

F. W. PRINCE & G. E. BIDDELL.
LECTURER'S READING BOX.
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963,939.

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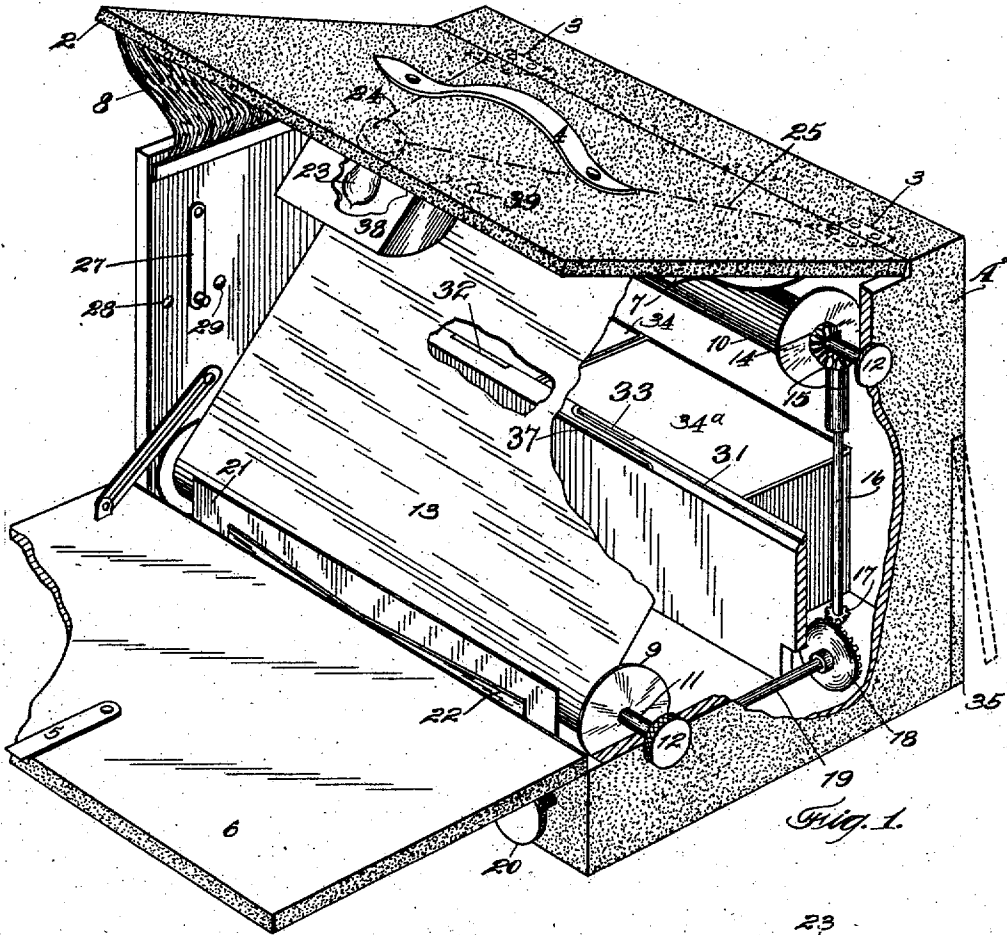
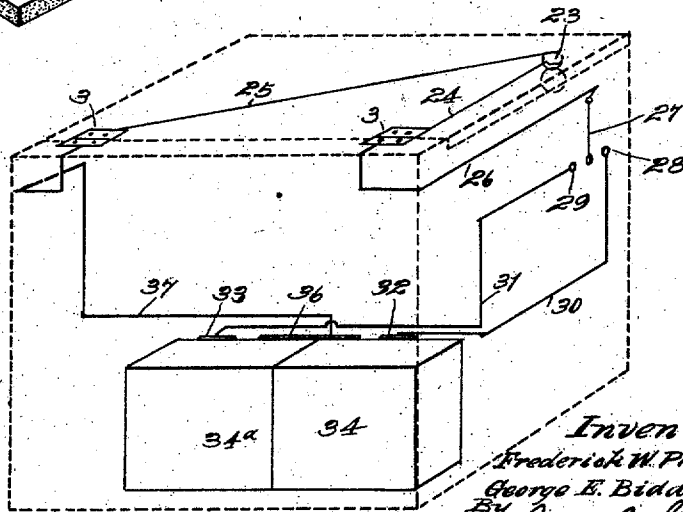


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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LECTURER'S READING-BOX.

