

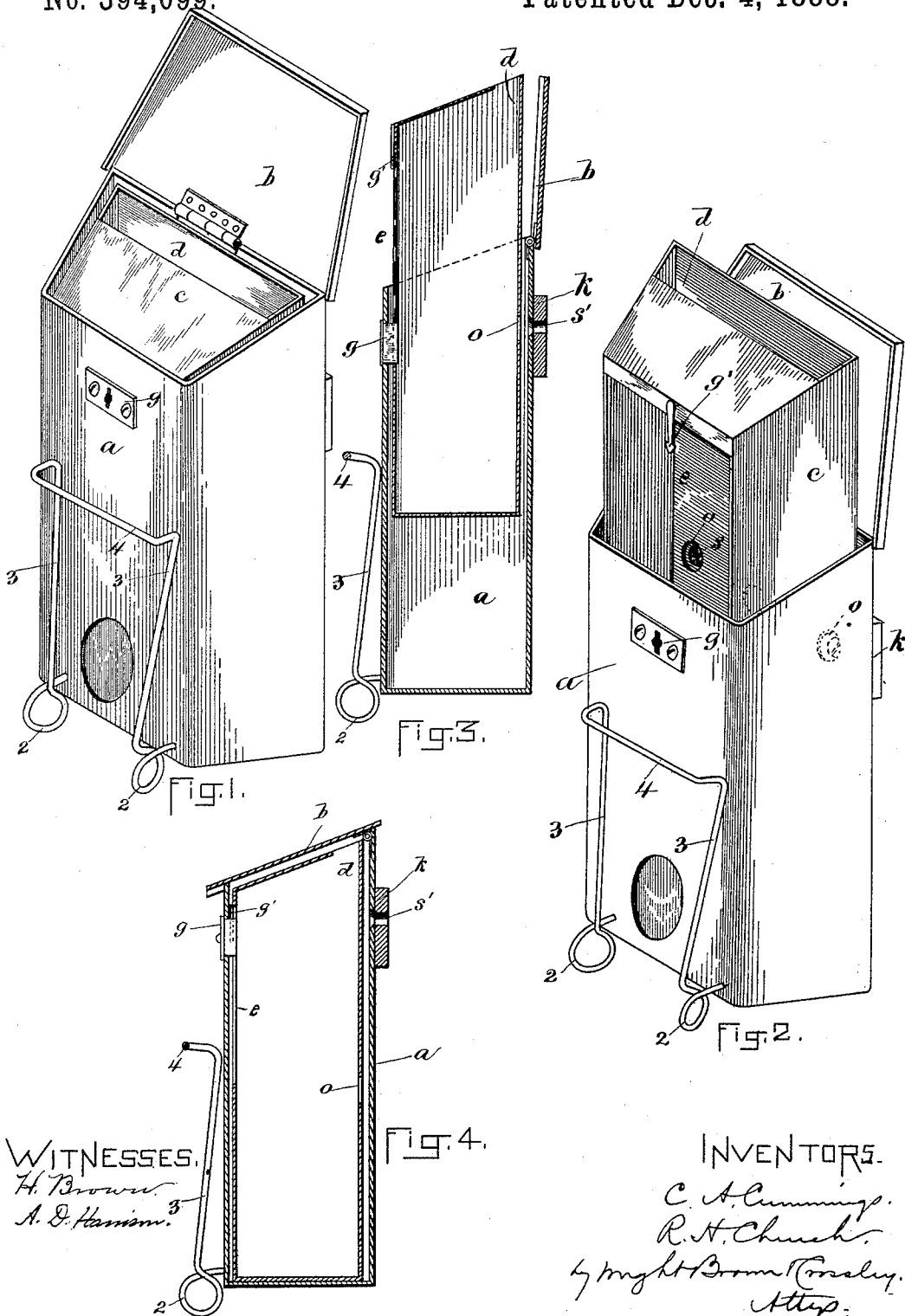
(No Model.)

C. A. CUMMINGS & R. H. CHURCH.

LETTER BOX.

No. 394,099.

Patented Dec. 4, 1888.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES A. CUMMINGS AND R. HOWARD CHURCH, OF WORCESTER,
MASSACHUSETTS.

LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 394,099, dated December 4, 1888.

Application filed March 24, 1888. Serial No. 268,322. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, CHARLES A. CUMMINGS and R. HOWARD CHURCH, of Worcester, in the county of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has for its object to provide a simple, convenient, and desirable box for the reception of delivered mail matter, which shall be capable of automatically locking, and from which the mail-matter can be conveniently removed when the box is unlocked.

The invention consists, as a whole, in a mail box or receptacle composed of an outer casing adapted to be attached to a wall or other support, and provided with a suitable lock and box or receptacle adapted to slide in the casing, so as to be either wholly contained therein or partly projecting therefrom, and having a mail-receiving slot which is exposed at the open end of the casing, a mail-delivering opening which is covered by the casing when the box is retracted or wholly contained in the casing, but is uncovered when the box is projected, and a hasp or hook adapted to be engaged by the lock on the casing when the box is retracted, the arrangement being such that mail matter can be dropped into the box when it is retracted, but cannot be removed until the box is disconnected from the lock and partially withdrawn from the casing.

