

1. In post-office furniture, a hub having upturned divergent branches socketed in their upper portions, rollers mounted in the sockets, a case or head having upright sides horizontally grooved from front to back on their inner faces, and fixedly attached to the branches outside said rollers, a shelf member forming the bottom of the case, slidably mounted in said grooves and supported by the rollers and adapted to be extended at the back or the front of the case, an upright supporting base, and a revoluble, vertically adjustable connection between the base and the hub and rigidly secured to the latter.

2. In post-office furniture, a case or head having compartments, a horizontally slidable shelf member adapted to be extended at the back or the front of the case, a drawer carried by said member and accessible from the back or front of the case, a supporting base, and a revoluble connection between it and the case.

3. In post-office furniture, a supporting base, a case mounted thereon and having a series of removable shelves, wires bent to form vertical partitions above and below a given shelf, and means to fixedly sustain the partition wires independently of the shelves, whereby the latter can be pulled outward to release material resting thereon between adjacent partitions.

4. In post-office furniture, a case having parallel upright sides and open at its back and front, a series of horizontal shelves carried by the sides, a sliding shelf member at the bottom of the case and adapted to be pulled outward at the front or back to form a projecting shelf, and a stationary piece immediately above said member midway between the front and back of the case, to increase the effective depth of the sliding member when pulled outward in either direction.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES H. H. BAILEY.

Witnesses:
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