Dec. 5, 1961 D. G. HASSON 3,011,848

COMBINATION ALTAR AND BOOKCASE

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Fig.1

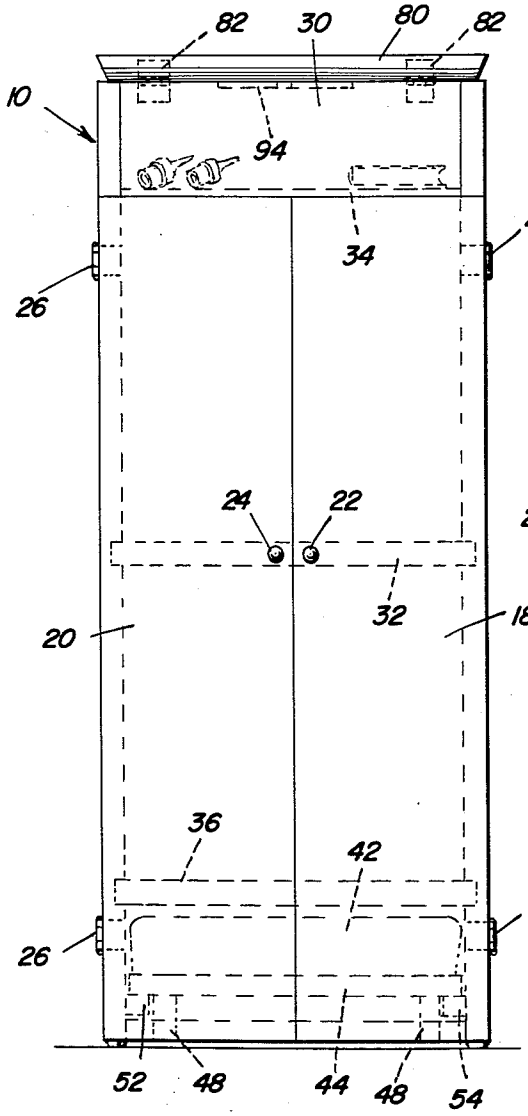
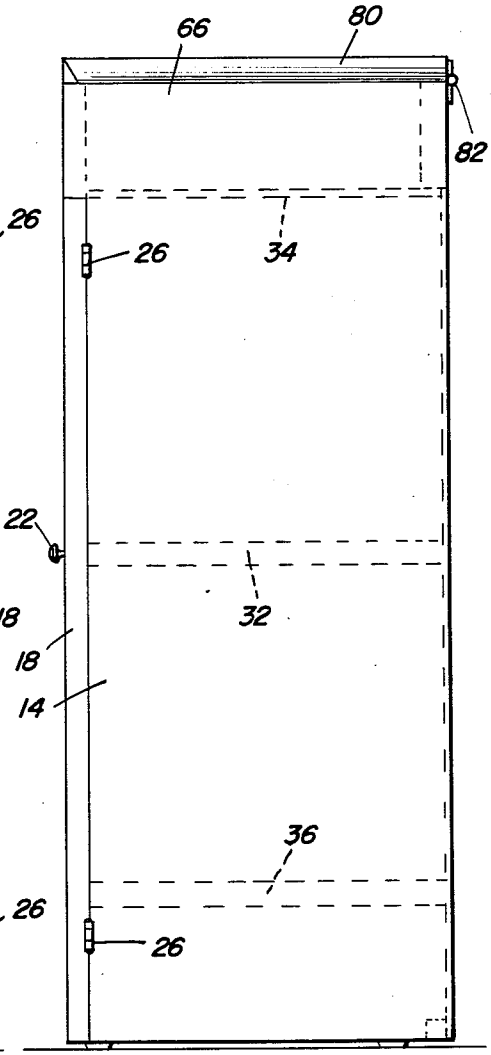


