T. Eckert.

Muff

No. 55260. Patented Jun. 5. 1866.

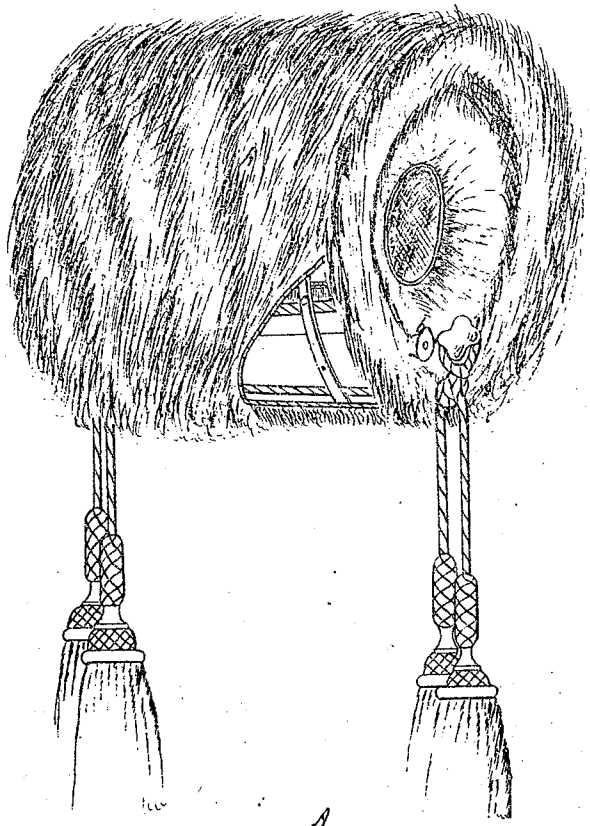
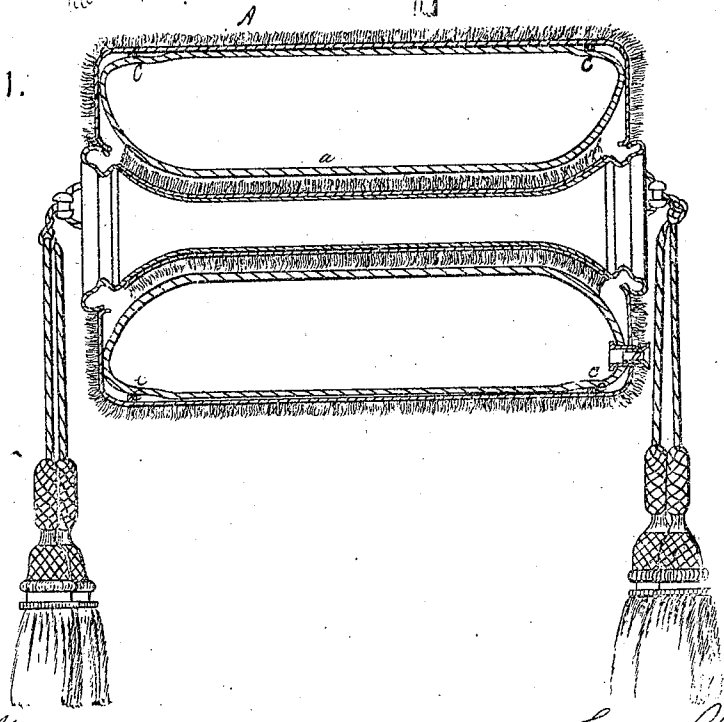


Fig. 1.



Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS ECKERT, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN LADIES' MUFFS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **55,260**, dated June 5, 1866.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS ECKERT, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Muff; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable those skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of this invention, partly in section, and Fig. 2 is a longitudinal central section of the same.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

This invention consists, chiefly, in combining with a muff an air-valve through which it may be inflated with air to take the place and subserve the purpose of the ordinary stuffing of wool, wadding, or other fibrous material.

In order to keep the muff in shape, metal rings are attached to its ends, and the fur is made to extend all round the air-chamber to increase the warming power of the muff.

A represents a muff, which is provided with an air-tight chamber, *a*, made of india-rubber, cloth, or other flexible material. A suitable air-valve, *b*, secured in one end of the air-chamber, serves to inflate the same, or by opening said valve the air contained in the chamber *a* can be forced out and the chamber can be made to collapse in a small space. Said air-chamber forms an annular cylinder which is covered with fur on the inside and outside, and also on its ends, as clearly shown in Fig. 2, and in order to keep it in shape rings *c*, of steel or other suitable material, are applied to its ends under the fur. The interior of the muff is lined with silk in the ordinary manner.

By inflating the air-chamber *a* a stuffing for the muff is obtained capable of keeping the hands as warm as the usual stuffing, and the air-stuffing is not liable to form into lumps and crumple up, as is the case with stuffing of the ordinary kind.

Furthermore, when the muff is not used, by expelling the air from the air-chamber it can be put up in a comparatively small compass, and when it is to be used by inflating the air-chamber more or less it can be adjusted for hands of different size.

My muff can be made full as cheap as ordinary muffs, it is equally as warm or warmer, it is more durable and less liable to get out of shape, and when not used it can be put up in a small compass.

I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

As a new article of manufacture, a muff constructed with an air-chamber, *a*, hoops *c*, and inflating-valve *b*, as and for the purposes specified.

THOMAS ECKERT.

Witnesses:

M. M. LIVINGSTON,

C. L. E. TOPLIFF.