

PATENT SPECIFICATION



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Complete Left : July 26, 1921.

Complete Accepted : Dec. 15, 1921.

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

Improvements in or relating to Toy Shadow-theatres.

I, ANNIE MATHÉWS, a British subject, of "Normanleish", London Road, Leicester, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

5 This invention relates to cardboard and like toys and concerns those of the kind comprising a collapsible or foldable structure in conjunction with which a number of subsidiary pieces such as figures and characters, are employed and manipulated by hand for amusement purposes.

10 The object of the present invention is to construct a toy of the above mentioned type in the form of a shadow theatre, shadow picture show or imitation kinematograph.

15 The invention consists of a toy comprising, in combination, a cardboard or like collapsible structure having a vertical front provided with a semi-transparent part and a platform in rear of same, a series of figures, characters or the like (preferably having jointed limbs) printed or painted upon a transparent carrying medium, and means for holding and manipulating said figures, or the like behind the semi-transparent part of the front.

20 There may also be provided further subsidiary pieces constituting side wings, scenes or properties adapted to be fixed in position behind the semi-transparent part of the front, these pieces also being printed or painted on a transparent carrying medium.

25 The particular feature of the invention is the printing or painting of the figures, characters and like parts which are to form shadows or be reproduced on the back of the semi-transparent part of the structure, upon a transparent carrying medium such for example as thin sheet celluloid. This is a novelty, and also

an improvement in that it not only obviates cutting out the figures to produce a silhouette effect, but also enables facial expressions, details light and shade and colour effects to be represented in the picture by an appropriate printing of the parts on the transparent medium. It is therefore possible by these subsidiary pieces to obtain in a simple manner a realistic imitation of a kinematograph especially when the pieces are printed in photographic style.

30 According to a specific example of the invention, the foldable or collapsible structure consists of a flat front adapted to stand upright and be supported by two side members vertically hinged to the back so as to project rearwards to form feet and also fold flat against the back. Horizontally hinged to the back of the flat front is a platform which in one position lies flat underneath the folded side members, and in another position, for use, extends horizontally rearwards at right angles to the vertical front to form a stage. The side members are slotted to engage the sides of the platform to support the same. The side members are also cut away near their hinges to form vertical openings close to the front to permit the characters or figures to be introduced through said members on to the stage.

35 The flat front has an opening cut therein of suitable size and shape. This opening is covered at the back by a piece of semi-transparent material such as paper, parchment, linen or the like tightly stretched and secured by adhesive. The face of the front may be printed or got up to represent a kinematograph screen or proscenium.

40 The figures, characters or the like for

use in conjunction with the aforesaid structure are printed on this transparent celluloid sheet or film, the limbs being loosely jointed to the body part so as to be freely movable. The celluloid sheet or film is roughly cut to the shape of the printed parts thereon.

Each figure or character is supported by a strip of the transparent celluloid sheet or film to which the body part of the figure is loosely connected so as to be capable of free movement. For carrying and manipulating the figure, the supporting strip is fitted removably into a wire holder by which the figure is introduced and manipulated through the before mentioned openings in the side members of the cardboard structure. The celluloid strip of the figure may have a reinforcement of cardboard or equivalent at the top for engagement with the wire holder. Two or more figures may, in some cases, be carried by the same supporting strip.

In using the toy, a light is placed behind the cardboard structure to illuminate the semi-transparent screen and the figures *etc.* are manipulated on the platform or stage so that the printed matter is reproduced on the screen, the celluloid or other medium on which the figure is printed and by which it is supported, being, owing to its transparent character, practically invisible on the front of the screen.

The details of construction may be varied without departing from the scope of the invention.

Dated this 3rd day of November, 1920.

ANNIE MATHEWS,

Applicant,

E. N. Lewis & Taylor,
Chartered Patent Agents,
Berridge Street Chambers, Leicester,
Agents for the Applicant.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

Improvements in or relating to Toy Shadow-theatres.

I, ANNIE MATHEWS, a British subject, of "Normanleish", London Road, Leicester, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to cardboard and like toys and concerns those of the kind comprising a collapsible or foldable structure in conjunction with which a number of subsidiary pieces such as figures and characters, are employed and manipulated by hand for amusement purposes.

The object of the present invention is to construct a toy of the above mentioned type in the form of a shadow theatre, shadow picture show or imitation kinematograph.

