

(No Model.)

W. M. FITZWATER.
STREET LETTER BOX.

No. 476,996.

Patented June 14, 1892.

Fig. 1.

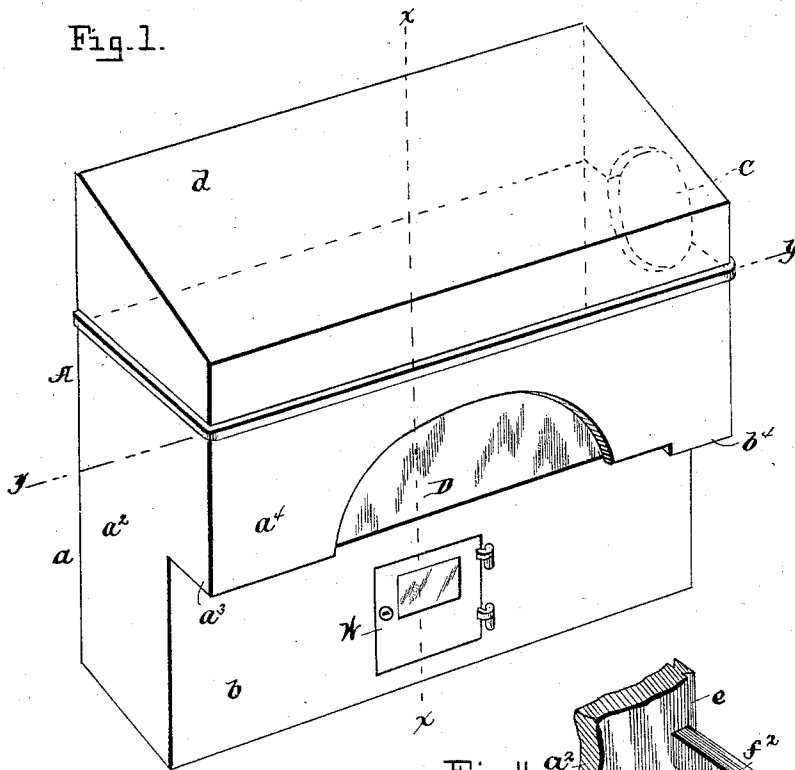


Fig. 4.

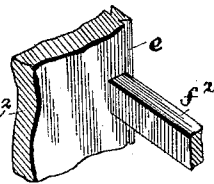


Fig. 2.

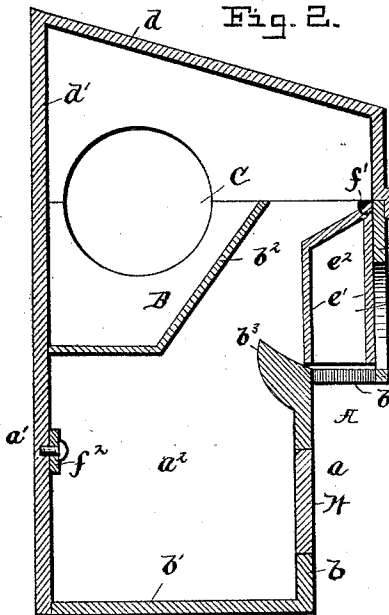
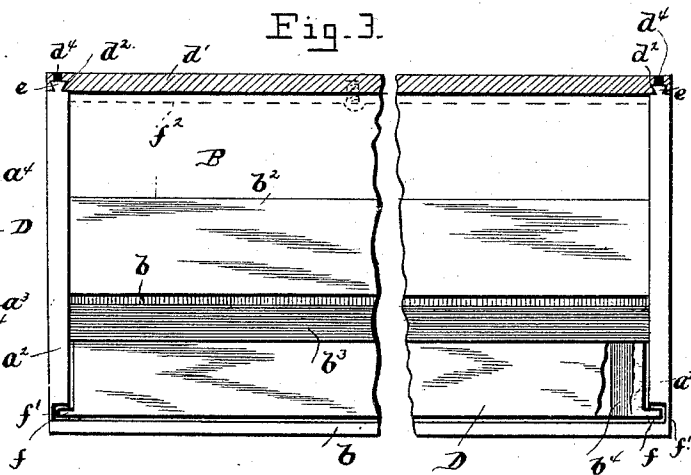


Fig. 3.



Witnesses.

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STREET LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 476,996, dated June 14, 1892.

Application filed April 20, 1891. Renewed May 14, 1892. Serial No. 432,988. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM M. FITZWATER, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Berryville, in the county of Clarke and State of Virginia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Boxes, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

10 This invention relates to mail or letter boxes, and has for its object the production of a box into which the mail-matter can be readily and easily inserted and securely inclosed, so as to prevent purloining thereof, and also to provide a box which shall be simple in construction, lasting or durable, inexpensive, and capable of being readily constructed and rigidly secured in place.

20 The invention comprises a box having an opening in its front wall and a pocket or conductor open at its lower end and pivotally secured thereto, so that when in its normal position mail can be readily inserted in said pocket and conducted to the interior of the box.

25 The invention further comprises a box or receptacle having an upper overhanging portion and a pocket or conductor pivotally mounted in said overhanging portion so as to normally coincide with the lower end thereof and to carry or conduct the mail-matter to the interior of the box and at the same time close the opening in the latter as against access from without.

35 The invention also comprises the detail construction, combination, and arrangement of parts, substantially as hereinafter fully set forth, and particularly pointed out in the claims.

40 In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a view in perspective of my improved mail-box. Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view thereof on the line *xx*, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a horizontal sectional view on the line *yy*, Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a detail view with parts broken away, showing one end of the connecting cross-bar extending from one side of the box or receptacle.

