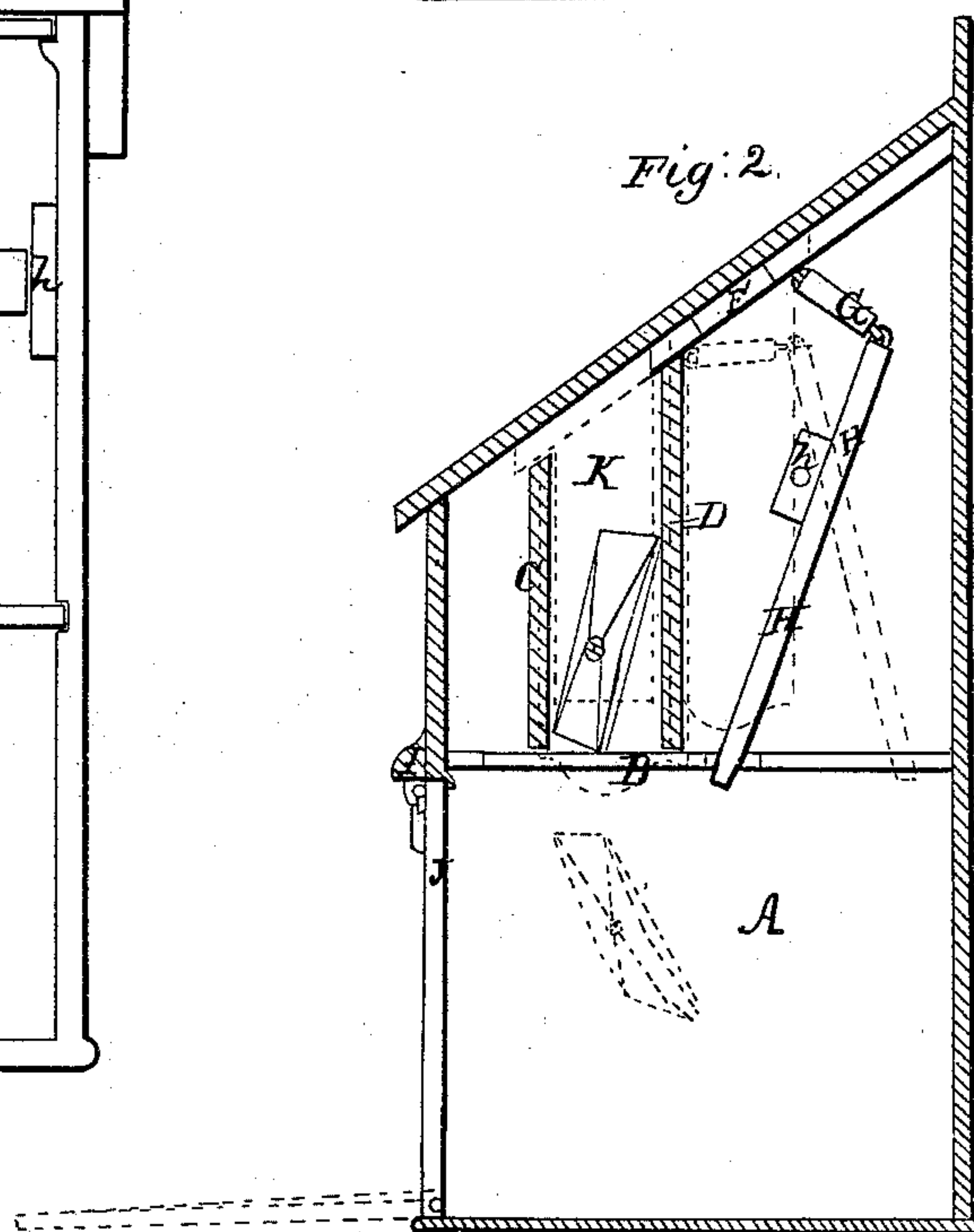
