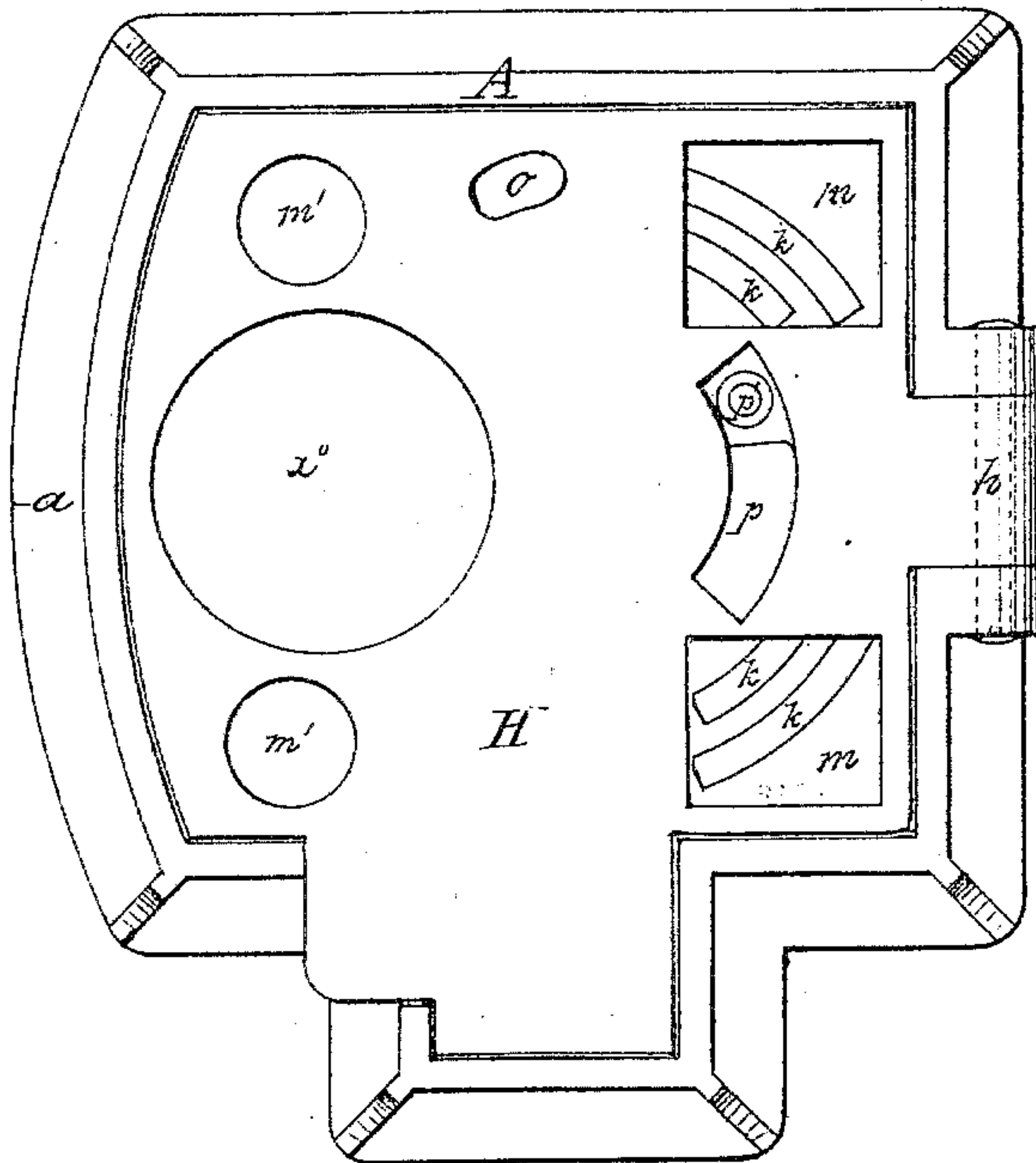


J. E. THOMSON.  
Stamp-Cancelers.

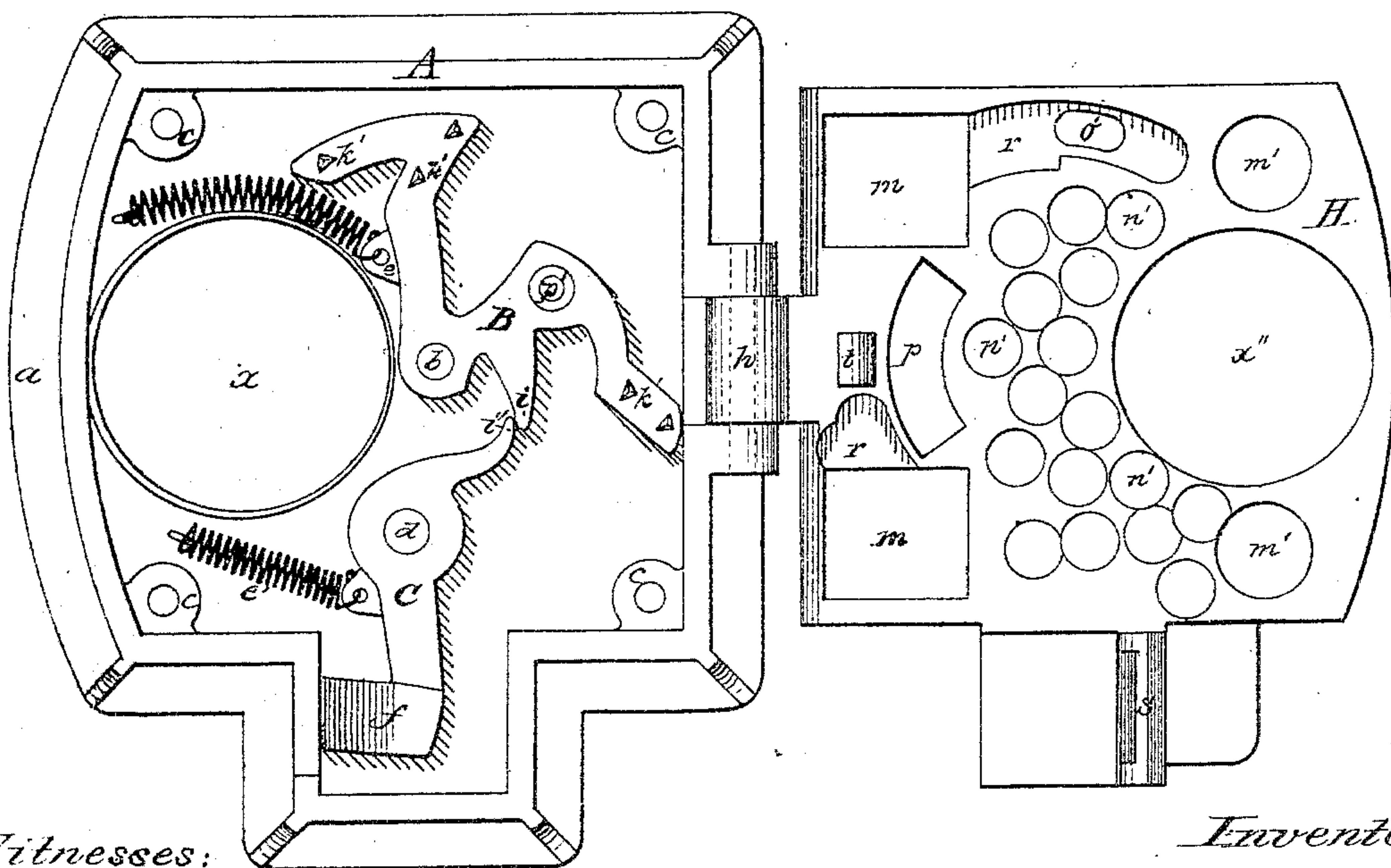
No. 133,604.

Patented Dec. 3, 1872.

