

Sept. 1, 1931.

E. J. SITHENS

1,821,279

BOOKHOLDER

Filed April 26, 1929

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

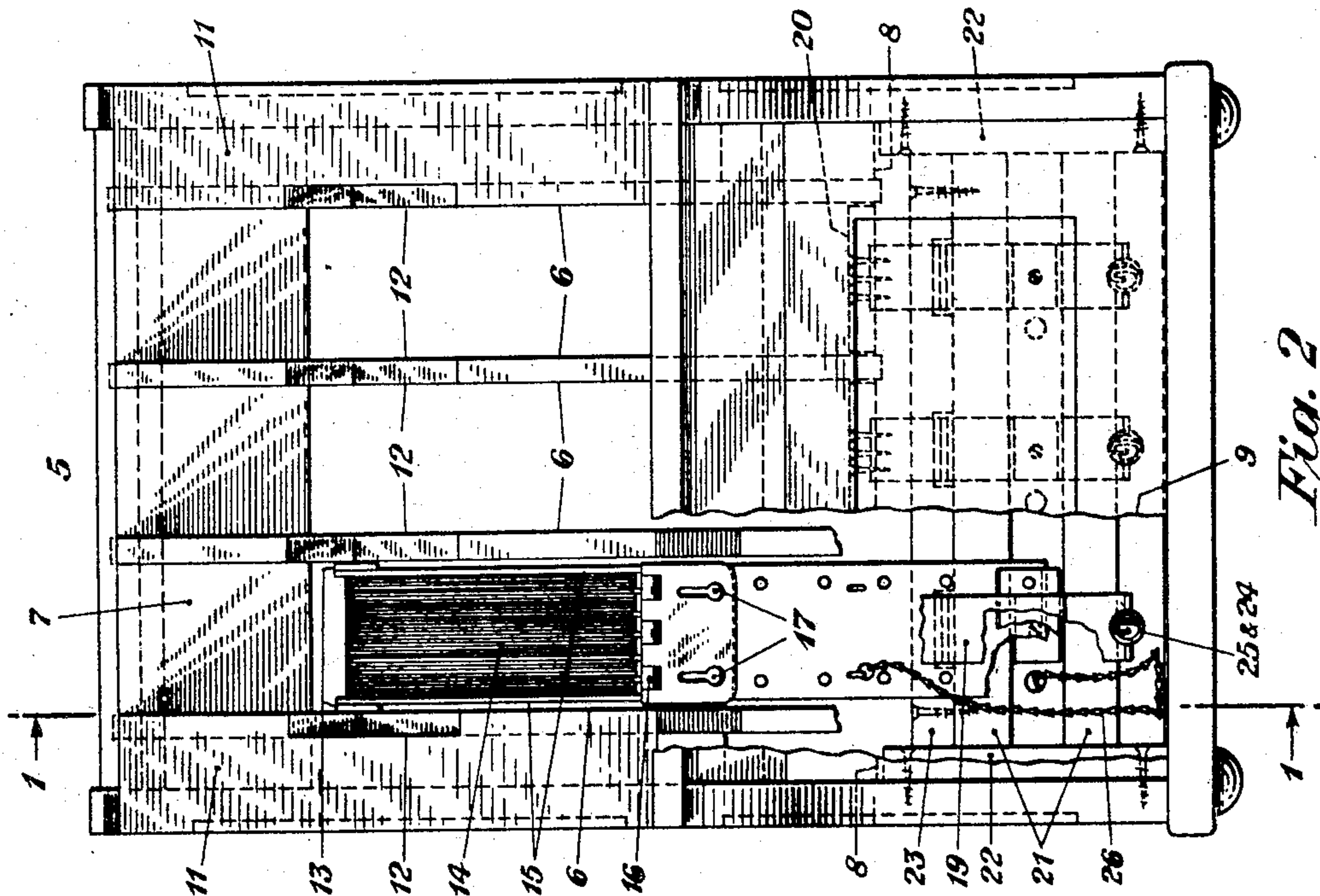


Fig. 2

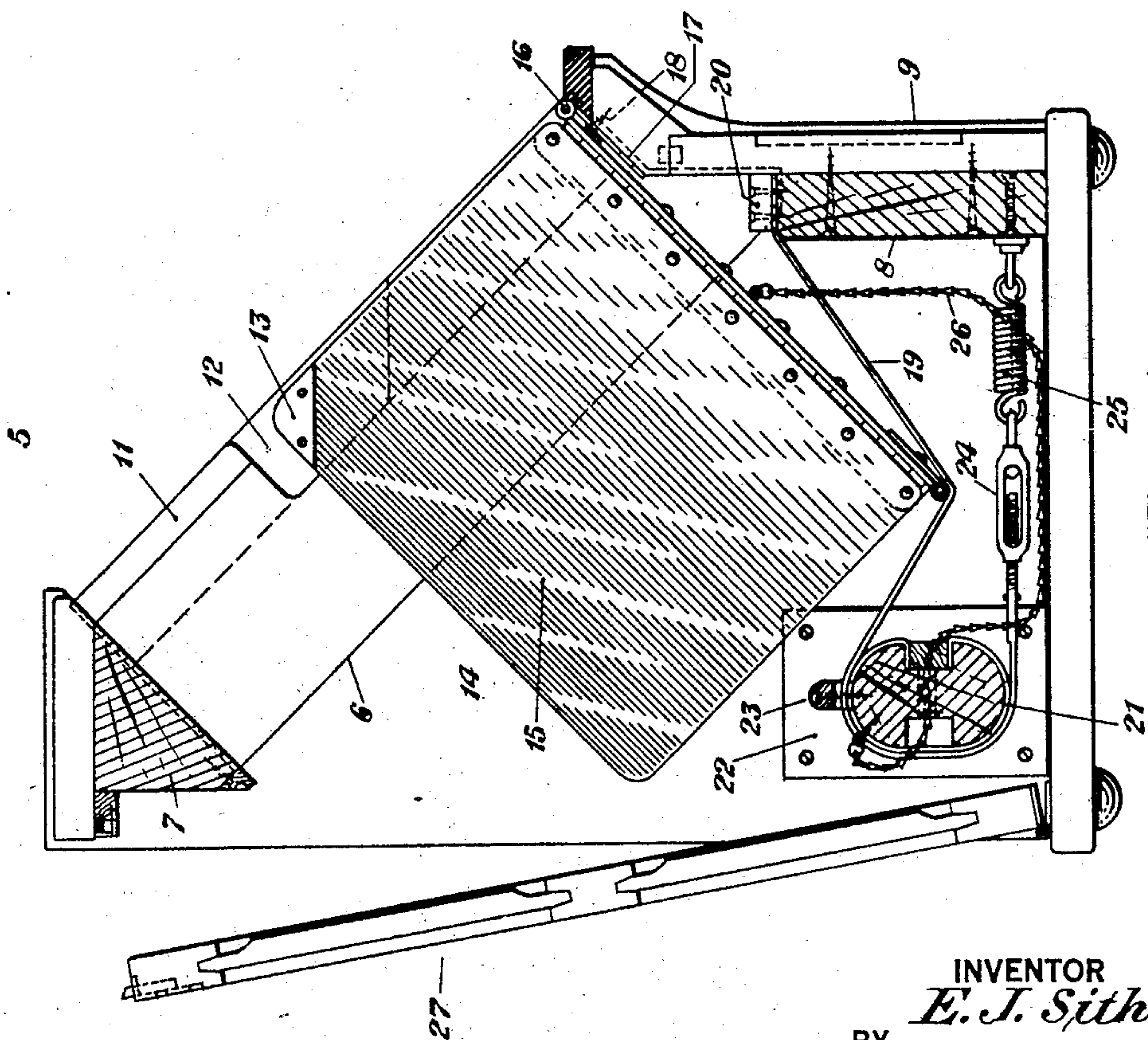


