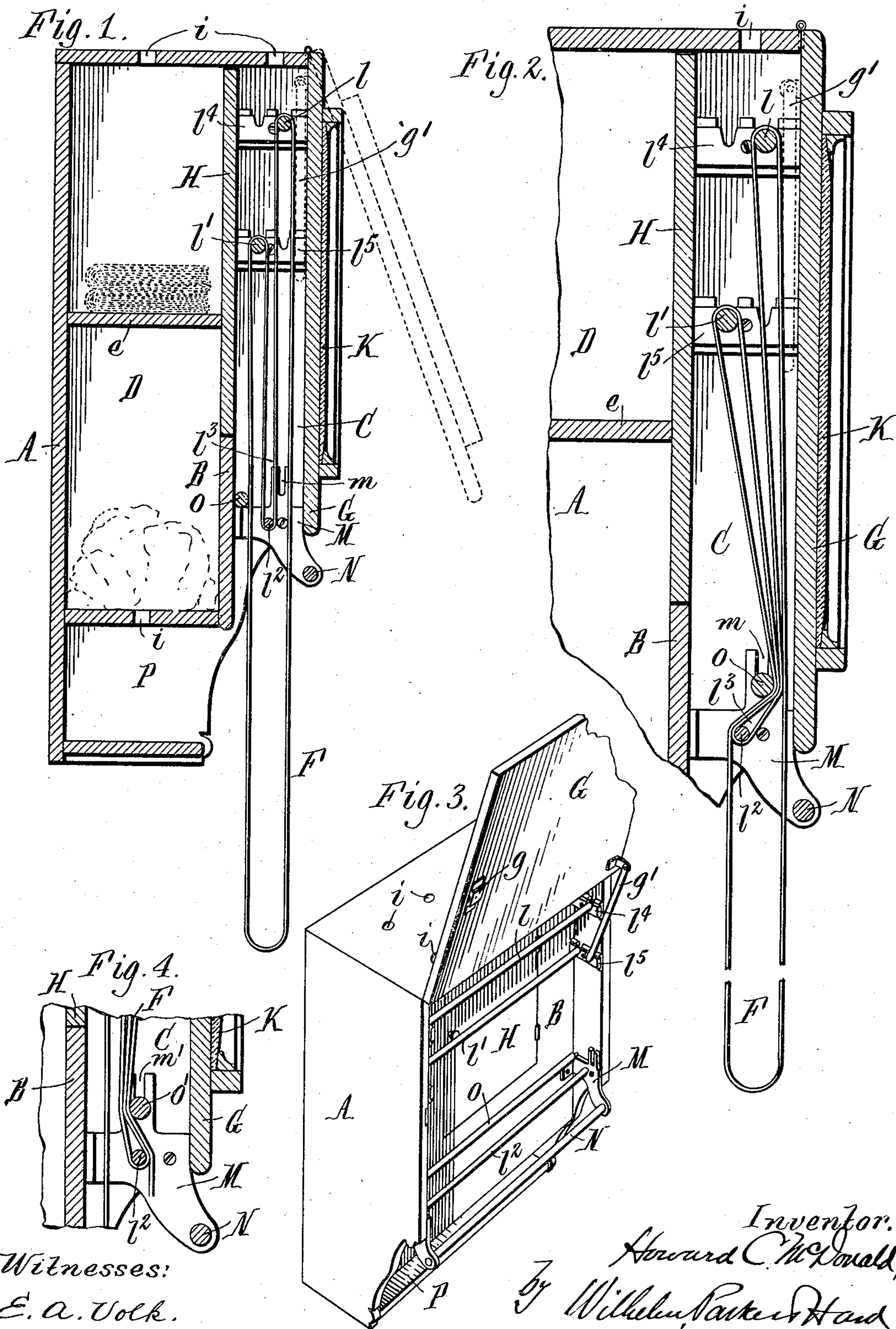


No. 828,566.

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H. C. McDONALD.
TOWEL HOLDER OR CABINET.
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 19, 1906.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HOWARD C. McDONALD, OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

TOWEL HOLDER OR CABINET.

No. 828,566.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 14, 1906.

Application filed February 19, 1906. Serial No. 301,857.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HOWARD C. McDONALD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Buffalo, in the county of Erie and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Towel Holders or Cabinets, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates more particularly to roller towel-holders or cabinets of that kind which are placed in offices and other places by toilet-supply companies and which are supplied with clean towels from time to time by the toilet-supply company, the holder being so constructed that the towels cannot be removed therefrom except by a person provided with the key or device for unlocking the cabinet.

