Jan. 8, 1935. K. FUKUMOTO 1,987,528

FIGURE TOY

Filed Dec. 11, 1933

Fig. 1.

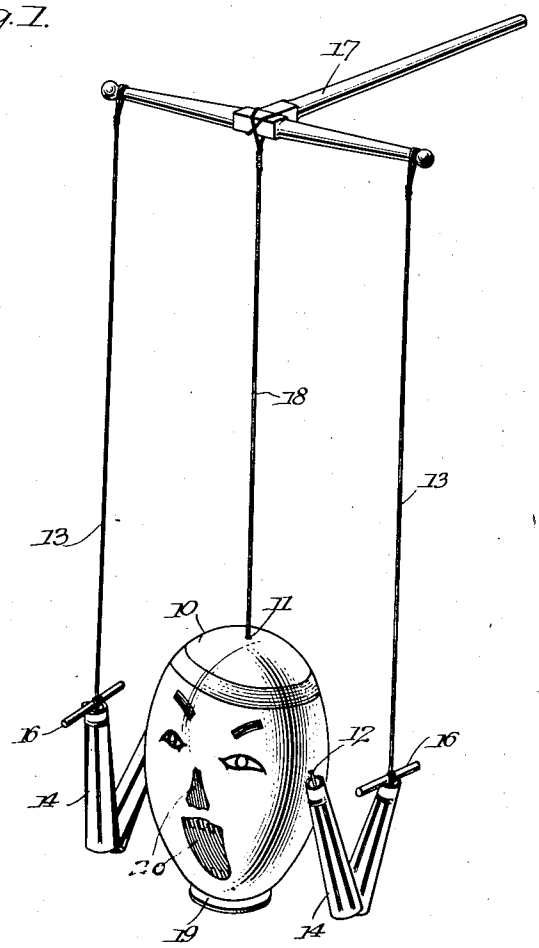
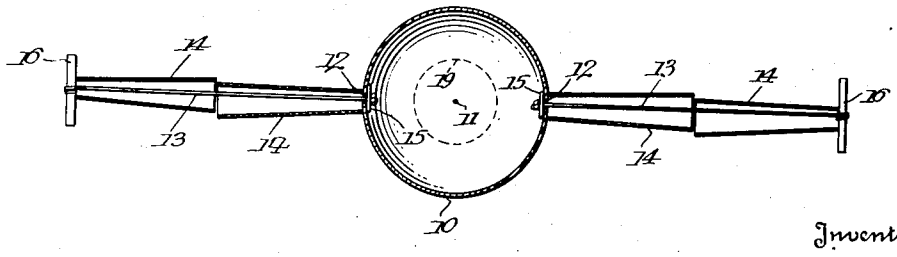


Fig. 2.



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FIGURE TOY

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Application December 11, 1933, Serial No. 701,931

7 Claims. (Cl. 46—40)

My invention relates to figure toys of the jointed member type and aims to combine simplicity of construction with grace and animation and the capacity for a wide variation in design.

My invention is primarily adapted for fanciful articulate creations which for lack of a better name may be called egg-dolls, although it may be applied to human and animal figure puppets and unique fanciful figure toys.

My invention embodies materials of extreme lightness and provides a mode of construction adapted for a wide range of subjects limited only by the imagination and artistic sense of the designer, no great skill or special apparatus being required for the fabrication of the several parts.

Further objects and advantages of my invention appear in the following description of a typical embodiment in the form of an egg-doll, illustrated in the accompanying drawing showing a Japanese motif.

In the chosen design, the figure has a body-like ellipsoidal hollow shell 10 upon which may be displayed appropriate embellishments, as fanciful or grotesque mythological, human or animal features, geometrical designs, modernistic art or what not. This shell may conveniently be formed from a hen's egg by blowing out the contents through small holes 11 pierced at the ends of its major axis, although any hollow shapely form of paper, celluloid, or other light stiff material may be utilized.

At the ends of a minor axis of the shell small perforations 12 are made, through each of which a thread, wire or other light fine flexible tension member 13 is passed. Upon these flexible members one or more light tubular elements 14 are strung on each side of the shell, forming jointed branches, wings or limbs, which may be colored or decorated or made to simulate whatever is desired to conform to the motif of the particular design or figure. Wooden pins 15, 16, or other suitable fastening means may be tied or otherwise secured to the flexible member at the end of each side branch to hold the joint members 14 in place.

Although the construction described is very light in weight, it requires some support to float it in the air, and for this purpose a branched or T-shape wand 17 is provided, to which the ends of the flexible members 13 are attached, one to the tip of each branch. A middle supporting member 18 of thread, wire or other light fine material is attached to the stem of the wand at the junction of the branches and passed through the perforations 11 in the shell. The lower end of this middle supporting member may be knotted or fitted with a disc or pin 19 to prevent its pulling through the shell.

