

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

W. BERGNER.
EASEL ALBUM.

No. 539,028.

Patented May 14, 1895.

Fig. 1.

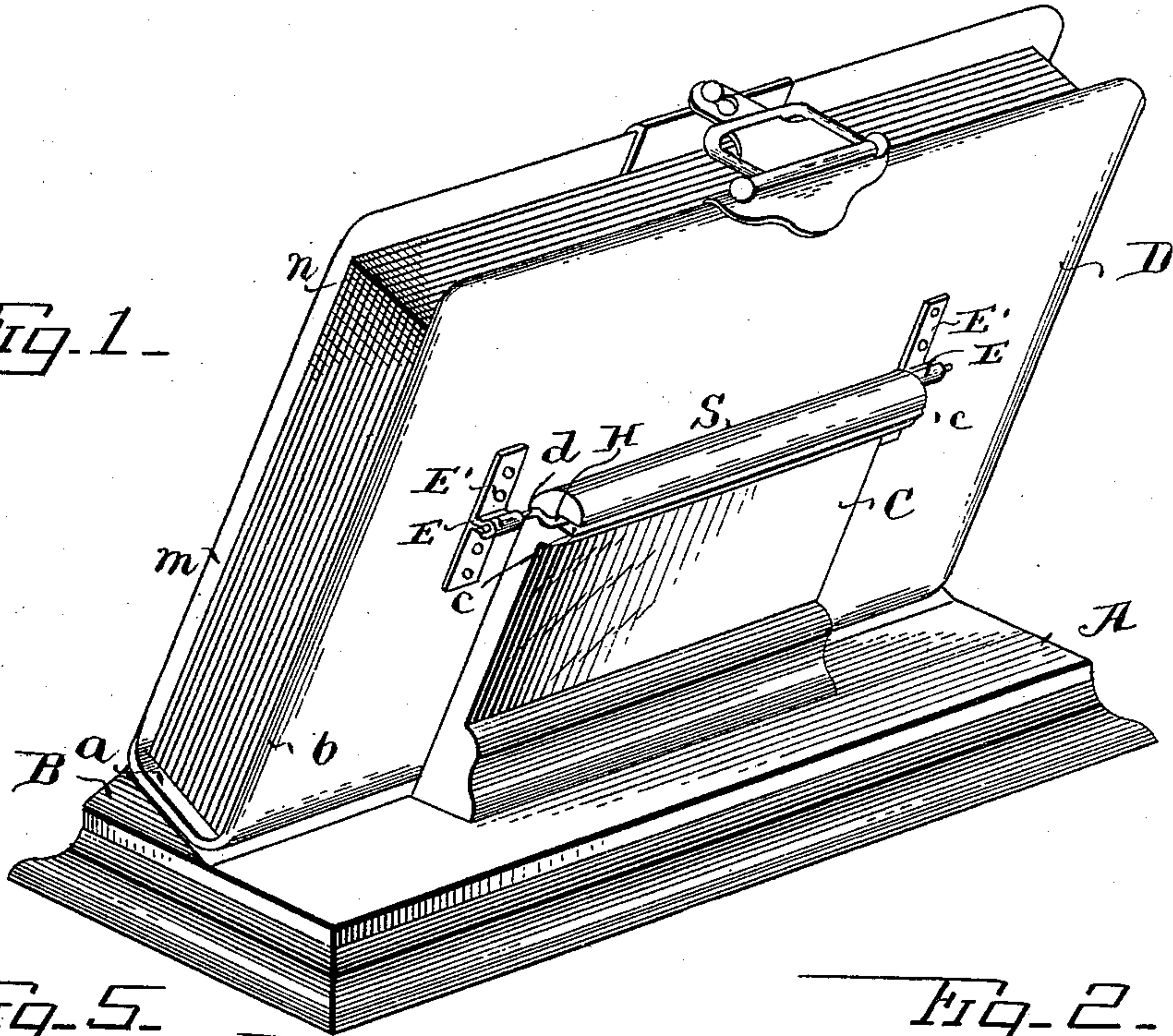


Fig. 5.

