

No. 678,012.

Patented July 9, 1901.

H. G. MARATTA.
SCENIC STRUCTURE.

(Application filed Aug. 10, 1900.)

(No Model.)

FIG. 1.

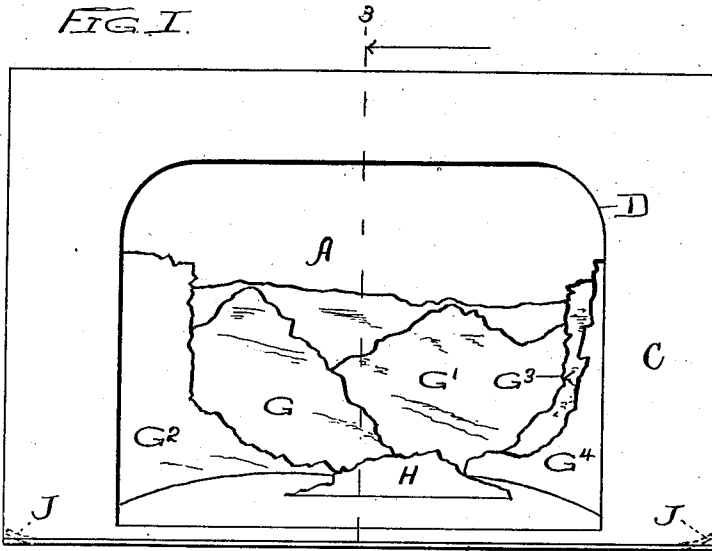


FIG. 4.

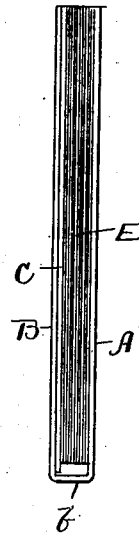


FIG. 2.

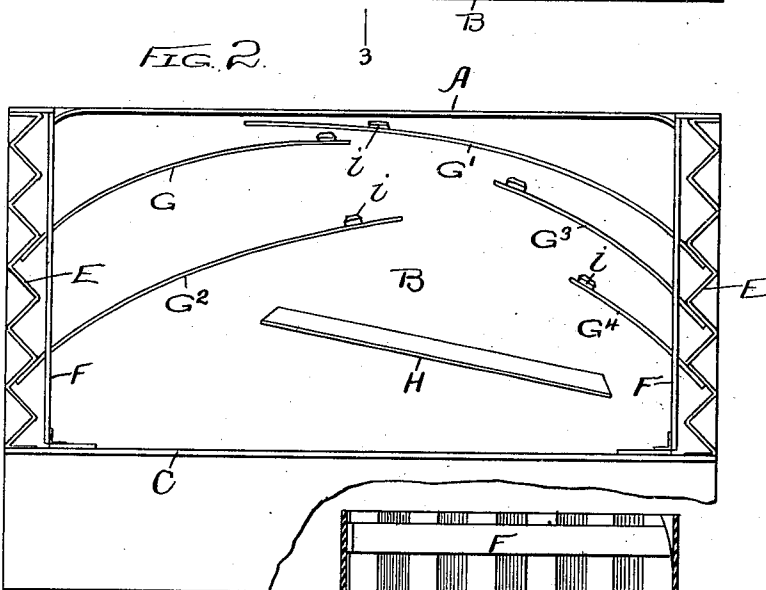
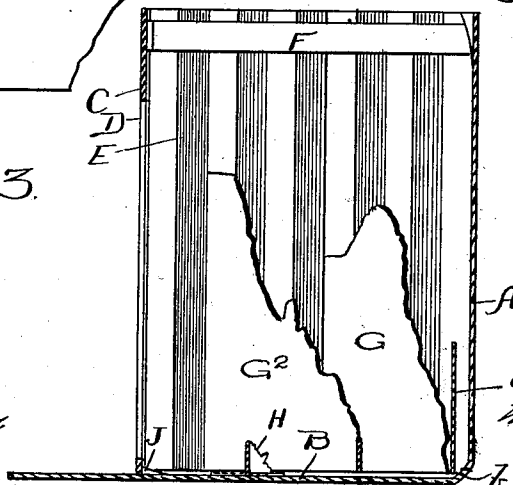


FIG. 3.



WITNESSES:

Law. Co. Smith
A. W. Munday

INVENTOR:

HARDESTY G. MARATTA
BY
Munday, Smith & Adams

HIS ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARDESTY G. MARATTA, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

SCENIC STRUCTURE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 678,012, dated July 9, 1901.

Application filed August 10, 1900. Serial No. 28,460. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARDESTY G. MARATTA, a citizen of the United States, residing in Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Scenic Structures, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved scenic structure for more completely giving pictorial representations of objects—as, for example, landscapes; and the invention consists in the structure and in the devices and combination of devices hereinafter more particularly described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a front elevation; Fig. 2, a plan view; Fig. 3, a vertical section on the line 3 3 of Fig. 1, and Fig. 4 a side view of the structure collapsed or folded.

