

July 22, 1924.

1,502,236

M. M. DONDO

MARIONETTE

Filed July 1, 1922

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1,

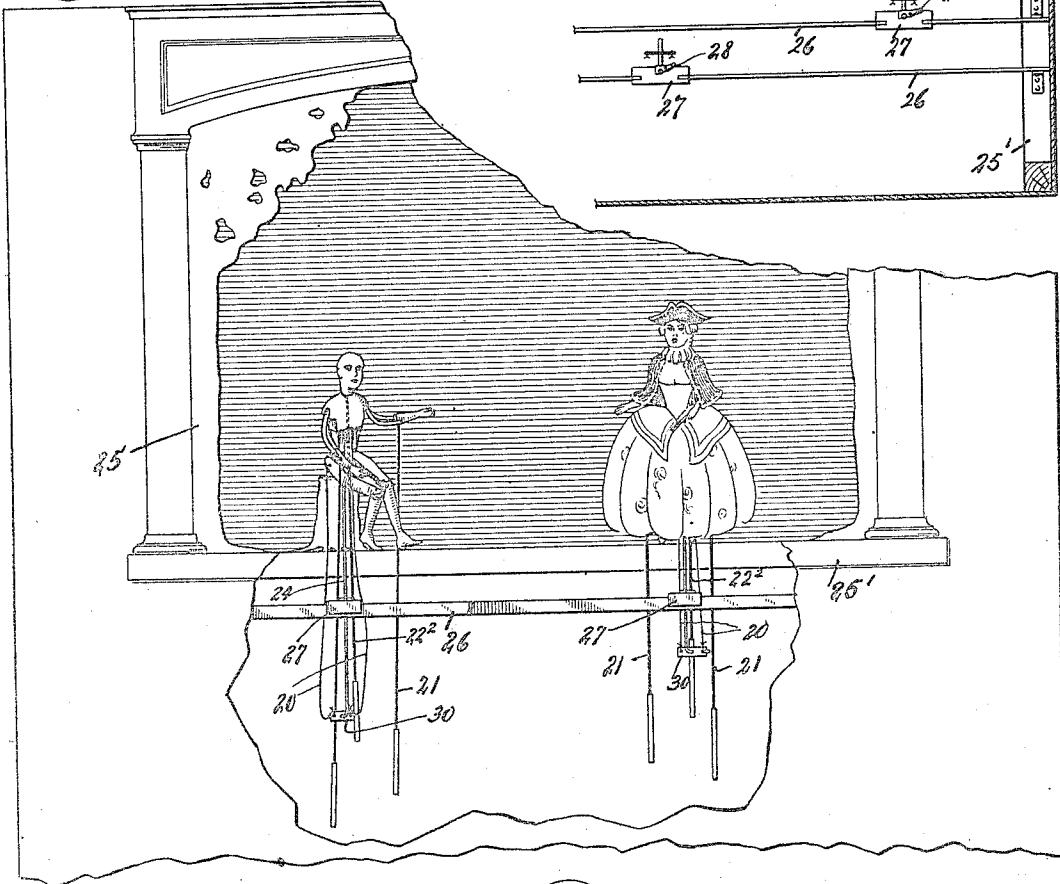


Fig. 2,

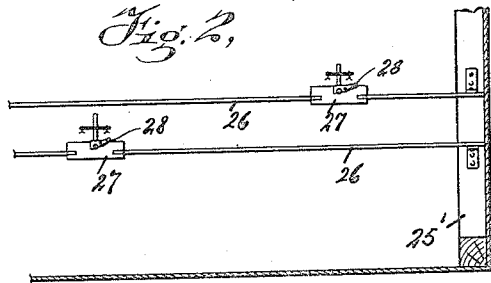


