

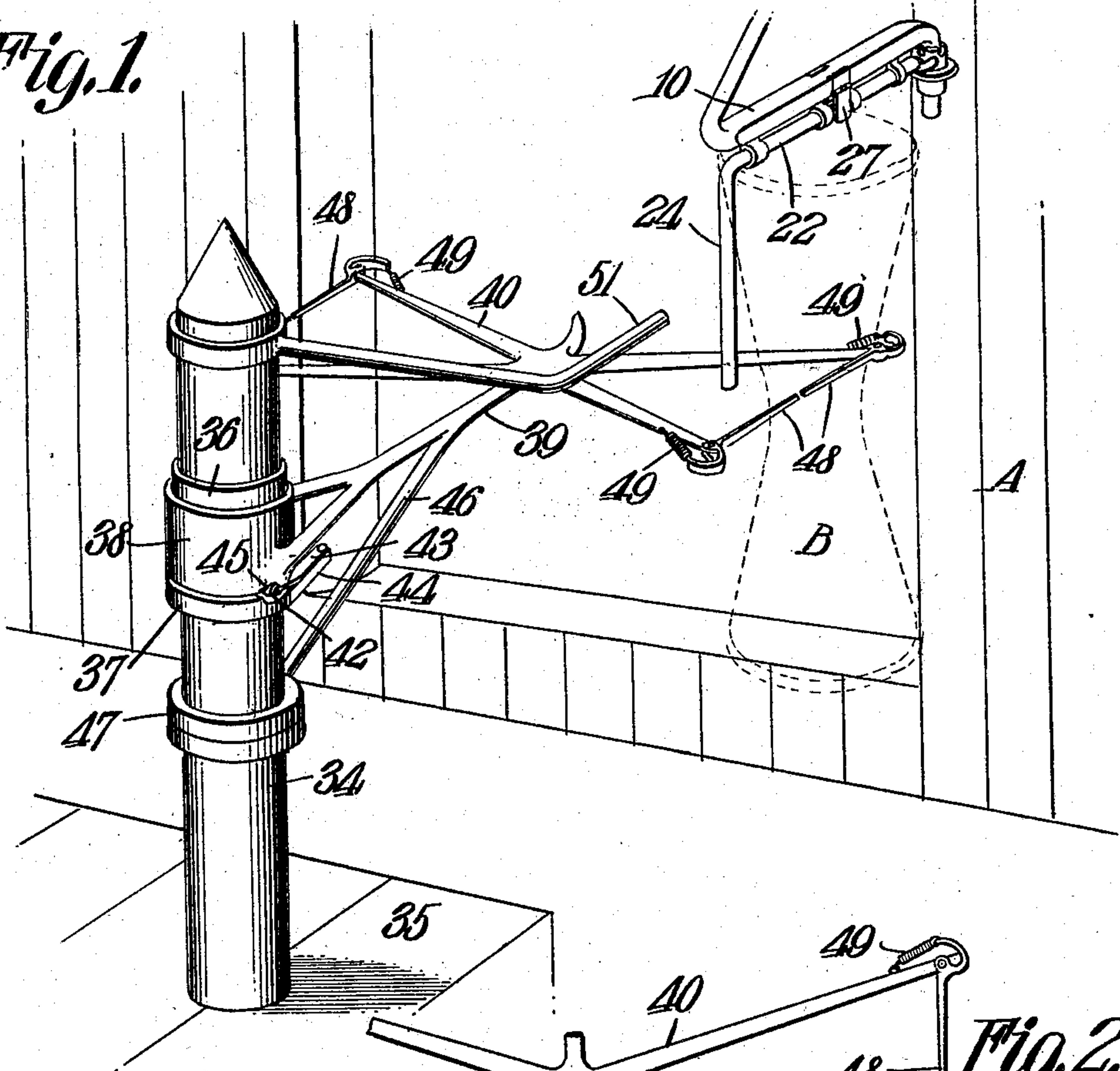
R. R. ROTH.  
MAIL CATCHER.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 24, 1908.

