No. 723,577. PATENTED MAR. 24, 1903.

R. BENZIGER.

PICTURE FRAME.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 15, 1902.

NO MODEL. 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

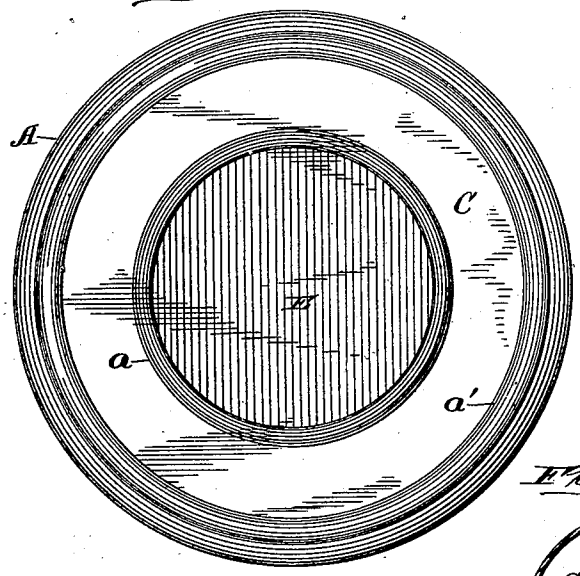


Fig. 2.

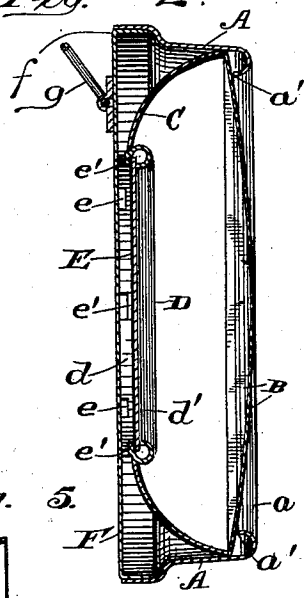


Fig. 5.

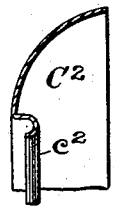
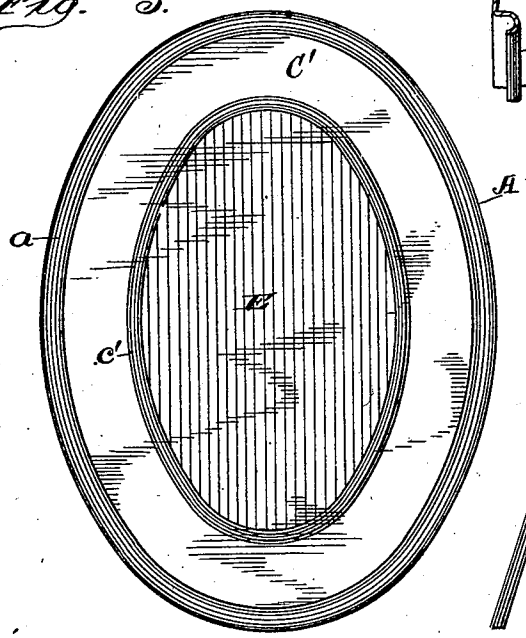
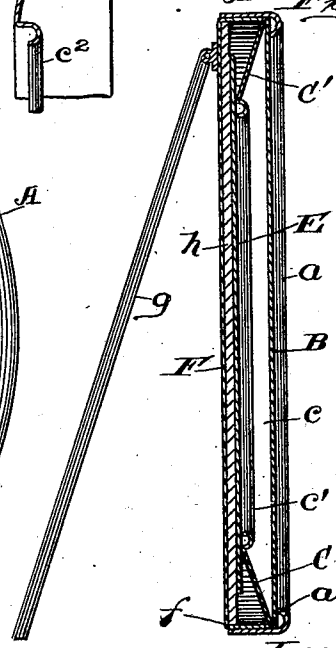


Fig. 3.



A Fig. 4.



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By Chas. O. Tillman Att'y.

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

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APPLICATION FILED DEC. 15, 1902.

NO MODEL. 2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 6.

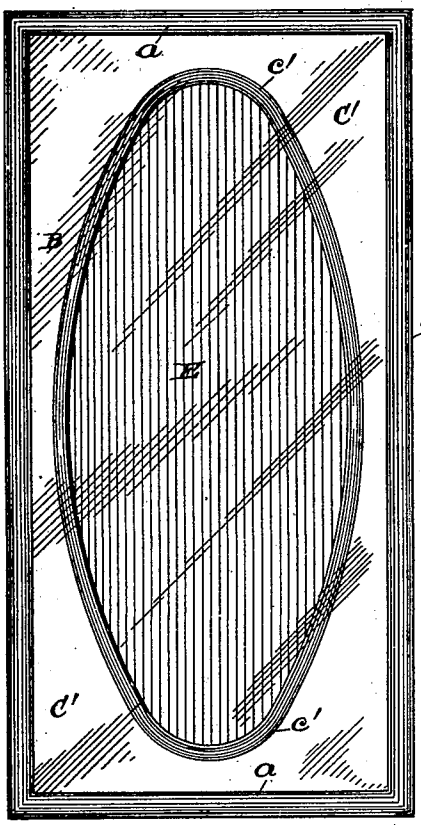


Fig. 7.