Fig. 1

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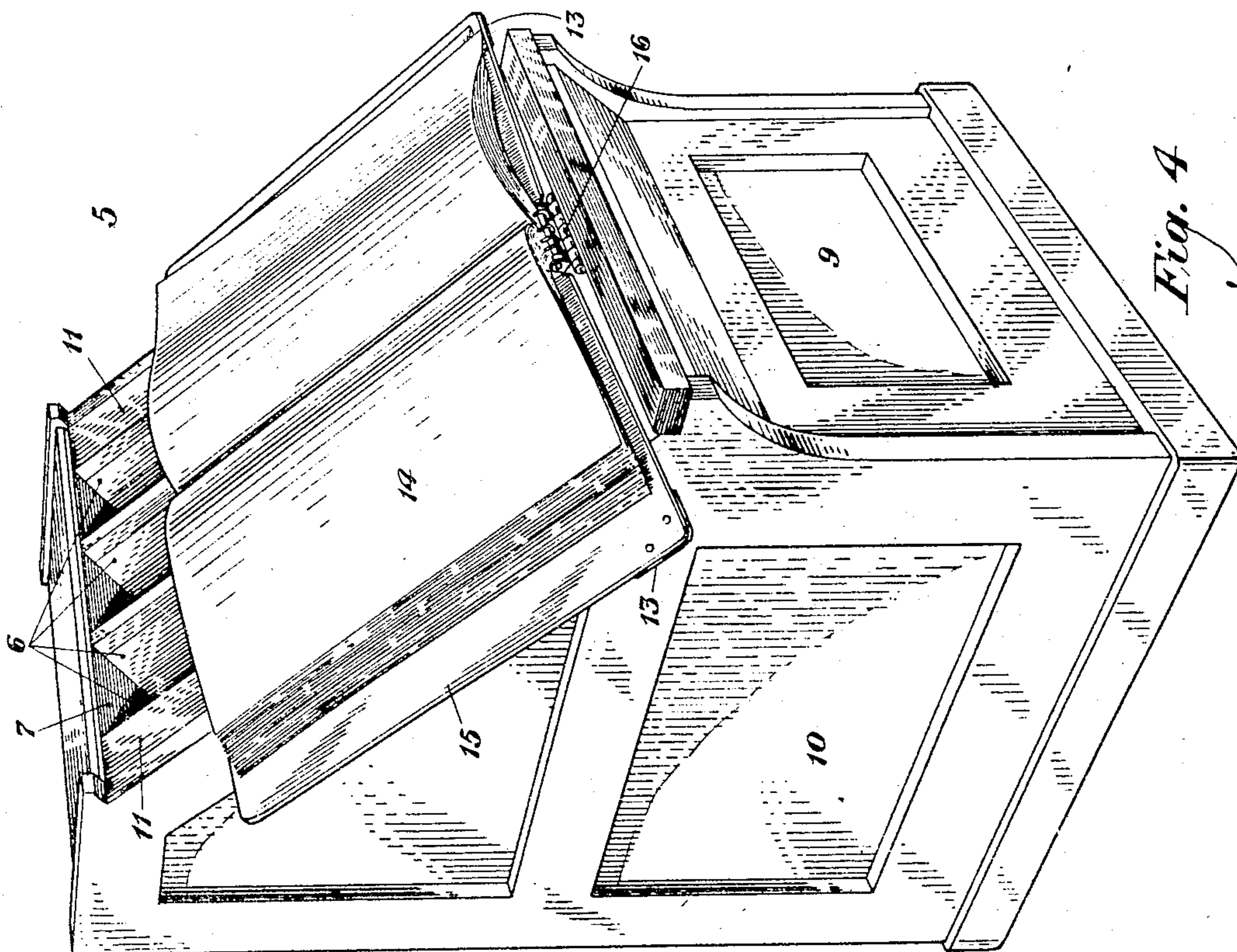


