

No. 827,482.

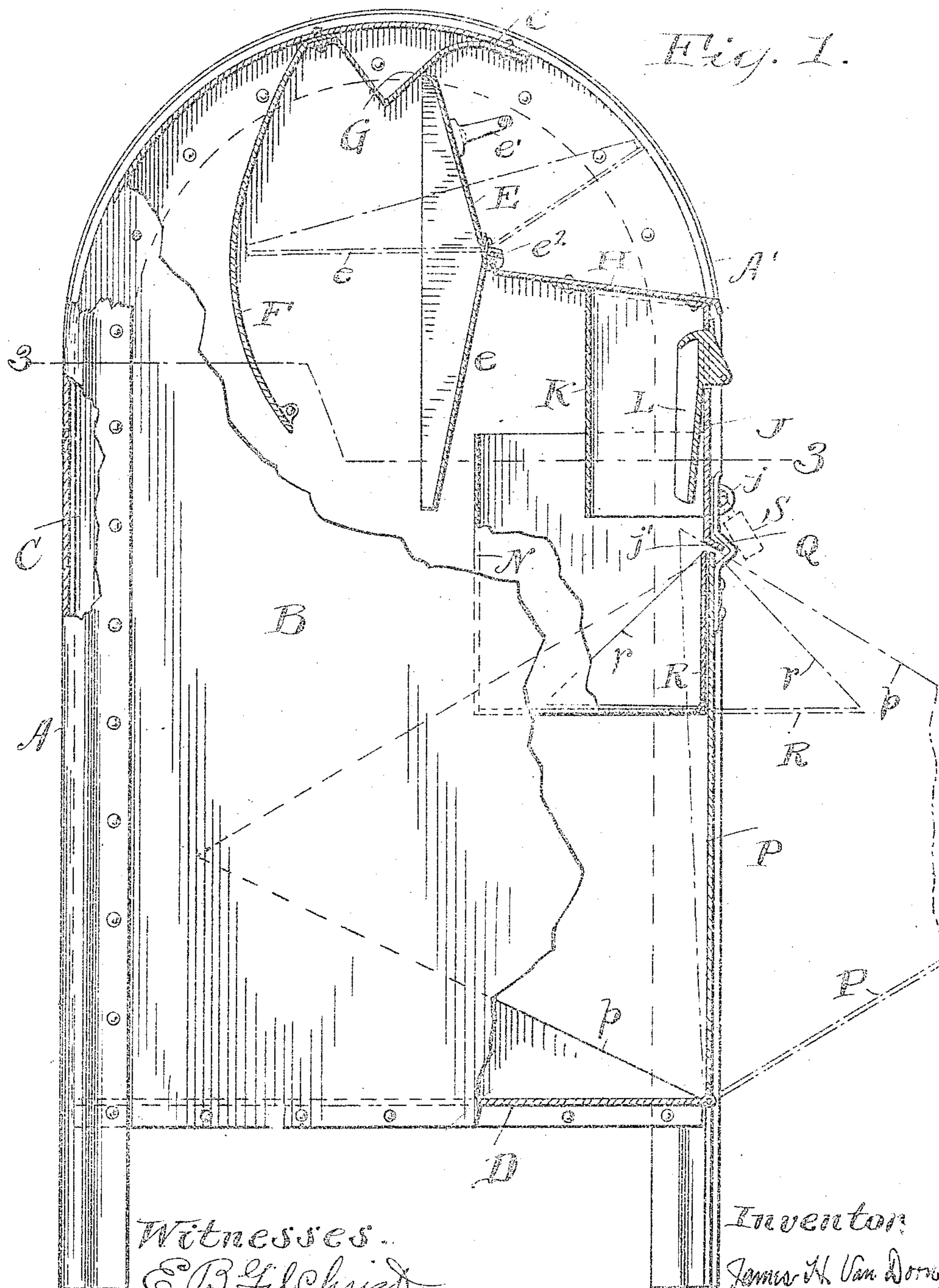
PATENTED JULY 31, 1906.

J. H. VAN DORN.

MAIL BOX.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 30, 1906.

2 SHEETS-SHEET 1.



Witnesses.

