

Sheet 1-3 Sheets

Sellers & Pennock,

Mail Bag,

N<sup>o</sup> 1,633.

Patented June 12, 1840.

Fig: 3.

Fig: 1.

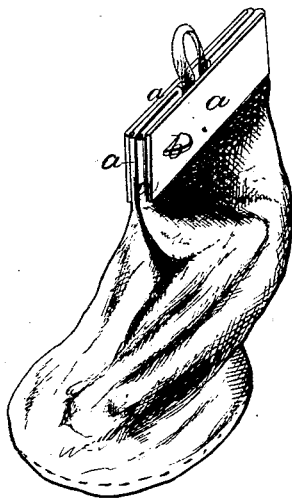


Fig: 2.

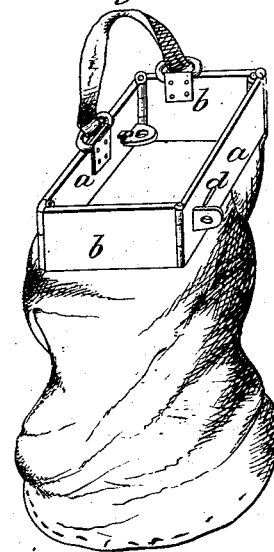
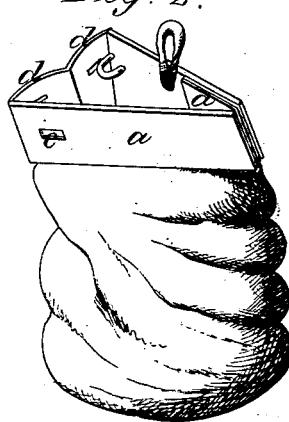


Fig: 4.

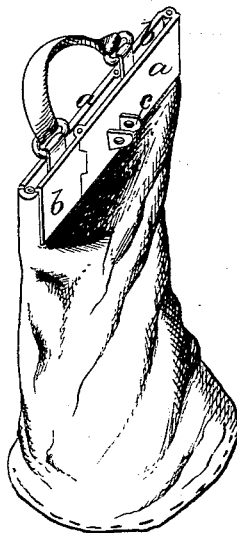


Fig: 5.

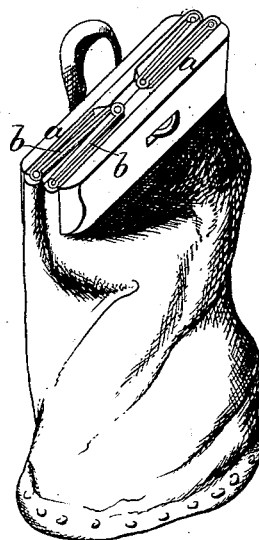
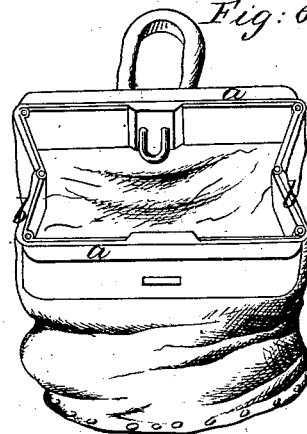


Fig: 6.



Sheet 2-3 Sheets.

Sellers & Pennock

Mail Bag.

No. 1633.

Patented June 12, 1840.

Fig. 7.

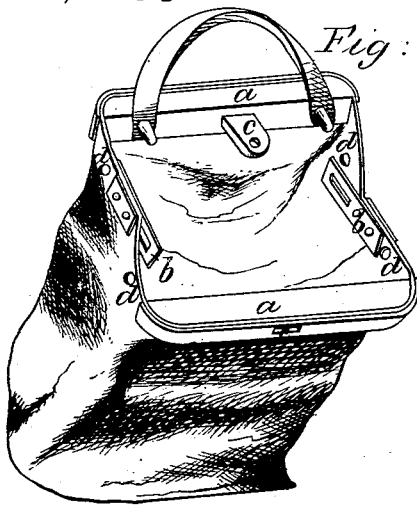


Fig. 8.

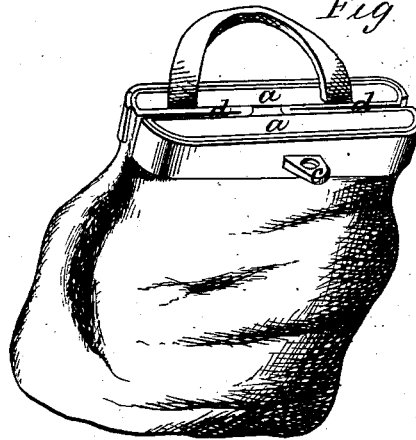


Fig. 12.