In said drawings, A is the vertical background, and B the horizontal floor, of the scenic structure, and C is the proscenium, constituting a frame to inclose the view, there being an opening D through this to permit the picture to show through. The background and the proscenium are connected together by folding bellows-formed sides E E, united in front to the proscenium and in the rear to the background. Attached preferably to the proscenium at the upper part are the folding strips F F to form braces between said proscenium and the background when the structure is extended ready to be seen. Connected to the bellows sides are the wing-scenes G G' G² G³ G⁴, which may be in any number desired, according to the scene to be represented. These wings come down in whole or in part to the ground-piece B and extend up toward the top of the structure so far as the requirements of the view to be represented necessitate. These wings may be placed all at the same angle and be flat in contour, as the scenes upon a theater-stage usually are, if that is desired; but it is greatly preferred and considerably enhances the effect to have these wings curved in plan view, as shown at Fig. 2, and, moreover, to have them placed at varying angles, the rearmost ones being at a less angle to the background than the foremost ones.

H is a vertical foreground-piece secured to

the ground B and which may contain a representation of rocks or whatever the nature of the view requires and may be located at any angle or any part of the foreground and as many such employed as the requirements of the view to be represented indicate. The foreground-piece H is made so that it can be folded down flat upon the ground, if desired. In lieu of such foreground-pieces, where the nature of the scene to be represented indicates, molded forms of papier-mâché or flat mirrors to represent water or the actual water itself may be employed in suitable vessels. In the structure illustrated in the drawings the material used is stiff cardboard or paper of varying thickness throughout, and the structure is one intended to be folded up, as shown in Fig. 4, when not in use. The scene (usually a landscape) is painted upon the background or the ground-piece B and upon the wings, according to the nature of the view. If this part of the work be done artistically, the effect is very pleasing to the eye, and an accurate impression of the natural scene can be conveyed even in cases where an ordinary drawing or flat picture does not succeed. This is notably true of such views as the Grand Cañon of the Colorado, where it is extremely difficult by ordinary means to give a correct impression of the vastness of the scene coupled with the descent of the ground before the eye, and which can be very successfully done by this means. The curvature of the wings produces several results which cannot be as perfectly done with flat wings. Thus, in the first place, by reason of the curvature all parts of the surface are more nearly equidistant from the eye of the observer properly located. In the second place, by reason of the curvature that portion of the wing which is nearest the proscenium may be given the effect of perspective recession to great advantage by reason of its greater angle to the plane of the proscenium, while that portion of the wing farthest from the proscenium by reason of the curvature approaches nearer parallelism with the flat background, and hence the curved wing lends itself more completely than the flat wing could to the naturalness of the view or picture to be represented.

In addition to the utility above set forth

with reference to the curvature of the wings such curvature enables the production of very natural effects by illuminations between the wings, which cannot be accomplished by the use of straight wings, and by employing curved wings the edges thereof blend with the representation on the next adjacent wing or background, producing the effect of a continuous unbroken picture.

A simple way to give the curvature and also to properly locate the wings in their intended positions is to cut out of the cardboard bottom B stops *z*, which being bent up serve to hold the wings in position when the structure is extended. A stop J (shown in dotted lines at Fig. 1 and which may be formed of the material of the bottom cut and turned up at the corner) serves to hold the proscenium out in proper position against the natural elasticity of the folded sides when the structure is extended, and this same service is performed by the folding strips F at the top.

The background, wings, &c., may be given their proper colors by having the pictures printed thereon by the chromolithograph process, for example, which would make the whole structure exceedingly cheap. It will be noted that the top of the stage when extended is open, and that consequently the principal portion of the light by which the picture is viewed comes from above. This prevents the wings from casting shadows, which might otherwise interfere with the illusion. This open top may, as occasion requires, be covered with transparent paper of white or other colors or of varied colors, as the desired effect may require, which covering-sheet can be attached at one edge either to the proscenium or the background. The structure may be folded up by folding in the braces F, releasing the wings from their stops *z*, and lifting the front of the proscenium away from the stops J. Now the entire structure

will fold back against the background and the ground-piece B may be folded upon the hinge *b*, producing a portfolio-like object, which is shown at Fig. 4. In this condition, if the view be not too large in dimensions, the whole can be sent through the mails or sold, as desired.

I claim—

1. In a scenic structure having a background, a ground and a proscenium or frame, wings having curved surfaces and arranged at an angle to the proscenium.

2. In a scenic structure having a background, a ground and a proscenium or frame, the wings having curved surfaces, said curved surfaces being placed at varying angles to the background, the angles for the wings increasing in the wings nearer the proscenium, substantially as specified.

3. A collapsible or foldable scenic structure having a background, a proscenium or frame and wings having curved surfaces and adapted to assume an angle to the proscenium or frame when the structure is unfolded.

4. A collapsible or foldable scenic structure having a background, a ground, a proscenium or frame and bellows sides connecting the proscenium or frame and background, and wings having curved surfaces and attached to the bellows sides.

5. A collapsible or foldable scenic structure having a background, a ground hinged thereto, a proscenium or frame, bellows sides connecting the proscenium and background, wings having curved surfaces and attached to the bellows sides and means for holding the structure in unfolded or extended position.

HARDESTY G. MARATTA.

Witnesses:

H. M. MUNDAY,
L. E. CURTIS.