No. 626,925. Patented June 13, 1899.

J. L. OTERO.

INKSTAND.

(Application filed Oct. 21, 1898.)

(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet I.

Fig: 1.

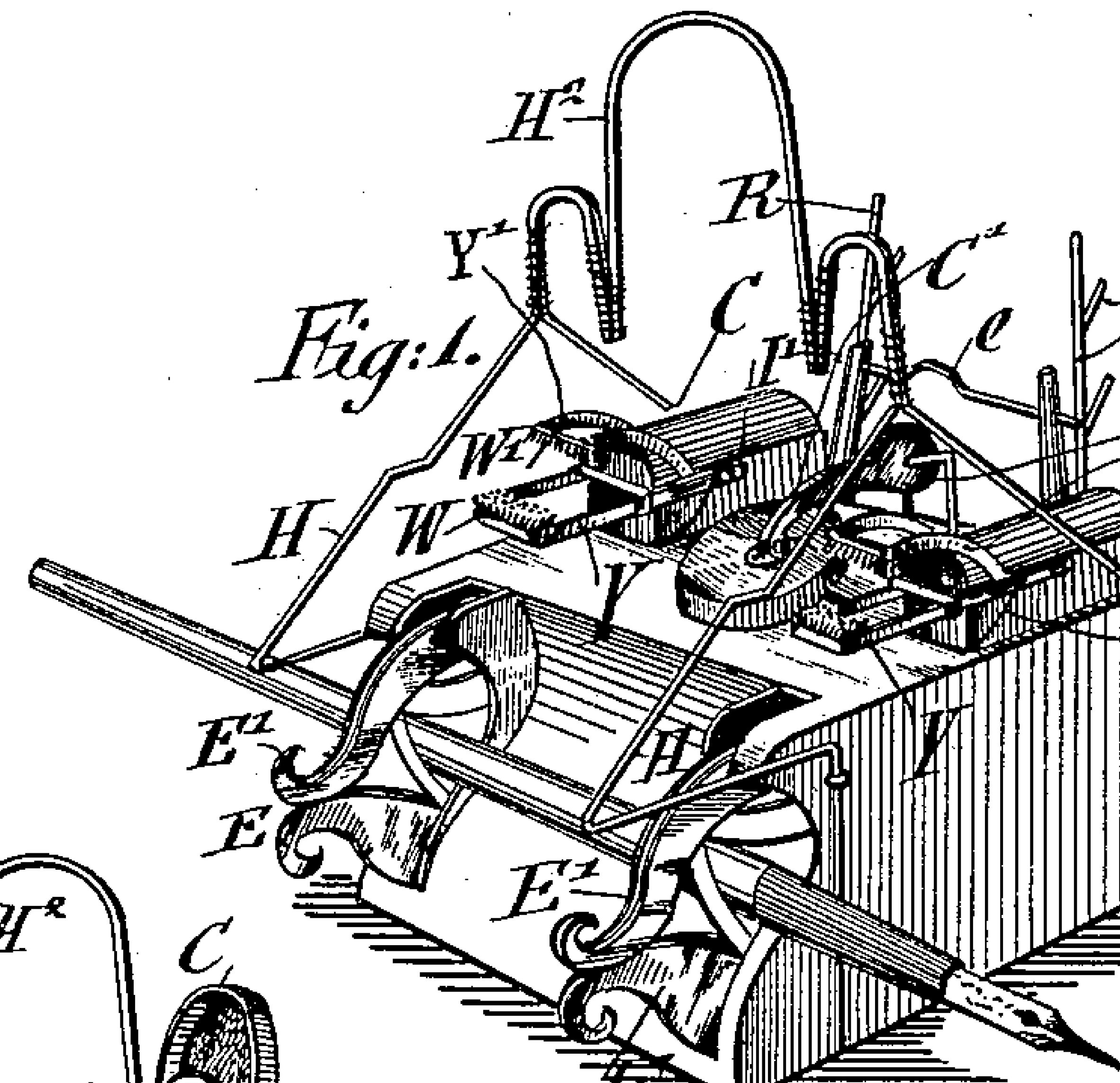

Fig: 2.