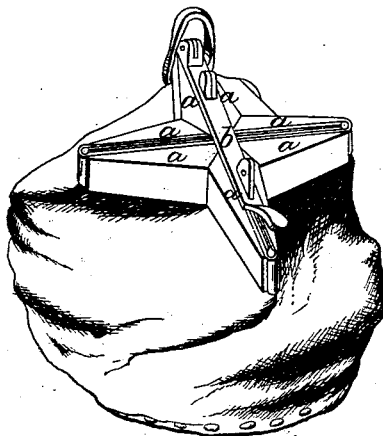
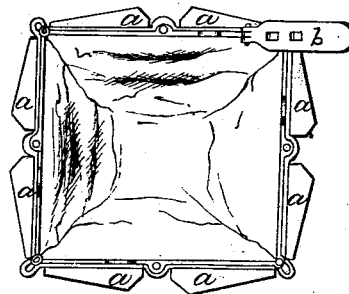


Fig. 13.



Sheet 3-38 Sheets.

Sellers & Pennock,

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N<sup>o</sup> 1,633.

Patented June 12 1840.

Fig: 9.

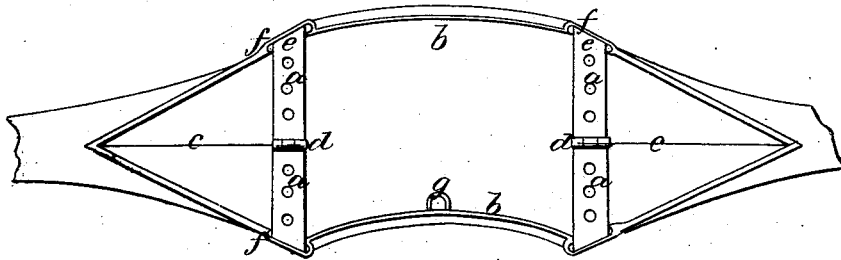


Fig: 10.

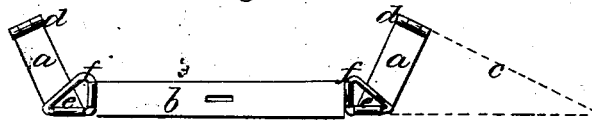
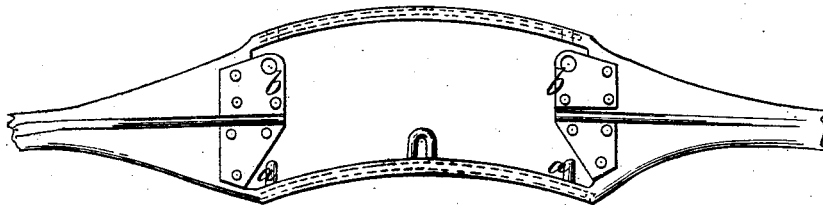


Fig: 11.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES SELLERS AND ABRAHAM L. PENNOCK, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

## IMPROVEMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MOUTH-PIECE OF MAIL-BAGS, &c.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **1,633**, dated June 12, 1840.

### *To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, JAMES SELLERS and ABRAHAM L. PENNOCK, of the city of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Mode of Constructing Mouth-Pieces for Mail-Bags, Traveling-Bags, and other Analogous Articles, which mouth-pieces are to be used instead of the chains and staples, clasps, and other means now in use.

Our mode of making such mouth-pieces we modify in various ways, but in each of them the mouth-piece consists of three or more pieces or sides, so arranged that two or more of them, which must be inflexible, connected by a single fastening, confine the remainder. If formed of three pieces or sides, two of them are of wood, metal, or other inflexible material, hinged or joined together by a flexible connection, and one of them of a flexible material. If formed of four or more pieces or sides, all of them are made of an inflexible material hinged or joined together by a flexible connection, or at least so many of them as are requisite to confine effectually the mouth of the bag when closed. When flexible pieces are employed, they are to be contained, when the mouth is closed, between other pieces which are inflexible.

