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E. A. MUNNS.

COLUMN, PEDESTAL, OR SIMILAR DECORATIVE ARCHITECTURAL STRUCTURE.

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Fig. 1.

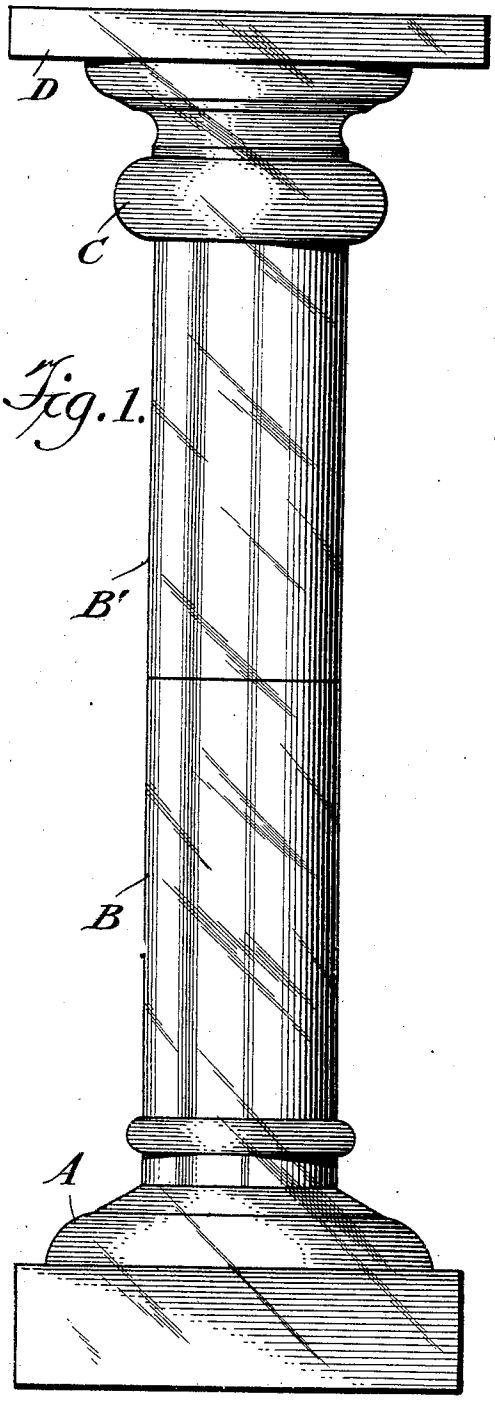
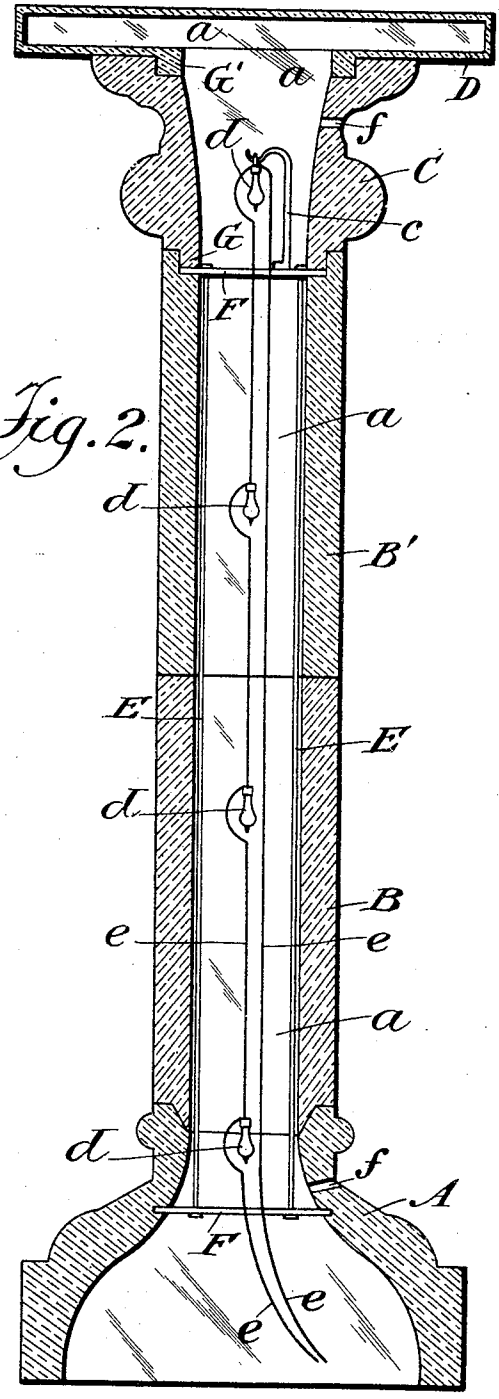


Fig. 2.



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No. 785,695. Patented March 21, 1905.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ERNEST A. MUNNS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO THE MURALO COMPANY, OF NEW BRIGHTON, NEW YORK, A CORPORATION.

COLUMN, PEDESTAL, OR SIMILAR DECORATIVE ARCHITECTURAL STRUCTURE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 785,695, dated March 21, 1905.

