

July 16, 1940.

M. BATES

2,208,445

DECORATIVE FIGURE

Filed Dec. 27, 1938

Fig. 1

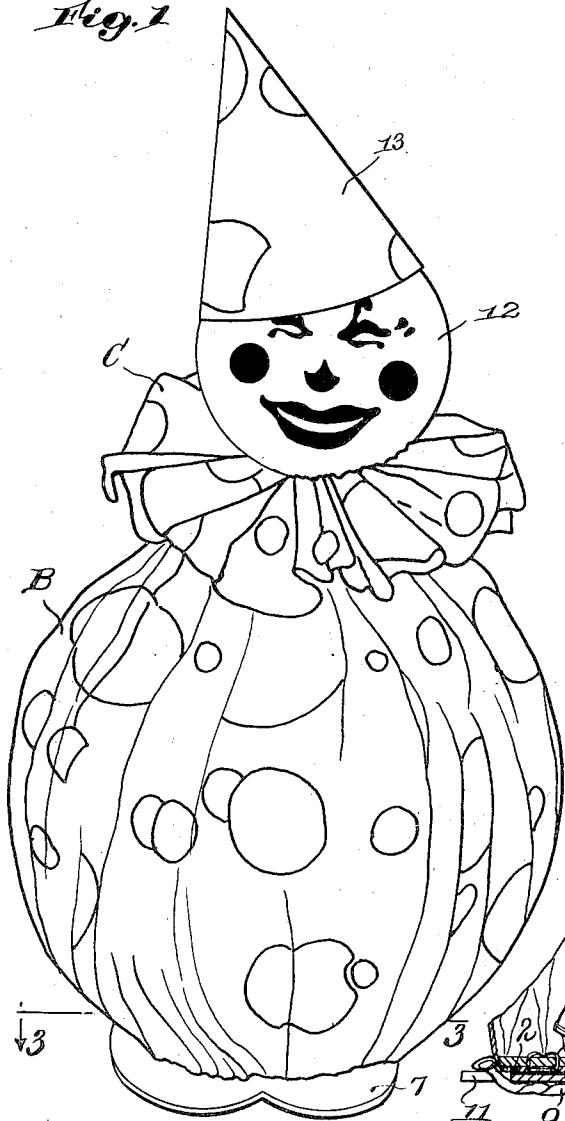


Fig. 2

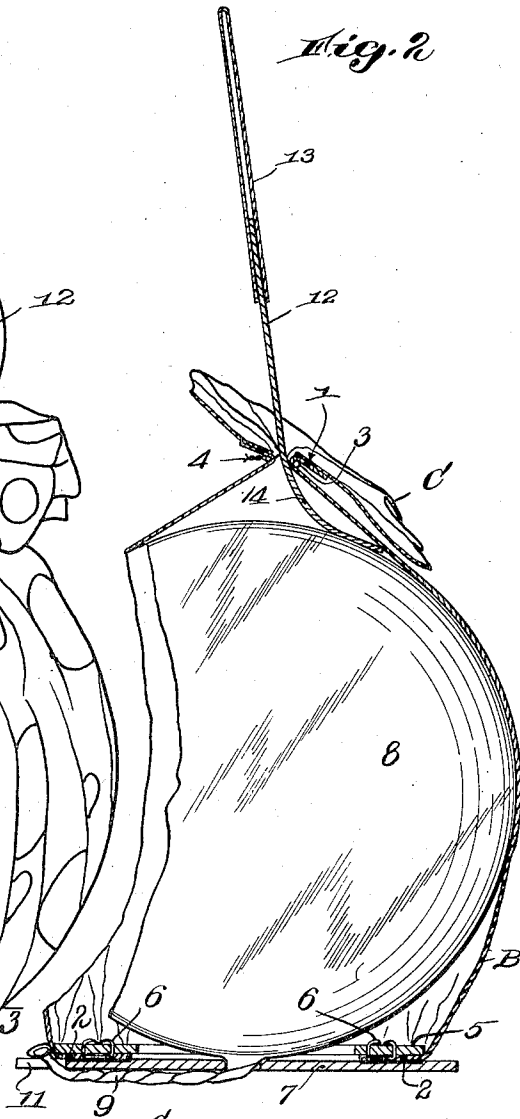


Fig. 3

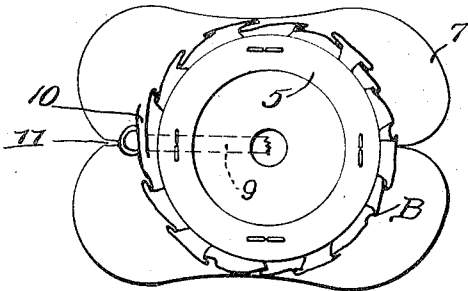
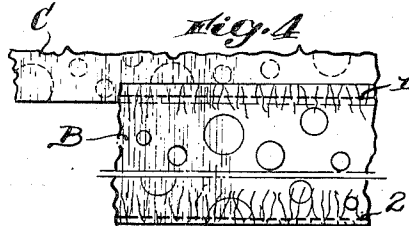


Fig. 4



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,208,445

DECORATIVE FIGURE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 41—10)

This invention relates to decorations and more particularly to table decorations comprising figures representing famous characters, animals and various inanimate objects.

5 The principal objects of the invention are to provide a construction which is simple and economical to manufacture, which is collapsible for shipment and storage, which can readily be set up for use merely by inflating a balloon, which is not easily disarranged after being set up, which can be collapsed again for storage by deflating the balloon, which is substantial and durable in use and which is generally superior to decorations of the character to which the invention relates.