The objects of the invention are to provide a towel holder or cabinet which is desirable and convenient in use, is of attractive appearance, and is constructed to preserve the towels in a sanitary condition, reduce the loss and wear of the same, and prevent the removal of a towel from the holder or cabinet except by an authorized person.

Further objects of the invention are to provide the cabinet with simple and desirable means for temporarily holding the towel rollers or rods in convenient position while changing the towels and for locking the towel from movement on its rollers or rods when it is desired to allow the shifting of the towel to expose fresh portions thereof only at the wish of the owner.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a sectional elevation of a towel holder or cabinet embodying the invention. Fig. 2 is a fragmentary sectional elevation, on an enlarged scale, thereof, showing the towel locked from movement. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the holder or cabinet open, the towel being removed. Fig. 4 is a detail sectional view showing a slightly different arrangement of the towel-locking means.

Like letters of reference refer to like parts in the several figures.

A represents a towel cabinet, case, or box, preferably of rectangular form. The cabinet is divided by a vertical partition B into an outer or roller compartment C, in which a towel is suspended for use, and an inner compartment or closet D, which is preferably divided by a horizontal shelf or partition e into upper and lower receptacles or holders, one for clean and one for soiled towels. The outer or roller compartment is bottomless or

has a bottom opening through which the towel F, hung in the compartment, can depend in a loop for use, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, and is provided with a front door G, having a suitable lock g, Fig. 3, or other means for securing it in closed position and preventing it from being opened except with a proper key or device. This door G, which in the construction shown forms the front of the cabinet, is preferably hinged to the top of the cabinet to swing upwardly and is provided with any usual or suitable device g' for holding the door open while the towels are being changed. The vertical partition B or front wall of the inner compartment is provided with a door H, preferably hinged at one of its vertical edges, through which access is had to the inner compartment through the outer compartment. This is the only means of access to the inner compartment. In the cabinet shown the inner and outer compartments are provided with ventilating-holes i, and a mirror K is provided on the front of the cabinet for toilet purposes and to improve the appearance of the device; but these features are not essentials of the invention.

The endless towel F, hung in the outer compartment C, preferably passes in a zigzag course around supporting and guiding rollers or rods arranged in the upper and lower portions of the outer compartment. In the cabinet shown two upper rollers l^1 and one lower rod l^2 are provided, the towel hanging over the two upper rollers and having a loop extending down between them under the lower rod l^2 and a free loop depending through the open bottom of the compartment for use. Any other suitable number and arrangement of rollers or rods could, however, be employed. The front or rear portion of the depending loop can be pulled down to expose successive clean portions of the towel as required. This arrangement of the towel over upper and lower rollers is not new, but is preferably employed, as thereby a relatively long towel can be used, while the exposed loop need be only long enough for convenient use, and the greater part of the towel is hidden from view. Bearings l^4 l^5 , one above the other, are provided for removably supporting the upper rollers at different heights to lengthen or shorten the exposed loop of the towel as desired.

When the towel is hung in the cabinet described, as shown in Fig. 1, it is loose and can be drawn over the rollers or rods to expose

fresh portions as required; but it cannot be removed except by unlocking and opening the outer door or front of the cabinet. This prevents the removal and improper use of the towel, which is often a great source of annoyance. In changing the towels the one hanging in the front compartment must be taken off of the rollers or rods before the door H of the inner compartment can be opened to obtain a clean towel. When the inner door is opened, the receptacle for the soiled towels is opened and convenient, and the person changing the towels naturally places the soiled towel in the receptacle intended for the same when taking out the clean towel. Thus the towel is not apt to be thrown aside, where it might become dirty or lost or be put to an improper use, and a material saving in towels is the result. When the soiled towel has been placed in the inner receptacle, the inner door must be closed before the clean towel can be hung in the outer or roller compartment, and after the towel is hung and the front or outer door closed and locked it is impossible for an unauthorized person to take either the hanging towel from the rollers or the clean or soiled towels from their receptacles, and this prevents the loss and misuse of many towels.

