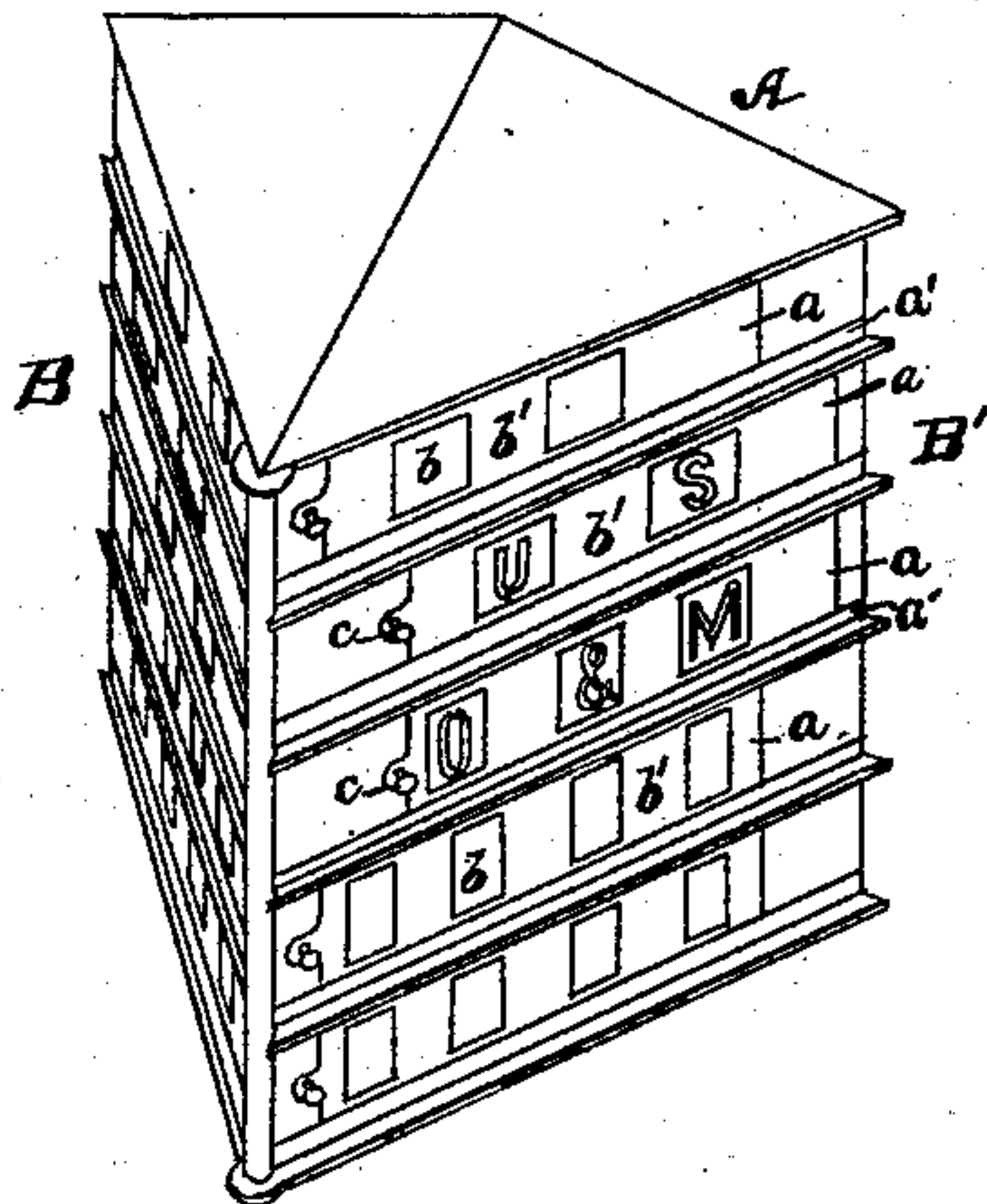


(Model.)

