W. T. SMITH.

ROPE PORTIÈRE.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 15, 1907.

903,612. Patented Nov. 10, 1908.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

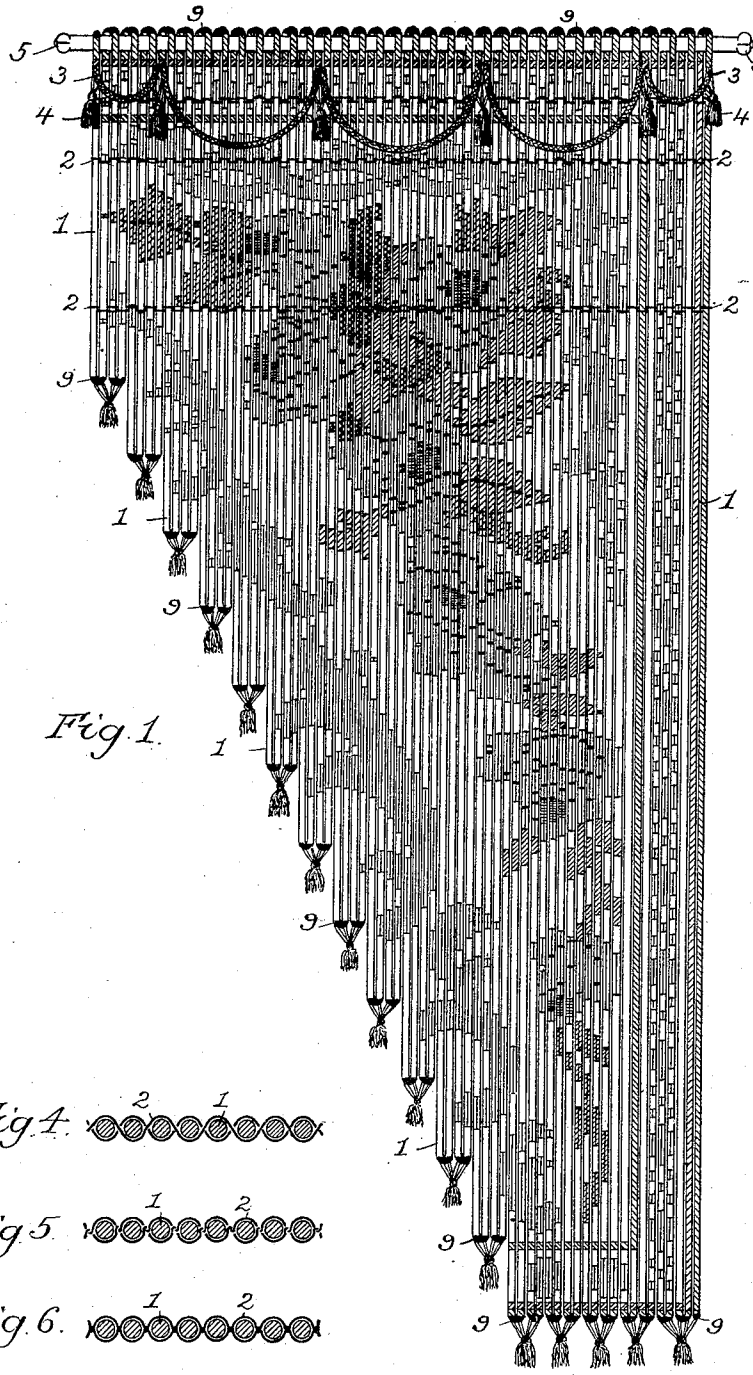


Fig. 1.

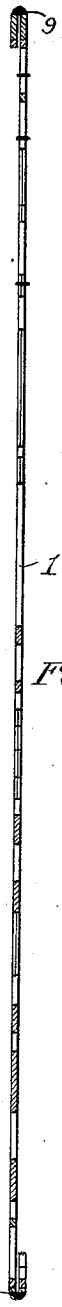


Fig. 2.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 5

Fig. 6.

Witnesses
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Kate A. Beadle

Inventor
William T. Smith
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THE NORRIS PETERS CO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

