

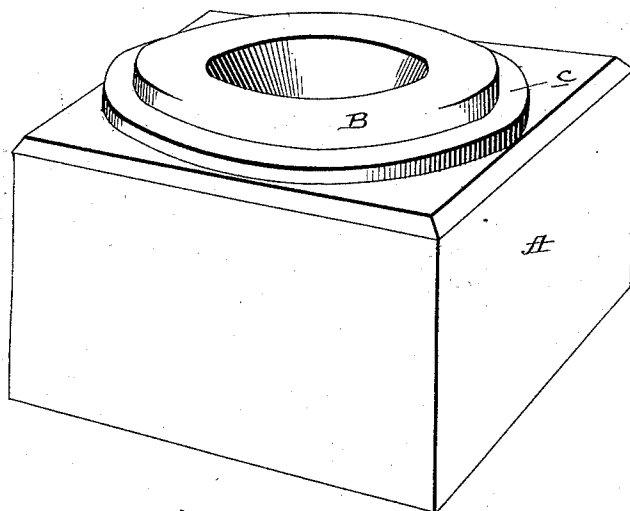
(No Model.)

W. E. LEWIS.  
INK WELL.

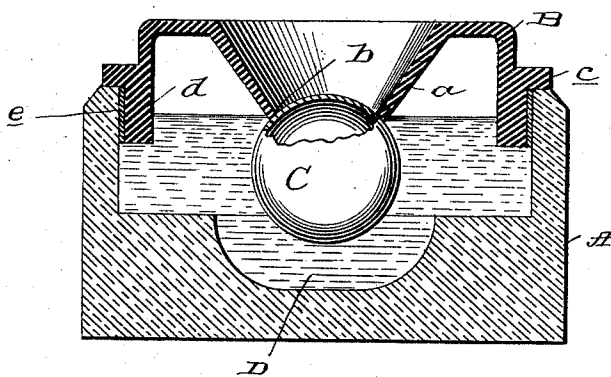
No. 509,917.

Patented Dec. 5, 1893.

*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



Witnesses:

*C. H. Raeder*  
*H. F. Matthews.*

*Inventor*

*William E. Lewis.*

*By James Sheehy*

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM E. LEWIS, OF CORRY, PENNSYLVANIA.

## INK-WELL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 509,917, dated December 5, 1893.

Application filed February 24, 1893. Serial No. 463,590. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM E. LEWIS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Corry, in the county of Erie and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Ink-Wells; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to improvements in ink wells or holders, and it is designed more particularly as an improvement upon the well or holder disclosed in my Letters Patent dated October 25, 1892, No. 484,803, which well or holder embodies a buoyant stopper for closing the pen aperture, adapted to be moved away from the aperture by a pen and adapted to automatically return, when the pen is removed, and close the aperture so as to keep the well air tight and prevent evaporation and deterioration of the ink.

An objection to the employment of the buoyant stopper is the fact that sometimes when it is moved away from the pen aperture, it lodges against the upper wall or against the cap of the well and fails to return to its normal position. To overcome this objection and to provide for the sure return of the stopper to its normal position, when it has been displaced, is the primary object of my present invention.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be fully understood from the following description and claims when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1, is a perspective view of my improved ink well or holder, and Fig. 2, is a vertical transverse section of the same; the buoyant stopper being illustrated partly in section and partly in elevation.

Referring by letter to the said drawings: A, indicates the reservoir or body of my improved well or holder, which is preferably formed of glass, and B, indicates the cap of the same which may be formed from glass, vulcanized rubber or any other approved material. This cap B, is provided with an approximately cone-shaped central portion as shown at *a*, and it has a small opening *b*, for

the insertion of a pen to receive ink, which opening *b*, forms a seat for the buoyant stopper as will be presently described. The said cap is also provided with a lateral flange *c*, which is designed to rest upon the body A, and a vertically disposed flange *d*, which is designed to take within the body and is provided with a rubber gasket *e*, whereby the connection between the body and cap is rendered air tight.

C, indicates the buoyant stopper which is designed to normally rest in the seat formed by the pen aperture *b* and close said aperture. This stopper C, is of a spherical form and hollow, as illustrated and it is designed to be moved away from its seat *b*, by a pen, and is also adapted to resume its normal position, when the pen is removed so as to close the well and prevent evaporation of the ink.

In order to insure the prompt return of the stopper C, to its normal position, I provide an inclosure for the lower portion of the same, which is designed and adapted to retain the stopper within such limits that it will promptly take up against the cap and close the aperture *b*, as soon as the pen is removed. This inclosure for the stopper, may be formed by a depression or hollow D, in the bottom of the body A, or it may be formed by a wall rising above the bottom of the body. The depression or hollow D, is preferable however, for the reason that it increases the capacity of the well without adding to the cost thereof.

It will be noted from the foregoing description that my improved ink well is exceedingly cheap and simple; that it is not liable to get out of order; and that it is absolutely air tight at all times except when a pen is introduced to receive ink, which is a highly important desideratum.

Having described my invention, what I claim is—

1. An ink well or holder having a pen aperture forming a stopper seat, a buoyant stopper adapted to normally rest in the seat formed by the aperture and close said aperture, and a central inclosure for retaining the stopper within such limits that it will promptly return to its normal position when displaced, substantially as described.

2. In an ink well or holder, the combination

of a body or reservoir having a depression or  
hollow D, in its bottom, a cap having a pen  
aperture forming a stopper seat, and a buoy-  
ant stopper arranged within the walls of the  
5 depression D, and adapted to normally rest in  
the seat formed by the pen aperture and close  
said aperture, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in  
presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM E. LEWIS.

Witnesses:

JNO. P. HANSEN,  
S. W. MURRAY.