

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

E. J. COLBY.
NEWSPAPER LOCK BOX.

No. 508,870.

Patented Nov. 14, 1893.

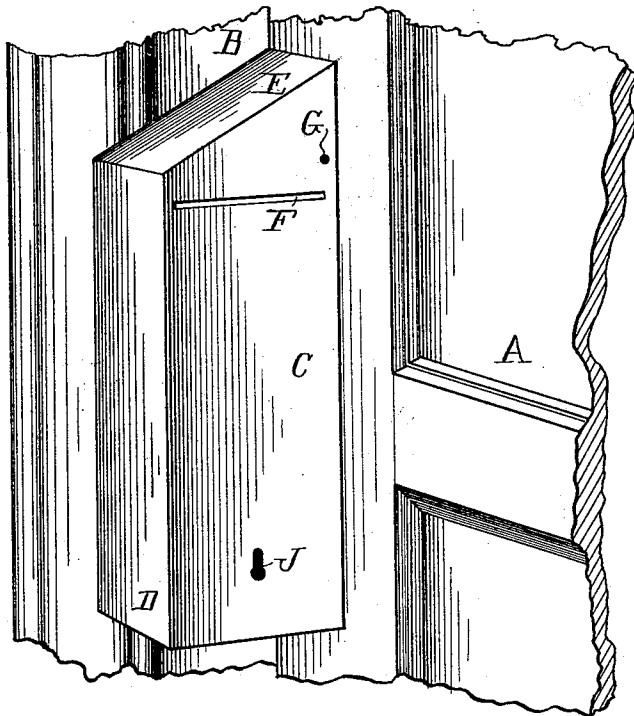
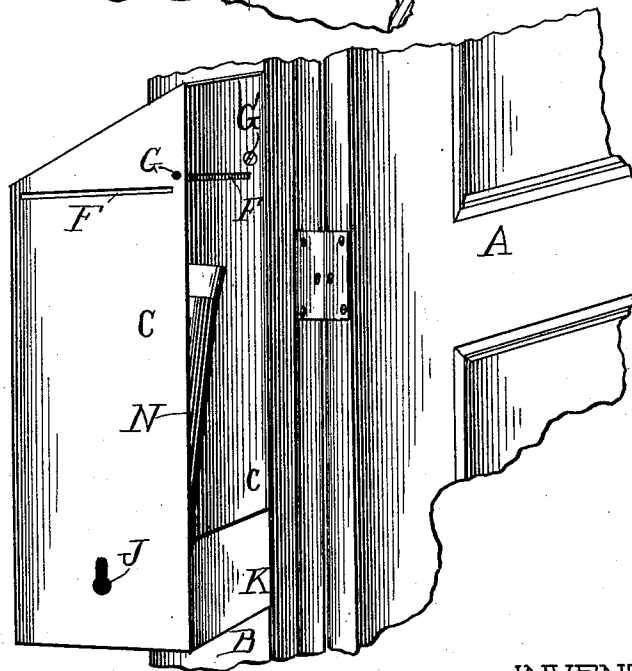


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.



WITNESSES

Walter J. Guntrop
Edith Black

BY

INVENTOR

Edward J. Colby

Francis W. Parker,
ATTORNEY

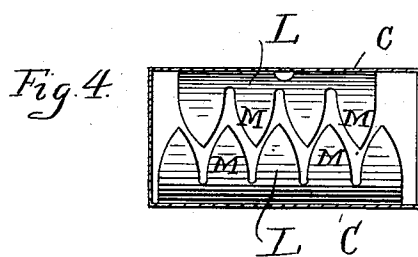
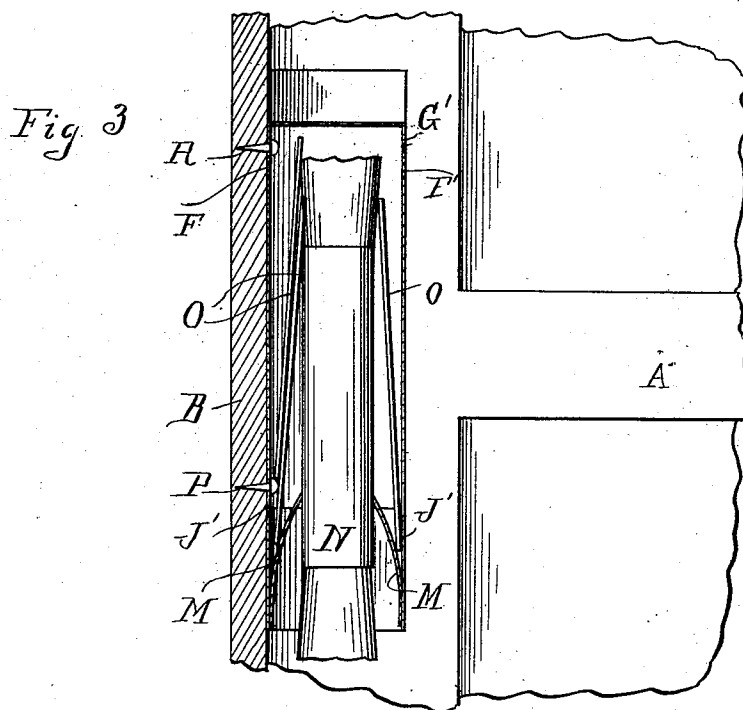
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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Edith Black

BY

INVENTOR
Edward J. Colby
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ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD J. COLBY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO THE COLBY
SPECIALTY SUPPLY COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

NEWSPAPER LOCK-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 508,870, dated November 14, 1893.

