No. 840,727.

PATENTED JAN. 8, 1907.

J. N. WHITEHOUSE.

TOY.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 4, 1906.

Fig. 1.

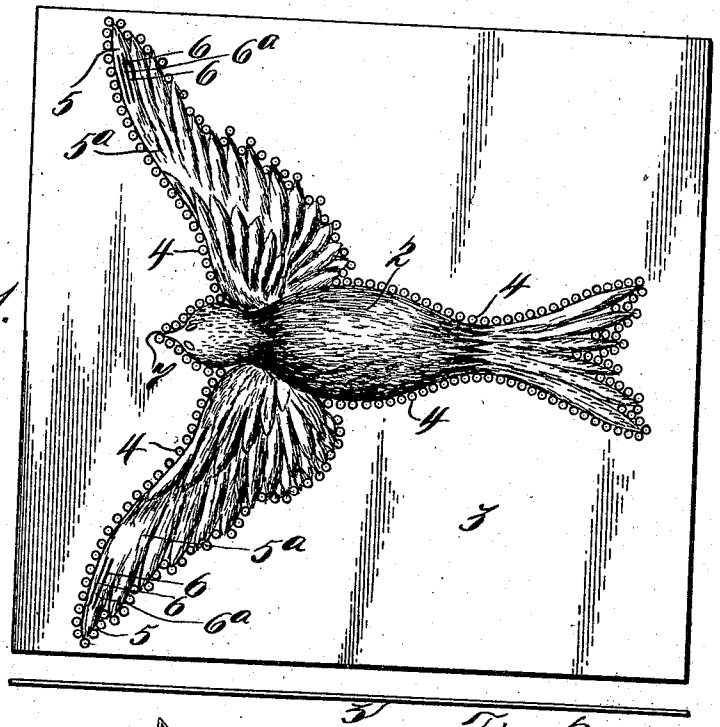


Fig. 2

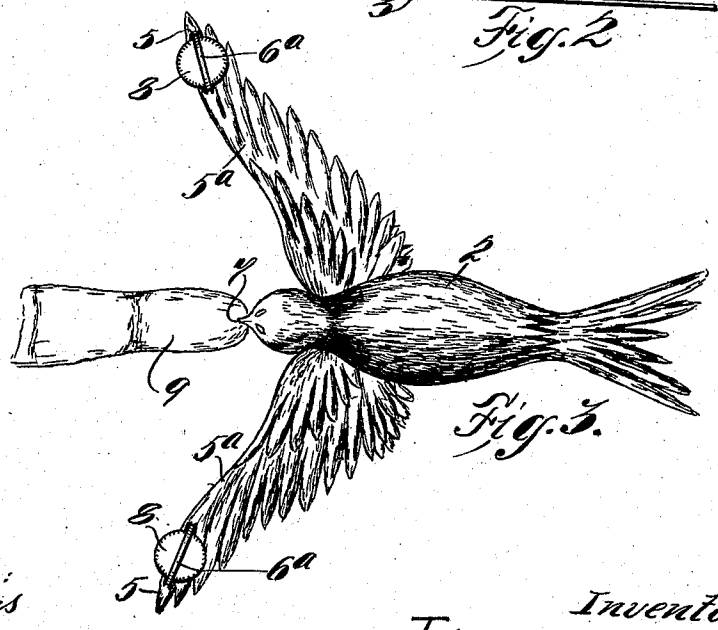


Fig. 3.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN N. WHITEHOUSE, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO LE-WHITE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION OF NEW YORK.

TOY.

No. 840,727. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 8, 1907.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN N. WHITEHOUSE, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York city, borough of Manhattan, county and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Toys, of which the following is a clear, full, and exact description.

This invention relates to an improved toy or amusement device which is adapted for mailing without damage, also to be cheaply made and afford amusement especially to the young, and it may be here stated that it is the intention to use coins of any desired denomination in connection with my device, coins being selected to do away with any counterbalancing-weights accompanying the device.