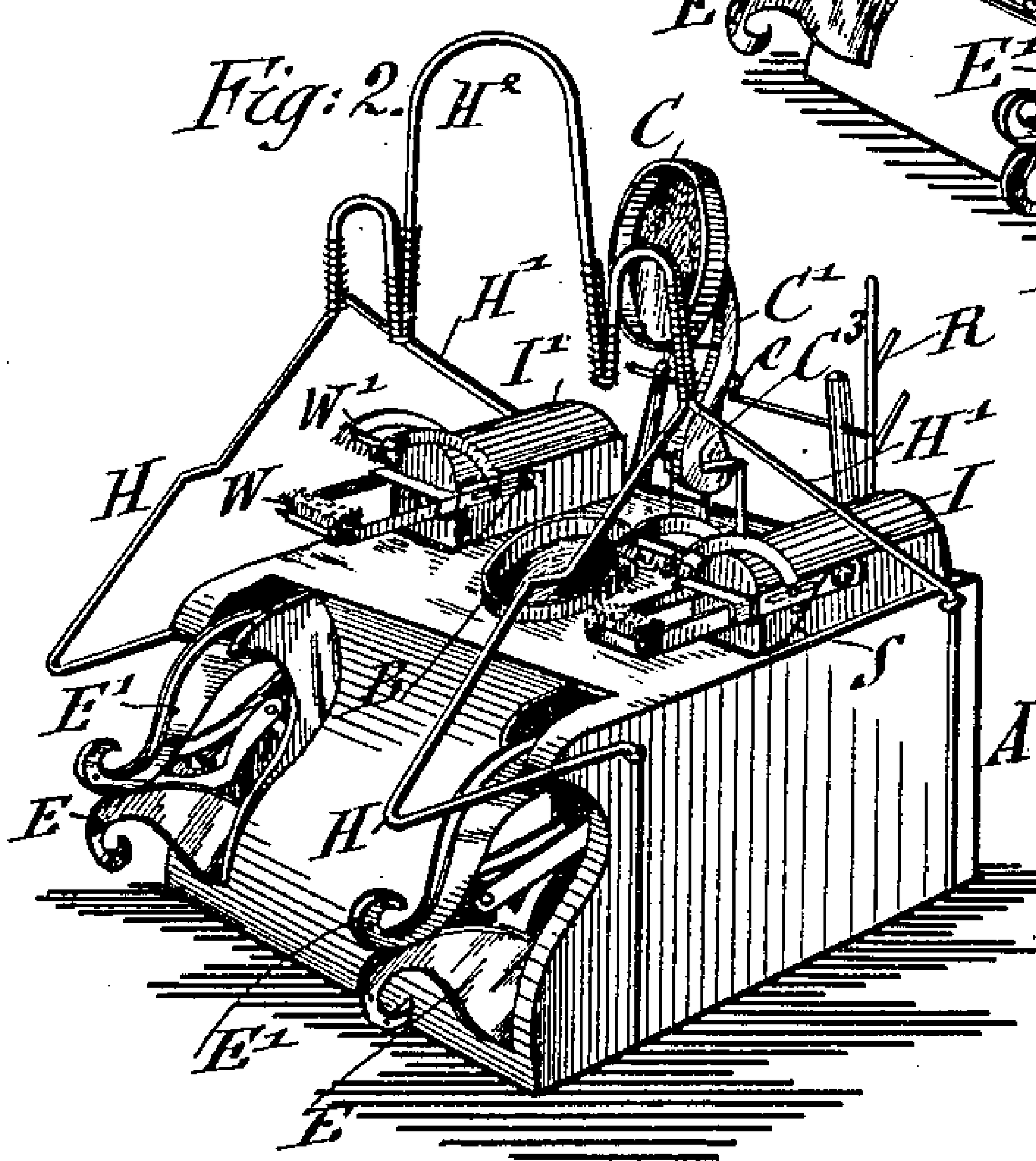

Fig: 4.

