

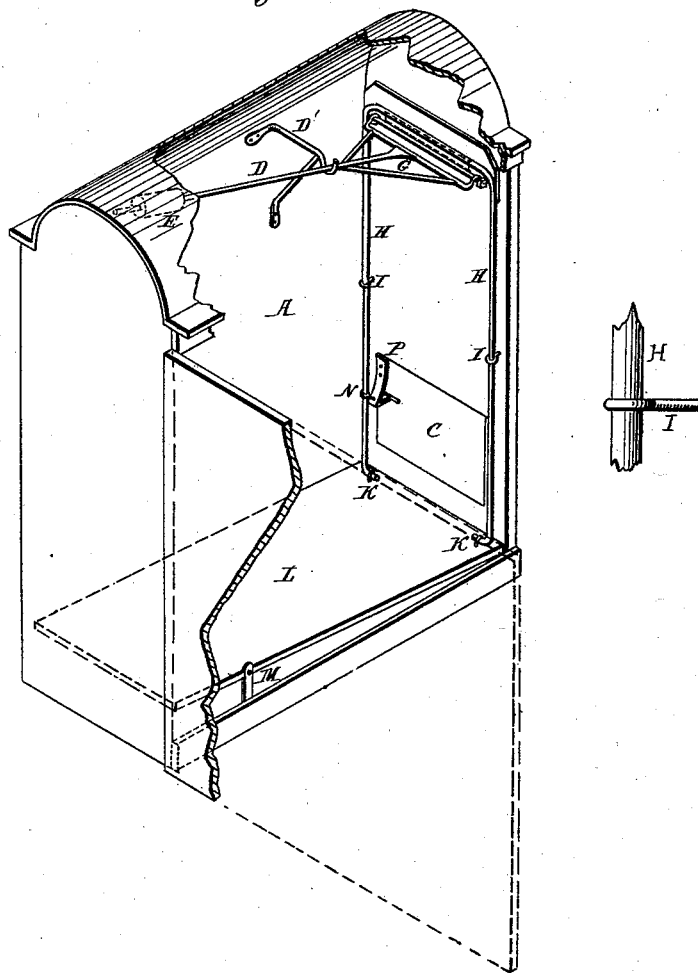
J. J. De BARRY, T. J. & A. T. LUNDQVIST.

Letter-Boxes.

No. 166,074.

Patented July 27, 1875.

Fig 1



James J. De Barry.  
 T. J. Lundqvist  
 A. T. Lundqvist      INVENTORS

WITNESSES  
 J. S. Doomes  
 A. H. Norris.