963,939.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 12, 1910.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, FREDERICK W. PRINCE and GEORGE E. BIDDELL, citizens of the United States, residing at the city and county of San Francisco and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Lecturers' Reading-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a reading-box for lecturers, and pertains especially to a device for holding and illuminating copies of lecture manuscript, or the like.

It frequently occurs that ministers, orators, lecturers, and numerous other public speakers, wish to accompany their discourses with illustrations cast upon a screen by suitable apparatus, and when so doing all lights must be extinguished in the auditorium. This places an unusual and trying hardship upon the speakers, and especially those talking upon technical subjects, which require a speaker often to refer to notes in order to cite figures or statistics, or for any other purpose.

It is an object of this invention to devise a simple, inexpensive apparatus whereby a public speaker may conveniently carry and place his manuscript or notes; to provide means whereby he is enabled to deftly and without being noticed, advance the sheets or sheet with perfect ease, and to provide means in combination with the apparatus, for supplying sufficient light upon the manuscript to permit the operator to clearly see the text, and also provide means for preventing any escape of rays of light from the case. In other words we wish to make it possible for one to read his manuscript in a dark room or hall, without his auditors being aware of the fact.

The invention consists of the parts and the construction and combination of parts, as hereinafter more fully described and claimed, having reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective of the device, partly broken away. Fig. 2 is a diagrammatic view, showing the wiring.

The invention as actually embodied in practice, comprises a case A of suitable dimensions and shape, preferably covered exteriorly with leather or other desirable material, and having its inner surfaces coated with a dead black pigment, or other non-reflecting substance. In appearance, the case which we have frequently used is about

8 inches square, and has the appearance of a camera-box.

The case has a top 2 hinged at 3, and provided with a handle 4 for convenient handling; when closed the cover 2 is held in place by a snap-hook 5, or equivalent, secured to a front panel 6, hinged to the case, and which is adapted to be swung down in front of the case A to expose the interior.

When the spring hook 5 has been released, the top 2 will instantly be raised by a spring 7, and suitable flexible blinds or bellows 8 fastened at each side of the top and to the case, limit the upward movement of the top and partially shield the interior from side view.

Transversely journaled within the case A are lower and upper reels or spools 9 and 10 respectively, mounted for quick removal and replacement upon small studs 11, having milled heads 12, and upon these reels may be attached a strip of paper 13 bearing the text.

In order to wind up the strip 13, the upper reel 10 has secured to it a pinion 14 which engages a similar pinion 15 on the upper end of a vertical shaft 16, which carries at the lower end a gear 17 meshing with a larger gear 18 fast on a rod 19 mounted adjacent the bottom of the case A, and projecting forward beneath the open panel 6. Rod 19 may be actuated by means of a small knob 20 which the operator turns from time to time, as he proceeds with the lecture, thus drawing the paper off the lower reel, and winding it on to the upper.

Suitable means, such as the brake 21, which is caused to press against the reel 9 by a spring 22, may be employed to keep the paper taut.

At any time the lecturer wishes to repeat or review that portion of the manuscript or copy which has been wound on reel 10, he simply has to turn back the lower reel 9 by means of the head 12 of it bearing on stud 11.

An important feature of the device is the provision of means whereby the manuscript is illuminated independent of any lighting system in the auditorium, and in such a manner that no light is visible to the audience. To this end we have mounted upon the inner surface of the top 2 a small incandescent electric lamp 23, to which current is supplied by wires 24—25 which are electrically connected to the hinges, so that

the wires may be entirely concealed by the leather finish of the case A, and the top 2 may be opened or closed without interrupting the current.

