

No. 747,820.

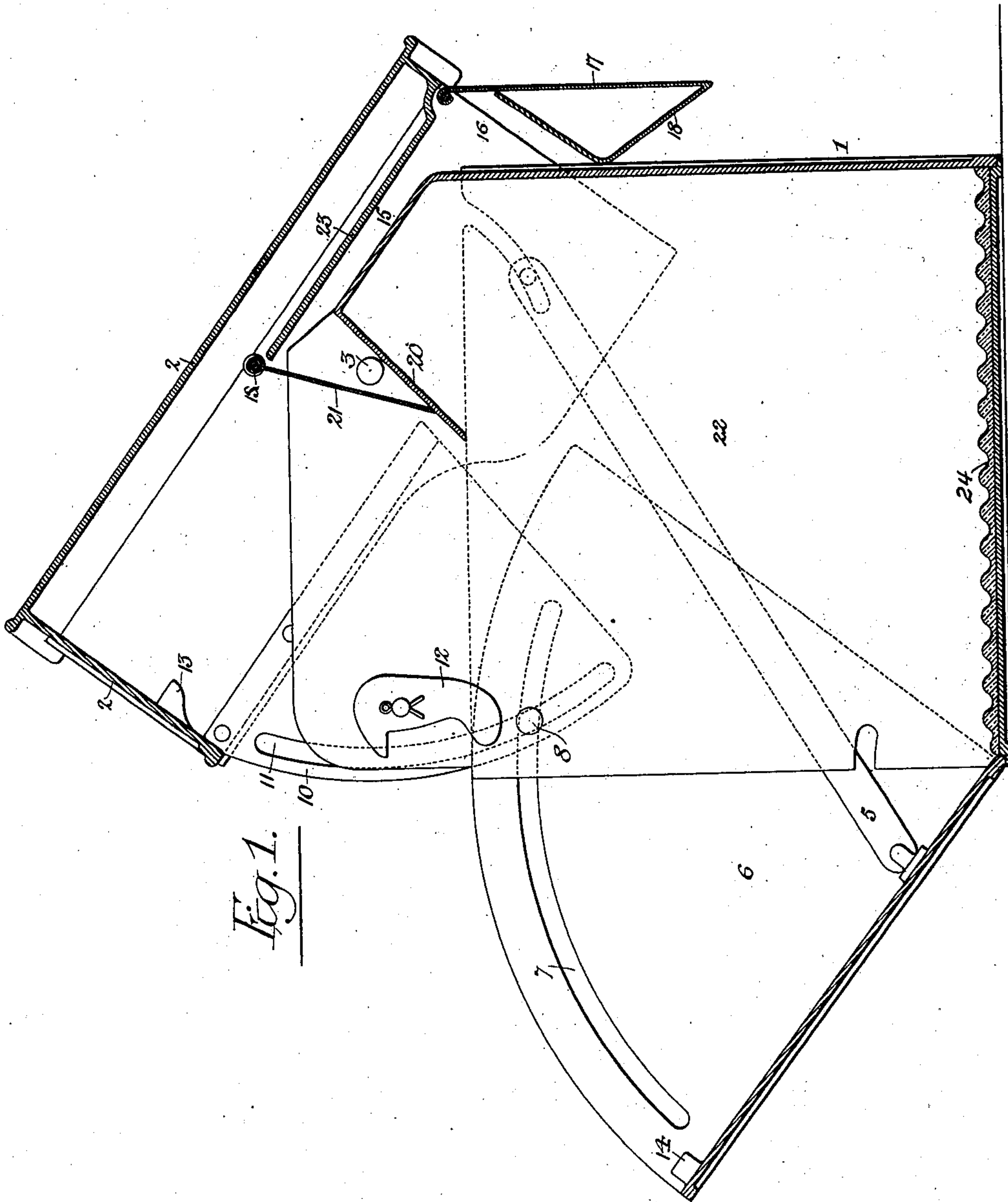
PATENTED DEC. 22, 1903.

D. J. WILSON.
MAIL BOX.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 20, 1902.

NO MODEL.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses:

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Inventor:

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2.