Other objects will be evident from the following description and the illustrative embodiment shown in the accompanying drawing in which

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of a typical figure set up for use;

Fig. 2 is a central vertical section;

Fig. 3 is a section on line 3—3 of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 4 is a side elevation of the preferred material for making the collapsible portion of the figure.

The particular embodiment of the invention chosen for the purpose of illustration comprises two sheets of crepe paper B and C of different width, the sheets being gathered together in overlapping relationship and stitched together along the line 1. The opposite edge of the wider sheet B is also gathered together and stitched along the line 2. The lines of creping extend transversely of the stitching) that is vertically in Figs. 1, 2 and 4) and the two sheets are printed with suitable designs, the printed sides of the two sheets facing in opposite directions so that, when the narrower sheet C is folded over the wider sheet, the two sheets face in the same direction. After the two sheets are stitched together as aforesaid the opposite ends of the lines of stitching are brought together to form a hollow figure having constricted ends, and the ends are secured in this constricted condition by suitable means. As shown in Fig. 2 the upper end of the figure is held in constricted condition by a piece of wire 3 wound around the overlapping portions of the two sheets with its ends twisted together as indicated at 4. As shown in Figs. 2 and 3 the constricted lower end of the figure is secured by means of a cardboard ring 5 secured to the edge of the sheet B, at or adjacent to the line of stitching 2, by means of staples 6. The connection between the ring 5 and the sheet B may be made somewhat more secure by hav-

ing the staples straddle the line of stitching 2 and/or by cementing the gathered portion of the sheet B to the lower side of the ring 5. Over the lower end of the figure is mounted a base or foot portion 7 which may comprise a piece of cardboard shaped in the outline of two feet, the base 7 extending somewhat beyond the bottom of the figure so as to provide a stable support against tipping. As shown by the heavy line in Fig. 2 the base 7 is preferably secured to the lower end of the figure by cement. Disposed within the hollow figure formed by the gathered sheet B is a balloon 8 having an integral inflating tube 9. By merely overlapping the ends of the sheet B without securing them together, as indicated at 10 in Fig. 3, the balloon may be inserted into the hollow figure after the figure is completely assembled. While the tube 9 may be extended through the opening 10 for inflating the balloon, it is preferably extended through an opening in the base 7, and the base 7 is also preferably provided with a slit 11 into which the end of the tube may be tightly wedged to prevent the escape of air after the balloon has been inflated.

In making the representation of a man or animal the head is preferably formed of a piece of cardboard as shown at 12 in Figs. 1 and 2, the head having a depending neck portion 14 which may be inserted into the constricted opening at the upper end of the figure for the purpose of holding the head in upright position. The head 12 may be surmounted by a cap formed of paper cemented over the head as indicated at 13 in Figs. 1 and 2.

By facing the printed sides of the two sheets of paper B and C in opposite directions when they are stitched together the narrower sheet C faces in the same direction as the other sheet when it is folded down over the other sheet in the form of a collar as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. By extending the lines of creping from one constricted end of the figure to the other the figure can conform more smoothly and attractively to the outline of the balloon when the latter is inflated and the figure has less tendency to split when the balloon is over-inflated. Furthermore the figure will then retain its shape if the air should leak out of the balloon. If desired the neck portion 14 of the head may be secured in the constricted opening at the top of the figure as for example by inserting a staple through the neck and thence through the overlapping portions of the two sheets C and B before the opposite ends of the sheets are brought together and before the wire 3 is applied.

It should be understood that this disclosure is for the purpose of illustration only and that this invention includes all modifications and equivalents which fall within the scope of the appended claims.

5 I claim:

1. A decoration comprising a sheet of creped paper gathered together transversely of the creping and fastened in gathered condition along opposite edges, the opposite ends of said gathered edges being brought together to form a hollow figure with constricted top and bottom portions and expansible middle portion, a head portion having a depending neck extending into said constricted top portion, a reinforcing ring fast to said constricted bottom portion, a base fast to said ring for standing the figure on a table or the like, and a balloon inside said hollow figure for holding it in extended position.
- 20 2. A decoration comprising a sheet of creped paper gathered together transversely of the creping and fastened in gathered condition along opposite edges, the opposite ends of said gathered edges being brought together to form a hollow figure with constricted top and bottom portions and expansible middle portion, a reinforcing ring fast to said constricted bottom portion, a base fast to said ring for standing the figure on a table or the like, and a balloon inside said hollow fig-

ure for holding it in extended position, the crepe lines of the paper extending up-and-down, whereby the hollow figure may conform to the configuration of the balloon when the latter is inflated.

3. A decoration comprising two printed sheets of creped paper of different widths overlapping each other along edges extending transversely of the creping with their printed sides facing in opposite directions, the edges being gathered and stitched together to form a neck portion, the opposite edge of the under portion being gathered and stitched to form a bottom portion, the opposite end of said gathered edges being brought together to form a hollow figure with constricted ends and an expansible body, a head portion having a depending neck extending into said constricted end, a reinforcing ring fast to said constricted bottom end, a base fast to said ring for standing the figure on a table or the like, and a balloon inside the hollow figure for holding it in extended position, the crepe lines extending up-and-down so that the hollow figure can conform to the configuration of the balloon, and the printing on said narrow sheet facing inwardly so that it shows when the sheet is folded outwardly and downwardly as a collar.

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