

J.G. & J.F. LOW

ART TILE WORKS

Catalogue of Art Tile
Soda fountains

1889

Compiled and Edited by Michael W. Padwee

J.G. & J.F. Low Art Tile Works

Catalogue of Art Tile Soda Fountains

INTRODUCTION

This catalogue consists of pages from a partial, original Low catalogue from c.1889 and the letters of testament sent to the Low Company by the new owners of the various tile soda fountains. The fountains are shown first, then the letter referring to that fountain, if any. The letters give us information as to the business name and address where the fountains were once installed. I have not been able to locate any existing fountains or photos of fountains in situ. All catalogue photos have been enhanced.

Michael Padwee
December, 2011



PAT. AUG. 13, 1889.

· FOUNTAIN · · · No 1 ·

LENGTH 3 FT. 9 IN.

WIDTH 2 FT.

HEIGHT 2 FT. 10 IN.

HOWE & CARR,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS,
203 WESTMINSTER ST., PROVIDENCE, R.I., COR. BROAD & MAIN STS. WESTERLY, R.I.

PROVIDENCE, November 14, 1889.

LOW ART TILE COMPANY.

Gentlemen :— We purchased of you last March one of your Tile Soda Fountains. We are very much pleased with it after one season's use.

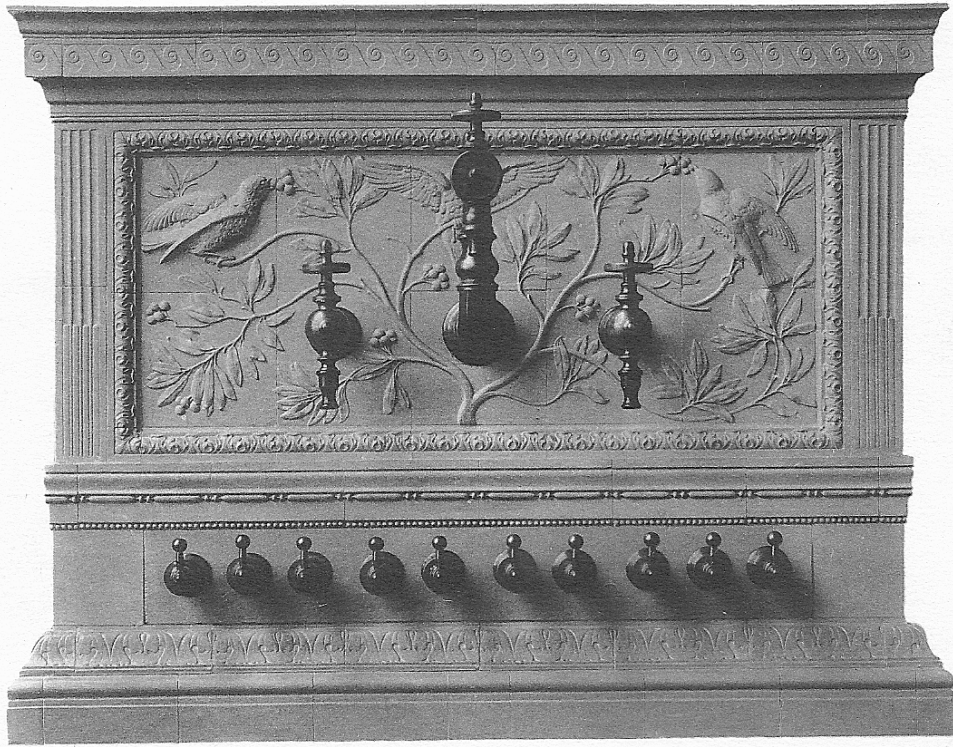
We purchased about the same time a Marble Fountain for our Westerly store. Some of the marble has in this short time lost its polish entirely. The surface on our Tile Fountain is as bright and handsome as when new, and see no reason why it should ever change. It has attracted a great deal of attention and continues to. The more we see of it the better we like it.

The inside apparatus we like very much. It is simple, easy to keep clean, and gives us no trouble at all. It uses up little ice and draws very cold soda.

