

(No Model.)

J. J. JOHNSTON.

WRITING DESK.

No. 268,799.

Patented Dec. 12, 1882.

Fig. 1.

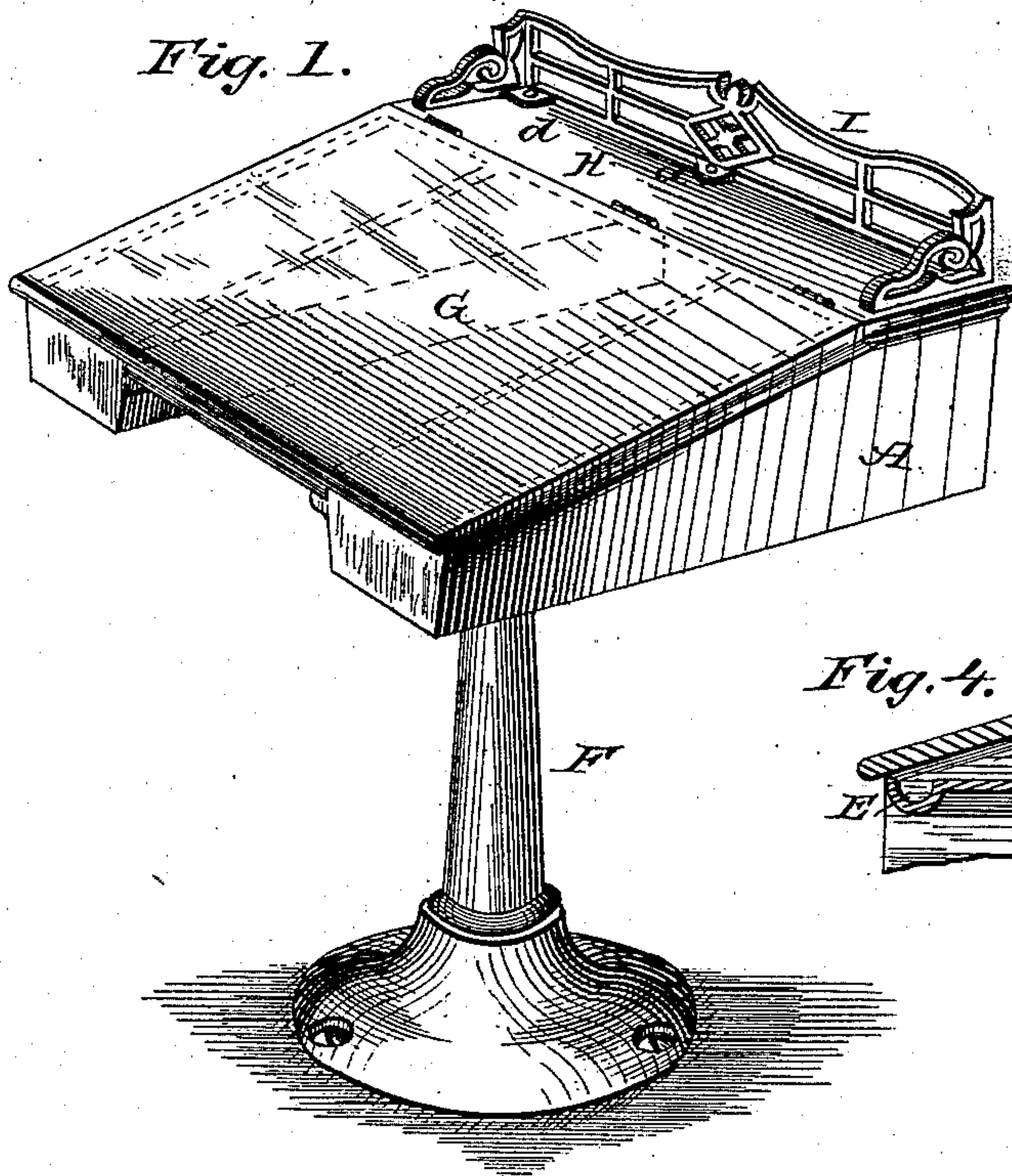


Fig. 4.



