

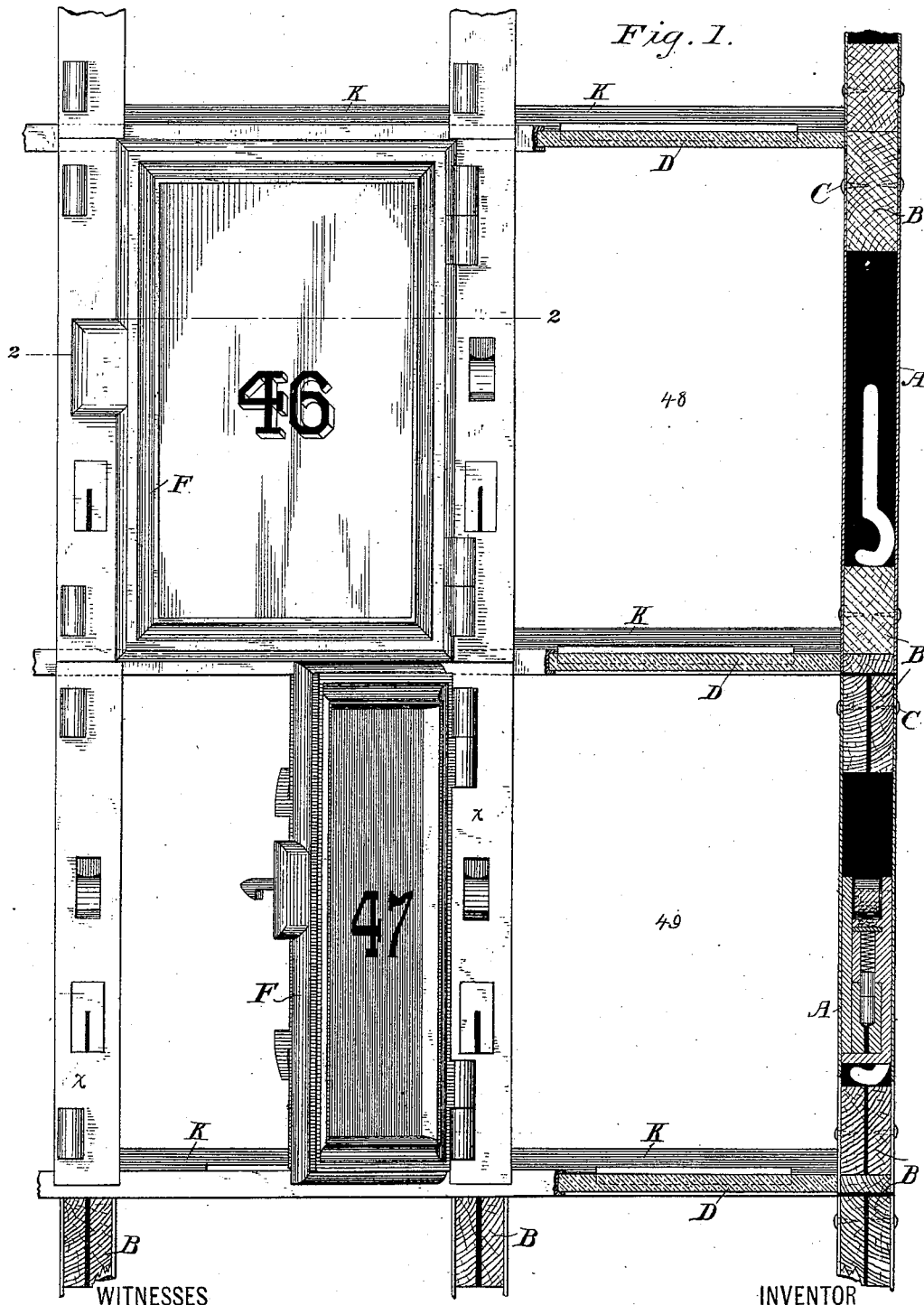
(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

W. H. BRAMBLE.  
POST OFFICE LOCK BOX.

No. 303,555.

Patented Aug. 12, 1884.



WITNESSES

Wm A. Skink  
H. W. Elmore

INVENTOR

*William H Bramble.*

By his Attorneys,

Baldwin, Hopkins, & Peyton.

(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 2.