We never want another Marble Fountain as long as we can obtain a Tile one.

Yours truly,

HOWE & CARR.



PAT. AUG. 13, 1889.

· FOUNTAIN · · · NO 3 ·

LENGTH 3 FT. 6 IN.

WIDTH 2 FT.

HEIGHT 2 FT. 9 IN.

GEORGE A. IVES & CO.

DRUGGISTS,

SYNDICATE BLOCK,

519 NICOLLET AVE.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., Oct. 24th, 1889.

LOW ART TILE CO., Chelsea, Mass.

Gents:— As the Soda season has ended for this year, you may like to know how we have been pleased with the Low Art Tile.

Before its arrival, about the middle of June, it had been very extensively talked up by us, and there was a great deal of interest aroused to see it, not only amongst the people but by representatives of other makes as well; we had claimed for it that it was the handsomest Case to be found west of New York. We were looked upon as somewhat presumptuous, considering the fact that there was already in this city one of marble that is said to have cost \$6,500. What was the result? When it came and was set up, we heard it from all sides that we had not sung its praises loudly enough. It was pronounced by one and all as a work of art; the handsomest one they had ever seen; and this from one of your competitors as well as from the public.

As for its practical working, it is simply the perfection of Soda Fountains. The extreme thickness of its walls has effected a great saving of ice, and combined with the coolers that you use, has shown a saving of at least 50 per cent.; so those in charge of it say, and they have had many years' experience with apparatus of other makes. Now this saving in ice has not been at the expense of quality, as we have been repeatedly told that our Soda and Mineral Waters were drawn much colder than at any other Fountain in the city.

There can be no question but that the "Art Tile," for beauty, is head and shoulders above any Marble Fountain, and that it is not only all that could be desired in its working, but is more economical and very much easier to take care of. It does not sweat through as will marble, and ours is as bright and as highly polished to-day, as it was the day it was placed on our counter.

We take great pleasure in showing it, and shall take equal pleasure in answering any inquiries. We are proud of it.

Yours respectfully,

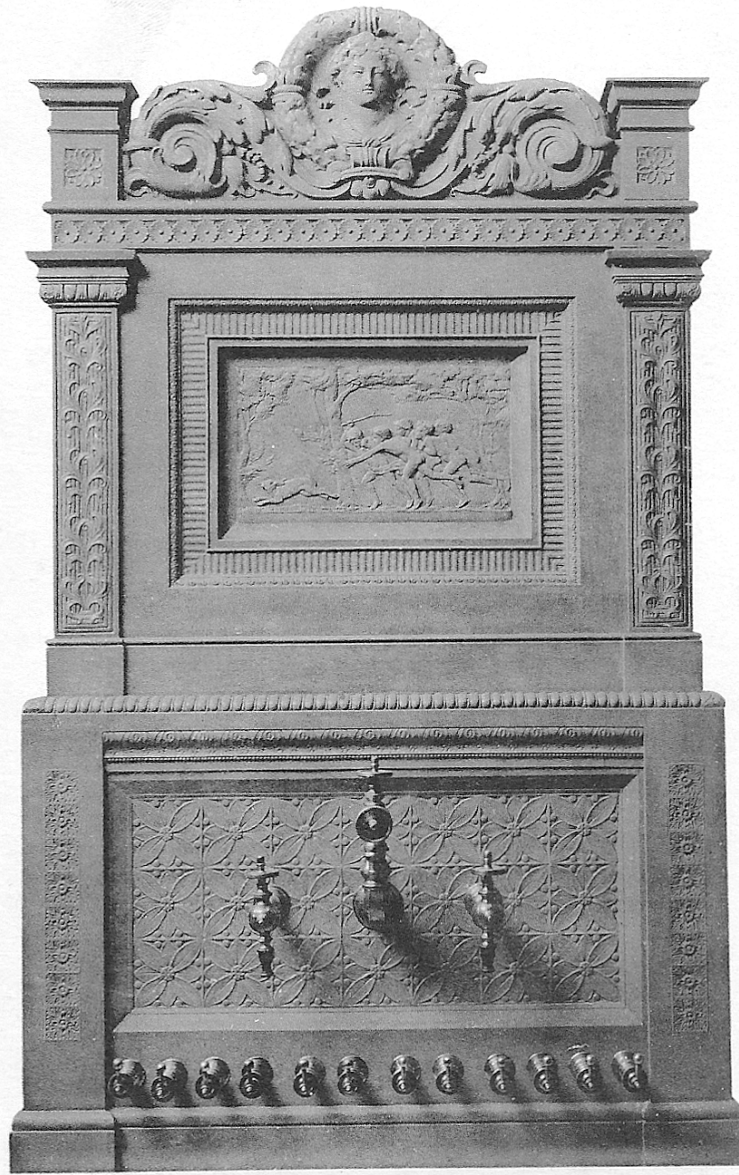
G. A. IVES & CO.