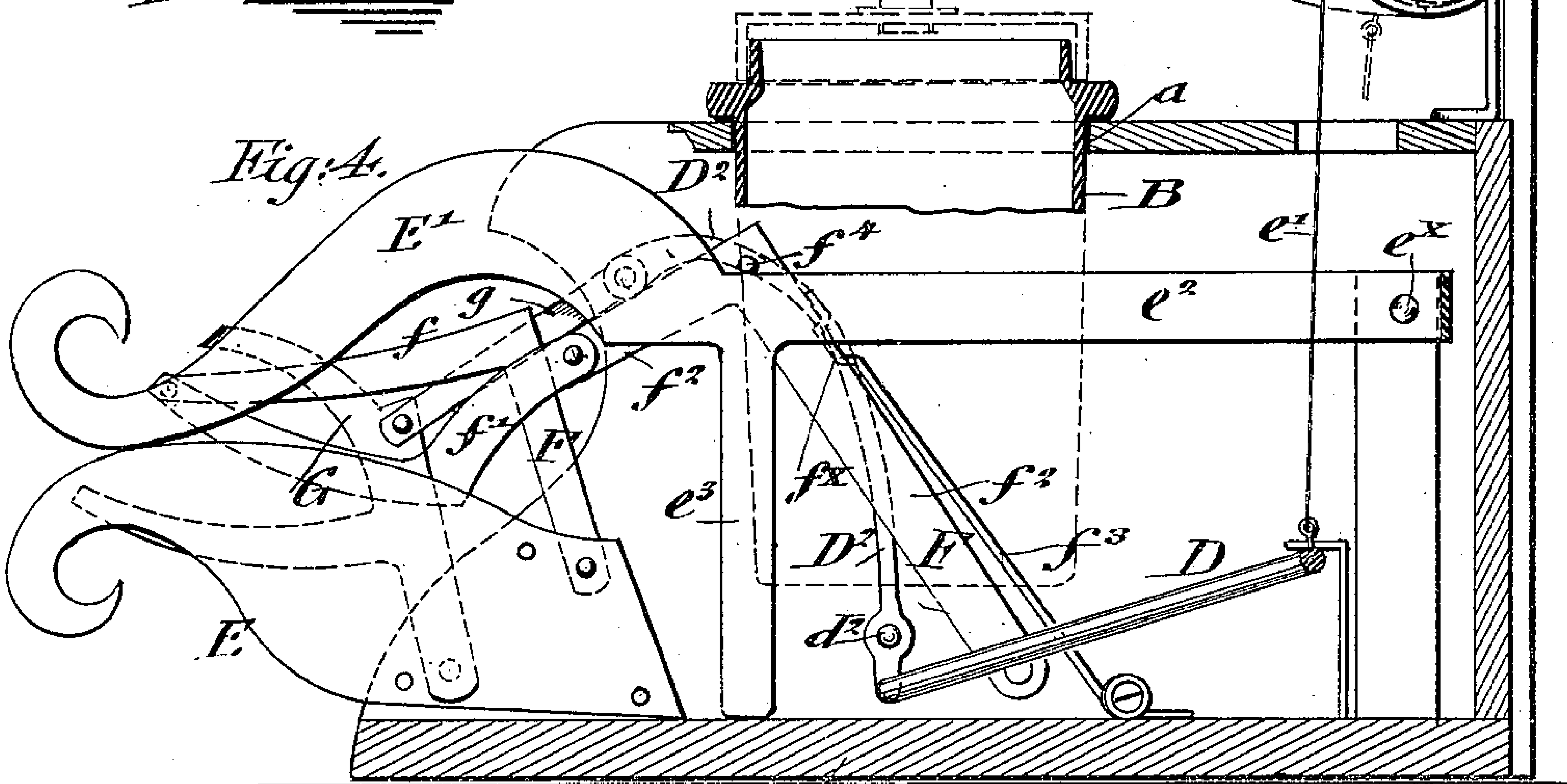

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Fig: 5.