Application filed December 31, 1892. Serial No. 456,954. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD J. COLBY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, Cook county, Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Newspaper Lock-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to newspaper and letter lock boxes, and has for its object to provide a convenient, cheap and simple box for containing newspapers, letters and the like.

It is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device in position with the door closed. Fig. 2 is a somewhat similar view of the device in position with the door open. Fig. 3 is a vertical section through the box; and Fig. 4 a cross section.

Like parts are indicated by the same letter in all the figures.

A is a door and B the door frame, which as indicated, make a right angle with each other. In the right angle is disposed my box, which consists of the sides C C with the back D, and preferably inclined top E. The sides have each a letter slot F F', and a hole for a securing screw G G', and holes for the lower securing screws J J'. One edge of the box is preferably open as indicated in Fig. 2, though closed toward the bottom by the part K. The bottom of the box is preferably open. Within the box at the bottom are disposed the two strips of thin sheet metal L L having each the fingers M M, shaped preferably substantially as shown, and adapted to overlap as indicated so as to securely close the bottom to prevent packages from falling out, while at the same time to leave it free for packages to be inserted.

N is a newspaper in a wrapper forced up into the box so as to be held by the spring fingers M.

O O are letters which have been put into the box through the letter slot F'.

P is the lower securing screw and R the upper securing screw.

It will be observed that the strips or plates of metal which are provided with the interlapping fingers M are secured to the same

sides of the box or receptacle as those through which the letter slits are formed. This arrangement insures that the letters which are dropped into the box through these slits will fall down between the said plates of metal and the sides of the box, whether one or more papers are held between them, or they are in their normal position with their fingers interlapping. The two strips or plates of metal secured to the opposite sides of the box and provided with the fingers interlapping above the open end of the box operate to prevent the smallest article which might be sent through the mail from escaping, and at the same time permit the entrance into the receptacle of a package of a size sufficient to almost entirely fill the box. This is accomplished by making the plates or pieces of metal equal in width to the sides of the box to which they are secured.

The use and operation of my invention are as follows: It is desirable in devices of this character to have a device operative, if possible, without lock or key or movable parts of any kind or description; and also, to have it cheap and simple and so that it can be easily placed in an out-of-the-way spot. The contents should be protected from rain, and should be so as not to be easily removable except by the person controlling the box. At the same time, there should be no difficulty in inserting either papers or letters. All of these objects I accomplish in the device illustrated. The edge of the box being closed when the door is closed, there can, of course, be no access to the box. The newspapers thrust up through the bottom are protected from the weather and secured, whether entirely forced in or not, so that in any attempt to withdraw, they would be injured so as to be of no use. In the meantime, letters may be thrust into the upper slot, either before or after the newspaper is put into position. If before, they will be prevented from falling out by the overlapping spring fingers M. If after, they will fall into the box beside the papers. Other papers besides the one already inserted may be forced into position, as also, can other letters to a reasonable number, be put into the box. Only when the door is

open, can the contents be obtained, and all the letters and papers can then be easily removed without interfering with the spring fingers as suggested in Fig. 2. No lock is necessary, and no movable or removable parts are employed. The box is interchangeable or reversible, so as to be used in either angle, or applied in any position.

I claim—

- 10 1. A receptacle for newspapers and the like consisting of a box open at one edge and provided at the bottom with opposed sets of long overlapping sharp-pointed spring fingers, secured to the opposite sides, C, of the box which
15 close the same against the escape of objects within, but permit easy access to the box for the object from without, and with a letter slit above, the spring fingers through one of the sides, C, of the box said box adapted to be
20 placed in an angle and secured to the frame so that its open edge will be covered by the door of the building to which it is attached when the door is closed.

2. A receptacle or box adapted to receive

mail matter having its bottom entirely open, 25 and the two strips or plates of thin spring metal secured to the inner faces of the opposite sides of the box near its lower open end, the said plates being of a width substantially equal to the sides of the box to which they 30 are secured and provided with fingers which interlap over the open end of the box, the said box being provided with a letter slit in its upper portion above the thin spring metal plates substantially as set forth. 35

3. A receptacle or box adapted to receive mail matter having its bottom open, and the letter slits through its opposite sides and the two strips or plates of metal secured to the sides of the box in which are formed the said 40 letter slits and between them and the lower open end of the box, the said strips or plates converging over the lower open end of the box, substantially as set forth.

EDWARD J. COLBY.

Witnesses:

WALTER J. GUNTHERP,
FRANCIS W. PARKER.