My invention comprises the novel features of improvement which I will now proceed to describe and claim in connection with the accompanying drawings, forming part hereof, wherein—

Figure 1 illustrates a face view of a sheet of cardboard or the like with a figure shown thereon in perforated outline. Fig. 2 is a side elevation thereof, and Fig. 3 is a plan view of my improved device after having been separated from the sheet and in the act of being in equipoise upon a finger.

As a cheap and effective manner of forming and transporting my improved device I print, stamp, emboss, or otherwise form a figure "2" upon a sheet of cardboard or stiff paper 3. A bird in the act of flying is herein illustrated; but I do not limit myself to such a configuration, as any desired figure may be adopted, such as a man with outstretched arms or other suitable figures. In order that the figure can readily be separated from the cardboard, I may perforate the sheet adjacent to the outline of the figure, as at 4. If desired, the perforations may be omitted and the figure be cut out of the said sheet in any desired manner. In the form shown the outer ends 5 of the wings 5^a are provided with lines 6 6, which when cut will leave a strap 6^a, whereby a slot will be formed in the ends 5. The bill 7 of the figure will be the balancing-point and will be predetermined. To poise the figure, I place coins 8 8 of predetermined denomination under the straps 6^a (see Fig. 3) and place the bill 7 or balancing-point in this instance upon the end of a finger 9; but the point 7 may be placed upon any desirable support, the finger being referred to by way of illustration. It will be seen that the wings 5^a of the bird are so positioned as to bring the coins 8 8 beyond the balancing-point 7. In other words, the balancing-point 7 is intermediate the ends of the figure. While the wings 5^a 5^a are positioned to produce this result, they are consistent with the natural position when a bird is in flight. Without the coins 8 8 the figure will be out of balance with reference to the point 7, as the body of the bird or, in fact, the whole weight of the figure is upon one side of the balancing-point 7, and the center of gravity of the figure lies considerably farther to the rear. When the proper coins are placed under the straps 6^a 6^a, the center of gravity is moved to the balancing-point 7, and if the figure be permitted to rest upon the said point it will remain in equipoise in a horizontal position, as the said point is centrally located, and the points of counterweighting or coins 8 8 are equally distributed about the balancing-point.

For the sake of clearness I wish it understood that the term "normally out of balance" when used in the appended claims is intended to be in reference to the predetermined balancing-point.

In designing any desired figure embodying my improvement the balancing-point, which will be preferably one of the anatomical components, such as a bill in the case of a bird, will be in a predetermined position. In other words, the balancing-point will be selected to permit of the figure being balanced so as to indicate a natural position. Thus when a figure is separated from the cardboard or the like the balancing-point will be predetermined, and the position at which the figure will poise will be fixed.

It will be seen that the device will readily adapt itself for mailing purposes without danger of breakage, being practically part of a flat cardboard-sheet, and that no weights for the counterbalancing need accompany the device, as predetermined coins of suitable denomination may be utilized by the users, and it will also be evident that the device instead of being embodied in a cardboard-sheet from which it is adapted to be cut out or separated may be stamped or cut into the requisite shapes directly.

Having now described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A device of the character described, consisting of a figure provided with a balancing-point intermediate the ends thereof, said figure being normally out of balance, one end of said figure being provided with means adapted to retain removable balancing-weights.

2. A device of the character described, consisting of a figure provided with a balancing-point intermediate the ends thereof, said figure being normally out of balance and being provided with a plurality of slots adapted to removably retain coins, said slots being distributed with reference to said balancing-point, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. A device of the character described, consisting of a figure provided with a centrally-located balancing-point intermediate the ends thereof, said figure being normally out of balance and provided with slots adapted to receive removable weights, said slots being equally distributed on each side of the balancing-point.

4. A sheet of cardboard or the like having illustrated thereupon a figure partially severed therefrom, a balancing-point carried by said figure, and means also carried by said figure adapted to detachably retain coins.

Signed at New York city, New York, this 18th day of May, 1906.

JOHN N. WHITEHOUSE.

Witnesses:

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