Fig.2



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Fig. 4

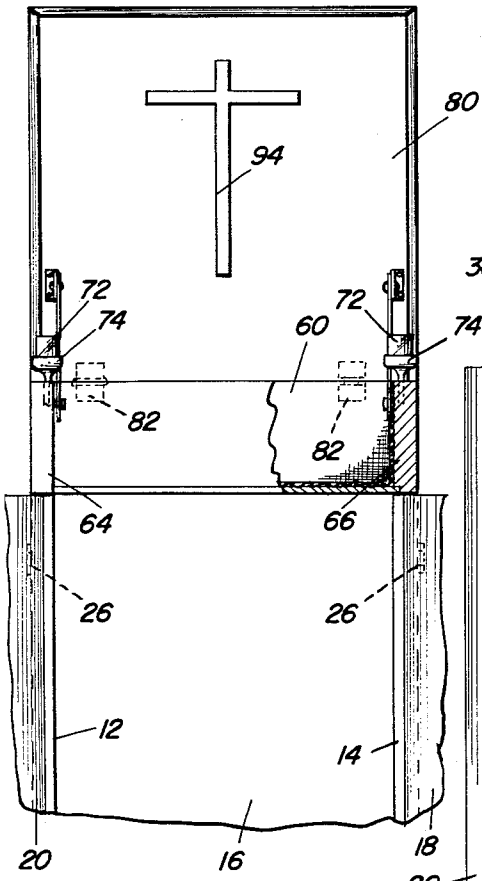
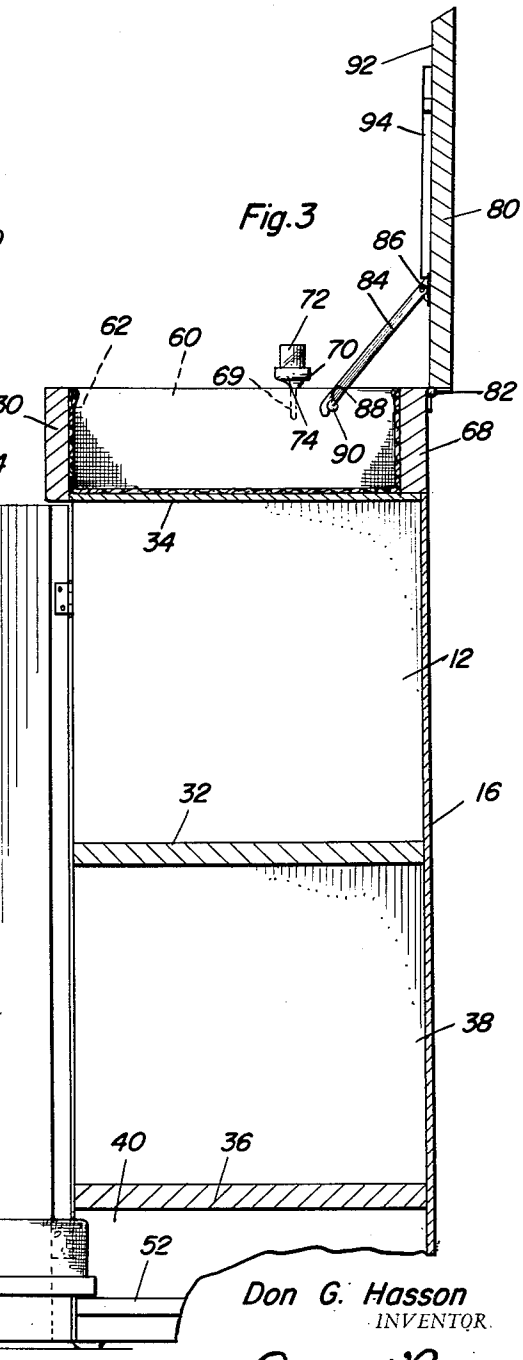


Fig. 3



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United States Patent Office 3,011,848
Patented Dec. 5, 1961

3,011,848

COMBINATION ALTAR AND BOOKCASE

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Filed May 8, 1959, Ser. No. 812,009
1 Claim. (Cl. 312—33)

This invention relates to furniture and more particularly to combination furniture which may be used in two or more capacities.

An object of the invention is to provide a bookcase which is easily converted to an altar by simple manipulations.

Another object of the invention is to provide a mechanically simple article of furniture having the dual purpose of serving as a bookcase or a cabinet to store an indefinite variety of articles and objects, but which is very easily converted to an altar which includes a kneeler, together with a panel on which to support a sacramental such as a crucifix directly in the line of vision of the person using the kneeler.

Another object of the invention is to provide a practical device of the nature described wherein the furniture article has a very clean and neat appearance made so by virtue of the construction thereof.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

FIGURE 1 is a front view of the combination article of furniture.

