

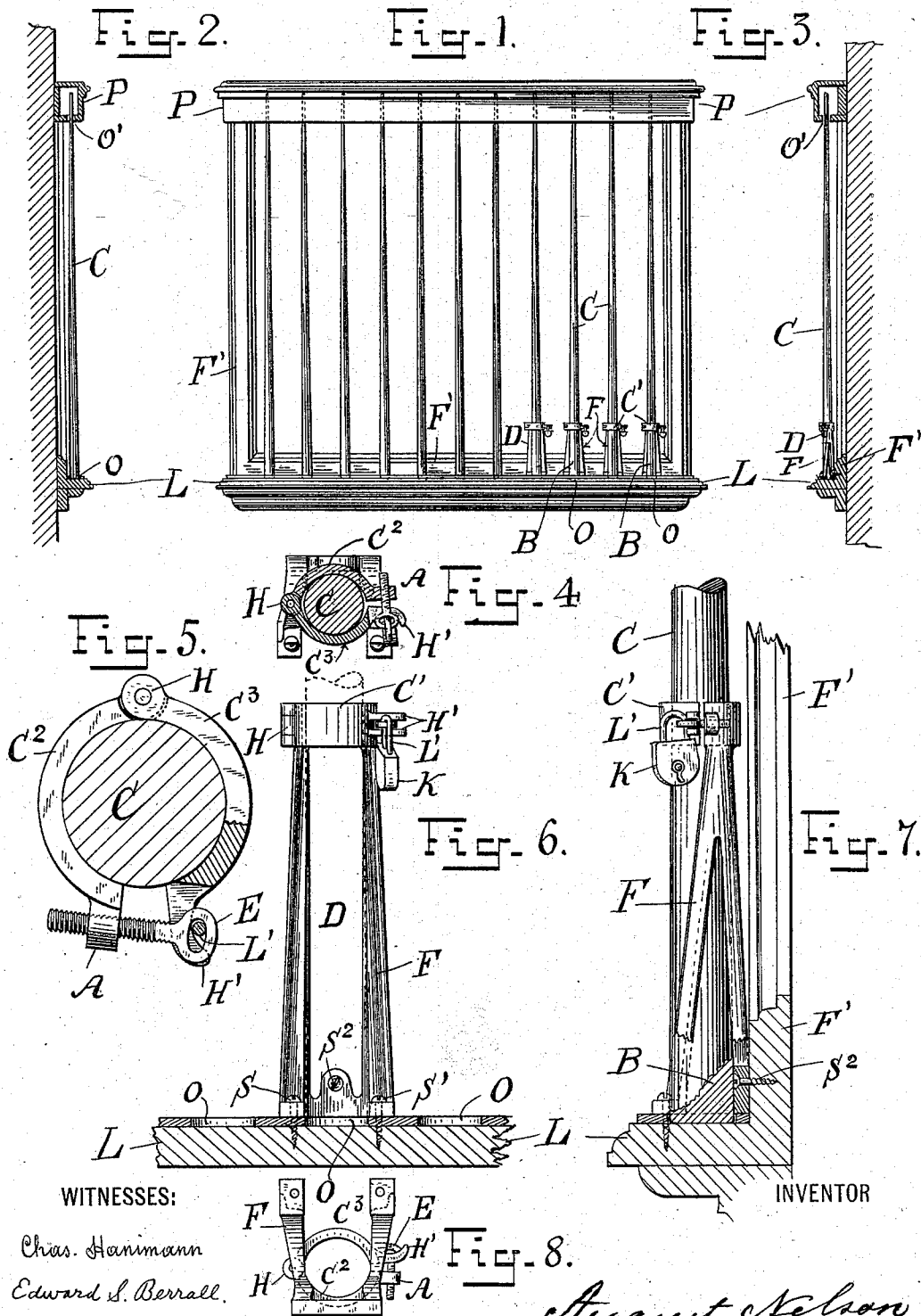
(No Model.)

A. NELSON.

BILLIARD CUE LOCKING DEVICE AND RACK.

No. 559,193.

Patented Apr. 28, 1896.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AUGUST NELSON, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

BILLIARD-CUE LOCKING DEVICE AND RACK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 559,193, dated April 28, 1896.

Application filed December 23, 1895. Serial No. 573,004. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AUGUST NELSON, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Billiard-Cue Locking Device and Rack, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in billiard-cue racks in which the cue is placed on a shelf with the small end of the cue resting in a perforated plate at the top to assist in holding the cue in position; and the objects of my improvements are to provide simple and removable locking means or devices for independently locking and retaining private cues within the control of individuals who alone are to be able to unlock and remove them from the rack, and to adapt such locking devices to cues of different sizes or diameters of butt.

I attain the objects of my improvements by the mechanism illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation of the cue-rack provided in part with the locking devices. Fig. 2 is a sectional or end view of the left-hand side of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a sectional or end view of the right-hand side of Fig. 1, and Figs. 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are detail views.

Similar letters relate to similar parts throughout the several views.

Many billiard-players like to keep their cues for their own private use alone. My invention is intended to aid them in their desire in this respect.

C is the cue.

