M. M. MACDONALD.
Sponge-Cup.

No. 196,983. Patented Nov. 13, 1877.

Fig. 4

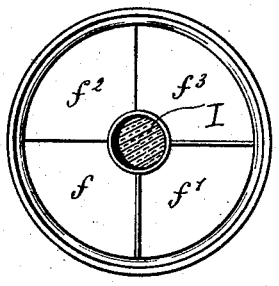


Fig. 2

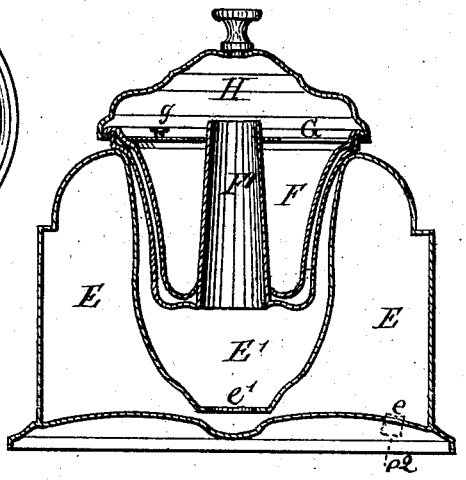


Fig. 3

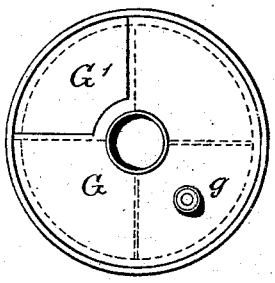
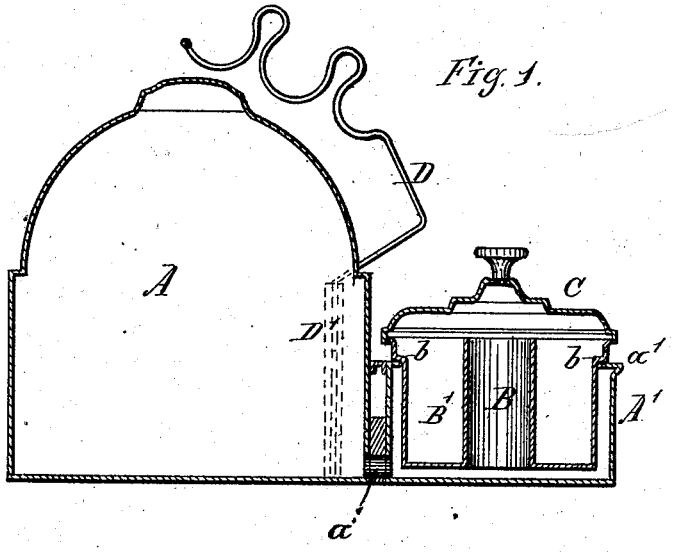


Fig. 1.



Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MANVILL M. MACDONALD, OF SYRACUSE, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN SPONGE-CUPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **196,983**, dated November 13, 1877; application filed June 25, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MANVILL M. MACDONALD, of Syracuse, in the county of Onondaga and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Sponge-Cups; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a vertical section of a combined inkstand and sponge-cup embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical section, showing another arrangement. Fig. 3 is a plan or top view of the ink and sponge holder of Fig. 2, having the cover and the pen-guard removed; and Fig. 4 is a detached view of the pen-guard.

A is the water-holder or tank, connected with a smaller water holder or cup, A′, by means of a throat, *a*. The parts A A′ may be round, square, or other suitable form. *a′* is a flange projecting inwardly from the upper edge of the water holder or socket A′. B′ is a cup designed to contain ink, and suspended within socket A′ by a shoulder, *b*, which rests upon the flange *a′*. B is a tubular sponge-receiver arranged centrally within the ink-cup B′ and made open top and bottom. C is a cover to exclude dirt from the sponge and ink when desired. D represents one leg of a pen-support, one of which is mounted in a socket, D′, on each side of the tank A, as is indicated in dotted lines.

It will be readily seen that if tank A be filled with water, (as can readily be done by taking out the ink-cup and tipping the tank up until water poured in socket A′ will run through *a*,) and the parts then placed in the position shown, the water will flow from the tank into the socket until it rises in the socket above the upper line of the throat, when the flow will cease until, by evaporation or otherwise, it falls in the socket below the upper line of throat *a*, when more water will pass from the tank into the socket, and so on, thus keeping a constant supply in the socket and sponge until the tank is emptied. In Figs. 2, 3, and 4 I have shown a modification of this part of my invention with some additions.

E is the outer shell of the tank or water-holder, preferably circular in form, and provided at the bottom with a filling-orifice, *e*, and stopper e^2.

E′ is a socket arranged centrally within the shell E, leaving an annular water-space between them, which communicates with the interior of socket E′ through throat e^1.

F F′ represent the ink-cup and sponge-receiver, the ink-cup F being divided into compartments $f\,f^1\,f^2\,f^3$ by suitable partitions, the design being to put different kinds of ink into three of these compartments, the fourth one being closed on top. The outer wall of this cup may be made double, as shown, or single, as may be preferred.

Another advantage possessed by my construction is this: when the cover H is in place the evaporation of water from the sponge will keep the air under the cover saturated with moisture, and thus prevent the ink from drying up.

G represents a pen-guard, circular in form, to fit accurately the upper edge of the ink-cup, and having a hole to pass over the sponge-receiver F.

G′ is an opening in this pen-guard, corresponding substantially in size and form to the upper parts of the ink-compartments $f\,f^1\,f^2$. *g* is a knob or thumb-piece attached to the pen-guard to turn it around upon the sponge-receiver.

It will be seen that by moving the opening G′ from one ink-compartment to another, ink can be taken from either of them at will, but from only one of them at a time, while by moving this opening over the space f^3 dirt will be excluded from the ink, even though the cover H be left off. When preferred, however, all four compartments may be used for ink.

It will be readily seen that if the water-space between the outer shell E and the socket E′ be filled through the opening *e*, and the stopper e^1 put in, and the parts turned right-side up, water will flow into the lower part of said socket through throat e^1, and that there will be a small quantity kept there until the supply in the tank is exhausted. Thus the sponge I in both constructions will be kept wetted, and may be used for wiping pens upon.

It will also be seen that socket A′ or E′ may

be used as a sponge-receiver under many circumstances where a wetted sponge is required, on counting-room desks or cashiers' desks, where a person desires to wet or dampen his fingers frequently, and in such cases my construction will be found very convenient, from the fact that only a small quantity of water will run into the bottom of either socket at a time; hence the upper part of the sponge will contain at all times a uniform amount of moisture; hence I do not wish to be limited to putting the sponge in the receiver B or F.

I do not claim, broadly, the construction of tank and socket shown in Fig. 1, yet I believe that I am the first to combine a sponge with a water-tank and a sponge-receiver under the arrangement shown, whereby the distance which the sponge lifts the water by capillary attraction, and consequently the amount of moisture in the upper part of the sponge, is substantially the same whether the tank be filled with water or be nearly empty.

What I claim is—

1. The combination, with the water-tank, of the socket, the ink-cup, and the sponge-receiver, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination of a circular ink-cup divided into compartments, a sponge-receiver arranged centrally of the ink-cup, and a pen-guard, G, having a central opening, and surrounding and rotating about the sponge-receiver, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination, with the ink-cup and the sponge-receiver, of the cover inclosing both the ink-cup and the sponge, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

MANVILL M. MACDONALD.

Witnesses:

CHAS. G. ROBINSON,

WM. R. MILLER.