

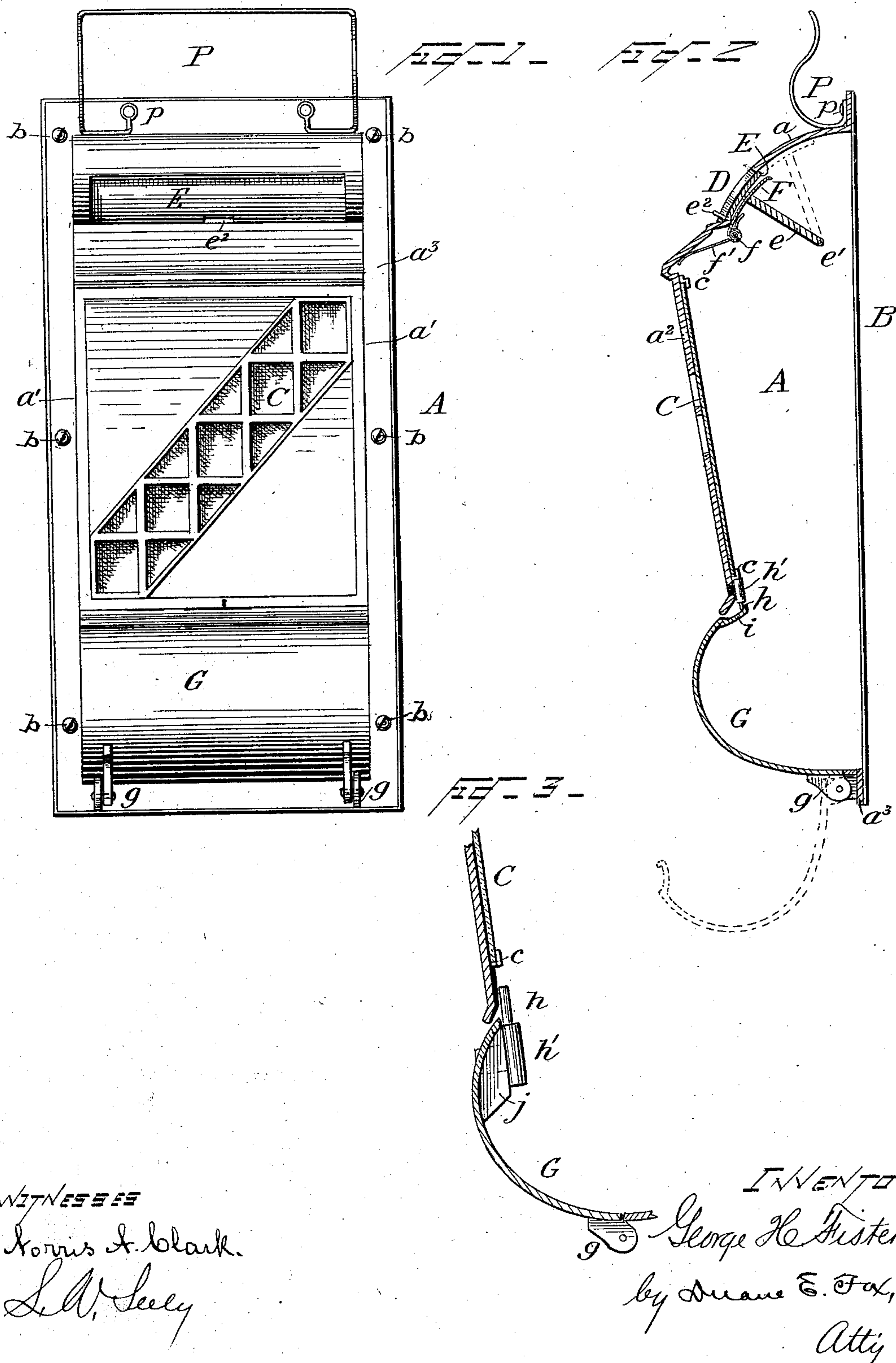
(No Model.)

G. H. FISTER

LETTER BOX.

No. 389,744.

Patented Sept. 18, 1888.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE HENRY FISTER, OF ELKHART, INDIANA.

LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 389,744, dated September 18, 1888.

Application filed January 7, 1888. Serial No. 260,039. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE HENRY FISTER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Elkhart, in the county of Elkhart and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Boxes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it ap-
10 pertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to letter-boxes, intended more especially for the reception of mail matter delivered at residences, offices, &c., but adapted, also, for use in public places, as a
15 general collection-box by the Post-Office Department.

