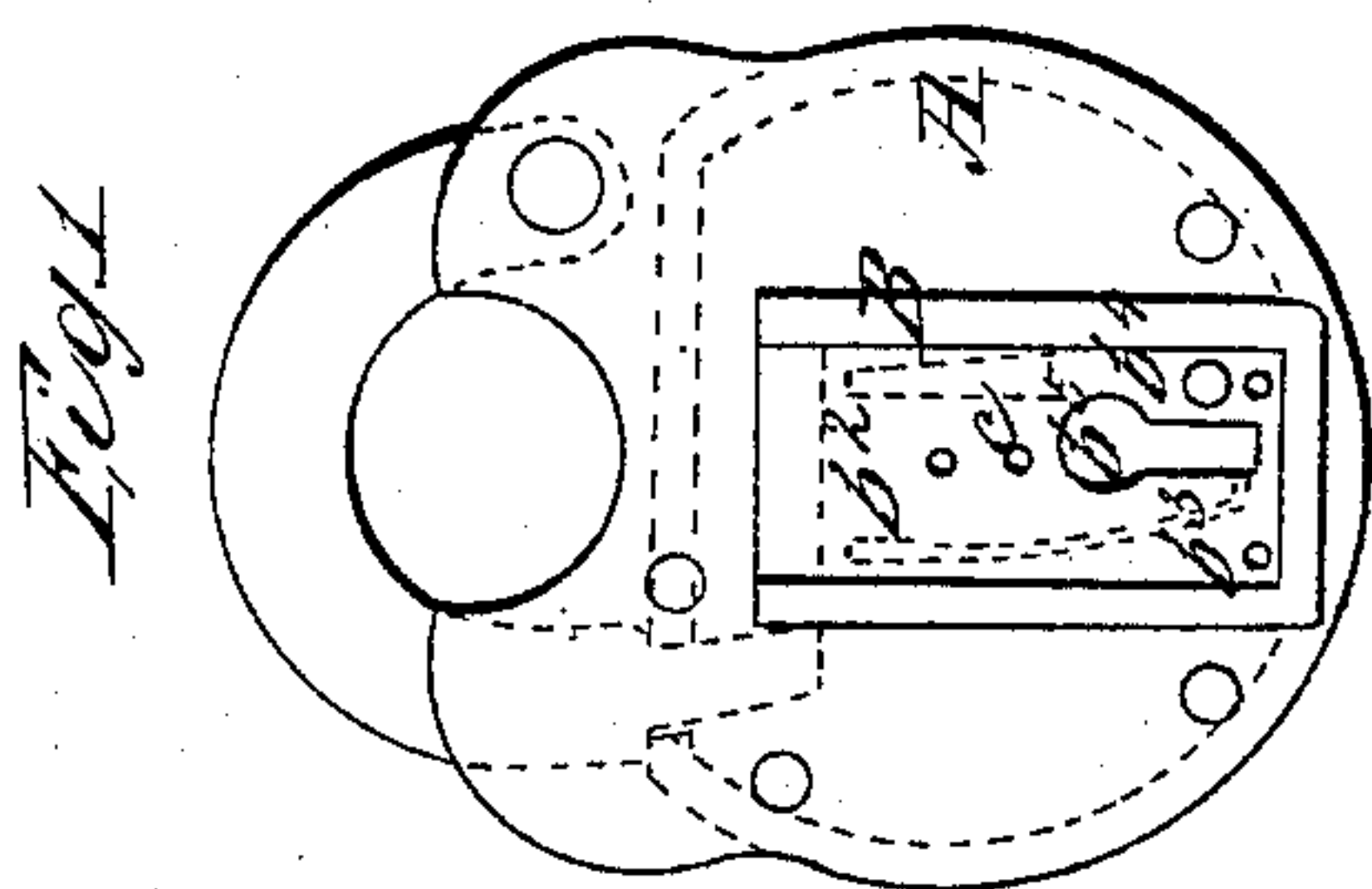
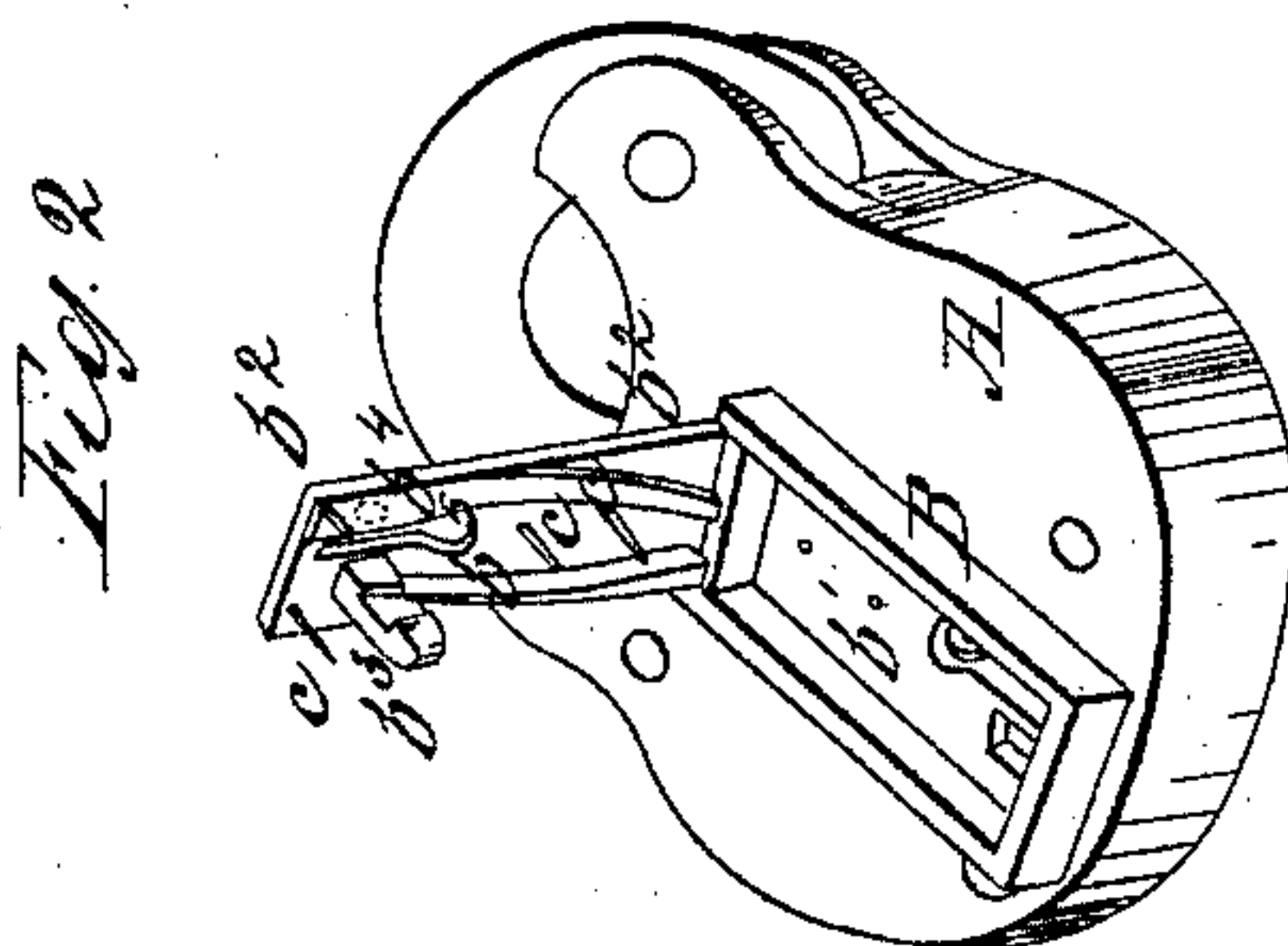
