

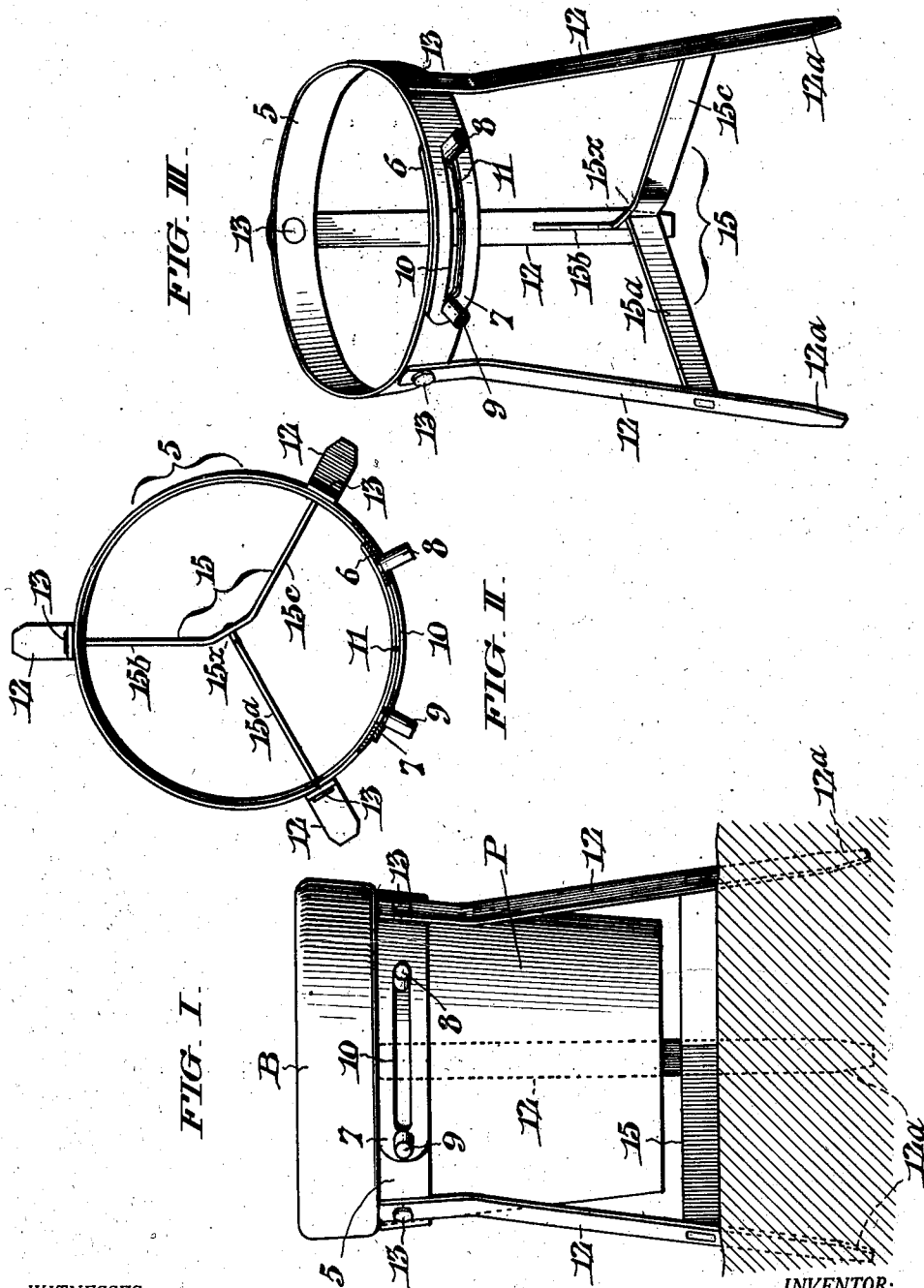
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POT OR VASE HOLDER

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WITNESSES

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## POT OR VASE HOLDER

Application filed June 29, 1928. Serial No. 289,310.

This invention relates to holders for potted plants, flower vases and the like, more particularly to pot or vase holders intended for use in cemeteries.

5 The purpose of my invention is to afford potted plants or flower vases, effective support against dislodgment under wind pressure when placed on graves, flower beds, etc. This desideratum I aim to attain in a self-contained pot or vase holder which is simple and compact in construction; light in weight, yet sturdy nevertheless; conducive to economic manufacture; capable of being securely anchored in the earth with little effort; susceptible of easy manipulation to receive the pot or vase; and having capacity of maintaining a firm hold on the pot or vase with assurance of its retainment under the conditions indicated.

20 Still other objects and attendant advantages will be manifest from the detailed description which follows of the typical embodiment shown in the accompanying drawings, wherein Fig. I is a side elevation of my improved holder showing how the same is employed in supporting a flower pot or vase.