5 From one hinge 3 a wire 26 is inlaid over the case to a switch 27 mounted on the interior surface of a wall of the case, and is adapted to be swung into engagement with either of contacts 28 or 29, from which conductors 30 and 31 are led to plates 32—33
10 secured in the case A, and against which bear the poles of suitable independent batteries 34—34^a, these batteries being held in position by the rear hinged door 35 of the case.

15 The purpose of a plurality of independent batteries is to insure against the accident of having one battery run out. Thus, in the event of one battery becoming weak, the operator simply shifts the switch 27 to the other contact and so cuts in the other battery. These batteries being very small, it
20 will usually require both batteries for a long lecture, and sometimes one of them will have to be renewed.

25 A central contact bar 36 is provided, and is sufficiently long to engage the poles of the two batteries 34, a conductor 37 carrying current from this plate to connect with the hinge 3 to which wire 25 is secured.

30 In Fig. 2 the arrangement of the several electrical conductors and elements are plainly shown, the circuit being as follows: When switch 27 is on contact 28, the current flows through wire 30, plate 32, battery 34,
35 over bar 36, to one hinge 3, wire 25, lamp 23, wire 24 to the other hinge 3, and through wire 26 to the switch. When this battery is so enfeebled that the light from lamp is insufficient then the switch will be thrown
40 over to contact 29, which will close the circuit through line 31, plate 33, battery 34^a, bar 36, wire 37 to hinge 3, line 25, lamp 23, wire 24 to hinge 3, and from thence over wire 26 to the switch.

45 A protector or guard 38 of suitable character is pivoted at 39 to the cover 2 so as to surround that portion of the light toward the lecturer to prevent any radiation of light rays in his direction, but being pivoted, may
50 be swung to one side so that a new bulb may be provided when required.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

55 1. A reading box having a side and top hinged to open out from each other to disclose the interior of the box, said top being spring-pressed in an outward direction, a flexible flap connecting the ends of the top
60 with the side, and mechanism within the box for supporting and operating a manuscript roll.

2. A reading-box having a hinged front, and a hinged top, said front and top ar-

65 ranged to open to disclose the interior of the box, said top connected at its ends with the side of the box by a flexible flap, means tending normally to open the top, means
70 for securing the top and front in closed position, and manuscript roll-supporting mechanism inside the box.

3. A reading-box having a hinged front, and a hinged top, said front and top arranged to open to disclose the interior of
75 the box, said top connected at its ends with the side of the box by a flexible flap, means tending normally to open the top, means for securing the top and front in closed position, manuscript roll-supporting mechanism inside
80 the box, mechanism at one end of the box for operating the roll in one direction, and other mechanism beneath the front when the latter is open to operate the roll in an opposite direction.

4. A reading-box having a hinged front, 85 and a hinged top, said front and top arranged to open to disclose the interior of the box, said top connected at its ends with the side of the box by a flexible flap, means tending normally to open the top, means
90 for securing the top and front in closed position, manuscript roll-supporting mechanism inside the box, and an electric lighting system including a lamp within the box adapted to illuminate the manuscript roll. 95

5. A reading-box having a side and top hinged to open out from each other to disclose the interior of the box, mechanism
100 within the box for supporting and operating a manuscript roll, an electric lighting system arranged within the box, with a lamp positioned to illuminate the roll when the top is opened, and a shield for preventing the rays of the lamp from being projected
105 outside the box.

6. A reading-box having a hinged top, and a hinged side foldable into open and closed position, means connecting the ends
110 of the top with the sides of the box to prevent rays of light passing out between the ends of the top and box when the top is opened, a pair of winding rolls in the box disposed at an inclined plane, a flexible strip connected with the rolls, a shaft extending outside the box having gear con-
115 nections with the topmost of said rolls to wind manuscript on to that roll from the other roll, other mechanism for rewinding the strip, and lighting means fully housed within the box. 120

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

FREDERICK W. PRINCE.
GEORGE E. BIDDELL.

Witnesses:

CHARLES R. PENFIELD,
CHARLES EDELMAN.