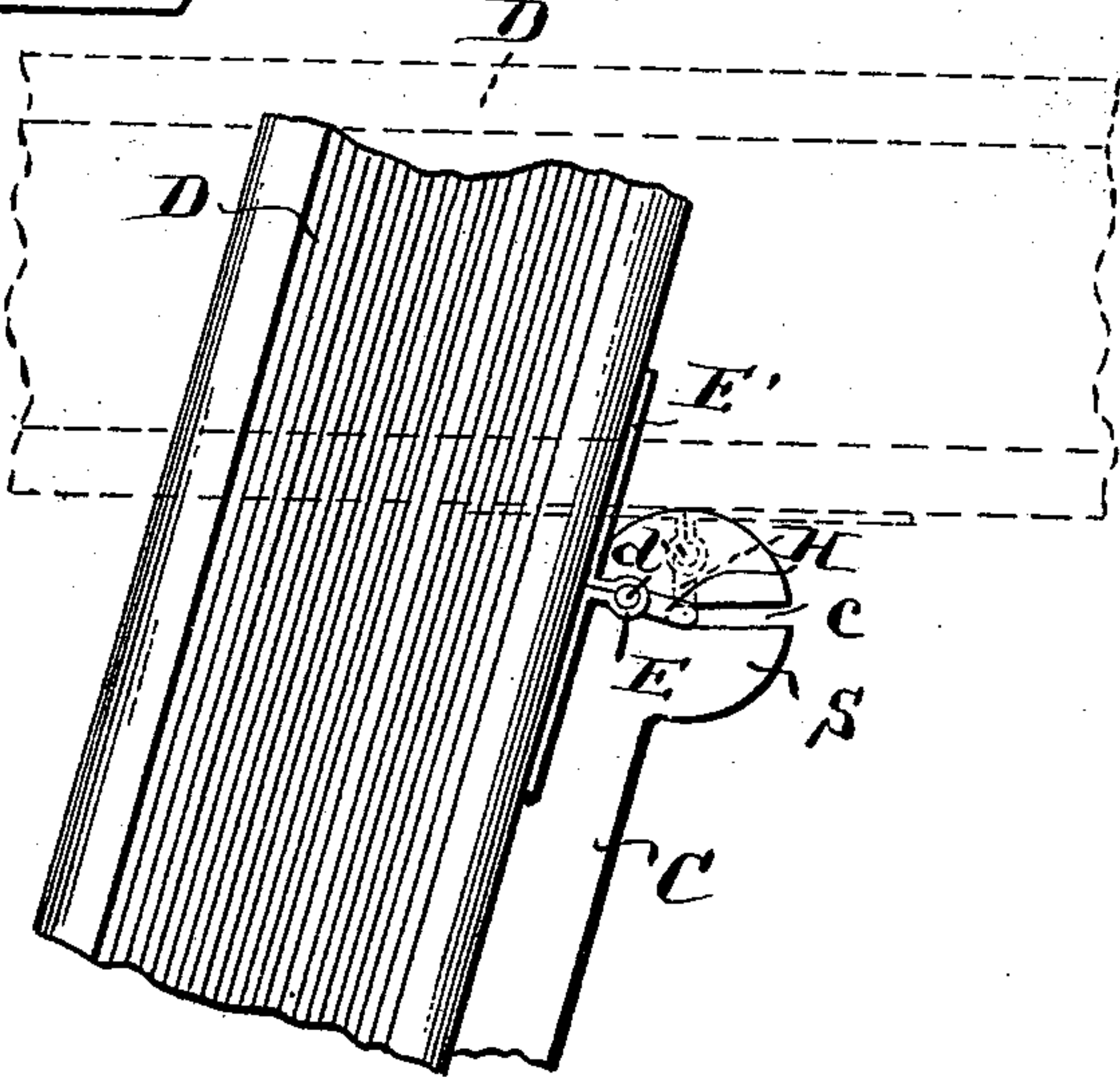
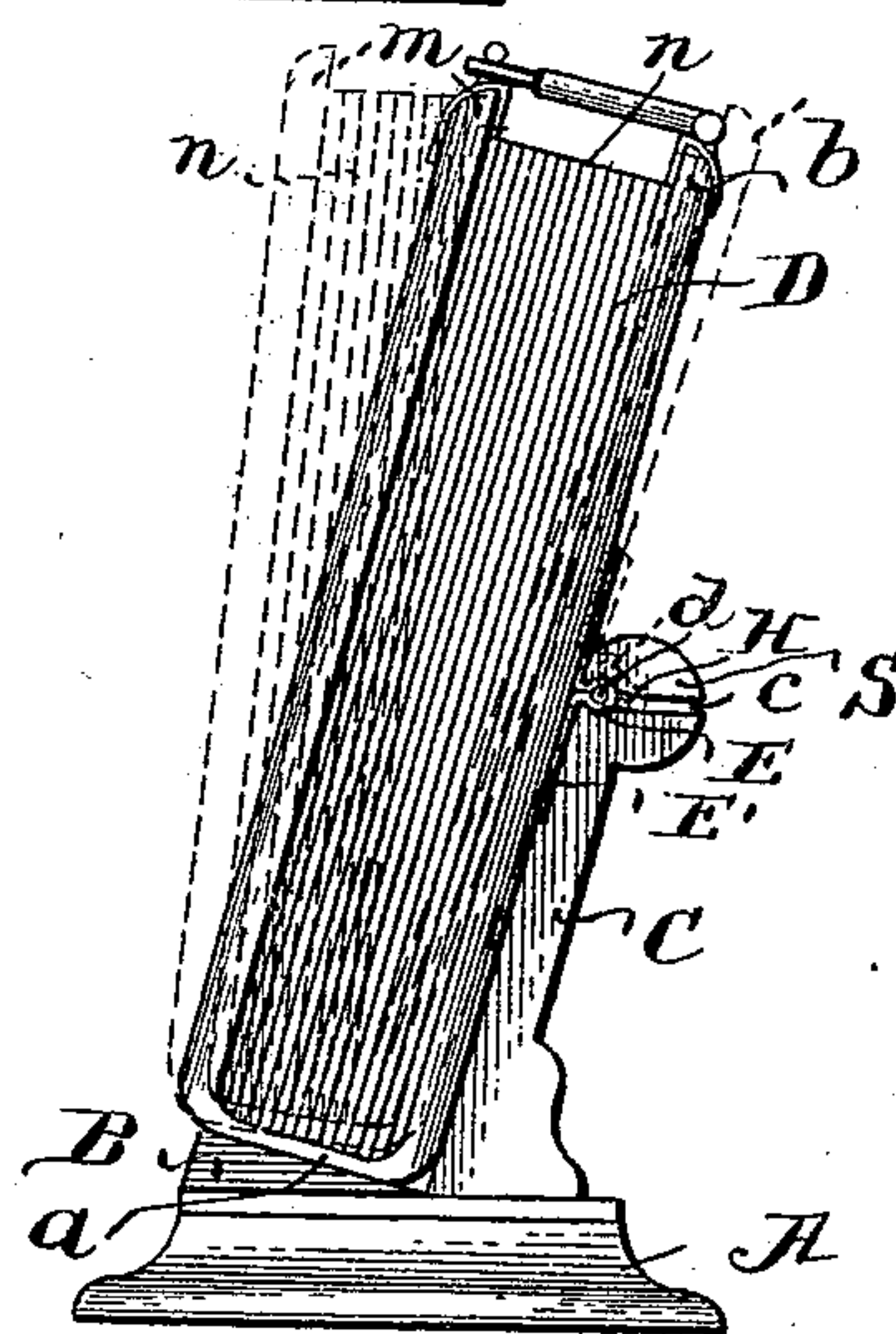