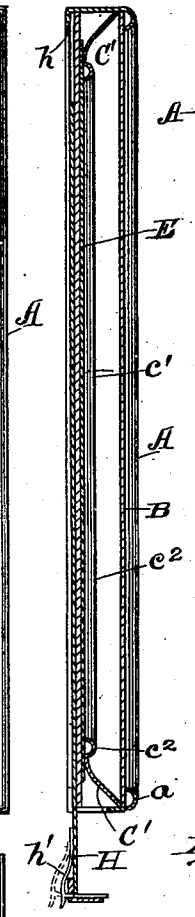


Fig. 8.

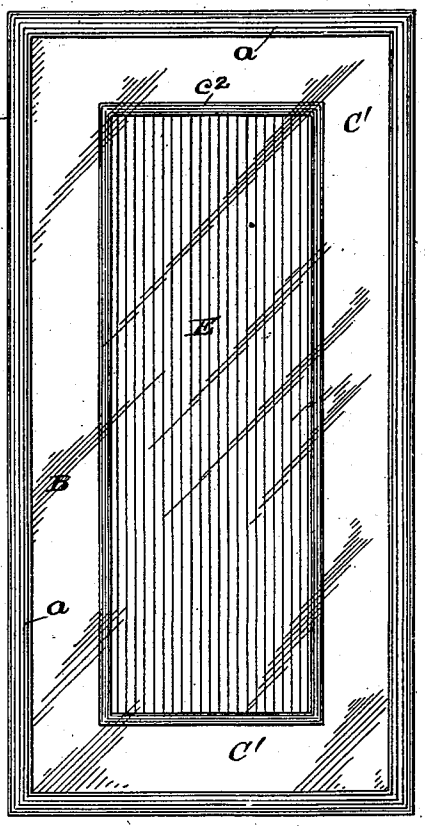


Fig. 9.

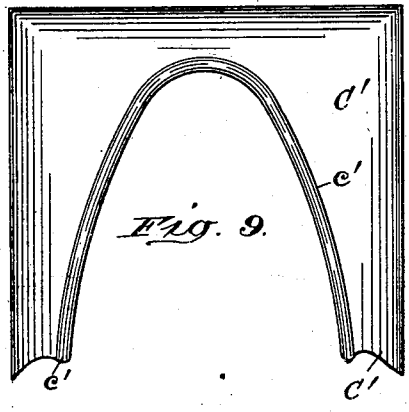
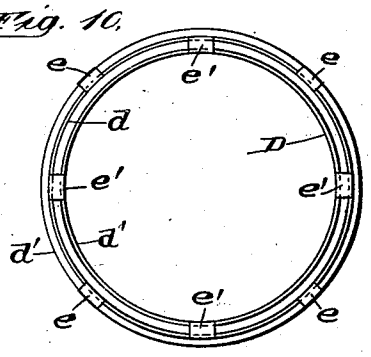


Fig. 10.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RUFUS BENZIGER, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO THE WARNER SILVER MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, A CORPORATION OF ILLINOIS.

PICTURE-FRAME.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 723,577, dated March 24, 1903.

Application filed December 15, 1902. Serial No. 135,212. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RUFUS BENZIGER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Picture-Frames, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in frames or holders for pictures, photographs, medallions, plaques, and the like; and it consists in certain peculiarities of the construction, novel arrangement, and operation of the various parts thereof, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth and specifically claimed.

The principal object of the invention is to afford a frame of the above-named character which shall be so made as to produce what is known in the art as "shadow-box" effect and be highly ornamental and which shall also be simple and inexpensive in construction, of but few parts, and easily assembled.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be disclosed in the subjoined description and explanation.

In order to enable others skilled in the art to which my invention pertains to make and use the same, I will now proceed to describe it, referring to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a face view of a frame embodying one form of my invention. Fig. 2 is a central sectional view thereof. Fig. 3 is a face view of a modified form of the invention. Fig. 4 is a vertical central sectional view thereof. Fig. 5 is a fragmental perspective view of a portion of the inner part of the frame, showing still another modification therein. Fig. 6 is a face view of another modified form of the frame. Fig. 7 is a longitudinal sectional view thereof. Fig. 8 is a face view of still another modified form of the frame. Fig. 9 is a face view of a portion of the inner part of the frame used in the construction illustrated in Fig. 6; and Fig. 10 is a plan view of the rear portion of the picture-holder, showing it detached.

