

the Collectors



BY KRYSYAN VON SPEIDEL

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEPHEN DUNN

Hartford

MAGAZINE



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN M. SPRING, OF NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO P. & F. CORBIN, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN BRONZING ARTICLES OF IRON.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 197,573, dated November 27, 1877; application filed November 11, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:
 Be it known that I, JOHN M. SPRING, of New Britain, in the county of Hartford, in the State of Connecticut, have invented an improvement in Bronzing Articles of Iron, of which the following is a specification:
 Articles of iron have been coated by oil and subjected to the action of heat to produce the color desired in imitation of bronze. This is difficult to accomplish and to produce uniformity of color, because the color varies with the temperature.
 Brass has been rubbed upon iron to give color to the same, and iron has had its surface coated by a deposit of copper and other metals from a solution, and a varnish has in some instances been applied to the same.
 My invention relates to the method of producing an artificial bronze surface upon iron. The articles to be bronzed are cleaned in the usual manner; they are then subjected to friction with brass, by placing the articles in a tumbling barrel or tumbler with pieces of brass, preferably steel shaped, so that the surface of the iron is covered with a thin film of brass by abrasion; or the surface may be similarly prepared by rubbing the same with a brush of fine brass wire. The surface of the iron will be colored more or less, according to the time that the iron is exposed to the action of the brass. The surface of the iron is then covered with a suitable varnish, such as copal, and subjected to a sufficient degree of heat to render the same hard and firm.
 The iron prepared in this manner has a luster and handsome appearance, that cannot be produced by the varnishing processes heretofore employed.
 I do not claim coating iron by rubbing it in contact with another metal.
 I claim as my invention—
 The method herein specified of producing an artificial bronze surface upon iron, consisting in smoothing and coloring the surface by brass rubbed upon the iron, and then retaining the same and finishing the surface by a coating of varnish.
 Signed by me this 4th day of November, A. D. 1876.

J. M. SPRING.

Witnesses:
 CHARLES PECK,
 SAM'L. HARRITT.

labus. “They’re very hard to find,” he says. From 1790 to 1880, the United States required patent applicants to submit a model of their inventions. The models were created by artisans specializing in detailed scale replicas. Many of the patent office original models were destroyed during fires in 1836 and 1877, greatly increasing their rarity. Cantor finds special interest in the models of inventions submitted for patent by Connecticut entities. The Cantor Colburn collection also graces the lobby of its building, and it presents a mini-museum of prime patent examples from the cradle of industrial design and ingenuity. Local inventors include Andrew Lippitt of New London and his 1868 butter dish that chilled butter using a lower chamber filled with ice; Hartford’s Junius Norton and his 1870 improvements to the safety match; and Otto Knipfer of Bridgeport, whose 1872 invention revolutionized the manufacture of wooden sleeve buttons.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEONARD H. BURT, OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT.

IMPROVEMENT IN METALLIC FENCES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 194,333, dated October 23, 1877; application filed September 19, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:
 Be it known that I, LEONARD H. BURT, of the city of New Haven, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Portable Metallic Fences; 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 and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.
 The nature of this invention consists in constructing a metallic fence-post in two vertically-divided sections, united at the base to a screw-threaded anchor-like point; also, in providing said post with certain clamping devices for holding the rails between or against the said post-sections; also, in a horizontal brace for preventing the lateral motion of said post; and, finally, in certain devices for splicing the rails, all as hereinafter fully and particularly set forth and claimed.
 In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a side elevation of my improved fence-post with the rail-fastening devices attached. Fig. 2 represents a front elevation of the same, showing the horizontal brace and the brace for preventing the lateral motion of said post; and, finally, in certain devices for splicing the rails, all as hereinafter fully and particularly set forth and claimed.
 Fig. 3 is a detail view of the rail-applying devices. Fig. 4 is a detail view of one of the clasps or ferrules used for holding the rails twisted out of its proper position, since the broad, flat sides of said brace meet with great resistance from the earth, against which they press when any attempt is made to move said brace from a straight and vertical position.
 D designates two post clasps or ferrules, one of which is shown in detail in Fig. 4. The general shape of each clasp or ferrule D is a broad ring or short cylinder adapted to slip over and embrace the sections B B, and partly cut away on one side, so as to leave two semi-circumferential bands, d d. The space d between said bands allows a rail, E, to be thrust directly through the center of said ferrule, between said sections B B, while said ferrule embraces the same. Each band d is provided with an offset, e, and these offsets are so shaped and so arranged relatively to one another as to receive a tapering key or wedge, F, which is forced down from above. The said wedge or key, in combination with the said clasp or ferrule, operates to compress the said post-sections against the said interposed rail, so as to securely clamp the latter.
 If preferred, the rail may be passed through space d outside of the post and clamped, as before.
 A post made in one piece may thus be used with the clamping devices above described.
 By alternately loosening and tightening the above-described clamping devices and slipping them up and down the post, while loosened,

MICHAEL CANTOR

Attorney Michael Cantor has always found patent law fascinating. “It’s a way to marry an interest in technology with business and societal trends. It allows me to work with the newest and most interesting stuff,” he says. Following dramatic growth in the 1990s, the firm of Cantor Colburn is now the eighth largest intellectual property firm in the nation, with 110 lawyers working out of five offices around the country. Cantor started collecting examples of patented items shortly after entering the field of patent law. His personal office on the 22nd floor of the downtown Hartford headquarters showcases antique devices stamped with patent numbers and dates, primarily from the 1800s. “I’ve always had a strong interest in history,” he says. “I’ve been intrigued with the Industrial Revolution and how inventions changed society, especially in New England.” After Cantor started to teach patent law at the University of Connecticut, he grew intrigued by the sample patents in the syl-

patent law