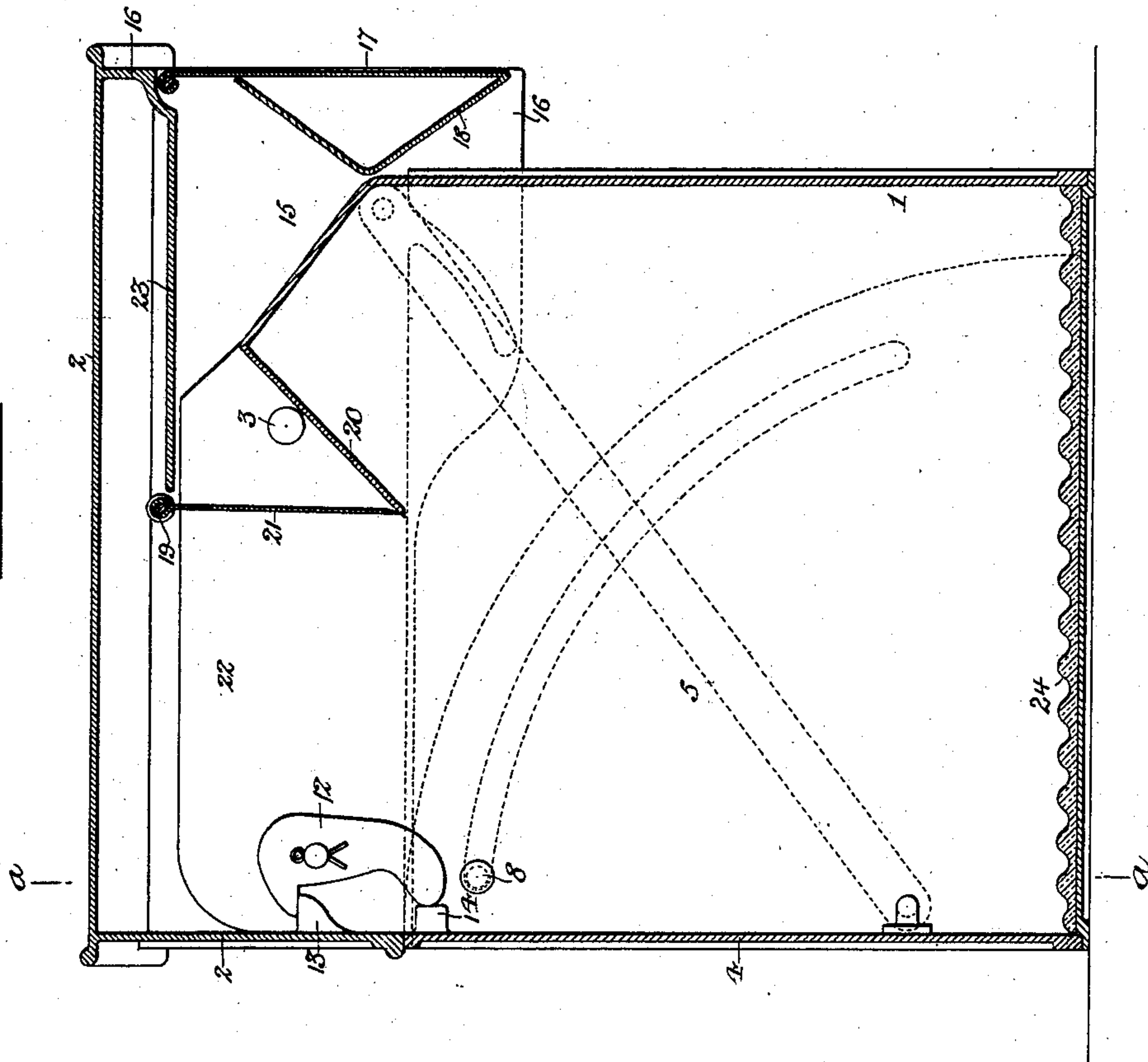