Fig. 2.

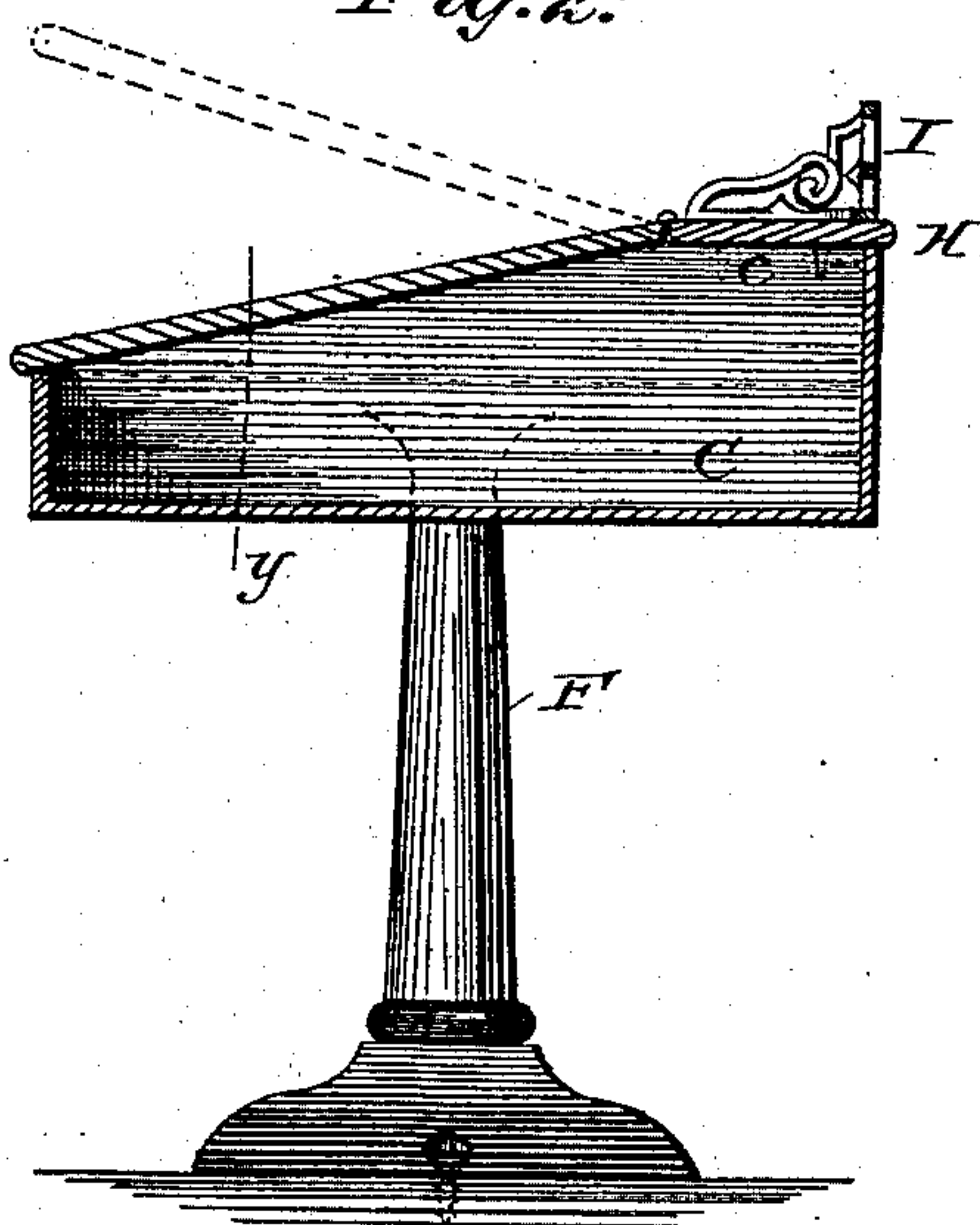
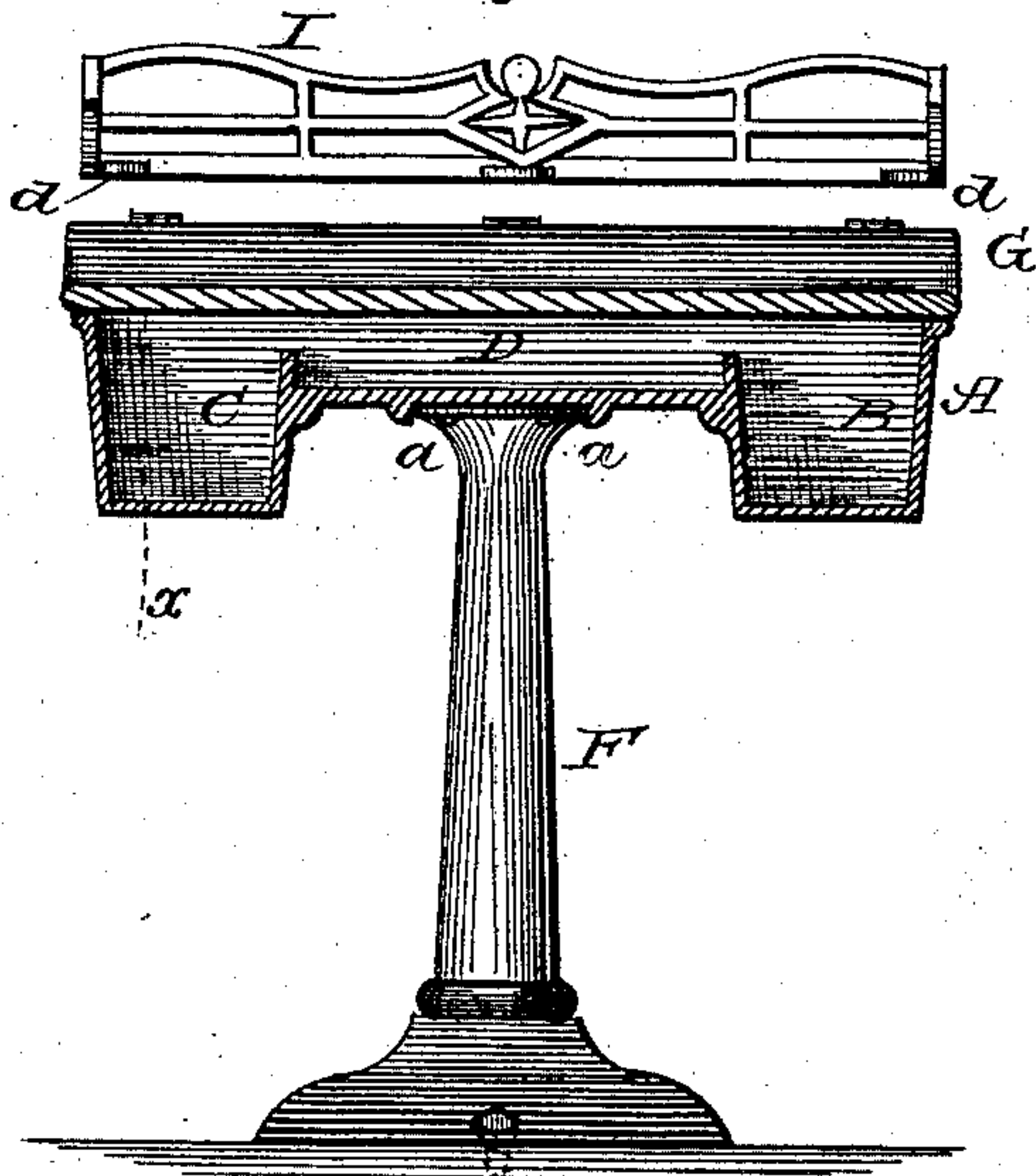


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES

Wm. L. Dieterich
F. L. Dieterich

INVENTOR

James J. Johnston

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES J. JOHNSTON, OF COLUMBIANA, OHIO, ASSIGNOR TO THE UNITED STATES IMPROVEMENT COMPANY, (LIMITED,) OF SAME PLACE.

