(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

H. MECKE.

FOLDING FLOWER STAND.

No. 325,850. Patented Sept. 8, 1885.

Fig. 1.

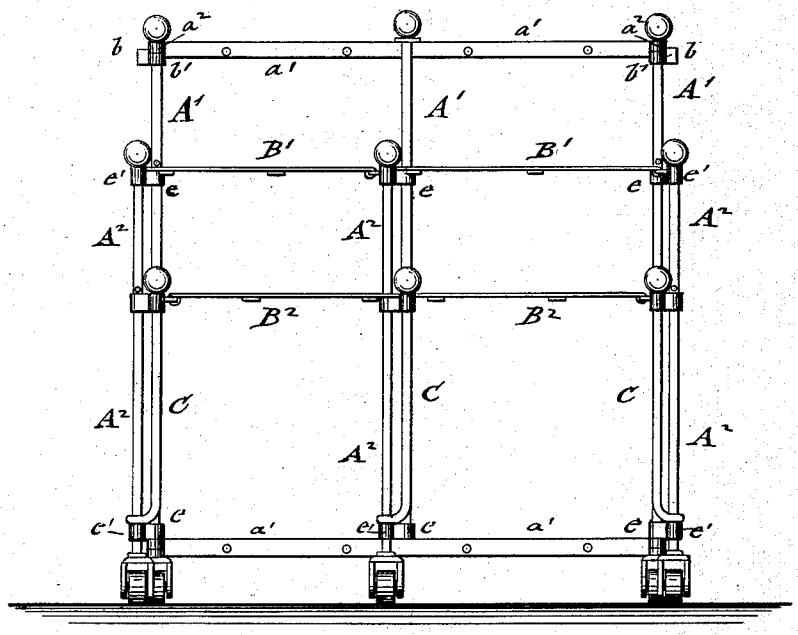


Fig. 2.

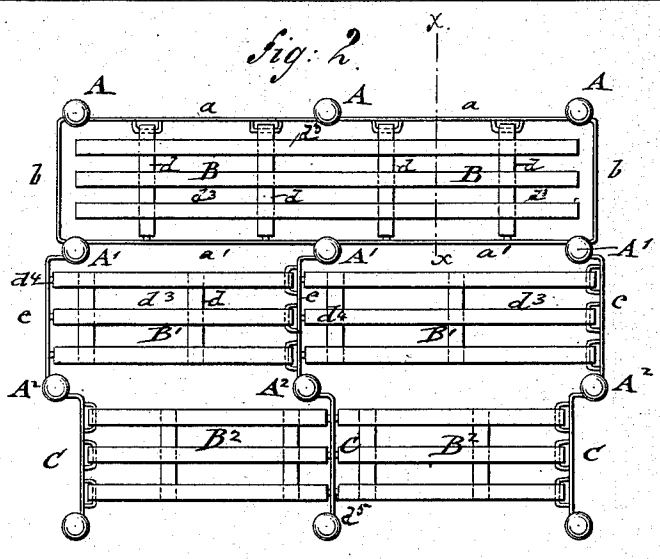
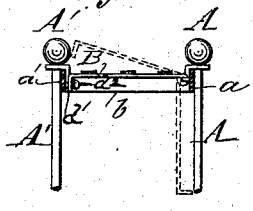


Fig. 2ª.



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(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 3.

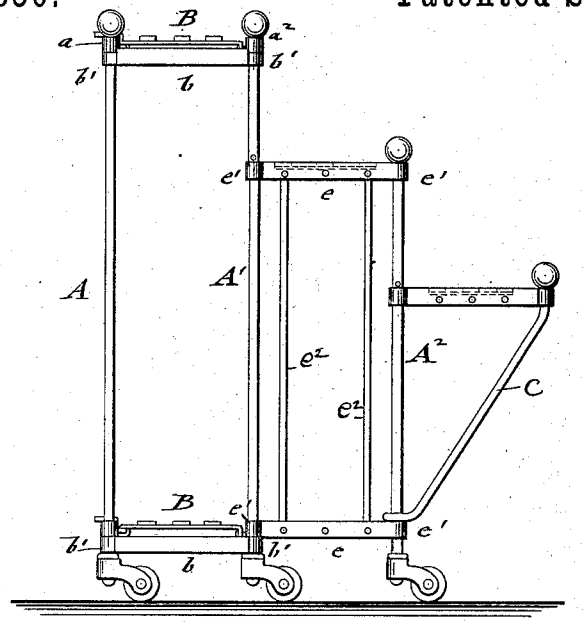


Fig. 4.