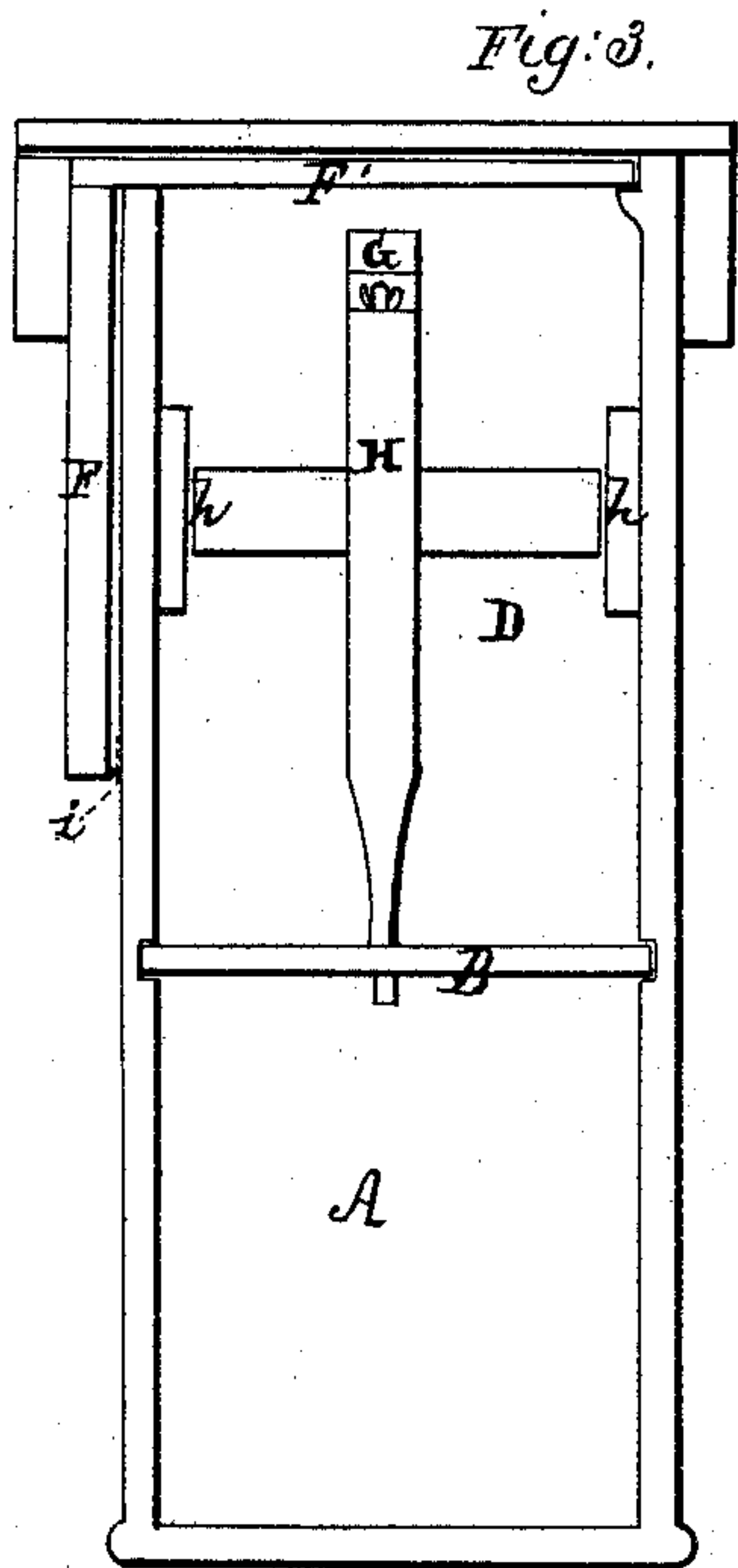