The invention consists of a toy comprising, in combination, a cardboard or like collapsible structure having a vertical front provided with a semi-transparent part and a platform in rear of same, a series of figures, characters or the like (preferably having jointed limbs) printed or painted upon a transparent carrying medium, and means for holding and manipulating said figures, or the like behind the semi-transparent part of the front.

There may also be provided further

subsidiary pieces constituting side wings, scenes or properties adapted to be fixed in position behind the semi-transparent part of the front, these pieces also being printed or painted on a transparent carrying medium.

The particular feature of the invention is the printing or painting of the figures, characters and like parts which are to form shadows or be reproduced on the back of the semi-transparent part of the structure, upon a transparent carrying medium such for example as thin sheet celluloid. This is a novelty, and also an improvement in that it not only obviates cutting out the figures to produce a silhouette effect, but also enables facial expressions, details light and shade and colour effects to be represented in the picture by an appropriate printing of the parts on the transparent medium. It is therefore possible by these subsidiary pieces to obtain in a simple manner a realistic imitation of a kinematograph especially when the pieces are printed in photographic style.

In the accompanying drawings, to which reference will now be made, a specific example of the invention is illustrated.

Figure 1 is a front elevation showing the toy in use.

Figure 2 is a vertical section of the foldable structure.

Figure 3 is a back view of the said structure in folded condition.

5 Figure 4 is a plan of the structure opened for use.

10 Figures 5, 6 and 7 (drawn to a larger scale) are front views showing different characters for use with the foldable structure.

15 The foldable structure (Figures 1 to 4) consists of a flat front 1 adapted to stand upright and be supported by two side members 2 vertically hinged at 3 to the back of said part 1 so that in one position they project rearwards to form feet as shown in Figures 2 and 4, and also fold flat against the back as shown in Figure 3. Horizontally hinged at 4 to the back of the flat front 1 is a platform 5 which in one position shown in Figure 3 lies flat underneath the folded side members 2, and in another position, for use as shown in Figures 2 and 4, extends horizontally rearwards at right angles to the vertical front 1 to form a stage. The side members 2 are slotted at 6 to engage the sides of the platform to support the same. The side members are also cut away near their hinges to form vertical openings 7 close to the front 1 to permit the characters or figures to be introduced through said members on to the stage.

25 The flat front 1 has an opening 8 cut therein of suitable size and shape. This opening is covered at the back by a piece of semi-transparent material 9 such as paper, parchment, linen or the like tightly stretched and secured by adhesive. The fact of the front 1 may be printed or got up to represent a kinematograph screen or proscenium.

30 The figures, characters or the like for use in conjunction with the aforesaid structure are printed on pieces 10 of transparent celluloid or other suitable material as represented in Figures 5, 6 and 7 the limbs 10^a being loosely jointed to the body part at 11 so as to be freely movable. The sheet or film 10 is roughly cut to the shape of the printed parts thereon.

35 Each figure or character is supported by a strip 12 of the transparent celluloid sheet or film to which the body part of the figure is loosely connected at 13 so as to be capable of free movement. For carrying and manipulating the figure, the supporting strip 12 is fitted removably into a wire holder 14 by which the figure

is introduced and manipulated through the before mentioned openings 7 in the side members 2 as represented in Figure 1. The celluloid supporting strip 12 is provided with a reinforcement 15 of cardboard or equivalent at the top for engagement with the wire holder. Two, or more, figures may in some cases, be carried by the same supporting strip 12 as shown for instance in Figure 7.

40 In using the toy, a light is placed behind the cardboard structure to illuminate the semi-transparent screen 9 and the figures *etc.* are manipulated on the platform 5 so that the printed matter on the transparent pieces 10 and 10^a is reproduced on the screen, the celluloid or other medium on which the figure is printed and by which it is supported, being, owing to its transparent character, practically invisible on the front of the screen.

45 Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:—

1. A toy of the kind referred to comprising, in combination, a cardboard or like collapsible structure having a vertical front provided with a semi-transparent part and a platform in rear of same, a series of figures, characters or the like (preferably having jointed limbs) printed or painted upon a transparent carrying medium, and means for holding and manipulating said figures or the like behind the semi-transparent part of the front.