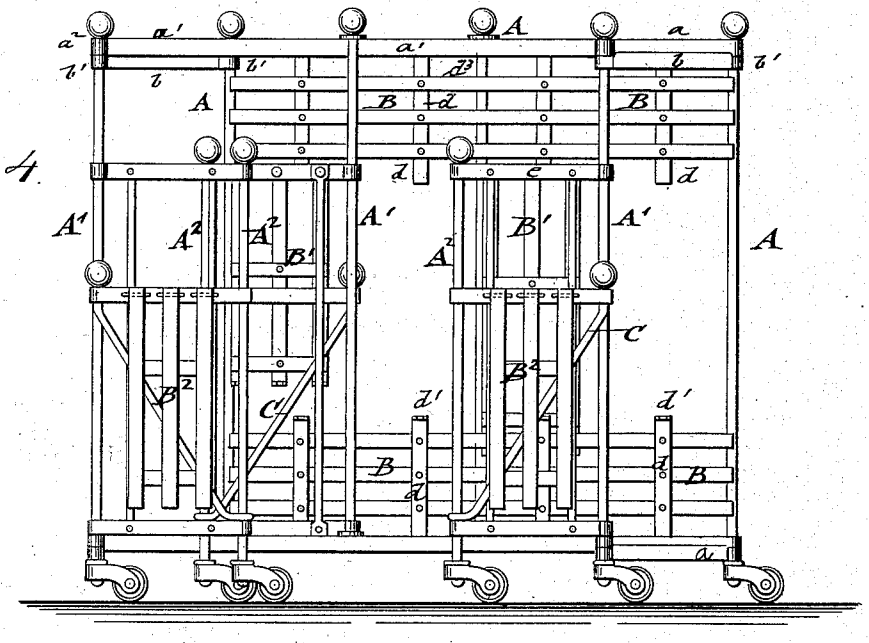
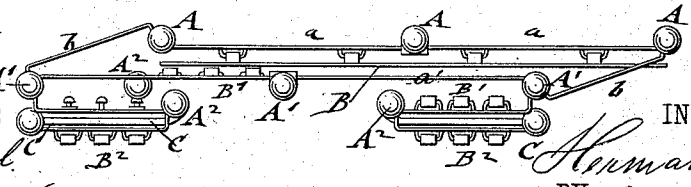


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HERMANN MECKE, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

FOLDING FLOWER-STAND.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 325,850, dated September 8, 1885.

Application filed September 19, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HERMANN MECKE, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Flower-Stands, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has reference to an improved flower-stand, which can be folded up into a small space, so as to be conveniently shipped or stored away when not required for use; and the invention consists of a folding flower-stand having upright rear posts and front posts hinged by transverse pieces to the rear posts. Folding shelves are hinged to the connecting-pieces of the posts, and are adapted to be locked in horizontal position or released and folded away against the supporting-posts. To the front posts are hinged panels of less height, which are also provided with hinged shelves and with hinged brackets, which can also be folded back toward the intermediate panels and the main posts, said brackets having also hinged shelves and means for locking them in position, as will appear more fully hereinafter, and finally be pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a front elevation. Fig. 2 is a plan of my improved folding flower-stand, shown in position for use; Fig. 2^a, a detail vertical transverse section on line $x\ x$, Fig. 2, showing the means for locking the shelf in horizontal position. Fig. 3 is an end elevation of my flower-stand, shown in position for use. Fig. 4 is a front view of the stand as folded up for being stored away; and Fig. 5 is a plan of Fig. 4.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

A A′ in the drawings represent the upright posts of the main section of my improved flower-stand. They are provided with casters at their lower ends, the rear posts, A A, being connected with each other by fixed longitudinal brace-rods $a\ a$, while the front posts, A′, are connected with each other by longitudinal braces $a'\ a'$, that are hinged by sleeves a^2 to the front corner posts, A′. The front corner posts, A′, are also connected by short transverse pieces $b\ b$ with the rear corner posts, A A, and hinged to both posts by sleeves b', so that the front posts can be moved back and folded up against the panel formed of the rear posts, A A, and braces a.