When our mouth-pieces form a figure not exceeding four sides, two opposite sides are to be united for the purpose of fastening the whole. In figures of six sides, when all are external, the two middle pieces are to be united. In figures where all the sides except two are included between or held confined by two external or controlling pieces, these controlling-pieces are to be united, and in radiating figures the pieces composing alternate sets are also to be united. In each case this union is to be effected by some means appropriate to the purpose, and by which a catch, lock, or other device for securing the mouth may be attached. Such means may consist of plates projecting from those pieces in a line coinciding with the face-line of such pieces, and a hasp to confine them, the hasp being secured at one end by a hinge and at the other held down by the shackle of a padlock or other catch passing over such hasp and through one or more of the projecting plates; or when the connection is effected by the union

of two pieces only, the ligament, when other convenience does not forbid, may be a staple fastened to one piece and passing sufficiently through the other to admit of attaching the required catch or lock. We believe such a mouth-piece is altogether new, it being substantially different from the ordinary bag-clasp, which consists of two arched pieces hinged at their extremities.

In illustration of this improvement the following plans are given: Any of the forms of mouth-piece described may be attached to bags having their openings at the end, and several of them to bags of other kinds. In the latter case such adaptation is stated. Further varieties, but involving the same principles, might be given, but these will fully exemplify our invention. The bags are severally attached to the mouth-pieces by nailing, riveting, sewing, or otherwise, as may be most convenient and appropriate.

In Figures 1 and 2 in the accompanying drawings the kind of mouth-piece which we denominate the "triangle" is exhibited. Under this arrangement two pieces of wood or metal *a a* are hinged together at one end, and at the other end they have a staple *b* on one piece and a hole *c* in the other, furnishing the means of fastening by a padlock, or they may have some other mode of fastening by which they may be confined together when it is desired to secure the mouth of the bag. They are also connected at this end by a leather or other flexible piece *d d*, forming the third side, or a portion of the bag itself may be used for this purpose. Such piece is intended to be folded in between the two other pieces when the mouth is shut, and to be held there by the compression of the including sides, or by a pin or stud projecting from one of the including sides, with a corresponding cavity in the other.

Fig. 1 shows the bag as closed, and Fig. 2 as open.

In adjusting the bag to the mouth-piece it would be well to have a plait in the former at the end next the hinge corresponding with the fold at the end next the fastening, both for symmetry and in view of a consequent convenience. In that case the hinge may be made so as to separate into two parts and thus admit the bag to open its full extent.

Figs. 3 and 4 show the mouth-piece in the form which we denominate the "quadrangle." In making our mouth-pieces under this modification we take four pieces of wood or metal—two of them *a a* longer than the other two *b b*. They are connected with each other at the ends in the way necessary to the closing or opening of the bag by hinges, for which the bag itself may be used if suitable, it being proper, in order that the sides of the mouth-piece should be preserved in a fixed relation to each other when closed, that "stiff hinges," by which we mean hinges moving only in one direction, should be used near the middle of the mouth-piece. In the arrangement of the pieces the longer and shorter alternate, so that when the mouth-piece is open a parallelogram is exhibited, as in Fig. 3. When it is closed, the two longer pieces overlapping a staple *c* on one piece and a hole *d* in the other furnish a mode of fastening by means of a padlock; or plates attached to the inner sides of those pieces projecting above the top and perforated above the hasp or yoke—which should be made to confine them so as to receive a padlock—furnish a similar mode of fastening, or a staple on one and a catch or lock on the other the means of immediately fastening them.

If some flexibility is desired in the mouth-piece, the overlapping may be dispensed with and the opposite sides made equal. In such case, if two opposite sides are securely fastened near the middle joint, the hinges may be of such kind as to allow of motion in different directions.

A quadrangular mouth-piece, as above described, may be attached to the end of bags, to the side of cylindrical bags, or to saddle-bags. In the latter case it will be convenient to give the mouth-piece a curvature suited to the position of the bag when in use, elongating the upper portion, and should the hinges be of such kind as not to prevent the arcs which are unconfined by the fastening from separating, a stud projecting from one arc and passing into a corresponding cavity in the other arc may be used for that purpose.

The form which we call the "hexagon" requires six pieces. If the end pieces fold so as to be contained between the middle pieces without passing each other, the hexagon must necessarily be irregular. Figs. 5 and 6 exhibit a hexagon of this description. Two of the pieces *a a* are long and four of nearly half the length of these, as *b b*, hinged so as to move only in one plane and so as to suit their folding with the longer pieces on the outside, the shorter between them, and that when open they may exhibit the above figure. The bag is fastened by securing the two outer pieces together in any of the modes above described.

