

No. 652,916.

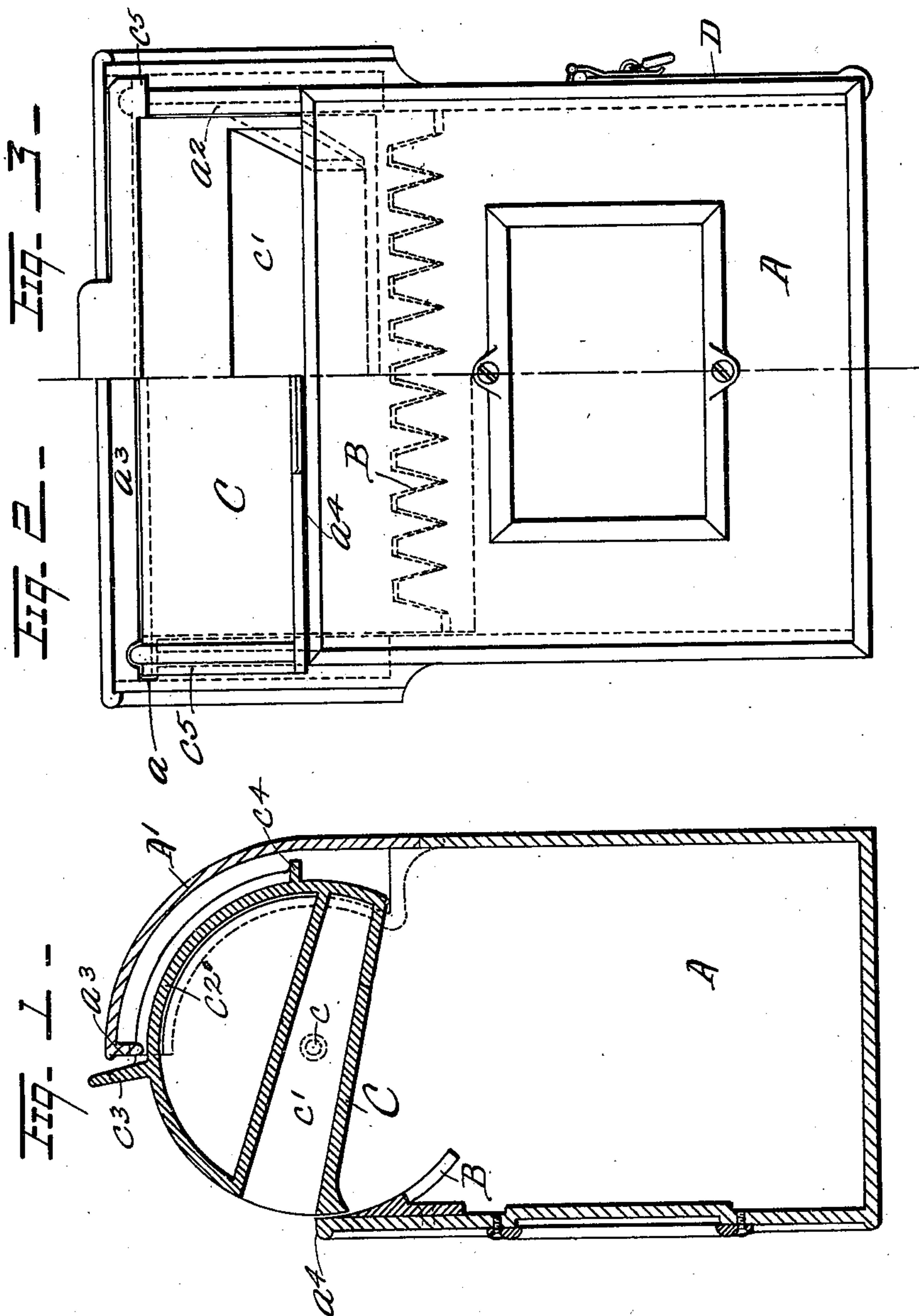
Patented July 3, 1900.

J. A. KLINE.
LETTER BOX.

(Application filed Aug. 11, 1899.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.