Referring to the drawings, A designates the box or receptacle, which is preferably made 30 of cast-iron or other suitable material, and is composed of two parts or sections *a a'*. The part or section *a* comprises two corresponding end pieces *a²*, having front overhanging or protruding portions *a³*, connected together 55 by an upper cross-piece *a⁴*, the lower edge of which is coincident with the lower ends of the overhanging portions *a³*. A curved or cut-out portion is preferably formed in the lower edge of the cross-piece *a⁴*. To the end pieces *a²* 60 are also connected a lower front cross-piece *b*, a horizontal bottom *b'*, and a partition *b²*, which latter at its forward portion extends diagonally from the top of the side pieces down a short distance into the box or receptacle, and 65 thence horizontally to the rear end of said side pieces. This partition forms a pocket or receptacle B, wherein newspapers or packages are designed to be inserted through an opening C in one end of the box. The upper edge 70 of the cross-piece *b* is thickened, so as to form a ledge *b³*, which is curved from its front edge upwardly to its rear edge. Between the parallel lower and upper edges of the upper and lower cross-pieces an opening is formed extending throughout the length of the box. 75 At one end of this opening is a horizontal flange or projection *b⁴*, which serves as a rest upon which an operator can place one end of a bundle of letters, and thus can readily control the other end of such bundle with one hand.

The part or section *a'* is composed of the inclined top *d* and a back piece *d'*, wherein are formed near each end dovetail grooves or 85 recesses *d²* and holes or apertures *d⁴*, through which screws are designed to be passed for securing the part or section *a'* rigidly in position. Into these grooves or recesses are designed to fit the dovetail tenons *e*, formed on 90 the rear edges of the end pieces *a²*, said tenons being inserted into said grooves or recesses at the lower ends thereof. The top *d* is preferably of approximately-triangular shape in cross-section, and in one end is a 95 semicircular groove or recess, which coincides

with a corresponding groove or recess in one of the end pieces a^2 , forming the opening C for the insertion of paper, &c., into the receptacle B. A bead or flange is formed around the lower edge of top d , and the same hugs the upper edges of the front and sides of the part or section a .

D designates a pocket or conductor having a lower open end and which consists of two parallel front and rear walls e' and end pieces e^2 , the front wall being higher than the rear wall. From the extreme upper ends of the end pieces e^2 project short rods or lugs f , which are designed to rest in grooves or recesses f' in the upper edges of the end pieces a^2 , so that the pocket will normally occupy a vertical position at the front of the box or receptacle and bear against the upper front cross-piece a^4 and entirely close the opening formed between said cross-piece and the lower front cross-piece b . This pocket is free to move on its pivots and swing inwardly until its movement is arrested by contact with partition b^2 , when the front wall e' will be coincident with the inner edge of the curved ledge b^3 on the upper end of cross-piece b .

In practice the operator by resting one end of a package of letters on the rest b^4 can readily force the other end thereof up into the pocket D, and by pressing on the latter the bundle of mail will be carried inward over and beyond the ledge b^3 and dropped into the box or receptacle, from which the same may be removed through any suitable door—such as that shown at W—formed in the lower front cross-piece b . A piece of glass is preferably placed in the door, so that the contents of the box or receptacle can be readily seen from without.

In applying my improved mail or letter box the part or section a' is first rigidly secured in place by screws inserted through the holes or apertures d^4 , after which the part or section a is secured thereto by the dovetail socket and tenon connections, and the latter is rigidly held by a suitable screw projected through a cross-bar f^2 of part of section a and working in a threaded aperture in back piece d' . Thus the screws holding section a' are concealed, as is also the screw holding section a . The cross-bar f^2 is integral at its ends with the end pieces a^2 of section a .

The advantages of my invention are apparent to those skilled in the art, and it will be especially observed that by means thereof a person can with one hand place a bundle of letters into the pocket or conductor without the least trouble and by forcing the latter rearward cause the contents thereof to fall into the box or receptacle, from which it is impossible to remove the same unless through the door provided for that purpose. It will

also be seen that the box can be readily and easily attached to a door, wall, or other suitable place and can be rigidly and firmly held as against surreptitious removal or loosening.

While I have described the box as being composed of but two parts, it is obvious that the formation thereof may be changed at pleasure without departing from the spirit of my invention.

I claim as my invention—

1. A mail or letter box having a horizontal opening in its front wall and a pocket or conductor open at its lower end and pivotally mounted in position above said horizontal opening so as to coincide at said lower end with said opening and designed to move inward, as set forth.

2. A mail or letter box having an upper overhanging portion and upper and lower cross-pieces, between which an opening is formed, and a pocket or conductor pivotally mounted in position so as to coincide with said opening and designed to move inward, as set forth.

3. A mail or letter box having an upper overhanging portion, upper and lower cross-pieces, between which an opening is formed, a pocket or conductor having a lower open end coincident with said opening and having short rods or lugs projecting from its upper end, forming pivotal bearings therefor, substantially as set forth.

4. A mail or letter box having a horizontal opening in its front wall and a flange or projection at one end thereof, forming a rest, and a pocket or conductor pivotally mounted in position and having a lower open end coincident with said opening, substantially as set forth.

5. A mail or letter box having an upper partition therein, forming a pocket or receptacle and having a horizontal opening in its front wall, and a pocket or conductor pivotally mounted in position and having its lower open end coincident with said opening and designed to be limited in its movement by said partition, substantially as set forth.

6. The herein-described improved mail or letter box, comprising the part or section having the top and the back piece, which latter is provided with grooves or recesses and holes or apertures and the part or section having the end pieces provided with tenons fitting said grooves or recesses, the apertured cross-bar, and the screw projected therethrough, substantially as set forth.

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

WILLIAM M. FITZWATER.

Witnesses:

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