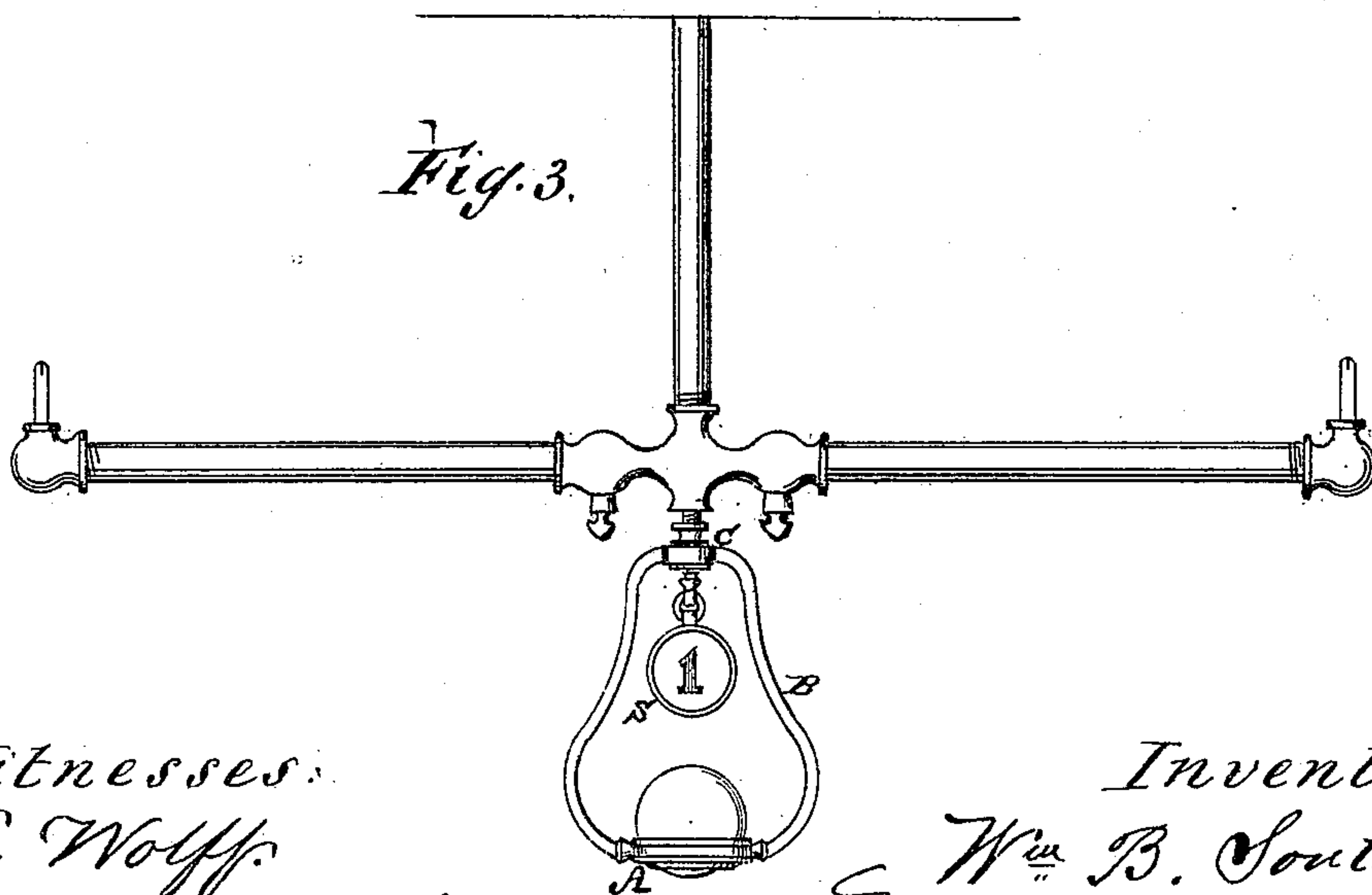