*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



Witnesses:

D. P. Bowl  
H. A. Miller,

Inventor:

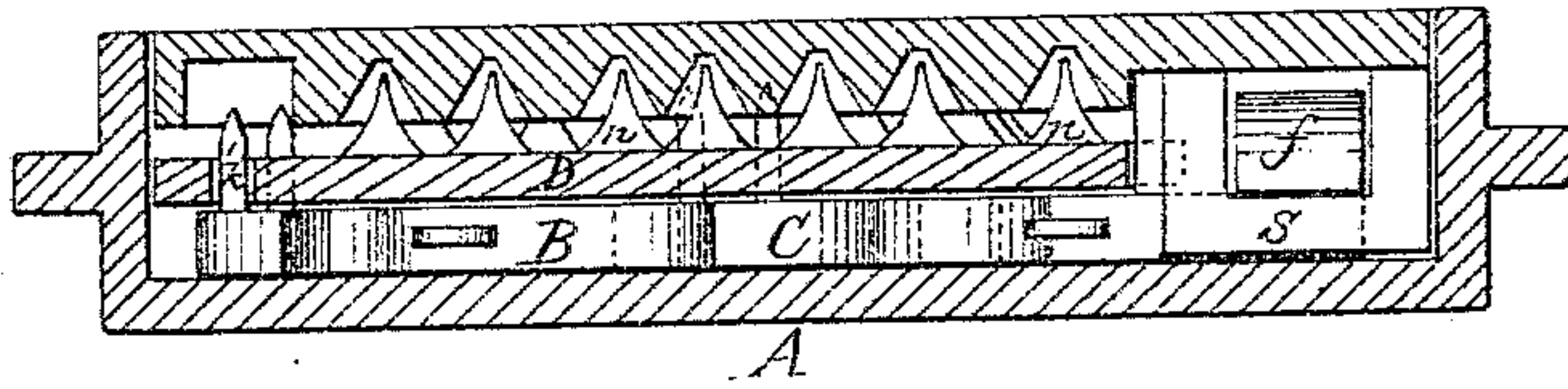
James E. Thomson  
By his atty  
H. A. R. K. Evans