PAT. AUG. 13, 1889.

• FOUNTAIN... NO. 4 •

LENGTH 5 FT. 9 IN. WIDTH 2 FT. HEIGHT OF CASE 2 FT. 6 IN. EXTREME HEIGHT 5 FT. 10 IN.



PAT. AUG. 13, 1889.

· FOUNTAIN · · · No. 7 ·

LENGTH 3 FT. 7 IN. WIDTH 2 FT. HEIGHT OF CASE 2 FT. 6 IN. EXTREME HEIGHT 6 FT.

GEORGE W. ARMSTRONG,
RAILWAY, DINING AND NEWS ROOM,
OFFICE, B. & A. R. R. STATION.

BOSTON, MASS , November 25, 1889.

The LOW ART TILE CO., Chelsea, Mass.

Dear Sirs :—The Low Art Tile Soda Apparatus put in my Dining Room at the Boston & Albany R.R. Passenger Station at Springfield, Mass. last Summer, has given good satisfaction. I am very much pleased with it on account of its beauty as well as its real value from an economical standpoint, on account of less ice being consumed to run it than is used in most fountains of other manufacture. All the parts work well, and I find it to be as recommended by yourselves in every particular. I intend to put in a similar Soda Apparatus on the South Side of the Passenger Station, at the above named place, on its completion next summer.

Truly yours,

GEO. W. ARMSTRONG.



PAT. AUG. 13, 1889.

· FOUNTAIN · · · No 9 ·

LENGTH 7 FT 8 IN WIDTH 2 FT HEIGHT OF CASE 2 FT 6 IN FOUNTAIN HEIGHT 7 FT 3 IN

F. W. SCHOONMAKER,
MANUFACTURING CHEMIST AND PHARMACIST,
42D STREET, COR. PARK AVENUE.

NEW YORK, December 18, 1889.

THE LOW ART TILE CO.

Gents :— I am glad to say that the Tile Fountain has proved an unqualified success, both as to its artistic design and appearance, and the results produced. The former has been much admired, causing considerable criticism and favorable comment, thereby making it quite a drawing card.

During the past season, I have had a good opportunity to judge of its workings, and found no matter how great the rush, the temperature of the water was uniformly even, and cold enough to please the most exacting, using less ice than I had calculated.

This, and the fact that it can always be kept bright and clean, at a much less cost than any other I have ever used, has been quite a saving, and I can sum the entire subject up by saying that it has given entire satisfaction to my customers as well as myself.

Will take pleasure in showing it to anyone you may desire to have call.

Very truly yours,

F. W. SCHOONMAKER.



PAT. AUG. 13, 1889.

· FOUNTAIN... No. 11 ·

LENGTH 5 FT. 3 IN. WIDTH 2 FT. HEIGHT OF CASE 2 FT. 3 IN. EXTREME HEIGHT 7 FT. 6 IN.

