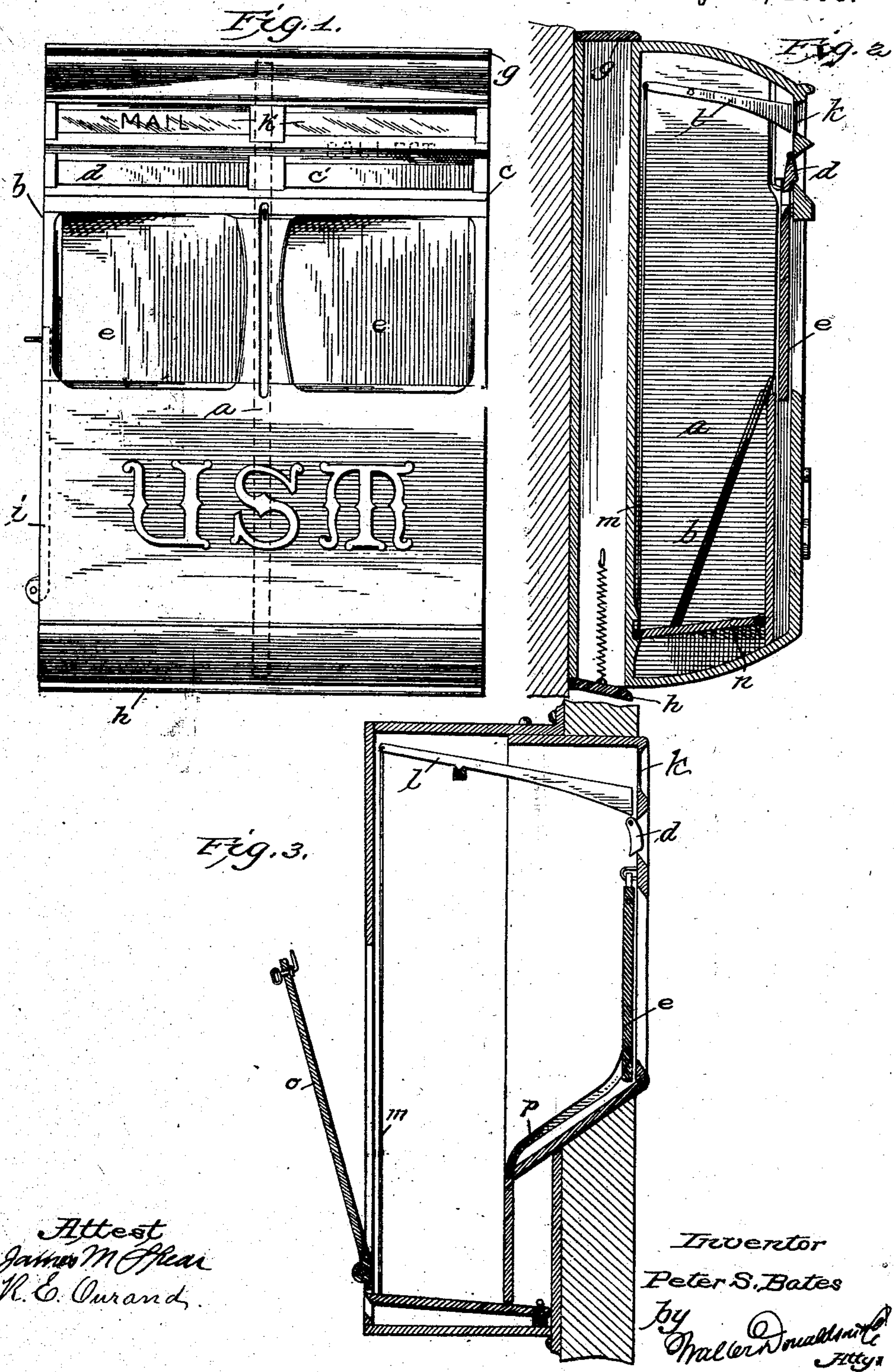


(No Model.)

P. S. BATES.
LETTER BOX.

No. 604,956.

Patented May 31, 1898.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PETER SYLVANUS BATES, OF YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR OF THREE
FOURTHS TO EDWIN W. LOUCKS, OF SAME PLACE.

LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 604,956, dated May 31, 1898.

Application filed November 23, 1897. Serial No. 659,603. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PETER SYLVANUS BATES, a citizen of the United States, residing at York, Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to mail-boxes of the class adapted to be applied to the door of the residence or office to receive the mail from the postman; and it is intended to provide a simple construction capable of receiving not only letters and newspapers, but larger packages or parcels, and I aim to make the box more complete by providing it with two compartments, one to receive the mail and the other to contain the mail to be collected; and I also provide indicators, so as to show when the compartments contain any matter, whether of mail delivered or mail to be collected.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a front elevation of the box. Fig. 2 is a sectional view from front to rear, taken vertically. Fig. 3 is a sectional view showing the box as located in the inside of the door.

My improved box is made with compartments, the box proper being divided by a central partition *a*, which furnishes the compartment *b* for the incoming mail and a compartment *c* for the mail to be collected. Pivoted flaps *d* close the entrance to the compartments, and these swing freely inwardly to allow letters to be inserted.

In order to permit the insertion of larger packages, I provide a slide *e*, which is locked in a closed position normally, but which can be opened by a key carried by the postman, which permits the slide to drop, thus disclosing larger openings to the compartments, and after the packages are inserted the slide is raised and the openings closed.

In order to provide for the reception of newspapers and the like, I form a compartment at the rear of the box, having a pivoted top *g*, and a pivoted spring-supported bottom plate *h*, which can be moved aside to take out the papers. The mail from the compartment can be taken out through a door *i* in the side opening into the incoming-mail com-

partment, while outgoing mail is collected by the carrier by lowering the slide *e*.

In order to indicate that there is mail-matter in the compartment, I provide transparent plates *k* above the flaps *d*, and I provide a pivoted lever or plate for each compartment at *l*, one plate carrying upon its face the word "Mail" and the other the word "Collect." The rear ends of these plates *l* have a wire connection leading to the bottom of the compartment, as shown at *m*, and at this point they are connected to pivoted plates *n*, which practically form the bottom of the compartment. Thus it will be seen that when a letter or other article is dropped into one compartment or the other its weight will depress the pivoted bottom plate, and this will throw up the end of the upper plate and indicate that the box contains mail.

When it is desired to arrange the box so that its contents can be accessible from the interior of the room, I modify the construction slightly, as shown in Fig. 3, and in this case I provide a door at the rear of the box to take out the mail, as shown at *o*, and instead of having the slide in front of the box drop vertically I form grooves *p*, which direct the end of the slide inwardly, so that the slide when open is in an inclined position.

What I claim is—

1. A mail-box comprising the two front compartments arranged side by side and provided with suitable openings, a compartment in rear of and coextensive with said front compartments, said rear compartment being open at top and bottom, and flaps closing said open top and bottom, substantially as described.

2. A mail-box comprising two compartments with openings thereto, an indicator for each compartment, a movable slide covering enlarged openings in each compartment, a movable bottom-plate and connection therefrom to the indicator, substantially as described.

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

PETER SYLVANUS BATES.

Witnesses:

JOHN A. HOOBER,
WM. F. RAMSAY.