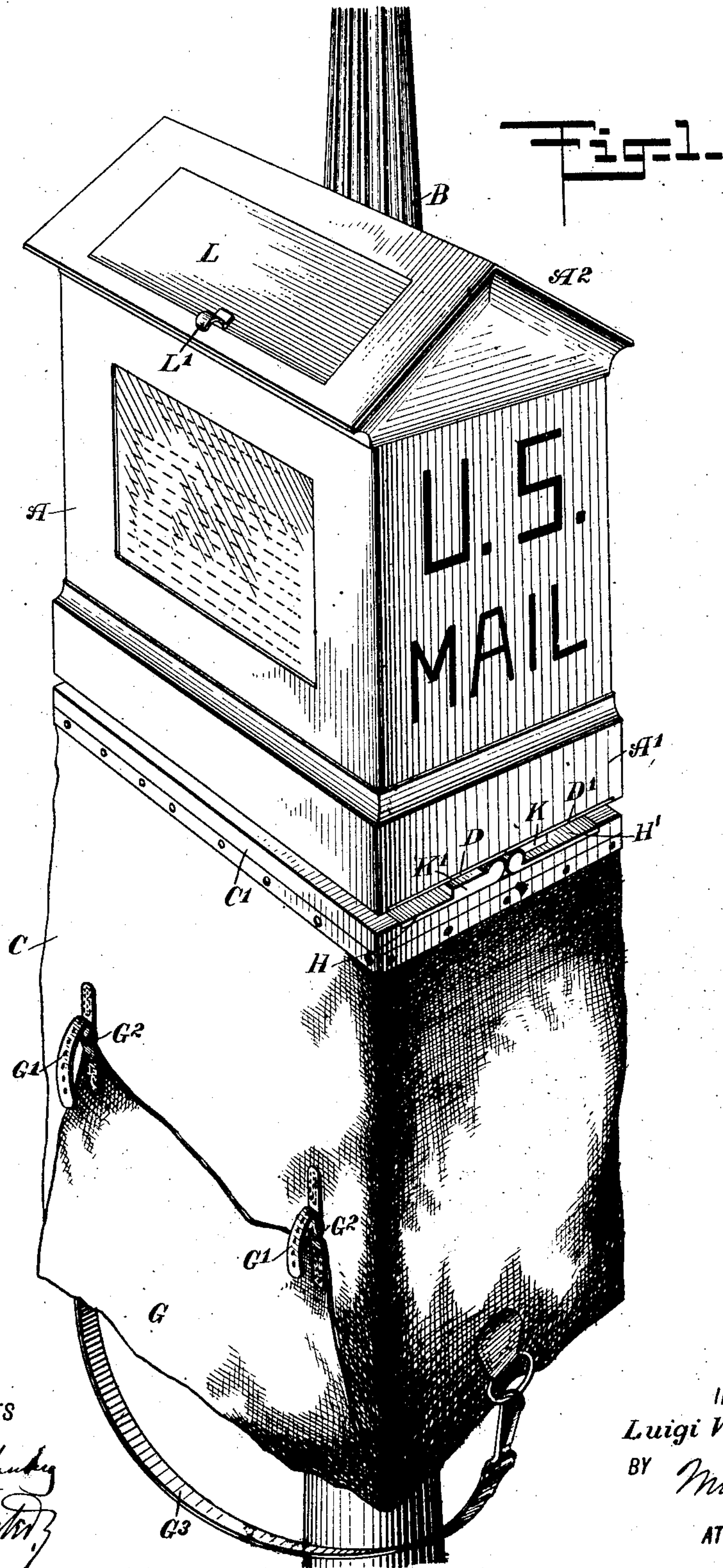


934,245

L. VIEZZI.
MAIL BOX AND LETTER CARRIER'S POUCH.
APPLICATION FILED MAY 12, 1909.

Patented Sept. 14, 1909.
4 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



WITNESSES
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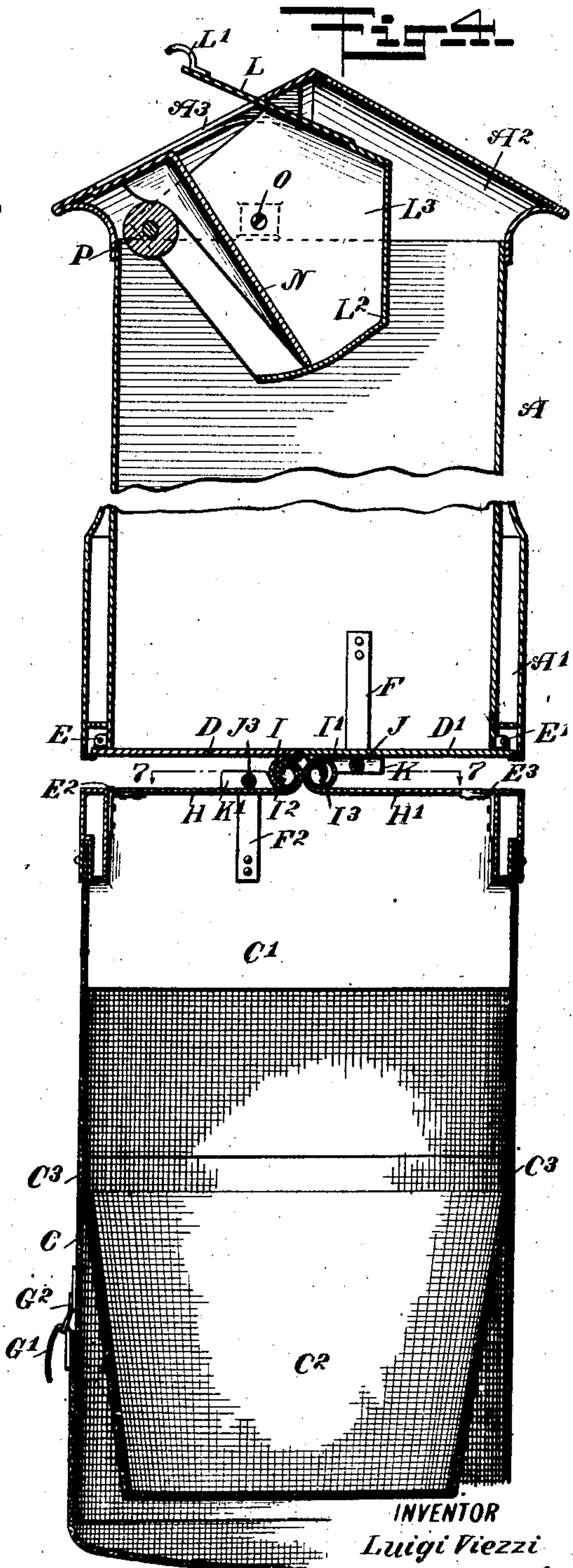
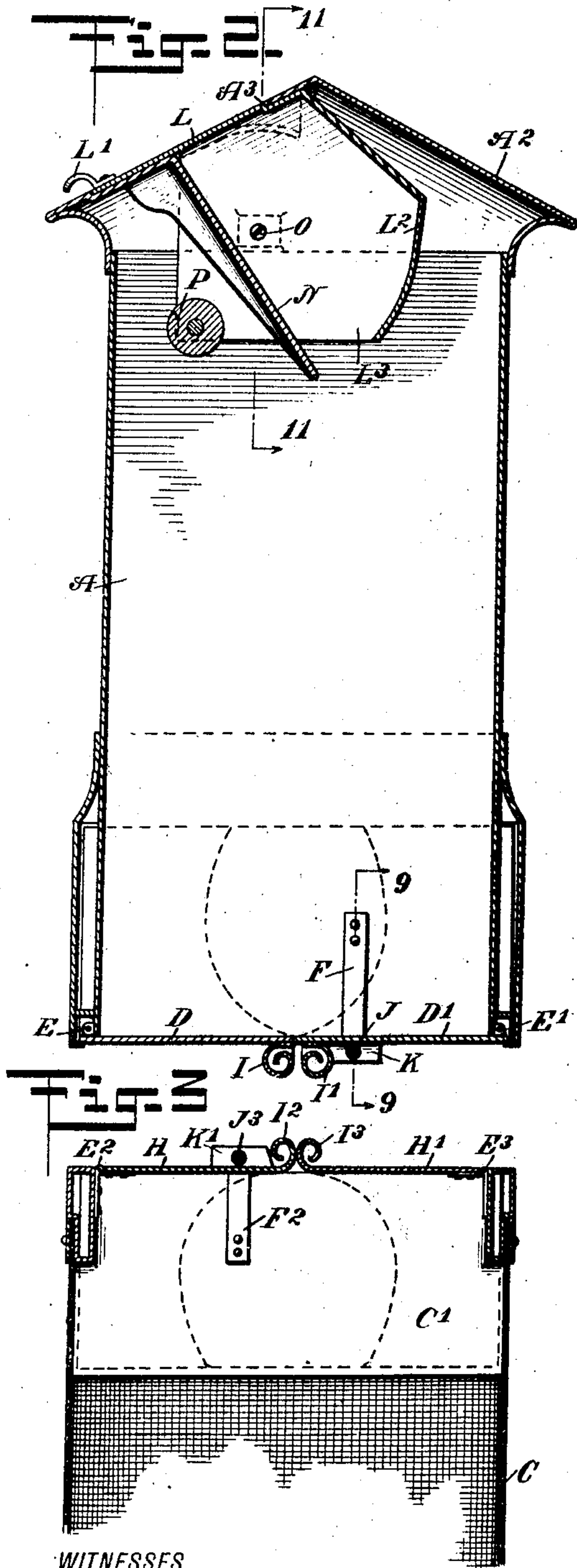
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4 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



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4 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

Fig. 5.