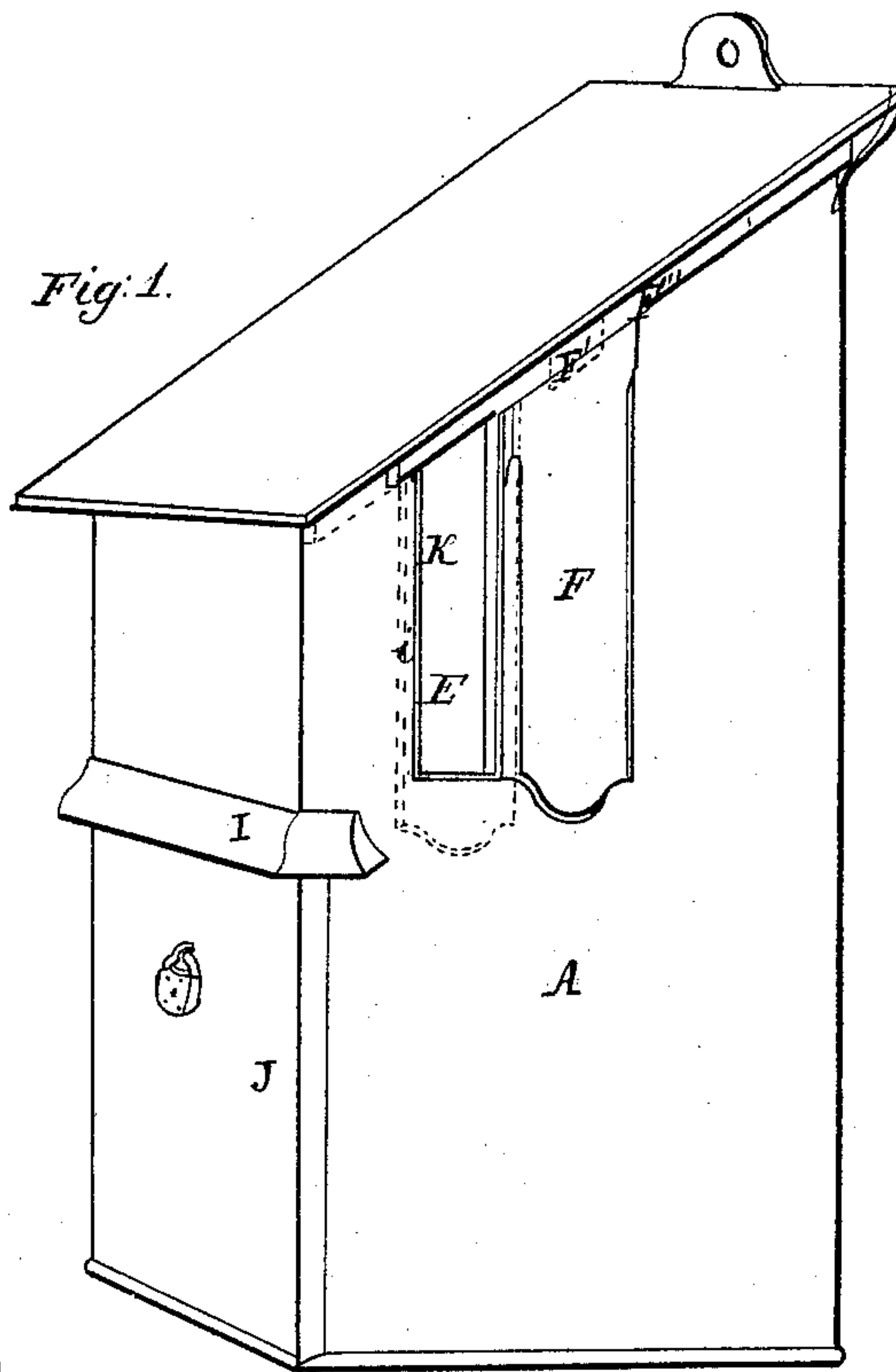