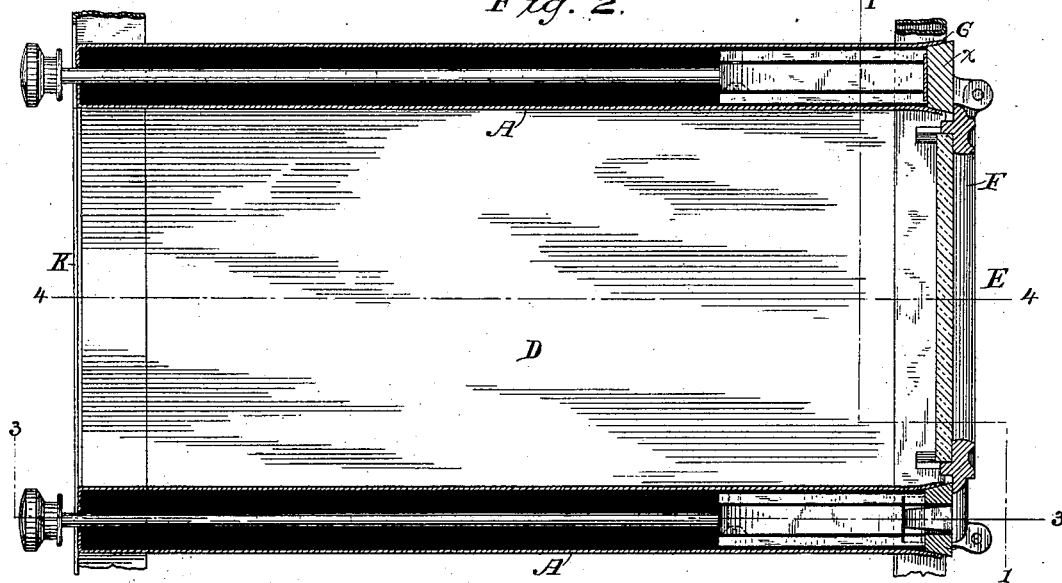
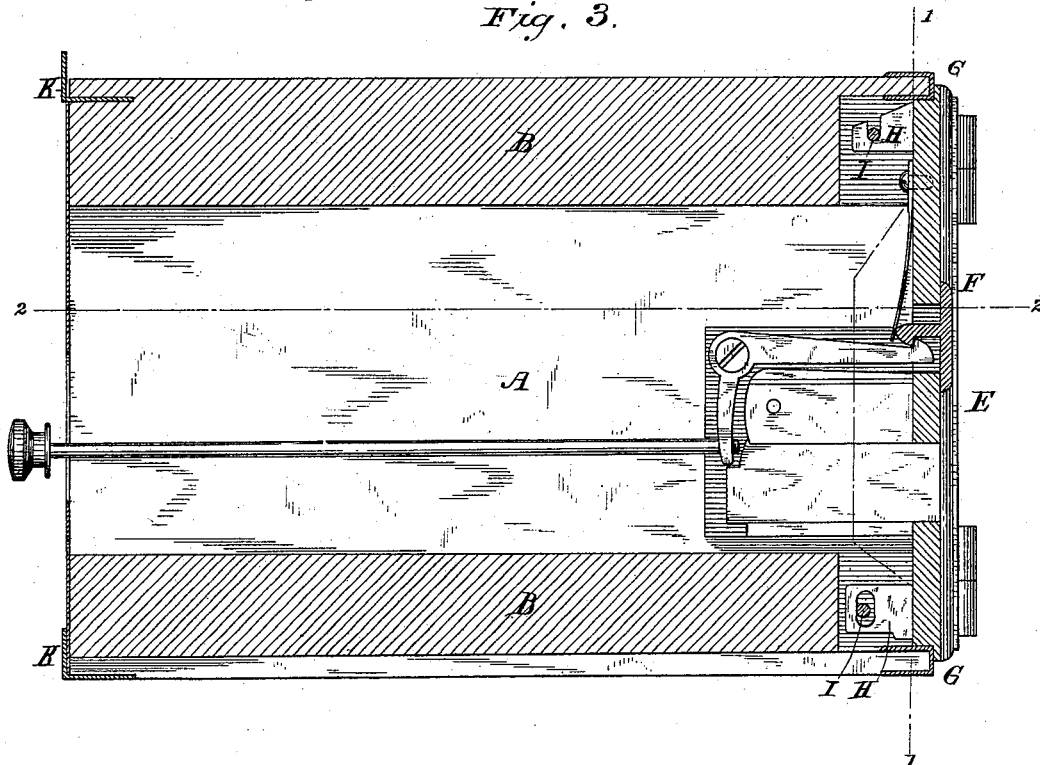


Fig. 3.



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(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 3.

