No. 626,432. Patented June 6, 1899.

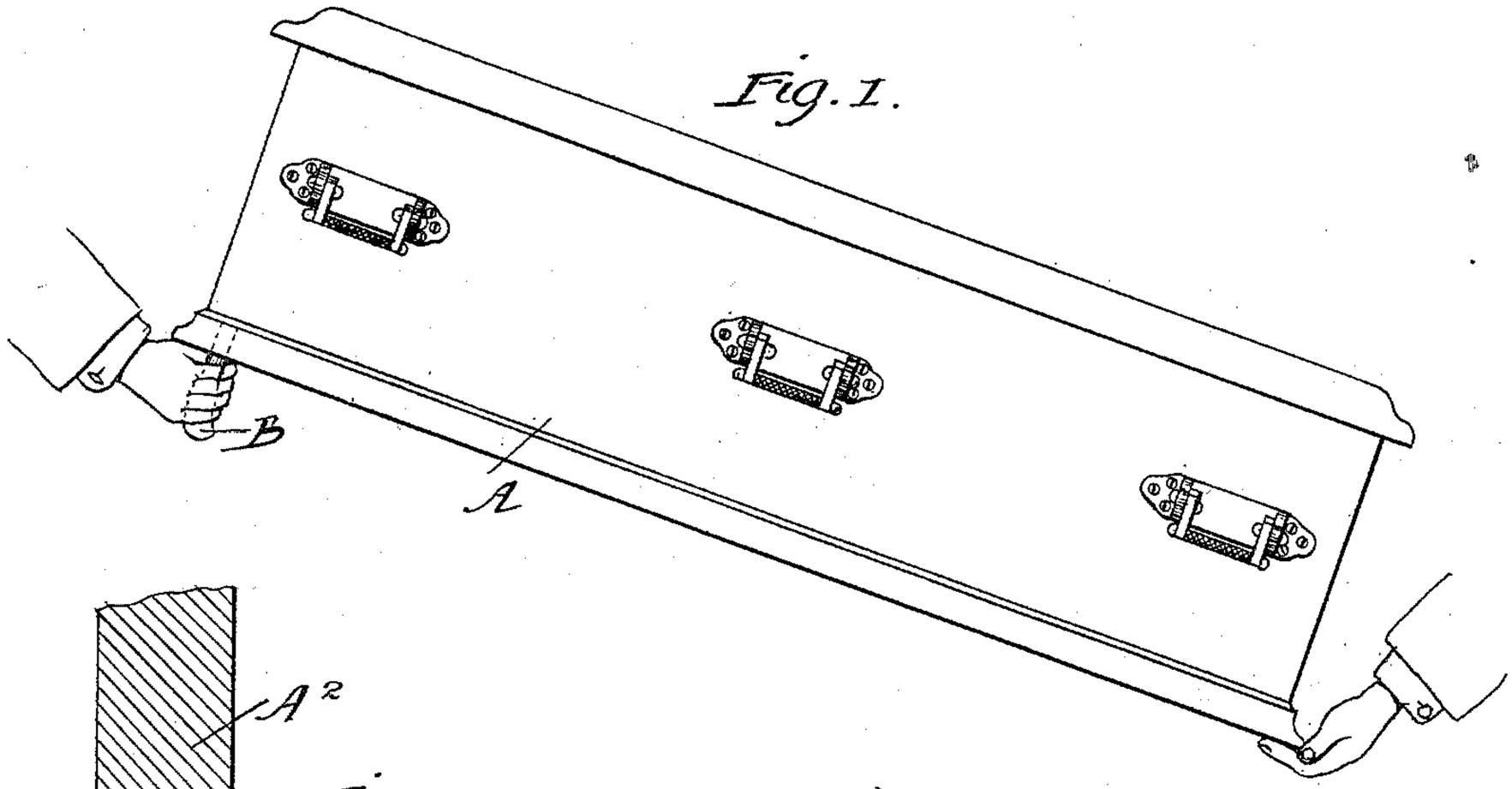
A. KIRCHER.

CASKET CARRIER.