*D. D. Foley.*  
*Letter Box.*

*N<sup>o</sup> 55,630.*

*Patented Jun. 19, 1866.*



*Witnesses*

*R. D. Smith*  
*J. P. Allen*

*Inventor,*  
*D. D. Foley*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

D. D. FOLEY, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

## POSTAL LETTER-BOX.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 55,636, dated June 19, 1866.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, D. D. FOLEY, of the city and county of Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Postal Letter-Boxes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my box with the port open. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section of the same, showing the internal mechanism. Fig. 3 is a rear elevation of my box, the back plate being removed, so as to allow an inspection of the inclosed mechanism.

The nature of my invention consists, first, in producing a box for the reception of postal matter which shall be simple, cheap, and durable in its construction and working arrangement, not liable to derangement from use or the effects of the weather, and secure from depredation.

That others may understand the construction and operation of my invention, I will particularly describe it.

A is the box or casing containing the working devices and the receptacle for the mail matter. A sliding partition, B, is inserted transversely about midway of the height of the box. It is about half the internal width of the box, so that it has a sliding movement of about half the width of the box. Above the sliding partition B are the two stationary partitions C and D. An opening, E, in the side or top of the box corresponds with the space between the partitions C and D, thus forming an ante-chamber, K, with a movable bottom. The opening E is covered by a sliding valve, F, which is connected with the sliding partition B by means of a bar, F', rigidly attached to the sliding valve F and passing through a slot in the upper edge of the box, covered by the sliding strip F'', to the inside of the box, and connected immediately under the lid with the link G and lever H, having its fulcrum at h, so that as the valve F is moved toward the right to uncover the opening E the partition B is moved toward the left and slides under and past the lower edges of the partitions C and D, thus closing the ante-chamber K, and these movements of B and F are so timed that the space between the partitions C and D is

entirely closed at the bottom by B before the valve F begins to open, and vice versa. The lever H has a bearing, h, fixed at each end to the inner sides of the box.

Around the opening E is a raised bead or ledge, i, against the surface of which the inner side of the valve F rubs as it moves back and forth. The object of this is to allow a little free space between the valve and the surface of the box without at the same time exposing the opening E in any degree.

The ledge I projects over the edge of the door J, so that wet or snow cannot enter the joint between the edge of the door and the casing, and thus impede the operation of opening the door. The vertical edges of the door are turned so as to embrace the edges of the box a little, in order to cover the joint, for the same purpose as the ledge I. The door is made to open from the top downward, as shown by red lines in Fig. 2.

The construction of my devices is such that when the valve F is pushed aside to uncover the opening E it will return again to its seat without assistance.

The operation of my invention will be apparent. When a letter or other matter for the mail is to be deposited the opening E is uncovered and the package is inserted. It is then within the ante-chamber K and rests upon the movable bottom B; but when the valve E is released it immediately recloses the opening and withdraws the sliding bottom B, thus allowing the package to fall into the receptacle below, and this is repeated every time a letter or package is inserted.

It is secure against depredation, because the two openings E and that closed by the sliding board B can never be even partially uncovered at the same time, and it will therefore be impossible to abstract anything which has once passed into the body of the box.

It is secure against derangement, either from use or from the effects of the weather, for there will be no orifice for the admission of wet except the opening E, and that will be securely covered by the valve F.

It will be inexpensive and durable, for it may be constructed entirely of cast-iron and in no more than seven pieces, none of which will require much if any dressing or finishing.

It will be convenient for bulky matter, as



newspapers, &c., may be deposited in it with as much convenience as letters are; and being automatic in closing, there can be no danger of damage from exposure in consequence of any opening being left uncovered.

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

A postal letter-box having an ante-chamber in which packages are deposited, when said ante-chamber has a sliding bottom, which is withdrawn when the entrance-port is closed,

and vice versa, said sliding bottom being connected to and operated by the valve, which covers the entrance-port, by a lever or tilting bar, and so adjusted that entrance to the receptacle below the ante-chamber will always be barred, either by the valve over the entrance-port or by the sliding bottom, substantially as described.

D. D. FOLEY.

Witnesses:

R. D. O. SMITH,  
J. F. CALLAN.