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Fig. 4

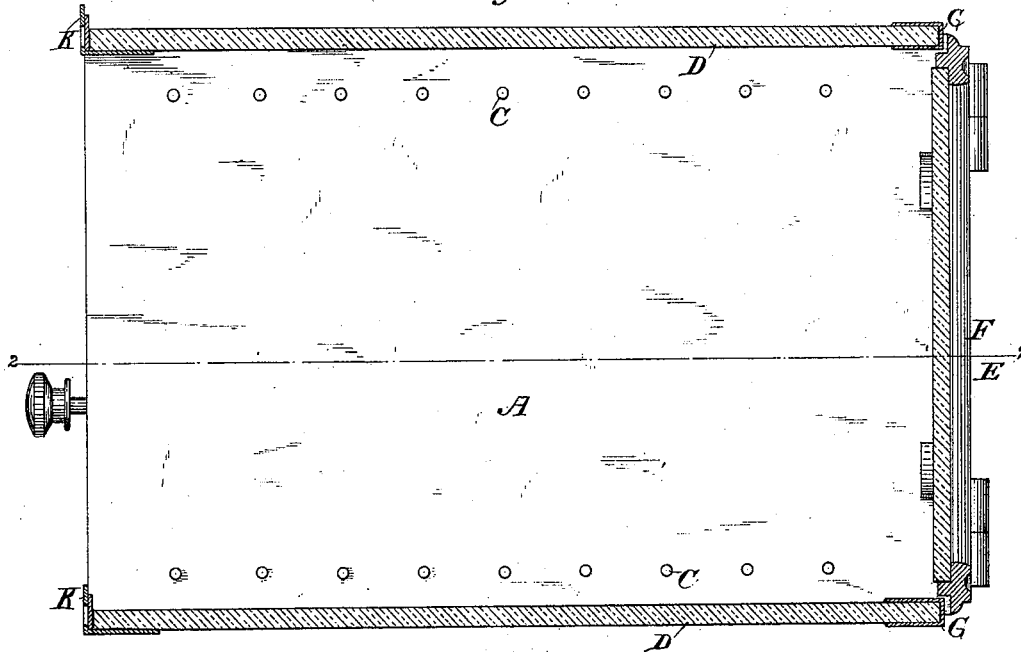


Fig. 5.

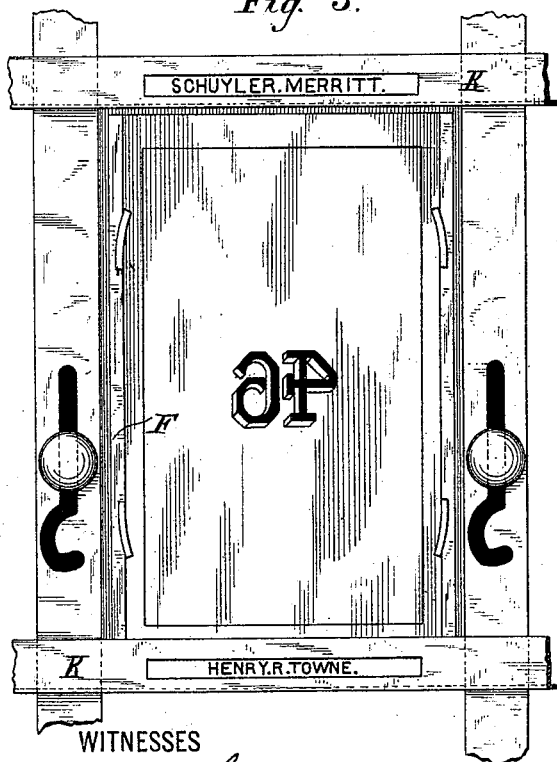


Fig. 7.

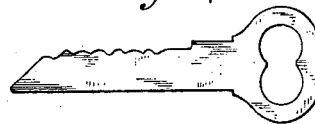
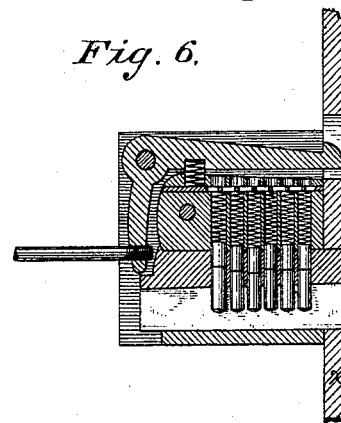


Fig. 6.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. BRAMBLE, OF DECATUR, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO THE YALE & TOWNE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT.

## POST-OFFICE LOCK-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 303,555, dated August 12, 1884.

Application filed February 8, 1884. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. BRAMBLE, of Decatur, in the county of Macon and State of Illinois, have invented certain useful Improvements in Post-Office Lock-Boxes, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

An important object of my invention is to provide post-office lock-boxes made of separate pieces and adapted to be shipped in packages of these separate pieces to their destination and there set up in place or nested in suitable wooden supporting frame-work prepared to receive them. I also provide for the better lighting, and consequently for the better viewing, of the interiors of post-office boxes. This I accomplish in two ways: first, by making the tops and bottoms of the boxes of removable glass, and, second, by placing the door-locks in recesses in the side walls of the box, instead of on the doors, as is now commonly done, whereby nearly the entire area of the doors may be glazed, and thus a perfect view into the interiors of the boxes be afforded.