H. S. STIX.  
EXPRESS SIGNAL CALL.

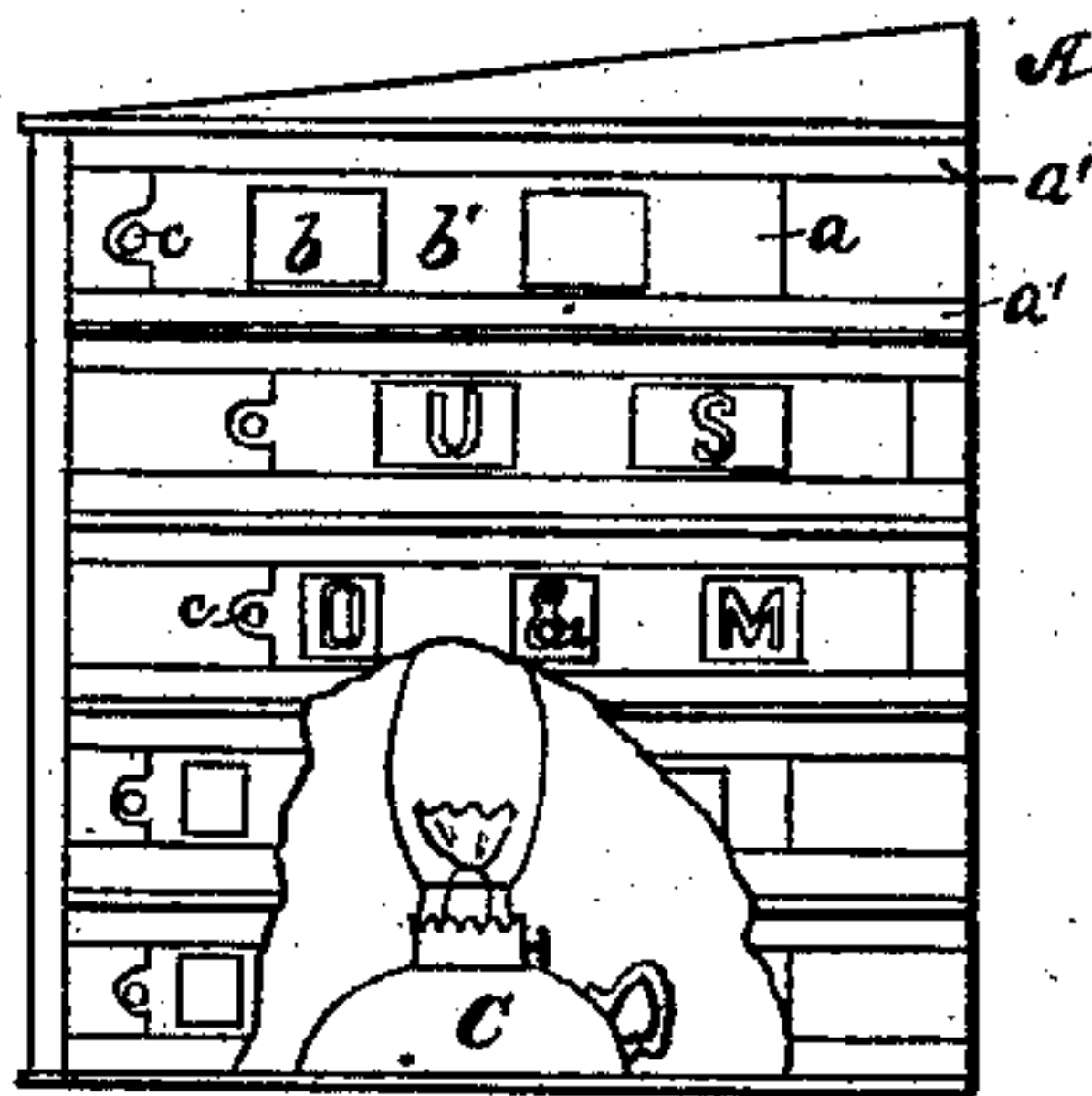
No. 258,820.

Patented May 30, 1882.



*Fig. 1.*

*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



Attest:  
*J. M. Stahl.*  
*E. R. Hill*

Inventor:  
*Henry Stix*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY S. STIX, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO.