(Application filed Sept. 1, 1898.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.



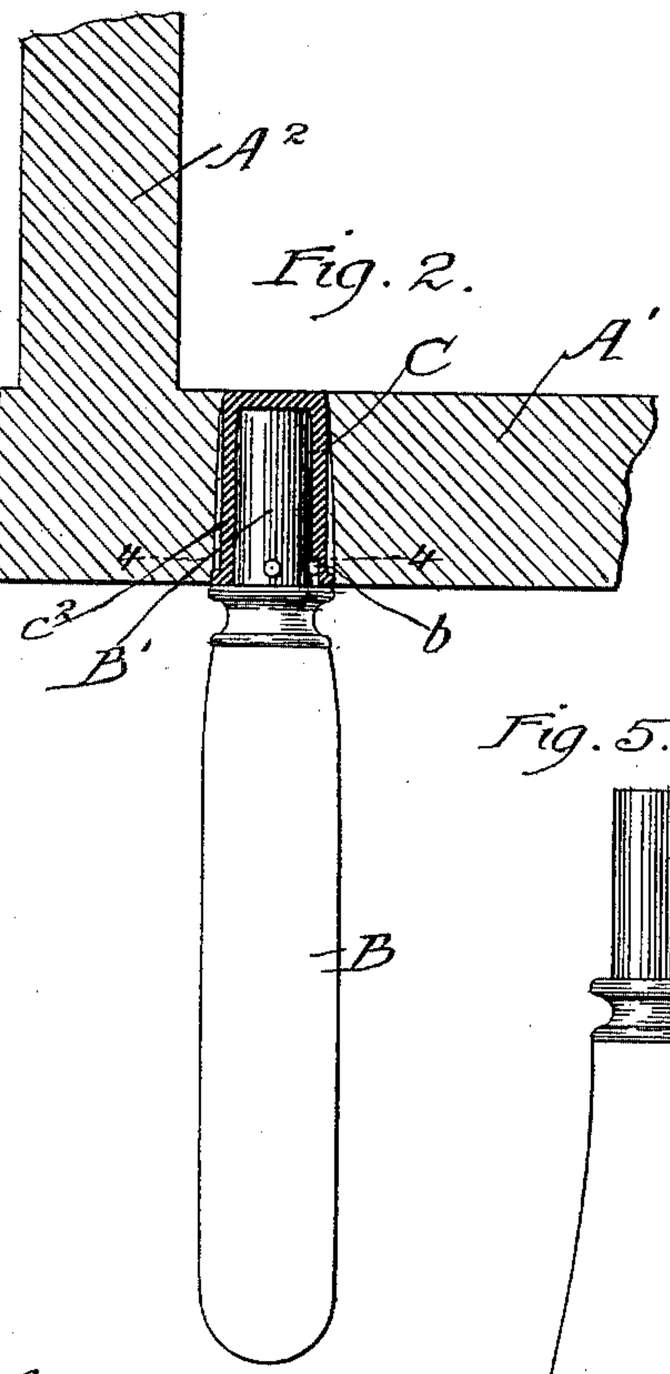


Fig. 2.