The object of the invention is to provide a box which shall be perfectly safe as respects the unlawful abstraction of its contents, and
20 which shall also be readily and conveniently accessible for the removal of its contents by authorized persons.

The invention consists, partly, in the construction of the depositing-orifice, or, rather,
25 of the means for closing and guarding the same; further, in the peculiar drop-bottom, which not only closes the discharge-opening, but acts as a holder for the mail matter while it is being collected; further, in a novel paper and pack-
30 age holder, forming an attachment to the box, and, finally, in various combinations of the several operative parts. All these features are fully hereinafter described and claimed, and are illustrated in accompanying drawings, in which—
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Figure 1 is a front view of the box. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section. Fig. 3 represents a modification of the lock for securing the drop-bottom.

40 A represents the box proper, made of iron, cast or otherwise formed into the proper shape, and having a top, a , sides a' a' , and front a^2 . The box is also provided with a projecting flange, a^3 , extending entirely around it, by
45 means of which it may be secured to a door or wall or other permanent structure; but it is preferred, when attaching the box to a door or wall, to secure it from the inside of the box by screws or otherwise, so that it would be impos-
50 sible to detach it when locked. The back of the box is a sheet-metal plate, B, large enough

to cover the open rear side of box A and the flange a^3 . The back is secured by screws or rivets, or catches b passing through the flanges.

C represents a glass front plate, held in place
55 by lugs c , riveted to the front a^2 , the latter being perforated or cast in open work, as shown in Fig. 1, in order to protect the glass and still render the contents of the box visible. In a street-box for public use the glass front might
60 be dispensed with.

The receiving-orifice D is a transverse slot formed in the top of the box and closed by a gravity-cover of peculiar construction. This
65 cover E is a curved sliding plate, having at each end an arm, e , by means of which it is pivoted, as at e' , to the sides of the box on the inside. By means of a stud, e^2 , the cover may
70 be raised upward to the position shown by dotted lines, exposing the letter-opening, and will close the same by gravity when released.

Within the box and just inside of the sliding cover is a spring-guard, F. This is preferably a sheet-metal plate pivoted upon a
75 transverse rod, f . A wire spring, f' , is coiled upon this rod, one end bearing upon the front of the box and the other upon the spring-guard, which is thereby forced upward against the sliding cover. When a letter is inserted,
80 the guard may be forced down far enough to admit the same, but immediately springs back and closes the opening.

The bottom of the box is entirely open, except when closed by the drop-cover G. This
85 cover is a curved metal plate pivoted to lugs g g , secured to the bottom flange of the box. The drop-bottom G has sufficient curvature to form a receptacle for the mail matter, so that when lowered, as shown in dotted lines, Fig.
90 2, the letters will be held therein, ready for collection, which would not be the case were a straight bottom used. The bottom is closed and secured by a sliding bolt, which may be
95 secured either to the front of the box, as in Fig. 2, or to the bottom itself, as in Fig. 3. In Fig. 2 the bolt h slides in a barrel, h' , attached to the box-front, and engages with the hook i on the bottom, a key being used from the outside for releasing the bottom. A spring-bolt
100 may be used, if desired.

In the modified form shown in Fig. 3 a block, j , is secured near the upper edge of the bottom

cover, to which is attached the barrel in which slides the locking-bolt, the latter in this case engaging from below with the lower edge of box-front.

- 5 P represents a paper and parcel holder, formed, preferably, of a single length of wire bent into rectangular shape and secured by screws *p* to the top flange. The holder is bent, as shown in Fig. 2, into proper shape for such
10 a receptacle, and may be made of sheet metal instead of wire,

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

1. In a letter-box, the combination, with the
15 receptacle A, open at rear and bottom and having a continuous projecting flange, of the separable back plate secured to said flange, and a hinged drop-bottom, all substantially as described.

- 20 2. In a letter box, the combination of the

sliding cover, an inner pivoted guard-plate below and substantially in line with said cover, so as to temporarily close the opening, and a spring bearing on said plate for forcing it constantly toward said opening, substantially as
25 described.

3. In a letter-box, the combination, with the receptacle A, having its bottom entirely open, of a hinged mail-receptacle forming the entire
30 bottom and a portion of the front of the said receptacle A when locked, and so curved as to retain all the mail when dropped to its farthest extent, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

GEORGE HENRY FISTER.

Witnesses:

CHARLES S. HENDERSON,

H. E. BRENNAN.