## EXPRESS SIGNAL-CALL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 258,820, dated May 30, 1882.

Application filed October 21, 1881. (Model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HENRY S. STIX, of Cincinnati, Hamilton county, State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Express Signal-Calls, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to that class of express-calls which are designed for the use of shippers to attract the attention of the drivers of express-wagons; and its object is to provide an express-call which can be seen by the expressman either by night or day and from either direction on the street.

The method now most generally in vogue is for the shipper to provide himself with cards representing the various express companies having offices in his locality, and when one or more express companies are wanted he hangs out cards representing the companies wanted. This method is very imperfect, inasmuch as the expressman must be nearly in front of the card before he can see it, and it cannot be seen at all after dark, and but imperfectly on dark days.

The object of my invention is to remedy these defects.

Referring to the drawings forming part of this specification, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my invention. Fig. 2 is an elevation of one side, partly broken away to show the lamp within. Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional view taken through the letter O and its cover.

A is a triangular case, in two sides of which, B B', are cut the letters which represent the various express companies. The letters are preferably cut through in the form of stencil-letters, and the inner surface of the sides B B', or so much of the surface as is perforated by the letters, is covered with isinglass or translucent substance which will permit the passage of rays of light from the lamp within the case. The signs for the various express companies are placed one above another, the sign for each company appearing on each of the sides B B' at the same level as shown in the drawings. For instance, on the side B appears the sign "U. S.," and on the side B' at the same level also appears the sign "U. S.," and below these is the sign for the "Ohio & Mississippi Express Company." In this manner the signs for the various companies are arranged. Over each of the signs is a removable cover, a, so

arranged that it may be made to cover the sign or leave it exposed to view. In the present instance these covers are in the form of slides, which are retained against the sides B B' by the slideways a'. These slides are provided with the openings b and the solid portions b', the openings being of sufficient size to permit the letters of the signs to be seen through them, and the solid portions being of sufficient size to cover the letters. Each slide is also provided with a knob or handle, c, by which the slide is moved back and forth. A door is provided at some part of the case, through which the lamp C is introduced to the interior. The roof of the case is preferably made with a slight pitch, as shown, to prevent rain from entering the case. This case is to be placed in front of the factory or business house of the shipper, the sides B B' looking toward the street, the inclined position of the sides permitting them to be seen from either direction in the street.

When the shipper wishes to call one or more companies he uncovers the signs representing these companies by sliding the proper covers, a, so that the letters may be seen through the openings b, uncovering the sign on both sides B B', so that the expressman may see it from either direction.

When the expressman takes the package he slides the cover which belongs to the sign of his company, so that the solid places b' of the cover are over the letters, thus covering up the sign.

The letters of the signs, as before stated, are cut through the sides B B', and the inner plane of the opening thus formed is covered with some translucent substance which will permit the light to pass through, so that by lighting the lamp C the various signs may be seen as readily at night as in the day-time.

In order that the letters may be seen more readily in the day-time, I preferably paint the outer margins of each letter with some showy color, as the translucent substance may itself be colored—the sign for each company being differently colored—and thus make the letter plainly visible either by night or day, and the particular color shown will indicate the company wanted, though the letters themselves may not be plainly distinguishable.



The case A is preferably made of sheet metal; but it may, if desired, be made of any other desired material.

The covers *a* may be somewhat varied in form and construction and yet fall within the scope of my invention. For instance, they may be made to swing around on hinges to uncover the various signs; but this is not so desirable a form as that herein shown and described.

What I claim as new and of my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. An express signal-call consisting of a triangular case, two of the sides of which are provided with translucent signs representing one or more express companies, and adjustable covers for rendering the signs visible or invisible at will, substantially as described.

2. An express signal-call consisting of a case, A, having an interior lamp, C, the sides B B' of the case being provided with translucent signs, each sign having adjustable covers *a* for rendering the sign visible or invisible at will, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. An express signal-call consisting of a case, substantially as described, the sides B B' of said case being provided with translucent signs representing one or more express companies, and the sliding covers *a*, provided with the openings *b* and solid portions *b'*, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

HENRY S. STIX.

Witnesses:

WM. E. JONES,

E. R. HILL.