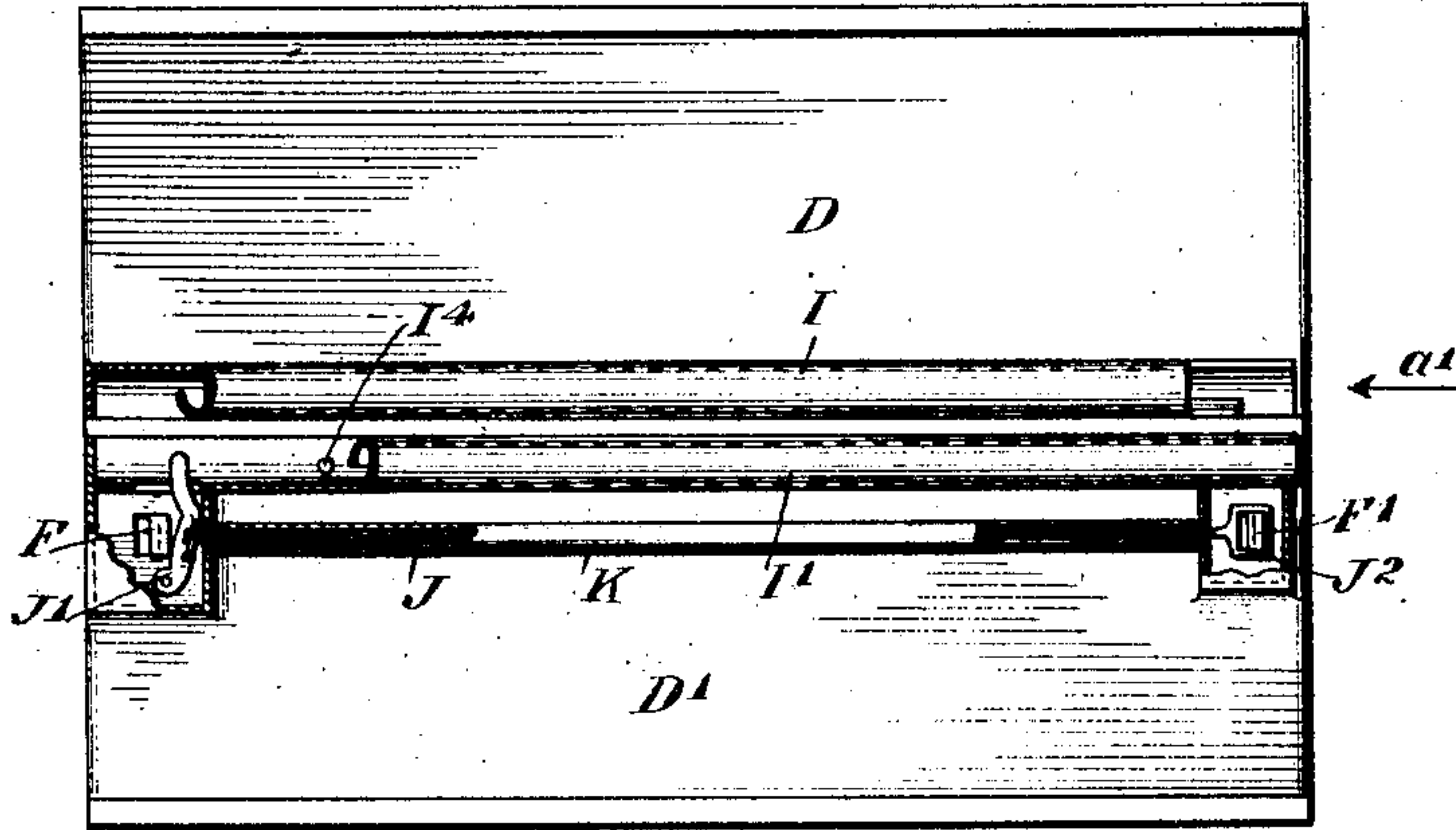


Fig. 6.

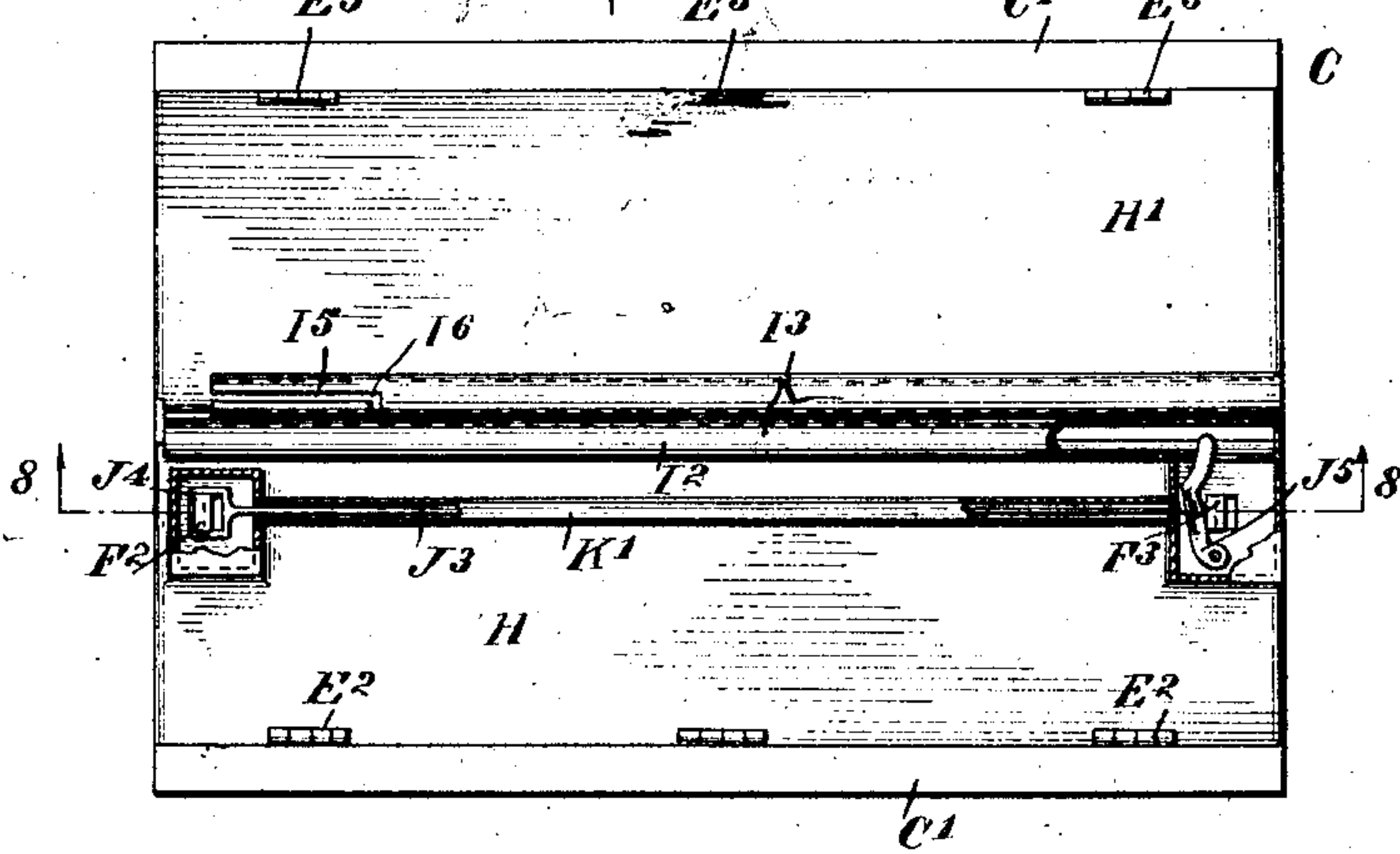


Fig. 7.