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:

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C. W. Buck

Inventor.

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by M. H. C. Hutton

Attorney.

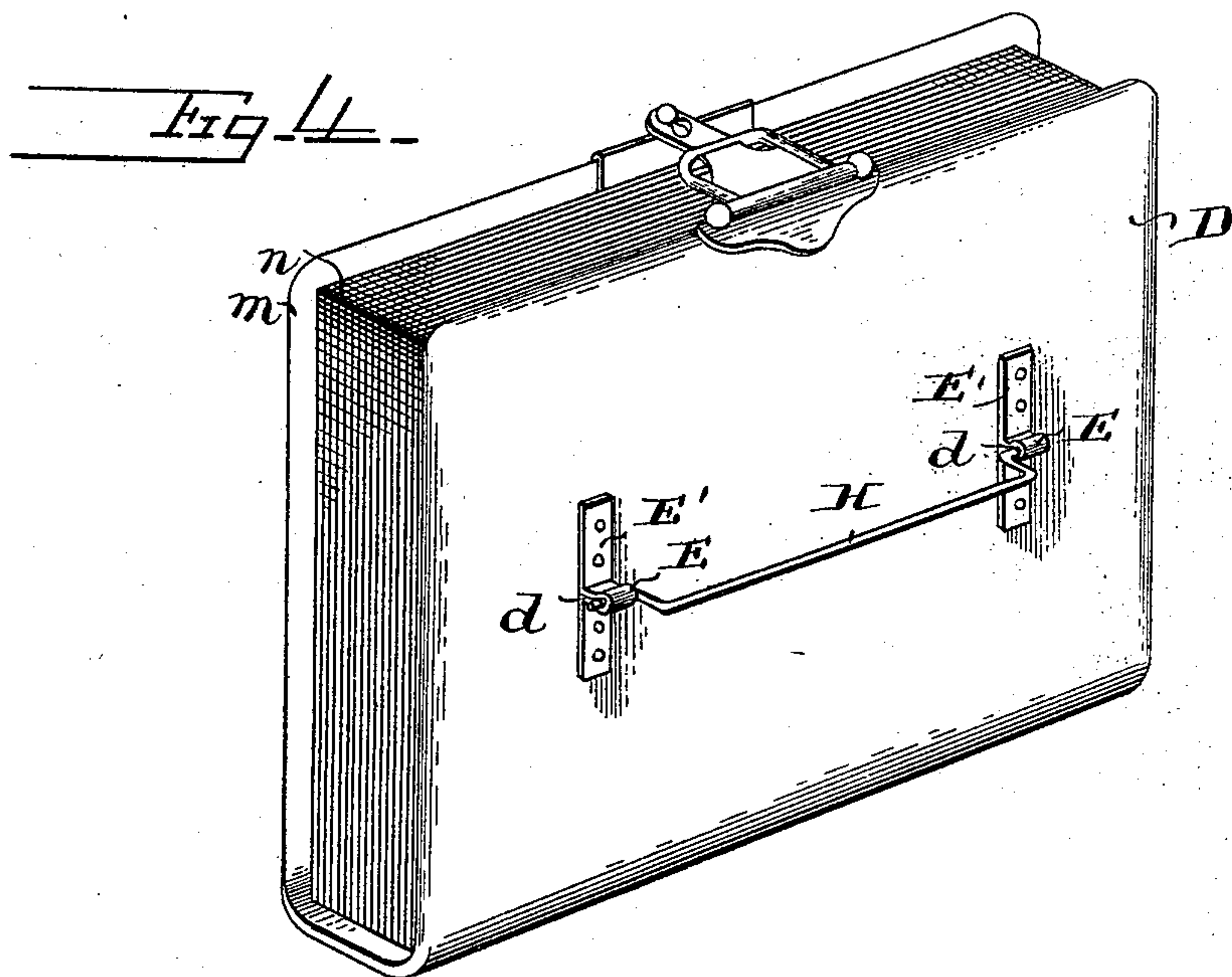
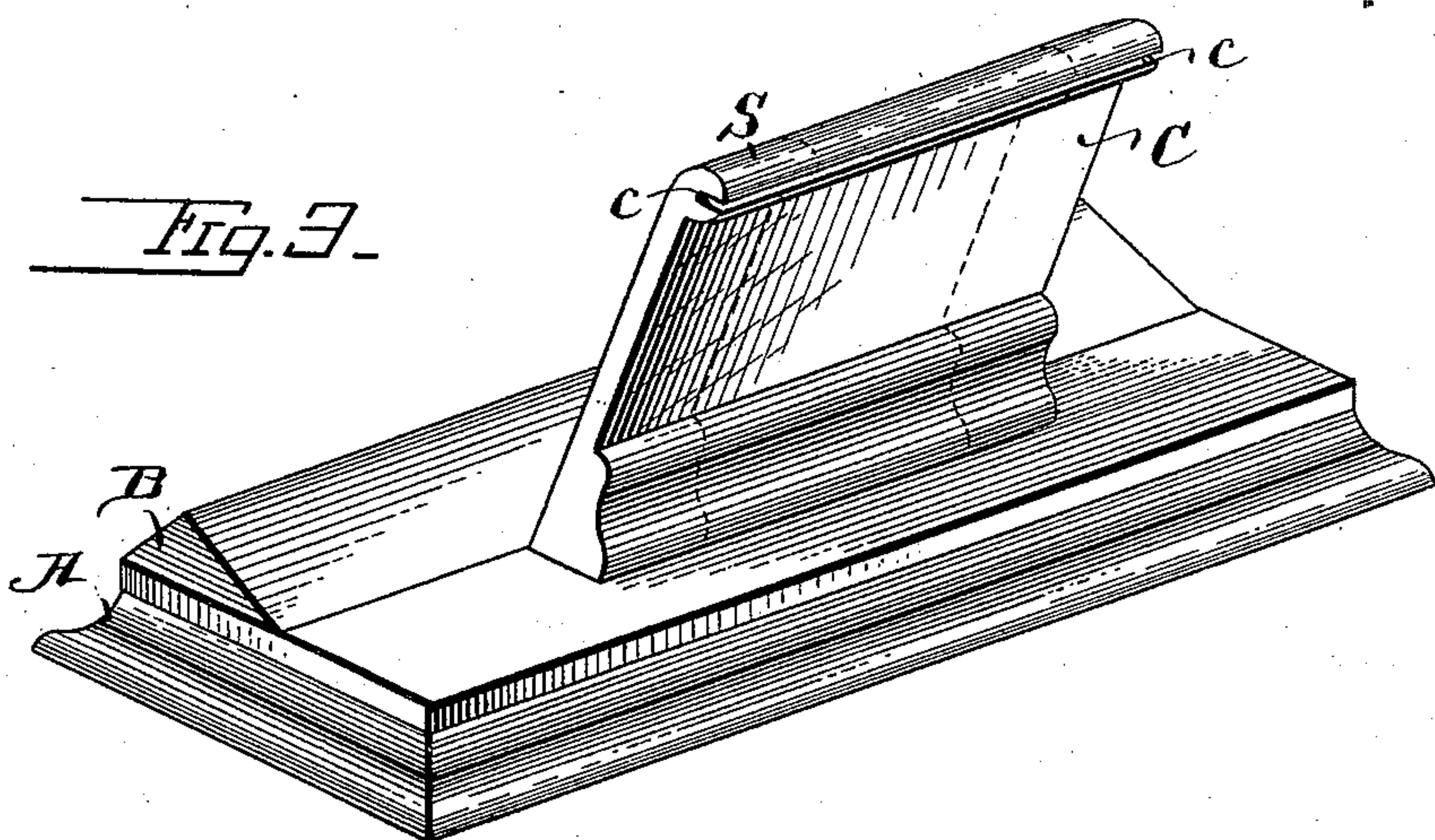
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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Jesse B. Heller.
C. W. Beck