E. B. Gilchrist

J. S. Kohler

Inventor

James H. Van Dorn,

By his Attorneys,
Thurston & Bates

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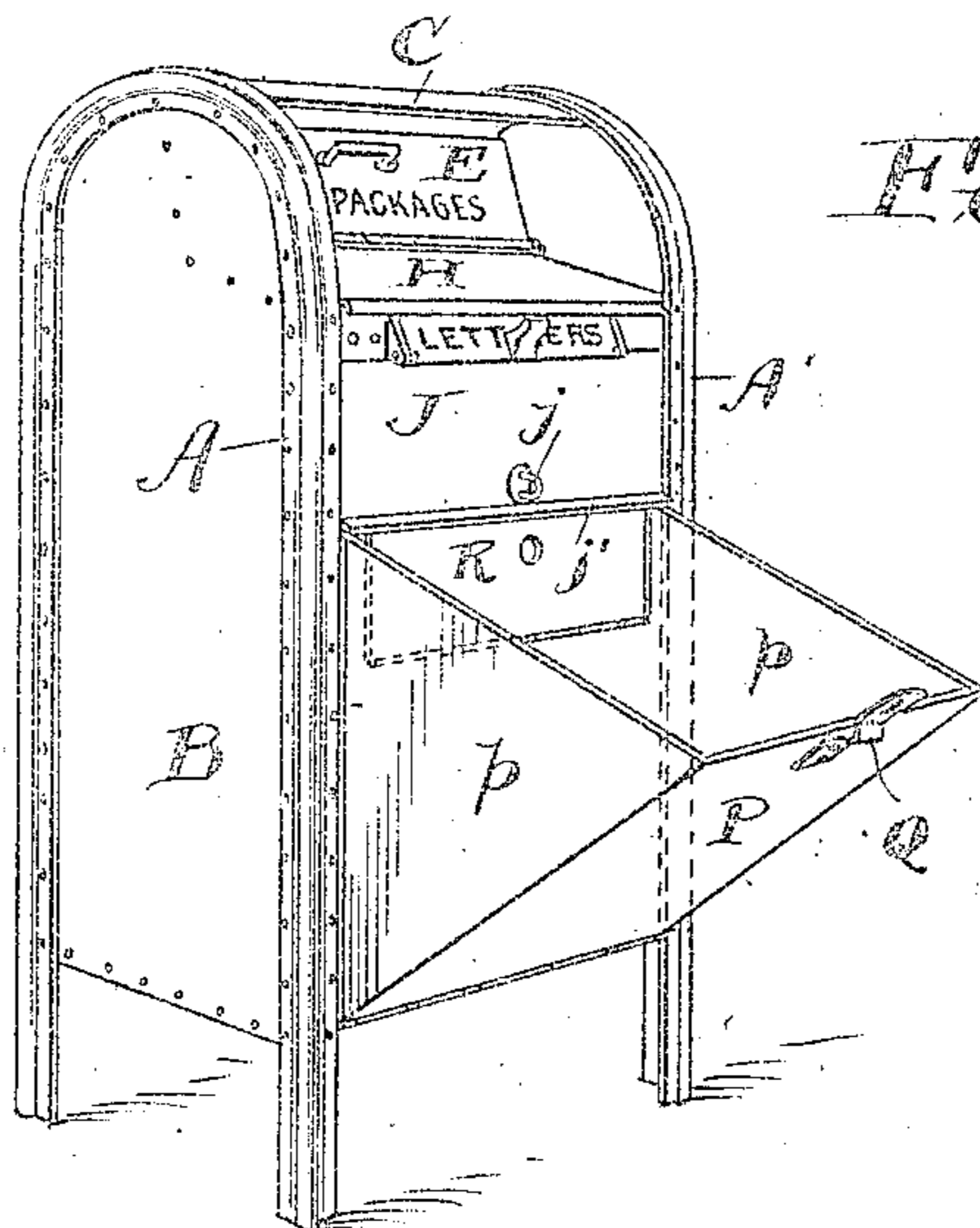


Fig. 2.