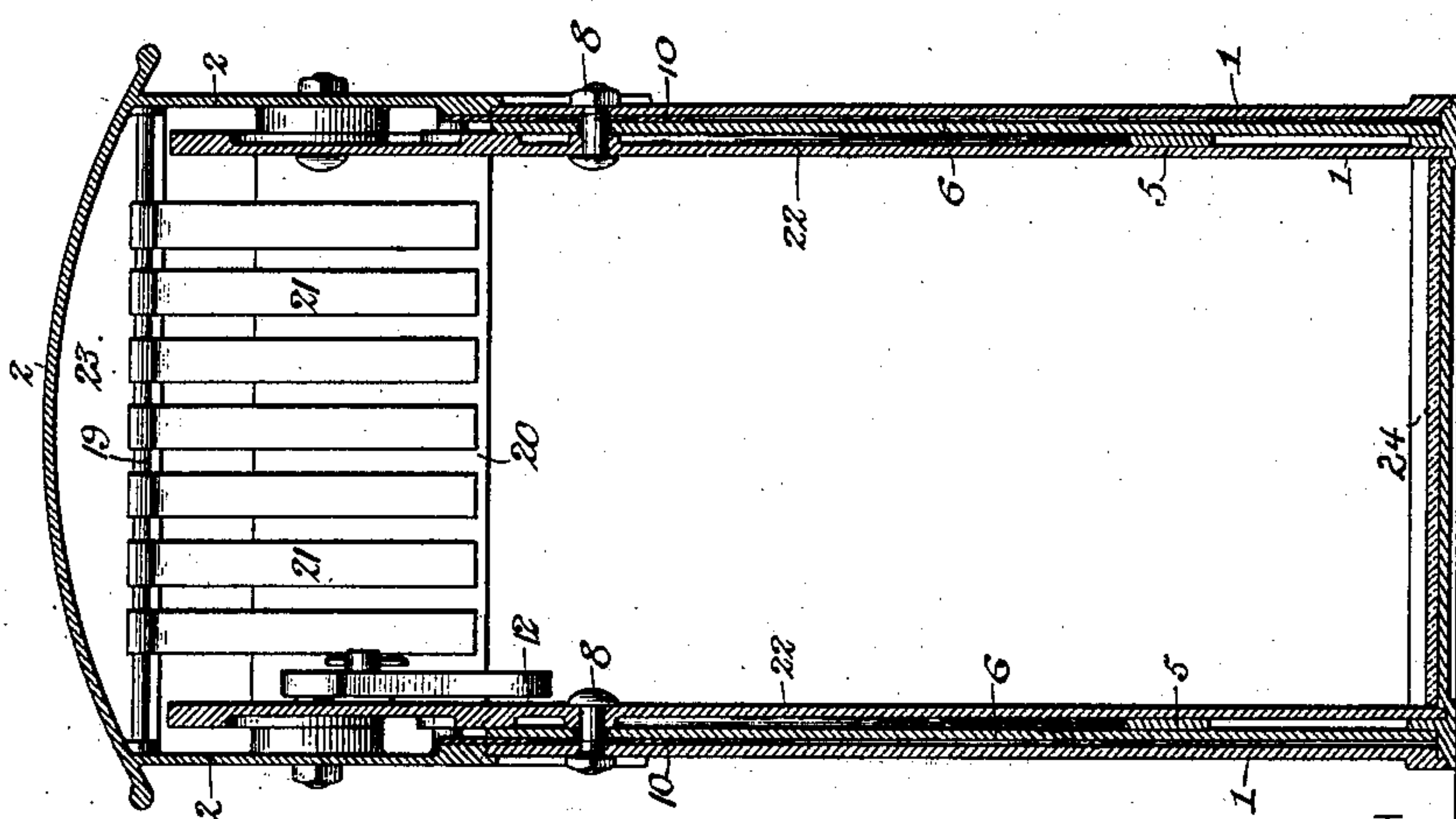