FIGURE 2 is a side view of the construction in FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3 is a vertical sectional view of the furniture showing it in the position in which it is used as an altar.

FIGURE 4 is a fragmentary front elevational view of the furniture in FIGURE 3.

In the accompanying drawings there is an article of furniture **10** convertible between a cabinet, for instance a bookcase, and an altar. The combination furniture article has side panels **12** and **14**, a rear panel **16**, together with a pair of doors **18** and **20** at the front thereof. The doors have door pulls **22** and **24** at a convenient place near the confronting edges thereof, together with hinges **26** connecting the doors to the front edges of side panels **12** and **14**. The doors are full length from a transverse front panel **30** to approximately floor level. One or more shelves **32** are secured within the cabinet and closed by the side panels, rear panel and door assembly. Shelf **32** is horizontal and located beneath upper panel **34** and lower shelf **36** which subdivides the cabinet into a book or other article receiving chamber **38** and a kneeler chamber **40**.

Kneeler **42** is preferably padded and includes a kneeler base **44** having padding **46** of any type thereon, together with at least a pair of front legs **48** which depend from kneeler base **44**. It is preferred that the kneeler be made substantial and for this reason it is within the purview of the invention to have rear legs as well as front legs **48**. In either case, the legs are laterally inset (FIGURE 1) from a pair of horizontal rails **52** and **54** which are fixed to the inside of side panels **12** and **14** in kneeler chamber **40**. The edge portions of base **44** slide on the rails **52** and **54** when doors **20** and **18** are opened, to constrain the movement of the kneeler from positions located completely within chamber **40** to a position at which the vast majority of the kneeler **42** is on the exterior of the chamber **40** and in front of the chamber **38**.

The upper part of the combination furniture has an upwardly opening tray **60** lined with a cloth liner **62** (other materials for liners **62** may be adopted). The

front panel **30** constitutes part of the tray and the upper panel **34** constitutes the bottom of the tray. There are side panels **64** and **66** constituting the sides of tray **60** and a rear panel **68** completing the tray structure. Upwardly opening apertures **69** are in side panels **64** and **66** to receive stems **70** of votive light **72** holders **74**. Two or more of such lights may be used, and as shown in FIGURE 1 the upwardly opening tray **60** is suggested as storage for these votive lights.

The top or cover **80** of the combination furniture is attached by one or more hinges **82** along its rear edge to the upper part of panel **68**. Links **84** are connected by hinges **86** to the top **80** and they have notches **88** near their lower ends engaged with pins **90** which are fixed to side panels **64** and **66** to hold the cover in the elevated position (FIGURE 3). The inner surface **92** of top or cover **80** may be used to accommodate any appropriate device, figure, sacramental or the like. For instance, cross **94** as shown, this diagrammatically representing any type of similar or dissimilar object.

From the foregoing, the construction and operation of the device will be readily understood and further explanation is believed to be unnecessary. However, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

Convertible furniture designed and adapted to be used as an individual altar and, in addition, as a bookcase comprising a vertically elongated cabinet open at the front and provided at said front with readily openable and closable door means, said cabinet embodying a rear wall connected with side walls and said walls combining with the door means and a horizontal top wall in defining an enclosed space, horizontal vertically spaced shelves mounted in said space one above the other and defining selectively usable compartments, there being a lower shelf and said lower shelf being spaced above the bottom of the overall cabinet and defining a storage space therebelow, said side walls beneath said last-named shelf and in said storage space being provided with opposed spaced parallel horizontal rails, and extensible and retractible kneeler having a base with padding superimposed thereon and providing a low-lying kneeling bench, said base being provided at outward forward corners with short depending supporting legs and said legs being spaced inwardly from adjacent transverse ends of the base and permitting end portions of the base to overhang the legs and to provide supporting guides, said supporting guides resting on said rails and serving to permit the kneeler to be stored in an out-of-the-way position or withdrawn to an extended usable position, and upstanding marginal walls at front, back and side portions defining a shallow tray for storage of religious articles, said tray being provided with a hingedly mounted panel and said panel constituting a lid for the tray and also being adapted to be swung up to a vertical position and supported temporarily in that position and being provided on an obverse face with a crucifix or the like.

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