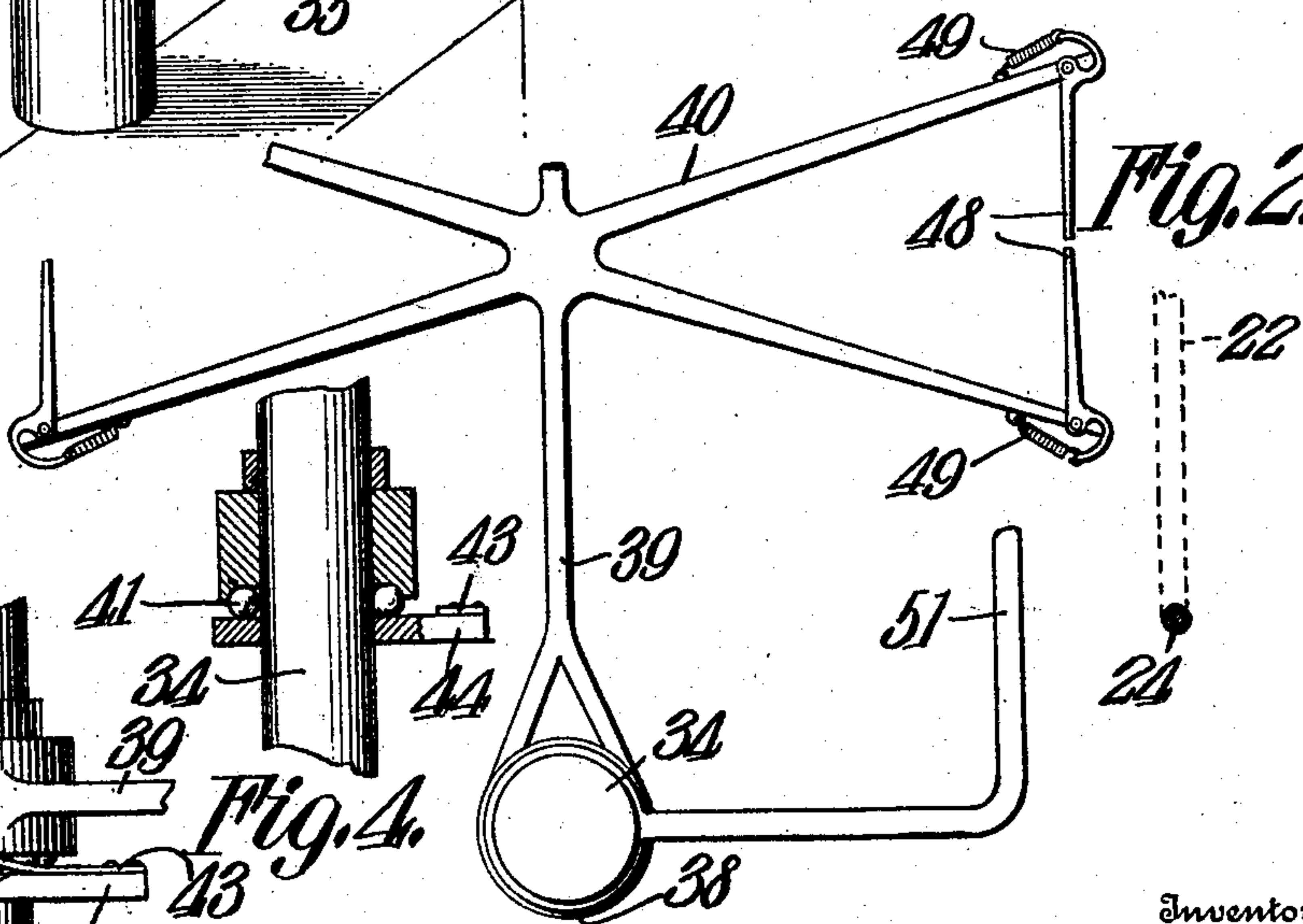
901,042.

Patented Oct. 13, 1908.