Fig. 4

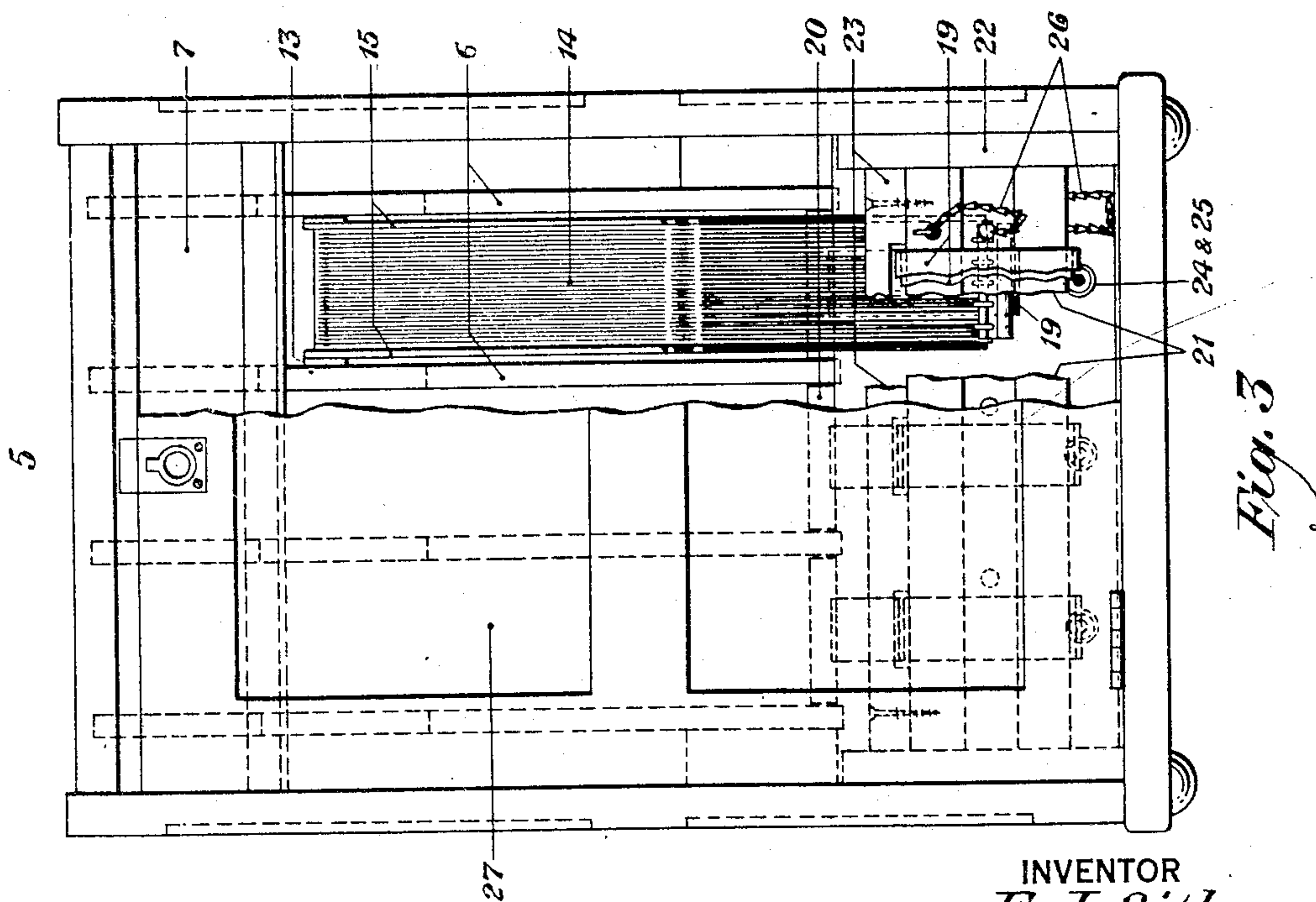


Fig. 3

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

EDWARD J. SITHENS, OF CYNWYD, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO AMERICAN
TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY, A CORPORATION OF NEW YORK.

BOOKHOLDER

Application filed April 26, 1929. Serial No. 358,261.

This invention relates to book holders, an object of the invention being to provide a holder for a series of books or binders to contain the books, such as telephone directories or the like, so that they occupy a small space and are separated in such manner as to be conveniently accessible for use.

Another object of the invention is to provide a pivotal mounting for the books so that they may be pulled out of the holder into position for use and pushed back into the holder after being used.

A further object is to provide mechanism for the retention of the books to prevent their loss or misplacement.

The novel features which are considered characteristic of this invention are set forth with particularity in the appended claim. The invention itself, both as to its organization and method of operation, together with other objects and advantages thereof, will be further explained in the following detailed description having reference to the accompanying drawings consisting of the following figures:

Figure 1 is a view in transverse section on the line 1—1 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the improved device with parts broken away to show the interior thereof;

Fig. 3 is a rear elevation of the device with part of the panel broken away;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the device, showing a book supported in opened position and ready for use.

A casing 5, which is preferably of wood although it may be of other suitable material, is provided and supports and partially encloses the books. This casing is substantially rectangular in form and its upper inclined front portion is open to permit the withdrawal and replacement of books. The casing is supported on a suitable base.

A plurality of inclined partitions 6 are provided in the casing 5 to form as many book compartments and of such width as may be desired. It will be understood that although in the present instance the improved book holder is equipped with three

compartments, this number may be reduced or increased as may be required. The inclined partitions 6 may be in the form of flat strips of wood or the like, and the upper ends thereof register in slots provided in the inclined front surface of the triangular block 7, which is fixed to the under side of the horizontal top portion of the casing 5. The lower ends of the partitions 6 register in slots in the block 8, and also in slots provided on the inner surface of the front wall 9 of the casing. The end or outer partitions are positioned near the side walls 10 of the casing and are each connected by a panel 11 to the inclined front edges of the side walls 10. The width of the end or outer partitions is slightly less than the width of their companion or intermediate partitions to permit the panels to be positioned so that their outer surfaces will be in alignment with the outer front edges of the adjacent partitions. The panels and partitions thus cooperate to provide a uniform inclined support or ledge for the books when withdrawn from the casing and opened, and form a resting position therefor at an angle at which they may be readily and easily consulted. The forward edges of the intermediate partitions and the inner edges of the panels 11 may be provided with cut-away portions or recesses 12 to enable the extended book corners 13 to be grasped and the books withdrawn from the compartments.