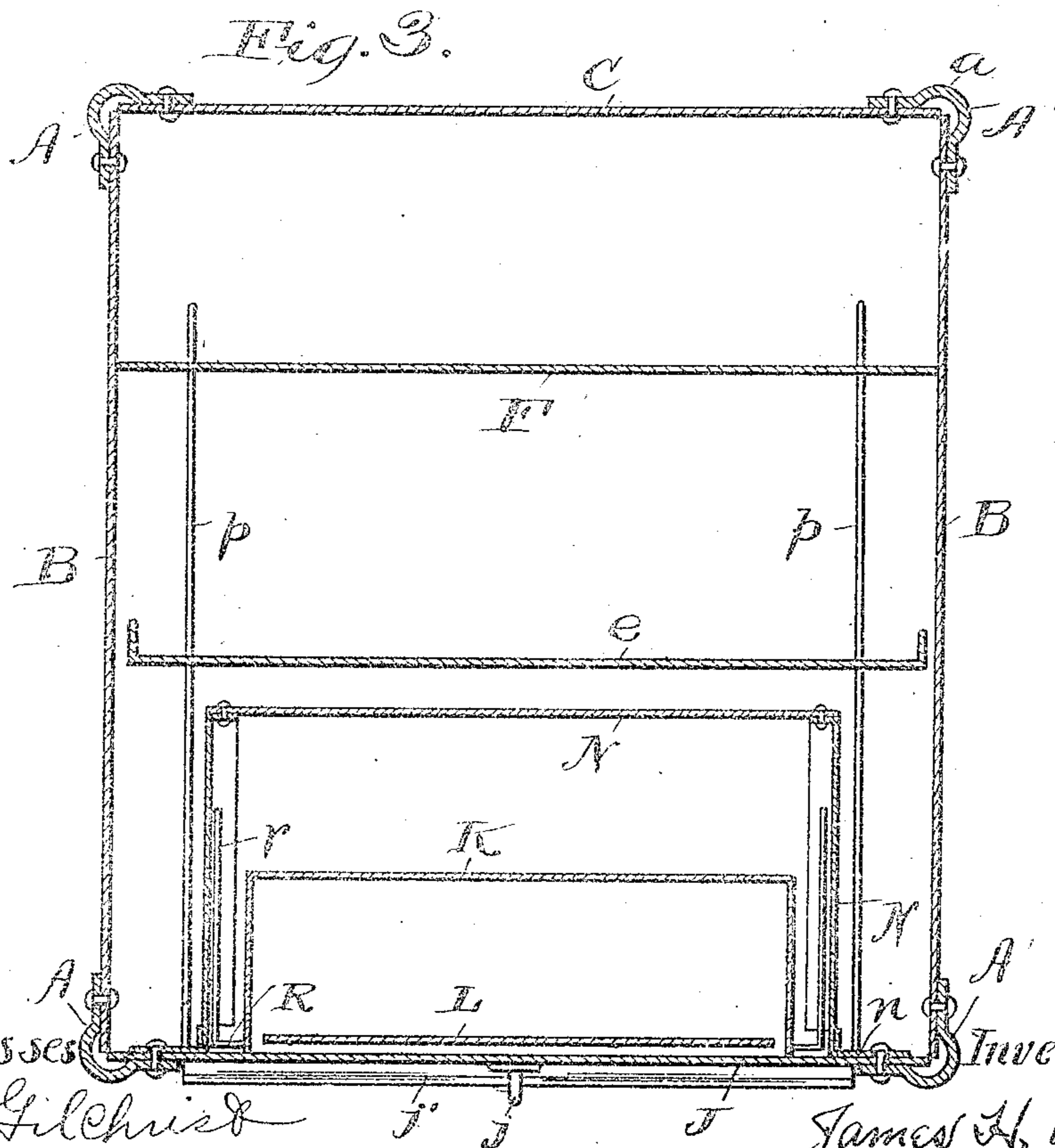


Fig. 3.

Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES H. VAN DORN, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO, ASSIGNOR TO THE VAN DORN IRON WORKS COMPANY, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO, A CORPORATION OF OHIO.

MAIL-BOX.

No. 827,482.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 31, 1906.

