

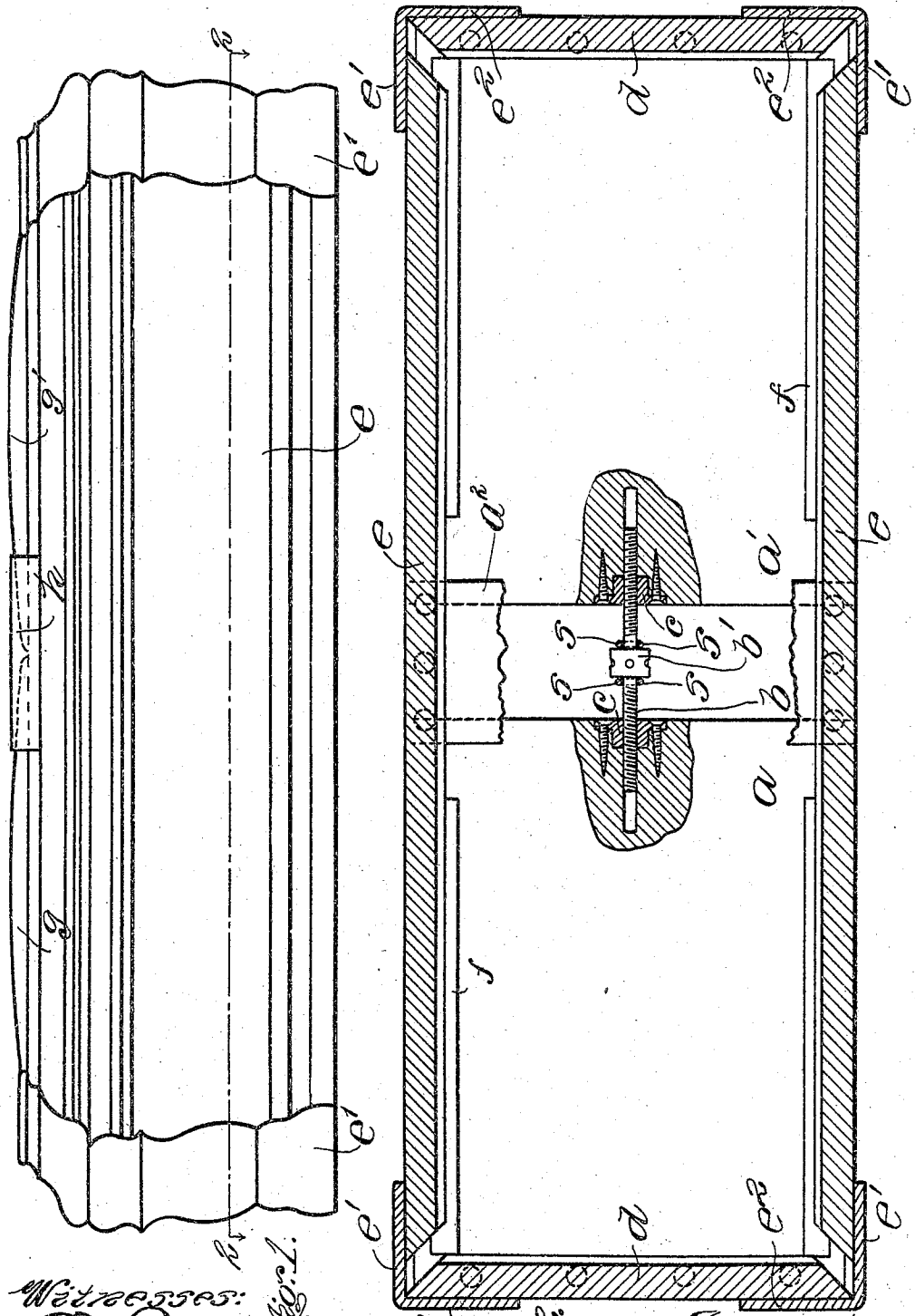
No. 782,563.

PATENTED FEB. 14, 1905.

F. E. HOLLINS.  
CASKET.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 22, 1904.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses:  
*P. W. Pezzetta*  
*E. Batchelder*