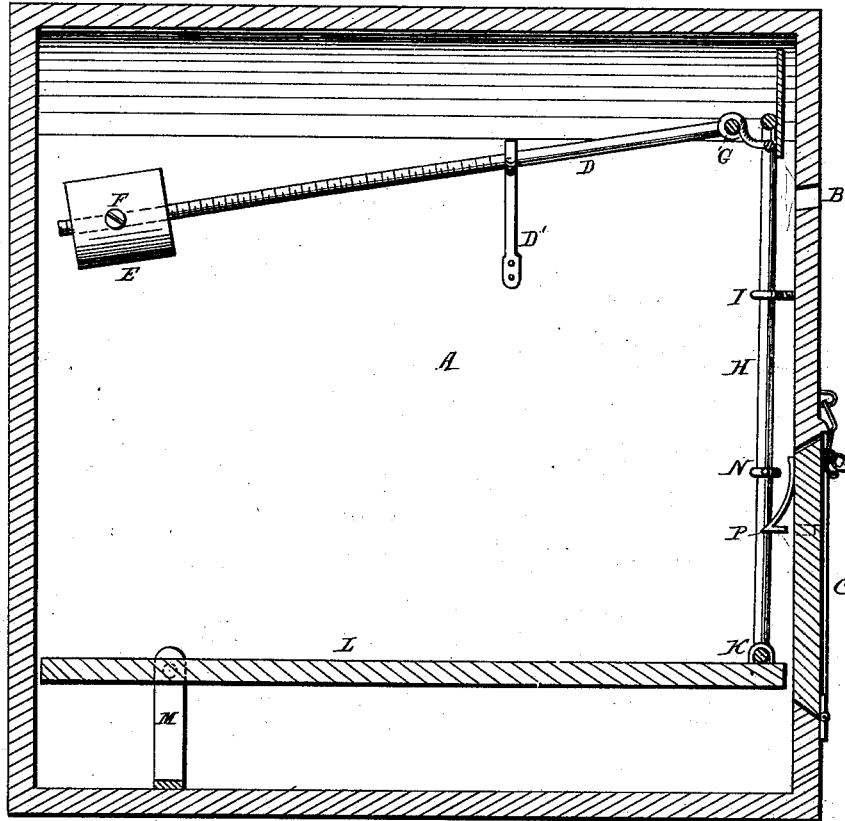
By James L. Norris.  
 Attorney

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Fig 2



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES J. DE BARRY, THORVALD J. LUNDQVIST, AND ALEXIUS T. LUNDQVIST, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

## IMPROVEMENT IN LETTER-BOXES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **166,074**, dated July 27, 1875; application filed May 20, 1875.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, JAMES J. DE BARRY, THORVALD JOHANNES LUNDQVIST, and ALEXIUS THEODOR LUNDQVIST, of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Boxes, of which the following is a specification:

This invention relates to certain improvements in mail-boxes, its object being to produce a box in which the opening for the insertion of the mail will be automatically closed when a given quantity or weight of mail is collected.

Our invention consists in a box of any desired shape, provided with a weighted lever in the upper part, one end of which is pivoted to a vertically-reciprocating frame, to the upper end of which is secured a metallic plate, adapted to cover the openings in the box when drawn down, the lower end of said frame being connected to one end of a platform, pivoted near its other end to the bottom of the box, in such manner that when a given amount of mail-matter is deposited it will be depressed by the weight of the same, and close the opening.

In the drawings, Figure 1 represents a perspective view of the box with a portion of its walls removed, and Fig. 2 a sectional view of the same.

The letter A represents a rectangular or other shaped box, constructed of iron or other suitable material, and provided with an opening, B, for the insertion of the mail, and a door, C, for its removal. D represents a lever in the upper part of the box, setting loosely in a standard, D', projecting from one side of the box, said standard forming the fulcrum of the lever. On the rear end of said lever is a sliding weight, E, which can be set at any desired distance from the fulcrum, and confined when set by means of a set-screw, F.

The lever may be graduated similar to a scale-beam, in order to adjust the weight, if desired. The front end of said lever is formed with a cross-head, G, which is pivoted at each end to the upper end of a vertically-reciprocating frame, H, extending down the front of the box, and working in guides I, attached to the same. The lower ends of said frame are bent toward each other at right angles, and set loosely in hooks K K, attached to the front end of a tilting table, L, the rear portion of which is pivoted between standards M M, attached to the bottom of the box. To one side of the frame H is secured a pin, N, which is adapted to catch under a spring-fastening, P, on the door of the box, and hold the frame down when the table drops, in order to keep the plate over the opening, and prevent it from being thrown away from the same by instruments inserted through said opening.

The operation of our invention will be readily understood. When the box is empty, the weight of the lever keeps the plate elevated above the mail-opening. The weight on the lever, being adjustable, may be set so that the table will be dropped when any given weight of mail-matter has accumulated. The mail is inserted through the opening for the purpose, as usual, and, when sufficient has been deposited to overbalance the weight on the lever, will bear down the tilting table, depressing the reciprocating frame and plate, and covering the mail-opening. The pin on the frame, when the same is depressed, will catch under the spring-fastening on the door of the box, and securely hold the same until the door is opened by the proper authorities for the removal of the mail-matter.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A letter-box in which is combined a table, L, pivoted near one end, vertical rods H,

connected at their lower ends to the pivoted table, a shield-plate attached to the vertical arms, and a rod, D, connected with the shield-plate, and provided with an adjustable weight, E, all substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. In combination with the reciprocating frame, the pin and spring-fastening attached to the door of the box for securing the frame when dropped, and preventing the plate from being pushed away from the mail-opening, substantially as described.

In testimony that we claim the foregoing we have hereunto set our hands.

JAMES J. DE BARRY.  
THORVALD JOHANNES LUNDQVIST.  
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