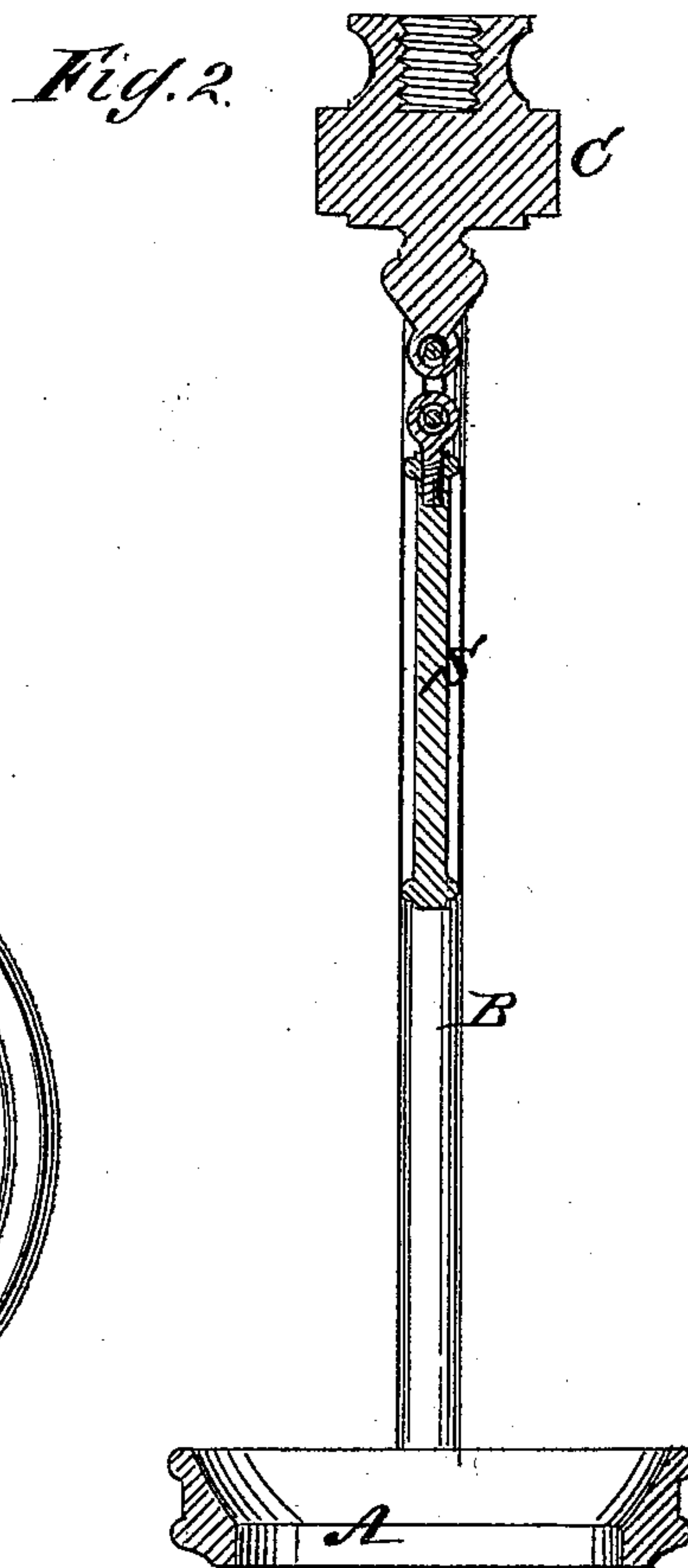