Similar letters refer to like parts throughout the different views of the drawings.

A represents the outer portion of the frame, which may be made of any suitable size and material, but preferably of metal, and may be in outline circular, oval, or angular, as shown in the different views of the drawings. This outer portion or casing has its face or front edge turned inwardly to form a bead-like flange *a*, the free edge *a'* of which affords a seat for the glass B, which may be concavo-convex or flat and of a shape to correspond with the shape of the casing.

Fitting snugly within the casing A or outer portion of the frame is the inner portion or box C, which in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings is shown as being concavo-convex, with a central opening in which is located the picture-holder D of a form or shape to correspond with the form of the said opening. As is clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 10 of the drawings, the holder D comprises a band or flange *d*, having its front or face portion turned inwardly, so as to provide a curved flange *d'*, against the rear portion of which the picture E will rest. The flange *d* is provided with a series of lips *e* and *e'*, the former series of which are turned outwardly, so as to rest on the rear surface of the box C at its opening, while the latter are turned inwardly to rest on the picture E, the said lips thus serving to secure the holder D in position in the opening of the box C and also firmly retaining the picture in position.

To exclude dust and to otherwise protect the picture, I may secure in the rear portion of the casing A a back plate F, having a forwardly-extending flange *f* to fit closely in the casing, as is shown in Figs. 2 and 4 of the drawings, which plate may have pivotally secured to its upper portion a rod *g* to be used for supporting the frame.

Instead of making the box or inner portion concavo-convex, as shown in Fig. 2 and above described, I may furnish the casing or outer portion with a box or inner portion C', having a plane and rearwardly-inclined surface *c*, having at the edge of its opening a curved flange *c'*, on which the picture E will rest, and which may be held in place by means of backing *h*, located between the picture and the back plate F when the same is used.

In Fig. 5 I have shown still another modification in the construction of the box or in-

ner portion of the frame, which consists of a concavo-convex box or inner portion C^2, having integrally therewith a curved flange c^2, against the outer portion of which the picture will rest.

In Figs. 6 to 9, inclusive, are shown modified forms of the outer and inner portions of the frame, the modification of the outer portion consisting in the outlines of its parts and the modification of the inner portion consisting in the shape of its opening through which the picture is displayed.

While I have shown the box or inner portion of the frame used in the modifications now under consideration as being of substantially the same shape and form as that shown in Fig. 4 and above described, yet it is evident that the constructions illustrated in Figs. 2 and 5 may be employed therewith without departing from the spirit of my invention.

In Fig. 7 of the drawings the picture E is shown as being held in place on the flange c^2 of the box or inner portion C^2 by means of a backing h and a plate H, which slides between the sides of the casing or outer portion of the frame and which plate may be locked in position by means of a spring-catch h', located on one end of said plate.

From the foregoing and by reference to the drawings it will be seen and readily understood that by using a frame constructed according to my invention the picture or article to be framed will be held at a distance from the glass covering, and as the face surface of the box or inner portion of the frame is rearwardly inclined and as the parts of the frame may be partially or entirely burnished or polished a shadow-box effect, as well as highly ornamental effects, will be produced.

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

1. A frame for pictures and the like, consisting of an outer portion or casing provided on its front edge with an inwardly-turned flange to form a seat for the glass, and an inner portion or box having a central opening and rearwardly inclined toward said opening, said box resting at its front edge against the inner surface of the glass, an inturned flange located at the edge of the opening in the box, and means to hold the picture in place, substantially as described.

2. A frame for pictures and the like, consisting of an outer portion or casing provided on its front edge with an inwardly-turned flange to form a seat for the glass, and an inner portion or box having a central opening and resting at its front edge against the glass and rearwardly inclined toward its opening, an inwardly-turned flange located at the edge of the opening in the box, the front edge of said flange being located in a plane in advance of the rear portion of the box to form a seat for the picture, and means to hold the picture in place, substantially as described.

3. A frame for pictures and the like, consisting of an outer portion provided at its front edge with an inwardly-turned flange to form a seat for the glass, and an inner portion or box having a central opening, a picture-holder located in said opening and comprising a piece having at its front an inturned flange the edge of which is located in advance of the rear portion of the holder, the rear portion of the holder being provided with lips some of which are adapted to be turned inwardly to secure the picture in place, and others outwardly to secure the holder in position, substantially as described.

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A. GUSTAFSON.