

(No Model.)

M. J. DONAHUE.
LETTER BOX.

No. 474,229.

Patented May 3, 1892.

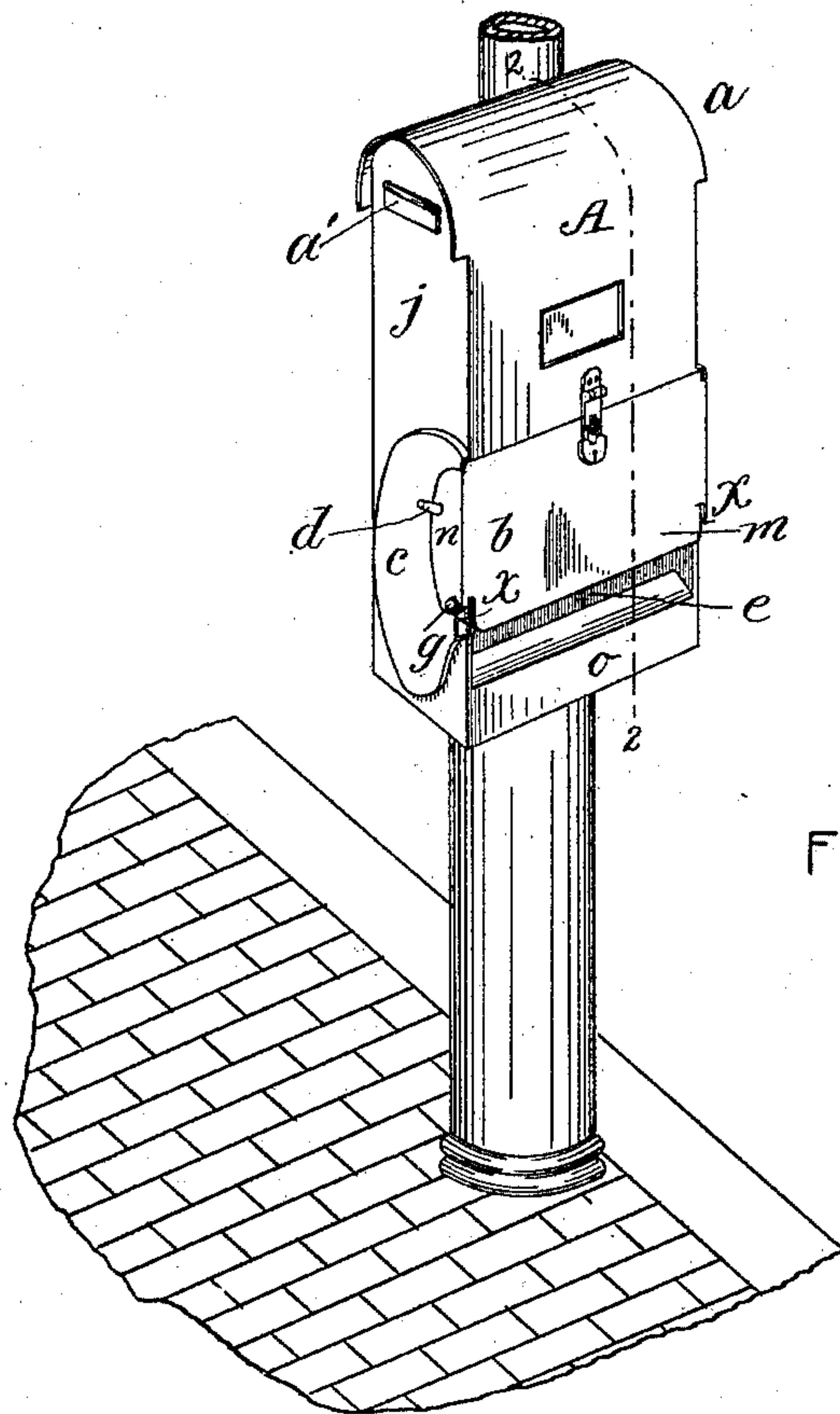


Fig. 1.