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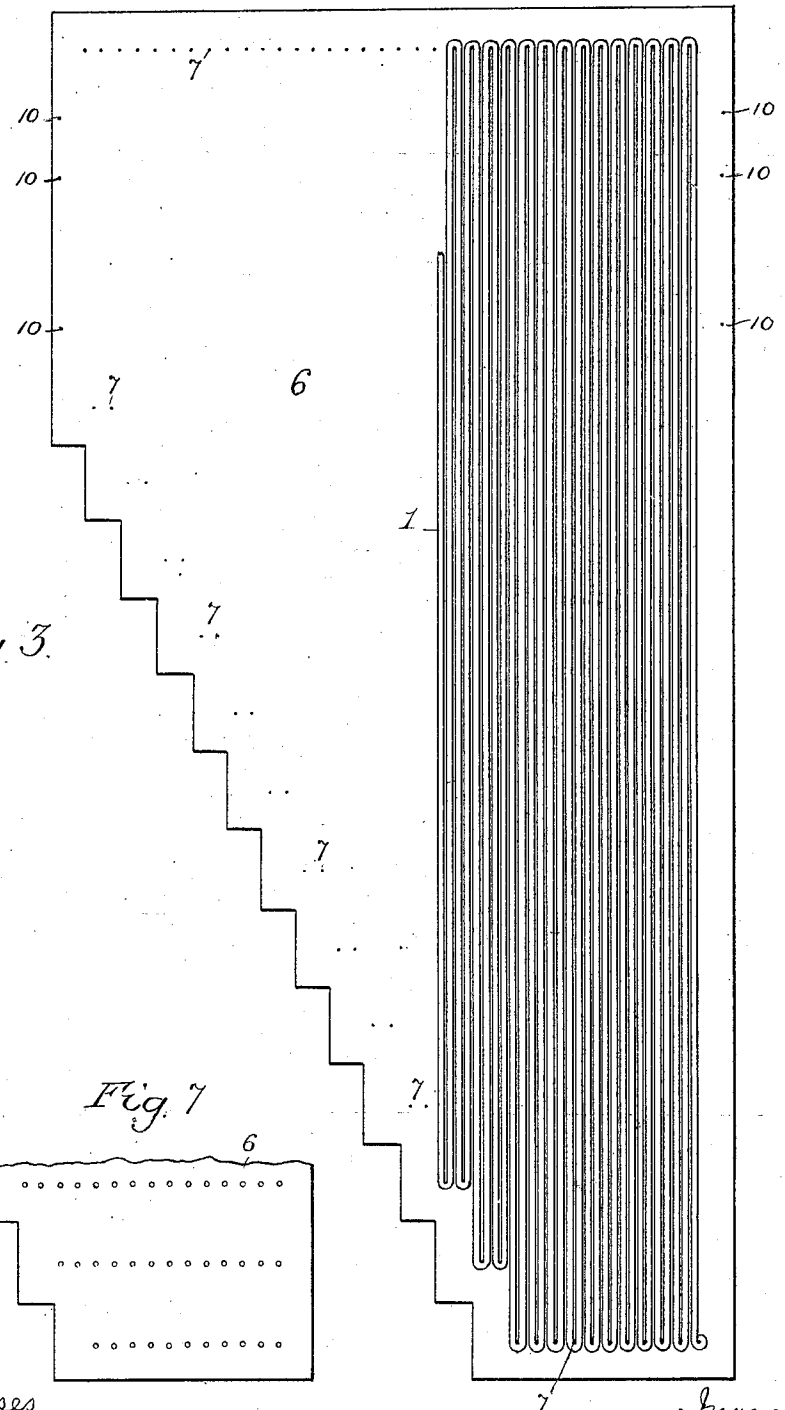


Fig. 3.

Fig. 7

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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ROPE PORTIÈRE.

No. 903,612. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 10, 1908.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM T. SMITH, a citizen of the United States, residing in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented certain Improvements in Rope Portières, of which the following is a specification.

An ordinary rope portière consists of a number of ropes, strands, cords, or the like, (hereinafter, for convenience, called ropes) suspended from a suitable support at the top of a door, arch, or other entrance or passageway, the depending portions of the ropes being disconnected, so as to be free to swing independently of one another. Such a portière must be draped towards the side of the doorway or towards each side of a double doorway, in order to permit of passage through the latter, and consequently it is not susceptible of having ornamental patterns formed upon it, since such draping would distort or destroy the symmetry of the pattern, and even if the portière is not a patterned one the crowding of the ropes in draping the same destroys the intended effect.

The object of my invention is to so construct such a rope portière that the draping of the same will be unnecessary, the ropes being permitted to hang straight at all times, so that patterns of as elaborate a character as desired can be formed upon the portière and will be properly displayed when the portière is hung in the doorway, my improved portière being also of such character that it can be cheaply and quickly made without the necessity of employing skilled labor for the purpose.

In the accompanying drawings—Figure 1 is a view of a rope portière constructed in accordance with my invention, and intended for use in a single or narrow doorway; Fig. 2 is a view of part of the rope of which the portière is composed; Fig. 3 is a view illustrating the method of making the portière; Figs. 4, 5 and 6 are exaggerated sectional views illustrating different methods which may be employed for retaining the depending ropes in their proper relation to each other in the upper portion of the portière, and Fig. 7 is a view illustrating a modification.