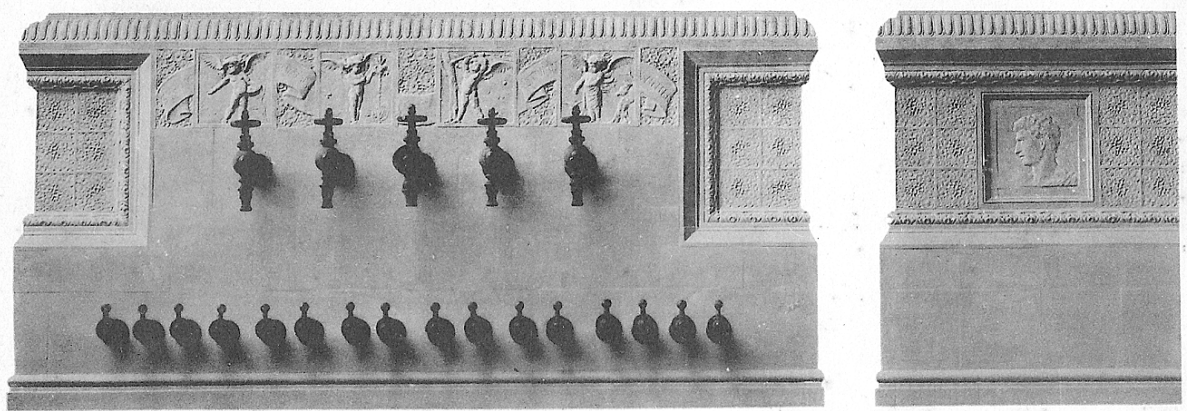
NEWPORT, R. I., January 21, 1890.

Messrs. J. G. & J. F. Low.

Dear Sirs:—The Tile Soda Fountain purchased of you in July, 1889, I am pleased to say, has fully come up to my expectations. With it I am able to draw soda faster, and at the same time it is always colder, than at any other fountain at which I have worked. It is economical with ice, keeps clean with very little trouble, and its attractive appearance drew to my counters larger numbers than were ever served before. I am pleased to endorse the Tile Soda Fountain.

Respectfully,

CHAS. M. COLE,
302 THAMES STREET.



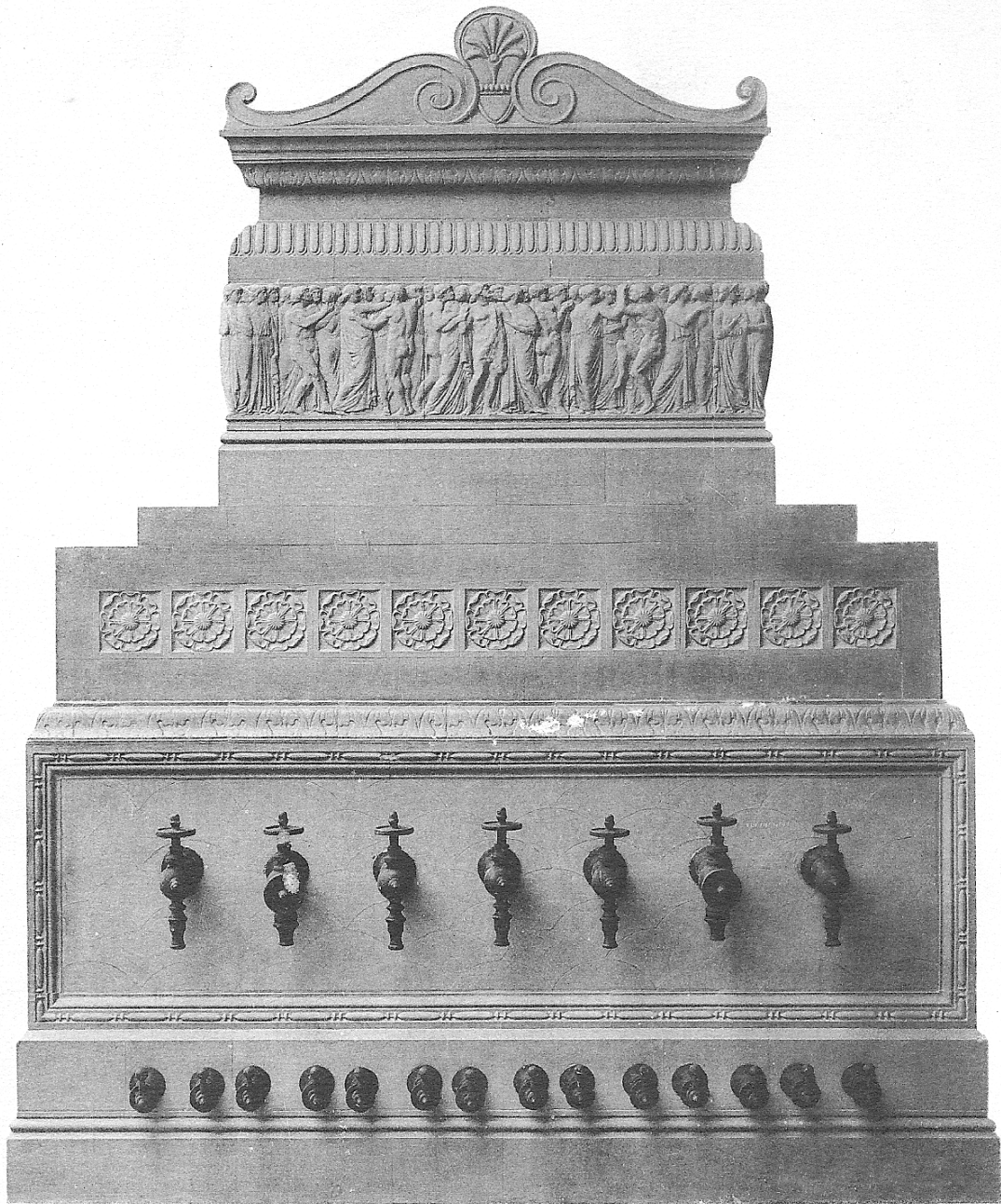
PAT. AUG. 13, 1889.