F is the frame of the locking device D, preferably made of metal, provided at top with a locking-collar C' and secured or securable to the ledge L and frame F' of any ordinary cue-rack by means of screws S, S', and S², and also easily removable therefrom by one who has the key to the locking device at will. The collar C' consists of two parts, one, C², continuous with the frame F and the other, C³, hinged at one end H and provided at the opposite end with a curved and split horn H'. The stationary part C² of the collar C' is provided with an arm or ear A, perforated and provided with screw-threads in the perfora-

tion to receive a flat screw-eye E. When it is desired to lock a cue in its place in the rack, the locking-collar C' is opened by swinging back its movable part C³ on the hinge at its other end H, whereupon the cue may be slipped into position in the rack, as shown in Figs. 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7.

The screw-eye being flat the movable part C³ of the collar C' may be swung into position with the flat screw-eye E passing through and projecting beyond the divided horn H', as shown in several of the figures, whereupon the loop L' of the lock K may be passed into the eye E and secured there, thereby making it impossible to open the locking-collar C' and remove the cue without obtaining possession of and using the key of the lock K. The bottom of the butt part B of the cue is dropped into the socket or recess O in the ledge L, and as the collar C' fits the cue tightly, being made adjustable by means of the flat screw-eye E, the cue cannot be shoved upward and released from the grasp of the collar and locking device.

The collar is made adjustable to suit and tightly engage and hold cues of different sizes, and when screwed up by turning the screw-eye E as far as it will readily go the cue is so firmly grasped and held that it will be supported, and cannot be removed even if the opening O' and top plate or the top part of the rack should be entirely omitted—that is to say, the whole upper part of the cue-rack might be omitted and cues of different sizes would still be held in place by the device D and its locking-collar, unremovable except by the holder of the key.

The socket O in conjunction with the collar C' prevents the cue from being moved outwardly at the bottom, and the cue practically filling its place between the two sides of the locking device and covering the head of the screw S² that screw cannot be unscrewed, even if the screws S and S' are unscrewed, and therefore neither the locking device nor the cue can be removed from the rack. The butt B of the cue C thus becomes an important feature in locking, securing, and retaining not only the cue itself but also the locking device in permanent attachment

and relation to the cue-rack except when unlocked and when it may be desired to transfer the locking device to another cue-rack.

The perforated plate P at the top of the rack assists in the usual way in retaining the cue in an upright position and in orderly relations with all the other cues in the same rack, and also coöperates with the locking device in securing to billiard-players their private cues for their own sole use.

Without the socket O the locking-collar C' may be adjusted so as to secure and retain the cue; but the socket O in the ledge L and also the opening O' in the plate P assist in the purpose of the invention, making it an easier and more simple operation to secure the cue C firmly in place, so that the screw S² cannot be reached and the butt cannot be removed from the socket O.

I do not desire to confine my invention to the precise formation of the frame F shown in the drawings, since it is evident that it may be varied in a number of ways without avoiding my invention. Even without the screw S³, used to fasten the frame F to the frame F' of the rack and protected as to its head against the use of a screw-driver for the purpose of detaching the locking device by the butt B, the frame being secured in other ways that would be obvious, the device would be a useful one and sufficiently so for all ordinary purposes of protection to private or individual cues; but I prefer such a construction of the frame F as will permit the covering of the head of the screw or other fastening by the butt B of the cue C when in position and locked and held there securely.

The two front screws S and S' are mainly for ordinary fastening, stability, strength, and protection from violent use. Even without the socket O the locking device would still be useful; but my locking device is adapted to existing cue-racks with sockets, and may therefore be used on any rack, and I prefer that the socket O should be provided and placed in the top of the ledge L, because it is the simplest and easiest way to interpose one more barrier or obstacle against the improper removal of the cue or its movement in any direction for any purpose. In adjusting the cue in the collar the closer the contact of the collar with the cue the more difficult will it be to remove the cue, whether with or without the socket O.

The curve in the horn H' assists in holding the lock in place while engaged with the

screw-eye E, which last makes a convenient method of securing the movable to the fixed part of the collar C' and to the frame F.

I claim as my invention—

1. A cue-locking device D provided with a stationary frame F and a hinged locking-collar C' part of which is continuous with the frame F and the movable part of which is permanently attached to the continuous part, for engaging the cue, secured to the cue-frame F' provided with a socket O by means of a protected screw S² located behind the butt of the cue when in position.

2. A stationary cue-locking frame F provided at top with the locking-collar C', consisting of a stationary part C² and a movable part C³, in combination with an adjusting and securing screw-eye E and with the ledge L and socket O, and means for locking the screw-eye in position.

3. A stationary cue-locking frame F provided at top with the cue-locking collar C', consisting of a stationary part C² and a movable part C³, and having means for fastening the collar ends in position, said frame being secured to the ledge L and cue-frame F' by suitable screws S and S' and by a screw S² or other fastening to be covered and protected by the butt of the cue when in position.

4. A cue-locking frame F provided with a cue-locking collar C', the said frame resting upon and secured to the ledge L of a cue-frame F' by screws or other suitable fastenings S S', and to the cue-frame F' by the screw or fastening S², the ledge L being provided with the socket O for the butt-end of the cue, and the butt-end of the cue as held in place by the locking-collar covering and preventing access to the screw or fastening S².

5. A cue-locking device D provided with a stationary frame F having at top a combined continuous and permanently attached hinged and adjustable locking-collar C' for engaging the cue, secured to the cue-frame F' provided with a socket O by means of one or more vertical screws and by a protected horizontal screw S² located behind the butt of the cue when in position.

6. In a cue-locking device and frame, an adjustable collar C', an adjusting screw-eye or device E, and means for locking the eye and collar.

AUGUST NELSON.

Witnesses:

EDWARD S. BERRALL,
JAMES A. SKILTON.