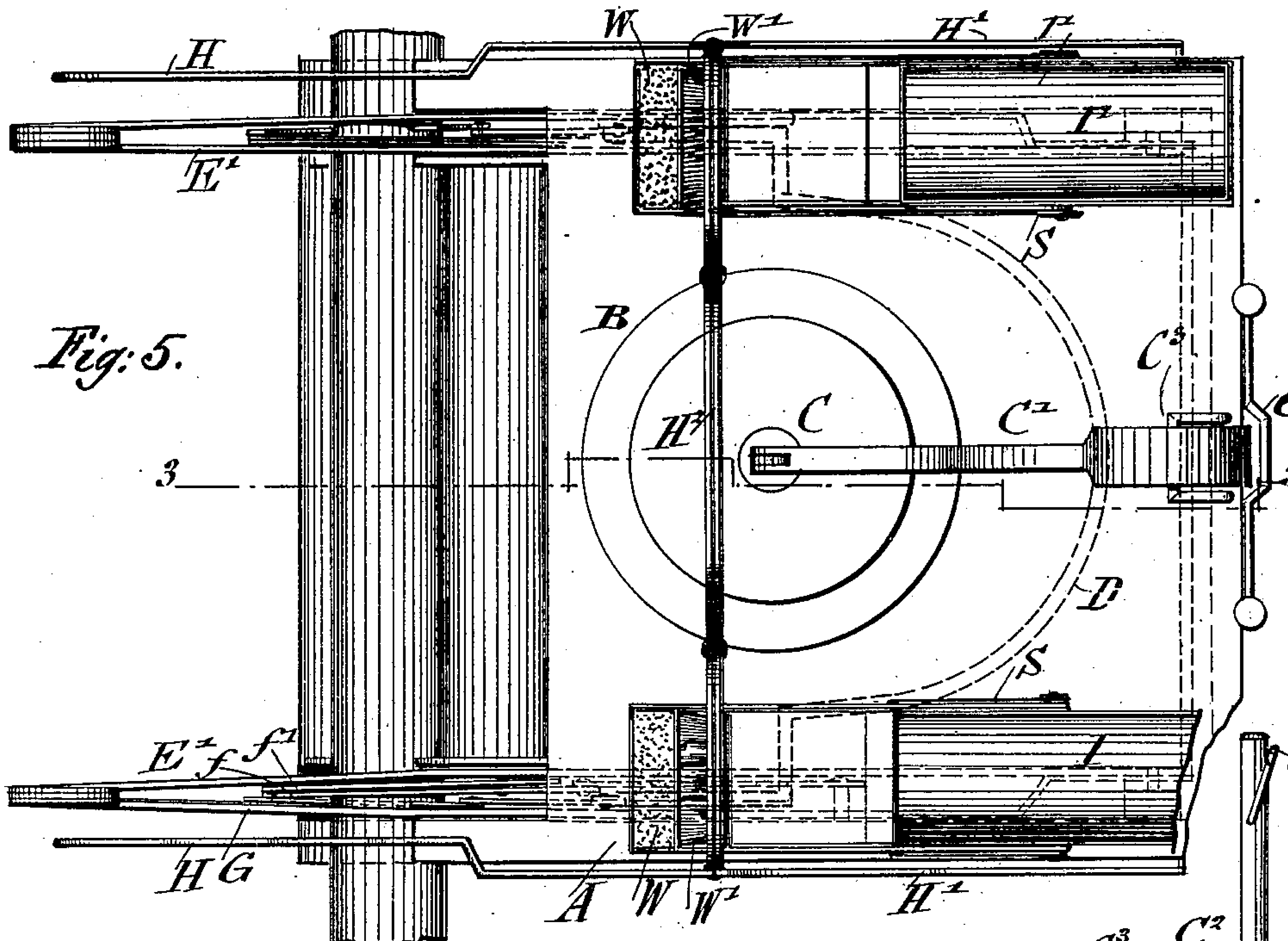