John A. Kline

Inventor

by

[Signature]

Attorney

Witnesses
[Signature]
David Levan

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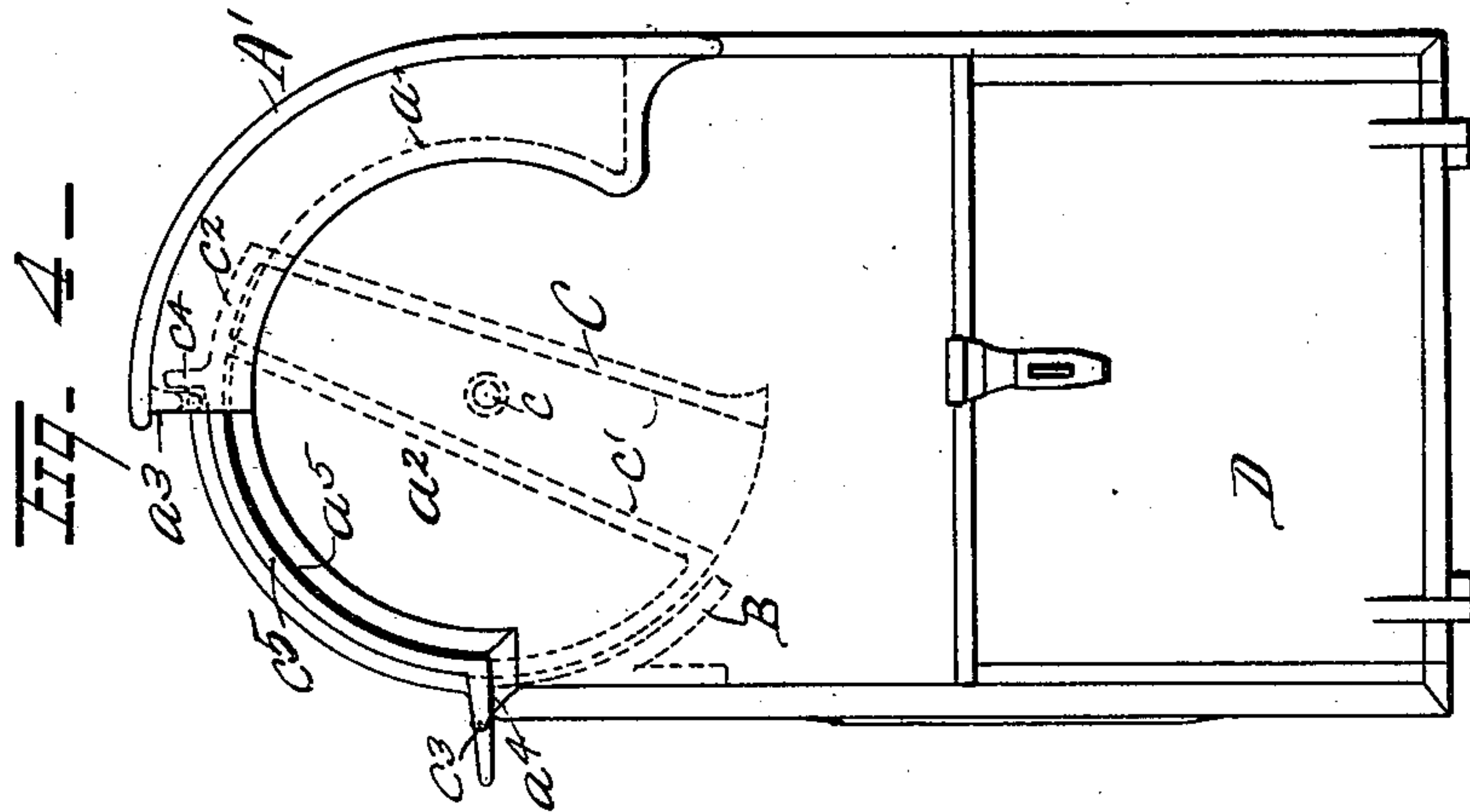
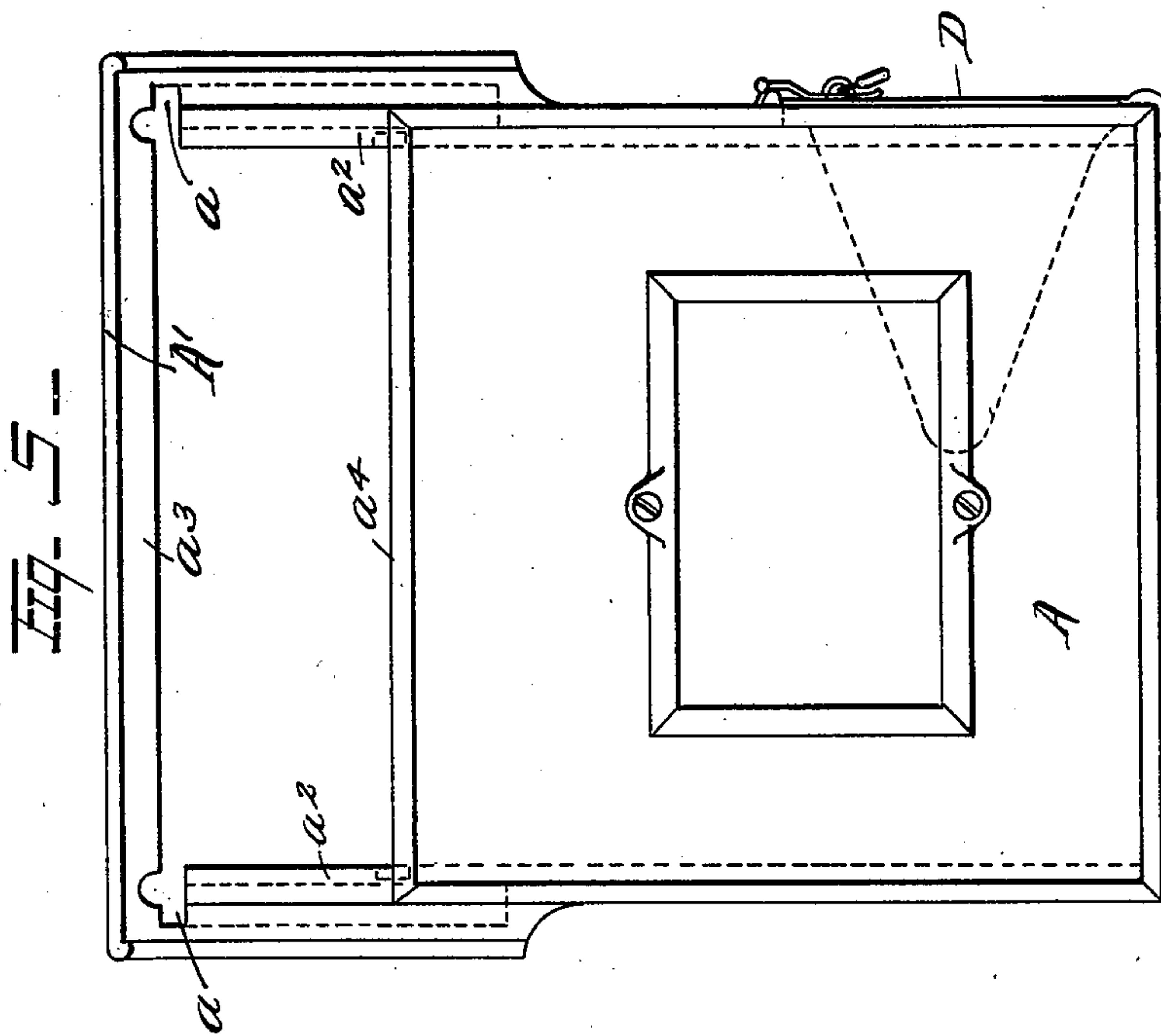
J. A. KLINE.