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID J. WILSON, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

MAIL-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 747,820, dated December 22, 1903.

Application filed November 20, 1902. Serial No. 132,118. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DAVID J. WILSON, a citizen of the United States, residing in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented certain
 5 Improvements in Mail-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

One object of my invention is to so construct a mail-box that when the same is opened all portions of the interior of the same
 10 will be visible and accessible to the collector and all of the contents can therefore be readily removed from the box, further objects being to properly protect the mailing-slot of the box without interfering with free access
 15 thereto and to prevent theft of letters from the box through the mailing-slot. These objects I attain in the manner hereinafter set forth, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

20 Figure 1 is a longitudinal section of a mail-box constructed in accordance with my invention and showing the same partly opened. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the box closed, and Fig. 3 is a transverse section on the line
 25 *a a*, Fig. 2.

1 represents the fixed casing of the box, which may be either in the form of a casting or may be built up of sheet metal, as desired. This fixed casing or body of the box has a
 30 swinging lid or cover 2 with rounded top and vertical sides, the latter being pivoted to the sides of the box at 3, and the body of the box also has at one end a swinging door 4, pivoted at its lower end and connected to the sides
 35 of the pivoted and swinging cover of the box at points in the rear of the pivots 3 by means of side links 5, the connections being closer to the pivot of the door than to those of the cover, whereby an outward and downward
 40 swinging movement of the door will cause an upward swinging movement of the cover 2 of the box, as shown in Fig. 1, thereby providing an opening of large area, through which the entire interior of the box is visible
 45 and accessible to the collector, so that there is no excuse for failure to remove the entire contents of the box.

The swinging lid or cover 2 has a depending hood at that end of the box which is provided with a swinging door 4, this hood co-
 50 operating with the swinging door to close the

end of the box, and the connections between the lid or cover and the swinging door are such that the full opening movement of the door will only cause a partial upward swing
 55 of the cover. Hence the latter, with its hood, will still serve to cover the top of the box and prevent in a great measure the access of rain or snow thereto during the time that the letters are being removed from the box. 60

As mail-boxes are now constructed most of the interior of the box is out of sight of the collector and many portions are difficult of access. Hence letters or other mail-matter which become jammed in such portions of
 65 the box are frequently overlooked for long periods of time.

The door 4 has side wings 6, so as to prevent any lateral escape of letters when the door is opened, these wings having segmen-
 70 tal slots 7, which engage with transverse bolts 8, carried by the body of the box, in order to steady the door in its movements and arrest it when fully opened. The swinging cover of the box may also be provided with side
 75 wings 10 with segmental slots 11, which likewise engage the bolt 8, these wings serving to steady the movements of the swinging cover and also protecting the contents of the box from beating rain or snow when the box
 80 is opened.

In order to frustrate any attempt to pry up the cover of the box without first unlocking and opening the door 4, I mount upon either
 85 or both sides of the body of the box a pivoted catch 12, which engages with an internal lug 13 on the end portion of the cover 2, and also with an internal lug 14 on the door 4, so that any attempt to raise the cover 2 when the door is closed will be prevented, owing to the
 90 fact that the catch 12 cannot under these circumstances swing, because of its bearing upon the lug 14 of the door. When the door is opened, however, the lug 14 is withdrawn from contact with the catch, and the latter is
 95 therefore free to swing, so as to permit upward movement of the lug 13 on the cover. In closing the box the lug 13 acts upon the beveled upper end of the catch and swings
 100 the same rearwardly until the cover has been lowered sufficiently for the catch to engage with the lug, positive engagement of the catch

with the lug being insured by contact of the lug 14 with the tail of the catch when the door 4 is fully closed.

Letters are passed into the box through a receiving-slot 15 at the end opposite that which is provided with the door 4, and in order to protect the mouth of this slot from the elements the top and sides of the cover 2 of the box are projected beyond the end of the same, so as to form a hood 16, which shields the slot at the top and on each side, and from this hood depends a swinging guard 17, which shields the front of the slot, the swinging guard having by preference a beveled inner face, as shown at 18, so that in passing the hand or a letter contained in the hand upwardly from beneath the guard the latter will be caused to swing outwardly, and will thus permit ready passage of the letter through the slot 15 and into the box. The receiving-slot is tapered, being shallow at the rear end and deeper at front, and from the inner end of the slot extends downwardly a directing-plate 20, and in order to prevent the withdrawal of letters from the box by means of the fingers or by wires or other implements inserted through the slot 15 I mount upon a transverse shaft 19 of the cover 2 a series of depending swinging fingers 21, which are sharpened at their lower ends and normally bear against the directing-plate 20, whereby any attempt to withdraw a letter upwardly along this plate will cause one or more of the fingers to engage with said letter and hold the same with a force depending upon the amount of force exerted for the purpose of withdrawing it. Access of the contents of the box to the wings 6 and 10 or links 5 is prevented by lining-plates 22 at each side of the box.