The lengths of the middle and side supporting members 18, 13, respectively, may be adjusted by winding one or more turns at the upper ends thereof about the wand 17, as indicated in the drawing, to cause the jointed branches 14 to assume the desired normal attitude, preferably extended in bent position horizontally at each side. The device may be so manipulated as to give it the effect of floating in the air, and by slightly twisting the wand between the finger and thumb to rotate it upon its axis, the ends of the side branches 14 may be made to move up and down relatively to the shell or body 10, thereby simulating motion if desired.

It will be readily apparent that numberless modifications of my design can be made and constructed by anyone having a sense of form and color, all of the materials being found within the home. If desired, the embellishments upon the shell and side branches may be made from bits of colored paper 20, cut to desired shape and pasted thereon, as illustrated.

For example, it may be convenient to construct the parts of paper or celluloid, and to stencil or paint the body and side members to simulate the features of well known characters in fiction and public life, and in such case the size and proportions as well as the shape of the body and articulated parts may be made to suit.

If desired, the supporting members may be provided with snap hooks at their ends and the body and limb members with eyes, or vice versa, to facilitate assembly, and to enable replacement of broken or tangled cords and the like.

It is evident that the nature of my invention is such as to provide a large amount of hand work in order to produce various fanciful figures in quantities as would be required to fill the normal demand for such novelties, and this is one of the advantages of the invention to reduce unemployment among women and others of natural artistic taste not trained for the practice of a skilled trade.

My invention is not restricted to the floating egg-doll design illustrated, but what I claim is as follows:

1. A suspended figure toy having a thin-walled hollow shell-like body of ellipsoidal shape provided with apertures at the ends of its major and minor axes, flexible supporting members passed through said apertures, one of said flexible members being disposed along said major axis for sup-

porting said body and another having a portion extending along said minor axis, tubular side members strung on said minor axis supporting member and supported thereby, and a stiff manipulator to which the upper ends of said flexible supporting members are secured in spaced relation, whereby said figure toy is operable normally out of contact with a supporting surface.

2. A suspended figure toy having a thin-walled hollow shell-like body of ellipsoidal shape provided with apertures at the ends of its major and minor axes, flexible supporting members passed through said apertures, one of said flexible members being disposed along said major axis for supporting said body and two others having portions disposed along said minor axis, tubular side members strung on said minor axis supporting members and a stiff manipulator to which the upper ends of said flexible supporting members are secured in spaced relation, the major axis supporting member being disposed between the two ends of the minor axis supporting members, whereby said figure toy is operable normally out of contact with a supporting surface.

3. A suspended figure toy having a thin-walled hollow shell-like body of ellipsoidal shape provided with apertures at the ends of its major and minor axes, supporting filaments passed through said apertures, one of said filaments being disposed along said major axis for supporting said body and another having a portion extending along said minor axis, tubular side members strung on said minor axis supporting filament and a stiff manipulator to which the upper ends of said filaments are secured in spaced relation, whereby said figure toy is operable normally out of contact with a supporting surface.

4. A suspended figure toy having a blown egg shell body provided with apertures at the ends of its major and minor axes, flexible supporting members passed through said apertures, one of said flexible members being disposed along said major axis and the others along said minor axis, tubular side members strung on said minor axis supporting members, and a stiff manipulator to which the upper ends of said flexible supporting members are secured in spaced relation, whereby said figure toy is operable normally out of contact with a supporting surface.

5. A suspended fanciful figure toy comprising a thin-walled hollow shell-like body having two axes at right angles, three flexible tension members passing through said body shell on said axes, and a T-shape manipulator, all of said tension members being connected at one end to said body and at the other end to the manipulator, one of said tension members supporting said body centrally and the other two of the tension members being oppositely disposed with respect to said body and each having one end connected to an extremity of the manipulator, light weight tubular elements strung on the last named tension members adjacent to said body, and means for preventing said tubualr elements from sliding on said tension members, whereby said figure toy is operable normally out of contact with a supporting surface.

6. A suspended figure toy having an ellipsoidal hollow shell of stiff thin material comprising means of attachment at a point of symmetry, a fine flexible tension member connected to said shell at said point for supporting it, side branches comprising tubular stiff thin-walled members disposed on opposite sides of said shell and each strung on a fine flexible tension member passing through points of symmetry of said shell and provided at the outer ends with means for preventing removal of said tubular side members, said shell and tubular members being operable out of contact with a supporting surface and simulating a fanciful animated floating figure when suspended by means of said flexible members.

7. A suspended figure toy having an egg-shape hollow shell of stiff thin material provided with means of attachment at one of its ends, a fine flexible tension member connected to said shell at said end for supporting it, side branches comprising tubular stiff thin-walled members disposed on opposite sides of said shell and each strung on a fine flexible tension member passing through opposite points on the sides of said shell and provided at the outer ends with means for preventing removal of said tubular members, said shell and tubular side members being operable out of contact with a supporting surface and simulating a fanciful animated floating figure when suspended by means of said flexible members.

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