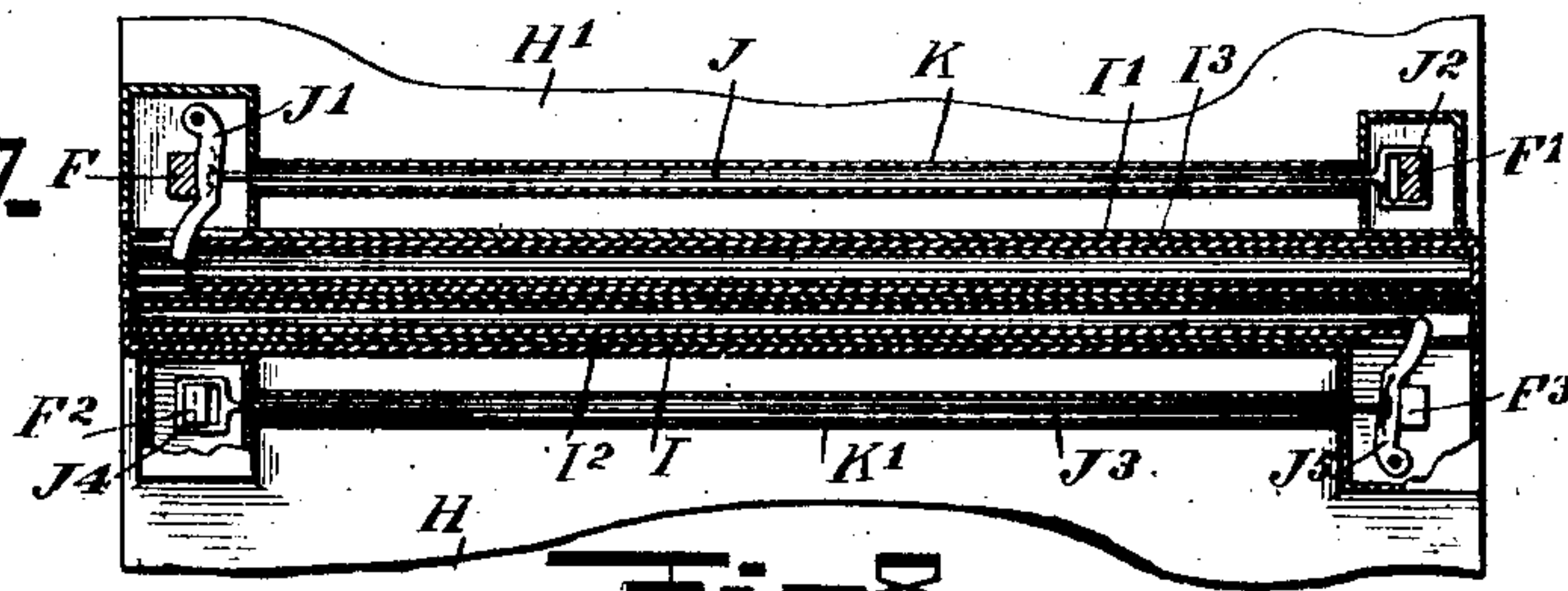
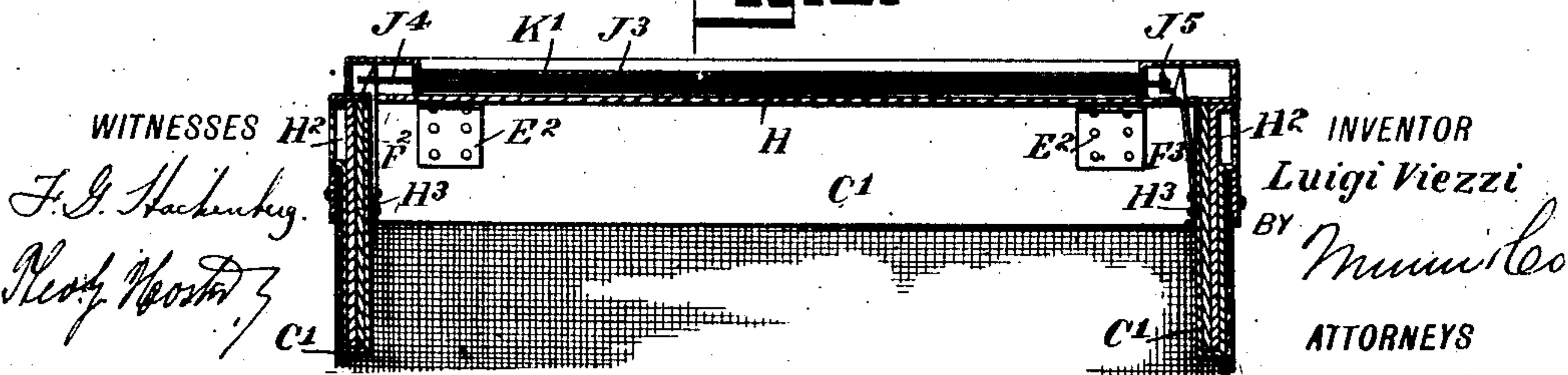


Fig. 8.



WITNESSES
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R. G. Heister.