Fig. 3,

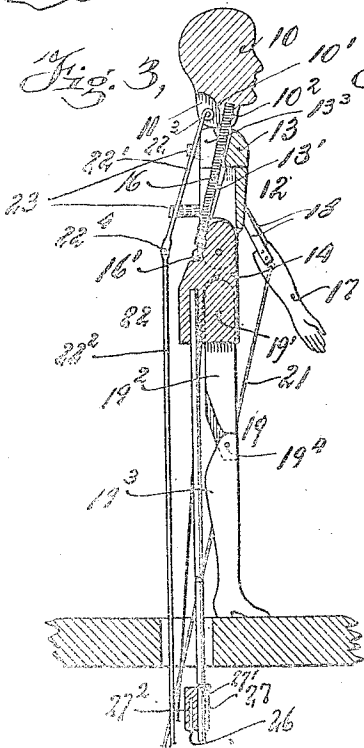


Fig. 4,

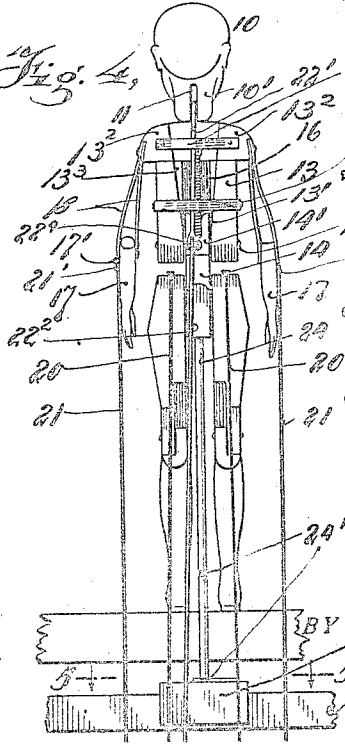


Fig. 5,

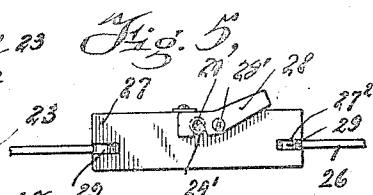
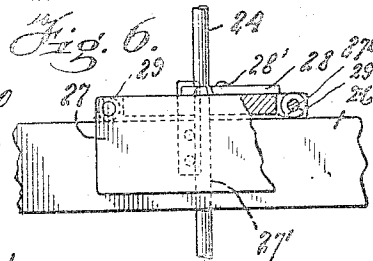


