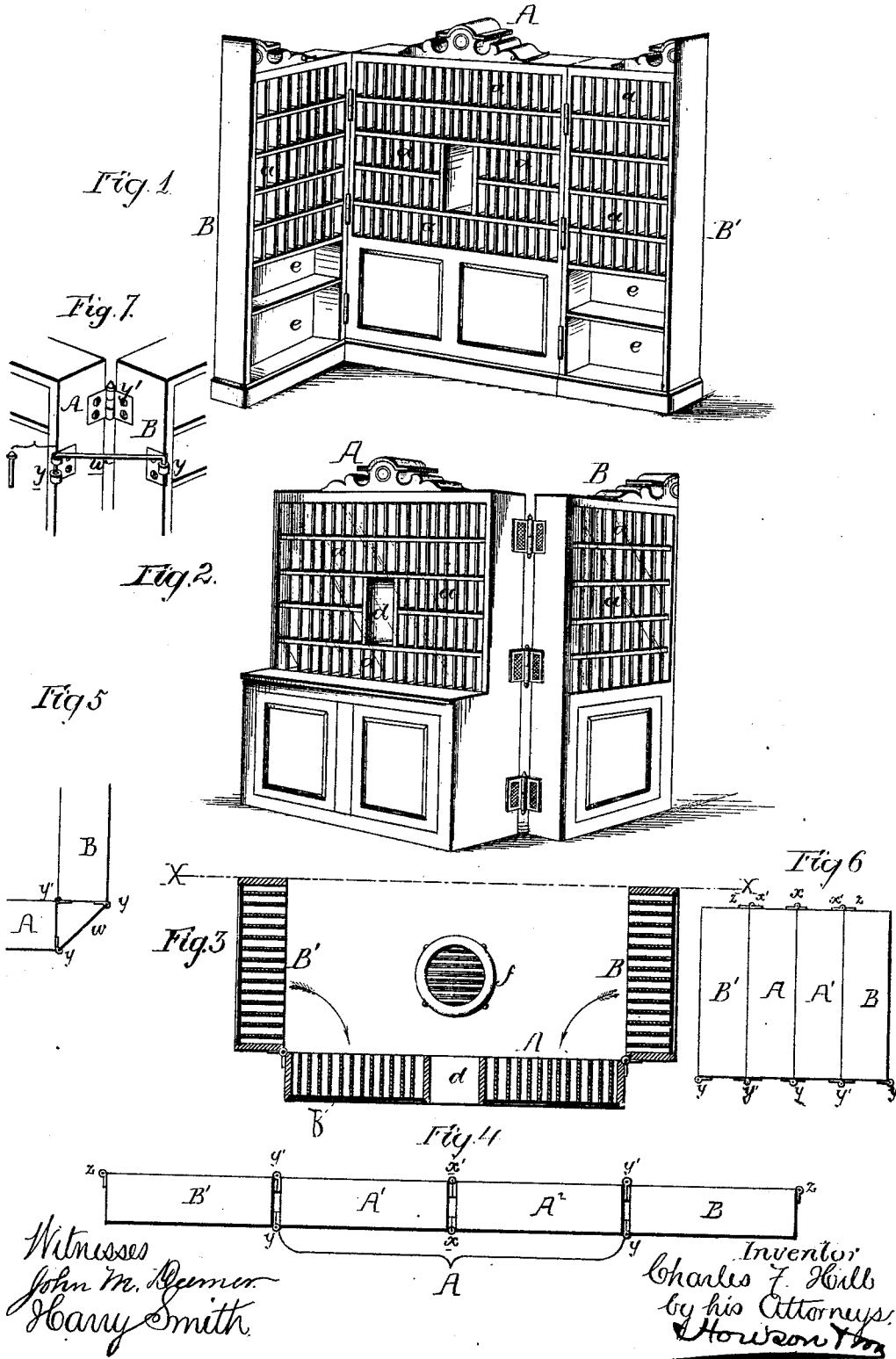


C. F. HILL.
Book-Case.

No. 197,132.

Patented Nov. 13, 1877.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES F. HILL, OF HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN BOOK-CASES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **197,132**, dated November 13, 1877; application filed June 25, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES F. HILL, of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Book-Cases, of which the following is a specification:

My invention relates to an improvement in book-cases intended especially for the use of circulating or Sunday-school libraries; the object of the invention being to so construct the case that it can, when not in use, be so folded together as to protect the books and occupy but little room, and, when in use, be arranged so as to seclude the librarian and bring the books under his convenient control.