Inventor.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM BERGNER, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, ASSIGNOR TO FREDERICK BERGNER, JR., LEON LAUER, AND MARTIN LAUER, OF SAME PLACE.

EASEL-ALBUM.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 539,028, dated May 14, 1895.

Application filed February 15, 1894. Serial No. 500,215. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM BERGNER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Baltimore, Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Easel-Albums, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification.

My invention relates to easel albums, and consists of devices hereinafter described for maintaining the book in an inclined vertical position upon the usual inclined base provided in structures of that character; and has for its object to enable the book to be opened freely at any page while in its normally inclined position upon its inclined resting base without undue strain upon its binding edge, or upon the leaf bindings, and incidentally to permit the book to be withdrawn or replaced at pleasure upon the easel stand.

For these purposes my invention consists in applying to the usual inclined base rest of such structures a back rest or rests slightly inclined backward from the vertical, and provided at or near its top edge with a horizontal open slot; in combination with an album or book having the usual flexible binding edge, and provided on one of its covers at or about its longitudinal center with a pair of hinge eyes and a rod pivoted in said hinge eyes, said rod having a bent out center in the form of a crank connection, in order that said last mentioned element may be inserted within the open longitudinal slot of the vertically inclined back rest of the book.

In the accompanying drawings, illustrating my invention, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the complete device. Fig. 2 is a side elevation thereof, showing in additional dotted lines the movement of the book upon the easel-stand when opened or rolled over the inclined base-rest. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the usual inclined base-rest provided with a vertically-inclined slotted back-rest above referred to. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the book or album, showing upon one of its covers the hinge devices and the pivoted connecting crank-bar held therein; and Fig. 5 is an enlarged end view of the book, the hinge-

eyes, the vertically-inclined back-rest, and the pivoted bar, intended to illustrate the movement of the back-cover of the book relatively to the back-rest when the book is being opened.