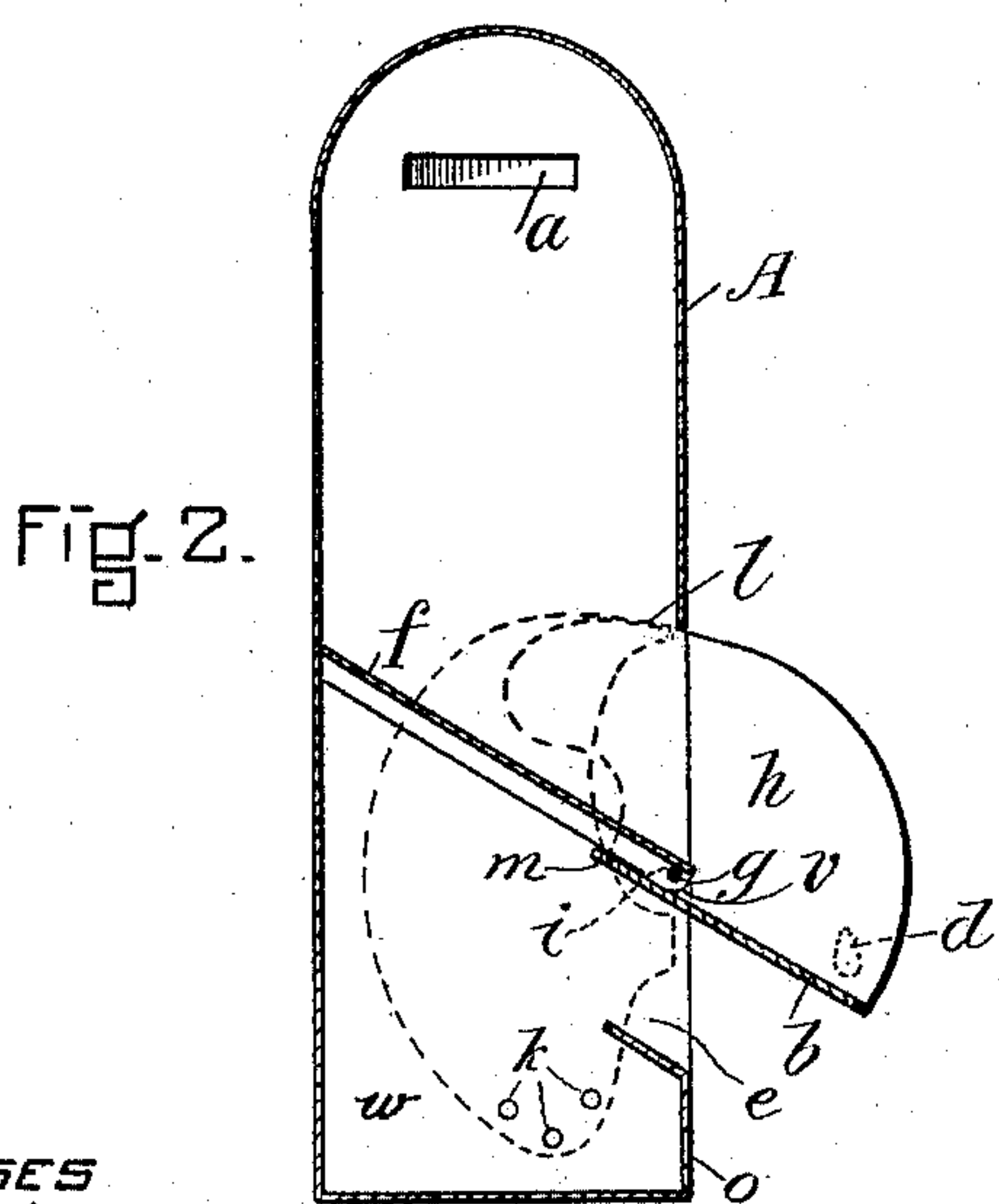


Fig. 2.

