E. C. Weld,

Letter Box.

No. 108073. Patented. Oct. 4. 1870.

Fig. 1.

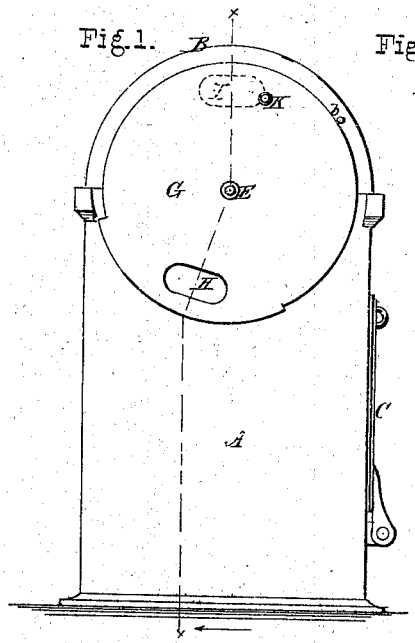


Fig. 2.

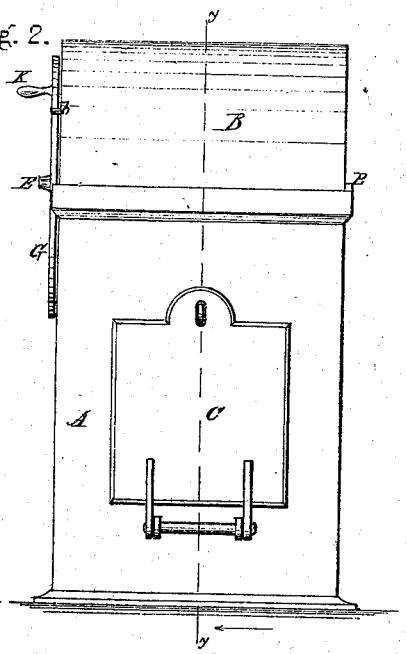


Fig. 3.

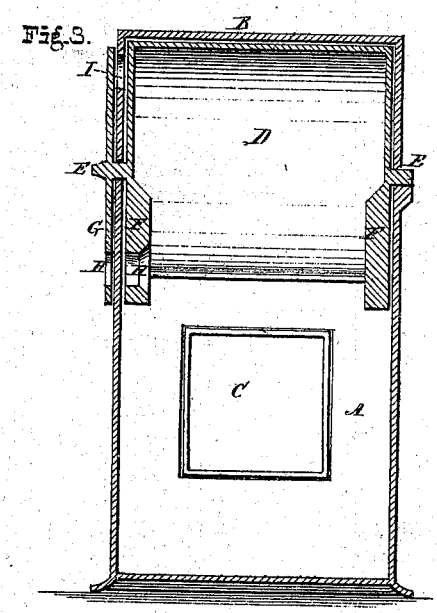
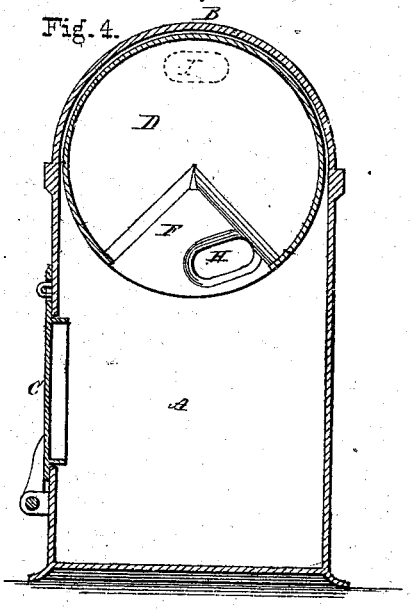


Fig. 4.



Witnesses.

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ELWIN CLARENCE WELD, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND THEODORE C. GLAZIER, OF SAME PLACE.

Letters Patent No. 108,073, dated October 4, 1870.