In applying my improved easel support for an album or book, I make use of the usual and well known base rest or stand, A, common in all such structures, the same having an inclined surface along one longitudinal half of its top face, as shown at B, and apply to it the first element of my improvement, which consists of a vertical back rest C for the book D, slightly inclined toward the rear or flat side of the base or stand A. This back rest may be made in one single piece, as shown in the drawings, which indicates it as a wooden plush-covered structure, but it is obvious that it may be desirable to construct it of a metallic substance and in two parts, as shown by the vertical dotted lines in Fig. 3.

So far as described the easel and stand does not differ from book easels long well known in the trade, but in order to maintain the book thereon, and to remove it therefrom at pleasure when it is desired to insert the pictures in the leaves or for other purposes, and finally to allow the book to be opened freely by the front cover or at any page in the book, without straining the binding or the leaf connections, while the book is maintained upon the inclined base rest and against the back rest, I construct the latter with an open slot c, with the open side rearward, said slot being parallel or nearly so to the plane of the flat portion of the base A.

On one of the covers of the book or album, at or about its longitudinal center, I provide a pair of hinge eyes E E with bracket ends E' E' whereby they may be secured to the book cover, and in these hinge eyes and between the pair of them is loosely journaled the ends d, d of a crank shaped rod H, so that its central portion shall stand out or project beyond the journal bearings for its ends d, d and be of sufficient length relatively to the length of the open slot c in the upright back rest C to wholly occupy said slot for its entire length and project slightly beyond the same on either side.

In all easel albums heretofore constructed the chief objection has been that as the book was maintained in a vertically inclined position by an inclined base rest which, as shown 5 at B, was necessarily highest at its outward edge, and the book was then opened by its front cover *m*, the flexible binding edge *a* of the book was obliged to ride over the highest point of this incline, which causes the back 10 cover *b* and the leaves *n* to rise off the inclined base rest B; and as in easel albums heretofore made (except those provided with a textile hinge or frog between the last leaf and the back cover), the back cover was fixedly secured 15 to a rod or hinge which prevented it rising vertically, the result was to prevent the book being opened at any leaf or otherwise than by throwing down the leaves in regular backward succession without causing an undue 20 strain on the binding edge *a*, its connection with the covers *m* and *b*, and the binding connection between the several leaves *n*. With my improved device, all these defects are overcome, and, as will be seen by reference 25 to Fig. 2, when the book is opened by its front cover *m*, or at any leaf and all or any of its leaves thrown down in backward succession, the back cover *b* (as seen by the dotted lines) will rise off the inclined base rest B, being 30 permitted so to do by the partial rotation of the crank portion H of the hinged bar (see dotted lines in Fig. 5), and hence there will be no undue strain, nor any strain, on the binding edge.

35 My device also has the additional advantage of readily permitting the book to be removed from the easel rest, for inserting or removing pictures, by swinging the book over

the top rounded edge S of the back rest C until it assumes a horizontal position, and 40 then by pushing it toward the rear of the stand the crank bar H will pass out of the open slot *c*; and by reversing these movements the book is replaced to its normal position on the easel stand. 45

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

1. In an easel or book-rest, the combination with a base or stand A provided with an inclined base rest B, of a vertically inclined 50 back rest C having a rounded top S and a slot *c* opening rearwardly, and a device secured to the book cover for engaging said slot; whereby the said slot will serve as the bearing 55 and the device as a pivot for the book when turned upon the rounded top of the rest, substantially as described.

2. In an easel album the combination with a base or stand A provided with an inclined 60 base rest B, of a vertically inclined back rest C having an open slot *c* near its top edge extending longitudinally from end to end, and an album provided on the outside of its back cover at or near the longitudinal center there- 65 of with a pair of hinge eyes E and a crank shaped rod H, having ends *d d* journaled loosely in said hinge eyes; substantially as and for the purpose described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature this 12th day of February, 70 A. D. 1894.

WILLIAM BERGNER.

Witnesses:

JOHN H. NEW,
CHAS. BENNER.