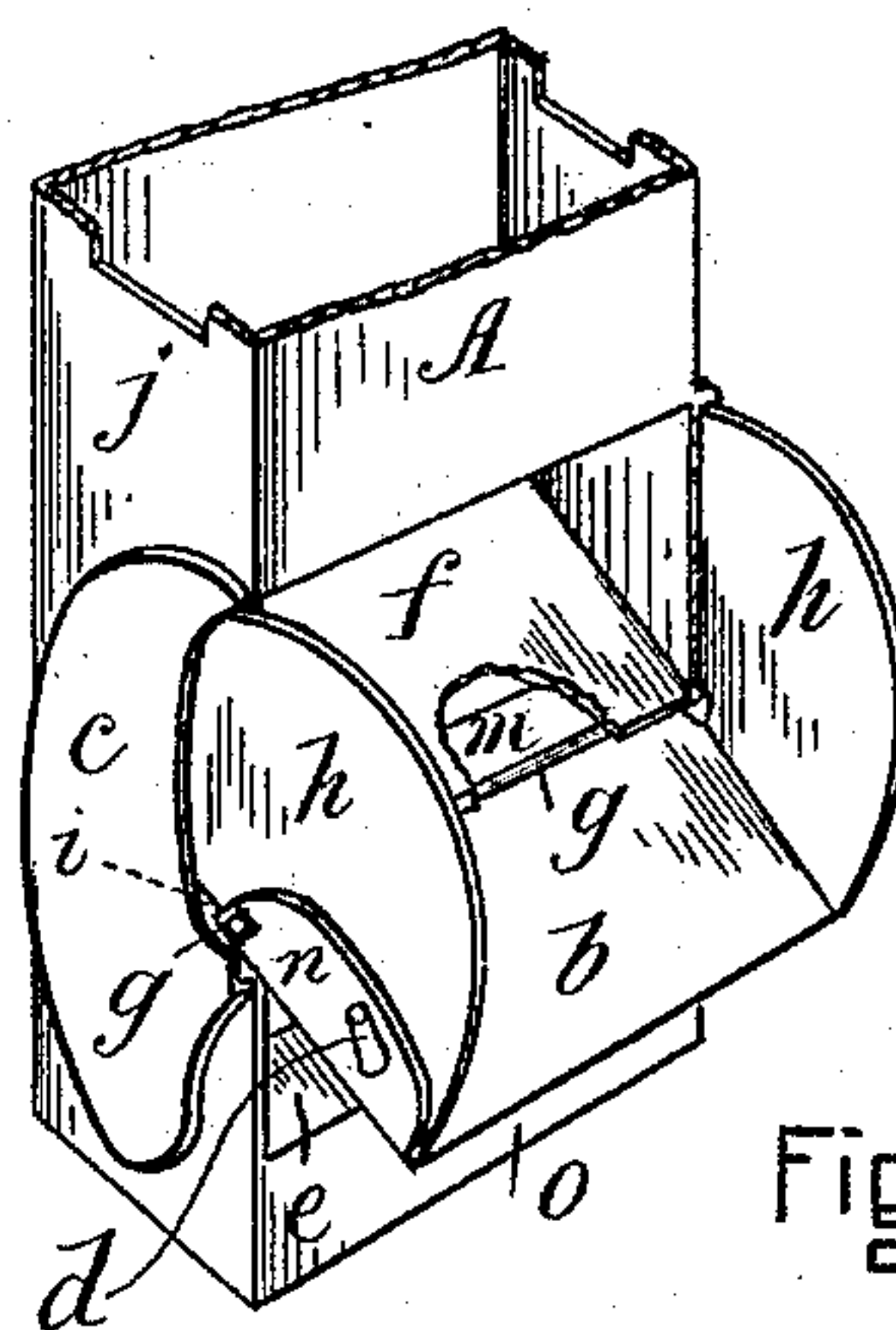


Fig. 3.