A transverse plate 23 on the cover of the box serves to limit the depth of the shallow end of the receiving-slot 15, and thereby prevents the insertion of bulky packages into the box.

The bottom of the box is provided with a transversely-corrugated plate 24, of glass, porcelain, or other vitreous or ceramic material, the grooves of this plate facilitating access to letters, postal cards, or the like lying upon it and the character of the material preventing injury to the contents of the box, which sometimes results from the corrosion or oxidation of a metallic bottom.

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

1. A mail-box having a pivoted and outwardly-swinging door and a pivoted and upwardly-swinging top lid or cover with depending hood at one end, said door and hood normally coacting to close the delivery side of the box, whereby the area exposed for the withdrawal of letters from the box is due to the joint outward swinging of the door and the upward swinging of the hood of the top cover, substantially as specified.

2. A mail-box having a pivoted and outwardly-swinging door at one end and a pivoted and upwardly-swinging top lid or cover with depending hood at one end normally co-operating with the swinging door to close the delivery side of the box, and connections between said swinging door and the swinging lid or cover, said connections being closer to the pivot of the door than to those of the cover, whereby a complete opening movement of the door will effect only a partial lifting movement of the cover, substantially as specified.

3. A mail-box having a swinging door and a swinging cover in combination with one or more pivoted latches engaging the cover and held in engagement therewith by contact with part of the door, substantially as specified.

4. A mail-box having a receiving-slot and a projecting hood therefor having a swinging guard-plate pivoted at the top and depending in front of the slot, said plate normally providing a passage for letters between itself and the front of the box, substantially as specified.

5. A mail-box having a receiving-slot and a projecting hood therefor, with depending swinging guard-plate pivoted at the top and normally providing a passage for letters between itself and the front of the box, said plate having a beveled inner side whereby it may be swung outward by contact with the letter which is being inserted, substantially as specified.

6. A mail-box having a receiving-slot and a swinging cover with projecting hood having a depending swinging guard-plate in front of the slot, substantially as specified.

7. A mail-box having a receiving-slot and a swinging cover with depending swinging guard-plate normally providing a passage for letters into said slot, substantially as specified.

8. A mail-box having a receiving-slot and a swinging cover with depending swinging guard-plate normally providing a passage for letters into the slot and having a beveled inner side whereby it may be swung outward by contact with the letter which is being inserted, substantially as specified.

9. A mail-box having a body with receiving-slot therein and a swinging cover part of which constitutes the top wall of the slot, but does not close the mouth of the same, substantially as specified.

10. A mail-box having a receiving-slot with inwardly-extending plate, a swinging lid or cover having a portion which forms the upper wall of the slot, but does not close the mouth of the same, and a series of fingers coöperating with the plate which extends inwardly from the slot to prevent withdrawal of letters from the latter, substantially as specified.

11. A mail-box having a receiving-slot with inwardly-extending plate, a swinging lid or cover having a portion forming the upper wall of the slot, and a series of fingers hung upon said cover and coöperating with the plate which extends inwardly from the slot to pre-

vent withdrawal of letters from the latter, substantially as specified.

12. A mail-box having a receiving-slot with inclined bottom and a pivoted and swinging
5 cover having a transverse plate which forms the upper wall of said slot, but does not close the mouth of the same, substantially as specified.

13. A mail-box having a receiving-slot with
10 inclined bottom, and a pivoted and swinging cover having a series of depending swinging

fingers, said cover also having a transverse plate forming the upper wall of the slot, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I have signed my 15
name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

DAVID J. WILSON.

Witnesses:

F. E. BECHTOLD,

JOS. H. KLEIN.