2. A toy as claimed in the preceding claim wherein the figures or characters are printed or painted upon pieces of transparent celluloid sheet or film and are loosely attached to a supporting strip of similar transparent material adapted to be fitted removably into a wire holder, substantially as and for the purpose described.

3. The complete toy constructed, arranged and adapted to be employed substantially in the manner as and for the purpose described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Dated this 21st day of July, 1921.

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Agents for the Applicant.

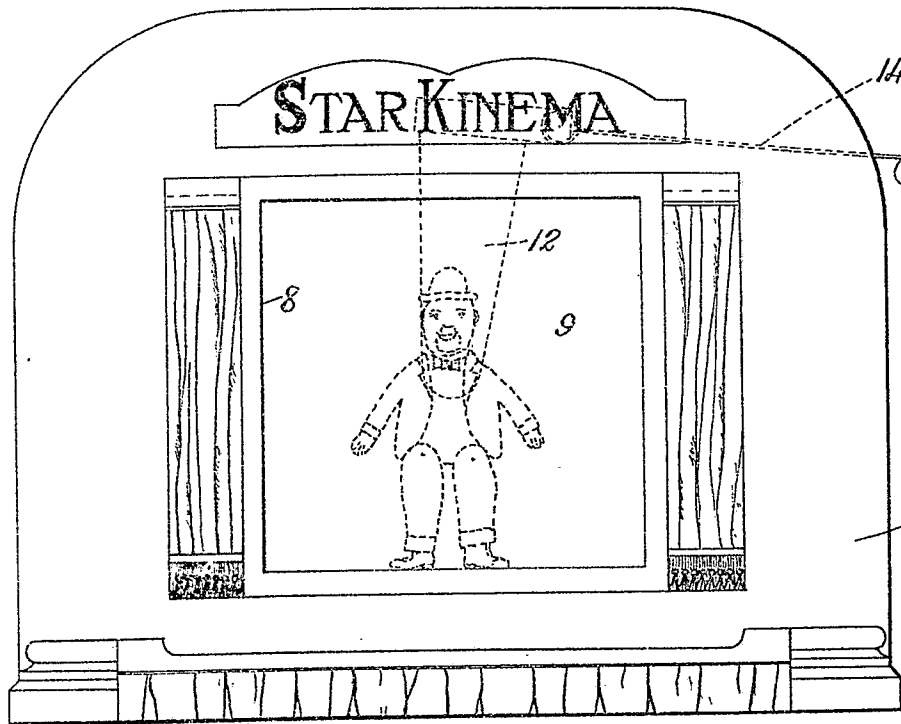


Fig. 1.

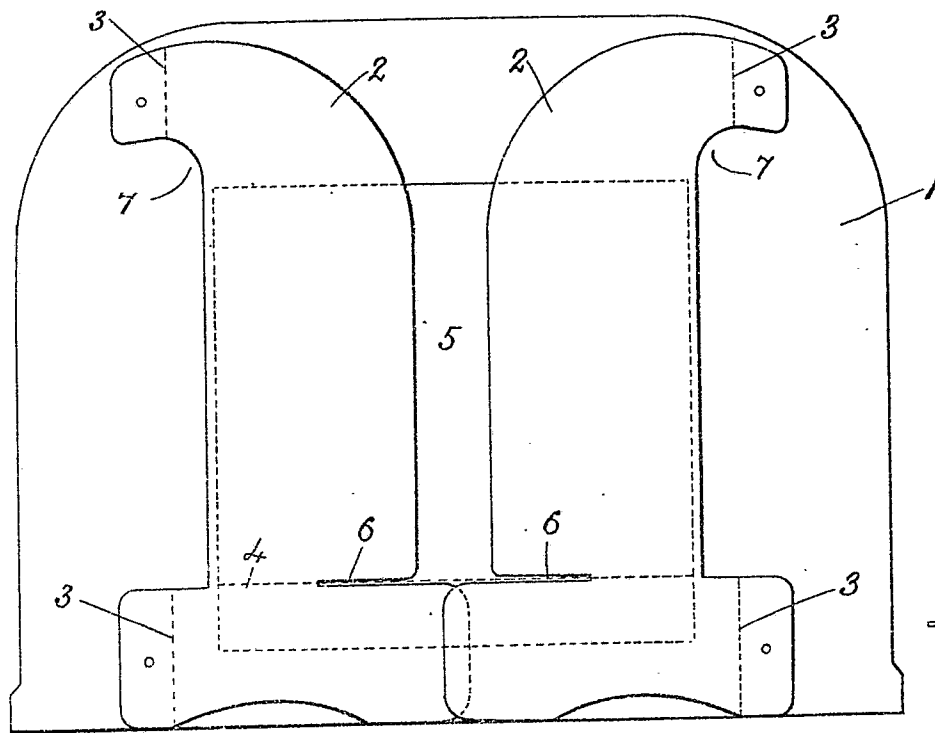
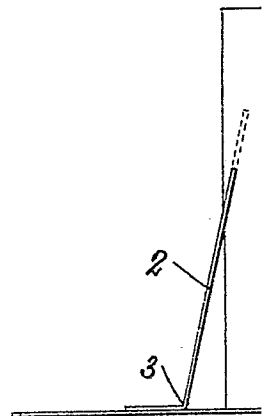