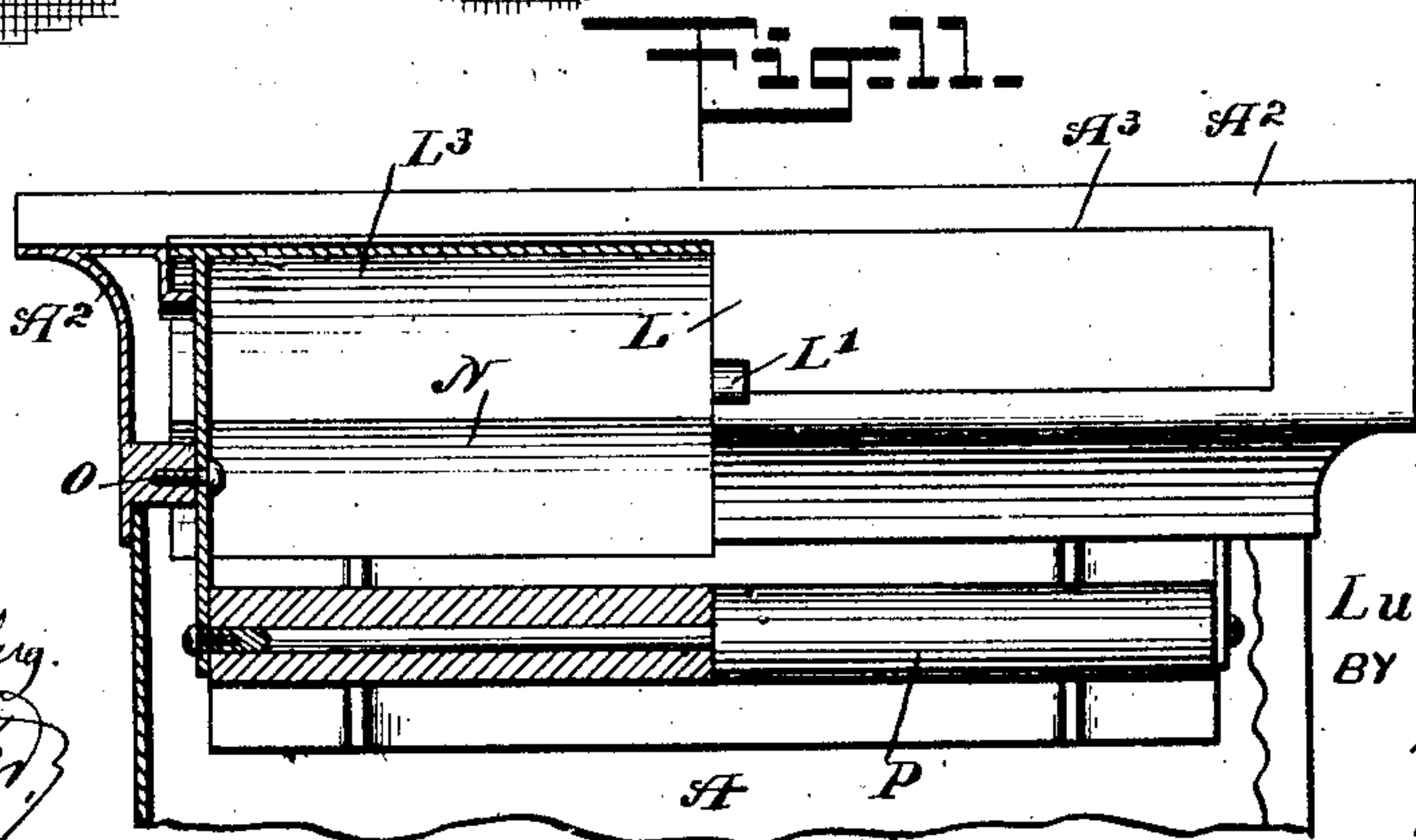
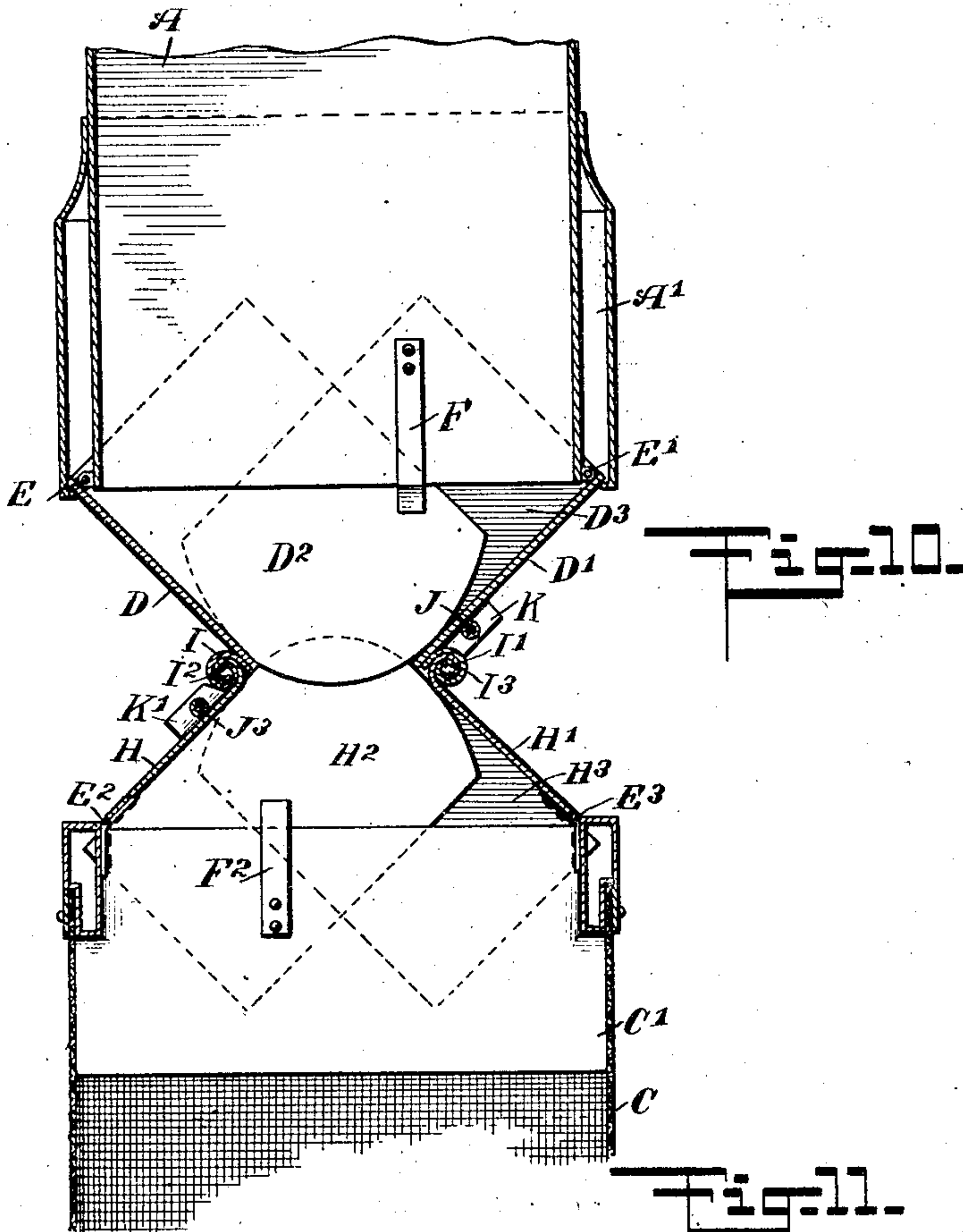
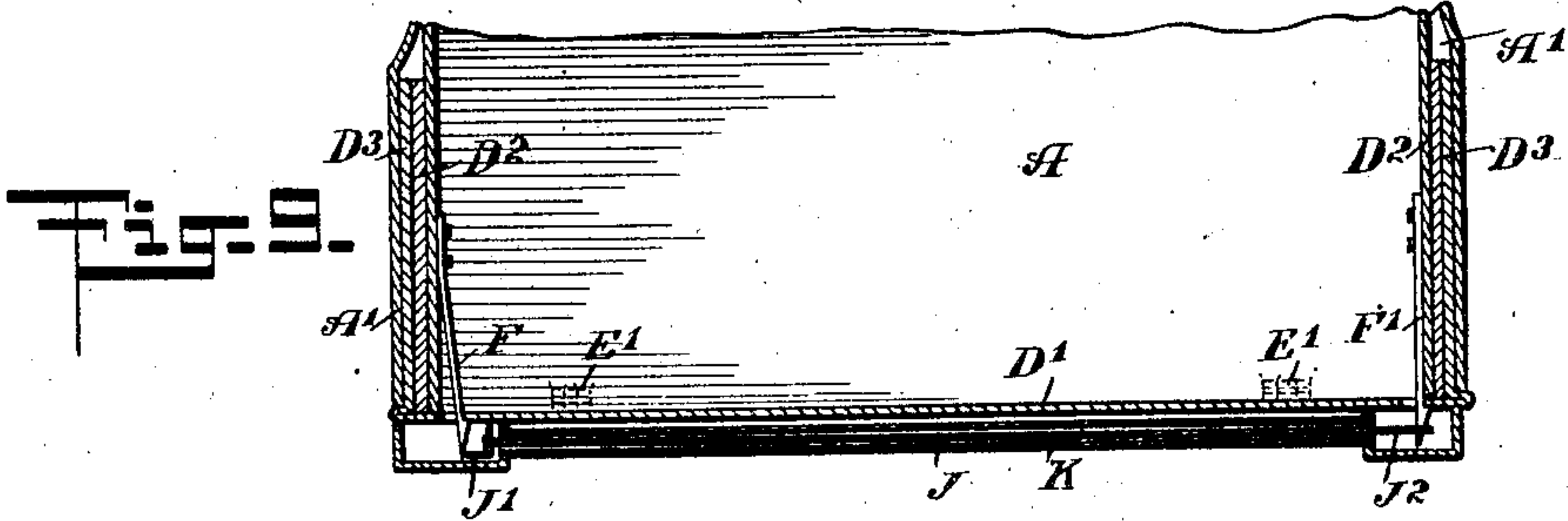
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4 SHEETS—SHEET 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MAIL-BOX AND LETTER-CARRIER'S POUCH.