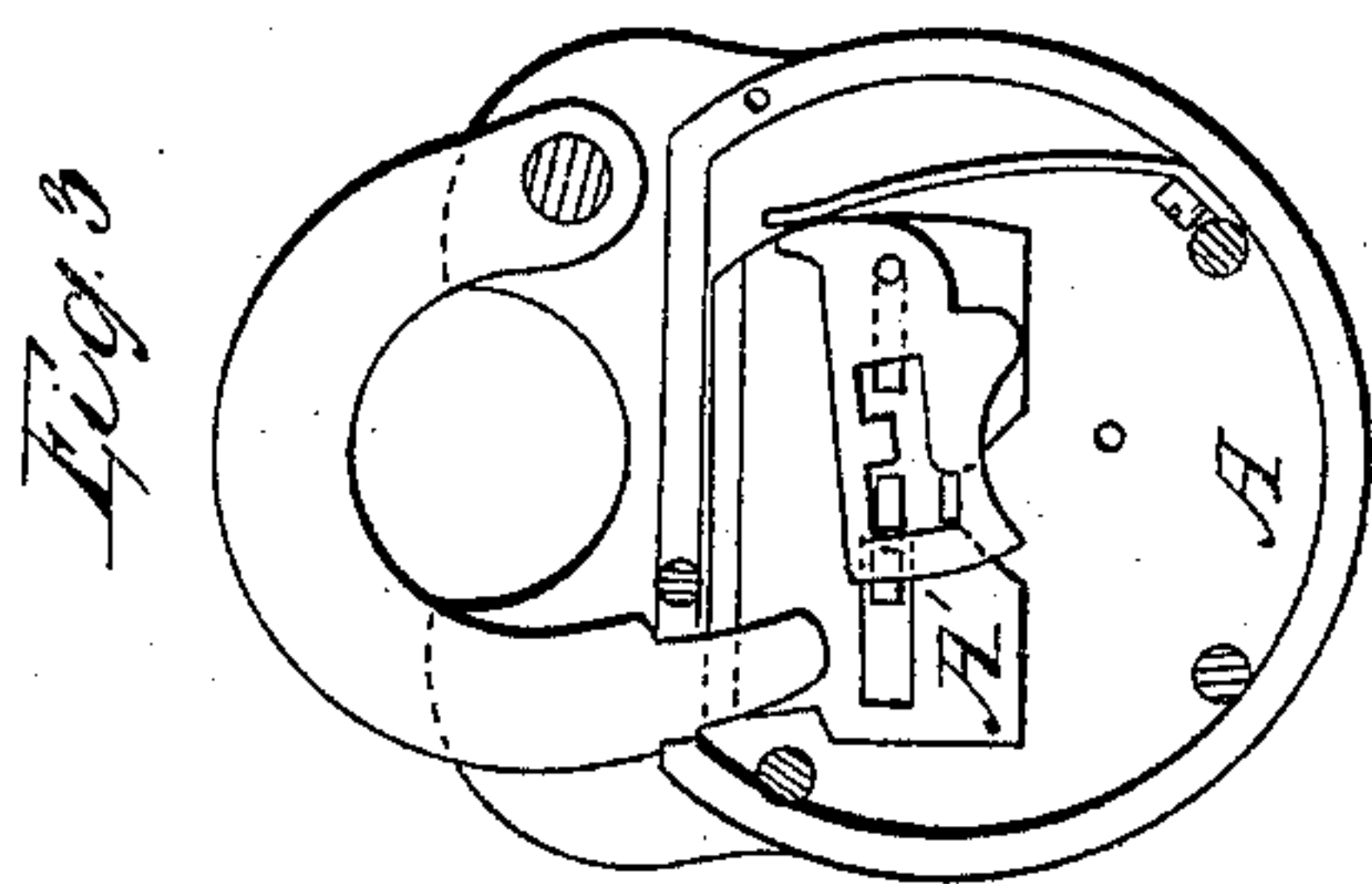