Fig. 6,



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Fig. 1,

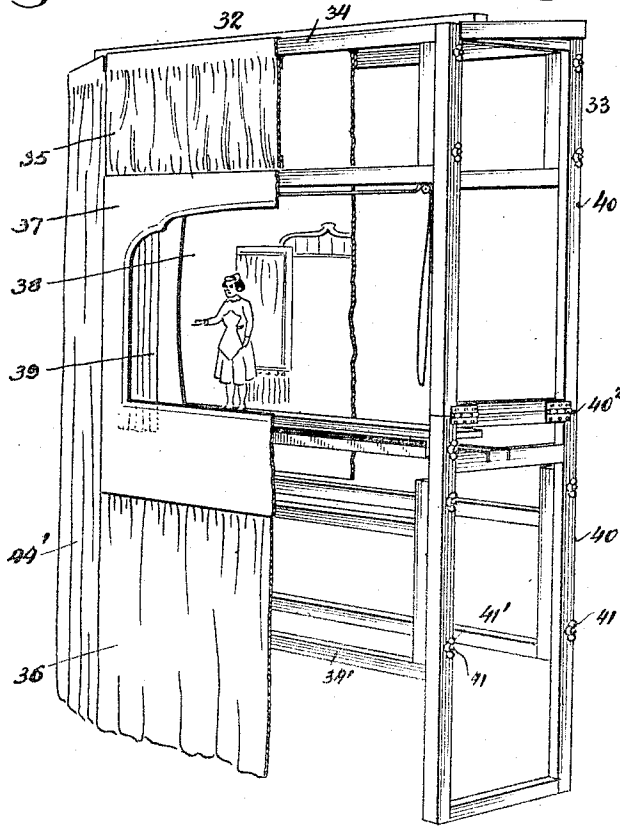


Fig. 9,

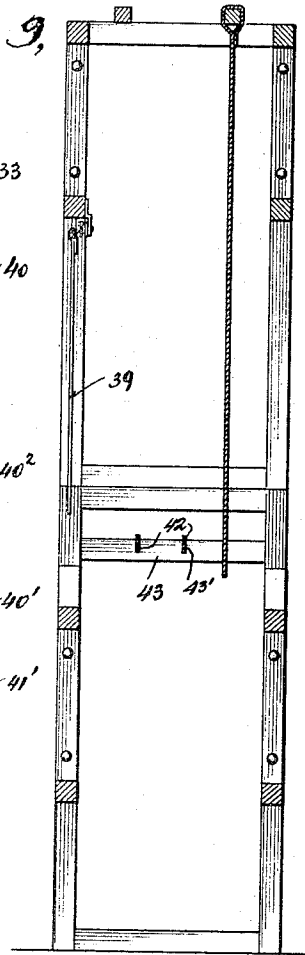


Fig. 8,

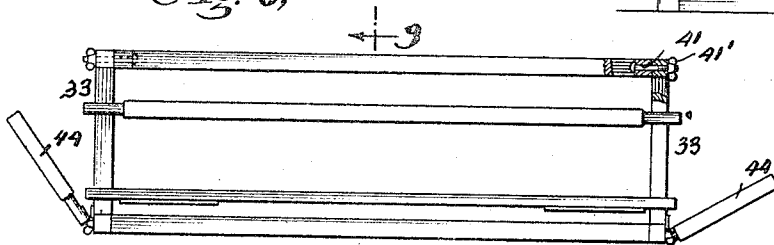
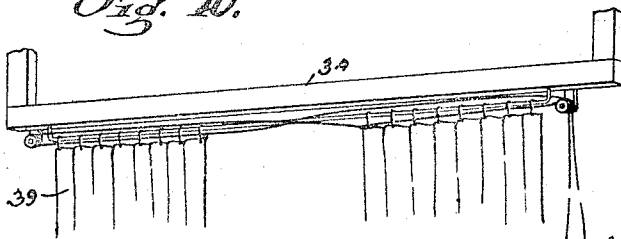