Fig. 3.



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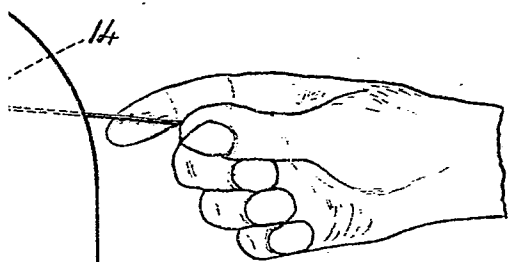


Fig 1.

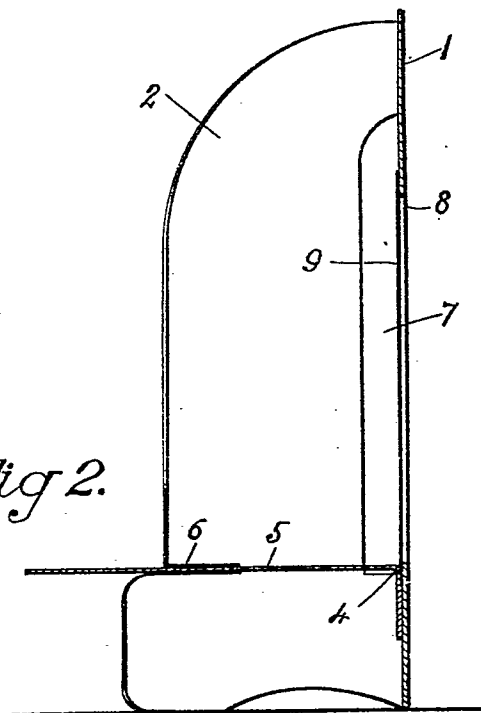
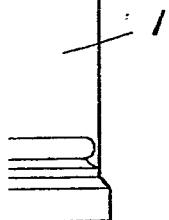


Fig 2.

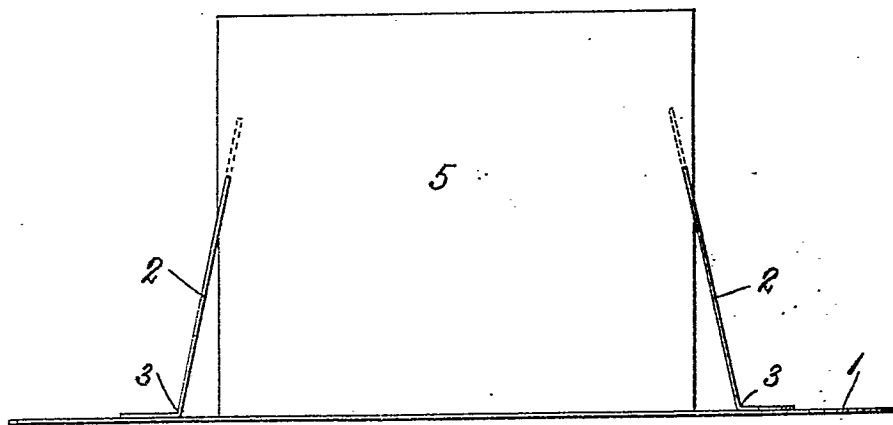
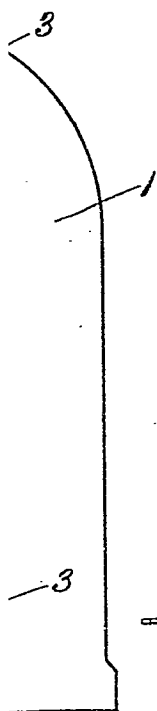


Fig 4.