Figs. 7 and 8 show a hexagon of like construction, except that for the two inflexible pieces (marked *b b*) in Figs. 5 and 6, and immediately connected with one of the long pieces

two equivalent flexible pieces *d d* are substituted. In this arrangement the bag, if it will be convenient to do so, may be used to supply these flexible portions. It is obvious that the closing of the mouth will be so regulated by the inflexible portions as that it will come together with facility. We place on one outer piece a staple *c*, which passes through an aperture *e* in the other piece and furnishes the means of fastening. As this staple will not be sufficient to keep the two portions or sides of the mouth-piece in their proper relation to each other, in order to attain this, one of the two portions of the mouth-piece may overlap the other, or studs, as before described, may be used.

Figs. 9 and 10 exhibit another modification of the hexagon arranged with particular reference to being attached to saddle-bags. We make the end pieces *a a a* to fold obliquely to the edge of the middle pieces *b b*, and on such an angle as the gore *c* to which we attach them requires. A curvature is given to the middle pieces, the upper of which may be slightly elongated. At *d d*, where the end pieces are hinged together, their shape is rectangular. Their other extremity *e e* is of such an angle as will conform to the shape of the gore *c*. We connect these pieces together at *d* by a stiff hinge, and we connect them to the middle pieces *b b* by a hinge *f f*, admitting of motion in two directions, which we construct as follows: We take a link of metal in the form of a rectangular triangle, and we make the two legs of this triangle the axes of two plates which form the leaves of the hinge. Joining the middle and end pieces by such a triangle, we have a connection allowing of the necessary motion. The legs to which the end pieces are attached are made to coincide with the outside edge of the middle pieces and bag, and the end pieces are made to lie between the links, which confine them firmly when the mouth is closed. A staple *g* on the lower middle piece passing through an aperture in the upper furnishes the means of fastening and completes the mouth-piece. To the edges of the pieces of leather which form the bag, gores in the form of isosceles triangles, at the distance apart of the length of the middle pieces and each of whose bases is equal to the length of two end pieces, are to be attached, or there is to be an equivalent construction of the bag. These gores are made to fold inward. When extended, their bases with the edges of the upper and lower portions of the bag contained between them exhibit the form of a parallelogram, or nearly so. To the margin of the figure thus presented the mouth-piece is to be attached.

Instead of a hinge formed by the triangular link above described, a hinge having for its axes a rod bent at right angles (represented by the letter *L*) may be used. A loop-hinge may also be used, or the bag itself, when the material is suitable, may be employed to

form the connection, as represented in Fig. 11. In these cases, in order to prevent the upper and lower pieces from changing their proper relation to each other, and thus admit of access to the bag, we use pins or studs *a a*, attached to the lower middle piece and entering into holes prepared for them in the upper piece or other means adapted to the purpose; and in the last case, to strengthen and further control the connection, we extend the upper plates inward, as at *b*, with an orifice for the studs, so that the extension shall pass between and be held by the middle pieces when the mouth is closed.

Figs. 12 and 13 represent the form denominated the "octagon." In constructing the mouth of this form we take eight pieces *a a a* of a similar length, which form, when closed, a star. These pieces are to be hinged so as to move only in one plane and admit of this adaptation.

As a mode of fastening the mouth-piece when closed, an iron plate or hasp is used. In this are holes fitting four metal plates, which project above the top, and which are attached near the middle of the closed mouth-piece to the inner sides of the four pieces, which form two opposite arms of the star. To one of those pieces the hasp *v* is hinged. Through the two projections farthest from the hinge a hole immediately above the hasp, when in its place, furnishes the means of securing by a padlock. This arrangement will be rendered clear by the drawings; but other modes of fastening might be adopted. A mouth-piece formed according to this mode may be attached to the side of a cylindrical bag by means of a band of flexible material. The

width between the mouth-piece and bag should be equal to the length of one of the pieces composing the star, and the hole in the bag may be a square equal on each side to two of the pieces. Those joints which are outward when the mouth-piece is closed should be so fixed as when open to be over the corners of the square. These directions are in view of the band lying over in convenient folds, and the star consequently coming into close contact with the bag when closed.

We have thus described a variety of modifications of our mouth-pieces for bags or various descriptions, fully, as we believe, illustrating the nature of our invention, and it would be easy to exhibit others; but we do not think that by so doing we should render our intention more clear than we have already done.

We now declare that what we claim as our invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The making of such mouth-pieces so that they shall consist of three or more sides and be so formed and arranged upon the principle and in the manner herein shown that two or more of the sides which must be inflexible shall confine the remainder by a single fastening, the flexible portions when used being embraced and confined between other portions which are inflexible, in the manner herein shown.

JAMES SELLERS.  
ABM. L. PENNOCK.

Witnesses:

THOMAS A. WRIGHT,  
SAMUEL HUTCHINSON.