

July 16, 1929.

B. RITCHIE ET AL

1,721,091

FIGURE TOY

Filed Aug. 24, 1927

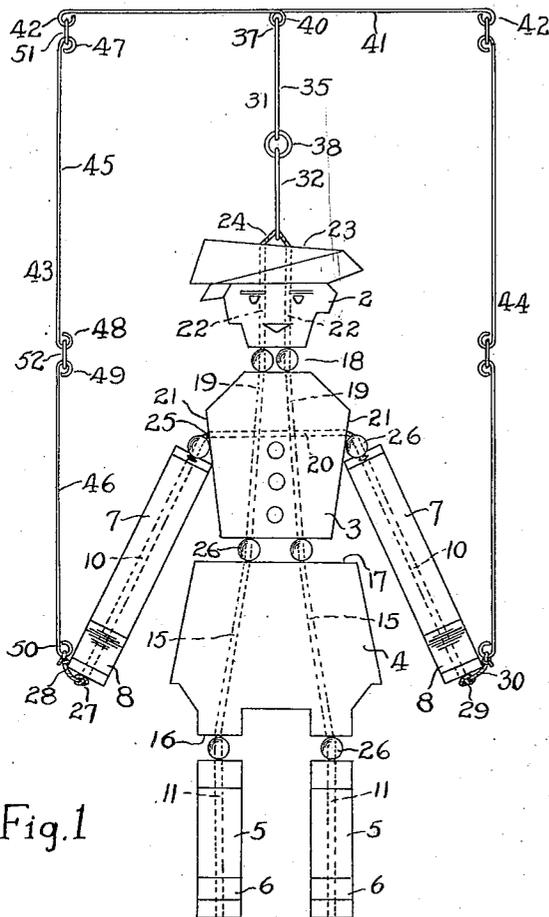


Fig. 1

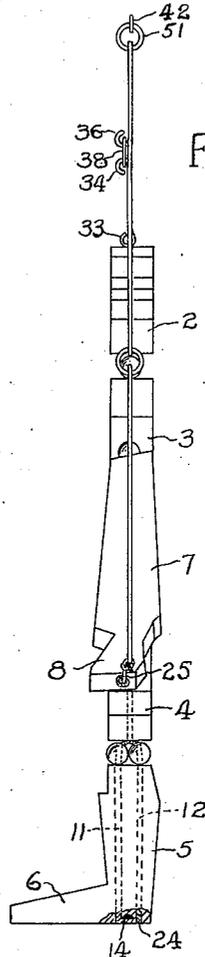


Fig. 2

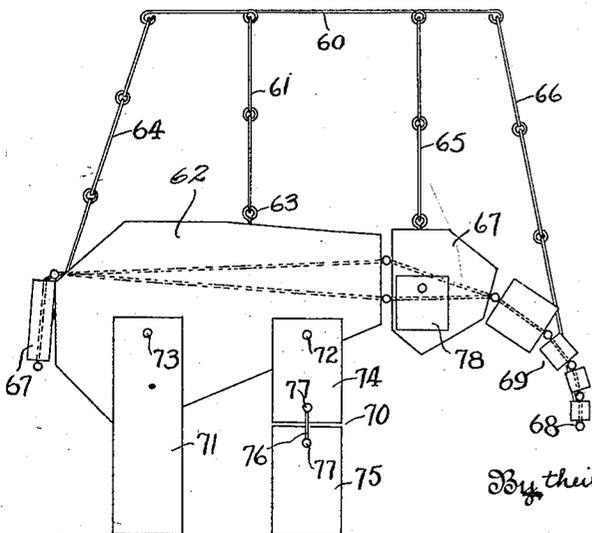


Fig. 3

Inventors  
Beatrice Ritchie  
Edna M. Brew  
By their Attorney  
Andrew K. Foulds

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BEATRICE RITCHIE AND EDNA MCGREW, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## FIGURE TOY.

Application filed August 24, 1927. Serial No. 215,242.

Our invention relates to new and useful improvements in figure toys and more particularly to that type of Figure toy known as the marionette.

5 An object of our invention is to provide a figure toy which is novel and attractive in appearance.

Another object is to provide a marionette in which the operating members will not become tangled.

Another object is to provide simple and efficient joints between the articulated parts.

15 The invention consists in the improvements to be more fully described hereinafter, and the novelty of which will be particularly pointed out and distinctly claimed.

In the accompanying drawings we have fully and clearly illustrated a preferred embodiment of our invention to be taken as a part of this specification and wherein,

20 Figure 1 is a front view of a figure toy embodying our invention,

Figure 2 is a side view thereof, and

Figure 3 is a side view of a modification.

25 Referring to the drawings by characters of reference, 1 designates a marionette representing a human being having body members including a head 2, a trunk or body 3, connected thighs 4, legs 5, feet 6, arms 7 and hands 8. The legs 5 and feet 6 are preferably formed integral as are also the arms 7 and hands 8. Longitudinally through each arm and hand is drilled, bored, or otherwise formed a hole 10. Each leg and foot has a pair of substantially parallel longitudinal holes 11, 12 which are connected beneath the foot by a groove 14. Each thigh has a longitudinal hollow bore 15 which extends from the lower end 16 of each thigh to the waist 17. Through the trunk 3 from the waist to the neck 18 are a pair of holes 19 and at substantially shoulder height is a transverse hole 20 extending between the shoulders 21. The head 2 also has a pair of holes 22 from the neck 18 through the crown 23.