934,245.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 14, 1909.

Application filed May 12, 1909. Serial No. 495,441.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LUIGI VIEZZI, a subject of the King of Italy, and a resident of Jersey City, in the county of Hudson and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and Improved Mail-Box and Letter-Carrier's Pouch, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The object of the invention is to provide a new and improved mail box and letter carrier's pouch, arranged to operate in conjunction with each other with a view to fill the pouch with the accumulated mail in the letter box, and to close and lock both the mail box and pouch in such a manner that the letter carrier does not touch the mail to be collected and has no access to the same, thus preventing pilfering of the mail by unfaithful collectors of mail.

For the purpose mentioned the letter box and the pouch are adapted to be connected with each other at their closed bottoms, which latter are then capable of opening into the pouch, to allow the contents of the letter box to drop into the pouch, the latter on being disconnected from the mail box causing an automatic closing and locking of the bottoms of the mail box and pouch.

A practical embodiment of the invention is represented in the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improvement, showing the pouch attached to the mail box for transferring the accumulated mail in the letter box to the letter carrier's pouch; Figs. 2 and 3 are cross sections of the mail box and pouch disconnected; Fig. 4 is a like view of the same connected with each other; Fig. 5 is an inverted plan view of the mail box, parts being in section; Fig. 6 is an inverted plan view of the letter carrier's pouch, parts being in section; Fig. 7 is a sectional plan view of the connected mail box and pouch, on the line 7—7 of Fig. 4; Fig. 8 is a sectional side elevation of the letter carrier's pouch, on the line 8—8 of Fig. 6; Fig. 9 is a sectional side elevation of the mail box, on the line 9—9 of Fig. 2; Fig. 10 is a cross section of the improvement, showing the mail box and pouch connected with each other and their bottoms in open position for the contents of the mail box to drop into the pouch; and Fig. 11 is a sec-

tional side elevation of the mail box, on the line 11—11 of Fig. 2.

The mail or letter box A is attached to a post B or other suitable support, and the bottom of the mail box A is adapted to be connected with the bottom of a letter carrier's pouch C, of leather, canvas or other suitable material, to allow of transferring the accumulated mail matter of the mail box A into the pouch C, without the letter carrier in charge of the pouch C being able to touch or otherwise have access to the transferred mail.

The bottom of the mail box A is formed of two sections D and D', connected by hinges E and E' with the front and rear of the mail box A at the lower end thereof, so as to allow the bottom sections D, D' to swing downward into an inclined open position (see Fig. 10), or up into a horizontal closed position, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4. The bottom sections D and D' are provided at the sides with upwardly-extending flanges D², D³, overlapping one the other, and adapted to pass into a compartment A' surrounding the lower portion of the mail box A, and forming a part thereof, as will be readily understood by reference to the drawings. The flange D² is the innermost of the two flanges at each side of the mail box A, and the lower edge of each flange D² rests on the inner face of the opposite bottom section D', as plainly indicated in Figs. 9 and 10, so that when the sections D and D' are in a closed position, and the section D' is locked in place, then the other section D is likewise held locked in a closed position. The bottom section D' is adapted to be engaged near its sides by spring catches F and F', secured to the mail box A at the sides thereof, so as to normally hold the sections D and D' of the bottom of the mail box A in a closed position for the accumulation of the mail during certain hours of the day or night.

