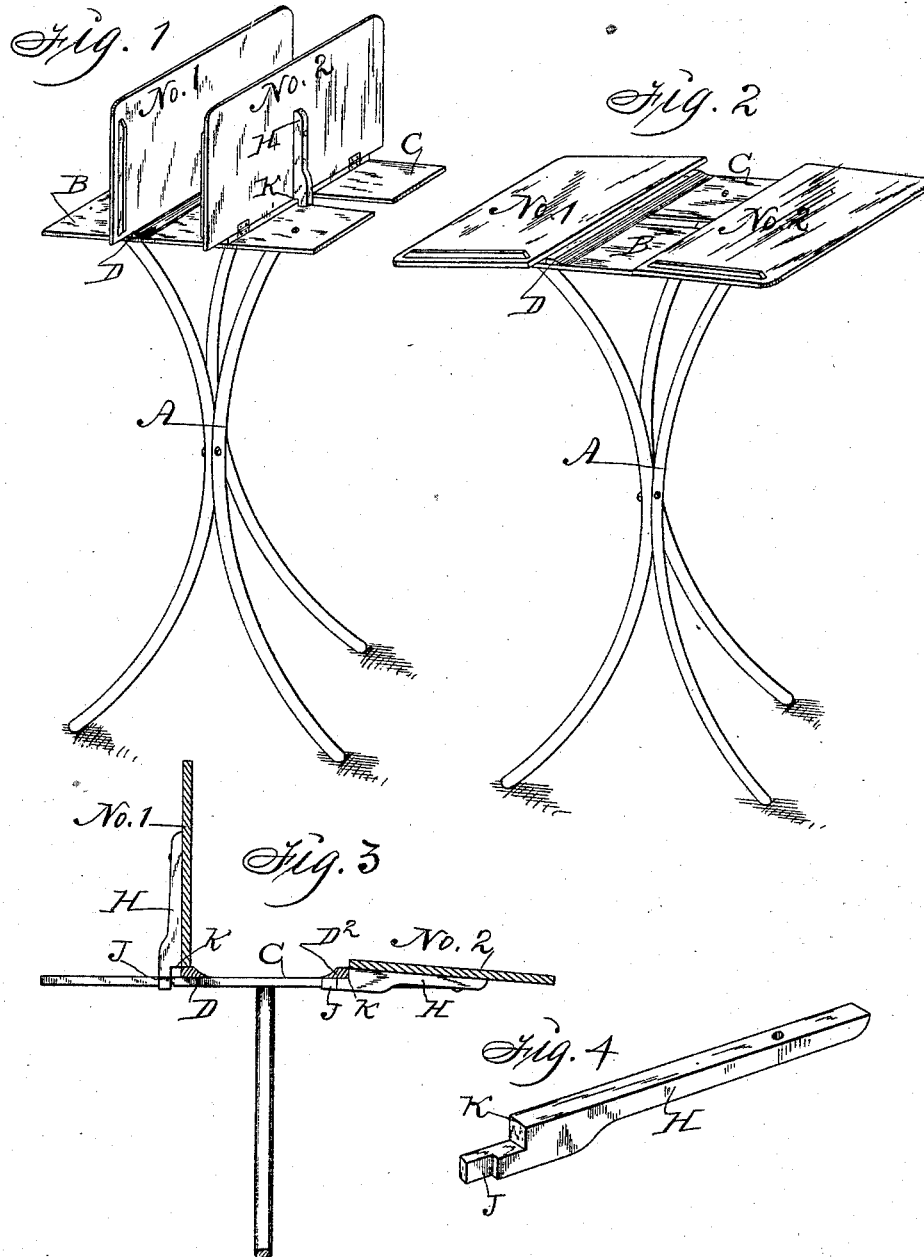


(No Model.)

C. S. BYRKIT.
BOOK HOLDER.

No. 488,983.

Patented Jan. 3, 1893.



Witnesses:
W. S. Sankey,
R. H. Orwig,

Inventor: C. S. Byrkit,
By Thomas G. Orwig, Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHRISTIAN S. BYRKIT, OF DES MOINES, IOWA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO
LEW C. SMITH, OF SAME PLACE.

BOOK-HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 488,983, dated January 3, 1893.

Application filed December 21, 1891. Serial No. 415,831. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHRISTIAN S. BYRKIT, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Des Moines, in the county of Polk and State of Iowa, have invented an Improved Portable Book-Holder, of which the following is a specification.

My object is to provide a simple, light, convenient and cheap book holder adapted to support a book closed, when not in use, and open at the side of a person seated in a chair as required to facilitate the use of the book for reference or for reading.

My invention consists in the device composed of parts permanently connected as hereinafter set forth, pointed out in my claim, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my invention showing the adjustable parts in position as required to hold a book when closed. Fig. 2 is a corresponding view showing it in an open position. Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view showing the position of one of the hinged wings supported in a vertical position by means of a gravitating latch pivoted thereto, and the other hinged wing in a horizontal position and the latch pivoted thereto in position as required to brace the wing to support a book in an open position. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of one of the latches.

A represents a stand, preferably composed of three pieces to produce a light tripod, and connected at their contiguous central portions by means of a block and screws, as shown, or in any suitable way, and connected at their tops by means of wooden boards B and C fixed thereto in parallel position and pieces of molding D and D² fixed on top of the boards and also in parallel position to produce a platform adapted to support a book. It is immaterial whether the top composed of the pieces B and C is in two parts or one. When a single piece of board is used slots or openings are provided in its end portions to admit the ends of latches as shown in Figs. 1 and 3. To the stand and base thus con-

structed wooden wings Nos. 1 and 2 corresponding in size and shape with the covers of a book are hinged to the outer edges of the parallel cross-pieces D and D² in such a manner that they can be readily adjusted to project in vertical planes to clasp a closed book, and also turned down to extend in horizontal planes to support an open book. To each hinged wing is pivoted, on the outside and central portion thereof, a gravitating latch H that has a shoulder J extending across one side at its lower end and adapted to engage the inner edge of the board B as required to retain the wing in a vertical position. On the inner edge and lower portion of the latches are shoulders K adapted to engage the outer edges of the cross pieces D and D², when the wings are in a horizontal plane, as shown by the position of one of the wings and latches in Fig. 3. A simple portable device is thus provided that can be readily adjusted as required to support an open book or to retain a book closed and supported in a convenient position for opening and using the book without handling it. In placing a book upon the support the back of the book is extended between the two parallel cross pieces D and D² and the hinged wings and then retained there, open or closed as may be desired.

I claim as my invention—

An improved portable book holder, comprising a stand having a flat top and openings in the end portions of the top to admit latches, wings hinged in parallel position across the central portion of the flat top, a latch pivoted to the under side and central portion of each wing and provided with a shoulder at the side of its bottom or free end adapted to engage the edge of an opening in the fixed top, and a shoulder at its bottom and inner edge also adapted to engage a portion of the fixed top, in the manner set forth for the purposes stated.

C. S. BYRKIT.

Witnesses:

A. L. CARPER,
D. W. JOHNSON.