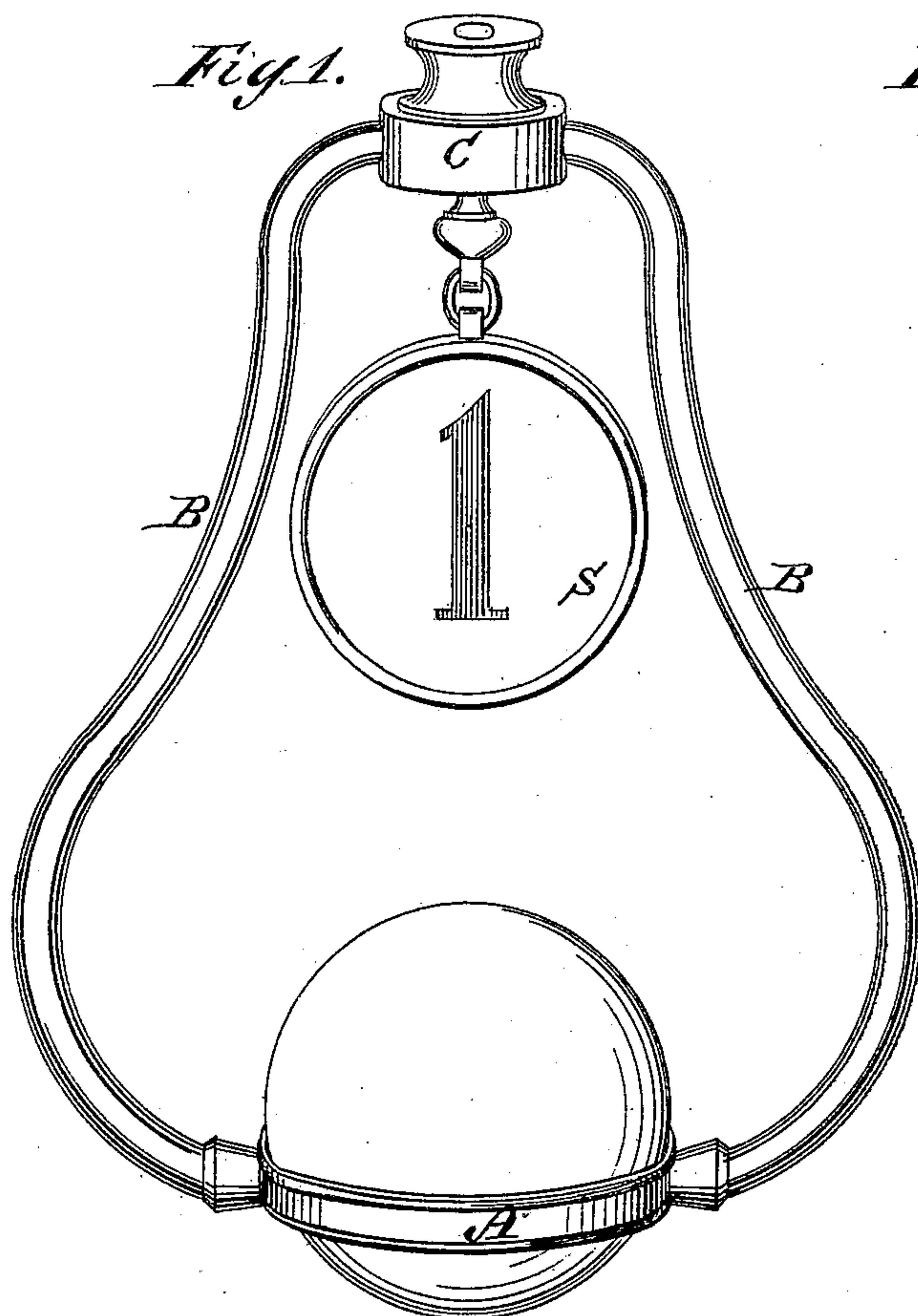