The pouch C is provided at its bottom with a head C' of sheet metal or other suitable stiff material, and this end of the pouch C is normally closed by a bottom formed of the sections H, H', connected by hinges E² and E³ to the head C', and the bottom sections H and H' are provided at the sides with overlapping flanges H², H³, similar to the flanges D², D³ on the bottom sections D, D'. The bottom section H is adapted

to be engaged near the sides by spring catches F^2 , F^3 similar to the spring catches F and F' , and fastened to the inner face of the head C' , as indicated in Fig. 8. Thus
 5 by the arrangement described the bottom sections H and H' of the bottom of the pouch C are normally closed.

The upper end of the pouch C is provided with a closure G , in the form of a flap adapted to be fastened by straps G' and buckles G^2 to the front of the pouch C , and the upper end of the pouch C is also provided with the usual carrying strap G^3 , for conveniently supporting the pouch C from
 15 the shoulder of the letter carrier.

Inside of the pouch C is arranged a partition in the form of a bag C^2 of leather or other flexible material and secured at its mouth C^3 to the inner wall of the pouch C , approximately midway between the bottom and top of the pouch. Now by the arrangement described the bag C^2 divides the pouch C into a top and bottom compartment, and the bag C^2 can be pushed into either compartment. Thus when the bottom sections H and H' are closed and the closure G is open, the bag C^2 is pushed down into the lower compartment so as to allow of filling the pouch with mail matter, to be delivered by the letter carrier, who now follows his route in the usual manner and delivers his letters from the pouch. When the letter carrier reaches the end of the route and has delivered his mail, he closes the closure G and then reverses the position of the pouch C , so that the bottom sections H , H' are on top, to allow of connecting the bottom sections H , H' with the bottom sections D , D' , for opening the bottom of the mail box A and the bottom of the pouch C , for transferring the contents of the mail box into the pouch C . The mail matter which drops into the pouch reverses the bag C^2 therein, so as to extend the latter into a normal upper but now lower
 45 compartment, as indicated in Fig. 4.

In order to connect the bottom sections D and H and the bottom sections D' and H' with each other, to interlock and to form hinges for swinging the bottom sections D , D' downwardly and the bottom sections H , H' upwardly, as shown in Fig. 10, the following arrangement is made:

On the under side of the bottom sections D and D' , at the closing or free edges thereof, are fixed the lengthwise-extending tubular hinge members I and I' (see Figs. 2 and 5), curved in spiral shape to receive similarly curved tubular hinge members I^2 , I^3 , formed or secured on the adjacent or free edges of the bottom sections H and H' . The members I^2 , I^3 are adapted to be slipped endwise into the members I , I' from the right to the left, as indicated by the arrow a' , shown in Fig. 5, until the bottom sections H and H' are directly opposite the bottom sections D and D' ,
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as shown in Fig. 4. Now when the hinge members I and I^2 and I' and I^3 are connected with each other, they form hinges which connect the free ends of the bottom sections D and H and D' , H' with each other, to allow the said sections to swing into the open position shown in Fig. 10, as soon as the bottom sections are unlocked by the catches F , F' , F^2 and F^3 . For the purpose mentioned, unlocking devices are provided, arranged as follows: A rod J extends lengthwise on the under side of the bottom section D' in alinement with the catches F and F' , and one end of the rod J is connected with a lever J' , pivoted on the bottom section D' , and engaging the inner side of the spring catch F (see Figs. 5 and 7). The other end of the rod J terminates in a loop J^2 , through which extends the free end of the catch F' . A similar rod J^3 extends lengthwise on the outer face of the bottom section H , and one end of this rod J^3 terminates in a loop J^4 , through which extends the free end of the spring catch F^2 (see Figs. 6, 7 and 8), and the other end of this rod J^3 is connected with a lever J^5 , fulcrumed on the bottom section H and engaging the inner face of the free end of the spring catch F^3 . The rod J , its lever J' and its loop J^2 are inclosed in a casing K , forming part of the under side of the bottom section D' , and a similar casing K' incloses the rod J^3 , its loop J^4 and lever J^5 . The free end of the lever J' projects into the hinge member I' and into the path of the hinge member I^3 , and the free end of the lever J^5 projects into the path of the hinge member I , so that when the hinge members I^2 and I^3 are slipped into position in the hinge members I and I' , as previously explained, then the hinge member I^3 finally engages the lever J' , and swings the same outwardly, to pull the rod J from the right to the left, and at the same time the other rod J^3 is actuated by the hinge member I coming in contact with the free end of the lever J^5 , the rod J^3 , however, being pushed in an opposite direction from that given to the rod J . Now when the rods J and J^3 are actuated in the manner described, the levers J' and J^5 swing the spring catches F and F^3 out of engagement with the bottom sections D' and H , and the loops J^2 and J^4 swing the spring catches F' and F^2 out of engagement with the bottom sections D and H' , to unlock the same. When this takes place, the carrier, by a slight downward pull on the pouch C , causes the unlocked bottom sections D , D' to swing downward into an open position, and the bottom sections H and H' to swing upward into an open position, as shown in Fig. 10. When this takes place, the mail matter contained in the mail box A drops down into the pouch C , the mail matter sliding over the downwardly and inwardly inclined bottom sec-
 130

tions D and D', so that all the mail matter contained in the mail box A readily passes into the pouch C.

In order to prevent disconnecting of the hinge members I, I² and I', I³, at the time the bottom sections D, D' and H, H' swing into open position, use is made of a pin I⁴ (see Fig. 5), arranged in the hinge section I', and adapted to be engaged by a bayonet slot I⁵, formed in the forward end of the hinge member I³ (see Fig. 6). Thus when the hinge members I², I³ have been pushed in engagement with the hinge members I, I', as before explained, the pin I⁴ extends in the rear end of the slot I⁵, and when the bottom sections D, D', H, H' now swing open, the pin I⁴ passes into the angular portion I⁶ of the bayonet slot I⁵, thus preventing the hinge members I², I³ from being drawn out of the hinge members I and I' during the time the bottom sections D, D' and H, H' are in the open position shown in Fig. 10.