The upper rollers are taken from their bearing-seats when removing a used towel, and as a desirable means for temporarily holding the upper rollers while the towels are being changed brackets M, arranged at the lower ends of the opposite sides of the outer compartment, are provided with seats or slots *m*, in which the rollers can be placed as they are withdrawn from the soiled towel. A temporary holder being thus provided for the rollers where they can be readily placed and are convenient when desired for hanging a clean towel in the cabinet, the towels can be changed with greater facility and convenience. These brackets M serve to support the lower towel-rod *l*², which not being required to revolve to allow the necessary freedom of movement of the towel is preferably rigidly connected to the brackets. The brackets M are also preferably of angle form and fastened to the sides and vertical partition of the cabinet, thereby bracing the sides and holding them in place. A rod or roller N is also preferably provided below the lower edge of the cabinet-front and supported by projecting arms of the brackets M for holding the towel off of the lower edge of the front when it is pulled down to expose a fresh portion. This rod renders the movement of the towel easier and reduces its wear and at the same time also serves as a rack for a straight towel.

Provision is made in the cabinet illustrated for locking the towel from movement—that is, for preventing it from being pulled around the rollers to expose different portions. This is sometimes desirable, for instance, where the

person possessing the device is not the only user of the towel and he wishes to preserve a fresh portion for his own use. For this purpose an extra rod or roller O is placed in the roller-compartment conveniently on the brackets M, as shown in Fig. 1, where it normally performs no function, but is ready for use. By placing this rod or roller in the seats or slots of the brackets M, either back of the several runs of the towel, as shown in Fig. 2, or in front thereof, as shown in Fig. 4, the portions of the towel between the guide rollers or rods will be held out of a straight line connecting the rollers and will be held from travel around its supporting and guide rollers or rods. This is due to the frictional engagement and pressure of the several portions of the towel against each other and against the locking and guide rods or rollers at the bottom of the roller-compartment. By arranging these seats or slots *m'* for the locking-roller in the brackets, as shown in Fig. 4, so that the locking roller or rod O' can be located in front of the towel directly over and close to the lower guide-rod, a more perfect locking of the towel is secured.

The cabinet shown is made with a shelf or open-front receptacle P below the bottom of the inner compartment for the reception of toilet articles which are hidden from view by the depending exposed loop of the towel. This toilet-receptacle is a desirable but not an essential feature of the cabinet.

While the cabinet is especially designed for roller or endless towels, a cabinet with the described arrangement of the compartments would also be desirable for other kinds of towels secured in the front compartment in any manner enabling their use and requiring the opening of the front door to remove the towel. The towel-locking means and temporary supporting means for the rollers or rods is not restricted to use in a cabinet having the compartments arranged as described.

I claim as my invention—

1. In a towel holder or cabinet, the combination of an outer compartment in which a towel is suspended for use and from which a portion of the towel projects, a door for said outer compartment provided with a lock, and an inner storage-compartment for clean and soiled towels which is accessible only through said door and outer compartment, substantially as set forth.

2. In a towel holder or cabinet, the combination of an outer compartment, one or more rollers or rods secured in said compartment for suspending an endless towel therein with a portion of the towel projecting from said compartment, a door for said outer compartment provided with a lock, and an inner storage-compartment for clean and soiled towels which is accessible only through said door and outer compartment, substantially as set forth.

3. A towel holder or cabinet having a vertical partition dividing it into an outer compartment and an inner storage-compartment for clean and soiled towels which is accessible only through said outer compartment, a front door for said outer compartment provided with a lock, and means for suspending a towel in said outer compartment between said partition and door with a portion projecting from said compartment, said suspending means being so located that they can only be reached by opening said door, substantially as set forth.

4. A towel holder or cabinet having a vertical partition dividing it into an outer compartment and an inner storage-compartment for clean and soiled towels, said outer compartment having an open bottom through which a towel suspended therein can hang, a front door for said outer compartment provided with a lock, a door in said partition affording access to said inner compartment, and one or more rollers or rods in said outer compartment for suspending the towel, substantially as set forth.

5. The combination of a cabinet or case, a plurality of rollers or rods supported therein

at different heights around which an endless towel passes in a zigzag course, the upper rollers or rods being removable for insertion in and removal from the towel, brackets in the lower portion of said cabinet in which the lower roller or rod is held, said brackets having means for temporarily holding said removable rollers or rods while replacing the towel, substantially as set forth.

6. The combination of a cabinet or casing, a plurality of guide and supporting rollers or rods therein around which an endless towel passes and is movable in a zigzag course, an additional rod or roller, and means for supporting the same in the cabinet between said guide and supporting rollers or rods in a position to deflect portions of the towel from a straight line between the guide and supporting rollers to lock the towel from movement, substantially as set forth.

Witness my hand this 15th day of February, 1906.

HOWARD C. McDONALD.

Witnesses:

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