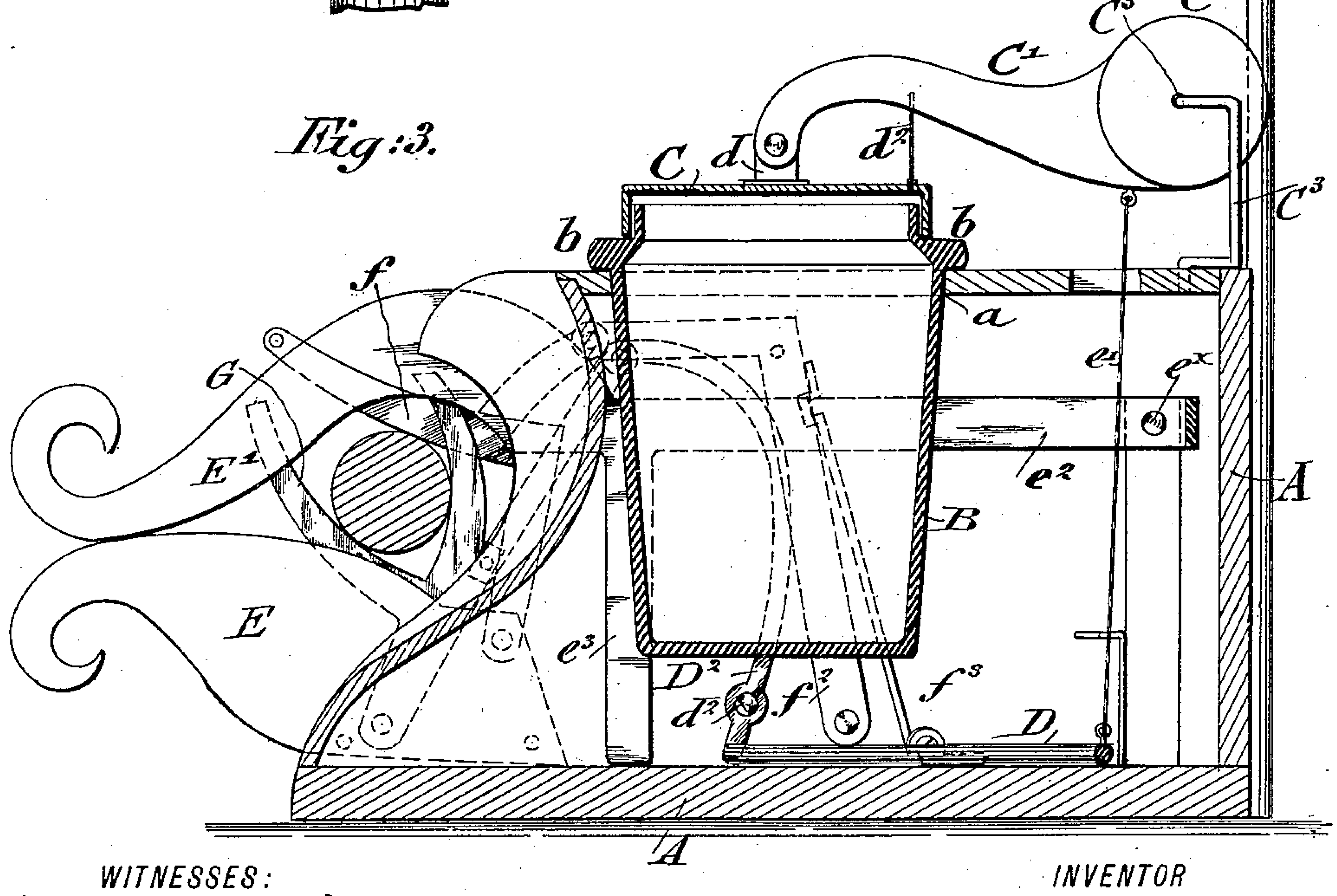