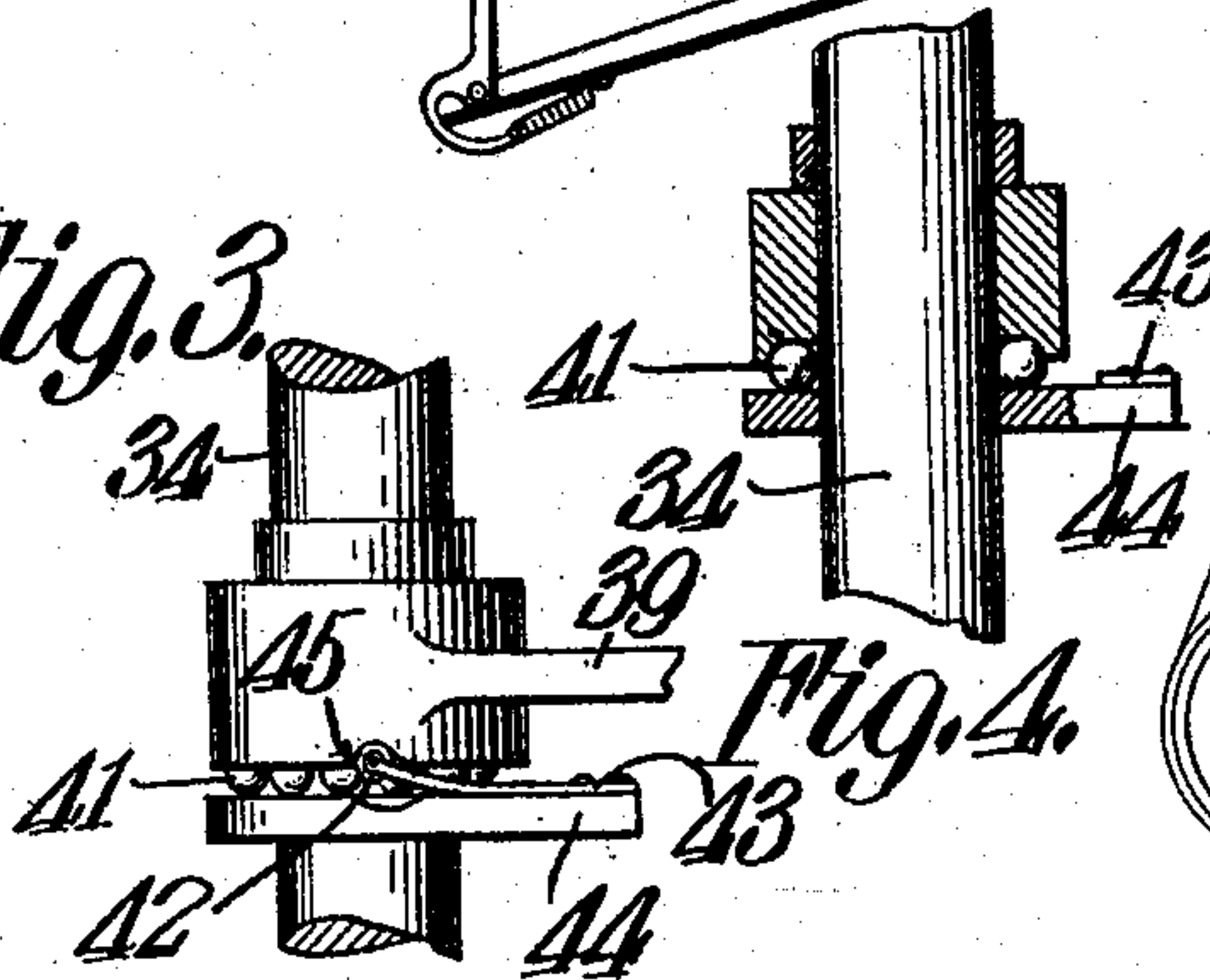
*Fig. 1.*



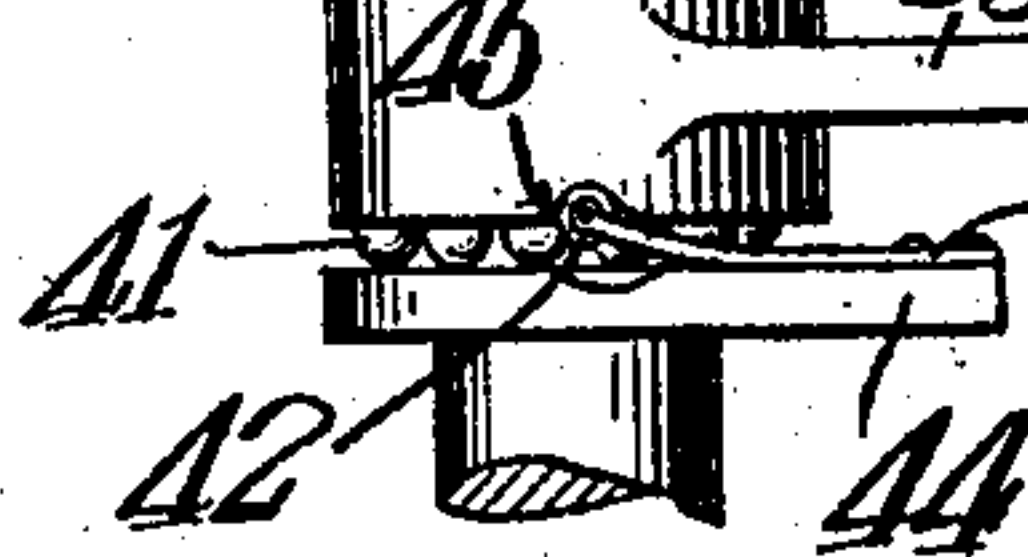
*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



*Fig. 4.*



Witnesses

*E. J. Hammett*  
*Herbert Lawson*

Inventor

*Robert R. Roth.*

By

*C. A. Snow & Co.*  
Attorneys



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT RAY ROTH, OF EASTON, MARYLAND.

## MAIL-CATCHER.

No. 901,042.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 13, 1908.

Application filed February 24, 1908. Serial No. 417,449.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ROBERT RAY ROTH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Easton, in the county of Talbot and State of Maryland, have invented a new and useful Mail-Catcher, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to mail catchers and is more particularly designed for use in connection with the mail delivering mechanism described and claimed in an application filed by me on Dec. 26, 1907, Serial No. 408,096.

One of the objects of the invention is to provide means for simultaneously actuating the releasing mechanism on the delivery crane and engage and support the released bag.

A further object is to provide bag engaging means mounted to swing under the impulse imparted to it by the moving bag engaging therewith, there being mechanism employed, however, for initially retarding the rotation of the engaging means to insure the proper gripping of the bag.

A still further object is to provide means for automatically locking the bag against displacement after it has been delivered to the catcher.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists of certain novel features of construction and combinations of parts which will be hereinafter more fully described and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings is shown the preferred form of the invention.

In said drawings: Figure 1 is a perspective view of the mail catcher, a portion of the delivering mechanism being shown adjacent thereto. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the mail catcher. Fig. 3 is an elevation of a portion of the crane and showing the pivotal portion of the revoluble arm mounted thereon. Fig. 4 is a transverse section through the parts shown in Fig. 3.

Referring to the figures by characters of reference, 10 designates an arm connected to the wall of a car A and carrying a rock bar 22 from which extends a tripping arm 24. This rock bar constitutes a keeper for a hinged supporting finger 27 designed to engage the ring of a mail bag or sack B. These parts constitute no portion of the present invention but are elements of the mail delivering mechanism covered by the application hereinbefore mentioned.