To the upper and lower longitudinal braces $a\ a$ are hinged shelves B, which are made of longitudinal pieces 3 and transverse pieces d, preferably of stout sheet metal, the transverse pieces $d\ d$ of the shelves being hinged at their rear ends to the braces $a\ a$, and bent downward at their front ends, the bent ends d' being recessed or fork-shaped, so as to lock to the fixed headed pins d^2 of the front braces, a', connecting the front posts, A′ A′. For folding the panel formed of the front posts, A′, and braces a' back to the rear posts, A, the shelves B are first released from the pins d^2 and then folded against the rear panels, as shown in Fig. 4.

A set of posts, A^2, of less height than the posts A A′, is hinged by transverse pieces $e\ e$, having sleeves e', to the front posts, A′, the posts A^2 being also provided with casters at their lower ends. The upper and lower pieces $e\ e$ are stiffened by vertical brace-strips $e^2\ e^2$, which form, with the pieces $e\ e$ and posts A^2, hinged sections or panels that can be folded up toward the panel formed of the front posts, A′, and braces a'. To two of the hinged pieces $e\ e$ of the posts A′ and A^2 are hinged shelves B′, of the same construction as the shelves B, except that the free ends of the strips d^3 are bent downward and forked, as are the transverse strips d. The recessed or forked ends of the longitudinal strips d^3 lock to fixed headed pins d^4 of the pieces $e\ e$ in the manner as shown clearly in Figs. 2 and 2^a. On releasing the forked ends of the shelves B′ B′ from the headed pins d^4 the shelves can be folded against the sections or panels formed by the posts A^2, pieces e, and strips e^2.

To each of the posts A^2 are hinged brackets C C, to two of which are hinged shelves B^2, which are locked into horizontal position on fixed pins d^5 in the same manner as the shelves B and B′, and folded alongside of the brackets C in the same manner as the shelves B′ to the panels of the posts A^2.

As all the posts A, A′, and A^2 of the flower-stand are provided with casters the whole stand can readily be moved on the floor and also be conveniently folded up and stored away.

When it is desired to fold the flower-stand,

the shelves B^2 B^2 of the brackets C C are first released and folded down alongside of the brackets C C, to which they are hinged. The brackets C C and shelves B^2 B^2 are then folded back over the panels of the posts A^2, the shelves B′ of which are also lowered and then moved into, or nearly into, the plane of the front posts, A′ A′, of the main section of the stand. The front posts, A′ A′, are then moved with the posts A^2, brackets C C, and shelves B′ B^2, toward the frame formed by the rear posts, A A, and their connecting-braces *a a*, after the top and bottom shelves B B have been folded into the plane of said frame, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5.

When it is desired to support flower-pots on the stand, the shelves are locked again, but in reverse order, beginning with the hinged shelves of the rear posts, which are connected to the connecting-pins of the front posts, after which the posts A^2 are moved forward and their shelves locked into horizontal position, after which the stand is ready for use.

A flower-stand of the construction described takes up but little space when folded up, so as to be conveniently stored and shipped. It is stronger and more durable than the wire stands, which take up considerable space and which have to be boxed for shipment, which are intended to be replaced by my improved folding flower-stand.

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

1. The combination of upright rear posts connected by rigid brace-pieces, front posts connected with each other by hinged braces provided with headed pins and with the rear posts by hinged pieces, shelves hinged to the connecting-braces of the rear posts, and means for locking said shelves in horizontal position to the pins in the connecting-braces of the front posts, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination of the upright rear posts connected by rigid braces, front posts connected with each other and with the rear posts by hinged strips, shelves hinged to the connecting-braces of the rear posts, means for locking the shelves to the connecting-braces of the front posts, panels hinged to the front posts, shelves hinged to said panels, and means for locking said shelves in horizontal position, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination of the rear posts connected by fixed braces, front posts connected with each other and with the rear posts by hinged strips, folding shelves hinged to the braces of the posts, means for locking the shelves in horizontal position, intermediate panels hinged to the front posts, folding shelves hinged to the said panels, means for locking said shelves to the panels, and front brackets hinged to the posts of the intermediate panels and provided with hinged shelves, and means for locking the front shelves into horizontal position, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

HERMANN MECKE.

Witnesses:

PAUL GOEPEL,

SIDNEY MANN.