Fig: 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JUAN L. OTERO, OF LIMA, PERU.

INKSTAND.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 626,925, dated June 13, 1899.

Application filed October 21, 1898. Serial No. 694,173. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JUAN L. OTERO, a citizen of the Republic of Peru, residing at Lima, in the Republic of Peru, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Inkstands, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved inkstand of that class in which the cover for the ink-well is held in closed position when the penholder is inserted between the arms of a spring-actuated lever mechanism arranged at the front part of the inkstand and in which the cover is automatically opened on the removal of said penholder from and between the arms of said lever mechanism.

The invention consists of an inkstand in which the cover for the ink-well is carried by a swinging and spring-actuated arm, which is operated so as to move the cover over the ink-well or away from the same by a spring-actuated lever mechanism, which is connected with said arm and parts of which extend beyond the front part of the inkstand and are actuated either by the insertion of the penholder between the arms of said lever mechanism or the removal of the same.

The invention consists, further, of suitable wire guards extending in forward direction over the projecting parts of the actuating lever mechanism.

The invention consists, further, of suitable pen-wiping devices arranged at one or both sides of the ink-well.

The invention consists also of a pen-rack arranged at the rear part of the inkstand, and, lastly, of certain details of construction and combination of parts, which will be fully described hereinafter and finally pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figures 1 and 2 represent perspective views of my improved inkstand, showing the ink-well respectively in closed position and in open position for use. Fig. 3 is a vertical longitudinal section on line 3 3, Fig. 5, showing the cover in closed position on the ink-well when the ink-well is not in use. Fig. 4 is also a vertical longitudinal section showing the cover in raised position and the ink-well open ready for use, and Fig. 5 is a plan view of Fig. 3.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

Referring to the drawings, A represents the casing of my improved inkstand, which can be made of sheet metal, glass, or other suitable material. The casing A is provided in its top with an opening *a*, in which the ink-well B is seated, said ink-well being provided with a rim *b* in its upper part, which forms a shoulder or seat for the cover C. The cover C is provided with a central lug *d*, which is pivotally connected to a curved arm C′, provided with a disk-shaped enlargement C^2 at its rear end, that forms a housing for a spiral spring S, (shown in dotted lines, Fig. 4,) of which the inner end is attached to the transverse rod C^3, that is attached to the top part of the casing A, while its outer end is attached to the enlargement C^2, so that the tension of the spring holds the cover normally in raised position against a transverse stop-rod *e*, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4. The cover is further connected by a steadying-link d^2 with the arm C′, which allows sufficient play of the cover so that it may fit tightly onto the seat of the ink-well and close the same. The arm C′ is connected by a gut, cord, chain, or flexible connection *e′* with the rear end of U-shaped lever D, which is fulcrumed at d^2 to the interior of the casing A, near the bottom of the same, and is actuated by a lever mechanism in such a manner that when a penholder, pencil, or other device is inserted between the projecting parts of said lever mechanism the U-shaped lever D is lowered, and thereby the arm C′, with the cover C suspended therefrom, lowered, so that the latter closes the ink-well, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3.

As long as the penholder, pencil, or other device remains in position between the front parts of the lever mechanism the ink-well is closed, so that the inkstand cannot be used. As soon as the penholder is removed the parts of the lever mechanism are removed by the action of a suitable spring f^3 to the second position, (shown in Figs. 2 and 4,) which lifts the lever-frame D and permits the curved arm, with its cover, to be moved, under action of its spiral spring S, into raised position, so that the ink-well is opened and the inkstand ready for use. The lever mechanism em-