The ropes 1 for the production of my improved portière may be composed of any desired material, such as wool, cotton, jute, silk, twisted paper or other fibrous material, and may consist of spun or twisted strands or of strips of chenille fur such as are used in the manufacture of curtains and rugs, said ropes being mottled, if a portière of that character is desired, or, if the portière is to have a pattern formed upon it, being parti-colored, (see Fig. 2) and having the various colors so disposed thereon that when the ropes are laid side by side in the formation of the portière, in the manner described hereafter, the disposition of the colors in the adjoining ropes will serve to produce the desired pattern, as shown in Fig. 1. The rope of which the portière is composed is looped back and forth from top to bottom of the portière, and it may be either continuous or composed of sections, connected, or disconnected, as desired.

In a single portière of the character shown in Fig. 1, one side is of the full height of the doorway, but the opposite side is so short that a person of average height can easily pass under it, the portière gradually increasing in depth by a succession of step-like conformations, until the full depth of the other side portion is reached, these step-like conformations of the inner edges of the portière being ornamented, if desired, in any appropriate way, as, for instance, by means of beads, pendants, tassels, or the like, tassels being shown in Fig. 1 as used for this purpose. The ropes comprising the upper portion of the portière, which is continuous from side to side, may be provided with one or more rows of lacing, as indicated at 2, in Fig. 1, in order to retain the ropes in their proper relation to each other in this portion of the portière, but the lower portions of the ropes are permitted to hang freely so as to preserve the loosely swaying quality characteristic of a portière of this class. Various means of combining the interlacing cords 1 with the ropes of the portière may be adopted, three of such methods being shown in the drawing, Fig. 4 illustrating a construction in which the lacing cords are simply crossed between successive ropes, Fig. 5 illustrating a construction in which said cords are twisted between successive ropes, and Fig. 6 illustrating a construction in which the cords are knotted together between successive ropes.

In order to add to the attractive appearance of the portière a lambrequin of any desired character may be added to the upper portion of the same, such lambrequin, in the present case, consisting of a looped or festooned

rope or cord 3 and depending tassels 4, and a suspending pole such as shown at 5 may be interlaced with the ropes at the upper portion of the portière when it is desired to hang the same. The portière may be woven upon a loom having selvage warp threads disposed at the proper distances to impart the desired step-like configuration to it, but I prefer to use for its construction a laying or setting board or frame having pins so disposed that the rope can be wrapped around and laid back and forth between them in order to produce a portière of the desired shape, such a board being illustrated at 6 in Fig. 3, and the pins for the reception of the rope being illustrated at 7. This setting board may be either a solid structure, as shown, or any other suitable form, and in its use one end of the rope of which the portière is to be composed is suitably connected to a pin upon one corner of the board and the rope is then laid back and forth across the board and wrapped around a pin at each end of the same, the disposition of the pins being effected with reference to the desired contour of the finished portière. In case the rope is parti-colored, for the production of a patterned portière, said rope will, by preference, have upon it at the bight of each loop, that is to say, at the point where it is to engage with each pin, a spot of color 9, so that the person who is applying the rope to the pins will have a constant guide for the proper disposition of each lay of the rope and the colors of the latter will thus be matched to produce the pattern without any particular care or attention on the part of the operator. Pins 10 are provided on the setting board for the reception of the opposite ends of the lacing cords 2. Instead of providing the setting or laying board with fixed pins the same may, as shown in Fig. 7, be provided with rows of holes to which the pins can be applied or from which they can be removed so as to provide for the formation of portières of different length, width, or configuration upon the same board.

When a double portière, or one intended for use in a wide doorway, is desired, it may be of double the width shown in Fig. 1, the deep portions being at the opposite sides, and the depth gradually decreasing on each side to the short central portion.

I am aware that Japanese shades and screens woven with bamboo splints have had designs painted or printed upon said splints, but my invention is distinct from a structure of that type, since the pattern of my improved portière is not simply a surface application but is formed by coloring the rope of which the portière is composed, so that the pattern appears the same on both sides of the portière.

I claim:—

1. A rope portière consisting of a rope looped back and forth from top to bottom of the portière.

2. A rope portière consisting of a rope looped back and forth from top to bottom of the portière, said loops being graduated in depth.

3. A rope portière consisting of a rope looped back and forth from top to bottom of the portière, the loops gradually decreasing in depth and forming a step-like configuration, and tassels or other ornaments, attached to said step-like configuration.

4. A rope portière consisting of a rope looped back and forth from top to bottom of the portière, said rope being parti-colored, whereby the distribution of the colors upon successive loops of the rope will produce a pattern.

5. A rope portière consisting of a parti-colored rope looped back and forth from top to bottom of the portière, and an index mark on the rope indicating the bight of each loop.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM T. SMITH.

Witnesses:
R. C. STERNER,
JNO. L. GEBHARDT.