IMPROVEMENT IN LETTER-BOXES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ELWIN CLARENCE WELD, of New York city, in the county of New York and in the State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Boxes; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my device;

Figure 2 is a front elevation of the same; and

Figures 3 and 4 are vertical sections on the lines *x x* and *y y*, respectively, of figs. 1 and 2.

Letters of like name and kind refer to like parts in each of the figures.

The object of my invention is to produce a letter-box, having an upper compartment for the reception of letters and papers, which, when communicating with the exterior opening through which letters and papers are inserted, shall be cut off from the lower part of the box, and, when communicating with the latter, shall cut off from the former; and

It consists in the general construction and relative arrangement of the receiving and depositing portions of the device, substantially as is hereinafter shown and described.

In the annexed drawing—

A represents the box, having the general form shown, inclosed at its upper end by means of a semi-circular cover, B, and provided in and through its front side with an opening for the removal of letters, which opening is closed by means of a door, C, all of usual construction.

A hollow metal cylinder, D, corresponding in size and general shape to the space within the upper end of the box A, immediately beneath the cover B is provided upon its ends with journals E, which, resting within suitable bearings formed in the top of said box, permit said cylinder to revolve freely therein.

About one-fourth of the sheet metal forming the periphery of the cylinder is removed, so as to furnish ready access to its interior, and a heavy metal plate, F, having the form of a fourth of a circle, is secured to each end of the same immediately at said opening, so as to overbalance said cylinder, and cause the side to remain downward, except when purposely changed.

Secured to or upon the outer end of one of the journals E, outside of the box A, is a circular metal plate or disk, G, corresponding in size with the cylinder D, through the end of which, and through said disk are cut two corresponding slots, H, at points slightly to one side of the lower vertical center of said cylinder, as it naturally hangs suspended.

A third slot, I, corresponding in size and in relative distance from the bearings with the slots H, is cut through the end of the cover B at its upper vertical center, so that when the cylinder D is revolved until said slots H are uppermost, they shall coincide with said slot I, and furnish communication with the interior of said cylinder.

As thus constructed, in order to insert letters or papers within the box, the cylinder and disk must be rotated until their openings coincide with that in the cover, the letters be passed through said openings into said cylinder, which, upon being released, turns upon its bearings until its open side is downward, when said letters drop into the body or bottom of the box.

It will be observed that, when the cylinder remains with its open side downward, access to the interior of the box through the opening in the cover is prevented by the solid portions of the disk and cylinder end and that when said openings coincide, so as to afford access to said cylinder, all communication with the lower part of said box is cut off by the metal plate forming the periphery of the latter, so that, unless broken or deranged internally, nothing deposited in the box can be removed except through the door C at its front.

The object sought in placing the openings within the cylinder-head and disk to one side of the center of the overbalancing segments, is to prevent the cylinder from becoming poised when the openings are at the upper vertical center, as would be the case were said openings and overbalances coincident radially.

A stud, *b*, projecting outward from the end of the cover B, so as to engage with a shoulder, *g*, formed upon the edge of the disk G, and prevent the latter and the cylinder from revolving further than is necessary to cause the openings H and I to coincide, and a stud, K, projecting outward from said disk, for the purpose of furnishing a handle, with which to turn the cylinder, completes the device, the operation and advantages of which have been sufficiently explained.

I am aware that letter-boxes have heretofore been constructed, containing a pivoted overbalanced cylindrical receiver, having an opening for the reception of letters, that could be caused to correspond with a similar opening in and through the wall of said box, the latter of which openings was closed by means of a shield or semi-cylindrical cover, except when coincident with the opening in said cylinder, and do not claim, broadly, such combination of parts.

Having thus fully set forth the nature and merits of my invention,

What I claim as new, is—

The general construction and relative arrangement of the box A and B, provided with the opening I, the cylinder D, provided with the journals E, the overbalances F, and the opening H, and the disk G provided with the opening H and the stud K, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing, I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of August, 1870.

ELWIN CLARENCE WELD.

Witnesses:

THEO. C. GLAZIER,

THO. SADLER.