ployed for closing the cover of the ink-well or moving it back into raised position consists of three sets of coöperating levers in addition to the U-shaped lever-frame D and of stationary curved and forwardly-extending arms E. On these arms E rest the curved forwardly-extending arms E′ of the first set of levers, which are each provided with a straight shank e^2, that is pivoted to the transverse rod $e^\times$ in the rear part of the casing, the lever E′ being provided with a downwardly-extending arm e^3, which is arranged at right angles to the shank e^2 of said lever and which supports the front end of the arm E′ over the stationary arm E. The second set of levers F is at each side of the inkstand composed of three angular parts $f f' f^2$, of which the first lever f is pivoted to the rear part of the stationary arm E and the rear part f^2 to the side wall of the casing A, while the intermediate part f' is pivoted at its front end to the front end of the angular part f and its rear end to the angular part f^2, as shown clearly in Fig. 4. The front part of the intermediate lever f' is curved convexly and extends from the stationary arm E in upward direction alongside of the movable arm E′ at the rear of the point of contact of said stationary arm E and movable arm E′. The third lever G, one at each side of the inkstand, is also pivoted to the stationary arm E and made fork-shaped, the forks extending, respectively, above and below the point of contact of the stationary arm E and movable arm E′ when the cover is in open position and the entire lever mechanism in this position corresponding thereto, as shown in Fig. 4. The upper part of the forked-shaped lever G is connected by a link g with the upper extension D^2 of the fulcrumed lever-frame D, so as to operate the lever when the lever-frame D is moved in backward or forward direction. A flat spring f^3, that is attached to the bottom of the casing A, engages with its rear end in a recess $f^\times$ in the rear lever f^2 of the set of levers F, so as to impart thereby a tension to the levers E′, F, and G and cause them to move into forward position. At the angle of the rear lever f^2 is arranged a pin f^4, which projects over the edge of the shank e' of the movable lever E′, so as to transmit the tension of the spring f^3 also to the lever E′ and bring the same thereby within the influence of said spring.

Assuming that the parts are in their second or forward position, as shown in Fig. 4, and that the ink-well is open and it is desired to close the same, the penholder or other similar article is introduced between the oppositely-curved front ends of the stationary lever-arm E and movable lever-arm E′, so as to lift the latter sufficiently to permit the sliding in of the penholder. During the going-in motion of the penholder it strikes the convexly-curved portion of the intermediate lever f' of the compound lever F, lifting the latter sufficiently, according to the thickness of the penholder or other article, and permitting the penholder to pass on into the fork of the lever G, so as to produce the backward swinging of the same, and by its link connection with the fulcrumed lever-frame D the lowering of the rear part of said frame, the downward motion of the cover, and the closing of the ink-well. As soon as the penholder has been moved beyond the pivot of the lever G the parts are retained in locked position, as shown in Fig. 3, so that the spring f^3 cannot change the position of the lever mechanism of the three levers, which are held by the penholder in their locked position while the cover is held in closed position. As soon as the penholder or other article is moved in forward direction, so as to be withdrawn from the lever mechanism, the forked lever G is moved into its forward position, as shown in Fig. 4, while the middle part f' of the second lever F follows the lever G under the tension of its spring f^3, so as to assume its forward position, and the movable lever-arm E′ is returned by gravity, as well as by the action of the pin f^4 on its shank e', to its normal position, the arm E′ having been lifted sufficiently to permit the taking out of the penholder.

The coöperation of the three levers E′, F, and G with the stationary arm E and the lever-frame D produces the motion of the curved arm C′, on which cover is supported under the influence of the penholder or other article that is inserted into or removed from said levers, so that the ink-well is either closed when the inkstand is not required for use or opened when it is desired to be used.

It is preferable to arrange the stationary arm E and the set of three levers E′, F, and G at each side of the casing A, said levers projecting partly through slots of said casing, so as to be outside of the same, while the remaining parts are located within the casing. It is obvious, however, that one arm and one set of levers could also be used, as the opening and closing of the ink-well by the raising or lowering of the cover could also be produced thereby; but for convenience sake, as well as for providing for the different diameters of the penholders or other articles, it is better to use two sets of levers, so that the penholder is held at two points. As the levers adjust themselves to any diameter and adapt themselves to the thicker and thinner portions of the penholder, it is obvious that the cover can be moved with great facility onto the ink-well or into raised position, it following in its motion the inward or outward motion of the penholder whether the same is inserted and retained by the lever mechanism or removed from the same.