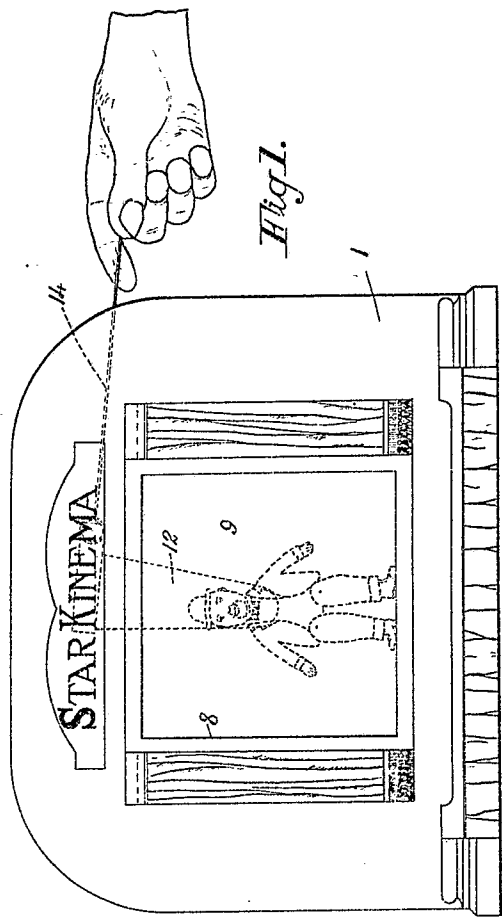


Fig. 1.

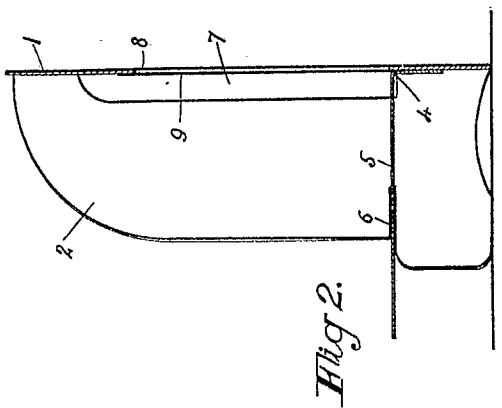


Fig. 2.

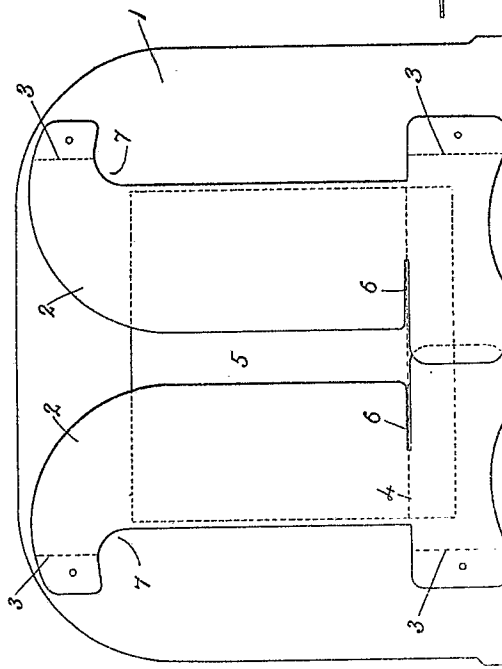


Fig. 3.

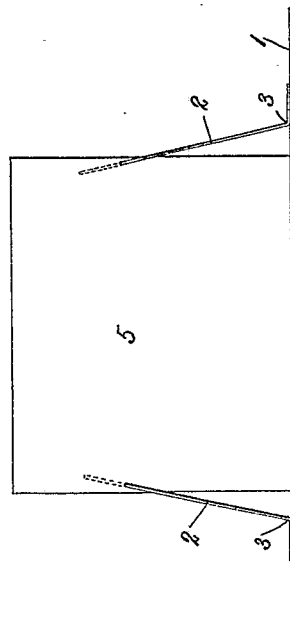


Fig. 4.

[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale]

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