Inventor:  
*F. E. Hollins*  
 By *Wright Brown & Quincy*  
*Attys*

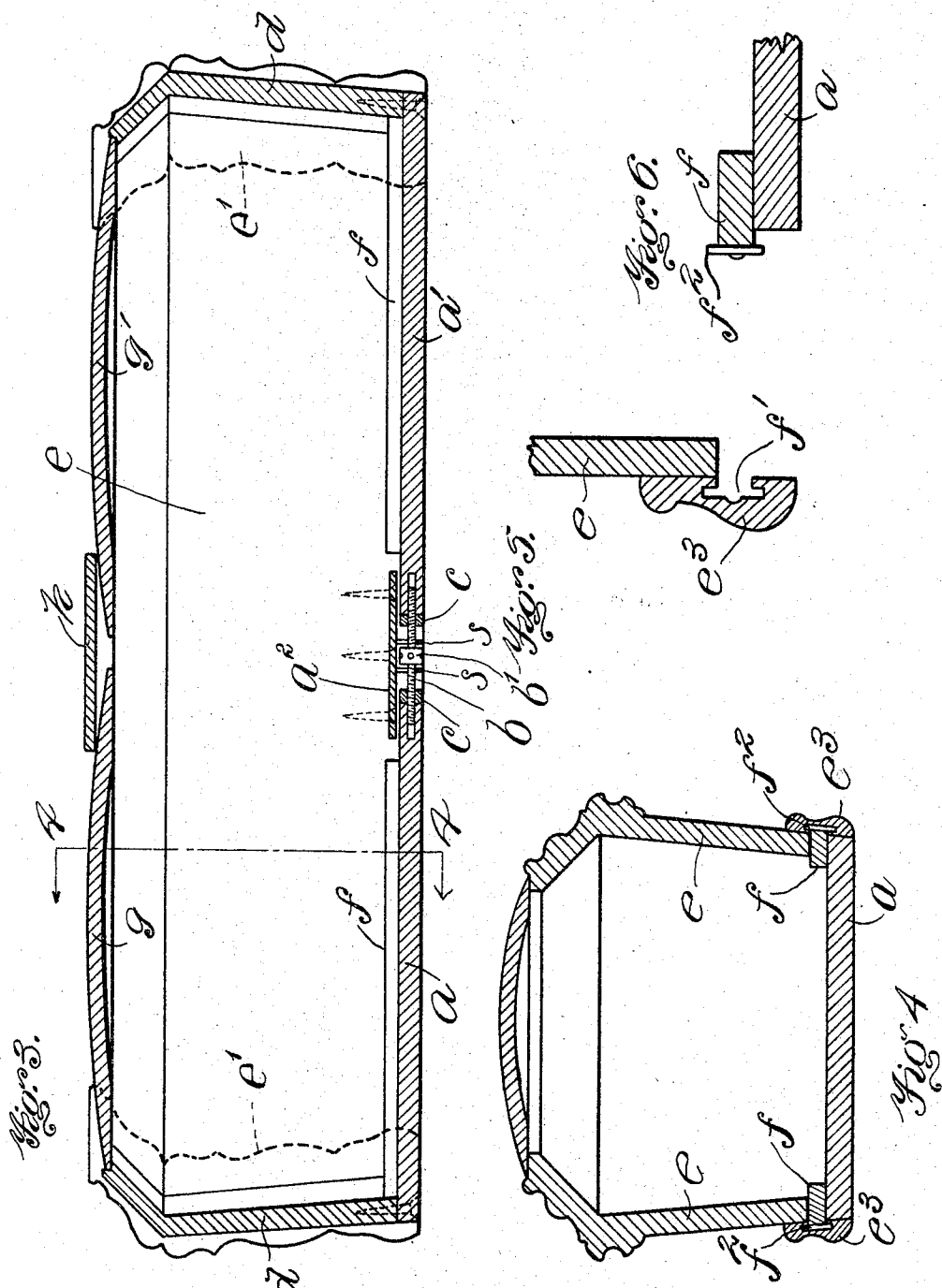
No. 782,563.

PATENTED FEB. 14, 1905.

F. E. HOLLINS.  
CASSET.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 22, 1904.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



Witnesses:  
P. W. Pezzetti  
E. Batchelder

Inventor:  
F. E. Hollins  
By Knight, Brown & Quincy  
Attorneys

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK E. HOLLINS, OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS.

## CASKET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 782,563, dated February 14, 1905.

Application filed September 22, 1904. Serial No. 225,432.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FREDERICK E. HOLLINS, of Somerville, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Caskets, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to burial-caskets, and has for its object to enable the length of the casket to be varied without affecting the external appearance of the casket.

The invention consists in the improvements which I will now proceed to describe and claim.

Of the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a side elevation of a casket embodying my invention. Fig. 2 represents a section on line 2 2 of Fig. 1, portions of the sectional bottom being shown in section. Fig. 3 represents a longitudinal section of the casket. Fig. 4 represents a transverse section on line 4 4 of Fig. 3. Figs. 5 and 6 represent fragmentary sectional views.

The same reference characters indicate the same parts in all the figures.