Application filed November 1, 1904. Serial No. 230,933.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ERNEST A. MUNNS, a subject of the King of Great Britain, and a resident of New Brighton, Staten Island, borough and county of Richmond, city and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Columns, Pedestals, or Similar Decorative Architectural Structures, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure I illustrates a view in elevation of a column embodying my invention. Fig. 2 illustrates a vertical sectional view of the column shown in Fig. 1 and showing one method in which the same may be constructed and illuminated.

In the drawings hereof I show my invention as applied to a column or pedestal for the support of a bust, a vase, or similar article, because the invention is well adapted to such use and is very effective in connection therewith. I wish it understood, however, that this is an example, merely, of many structures commonly employed for architectural decoration in which the invention may be beneficially employed—such, for instance, as newel-posts, balustrades, columns, or pillars for supporting superstructures and the like.

A represents the base of the column; B B′, the shaft thereof; C, the capital, and D the table or top. I show the parts B B′, composing the shaft, as clamped firmly to the base A by metallic rods E E, which pass through transverse metallic plates or webs F and are provided with nuts whereby they may be screwed up tight. The capital and top or table parts are in the instance shown merely set in place upon the shaft, being held there by gravity and the internesting surfaces G and G′ of the parts, respectively. Any other method of constructing the structure, whatever it may be, and of holding it together may be employed.

In the manufacture of my articles I proceed as follows: I take solid crude rock as it comes from the quarry, of the kind known generically as "gypsum," including the entire group of rock having the characteristics of gypsum. They are variously designated in different localities and in different arts as "gypsum," "alabaster," &c., and are chemically known under the designation "sulfate of lime." I prefer the varieties of gypsum rock which are of low grade—that is to say, those which embody, together with the pure gypsum, a considerable proportion of impurities, such as iron, sulfur, clay, and the like. The pieces of rock are first preferably roughly fashioned into the proper shape to produce the desired article, and then the interior thereof is hollowed out, as shown at *a a*, (see Fig. 2,) leaving the walls of greater or less thickness, as desired. They may be cut so thin as an eighth of an inch, more or less, or may be three inches, more or less, in thickness. The exterior may then be finished and polished, if not already done. I then introduce into the hollow interior chamber or chambers of the structure some suitable illuminating device or devices, such as a candle, a lamp, or preferably an electric lamp or a series of them if the article be large. In the drawings I show such an arrangement. *c* is a suitable bracket or support, which may be attached in any suitable manner to any desired part of the structure by which a series of electric lamps *d d*, supplied with circuit-wires *e e*, are suitably supported.

The operation of the invention is as follows: When the column, pedestal, or other article embodying my invention, whatever it may be, is not illuminated, it presents the same appearance as an ordinary solid article made of the same material would; but upon illuminating its interior, as by turning on the current, especially if the light in the apartment be somewhat dim, the effect is startingly brilliant and beautiful. Its dead lifeless quality is instantly transformed into most brilliant, variegated, and intertwined masses of color—red, crimson, green, white, yellow, in fact all the prismatic colors most beautifully blended. This result is secured by reason of the property that rock of the gypsum family possesses, being of crystalline structure, of freely transmitting light through its substance, even though several inches in thickness. Thus it

is possible under my invention to produce devices or structures for use architecturally of such strength that they are adapted to be used under circumstances in which they will be called upon to resist great strain and permanently carry heavy bodies.

I prefer to ventilate the structure by providing suitable "blow-holes," as I call them, (shown at *f f*,) so that the heat may escape, and I also sometimes, especially if the article be very small, apply to its interior as well as exterior surface liquefied transparent wax, paraffin, or similar material which will penetrate the surface, and thus prevent dust and dirt from entering the structure of the rock, which would have a tendency to reduce the brilliancy of the illumination. I do not illustrate this in the drawings, because I do not apply so much of the paraffin or similar material as will leave an appreciable coating on the surface, only so much as will be taken up by the stone as a filler for its grain. If so much were applied as to leave an appreciable coating on the surface, it would be readily scuffed up, scratched, and defaced with foreign matter being rubbed into it, so that instead of being any improvement it would be a decided detraction.

Of course suitable provision will be made for renewing the electric lamps should renewal be needed. In the case shown free access may be had to the interior of the column by simply lifting off the table D.

Articles made under my invention when illuminated throw off considerable light. They therefore may be used to illuminate the chamber or space in which they are located, producing most beautiful effects.

I claim—

1. As a new article of manufacture a hollow structure made from translucent rock, such as gypsum in its natural state, and means to illuminate the interior thereof.

2. As a new article of manufacture a hollow structure made from translucent rock, such as gypsum in its natural state, coated with translucent material, such as paraffin, and means to illuminate the interior thereof.

3. As a new article of manufacture a hollow structure made from translucent rock, such as gypsum in its natural state, means to illuminate the interior thereof and means to ventilate the interior thereof.

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

ERNEST A. MUNNS.

Witnesses:

F. M. DOUSBACH,

EMMETT CUNNINGHAM.