WITNESSES

E. Knapp.
A. L. Hammon

Michael J. Donahue
INVENTOR

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MICHAEL J. DONAHUE, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 474,229, dated May 3, 1892.

Application filed February 24, 1891. Serial No. 382,672. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MICHAEL JOSEPH DONAHUE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Street Letter-Boxes, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a letter-box secured to a lamp-post embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical section on the line 2 2 of Fig. 1 with the door open. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the letter-box with the door open, the upper portion of the box being broken away.

Street letter-boxes to be an improvement on those now in use should be as simple as possible and should be so constructed that in transferring letters from the letter-box to the bag of the collector it will be impossible for mail-matter, through accident or negligence, to fall to the ground or be mutilated, injured, or crushed by the act of opening the door of the box.

My invention has for its object to enable me to secure these advantages and at the same time effect the saving of from fifty to seventy per cent. in the time and labor of collecting and sorting.

To this end my invention consists in certain novel features of construction and combination of parts, as hereinafter fully described, and specifically pointed out and claimed.

In the said drawings, A represents a letter-box, which is provided with two slots *a a*—one on each side—which may be used by two different persons at the same time. The slot *a* next the curbstone may be used by any one in a carriage or on horseback without alighting or interfering with any one using the slot *a'* next the houses.

Letters mailed in the slots *a a'* strike the floor *f*, Fig. 2, which consists of a stationary second floor transversely inclined at an angle of about forty-five degrees, causing the letters deposited in the box to partly rest or press against the upper part of the door, it being a partly-reciprocating door, being hinged or attached to the box by means of a horizontal axle-rod *g*, which passes through the

sides of the box *j j* and through contiguous holes in the door guards or flanges *h h*, the portion *b* of the door above the axle-rod acting and opening outwardly and the part *m* below the axle-rod acting and opening inwardly.

On pins *d d*, Figs. 1 and 3, which protrude outwardly from the flanges *h h*, a bag or other receptacle may be hung, and the mail-matter, pressing against the door *b*, will pass transversely by gradient gravitation into the bag or receptacle hung on the pins *d d*, when the door is unlocked and opened to the extent shown in Fig. 3, the inclined floor *f* and portion *b* of the door when opened forming a transversely straight passage extending out from and beyond the front side of the box, through which the mail-matter will pass freely into the bag or other receptacle of the collector. The flanges *h h*, having the pins *d d*, and being of one piece with the door *b*, form complete guards. Said guards acting outside the main walls or body of the box prevent the mutilation of the letters that would occur in opening a door having inwardly-acting guards, and by their half-circular shape acting under the cleats *c c* also effectually prevent any mail-matter from falling other than into a bag hung on the pins *d d*.

The lower portion of the letter-box, which is below the rod *g*, is provided in front with a wide slot or space *e*, the breadth of the box, and is for the reception of newspapers, small packages, &c., which would otherwise be left on the top of the box. This space *e* when the door *b* is dropped down, (see Figs. 2 and 3,) such operation serving to raise the part *m* of the door upward and backward, is then sufficiently wide to permit the hand and arm of the collector to be introduced within the lower portion *w* of the letter-box for the removal of mail-matter therein, and when the door *b* is closed up this lower portion *m* will partially close the space *e*, leaving a slot or aperture between the bottom of the door *m* and the upper edge of the lower portion of the front of the box of sufficient width only for mailing purposes, as seen in Fig. 1. The outer ends of the lower portion *m* of the door are cut away at *x x*, Fig. 1, and are adapted to meet the notches *v v* in the sides of the box *j j*, as seen in Fig. 2, at the same time

that the inner ends of the flanges *h h* are brought into contact with the upper parts of the cleats *c c* at 1, Fig. 2. The notches *v v*, with the cleats *c c*, serve to allow the door to
 5 open to, but prevents opening beyond, the extent shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

The holes *k k*, formed in the sides of the box *j j*, are for the purpose of affording egress for dust, &c., that may accumulate in the bottom
 10 of the box. The portions *n m* of the flanges or guards *h h* are of increased thickness to afford additional strength for supporting the pins *d d*.

