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CHEST OR SIMILAR RECEPTACLE

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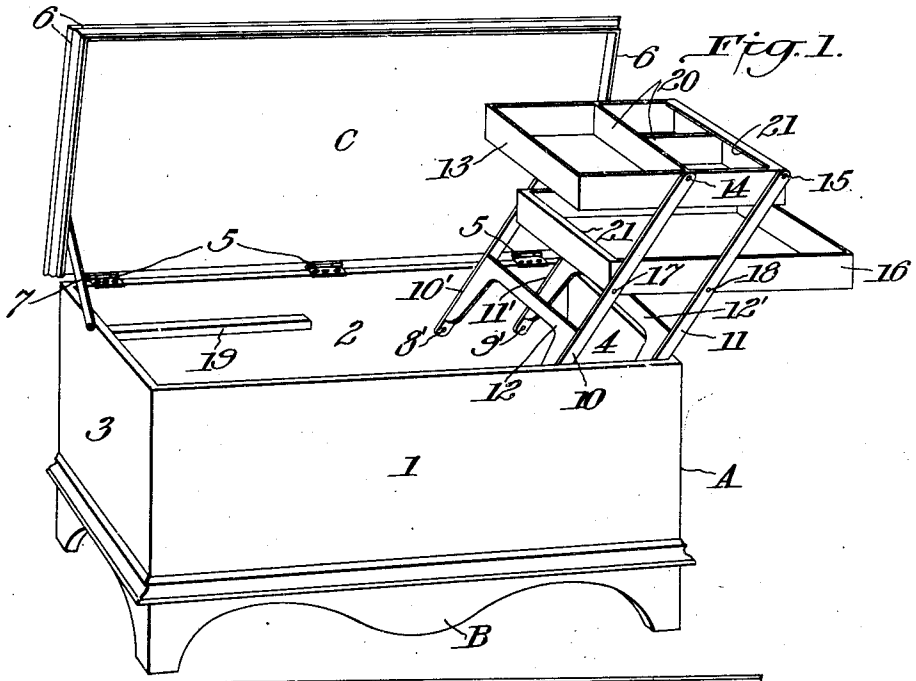

Fig. 1.

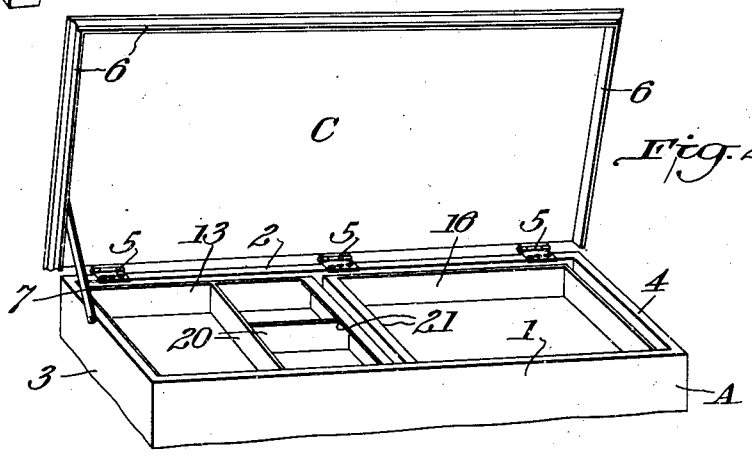

Fig. 2.

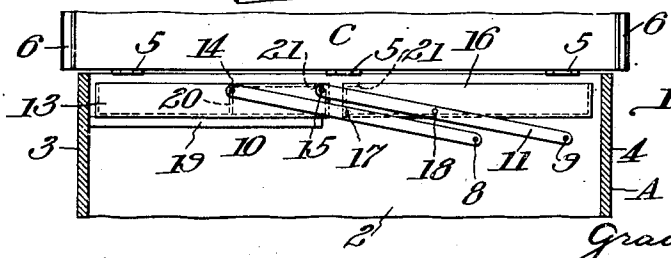

Fig. 3.

