

He did get a patent for the lock in 1889, and the design did make production at Eagle, figure 5.



Figure 6

Mix made other locks for the PO to approve. Figure 6 is an example of another lock which was not approved. This is a very good lock. There is no way to determine why the lock was rejected.

Several Eagle locks were approved for PO use for many years at the end of the 19th Century



Figure 7

The next lock falls in a grey area. I can't believe the lock was rejected, because the design was used in many US Government departments. The question is: after 140 years, why is this lock the only one known? There should be more; not only in past use, but also in literature.

The next locks are truly a great find. It is a set of locks submitted to the Post Master General for approval. They are in their original wooden shipping box, figure 8.



Figure 8

I will attempt to decipher what is written on the box label: To The Honorable  
????????? Post Master General Washington D.C.

The box is full of four padlocks and three drawings. Two different mechanisms are demonstrated. The locks are very well made, but very easy to pick. The mechanisms are warded with the tip of the key releasing the bolt. The locks were probably rejected because of poor security.

The reason I was so pleased to add these locks to my Postal collection is because it is a complete package, just as it was submitted to the Post Master General. It demonstrates American workmanship, unspoiled by time. I will continue to attempt to read the Postmaster General's name so the date of these locks can be determined



Figure 9



Figure 10

Figures 9 and 10 show what is in the box. They are preserved like the day they were placed in the box. The paper lining the bottom of the box is from a book and doesn't help date the locks.

One of each style of lock is not riveted and can easily be taken apart to observe the mechanism, figure 11.



**Figure 11**

The casting is Green Sand and very well done. Much work was put into each of these locks.

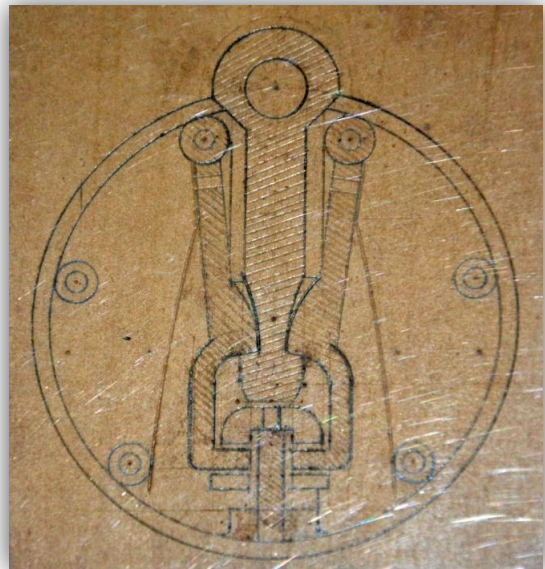
The rear of each lock had the name and address of the inventor figure 12.



**Figure 12**

The lock was apparently made by George M. Foster, Beloit, Rock Co., Wisconsin. He must have been very disappointed!

Figure 13 shows one of the three drawings in the box.



**Figure 13**

These are but a few of the many locks rejected by the Post Office. These locks are from a time before the PO made their own locks and keys.

The PO seemed to use the Smith and Egge design more than any. When the PO made their own locks they used the Smith & Egge design for all of their Street Letter Box padlocks and also their Registered Mail counting locks.