After the mail has been transferred from the mail box A to the pouch C, as above described, the letter carrier lifts the mail pouch C, so that the bottom sections H, H', D, D' swing back into the closed position shown in Fig. 4, and then the letter carrier pulls the pouch C in the inverse direction of the arrow a', to disengage the hinge members I², I³ from the hinge members I, I'. When this takes place the unlocking device, consisting of the rods J, J³ and their levers J', J³ and loops J², J⁴, are released, and consequently the spring catches F, F', F², F³ return by their own resiliency to their normal locking positions, thus locking the bottom sections D' and H again in place and with them the bottom sections D and H', as previously explained.

It is understood that when the bottom sections H, H' and D, D' are swung back into closed positions, the pin I⁴ is returned to the inner end of the slot I⁵, so that the pouch C can be removed from the mail box A, as previously explained.

The top A² of the mail box A is preferably peak-shaped and the front face thereof is provided with an entrance opening A³, normally closed by a lid L, having a handle L' adapted to be taken hold of by the user, to swing the lid L into open position, as shown in Fig. 4, to allow of passing a letter or other mail matter through the opening A³ into the interior of the mail box A. Within the mail box A is arranged a chute N, extending downwardly and rearwardly from the entrance opening A³, so that the letter or other mail matter slides down the chute N against a stop L², forming an inner continuation of the lid L, said stop L² passing the free end of the chute N at the time the lid L is swung open, as indicated in Fig. 4. When the lid L drops into a closed position, the stop L² passes a distance from the free end of the

chute N, so that the mail matter held on the chute is now free to drop into the interior of the mail box A, to accumulate therein. The lid L is provided with ends L³ hung on pivots O, attached to the inside of the head A², and the sides L³ carry a counter weight P, to normally hold the lid L in a closed position, as shown in Fig. 2.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. A mail box and letter carrier's pouch, both having their bottoms formed of two hinged sections meeting at their free ends, means for locking the bottoms in closed positions, and means for connecting the free ends of the bottom sections of the mail box with those of the pouch and unlocking one the other.

2. A mail box and letter carrier's pouch, both having their bottoms formed of hinged sections meeting at their free ends, and means on the said free ends to interlock the free ends of the hinged sections for the pouch bottom with the free ends of the hinged sections for the box bottom, to swing the said hinged bottom sections open.

3. A mail box and letter carrier's pouch, both having their bottoms formed of hinged sections meeting at their free ends, and means on the said free ends to interlock the free ends of the hinged sections for the pouch bottom with the free ends of the hinged sections for the box bottom, to swing the said hinged bottom sections open in an outward direction.

4. A mail box and letter carrier's pouch, both having their bottoms formed of hinged sections meeting at their free ends, and means on the said free ends to interlock the free ends of the hinged sections for the pouch bottom with the free ends of the hinged sections for the box bottom, to swing the said hinged bottom sections open in an outward direction, the said bottom sections having flanges at the ends.

5. A mail box and letter carrier's pouch, both having hinged bottoms, and means on the said bottoms for connecting the same with each other, locking devices for normally locking the pivoted bottoms against opening, and unlocking devices on the said bottoms, the unlocking device on the pouch bottom serving to unlock the locking device for the box bottom, and the unlocking device on the box bottom serving to unlock the locking device on the pouch bottom.

6. A mail box and letter carrier's pouch, both having their bottoms formed of two hinged sections meeting at their free ends, means for connecting the bottom sections of the box with the bottom sections of the pouch, locking devices for locking the sectional bottoms against opening, and unlocking devices on said sectional bottoms, the

unlocking device on the pouch bottom serving to unlock the locking device for the box bottom and the unlocking device on the box bottom serving to unlock the locking device on the pouch bottom.

7. A mail box and letter carrier's pouch, both having hinged bottoms, and provided with interlocking and hinging means to swing the bottoms outward into open position, to connect the interior of the mail box with the interior of the pouch, the hinged bottom of the mail box forming a chute for directing the mail from the mail box into the pouch.

8. A mail box and letter carrier's pouch, both having hinged bottoms made in sections, capable of swinging outward, each bottom section having flanges at the sides, interlocking and hinging means at the adjacent free ends of the bottom sections for hingedly connecting the opposite bottom sections with each other, and locking devices at the sides of the mail box and pouch for normally locking the bottom sections against opening, the said interlocking means being adapted to engage and actuate the said locking devices to unlock the bottom sections.

9. A mail box and letter carrier's pouch, both having hinged bottoms made in sections capable of swinging outward, the opposite bottom sections having interlocking means forming hinges, to swing the bottom sections in unison into open or closed position.

10. A mail box and letter carrier's pouch, both having hinged bottoms made in sections capable of swinging outward, the opposite bottom sections having interlocking means forming hinges, to swing the bottom sections in unison into open or closed position, and flanges at the sides of the bottom sections to close the connection between the mail box and pouch at the sides of the connection.

11. A mail box and letter carrier's pouch, both having hinged bottoms made in sections

capable of swinging outward, the opposite bottom sections having interlocking means forming hinges, to swing the bottom sections in unison into open or closed position, and overlapping flanges at the sides of the bottom sections to close the connection between the mail box and pouch at the sides of the connection.

12. A mail box and letter carrier's pouch, both having bottoms in hinged sections, each section being provided near the sides with flanges, and at the free end with a tubular interlocking hinge member adapted to engage the corresponding member on the opposite bottom section, locking devices on the mail box and pouch for normally locking the bottoms in closed position, and unlocking devices on the said bottoms for engaging and actuating the said locking devices, each of the said unlocking devices having a member extending into the path of the entering tubular interlocking hinge member of the other bottom.

13. A mail box and letter carrier's pouch, both having bottoms in hinged sections, each section being provided near the sides with flanges, and at the free end with a tubular interlocking hinge member adapted to engage the corresponding member on the opposite bottom section, spring catches on the mail box and pouch for normally locking the bottoms in closed position, concealed sliding rods on the said bottoms, a loop at one end of a rod, and a lever at the bottom end for engaging the said spring catches to open the latter, the lever extending with its free end into the path of the entering tubular interlocking hinge member of the other bottom.

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

LUIGI VIEZZI.

Witnesses:

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FRIEDRICH WAHLER.