45 The body members are strung preferably on two cords or like freely flexible members 24, 25. One of the cords 24 is passed through one of the thigh holes 15 from the waist 17 and provided with means to prevent its being pulled entirely through, as by a knot in the end of the cord. A spherical member 26 having a diametral bore, preferably a bead, is then threaded on the cord. The cord is then threaded through the hole 11 in one of the legs

5 and into groove 14 and then up the adjacent hole 12. Another bead is then threaded on the cord which is passed up the same thigh hole 15 and at the waist receives another bead. The cord is then passed through the adjacent 60 one of the trunk holes 19 and at the neck a bead is threaded on the cord before it is passed up through one of the holes 22 in the head 2 and down through the other. Another bead is now threaded on the cord and the same passed 65 down through the remaining holes 19 and 15 respectively in the trunk 3 and thighs 4, of course receiving a bead between the members. The cord is now passed through another bead and hole 12 in the remaining leg 5 and into 70 groove 14 and up hole 11. Between the leg and the thigh another bead is placed upon the cord. This cord is then passed up along itself in the last mentioned thigh hole and after being drawn fairly tight is secured at 75 the waist, preferably by a knot.

The other cord 25 is knotted, as at 27, leaving an end 28 for a purpose to be presently described. This cord 25 is passed through hole 10 in one of the arms 7 from the hand 80 8 to the shoulder end where it is threaded through a bead, then through transverse opening or hole 20, then through a bead and finally through the remaining of the arms 7 when it is knotted as at 29 and an end or short 85 length 30 left.

It will be apparent that by the use of substantially spherical members or beads 26 carried by the body member uniting cords 24, 25 between each of the articulated body members, we have provided both a spacer member and a universal joint which is of simple construction adapted for use in figure toys and particularly in figure toys of the marionette type. 95

The supporting and operating members remain to be described. They are preferably of wire or other semirigid material. A supporting member 31, of any desired length, comprises a link 32 having end eyelets 33, 34 100 and a second link 35 having end eyelets 36, 37 which are interconnected by a ring 38 preferably of metal, passed through eyelets 34 and 36. The eyelet 33 is connected to the cord 24 where it loops over the crown 23. The remaining eyelet 37 is hung in a loop 40 on a hand bar or support 41 which may also be of stiff wire. At either end of the bar 41 is a loop 42 and from these loops depend operating members 43, 44 which are similar and but 110

one will therefore be described. Member 43 comprises two links 45, 46 respectively having end loops 47, 48 and 49, 50. Link 45 is connected to bar 41 by a ring 51 through loops 42 and 47. At its other end this link 45 is connected to link 46 by a ring 52 between loops 48 and 49. The free end of link 46 is connected to the end 28 of cord 25. The operating member 44 is fastened at its lower end to the end 30 of cord 25 and at its upper end to the bar 41.

It is evident that stiff wire operating members 43, 44 and the supporting member 31 will not become tangled as is so often the case with flexible cords or strings and that the ring joints between the links will afford ample flexibility for operation of the arm members 7.

In Figure 3 we have shown our invention as applied to a quadruped, the representation being that of an elephant. In stringing the body members beads are inserted between the members on the connecting cord as described for Figure 1. The hand bar or support 60 is connected to a supporting member 61 which is connected at its lower end to the body 62 of the elephant preferably by a screw eye 63. In this modification there are three operating members 64, 65, 66 hung from the bar 60. The links of members 64 are connected to the tail 67 while members 65 and 66 are connected to the head 67 and the end 68 of the trunk 69 respectively. From the body 62 depend fore legs 70 and hind legs 71 which are held to the body by means of cords passed through the body, then through a bead on each side of the body (not shown) and finally out through each leg where the ends of the cords are fastened respectively to the pairs of beads 72, 73. The fore legs are jointed, as may be the hind legs, and comprise a thigh 74 and an extremity 75 which are interconnected by a cord loop 76 passed through beads 77 and the respective parts of the fore leg. Ears 78 may be secured to the head 67 by a cord and beads 79 in the same manner as the legs are secured to the body.

Having thus described our invention what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:—

1. A toy of the class described comprising in combination a body, said body having articulated members, a support external to said body, said support having eyelets and jointed means universally supported and depending from said eyelets, the free ends of said means

being secured for universal movement to certain of said members.

2. A figure toy comprising in combination an apertured body, body members having apertures, flexible connecting means extending through the apertures of said body and certain of said body members to connect said body and body members together, a support, and jointed wires connected to said flexible means and connecting certain of said body members to said support.

3. A marionette comprising in combination a body, a head, body members, flexible means connecting said body, head and body members, spacer members threaded on said means between said head and said body and between said body and said body members, a support, a supporting member depending from said support and secured to said head, and operating means interconnecting said support and certain of said body members.

4. A marionette comprising in combination a body, a head and body members, means flexibly connecting said head and body members to said body for universal movement, a support, a plurality of sets of jointed links depending from said support, a link of one of said sets being connected to said head, and a link of each other set being connected to said first-named means for movement of said body members thereby.

5. A marionette, comprising a body, a head and body members, means connecting said head and members to said body for universal movement, a supporting bar, and a plurality of jointed links pivoted on and depending from said bar, the free ends of said links being connected respectively to said head and to certain of said body members.

6. A marionette, comprising an articulated figure, a supporting bar having eyelets, rigid links pivoted in said eyelets and depending from said bar, eyelets in the free ends of said links, and links pivoted to and depending from the eyelets of said first-named links, one of said second-named links being connected at its free end to said figure to support the same, others of said second-named links being connected at their free ends to the articulated parts of said figure.

In testimony whereof, we have signed our names to this specification, this 22nd day of June, 1927.

BEATRICE RITCHIE.  
EDNA MCGREW.