Application filed January 30, 1905. Serial No. 243,236.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES H. VAN DORN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cleveland, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Mail Boxes, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

The object of this invention is to provide a strong, efficient, and neat mail-box which shall have conveniently-accessible receptacles for both letters and packages. Each of these receptacles is accessible from the front of the box, and each is placed at such height that it may be reached easily by a child. The exit-opening for removing the mail-matter is also in the front of the box, and a single lock is provided for both receptacles. These and other features hereinafter more fully described are included within my invention, which may be best summarized as consisting of the combinations of essential elements set out in the claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of my mail-box broken away to show interior. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the box complete, and Fig. 3 is a horizontal cross-section substantially on the offset-line 3 3 of Fig. 1.

Referring to the parts by letters, A A' represent a pair of angle-bars which are bent into the inverted-U shape shown, and thus constitute four standards, forming legs for the box and corner-pieces for it. The sides of the box are designated B and are metal sheets riveted to the angle-bars. The back sheet C is also riveted to the angle-bars and curves over a portion of the top, as at c. The bottom of the box (designated D) is a sheet having downwardly-turned flanges which are riveted to the sides and back and the angle-bars.

The two sides of the angle-bars do not make an abrupt right angle, but are connected by a curved portion a, as shown. This makes a much neater construction and one which is stronger and stiffer.

The larger portion of the box is for the reception of packages. To allow their admittance, I provide a gate E, located beneath the overhanging top c and pivoted on an axis crosswise of the box. This gate E has an inward extension e, which normally hangs

down by gravity in the position shown in Fig. 1. The upper part of the gate may be drawn forward, to admit packages, by means of a handle e', which swings the gate into the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1. This allows packages to be inserted on the upper side of the gate, a curved baffle-plate F preventing access to the interior of the box. When the gate is returned to its normal position, the package drops into the box. A depending bent plate G is riveted to the under side of the overhanging roof c to form an abutment for the upper edge of the gate and complete the closure of the opening.

Extending forward from the pivot of the package-gate E is a plate H, which is riveted at its ends to the side plates B and constitutes part of the outside wall. An angle-strip e², riveted to the gate E and extending over an upturned edge at the rear of the plate H, prevents access of water or snow. Riveted to this plate H and to the front angle-irons is a stationary front plate J, and riveted to this front plate and the plate H is a hood K, comprising sides and a back plate and open at the bottom. Pivotaly carried by the plate J is the letter-gate L, which normally hangs by gravity in the position shown in Fig. 1, but which is adapted to be drawn forward to receive letters on its upper surface. In this position the hood K prevents access to the interior. When the letter-gate is allowed to swing into normal position, the letters drop through the bottom of the hood K into a letter-receptacle N, comprising a box having a back and bottom and ends which have flanges n, whereby they are riveted to the front angle-irons by rivets passing through the front plate J.

The letter-receptacle N is large enough to receive all letters mailed between collections, but occupies only a small portion of the main box at the front and above the bottom thereof, leaving the most of the main box free for packages, as shown.

Pivoted to the front of the box on a line with the bottom D is the exit-door P. This door has wings p at right angles thereto, which form sides of an exit-chute when the door is open, as shown in Fig. 2, but which lie parallel with the sides B and out of the way when the door is closed. When closed, a hasp Q, riveted to the door near its upper end, extends from a staple j, carried by the

plate J, by which the door may be locked. This single door P, with its single lock S, governs the access both to the package-receptacle and the letter-receptacle. The letter-receptacle is provided with a supplementary door R, pivoted at its lower edge and having the usual wings *r* to provide a chute for removing the letters and to accidentally prevent the dropping of them when the packages are removed. The lower edge of the plate J is flanged outwardly, as shown at *j'*, to form a weather protection for the upper edge of the doors and also a shoulder against which the wings *p* and *r* may abut and limit the outward movement thereof.

This mail-box, having both the letter and package openings in front and the exit-opening for the two receptacles also in front, may be placed in jogs in buildings or in any pocket large enough to receive the box. The box is therefore much more adaptable than if the package and letter entrances or the exit were on different sides of the box. By having the letter-receptacles small and located within the box and above the bottom of the package-receptacle not only is the space allotted to packages and letters properly proportioned, but access to the packages from the front is rendered possible by reason of the bottom of the letter-receptacle being raised above the bottom of the package-receptacle. By having a common door to both receptacles but one lock is necessary, which saves time in opening the box. Moreover, the carrier can tell at a glance when he collects letters whether there are also packages to be collected.