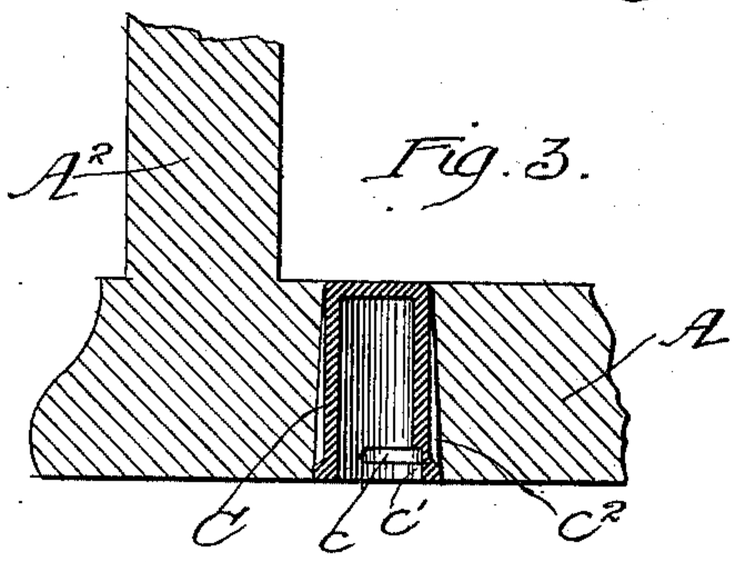
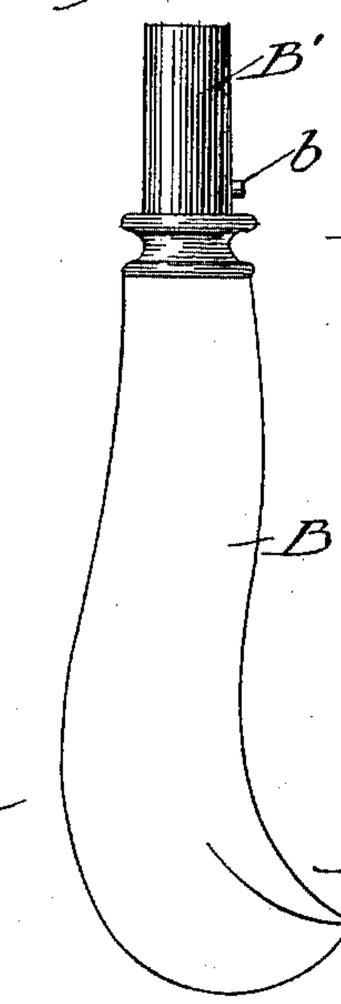


Fig. 3.

Fig. 5.



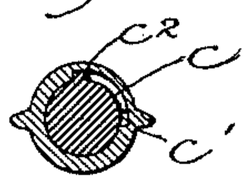


Fig. 4.

Witnesses:

Frank S. Blanchard

Charles W. Hills.

Inventor:

Andrew Kircher.

By Attorneys

Poole & Brown

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANDREW KIRCHER, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

CASKET-CARRIER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 626,432, dated June 6, 1899.

Application filed September 1, 1898. Serial No. 690,036. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANDREW KIRCHER, of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Casket-Carriers; 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, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to an improved device in the nature of a detachable carrier or hand-grip for use upon coffins or burial-caskets.

The invention consists in the matters hereinafter described, and pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a view in side elevation of a casket provided with a carrying device constructed in accordance with my invention, said figure illustrating the manner in which the device is used. Fig. 2 is a detail cross-section through the lower corner of a casket, illustrating the handle or grip and means for connecting it with the casket. Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2, showing the metal socket forming a part of the fastening device with the hand-grip removed therefrom. Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken on line 4 4 of Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a view of the handle or hand-grip when removed from the holding device.

As shown in said drawings, A indicates the burial-casket as a whole, and B B two carriers or hand-grips which are detachably secured thereto and intended to aid in the lifting or handling of the casket.

As shown in Figs. 2 and 3, A′ indicates the bottom of the casket, and A^2 one of the side walls thereof. Within said bottom wall is inserted a metal socket or thimble C, which, together with a pin D′ on the hand-grip B, constitutes a means for detachably securing the hand-grip to the casket. The socket C is shown as consisting of a cylindric hollow piece of metal closed at its upper end and open at its lower end, the same being inserted or driven in a hole or opening which is bored or otherwise formed in the casket-wall. The said socket being closed at its upper end the hole may be bored entirely through the wall of the casket, as shown, the end wall of the socket serving to close the hole or opening thus made after the socket has been inserted therein. The socket is made flush with the lower surface of the casket, so that it cannot be seen from the side of the same, and leaves the bottom of the casket entirely smooth.

