J. MONAGHAN.
PENCIL-CASE.

No. 185,562.   Patented Dec. 19, 1876.

Fig. 1.   Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Witnesses: Inventor.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH MONAGHAN, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN PENCIL-CASES.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH MONAGHAN, of Brooklyn, Kings county, State of New York, have invented an Improvement in Pencil-Cases, of which the following is a specification:

In the accompanying drawings, in which like letters indicate like parts, Figure 1 is a view of a pencil closed up for carriage; Fig. 2, the same extended for use; and Fig. 3 a cross-section, showing its internal structure.

This invention relates to ornamental pencil-cases; and consists of a shell or casing formed from a single piece of natural mineral substance bored through and through, so as to fit upon the barrel of a pencil and expose a smooth, unbroken, and highly ornamental exterior surface.

Mechanical pencils, such as have means for propelling the marking-lead into and out of a protecting-case, have had the exposed surface of said case ornamented in various ways.

It has long been common to chase, engrave, or otherwise provide an ornamental pattern upon the exterior metal surface of such pencils. An external finish has also been given to such pencils by providing them with covering-sleeves of rubber and bone, but these materials present a plain appearance, and, while useful as a structure, because they present a non-corrosive handling-surface, are less ornamental than the patterned metal surface.

An entire surface of pearl has also been provided, by attaching strips of pearl together so as to form a circular shell, whose exterior shall present a highly-ornamental surface. And polygonal pencil barrels have had strips of mother of pearl affixed to their external surface, so as to present alternate stripes of pearl and metal.

The merchantability of these pencils has thus come to depend upon the ornamental effects given to their exterior cases or shells.

In producing my article, I provide the ordinary construction of pencil with a barrel or case, which I form from a mineral substance, those having strata or viens of contrasting colors—as beryl, cornelian, blood-stone, agate, and other materials such as are ordinarily set as jewelry, being selected. These I bore with an opening which shall fit the pencil-stock, and I dress the surface so as to present a circular or polygonal surface as may be desired. The cutting operation is accomplished in like manner to that performed by lapidaries in fashioning like materials into buttons and fanciful shapes for articles of jewelry.

A pencil-case thus constructed presents a hard smooth wearing-surface, which will not corrode or oxidize, and which from the nature of the material composing it will present a varied and beautiful pattern which will resist wear and exposure. The highest ornamentation is thus secured without expense in its structure, as is the case where strips of material are required to secure the desired effects, and an article of manufacture is produced which exceeds in its beauty of surface-finish any pencil known to the market at the present time, and one which is readily distinguishable from pencils made of rubber, bone, or similar material.

The drawings illustrate, in Fig. 1, a barrel or case, composed of blood-stone; and in Fig. 2, one made of agate; but the invention contemplates the use of any mineral substance whose composition presents contrasting surfaces.

What I claim is—

As a new article of manufacture, an ornamental pencil case or barrel, consisting of a natural mineral body in a single piece, bored through and through, and so as to expose a patterned exterior surface, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOSEPH MONAGHAN.

Witnesses:
  WILLIAM C. MARION,
  THOMAS FLYNN.