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CHEST OR SIMILAR RECEPTACLE

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9 Claims. (Cl. 217—5)

This invention relates to chests and similar receptacles and particularly to an arrangement or assembly of trays for such chests.

One object of the invention is to provide trays so mounted with respect to the body of the chest that when within the chest they will be in substantially side-to-side horizontal alinement adjacent to the open top thereof, and when they are lifted from the chest they will be supported adjacent to an end thereof in such manner as to afford relatively unobstructed access to their contents and to the contents of the chest.

Another object of the invention is to provide simple means for grasping the trays so that they may be moved readily from one position to another.

The invention comprises a chest or similar receptacle having a body and a tray assembly comprising trays interconnected by means providing a parallel link or similar suitable motion whereby the trays when positioned within the chest body will lie in substantially side-to-side horizontal alinement and when lifted from the chest will assume a position in spaced superposed relation substantially beyond and adjacent, preferably, to one end of the chest body; and the invention consists, further, in certain structural details hereinafter more fully explained.

In the accompanying drawing illustrating the invention, in the several figures of which like parts are similarly designated,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a chest or similar receptacle embodying the features of the invention, and showing the trays moved to their position exteriorly of the chest body;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary perspective view similar to Fig. 1 but showing the trays in position within the chest body, and

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary view with the front of the chest removed, and showing the trays in the same position as in Fig. 2.

In the embodiment illustrated, the chest comprises a body A having a front wall 1, back wall 2, end walls 3 and 4, and a bottom, a suitable base B of ornamental or other appropriate character, and a lid C hinged to the back wall 2 as indicated at 5, and provided, if desired, with an ornamental or other skirt molding 6, and having the usual brace or support 7.

Pivotally attached at their inner ends at 8, 8' and 9, 9' to the front wall 1 and back wall 2, respectively, of the chest body A are similar link members 10, 10' and 11, 11' of a parallel link motion, the link members of which are braced by spreaders or struts 12 and 12'.

A tray 13 is pivotally connected, preferably adjacent to the upper edges of two of its sides, to the outer ends of the link members 10, 10' and 11, 11', the connections with the members 10 and 11 being indicated at 14 and 15, respectively, and a somewhat similar tray 16 is pivotally connected, preferably adjacent to the lower edges of two of its sides, to the link members 10, 10' and 11, 11', the connections to the members 10 and 11 being substantially at the median portions of the latter as indicated at 17 and 18. Similar stop members or rests 19 are provided preferably upon the front wall and back wall of the chest body, the rear one only being shown.

The trays 13 and 16 may be of any desired form, and they may be provided with appropriate partitions 20 to furnish separate storage spaces (see tray 13), or they may be plain (see tray 16), and either tray, but preferably both, may have at one side an overhanging lip or flange 21 which may be grasped by the hand to move the tray assembly comprising the parallel link motion and trays, so that the trays may be positioned within the chest body, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, or removed therefrom, as shown in Fig. 1.

It will be noted by reference to Figs. 2 and 3 that when the tray assembly is moved to position within the chest body, the tray 13 comes to rest upon and is supported by the stops or rests 19 and the pivotal connections of the two trays with the link members 10, 10' and 11, 11' are such that the trays assume the position of substantially horizontal alinement heretofore referred to, and their dimensions are preferably such that they occupy practically the entire area of the chest opening. It will be seen also, from an inspection of Fig. 1, that when the trays are removed from the chest they assume a position in which they are superposed but are in spaced relation, preferably overhanging one end wall of the chest and supported by contact of the link members 11 and 11' thereagainst. Thus, not only may easy access to the two trays be had at all times, but when they are removed from the chest, as in Fig. 1, access to the contents of the chest itself is practically unobstructed.

Obviously, any part of either of the trays may be grasped for moving them from one position to another, but the lips or flanges 21 facilitate the movement and may readily be grasped for the purpose.