For the purpose of detachably connecting the hand-grip B with the casket, so that the pin B′ thereof can be interlocked with the socket when the handle is in use, but may be easily detached therefrom when desired, suitable interlocking parts are provided by which the hand-grip can be connected or disconnected by relative movement of the parts. As a preferred device for this purpose the socket C is provided with an L-shaped groove, a part *c* of which is parallel with the open edge of the socket, and another part *c′* of which extends from one end of the segmental groove C to the outer or lower edge of the socket. The pin B′ is provided with a stud *b*, adapted to enter the grooves *c′ c* and to engage the segmental part *c* of the groove when the pin is inserted fully within the socket. This device constitutes what is known as a "bayonet-joint," the parts being interlocked by thrusting the pin B′ into the socket until the stud *b* passes through the vertical groove *c′* and then turning or rotating the hand-grip, so as to carry the pin into the horizontal part *c* in said groove.

The hand-grip is made flat at its sides and of curved form at its forward and rear edges to better adapt it to be grasped by the hand and to give a better hold thereon. In order to facilitate the interlocking of the hand-grip with the socket of the casket, the stud *b* and interlocking groove are so located that when the said stud is interlocked with the horizontal part of the groove the concave part of the handle will face inwardly or forwardly. The segmental part of the groove is, moreover, arranged to extend through a quarter of a circle, so that the handle can be inserted only when one of its flat sides is toward the end of the casket, this construction affording a guide by which the person using the hand-grip will be certain of placing it in the right position for insertion, and it may be readily turned into the right position for removal after it has been used.

The socket C, when made of cylindric form

as described, may be roughened on its outer face by ribs, screw-threads, or otherwise, so as to give it a secure hold on the wood when driven or inserted into the bottom of the casket. As herein shown, the socket is provided with exterior vertical flanges c^2, intended to prevent rotation thereof and to hold it firmly in place.

Detachable hand-grips, made as described, may be located at any suitable places upon the coffin or casket and at either one or both ends of the same. Ordinarily they will be needed only at one end of the casket, this being the heavier or head end thereof. They may be placed at a greater or less distance from the end and at such distance from the sides as may be found convenient. These hand-grips are intended more particularly for the use of the undertaker or his assistant in carrying a casket through doorways or down stairways or in other positions where the pall-bearers are unable to sustain the casket by the use of the usual side handles, it being the practice under such circumstances for the undertaker and his assistant to place themselves at the head and foot of the casket and carry the same without aid from the pall-bearers. Fig. 1 illustrates the employment of the detachable hand-grips in carrying a casket down a stairway. In this instance the head end of the casket, which is uppermost, is provided with the hand-grips, which are grasped by a person who is in the more elevated position, this position or location of the hand-grips giving a firm hold on the casket and enabling him to effectively support the same notwithstanding its inclined position. The foot end of the casket is shown as supported by the hands of another person in the usual manner, this being the lighter end and the one which is carried foremost in descending stairways. While the hand-grips are not usually necessary at the said foot or lower end because the same is lighter and the weight does not tend to pull the casket downward or away from the person supporting it, as in the case of the upper or head end, yet similar handle-grips may be used at such lower end with advantage when desired.

While I have shown the sockets for connecting the handle-grips as located in the bottom wall of the casket, yet they may be located in the side wall or at any other convenient points. I prefer, however, to locate them in the bottom wall near the end of the casket, because in this position they are out of sight, they do not affect the appearance or finish of the casket, and at the same time are in such position as to be convenient for the hand of the bearer, and are so located as to enable him to effectively and firmly grip the same.

I claim as my invention—

1. A casket-carrier comprising a socket adapted for insertion into the wall of the casket, and a grip provided at one end with a rigidly-attached pin which fits and turns within the socket, one of said parts being provided with a groove and the other part with a stud adapted to engage said groove, said pin being adapted to be attached to and detached from the socket by the partial rotation of the same within the socket.

2. A casket-carrier comprising a grip provided at one end with a rigidly-attached cylindric pin and a cylindric socket consisting of a single piece of metal adapted for insertion in the wall of the socket and provided with a cylindric recess in which the said pin fits and turns, said pin being provided with a stud and the socket with an L-shaped groove for engagement with the same.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses, this 29th day of August, A. D. 1898.

ANDREW KIRCHER.

Witnesses:

C. CLARENCE POOLE,

R. CUTHBERT VIVIAN,