Fig. 10,



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Fig. 11,

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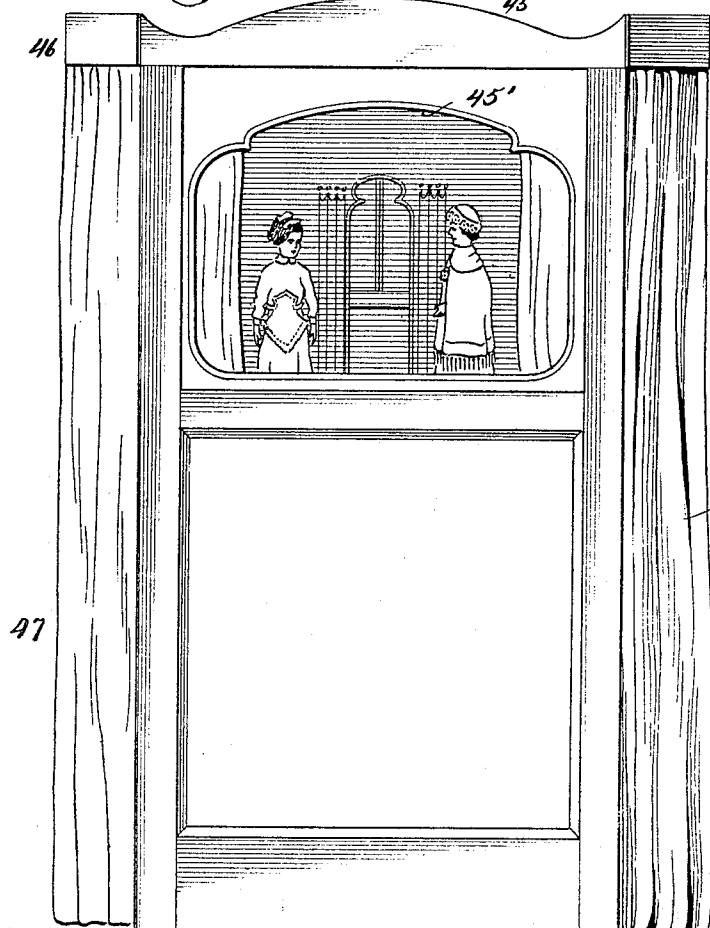
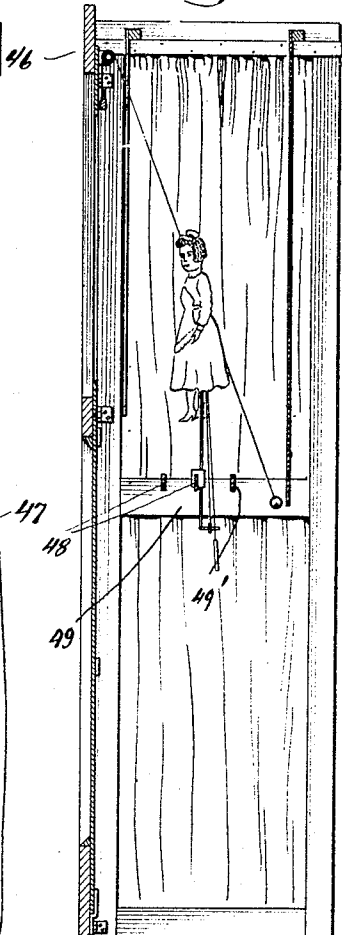
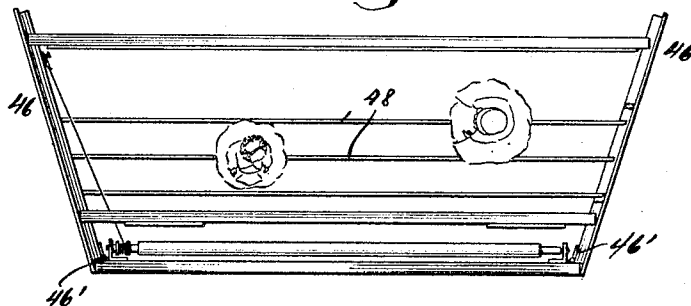


Fig. 12,



12

Fig. 13.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MATHURIN M. DONDO, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

MARIONETTE

Application filed July 1, 1922. Serial No. 572,318.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MATHURIN M. DONDO, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Marionettes, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to marionettes or figures of the kind described in my previous Patents #1,350,711 of Aug. 24, 1920 and #1,400,532 of Dec. 20, 1921, and to means for supporting the same on a stage.

One of the objects of this invention is to provide an improved construction of marionettes whereby the articulation of the different organs will be rendered very effective and affords a graceful reproduction of human actions and emotions.

Another object is to support the marionette on the stage so that the same can be easily and conveniently moved and turned on the stage and in such manner that the means of support will be concealed from view of the audience.

With these and other objects in view my invention consists in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts as will be hereinafter more fully described and defined in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawing in which similar reference characters denote corresponding parts Fig. 1 is a front view of a stage partly broken away and showing marionettes supported thereon according to my invention; Fig. 2 is a sectional plan view of the supports on the stage; Fig. 3 is a vertical section of a marionette; Fig. 4 is a rear elevation of a marionette; Fig. 5 is an enlarged section of a support on line 5—5 of Fig. 4; Fig. 6 is an enlarged elevation of said support; Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a stage showing the latter partly broken away; Fig. 8 is a top plan view thereof partly in section; Fig. 9 a vertical section of the stage on line 9—9 of Fig. 8; Fig. 10 is a perspective view of an upper part of the stage from which the curtain is suspended; Fig. 11 is a front elevation of a modified construction of the stage; Fig. 12 a vertical section thereof on line 12—12 of Fig. 11, and Fig. 13 a top plan view thereof.