I claim—

1. In a mail-box, the combination, a package-receptacle having an entrance-opening, a letter-receptacle located within the package-receptacle and having its bottom above the bottom of the package-receptacle a distance at least as great as the smallest distance across the package-opening, there being an entrance-opening to the letter-receptacle on the front side thereof and an exit-opening on the front side of the box for the letter-receptacle and for the package-receptacle and a common door overlapping the exit-openings of both receptacles.

2. In a mail-box, in combination, a package-receptacle having a rigid bottom and having an entrance-opening near the upper end thereof and an exit-opening in the lower portion of its front side, a door for closing said last-mentioned opening, a letter-receptacle located within the package-receptacle a sufficient distance above the bottom thereof to enable the removal of any package inserted through the package-opening, there being a front exit-opening from the letter-receptacle, and an exit-door for the package-opening overlapping the exit-opening of the letter-receptacle,

3. In a mail-box, in combination, a package-receptacle having an opening in the lower portion of its front side and door for closing said opening, a letter-receptacle located within the package-receptacle and above the bottom thereof but extending below the upper end of said opening, whereby the exit-door for the package-opening overlaps the letter-box and a supplementary door for the letter-box adapted to swing outwardly through said opening.

4. In a mail-box, in combination, a package-receptacle having a pivoted admission-gate near its upper end, a letter-receptacle carried within the package-receptacle on the forward side thereof and above the bottom thereof, a letter-gate above the letter-receptacle on the forward side of the package-receptacle and in front of the gate thereof, and a common exit-door for both receptacles pivoted near the lower end of the package-receptacle on its front and when closed standing vertically and overlapping the letter-receptacle.

5. In a mail-box, in combination, a comparatively large package-receptacle having a rigid bottom, a comparatively small letter-receptacle located within the package-receptacle, each of said receptacles having its own entrance-opening, the entrance to the package-receptacle being above the entrance to the letter-receptacle and there being space behind the letter-receptacle through which packages may pass from the package-opening to the bottom of the box, the bottom of said letter-receptacle being located above the bottom of the package-receptacle a distance at least as great as the smallest distance across the package-opening, there being an exit-opening to the package-receptacle beneath the letter-receptacle, whereby any package deposited in the package-receptacle may be removed beneath the letter-receptacle, and a door for closing said exit-opening.

6. In a mail-box, the combination of a comparatively large package-receptacle, a comparatively small letter-receptacle within the package-receptacle on the front side thereof and above the bottom thereof, a pivoted gate for the package-receptacle, a plate extending from such gate to the front of the box, a hood secured to the under side of such plate and extending downward into the letter-receptacle, and a letter-gate operating in such hood.

7. In a mail-box, the combination with a stationary side and bottom, of a package-receptacle filling most of the box and extending from the bottom to the top and from front to back, there being an opening into said package-receptacle near the lower end of the front, a door for said opening pivoted on a horizontal pivot on the front side of the box, and a letter-receptacle located within the box at the front side thereof and above the

bottom thereof, said letter-receptacle having its exit on the front side of the box, there being entrance-openings to the two receptacles.

8. In a mail-box, the combination of a
5 package-receptacle, a letter-receptacle, located within said package-receptacle, a hood located above said letter-receptacle, an exit-door for the letter-receptacle, an exit-door for the package-receptacle, the former door overlapping the latter, and a single lock for both
10 doors.

9. In a mail-box, in combination, a pair of angle-bars bent into the form of an inverted U and thus constituting four corner-posts,
15 each angle-bar being flat near its edges and

intermediately bulging from one flat edge to the other, and walls for the box having their edges within the bulging portion of the angle-bar, said walls being held in place by rivets passing through the flat portion of the angle- 20 bars, one of said walls substantially abutting the other within the bulging portion of the angle-bars.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses. 25

JAMES H. VAN DORN.

Witnesses:

E. B. GILCHRIST.

E. L. THURSTON.