W. B. SOUTHWORTH.  
BILLIARD BALL HOLDER.

No. 177,026.

Patented May 2, 1876.



Witnesses:

*E. Wolff.*  
*Jacob Felbel*

Inventor:

*Wm B. Southworth*  
*by attorney.*  
*J. N. McArthur.*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM B. SOUTHWORTH, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO HUGH W. COLLENDER, OF SAME PLACE.

## IMPROVEMENT IN BILLIARD-BALL HOLDERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 177,026, dated May 2, 1876; application filed April 12, 1876.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WM. B. SOUTHWORTH, of New York city, in the county of New York, in the State of New York, have invented an Improvement in Billiard-Ball Holders; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

Previous to my invention it has been customary to provide billiard-tables with ball-holders for the convenience of the players and proprietors in billiard-saloons. But heretofore the holder or receptacle for the retention of the fourth ball, while playing the three-ball game, has been formed in or adapted to be attached to the side of the table.

There are several objections to the use of the ball holder or receptacle for the ball in disuse in the manner heretofore known, among which are these—viz., the inconvenience of the location of the ball-holder on the table-body, the unsightly appearance of any fixture on the table which tends to mar the beauty of appearance of the latter and the opportunity afforded for the theft of the ball. I propose to overcome these objections by providing for use a ball-holder adapted to be suspended from the gas-fixture over the table; and I also propose to render the ball-holder, either when filled or empty, an ornament rather than otherwise, to the furniture of the room by a symmetrical design and arrangement of it with the gas-fixture.

To these ends and objects my invention consists in a pendent ball-holder, or a ball-receptacle, composed, by preference, of metal adapted to depend from the lower central point of the gas-fixture, and provided with means for its attachment to the gas-fixture, as will be hereinafter more fully described.

It has been customary previous to my invention to have some separate sign or number to designate each table in the saloon, and a very generally-adopted plan is that of having an artistically-appearing number-plate or sign-plate attached to the gas-fixture over each table. The use and convenience of such number plates or signs over or adjacent to each table are familiar to room-keepers.

I propose to utilize my pendent ball-holder as the bearer also of the table-number; and to this end my invention further consists in the employment, in combination with a ball-holder adapted to be arranged over the table, of a table number or mark of designation either formed on or coupled to the holder device, all as will be hereinafter more fully explained.

To enable those skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to more fully describe it, referring, by letters, to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a ball-holder adapted to be screwed onto the lower central point of an ordinary billiard-table gas-fixture. Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the same. In the first of these figures the fixture is represented as holding a ball, and both are drawn full size. Fig. 3 is an elevation on a smaller scale, showing the arrangement of the ball-holder with the gas-fixture.

In the several figures the same part is indicated by the same letter of reference.

The ball-holder is made, by preference, of cast metal, with an annular base or ring-like portion, A, to form a seat for the ball, and upwardly-projecting side bars or portions B, which converge at the top, and unite in an ornamental center-piece, C, the upper end of which is screwed or otherwise attached to the lower central portion of the gas-fixture, as illustrated at Fig. 3, and from the lower part of which depends the table number or sign S. This number-plate or sign may, of course, be made of any desired pattern or design, and may be either plate-like, or of cubical or other shape, so as to prevent several surfaces for the number, so that the latter may be easily read from different points of view. The sign-plate or ornamental number-pendant S may, if deemed expedient, be so attached to or combined with the ball-holder by means of a hook-and-eye, that it can be removed at replaced at pleasure, if necessary, for cleaning or altering the arrangement of the numbers of the tables in the room, or for other purposes.

The variations of design, form, and proportion, of which the holder device is susceptible, are almost infinite. I do not therefore



propose to have it understood that my invention is limited to any particularity of form or pattern of either the ball-holder or the number-plate. It will, however, be understood that the annulus or base portion A should be of such diameter and body of stock, that while it shall form a secure seat for, or retainer of, the ball of the size usually employed, it shall not permit the ball to enter within it so far as to induce any inconvenient effort for its extrication with the fingers when the ball is wanted. And the size and shape of the side bars B should be such that they will not be in the way of the ready placement, by hand, of the ball in the annulus or seat A, or of its easy dislodgment therefrom.

It will be seen that by the use of a ball-holder adapted to be hung over the table a receptacle for the off-ball is provided, which is so located that the ball is always in sight, and hence less liable to be stolen, while at the same time it is easy of access, and rather adds than detracts from the symmetry and artistic appearance of the table and its accompanying fixtures.

While the ball-holder and its contents are easily accessible, arranged with the gas-fix-

tures, as shown, they are never in the way of the player, since, in making all strokes except massé shots, the player's cue and person never come near the gas-fixture, and in elevating the cue for the massé, it must necessarily be placed always between the branch pipes of the gas-fixture, and, consequently, can never interfere with any fixture located at the lower central part of the chandelier.

Having so fully explained my invention that those skilled in the art can make and use it, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A ball-holder or receptacle constructed and adapted to be placed in a pendent position over the table, substantially as described.

2. The combination of a ball seat or retainer, and table number-plate, with a single supporting stem or device, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 24th day of March, 1876.

WM. B. SOUTHWORTH. [L. S.]

In presence of—

MULFORD W. HAYWARD,  
GEORGE W. JONES.