In the present instance the book 14 is shown as being contained in a binder 15, which is normally positioned within one of the compartments. The term "binder" is used to indicate the part 15, as the primary object of the invention is to support telephone books or the like, and a binder such as illustrated is convenient for this purpose. However, it is not desired to limit this invention to the employment of any particular binder, as it is to be understood that any binder or book itself may be utilized, and in the employment of this term "binder" hereinafter it will be understood that it is used in its broadest sense. The binder 15 may be pivotally connected to the casing by a hinge 16 which has one of its straps

suitably connected to one end of the back of the binder. The other strap of the hinge may be permanently screwed or removably mounted to the inner inclined surface of the front wall 9, as desired. In the case of the removable mounting, which permits the binder and its hinge to be removed from the casing, the strap of such hinge is provided with slots 17 having enlarged openings. The enlarged openings allow the strap to be inserted over the heads of parallel screws 18 carried by the inclined rear surface of the front wall 9 in such manner that they may be readily detached therefrom when desired. The pivotal mounting for the binder also acts as a support, and permits it to be swung outwardly in an arc from its compartment so that it may assume the position shown in Fig. 4.

Each compartment formed by the partitions 11 is provided with a strap 19 which is positioned toward the lower portion of the casing. These straps may be composed from corded fabric or other suitable material. The straps serve as a support and stop for the books or binders in which they are contained, and act as shock absorbers to check the fall and minimize the noise of the books when they are restored to their position within the casing. The straps also minimize the wear and tear on the books. One end of the straps is secured to the top of the block 8 by a strip of molding 20. This molding lies between the partitions and may be secured by screws to the block 8 so that the end of a strap is clamped between these elements. Each of the straps 19 is wound about a core 21 which lies in a transverse position within the casing, as more clearly shown in Fig. 1. The ends of the core 21 lie in openings provided in side plates 22 which are affixed to the inner surface of the side walls 10. A strip of molding 23 is secured to the top of the core 21 which has a slot provided therein for each of the straps 19. These slots permit the passage of the straps therethrough, but prevent undue transverse movement of the straps on the core 22. The other ends of the straps 19 are each secured to an end of a turnbuckle 24, and this in turn is connected to a spring member 25, which is secured to the block 8. The turnbuckle serves to adjust the straps 19 to the required lengths, and the springs maintain the desired tension on said straps.

A chain 26 or other suitable means may be attached to the core 21 and to the back edge of the book or binder to prevent it from being pulled too far out of the compartment in which it is normally located.

The casing 5 is provided with a rear panel 27 which is hinged to the base so that the panel may be swung outwardly to permit access to the interior of the casing. The

top of the panel in normal or closed position abuts the vertical rear face of the block 7, which forms a stop therefor, and suitable fastening means may be provided for the panel, for instance as shown in the form of a spring catch.

The construction of a book holder of the character above described, provides a cabinet in which telephone directories or other books of reference may be housed in such manner that they may be readily withdrawn therefrom and consulted. When a book is pulled out of its compartment so that it clears the partitions, it may be opened and in this position supported on the inclined partitions and panels.

The directory or other book may be restored to its normal position in the cabinet, by merely closing it. This action causes such directory or book to fall back by gravity into its compartment and the shock absorbers check its fall and minimize the noise thereof.

What is claimed is:

A book holder including a casing having an enclosed substantially rectangular bottom portion and a cut away partially open upper portion, partitions in said casing forming compartments to receive books or the like, said partitions having inclined edges and extending across the open portion in a direction perpendicular to and connecting the upper and lower edges of the cut away portion, a pivotal member affixed to the casing and adapted to be attached to a bottom corner of a book and on which the book may be rotated outwardly, and panel members secured to the sides of the casing and extending in a plane parallel to the edges of the partitions to form with the partition edges an inclined support for a book when withdrawn from a compartment and opened, the book when closed being adapted to fall back in its compartment by gravity.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification this 22 day of April 1929.

EDWARD J. SITHENS.

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION.

Patent No. 1,821,279.

Granted September 1, 1931, to

EDWARD J. SITHENS.

It is hereby certified that the above numbered patent was erroneously issued to "American Telephone and Telegraph Company, a corporation of New York", as assignee of the entire interest in said invention, whereas said patent should have been issued to the inventor, said Sithens, as sole owner of said invention; and that the said Letters Patent should be read with this correction therein that the same may conform to the record of the case in the Patent Office.

Signed and sealed this 22nd day of December, A. D. 1931.

(Seal)

**M. J. Moore.
Acting Commissioner of Patents.**