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E. BONFIGLIOLI
PROCESS OF MAKING ORNAMENTAL FIGURES
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Fig. 1.



Fig. 3.

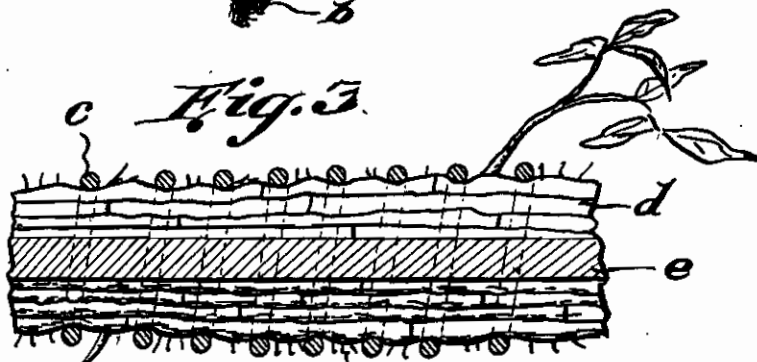
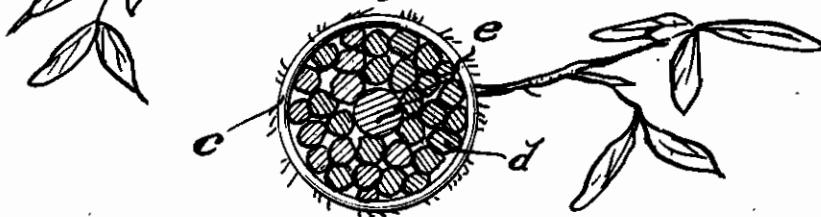


Fig. 2.



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ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

PROCESS OF MAKING ORNAMENTAL FIGURES

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Application filed March 16, 1940

This application is a continuation-in-part of my application Ser. No. 50,978, filed Nov. 21, 1935.

The present invention relates to a process for producing ornamental figures from live plants and also to the figures produced by said process.

The process comprises the steps of shaping a wire member or the like to serve as a basis or core for the desired ornamental figure. The figures, of course, may represent animals, puppets, or any other desired article. After having formed the basic shape of the desired wire figure, a number of branches are placed about the wire either spirally or in parallel relationship therewith. The branches consist of the rhizome of a plant of the Polypodium fern family. Such rhizomes generally have the form of elongated bodies which sprout and they can, therefore be trimmed or cut without destroying the vitality of the plant. After having placed several of the branches of the rhizome about the wire structure they are secured in place by wrapping the branches spirally with a ligature which may be made of metal wire of a gauge smaller or lighter than the wire core. It is, of course, obvious that a series of separate windings of the ligature may be used instead of a spiral winding, but the latter is preferable since it consumes less time and material and is equally effective. The figure when completed may be suspended in the air and the rhizome will grow and sprout when sprinkled with water occasionally. It has been found that the rhizome of the Polypodium fern family which

normally grows in the soil may be kept alive in the air by merely watering if a plurality of the branches are bound together and thereby held in intimate contact with each other. If the branches of the rhizomes should be separately suspended in the air they will not grow or sprout. So, a characteristic feature of the invention is the particular method of placing rhizomes together so as to grow.

In the drawing,

Fig. 1 discloses a completed figure which represents the body of a monkey,

Fig. 2 is a cross-section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1 on an enlarged scale, and

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view of the same.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, in which similar reference characters are employed in the several views, *a* represents the main body of the figure forming the trunk and head of the monkey. *b* indicates the arms, legs, and tail of the monkey and *c* the ligature serving to bind the branches *d* of the rhizome together about the wire frame *e*.

It can be seen in Fig. 3 that the branches *d* of the rhizome may be arranged in overlapping relationship along the wire frame *e* and in intimate contact with each other. This arrangement enables the branches to retain moisture and grow as they would in the soil.

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