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(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.



John A. Kline

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN A. KLINE, OF READING, PENNSYLVANIA.

LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 652,916, dated July 3, 1900.

Application filed August 11, 1899. Serial No. 726,882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN A. KLINE, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of Reading, in the county of Berks and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates particularly to street letter-boxes of that class in which a rotary receiving-chute is employed; and my object is to provide in a box of the simplest possible construction and operation effective protection against tampering with the mails and also against their injury by rain or the like.

To this end my invention consists in certain novel features of construction, which are fully described in connection with the accompanying drawings and are specifically pointed out in the claim.

Figure 1 is a cross-sectional view of a preferred form of letter-box embodying my invention, the rotary chute being shown lifted to receive mail. Fig. 2 is a half-front elevation of the same, showing the receiving-chute in normal lowered position; and Fig. 3 is a similar view showing the chute turned upward, as in Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a full side view showing the receiving-chute in its normal lowered position, as in Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a front view of the upper portion of the box-body with the rotary chute entirely removed.

The lower portion of the body A of the box, as shown, is of the usual rectangular form, with a side outlet at D for removing the mail. The top portion, as indicated most clearly in Figs. 4 and 5, is provided with a fixed circular roof A', covering, approximately, the rear half of the box and extending at each side beyond the side walls a^2 of the latter, so as to form a closed way a , which serves as a fixed cover for the overhanging ledge of the movable cylindrical receiving-chute C, hereinafter described. The remaining upper portion of the box-body, extending from the front edge a^3 of the fixed roof A' to the top edge a^4 of the front of the body, is open at the top, the body sides a^2 , however, being carried above the front edge a^4 , so as to form a curved side edge a^5 , substantially concentric with the fixed roof A' and the closed way a in the side extensions of the latter. This opening or un-

roofed portion of the body must of course be effectively closed in the completed box, and the receiving-chute C, already referred to, is so designed as to form, in connection with the fixed roof A' and its side extensions a , a movable but perfectly rain-proof extension of said fixed roof, while at the same time furnishing a convenient receiver for the mail, an automatic delivery of the same into the body of the box, and an effective protection against its unauthorized removal. This chute, as shown, is mounted within the upper portion of the box-body, upon central side pivots or trunnions c , upon which it turns in a well-known manner, so as to bring the diametrically-located receiving-chamber c' either into position to receive the mail from the hands of the operator, as indicated in Figs. 1 and 3, or to deposit it in the lower portion of the box-body when it turns to its normal position, as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 4. When in the latter position, its open end has just passed the serrated edge of the concentrically-arranged ledge B within the box-body, which serves, as in similar constructions heretofore used, as an effective protection against tampering with the contents of the box. The chute is formed with a cylindrical wall c^2 , which is arranged, as shown, to close the rear end of the receiving-chamber c' , while leaving the front open, and also to form a movable roof over the open portion of the box. In order to adapt it to this latter use, I extend the cylindrical wall c^2 of the chute laterally, so as to form side ledges c^5 , overhanging the curved top edges a^5 of the body sides a^2 , said ledges when the chute is lifted to insert mail moving into the closed ways a , formed in the side extensions of the fixed roof A'. The handle-rib c^3 , projecting radially from the cylindrical wall c^2 , overhangs the top edge a^4 of the front of the box-body and is so located as to permit of sufficient rotary movement of the chute C to carry the open end of the receiving-chamber from its normal position below the serrated interior ledge B to a position above the top edge a^4 of the box-front without striking the front a^3 of the fixed roof, and a second radial rib c^4 on the rear portion of said cylindrical wall is so located as to be swung nearly to the front a^3 of the fixed roof A' when the chute is in normal lowered position, and thus serves

to more effectively exclude rain, &c., as will be clearly understood by reference to Fig. 4.

In my improved construction it will be noticed that I employ a body having substantially a half-open top in connection with a rotary receiving-chute which is not only adapted to fill all the requirements of receiving, depositing, and protecting mail in the most satisfactory and simple manner, but which also serves to satisfactorily close said half-open top without any separate provision for this purpose, thereby providing, as I believe, a box of the simplest, neatest, and cheapest construction possible in connection with the essential requirements.

What I claim is--

A rain and dust proof mail-box of the class described: having a body formed with an open front at its upper end and a fixed circular roof which covers approximately the rear half of the box-top; said body also having side walls which extend above the bottom of its open portion and have curved top edges, and said roof being arranged above the tops of said curved edges and extending concentric-

ally therewith and also extending laterally, so that the inner surfaces of its sides will be beyond the planes of the inner surfaces of said curved top edges, to form closed ways in the sides of the rear portion of the curved top of the box; said ways having mouths at the front and being bounded at the top and side by the top and side, respectively, of the roof, and below by the curved top edges of the sides of the body; said roof also having a front edge a^3 ; and a rotary receiving-chute, having a diametrical receiving-chamber and a cylindrical wall, said cylindrical wall serving normally to close the open front of the box and having lateral extensions which overhang the curved top edges of the body sides and travel in said ways; and radial ribs projecting from said cylindrical wall and arranged on opposite sides of said front edge a^3 for the purposes specified.

Signed by me at Reading, Pennsylvania, this 10th day of August, 1899.

JOHN A. KLINE.

Witnesses:

WOOD M. SCHWARTZ, Jr.

W. G. STEWART.