· FOUNTAIN... NO. 14 ·

LENGTH 5 FT.

WIDTH 1 FT. 11 IN.

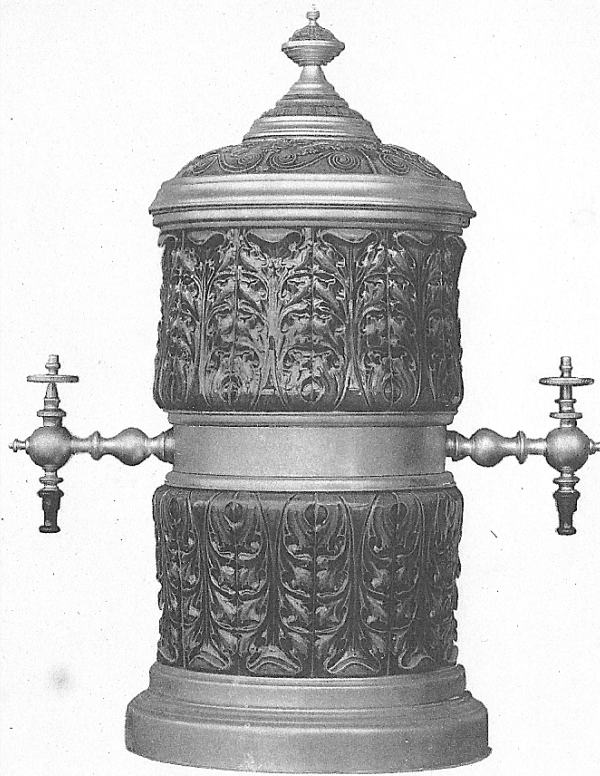
HEIGHT 2 FT. 7 IN.



PAT. AUG. 13, 1889.