The bottom of my improved casket is of sectional construction and is composed of two sections or members  $a a'$ , which are movable relatively to each other to vary the length of the bottom. Means are provided for adjustably connecting the said members and holding them at any desired adjustment, said means in this embodiment of my invention comprising a threaded rod  $b$ , having at one end portion a right-hand screw-thread and at the other end portion a left-hand screw-thread, said threaded portions being engaged with nuts  $c c$ , correspondingly threaded and secured to the bottom members  $a a'$ , as shown in Fig. 2. Between the threaded portions the rod  $b$  is provided with means whereby it may be rotated—for example, an enlargement  $b'$ , having orifices for the reception of a rod or lever.

$d d$  represent end pieces or heads which are affixed to the ends of the sectional bottom and project upwardly therefrom. The sides of the casket are also of sectional construction and adapted to be lengthened and shortened with the bottom. Each of said sides comprises a continuous intermediate or body

member  $e$  and terminal members  $e' e'$ , which overlap the end portions of the member  $e$ . The members  $e'$  are affixed to the heads  $d d$ , and each is preferably a part of an ornamental corner-piece, the other part,  $e''$ , of which projects over the head  $d$  to which it is attached. The intermediate side member  $e$  is slidably engaged with the adjustable bottom, the preferred means of engagement being tongues  $f$ , affixed to the bottom members  $a a'$ , and grooves  $f'$ , formed in moldings  $e''$ , which are affixed to the lower edges of the intermediate members  $e$ . The tongues  $f$  enter the grooves  $f'$  and are provided at intervals with washers  $f''$ , which enter recesses in the edges of the grooves  $f'$ , and thus prevent sidewise displacement of the intermediate members  $e$ .

It will be seen from the foregoing that when the bottom members  $a$  and  $a'$  are moved away from each other to lengthen the bottom of the casket the terminal side members  $e' e'$ , affixed to the heads  $d d$ , are also moved from each other and slip upon the intermediate side members  $e$ , the sides being therefore lengthened to the same extent as the bottom. When the bottom members are moved toward each other to shorten the bottom, the terminal members  $e'$  move inwardly upon the intermediate members  $e$ . Provision is thus made for varying the length of the casket without altering its external appearance, each intermediate member being continuous and extending uninterruptedly from one terminal member to the other in any adjustment.

To cover the space between the bottom members  $a$  and  $a'$ , I employ a supplemental bottom member  $a''$ , as shown in Fig. 3.

The top of the casket is or may be composed of two sections  $g g'$ , one of which may be detachably secured to one of the heads  $d$  and the other to the opposite head.

$h$  represents a saddle-piece which extends across the top of the casket and covers the opening between the two cover-sections  $g g'$ .

The form and design of the casket may be variously modified, particularly as regards the corner-pieces, which include the terminal side members  $e'$ .

I do not limit myself to a construction in

which both ends of the casket are adjustable, it being obvious that one of the end pieces or heads  $d$  and the corner-pieces attached thereto may be rigidly attached to the intermediate side members  $e$ , so that the adjustable construction will be wholly at one end of the casket.

$s$   $s$  represent staples which are driven into the bottom piece  $a^2$  and bestride the rod  $b$  at opposite sides of the enlargement  $b'$ , said staples preventing endwise movement of the rod.

The bottom piece  $a^2$  may be attached at its ends to the side members  $e$   $e$  and is in sliding contact with the bottom members  $a$   $a'$ .

The supplemental bottom  $a^2$  is preferably detachably secured to the side members  $e$   $e$  by screws, and the heads  $d$  are also preferably detachably secured to the bottom members  $a$  and  $a'$  by screws. When the said screws are withdrawn, the parts of the casket may be packed in compact form for storage and shipment. My invention therefore provides a knockdown casket.

While the body members  $e$  constitute the real sides of the casket, I have referred to the members  $e'$  as portions of the sides for convenience of description and because the said members  $e'$  overlap the ends of the body member  $e$  and can be seen when the casket is viewed from one side.

I claim—

1. A casket comprising a sectional adjustable bottom; heads affixed to the ends of the bottom; and sides each of which comprises terminal members affixed to the heads and a

continuous intermediate member overlapped at its ends by said terminal members.

2. A casket comprising an adjustable bottom composed of two members, a right-and-left screw engaged with said members and provided with means whereby it may be rotated to adjust the members, heads attached to the ends of the sectional bottom, and sectional adjustable sides.

3. A casket comprising an adjustable sectional bottom having tongues, intermediate side members having grooves receiving said tongues, heads attached to the ends of the bottom, and terminal side members affixed to the heads and overlapping the end portions of the intermediate side members.

4. A knockdown casket comprising a two-part bottom the members of which have longitudinal tongues, intermediate side members which are grooved longitudinally to receive said tongues, a supplemental bottom detachably secured to the said side members, end pieces or heads detachably secured to the end portions of the bottom, and terminal side members secured to the heads and overlapping the end portions of the said inner side members.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

FREDERICK E. HOLLINS.

Witnesses:

C. F. BROWN,  
A. C. RATIGAN.