In connection with these main objects of my invention I have made several improvements, which appear by description in detail further on, and which are summed up in my appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings illustrating my invention, Figure 1 is a front elevation, partly in section, of a nest of four post-office lock-boxes, No. 46 showing the metallic front with the door closed, No. 47 showing the door partly open, No. 48 showing a vertical section near the rear end of the box, and No. 49 showing a vertical section near the front end through the lock mechanism, on the lines 1 1 of Figs. 2 and 3. Fig. 2 is a horizontal section on the line 2 2 of Figs. 1, 3, and 4. Fig. 3 is a vertical section on the line 3 3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a vertical section on the line 4 4 of Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a rear view of the lock-box. Fig. 6 is a vertical central section through the lock mechanism, and Fig. 7 represents the lock-key.

The sides of my improved boxes I prefer to form of two thin sheets of metal, A, separated at the top and bottom by wooden strips B, the sheets being secured to these strips by means of brads C. This enables me to employ a flat

lock between the sheets, entirely inclosed and out of the way.

The tops and bottoms of my boxes I form of glass plates D, so that they will be better lighted, and so that the contents of an upper or lower box out of the ordinary direct range of vision may be seen.

The rear ends of my boxes are, as usual, open, and the fronts E are of metal with metallic glazed doors F.

In order to provide a convenient means for securing the glass tops and bottoms in place, I employ angle bars or folded sheets of metal G above and below at the front end of each box. These holders for the glass may be secured to the side partitions of the box in any convenient manner; but I prefer the method shown in the drawings, where it will be observed by reference to Fig. 3 a groove is formed near the upper and lower edges of the side partitions, and one lip of the holder is slipped into it. The metallic front piece, x, being secured in place by means of the lugs H and screws or rivets I, serves to secure the holders firmly in position. At the rear end of the boxes I provide angle-bars or holder-plates K, upon which the glasses rest, as well shown in Fig. 4. The lower horizontal portions of these angle-bars are slipped into grooves near the edges of the side partitions, as shown in Fig. 3, and so securely held; but they may be fastened in place in any suitable way. The lips of the front holders are made so as to bite the glass when it is inserted between them by a spring action, and hold it securely; therefore it will be very convenient to insert and maintain the glass in place. The rear glass holders are provided with longitudinal slots, as illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5, behind which a name card or plate may be inserted and held, as shown in these figures.

From this description of my improved box it will be observed that it is made up of detachable parts adapted to fit together like different prepared parts of a frame work, and it may thus be manufactured in separate pieces which may be conveniently packed and transported in different packages to the place of use, and there the different packages containing the different parts can be unpacked and

the parts selected and put together in place very conveniently without the use of tools, and when they are in place it is manifest that the box, as a whole, is a very greatly improved one.

5 I have illustrated a peculiar locking mechanism, which I apply for fastening the doors of my boxes, and which is adapted to be contained altogether within one of the side partitions of each box between the sheet-metal plates; but I do not describe it in detail, because I have reserved it for protection in another patent of the United States. I would say, however, that a rod extends back through the hollow partition to the rear of the box, by which the lock may be operated in the manner set forth in my United States Patent No. 175,817, of April 11, 1876.

I do not intend to confine myself to the details of construction here illustrated, either in forming my partitions or in the construction of means for holding the glass tops and bottoms of my boxes, because many variations in details may be made without departing from the substance and scope of my invention.

25 I am aware that post-office boxes have heretofore been made so that each box is complete in itself and can be joined to others, so as to form a nest or series. This method, however, does not give any marked advantages so far as shipment goes, because no space is saved.

30 I am also aware that it is old to construct pigeon-holes with removable inner partitions. By my method, however, I am able to pack a nest of boxes in a fraction of a space which they will occupy when setup, and am enabled to readily arrange them in practice for use without employing tools, which cannot be done with any other pigeon-holes or post-office boxes

with which I am acquainted. I thus save materially in transportation charges and diminish the liability to damage in transit, and diminish the difficulty of setting up the boxes in nests or series for use. 40

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a post-office box, the combination of the side partitions, the top and bottom partitions removably connected therewith, and the door-frame removably connected with the partitions, substantially as described. 45

2. A post-office lock-box constructed with detachable metal side partitions and detachable glass top and bottom partitions, so that the box may be taken apart for shipment, and erected in place without the use of tools, substantially as described. 50 55

3. The combination, with a post-office box, of the front glass-holders, G, adapted to clamp and securely hold the glass, substantially as set forth. 60

4. In combination with a post-office box, the front and rear glass-holders, G and H, substantially as set forth.

5. In a post-office box, the combination of the thin sheets A and the strips B, secured together and forming a hollow post-office-box partition, and the locking mechanism contained within the hollow partition, substantially as set forth. 65

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name this 1st day of February, A. D. 1884. 70

WILLIAM H. BRAMBLE.

Witnesses:

ROBT. P. HERVEY,  
JOHN H. BERRY.