This object I attain in the manner which I will now proceed to describe, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figures 1 and 2 are perspective views of my improved book-case in different positions; Fig. 3, a sectional plan of Fig. 2; and Figs. 4, 5, and 6, diagrams illustrating another form of my improved book-case, Fig. 7 being a perspective view showing the loose bolt-hinges and brace.

The book-case shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3 consists of a central section, A, and end sections B and B', the latter being hinged to the former at the rear edge of the same, and each being of a length equal to half the length of the central section.

The upper portion of each section of the case is divided by a series of horizontal and vertical partitions into a number of small compartments, *a*, each intended to receive a book, and each numbered to correspond with the number of the book for which it is the receptacle. In front of these compartments each section is glazed, as at *b*, so that, as the books are arranged within the compartments with their backs to the front, the numbers and titles of the books can be readily discerned. About the center of the section A an opening, *d*, extending completely through the section, is formed, for a purpose described hereinafter. In the lower portion of each section are formed, in the present instance, compartments *e e*, of a larger size than those above, for the reception of books, papers, &c.

I prefer to make the compartment *e* in the sections B B' accessible from the inside and those in the section A from the outside of the

case; but this arrangement may be varied as circumstances may suggest, and, in some cases, the entire area of each section may be divided into compartments *a* of the character described.

In using the above-described book-case, the section A is arranged some distance from the wall X, and parallel with the same, and the end sections are then turned so as to assume a position at right angles to the section A, as shown in Fig. 3, the three sections thus serving, with the wall, to inclose a space for occupancy by the librarian, who, when seated upon the chair or stool *f*, has all of the volumes in the case within easy control, and whose duties are not interfered with by those desiring to obtain the books, communication between whom and the librarian can only be had through the opening *d*, through which books are received or returned.

When the book-case is not in use the sections B B' may be folded in upon the section A in the direction of the arrow, Fig. 3, the books being then entirely inclosed within the case, and thereby protected from injury by dust, &c., while the case itself is compact, and may be stored away until again required, without occupying unnecessary room.

It is not absolutely essential that the case should consist of three sections only. Thus, in Fig. 4 I have divided the central section A into two sections, A¹ and A². In this case I connect the sections A¹ and A² together by means of two sets of loose bolt-hinges, *x* and *x'*, one set at the front edge and the other set at the rear edges of the sections. Thus, when the sections are in line, as in Fig. 4, the bolts of both sets of hinges may be inserted, and the two sections thereby firmly held in position in a straight line, but by withdrawing the bolts of either set of hinges *x x'* the cases may be folded in either direction.

In some cases I provide the sections B and B' and central section with two sets of similar loose bolt-hinges, *y y'*, with the view not only of holding the sections in line, as in Fig. 4, but of permitting the use of a rod, *w*, so as to brace the sections when they are in the position shown in Figs. 5 and 7.

When the case is made in four sections the opposite halves of a loose bolt-hinge, Y, may be secured to the rear of the outer edges of

the sections B B', so that when the case is folded into the condition shown in Fig. 6 these halves z may be combined with the halves of the hinge x' of the central section, and thus permit the locking of the sections in position by the insertion of the hinge-bolts.

I prefer to mount the different sections of the case upon casters, in order to facilitate the movements of the sections independent of each other, or the movement of the complete case when folded.

The central section A of the case may be provided with more than one opening, d , if desired; but one will be found to be sufficient in most cases.

I claim as my invention—

1. A book-case composed of a number of sections, each section having a glazed front, through which the titles of the books can be observed, and open at the back, and one sec-

tion having an opening, d , the said sections being hinged together and combined, as set forth, so that they can form an inclosure or part of an inclosure, from which books can be handed through the opening, all as set forth.

2. The combination of the end sections B B' with a central section, A, made in two parts, A¹ and A², connected together by two sets of loose bolt-hinges, $x x'$, as specified.

3. The combination of the central section A and end section B or B' with the two sets of loose bolt-hinges $y y'$, and brace w , as described.

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

CHARLES F. HILL.

Witnesses:

JOHN A. BARTON,
C. BACHMAN.