J. E. THOMSON.  
Stamp-Cancelers.

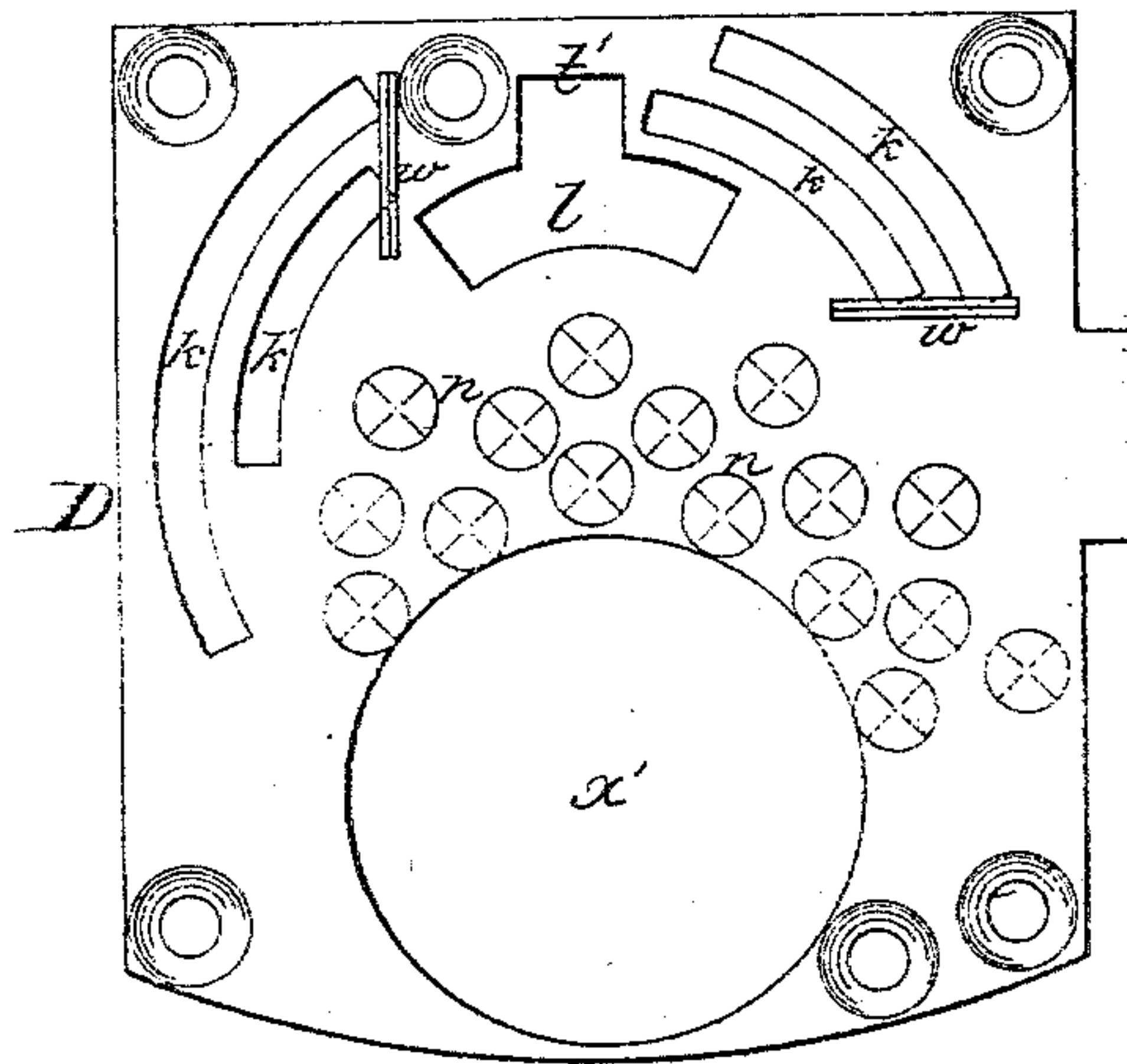
No. 133,604.

Patented Dec. 3, 1872.