25 Fig. II is a plan view of the device with the pot or vase removed, and with a portion broken away and in section to expose important details; while,

30 Fig. III is a perspective view of the holder.

35 From these illustrations it will be observed that my improved holder includes an annular or ring portion 5, by which the pot or vase P is embraced beneath the shoulder of its brim B—see Fig. I. The ring portion 5 is fashioned in correspondance with the taper of the pot P, from a single piece of light gage flexible strip metal, the ends whereof overlap as at 6, 7 and are provided with terminal finger lugs 8, 9 for convenience in manipulating the holder, as hereinafter more fully explained. As shown, a lug 8 on the strip end 6 protrudes through a slot 10 in the strip end 7; while a lug 9 on the strip end 7 has slight inward projection (Fig. II) for guidance in a coextensive slot 11 in the strip end 6.

The ring portion 5 is supported at an elevation by a number of legs 12, whereof there are three in the present instance. These legs 12 are also formed from flexible strip metal and secured at uniform intervals around the ring 5 by welding, or if preferred, by rivets 13 as shown. The legs 12 are moreover bent outward into divergent relation for greater stability of the holder, and have their ends tapered, as at 12a to facilitate penetration of the earth by them.

At a level well below the ring portion 5, the legs 12 are connected by a tri-arm spider 15 whereof the extremities are designated by the numerals 15a, 15b and 15c. In keeping with the other parts of the holder, the spider 15 is likewise formed from flexible strip metal, two pieces being employed, one constituting the arm 15a and the other both the arms 15b and 15c. The outer ends of the spider arms 15a, 15b and 15c are permanently secured to the legs either by welding or riveting, and the center juncture at 15x may be made in the same way.

In use, the holder is grasped by the ring 5 and its tapered legs pressed down into the earth as far as permitted by the spider 15, which thus acts as a stop to limit penetration and also as a ground support to assist in stabilizing said holder. Then by pressing the lugs 8 and 9 toward each other, between the forefinger and thumb, the ring 5 can be expanded to the extent of the slots 10, 11 in preparation for the reception of the pot or vase P, the legs 12 and spider 15 yielding compensatively to facilitate the described action. Finally, upon release of the lugs 8 and 9, the ring 5 is freed to contract under its inherent springiness and effectively embrace the pot or vase P, below the brim B, to retain it in the holder.

From the foregoing it will be apparent that I have provided a very simple, compact and inexpensive holder for plant pots and the like, which although specifically described as being for use on graves or flower beds, may obviously be employed generally as a holder or support in other connections which may suggest themselves in practice.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A holder of the character described with a circumferentially-expandable ring portion formed from a unitary flexible metallic strip with the ends thereof overlapping, co-extensive slots through the overlapping ends of the strip, manipulator projections at the strip termini one of which coacts with the slot in the overlapping strip while the other has inward projection for guidance in the underlapping co-extensive slot, whereby said ring portion may be expanded in preparation for reception of the article to be held thereby, and means to support said ring portion at an elevation.

2. A holder of the character described with a circumferentially-expandable single piece ring portion with co-extensive slots through the overlapping ends, manipulator means one of which co-acts with the slot in the overlapping ring end while the other has inward projection for guidance in the underlapping slot, for effecting its expansion to clampingly embrace a flower pot or the like, divergent flexible legs to support the ring portion at an elevation and means rigidly connecting the legs at a level below the ring portion with capacity to permit their upper portions yielding compensatively incidental to expansion and contraction of said ring portion.

3. A holder of the character described with a circumferentially-expandable single piece ring portion having overlapping slotted ends, terminal manipulator projections one of which co-acts with the slot in the overlapping ring end wall while the other has inward projection for guidance in the underlapping slot for effecting expansion of the ring portion to clampingly embrace a flower pot or the like, divergently-related supporting legs having their ends tapered for capacity to penetrate the earth in anchoring the holder, and a spider rigidly connecting the legs at a level below the ring portion, said spider also functioning as a stop to limit penetration by the legs.

4. A holder of the character described comprising a circumferentially-expandable single piece ring portion fashioned from a flexible metallic strip, the ends of said ring overlapping and being co-extensively slotted, terminal manipulator projections in the strip ends one of which co-acts with the slot in the overlap portion while the other has slight inward projection for guidance in the underlapping strip portion, whereby the ring can be initially expanded to clampingly embrace a flower pot or the like, divergently-related legs also formed from strip metal attached to the ring portion to support it at an elevation, and a tri-arm spider connecting the legs at a level below the ring portion, said spider being likewise formed from flexible strip metal with capacity to permit the upper por-

tions of said legs yielding compensatively with the ring portion.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name at Lebanon, Pennsylvania, this 26 day of June, 1928.

JAMES EDGAR ROTHERMEL.