The mail catcher constituting the present

improvements consists of a standard 34 which may be mounted on a platform 35 located adjacent the track. This standard has collars 36 and 37 arranged thereon and revolubly mounted between these collars is a sleeve 38 formed at one end of an arm 39 which extends at right angles from the standard and is provided with a double fork 40, such for example, as shown in Fig. 1 which is designed to engage a bag supported from the arm 10 whether said bag is approaching the fork from either direction. Anti-friction devices such as balls 41 are preferably interposed between sleeve 38 and collar 37 so as to permit the arm 39 to readily swing in a circle as a result of the impulse imparted to it by the sudden contact of a moving bag with the fork 40. In order that this movement of the arm 39 may be initially retarded to a sufficient degree to insure the proper gripping by fork 40 of the bag on the releasing mechanism of the car, a roller 42 is interposed between sleeve 38 and collar 37, the same being located at one end of a spring 43 fastened to an extension 44 on collar 37. This roller is held projected by the spring 43 into a recess 45 formed in the lower face of sleeve 38. When the roller is thus positioned the arm 39 is extended toward the track. A brace 46 preferably extends downward from arm 39 and has a ring 47 at its free end which loosely embraces the standard 34 and is designed to rotate thereon.

Pivotaly connected to the outer or free end of each tine of the fork 40 is a retaining finger 48 held normally at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the fork by means of a spring 49. These fingers are obviously arranged in pairs, the fingers of each pair normally alining and practically meeting at their inner or adjoining ends.

The tripping arm 24 is designed to travel in a plane extending between fork 40 and standard 34 and in order that the same may be properly actuated an arm 50 is extended from the standard and terminates in a finger 51 extending at an angle thereto and into the path of the tripping arm 24.

The normal position of arm 39 is at right angles to the direction of movement of the delivering mechanism. As heretofore stated the bag B is designed to be supported from the arm 10 and, as mentioned in my application hereinbefore mentioned, this bag will be released by turning the rock bar 22 by means of tripping arm 24. When the delivering



mechanism approaches the mail catcher from either direction the bag B strikes the retaining fingers 48 and swings them inwardly until it escapes them and becomes seated within the fork, whereupon the fingers will be returned to their normal positions by their springs 49 and thus prevent the bag from accidentally falling out of the fork. At the same time the arm 24 is brought into contact with finger 51, and thus operated to partly turn the rock bar 22 and release the bag. The impact of the bag against the fork 40 will cause the same to promptly swing horizontally with standard 34 as a center and the released bag will thus be swung away from the car. It is of course to be understood that roller 42 bears within recess 45 with sufficient force to hold arm 39 in place while the bag is being seated therein. When the bag B is brought into position within the fork 40 the force exerted thereby will be sufficient to swing arm 39 and cause roller 42 to become depressed and thus shifted out of the recess 45.

25 What is claimed is:

1. In a mail catcher the combination with a fork and a support therefor; of oppositely disposed retaining fingers mounted upon the fork, and resilient means for holding the fingers normally in position across one end of the fork.

2. In a mail catcher the combination with a standard; of a fork supported thereby and mounted to swing therearound, said fork being located constantly in the same plane of rotation, and spring controlled means for initially retarding the movement of the fork.

3. In a mail catcher the combination with a standard; of a fork supported thereby and mounted to swing in a circle therearound,

said fork being maintained at all times in the same plane of movement.

4. In a mail catcher the combination with a standard, a sleeve revolubly mounted thereon, and an anti-friction bearing for the sleeve; of a fork connected to and movable with the sleeve, and yieldingly supported means engaging said sleeve for initially retarding the movement of the sleeve and fork.

5. In a mail catcher the combination with a standard and a sleeve revolubly mounted thereon; of an arm extending from the sleeve, a double fork carried by the arm, and spring controlled bag retaining means mounted upon and normally extending across each end of the fork.

6. In a mail catcher the combination with a standard, a sleeve revolubly mounted thereon, and means for holding the sleeve against vertical movement; of an arm extending from the sleeve, a double fork carried by the arm, spring actuated means for initially retarding the movement of the sleeve and fork, and an arm outstanding from and rigidly connected to the standard.

7. The combination with delivering mechanism including a rock bar and a tripping arm; of a standard, a fork supported thereby and mounted to swing therearound, said fork being normally positioned in the path of a bag supported by the delivering mechanism, and an arm extending from the standard and into the path of the tripping arm.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

ROBT. RAY ROTH.

Witnesses:

E. LAMBERT,  
C. E. FRICKLE.