WRITING-DESK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 268,799, dated December 12, 1882.

Application filed February 23, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES J. JOHNSTON, of Columbiana, in the county of Columbiana and State of Ohio, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Writing-Desks; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

My invention relates to an improvement in writing-desks; and it consists in constructing the body of the desk with compartments for books, slate, and writing material, and a pen and pencil receptacle, all constructed of cast-iron and in a single piece and mounted upon a hollow pedestal of cast-iron, made in a single piece, said body furnished with a hinged lid and book-shelf, constructed of wood, and said shelf surrounded with an ornamental cast-iron guard, all of which will hereinafter more fully and at large appear.

To enable others skilled in the art with which my invention is most nearly connected to make and use it, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

In the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improvement in writing-desks. Fig. 2 is a vertical section at line *x* of Fig. 3. Fig. 3 is a vertical transverse section at line *y* of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a detail section.

Reference being had to the accompanying drawings, A represents the body of the desk, having compartments B C for books, which compartments extend down below the floor of the compartment D, which is for slate and writing material, in front of which compartment D is a receptacle, E, for pen and pencil. The compartments B and C extend below the floor of the compartment D for the purpose of preventing the books interfering with the slate and writing material placed in the compartment D.

It is a matter of observation that in schools much confusion and annoyance are occasioned at the commencement of school and call of class by searching for books or slates or writing material or pen and pencil when they are placed in a desk having a single recep-

tacle for said articles, which often become mixed—that is to say, the books lap over on the slate and writing-paper, and the pen and pencil hide under the slate, paper, or books, and the adjusting of said articles or searching for the desired article causes noise and confusion. Now, one of the objects of my invention is to have separate compartments for the books, slate, writing material, and pen and pencil, and yet the whole exposed to view upon the raising of the lid.

The body A, with its several compartments, is constructed of cast-iron and in a single piece by the molding and casting process. The receptacle E for pen and pencil, when viewed in cross-section, forms the half of a tube, which receptacle imparts strength and stiffness to the forward edge of the compartment D between the compartments B C, and prevents the warping of the casting at that point. The body A is mounted upon a pedestal, F, and is secured to the upper end of said pedestal by means of screws, as indicated at *a*. The pedestal F is hollow, and constructed of cast-iron and in a single piece by the molding and casting process. By having the compartments B and C extending below the floor of the compartment D room is secured for the lower limbs of the scholar and the body of the desk brought down on the pedestal. The lid G is constructed of wood, and is hinged to the shelf H, which is also constructed of wood, and secured to the body A by means of screws, as indicated at *c*. The ornamental guard I, which surrounds the rear sides and ends of the shelf H, is constructed of cast-iron, and is secured to the shelf H by screws passing through the lugs *d*.

A desk constructed as hereinbefore described will be strong, firm, and durable, and not liable to injury by the cutting and hacking process due to the whittling propensities of school-boys.

The advantages of the desk hereinbefore described will meet a want common to schools, and said desk can be manufactured cheaply and with great facility.

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

In a writing-desk, the body A, having compartments B C D, the compartments B C extending below the floor of compartment D, and receptacle E, said body constructed of
5 cast-iron in a single piece and furnished with hinged wooden lid and shelf H, having a guard, I, and a cast-iron hollow pedestal, F,

formed in a single piece for supporting said body A, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

JAMES J. JOHNSTON.

Witnesses:

T. D. D. OURAND,
FRED. G. DIETERICH.