The invention also consists in the combination, with a mail-receiving box, of a newspaper-holder composed of a wire attached at its ends to the box and bent to form a spring-clip adapted by its own resilience to hold a folded newspaper or other article of like shape against one side of the box.

The invention also consists in certain details, all of which we will now proceed to describe and claim.

Of the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 represents a perspective view of our improved letter-box, the cover of the casing being opened. Fig. 2 represents a similar view showing the sliding box elevated to permit the removal of mail matter therefrom. Figs. 3 and 4 represent

vertical sections, the former showing the sliding box raised and the latter showing it lowered.

The same letters of reference indicate the same parts in all the figures.

In the drawings, *a* represents the casing, which is preferably made of sheet metal and is open at its upper end and provided with a hinged cover, *b*, adapted to close over said open end.

c represents the box, which is formed to be entirely contained in the casing *a*, so that when the cover *b* is closed the box will be entirely concealed. The box is provided in its top or upper end with a narrow slot or opening, *d*, of sufficient size to admit mail matter, and in its front side with a larger opening, *e*, through which the mail matter dropped into the box through the slot *d* may be removed when the box is raised, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. When the box *c* is retracted or depressed, as shown in Figs. 1 and 4, the side opening, *e*, is covered by the front of the casing, so that the mail matter cannot be removed. The box is locked in the last-named position by a lock, *g*, on the casing, said lock being constructed to engage a hook or hasp, *g'*, on the box when the latter is dropped to its lowest position. We prefer to employ an automatic lock, or one which engages the hook or hasp *g'* automatically, but do not limit ourselves to any particular style or kind of lock, as there are several well-known varieties which will answer the purpose. We have therefore not deemed it necessary to illustrate or describe any particular form of lock mechanism. The casing of the lock projects into the front opening, *e*, of the box and acts as a stop to prevent the box from being entirely withdrawn from the casing. A special stop may be employed for this purpose, if desired; but we prefer to utilize the lock-casing.

It will be seen that mail-matter may be deposited at any time in the box *c*, the carrier having only to lift the cover *b* and drop letters into the slot *d*. When the mail is to be removed, the box is unlocked and raised to expose the opening *e*. When the box is again dropped it is automatically locked, so that

there is no danger of its being left unlocked by the carelessness of the person removing the mail.

We provide the casing *a* with a spring-clip 5 composed of a piece of stout wire, the ends of which are rigidly attached to the front of the casing in any suitable way. Said wire is bent to form two loops or springs, 2 2, arms 3 3, and a connecting-bar, 4, said arms being held 10 by the resilience of the wire in yielding contact with the front of the casing. Folded newspapers and other similarly-shaped articles too bulky to be inserted in the slot *d* of the box may be interposed between the clip 15 and the side of the casing and held by the yielding pressure of the clip.

We prefer to provide the lower portion of the casing and box with coinciding glazed openings to permit inspection of the interior 20 of the box.

The box is adapted for outdoor as well as indoor use, the cover *b* of the casing protecting the sliding box against rain, snow, and dust.

25 A wooden cleat, *k*, is attached to the back of the casing *a*, and the screws *s*, which secure the casing to a wall or other support, pass through holes *s'* in said cleat from the inner side of the casing, the heads of said 30 screws being within the casing and covered by the back of the box *c* when the latter is retracted, so that when the box is locked access to the attaching-screws cannot be had and the casing cannot be removed without violent 35 means. The box is provided in its back side with orifices *o*, which coincide with the attaching-screws when the box is raised, so that

said screws can be inserted and removed by a screw-driver inserted in the front opening, *e*, of the box when the latter is raised, but not 40 when the box is depressed.

We claim—

1. The combination of the casing, the box adapted to slide in the casing and provided with the receiving-slot *d* and with the side 45 opening, *e*, and a stop which limits the outward movement of the box and prevents its removal from the casing, as set forth.

2. The combination of the casing having holes in its back to receive attaching-screws 50 *s*, and the sliding box in said casing having orifices *o* arranged to coincide with said screw-holes only when the box is raised, the back of the box covering said holes and the screws *s* therein when the box is depressed, as set 55 forth.

3. The combination of the casing, the box adapted to slide in the casing and provided with the receiving-slot and with the side 60 opening, arranged as described relatively to the casing, a lock, *g*, attached to the casing, and a hasp, *g'*, attached to the box and arranged to co-operate with the lock in securing the box to the casing when the box is retracted, as set forth. 65

In testimony whereof we have signed our names to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses, this 15th day of March, A. D. 1888.

CHARLES A. CUMMINGS.

R. HOWARD CHURCH.

Witnesses:

C. M. BENT,

FRED. W. WHITE.