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

1. The combination, with a mail-box, of an inclined intermediate floor *f*, dividing the box into upper and lower compartments, the upper compartment provided with two letter-
 20 ports *a a* and an opening on its front side, the lower compartment provided with an opening *e* above the inwardly-projecting flange *e'*, the upper compartment provided with a door *b*, said door being attached to the box by
 25 means of an axle-rod *g*, the door being also provided with an extension *m* below its pivotal point, so that it will partially close the opening *e* in the lower compartment when the door is closed, substantially as hereinbefore
 30 described.

2. The combination, with a mail-box having two compartments separated by an inclined intermediate floor *f* and having two openings on its front side, an upper delivery-
 35 opening and a lower mailing and collection opening, of a door *b*, having an extension *m* and secured to the box by means of a single axle-rod and arranged to close the openings, as described, the door having externally-op-
 40 erating side guards carrying obliquely-arranged pins *d d*, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. The combination, with a mail-box divided into two separate compartments by
 45 means of the inclined intermediate floor *f*, substantially as described, of a door *b*, hinged adjacent to the floor *f* in front of the openings to said compartments and adapted to close the opening to the upper compartment,
 50 said door being provided below the pivotal point with an extension *m*, adapted when said door is closed to partially cover the opening to the lower compartment, and two externally-operating side guards *h h*, located
 55 one on each side of the door *b* and arranged to operate outside the main walls of the box, substantially as set forth.

4. The combination, with a mail-box divided into two separate compartments by
 60 means of the inclined intermediate floor *f*, of

a door *b*, hinged adjacent to the floor *f* in front of the openings to said compartments and adapted to close the opening to the upper compartment, said door being provided below the pivotal point with an extension *m*, adapted
 65 when said door is closed to partially cover the opening to the lower compartment, and having two externally-operating side guards *h h*, located one on each side, and arranged to operate outside of the main walls of the box, and
 70 two funnel-shaped obliquely-arranged pins *d d*, all operating substantially in the manner and for the purpose set forth.

5. The combination, with a mail-box divided into two separate compartments by
 75 means of the inclined intermediate floor *f*, substantially as described, of a door *b*, hinged adjacent to the floor *f* in front of the openings to said compartments and adapted to close the opening to the upper compartment, said
 80 door being provided below the pivotal point with an extension *m*, adapted when said door is closed to partially cover the opening to the lower compartment, and two externally-operating side guards *h h*, located one on each
 85 side of the door *b* and arranged to operate outside the main walls of the box and inside the two cleats *c c*, said cleats being attached to the outer sides of the end of the box and of suitable shape to receive said guards, sub-
 90 stantially as set forth.

6. The combination, with a mail-box divided into two separate compartments by
 95 means of the inclined intermediate floor *f*, substantially as described, of a door *b*, hinged adjacent to the floor *f* in front of the openings to said compartments and adapted to close the openings to the upper compartment, said door
 100 being provided below the pivotal point with an extension *m*, adapted when said door is closed to partially cover the opening to the lower compartment, and two externally-operating side guards *h h*, located one on each side of
 105 the door *b* and arranged to operate outside the main walls of the box and inside the two cleats *c c*, said cleats being attached to the outer sides of the end of the box and of suitable shape to receive said guards, and two
 110 notches *v v* in the sides of the box *j j*, fitting the parts cut away of the portion *m* of the door, all operating substantially in the manner and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses, on this 23d day of
 115 February A. D. 1891.

MICHAEL J. DONAHUE.

Witnesses:

SAML. JENNISON,
 ELMER E. YOUNG.