With the marionette or figure according to this invention the head 10 has a vertical slot 11 in the rear of the neck portion 10'

of the head. The trunk 12 is composed of two sections 13 and 14 of which section 14 has a reduced tongue shaped portion 14' engaging a recess 13' of the other section 14 and is pivotally connected to the latter through a pin 15. The neck portion 10' at its lower end is substantially spherically rounded to movably bear on the trunk section 13. A spring coil 16 engages with one end a slightly slanting bore 10² provided in the neck portion 10' of the head and is suitably fastened therein. This spring coil projects through the recess 13' of the trunk portion 13 and is fastened with its other end as at 16' to the trunk portion 14. Not only does this spring yieldingly and resiliently join the head 10 to the trunk 13, but it also acts on the trunk section 13 tending to hold the same in alinement with the trunk section 14. The trunk section 13 is widened at its upper end so as to form shoulders 13². The arms 17 are attached to said shoulders at 17' through flexible means such as straps 18 or the like. The legs 19 are pivoted at 19' to the trunk section 14 and are each composed of two sections 19², 19³ which are pivotally joined together at 19⁴ and at these joints are so shaped as to permit the lower sections to swing only rearwardly a limited extent, substantially as with the construction described in my previous Patent No. 1,400,532 issued Dec. 20, 1921. Suitably attached to the upper sections 19² of the legs above their pivotal points are flexible means, such as cords, wires 20 or the like which extend downwardly and serve for the manipulation of said legs. For the manipulation of the arms 17 I provide rigid means, such as wires or rods 21 which are pivotally attached to the rigid parts of said arms as at 21' and adapted to freely extend downwardly. For the manipulation of the head I provide a rod 22 or the like of rigid material, but made in two sections 22', 22². The upper section 22' engages the slot 11 in the neck portion of the head and is pivotally secured therein as at 22³. The two sections 22', 22² are pivoted together as at 22⁴ and the lower section is adapted to freely extend downwardly. The upper section 13 of the trunk is hollowed at its back as at 13³, and the upper section 22' of said rod being capable of extending through said hollow and of moving or swinging laterally in said hollow, when dur-

ing the manipulation of the head the latter is turned sidewise. To limit the rearward swinging movement of said section 22', members 23 are fixed to the trunk to extend across said hollow. Owing to the sectional construction of the rod 22 and the guiding of the upper section 22' thereof in the hollow the lower section 22² during the manipulation of the head, as for instance the up and down movement of the latter may be held at an angle to the upper section, which may be found to be more convenient than the vertical position. The manipulation of the different organs is substantially the same as in the aforementioned patents.

For the support of the marionette on the stage to render its operation easy, convenient and effective, I provide the following construction:—

Fixed to and suspended from the lower trunk section 14 is a rigid substantially cylindrical rod 24 formed on its circumference with a plurality of superposed annular grooves 24'.

Below the floor of the stage 25 or sill 25' thereof, I provide one or more guides or bases 26 in form of bars placed on edge and extending across the stage. These bars are suitably fixed at their ends to stationary parts 25² of the stage (Fig. 2). Straddling these bars 26 are slotted slides or blocks 27, one for each marionette. Each block is provided with a vertical bore 27' through which the rod 24 of the marionette is adapted to pass freely. Fulcrumed at 28' on the block 27 is a spring actuated hook-shaped finger 28 which is adapted to engage a groove 24' of the rod and to lock the latter against longitudinal or vertical movement while permitting it to turn on its axis, (Figs. 5 and 6).