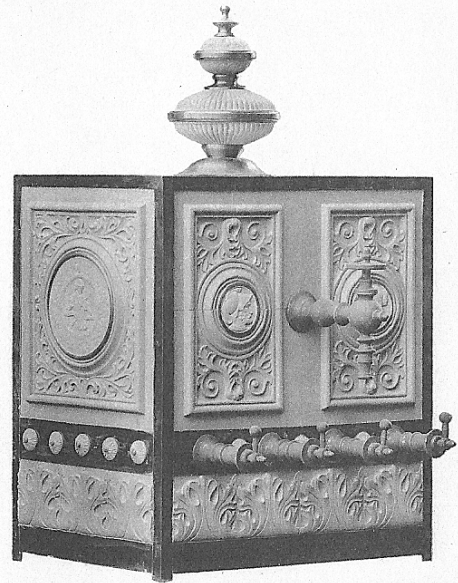
· FOUNTAIN... No. 16 ·

LENGTH 4 FT. 8 IN. WIDTH 2 FT. HEIGHT OF CASE 2 FT. 4 IN. EXTREME HEIGHT 5 FT. 8 IN.



·HOT FOUNTAIN No 19·

1 FT. 8 IN. LONG.
1 FT. 2 IN. WIDE.
1 FT. 11 IN. HIGH.
2 FT. 9 IN. EXTREME HEIGHT.



·HOT FOUNTAIN · No 20 ·

15½ IN. DIAM. AT BASE.
31 IN. HIGH.

MANCHESTER, N. H., November 5, 1889.

Messrs. J. G. & J. F. Low, Chelsea, Mass.

Gentlemen:—After using your Tile Soda Apparatus the past season, can truly say it has given the utmost satisfaction.

My sales have largely increased over any previous season ; it is very economical in use of ice, and draws very cold soda, and for cleanliness and simplicity, cannot be surpassed.

The novelty of material and elegance of design and finish are the admiration of all.

I think the Tile is the coming apparatus, and do not hesitate to recommend it to any one wanting a soda apparatus.

Respectfully yours,

Z. F. CAMPBELL.

APPENDIX: The Low Soda Fountain Patent

(No Model.)

J. G. LOW.
SODA FOUNTAIN.

No. 408,888.

Patented Aug. 13, 1889.

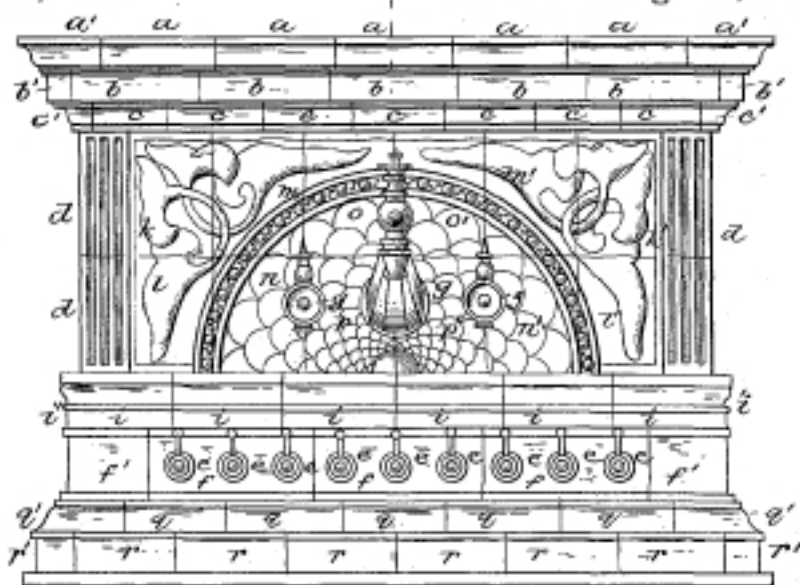


Fig. 1.