The distribution of the weight of the trays and the angle of inclination of the link members of the parallel motion are such when the trays are in the position of Fig. 1 that the tray assembly

has a tendency to fall away from rather than toward the interior of the chest. The links 11 engage the upper end of the end wall 4 to prevent this outward dropping of the trays, and thus separate stop mechanism is not required for holding the assembly in the raised position.

It will be understood that although the tray assembly is shown as arranged adjacent to the right-hand end wall of the chest, it could be located at the left-hand end wall or at the front wall or back wall of the chest, without departing from the invention so long as the important features of substantial horizontal alinement and spaced superposed relation of the trays when in their two principal positions are maintained.

Various changes and modifications may be made within the spirit of the invention and the intended scope of the claims.

I claim:

1. A tray assembly for chests and similar receptacles, said assembly comprising a pair of spaced sets of parallel link members, said members having means at the inner ends thereof for pivotal connection to the opposed inner walls of a chest, a tray pivotally connected to the outer ends of link members of both sets, and a second tray pivotally connected to link members of both sets at intermediate points thereof so spaced from the pivotal connections of the first tray that said trays may be positioned in horizontal alinement within a chest when said link members are pivotally secured to the walls thereof.

2. A chest comprising four walls and a bottom, a plurality of trays normally positioned in substantially horizontal alinement in the chest, and means supporting said trays for movement from said normal positions into spaced superposed positions, said means comprising parallel motion link members pivotally connected to said trays and to the inner sides of opposite walls of the chest.

3. A chest comprising four walls and a bottom, a pair of spaced sets of parallel link members having their inner ends pivotally attached to the inner sides of opposed walls of the chest, a plurality of trays normally positioned in horizontal alinement in the chest, and pivotal connections between each of said trays and said sets of link members, whereby said trays will be in spaced superposed relation when said trays are elevated into position exteriorly of the chest.

4. A chest as claimed in claim 3, wherein the inner ends of said link members are pivotally attached to the front and rear walls of the chest.

5. A chest as claimed in claim 3, wherein the inner ends of said link members are pivotally attached to the front and rear walls of the chest adjacent one end thereof, whereby the trays are positioned above that end of the chest when raised into elevated position.

6. A chest as claimed in claim 3, wherein said plurality of trays consists of two trays which substantially completely fill the upper interior space of said chest when in lowered position in the same.

7. A chest or similar receptacle having a tray assembly comprising a parallel link motion including pairs of link members pivoted at their inner ends within said chest, a tray pivotally connected to the outer ends of said link members, and a tray pivotally connected to said link members substantially medially of their length, the said trays being normally positioned in side-to-side horizontal alinement in the chest and being positioned in spaced superposed relation by said link members when moved to a position exteriorly of the chest.

8. A chest or similar receptacle provided with a tray assembly comprising a parallel link motion comprising pairs of link members having their inner ends pivotally connected to the front wall and back wall, respectively, of said chest adjacent to one end wall thereof, a tray pivotally connected to the outer ends of said link members, and a tray pivotally connected to said link members substantially medially of their length, the arrangement of said pivotal connections providing side-to-side horizontal positioning of said trays when moved to a position within said chest and a superposed spaced relationship of said trays overhanging the end wall of said chest when moved to a position exteriorly of said chest.

9. A chest or similar receptacle provided with a tray assembly comprising a parallel link motion comprising pairs of link members having their inner ends pivotally connected with the front wall and back wall of said chest adjacent to one end wall thereof, a tray pivotally connected to the outer ends of said link members, and a tray pivotally connected to said link members substantially medially of their length, the arrangement of said pivotal connections providing side-to-side horizontal positioning of said trays when moved to a position within said chest and a superposed spaced relationship of said trays overhanging the end wall of said chest when moved to a position exteriorly of said chest, and a stop member arranged within said chest and adapted to arrest movement of said tray assembly thereinto by engagement with one of said trays, the movement of said tray assembly exteriorly of said chest being limited by engagement of one of said pairs of link members with the adjacent end wall of the chest.

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