To prevent the penholder or other article from being placed on top of the front part of the movable lever E′, inclined wire guards H are preferably attached to the side walls of the casing A, a second wire stay H′ holding the inclined guards in position and being then

connected by a transverse portion or handle H^2, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. This permits the moving about of the inkstand when it is to be used.

On top of the casing A of the inkstand are arranged at each side of the ink-well penwipers, which consist each of two brushes W W', each being applied to a lever-frame Y Y', respectively. Lever-frames Y Y' are each pivoted to boxes I I' and are held apart by a suitable spring S. The lever-frame of the upper brush is provided with pins that project through slots in the lever-frame of the lower brush, so that when the pen is placed on the lower brush and pressed in downward direction the upper brush is lowered onto the pen, so that when withdrawn in lowered position both sides of the same are wiped. The brushes may be made of bristles or of any suitable absorbent material, provided that proper wiping action is produced by the same. In the boxes to which the lever-frames are applied are inserted receptacles for permitting the removal or insertion of pens into the boxes to which the wiping-brushes are applied. At the rear part of the inkstand are arranged racks R for penholders, pencils, &c., which are preferably arranged below the transverse stop-rod *e* from the swinging arm of the cover. The inkstand can, however, be used without wipers and rack and even without the wire guards and handle when it is desired to supply a cheaper class of inkstands, while the more expensive finishing accessories referred to may be applied to the case, if desired.

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

1. The combination of the casing, an ink-well supported thereby, a pivoted and spring-actuated arm carrying a cover for the ink-well, a spring-actuated lever mechanism connected with said arm and provided with a projecting arm forming a jaw, and a stationary arm forming another jaw coöperating with and extending in the same direction as the said jaw of the lever mechanism, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The combination of the casing, an ink-well supported thereby, a cover for the ink-well, a stationary arm forming a jaw projecting from the front of the casing, a spring-actuated movable jaw projecting also in front of the casing and coöperating with said stationary jaw, and suitable mechanism between the movable jaw and cover of the ink-well for raising the cover to or from the ink-well when a penholder or other suitable article is removed or placed between the adjacent ends of the movable and stationary jaws, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination of the casing, an ink-well supported by the same, a cover for said ink-well, a pivoted and spring-actuated arm on said cover, stationary front arms applied to the casing, a fulcrumed lever-frame connected with the pivoted arm, and a spring-actuated compound-lever mechanism connected with said lever-frame and having arms arranged alongside of the said stationary arms, said arms coöperating by closing one upon the other and adapted to produce, on the introduction of the penholder or other suitable article between the arms of the lever mechanism, the lowering of the cover so as to close the ink-well, or on the removal of the pen or other article, the return of said lever mechanism to its forward position and the raising of the cover for opening of the ink-well, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

4. The combination of the casing, an ink-well supported by the same, a cover for said ink-well, a pivoted and spring-actuated arm from which the cover is suspended, a fulcrumed lever-frame connected with said arm, a forwardly-extending stationary arm, a pivoted lever having a forwardly-extending end located above said stationary arm, a second lever of three angular parts connected with each other, a third fork-shaped lever, a link connecting said fork-shaped lever with the lever-frame, and a spring acting on the second lever, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

5. The combination with an inkstand, and a compound-lever mechanism adapted for opening and closing the cover of the ink-well by the removal and insertion of the penholder or other article, of guards projecting above said levers, stays for said guards, and a transverse handle connecting said guards, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

6. The combination, with an inkstand, of a pair of pivoted and spring-actuated wipers, lever-frames for said wipers, a support to which the frames are pivoted, the lever-frame of the upper wiper being covered when pressure is exerted by the pen on the lower wiper, so that both wipers close on the pen and clean the same, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JUAN L. OTERO.

Witnesses:
CESAR TERAN,
JOHN M. BERUTICK.