*Fig. 3.*



*Fig. 4.*



Witnesses:

*D. R. Bowl*  
*A. S. Miller*

*Inventor:*

*James E. Thomson*  
*by his atty*  
*A. H. & R. K. Evans*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES E. THOMSON, OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

## IMPROVEMENT IN STAMP-CANCELERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 133,604, dated December 3, 1872.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES E. THOMSON, of Buffalo, in the county of Erie and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Stamp-Canceler; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a top view of my device with the lid closed; Fig. 2 is a plan view with the top open and the inner plate removed; Fig. 3 is a vertical section; and Fig. 4 is a detached view of the inner plate.

My invention has for its object to provide a means for attaching to barrels, kegs, packages, &c., revenue-stamps so that the attachment shall be so secure as to prevent the accidental detachment of the stamp by moisture in the atmosphere, and to insure a mutilation of the stamp so as to prevent it being used again.

My invention consists in a hinged clasp attached to the barrel, package, &c., which contains certain punches and knives for mutilating the stamp and a means of locking the said clasp, all of which is more particularly hereinafter described.

In the said drawing, A is a casing of any desired shape. If intended for a barrel one side should be rounded like *a* to fit against the chine. In this casing at each corner are shoulders *c c*, through which are holes for screws or bolts to fasten the casing to the package. In the back of this casing is reamed out a hole, *x*, for the passage of a faucet through the casing. Two levers, B and C, constructed as shown, work on spindles *b* and *d* in the back of the casing A. The lever B carries upon it knives or cutters *k' k' k'*, and is attached at *e* to a spring which has its opposite end fastened to the casing A. It also has on it a lug, *i*, which passes over the point *i'* of the lever C. The lever C has on its end a latch, *f*, and a spring, *e'*, is attached to it and to the casing. A plate, D, fits into the casing A and rests on the shoulders *c c*. In this plate are cut slots *k, k*, and *l*, for the purposes hereinafter described. It also has a hole, *x'*, for the passage of the faucet, and screw-holes to fasten it to the frame A and to the barrel or package. Upon it are riveted punches *n n*,

which fit or correspond to holes *n' n'* partially through the cover H. A cover, H, is hinged to the casing A at *h*. This cover has in it certain openings *m, m, m', m'*, and *o'*, and is also provided with a hole, *x''*, for the reception of the faucet. The hole *x''* is slightly smaller than the holes *x* and *x'*. A slot, *p*, is made in the cover H to insert a key into the hole *p'* in the lever B to unlock the clasp. A portion of the inner side of the cover is cut away at *r r* to allow of the operation of the knives *k k k k*. A catch, *s*, is cast on a projection on the cover, and this catch engages in the latch *f* when the cover is closed down. A lug, *t*, is cast on the cover H, and when the cover is down engages in the upper side *t'* of the opening *l* in the plate D, thus preventing the cover from being opened when it is locked by driving out the pin through the hinge *h*.

The operation of my device is as follows, for example: When it is attached to a beer-keg the casing is secured to the keg, the holes *x, x'*, and *x''* being over the bung-hole in the end of the keg. The brewer fills the keg with beer, places a revenue-stamp over the plate D, and closes the cover H. This forces the catch *s* over the latch *f* and the spring holds it in place, the punches *n n* passing through the stamp and into the holes *n' n'*. The knives *k' k'* also puncture the stamp. This leaves portions of the stamp exposed, but uninjured, through the openings *m m m' m' o* and the stop *p* and hole *x''*. These exposed portions allow the inspection of the stamp so as to see if it should be counterfeit. Thus the keg goes to the consumer. When he taps it he has to tear out the part covering the hole *x''*. This mutilates the stamp. The keg then goes back to the brewery. The brewer has to open the casing to fill the barrel and insert a new stamp. To open the casing he inserts a key through the slot *p* and opening *l* into the hole *p'* in the lever B and presses the lever around so that the cam *i* forces down the end *i* of the lever C and releases the catch *s* from the latch *f*. As the lever B is pressed around, the knives *k' k'* traverse the slots *k k* and cut the stamp, and the key does the same thing, thus mutilating the stamp so as to prevent re-using. The old stamp is then taken out, and a new one inserted when the barrel is filled. On the plate D are blades *w w* which cut the



stamp when the cover is closed down, and when the cutters *k' k'* begin to operate they not only cut along the slots *k k* but the pressure of the cutters tears the stamp from the cut made by the blades *w w*.

*Claims.*

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

1. The levers B and C, and lid H with the key-hole *p*, all constructed, combined, and arranged so that the stamp must be partially mutilated in inserting the key.

2. The removable plate D placed over the locking device so as to protect the levers B and C when the lock is open, slotted, as described, and bearing the blades *w* and punches *n*, in combination with the lid H, substantially as described.

3. The lid H with its openings *m, m, m', m'*, and *o*, and recesses *r r* and lug *t*, in combination with the plate D and casing A, as described.

JAS. E. THOMSON.

Witnesses:

RICHD. K. EVANS,  
I. D. RONSTADT.