Thus the figure can be adjusted to and maintained at various heights from the floor of the stage or in a sitting position and be permitted at the same time to be turned around the axis of the rod. The blocks 27 and bars 26 are concealed from view through the opening 25² in the stage.

Inside of the slot 27² of the block small rollers or wheels 29 may be provided which facilitate the movement of the blocks 27 on their guides or bases 26.

The lower ends of the cords or wires 20 may be connected by a rigid cross piece 30 which serves as a common grasp for said wires and facilitates the manipulation thereof, (Fig. 1).

The stage 31 according to this invention is made collapsible. It comprises a screen like structure composed of a front piece 32 and side pieces 33. The front piece according to modification shown in Figs. 7-10, may be composed of open frames 34, 34' to be covered by upper and lower aprons 35, 36 and a middle rigid or semi-rigid piece 37

of cardboard or the like, formed with the stage opening 38. The pull curtain 39 for said stage opening is suspended in the usual manner from the upper frame 34. The sides of said stage structure are each composed of superposed sections 40, 40' hinged or otherwise collapsibly joined together at 40² and adapted to be detachably fixed in unfolded position to the front 32 by screw bolts 41 and thumb nuts 41', as shown in Figs. 7 and 8. The guides or supports 42 for the marionettes are removably supported in grooves 43' formed in cross bars 43 fixed to the lower sections 40' of the sides 33 of the stage. 44 are horizontal arms pivoted or otherwise rotatably attached to the upper ends of the sides 33 and serving for the attachment of side aprons 44'. The appearance of the stage from the front, both in size and shape, can be changed by adjusting the angle of the arms 44.

According to the modification shown in Figs. 11-13, the front 45 of the stage is a solid piece having the stage opening 45' and the sides 46 are in form of open frames hinged or otherwise foldably or collapsibly joined to the front piece, as at 46' and are covered by aprons 47 or the like.

The supports 48 for the marionettes are removably borne in grooves 49' provided in cross bars 49 of said side frames 46.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. The combination with a stage, of a guide, a marionette or figure and means for movably supporting the latter on said guide, including a slide and a member carrying said figure and rotatably borne and vertically adjustable in said slide.

2. The combination with a stage, of a guide, arranged below the floor surface of said stage, a marionette, a slide on said guide, means carrying said marionette and rotatably borne and vertically adjustable in said slide and means for holding said marionette in adjusted vertical position, while permitting it to be turned horizontally.

3. The combination with a stage, of a stationary guide below the floor space of said stage, a marionette, a rigid member carrying said marionette, means slidably engaging said guide and adjustably and rotatably bearing said rigid member and means for locking said rigid member against vertical displacement in said slide.

4. The combination with a stage, of a guide or base, a marionette, a rigid member carrying the latter and a support in which said rigid member is rotatably borne and which slidably engages said base, said rigid member being vertically adjustable in said support.

5. The combination with a stage, of a base, a marionette or figure comprising a

trunk portion, a support slidably bearing on said base, a rigid member carrying said trunk portion and rotatably borne and vertically adjustable in said support.

5 6. The combination with a stage, of a stationary base below the floor space of said stage, a marionette or figure comprising a trunk portion, a support slidably bearing on said base, a rigid member attached to said trunk portion and rotatably borne and ver-

10 tically adjustable in said support.

7. The combination with a stage, of a guide extending below the floor space of said stage, a marionette or figure, a rigid sup-

15 port therefor, a slide slidably engaging said bar and in which said trunk portion is ro-

tatably borne and capable of being adjusted vertically.

8. The combination with a stage, of a stationary guide below the floor space of said stage, a marionette, a rigid member carrying said marionette, a slide mounted on said guide and in which said member is rotatably borne and means for locking said member in said slide in different posi-

25 tions of height.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

MATHURIN M. DONDO.

Witnesses:

THELMA BUETTNER,
JOSEPH T. McMAHON.