

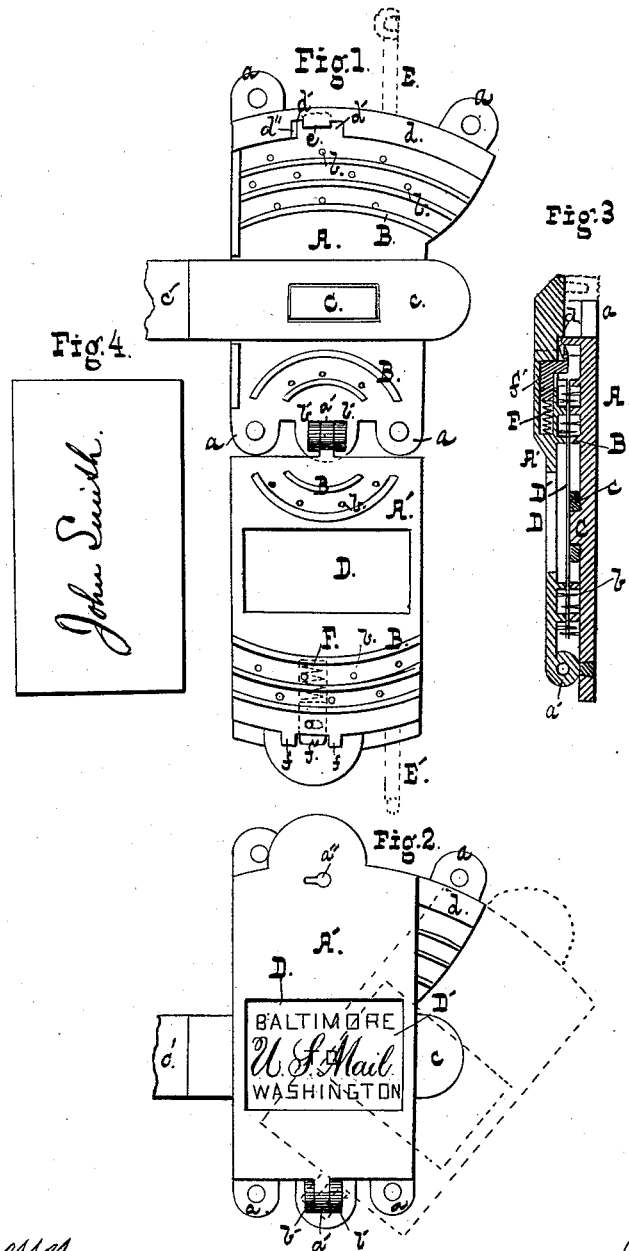
(Model.)

C. C. EGERTON.

SEAL LOCK FOR MAIL BAGS.

No. 264,676.

Patented Sept. 19, 1882.



Witnesses
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C. CALVERT EGERTON, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

SEAL-LOCK FOR MAIL-BAGS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 264,676, dated September 19, 1882.

Application filed June 14, 1882. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, C. CALVERT EGERTON, of Baltimore city, State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Bag Locks; and I hereby declare the same to be fully, clearly, and exactly described as follows, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan of the device open; Fig. 2, a similar view closed. Fig. 3 is a central longitudinal sectional view, and Fig. 4 a rear elevation, of the signature-tag.

My invention relates to locks for mail-bags; and it has for its object to provide a lock designed to prevent or to detect any tampering with the mail in transit.

The invention will first be fully described in connection with all that is necessary to a full understanding thereof, and then designated in the claim.

In the drawings, A is a plate having ears *a*, which are riveted to the bag, and A' is a second plate having a lug, *a'*, which is pivoted between ears *b'*, that are pivoted to the plate A. The two plates are provided with ribs B, which close down upon each other, as shown in Fig. 3, and have also pins or teeth *b*, projecting upward between the ribs. On the end of the plate A is an under-cut flange, *d*, having slots *d'* and an intermediate beveled lip, *e*. Below this lip is a small socket, which is indicated in Fig. 1 by a broken curved line, and on the plate A' are lugs *f*, which fall between the slots *d'*, and a lip, *f'*, actuated by a spring, F.

C is a stud secured to the plate A, and *c'* is the strap of the bag, having a terminal plate, *c*, slotted to fit upon the lug.

The upper plate, A', has a central opening, D, to expose the destination-tag D', and is by preference made of open or lattice work.

In lieu of riveting the plate A to the bag, it may be provided with a half-staple, E, having a terminal socket to receive the end of a half-staple, E', on the plate A', the two being designed to secure eyes on the ends of the strap *c'*.

In operation the strap is laced through the eyes on the bag and the plate *c* is placed over the lug C, as shown. The tag D' is then laid

in place and the plate A' is closed down upon the plate A, causing the lip *f'* to catch under the lip *e* and occupy the small socket. The ribs B press upon and secure the tag D', which is perforated by the pins *b*. Now, it will be seen that once secured, as described, lateral movement of the plate A' to the left is prevented by reason of the lug *f* bringing up against the beveled shoulder *d''*, and the lip *f'* prevents any upward movement, and lateral movement to the right is prevented by reason of the engagement of lip *f'* with the small socket. It may be moved to the right by retracting the lip *f'* through the medium of a suitable key inserted through the hole *a''*; but this motion to the right causes the pins *b* to tear and destroy the tag.

The device serves to secure the address-tag conspicuously and prevent the miscarriage of the mail and effectually prevents the fraudulent opening of the bag by unauthorized persons.

This invention is an improvement on that class of seal-locks in which two plates are hinged and pivoted together, so that when one by means of the hinge closes against the other it may be opened again only by bringing into operation the pivot and moving it laterally.

It will be seen that by my improvement one plate is provided with an under-cut flange, *d*, having slots *d'* and the beveled shoulder *d''*, and the other plate is provided with lugs *f*, which, by falling into the said slots and against the beveled shoulder, engage below the under-cut flange. These parts, with the spring-lip *f'*, constitute an operative device—one which is positive in action and possesses the requisite strength to hold the fastening-strap, and at the same time cannot become disordered.

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

In a mail-bag lock, the combination, with two plates hinged and pivoted together and adapted to clasp between them the fastening-strap or address seal-tag, of an under-cut flange, *d*, having slots *d'*, a beveled shoulder, *d''*, and a socket below the flange on one plate and lugs *f* and a spring-lip, *f'*, on the other

plate, whereby when one plate closes against the other the two are strongly secured from opening by the action of the hinge by the engagement of the lugs under the under-cut flange, and are prevented from lateral movement on the pivot by the engagement of the spring-lip with the socket below the flange, as set forth.

Witness my hand this 13th day of June, 1882.

C. CALVERT EGERTON.

Witnesses:

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