J. E. Thomson,

Seal Lock.

N^o 44,757.

Patented Oct. 18, 1864.



Witnesses.

E. B. Forbush
Geo. P. Wallace

Inventor.

Jas. E. Thomson

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES E. THOMSON, OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN PADLOCKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 44,757, dated October 18, 1864.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES E. THOMSON, of the city of Buffalo, county of Erie, and State of New York, have invented a certain new and Improved Safety-Lock; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure I is a front elevation of a lock with my improvement combined therewith. Fig. II is a perspective of the same. Fig. III is an interior view of the working parts of the lock.

Letters of like name and kind refer to like parts in each of the figures.

The nature of this invention relates to the combination of a device which I call a "seal-holder," with a lock, which device will securely hold a seal or signature paper over the key-hole of the lock, which seal or signature must be penetrated by the key and broken before the lock can be opened.

A represents a padlock of ordinary construction in its general form and working parts; A', internal working parts of the lock.

B represents one form of my improved device or seal-holder, which is so constructed as to form a chamber or recess, as shown at b' , for receiving a seal or signature. It has also a door, (represented at b^2), which is provided with a spring-catch, b^3 , for locking the door, and a fly-spring, b^4 , for throwing the door open when unlocked. A key-hole is made through this door, as shown at b^5 , which, when the door is shut, is in juxtaposition with the key-hole in the lock, so that when the key is inserted it will penetrate through both. When this door is shut, it locks itself by means of the spring-catch b^3 , and can only be opened by the same key which opens the lock. The spurs c catch into and hold the seal or paper.

This invention is applicable to any kind or quality of lock, and is designed to render any form or construction of lock a safety-lock, so that it cannot be unlawfully opened without detection, and is applicable for mail-locks, revenue-locks, warehouse-locks, and indeed for all places where a safety-lock is required.

I use this device constructed with a chamber or recess, by preference; but it is evident that the door itself, or its equivalent, could be used without any chamber or recess and shut upon the face of the lock and hold the seal over and upon the key-hole, and hence the main idea of my invention is to securely hold a seal over the key-hole of a lock in such a manner that the seal must be broken when the lock is opened.

Operation: The lock is closed by the proper person, with the door b^2 open, as shown in Fig. II. A seal or signature paper, or any substance which may be broken by the key, is then placed in the chamber b' , so that it completely covers the key-hole of the lock. The door b^2 is then closed, which shuts down upon the seal or signature paper and holds it securely over and upon the key-hole. Now it is impossible for any one to open the lock without thrusting the key through this seal or paper and breaking the same, and hence when this improvement is used for the security of mail-bags or to prevent fraud upon the revenue laws, or other purpose, the officer or person in charge locks up the same, puts his seal or signature into the seal-holder, as before described, and closes the seal holder. Now no person can open the lock without breaking the seal, and hence if it has been unlawfully or clandestinely opened, the officer or person in charge, and whose business it is to open the lock, quickly discovers the fact, which will quickly lead to the detection or discovery of the offending party or parties. A suitable cover may be provided for the key-hole b^5 .

I do not intend to limit myself to the precise form and construction of my improvement as herein described as it may be varied in details of construction without departing from the principle of my invention.

I therefore claim as my invention—

A seal-holder, in combination with a lock, for the purposes and substantially as described.

JAS. E. THOMSON.

Witnesses:

E. B. FORBUSH,
GEO. W. WALLACE.