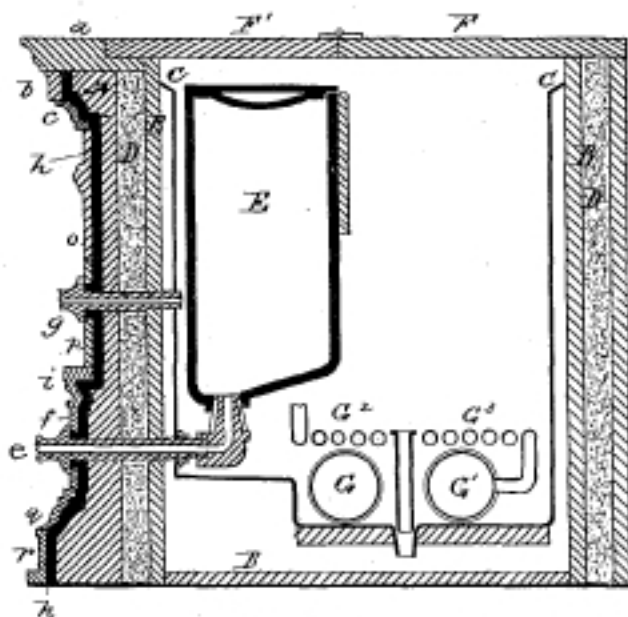


Fig. 2.

WITNESSES
J. H. DeLan
H. B. Conroy

INVENTOR.
John S. Low
by his atty
Charles T. Raymond

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN G. LOW, OF CHELSEA, MASSACHUSETTS.

SODA-FOUNTAIN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 408,888, dated August 13, 1889.

Application filed August 29, 1888. Serial No. 384,054. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN G. LOW, of Chelsea, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Soda-Fountains, whereof the following, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, is a specification in such full and complete and accurate terms as to allow others skilled in the art to make and use the invention.

It is considered desirable to have soda-fountains present an ornamental and artistic appearance, and it is also thought necessary that they should be provided with an ice-box in which are contained the sirup-tanks and certain coils of pipe and reservoirs, through which the aerated waters pass on their way through the fountain to the draft-tubes, being cooled in their passage. It is also considered desirable that the ornamental exterior of the fountain should be so independent of the inclosed ice-box that it shall not chill and collect moisture from the air upon its exterior surface. No form of decoration of the soda-fountain has yet been found superior to polished marble; but this material is exceedingly expensive.

Baked clay, which can be readily modeled in shape and glazed with any desirable color, presents a material vastly better than marble, both for beauty and ease of working, were it not for the difficulty hitherto experienced of applying it. I have, however, succeeded in devising a form of structure which is well adapted for incrustation with glazed or enameled tile; also, a system of subdivision of the incrustation, so as to present great opportunities for variety with ease of application, which I now explain.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a front elevation, and Fig. 2 a vertical section through the central draft-tube, of a fountain embodying my invention.

B is the ice-box proper, in the cavity of which is placed, as usual, a metallic or other suitable lining C, and which contains the sirup-cans E and the coolers G G' G² G³. Draft-tubes g are connected with the pipes of these coolers, and sirup tubes and coils e are connected with the several sirup-cans. There is a cover to this ice-box, which may be of hinged flaps or may be a removable cover fitting the recess.

The parts hitherto described are common to all soda-fountains.

When a soda-fountain is placed next the wall of the building or against a partition, no incrustation is applied on the part which is next the wall; but on the part exposed to the eye of the spectator it is usual to construct the ice-box of polished marble, and in a few instances of cheap portable fountains a wooden ice-box has been used. The casing has been usually separated from the ice-box proper by an air-space.

In my invention I erect on the exposed sides and ends of the fountain a casing A, of stone, wood, or iron, the interior of which casing is proximately parallel to the exterior of the ice-box B, and the exterior of which casing A follows roughly the proposed contour of the tile-incrustation, as shown in Fig. 2. This casing A need not be of very perfect material or finish, and it may be, if desirable, made in several parts, cemented or joined together. This casing A is separated by a space of one or two inches or more from the ice-box B, which space is shown in the drawings as D, and is packed with what is commonly known as "mineral wool," sometimes called "mineral cotton," being furnace-slag in a state of minute subdivision and of cellular or fibrous structure, which is made by blowing steam through a screen of molten slag as it is discharged from the furnace.

The incrusting tiles of this fountain are of four generic sorts—cornice-tiles, belt-tiles, pilaster-tiles, and panel-tiles—and the cornice and belt tiles have two subdivisions—namely, tiles with return modeling and tiles with running modeling. The pilaster-tiles are usually made with returns, and the panel-tiles have only surface modeling, although this may not be the same on any two tiles.

In the drawings, a represent the cornice-tile with the running modeling. They form the center of the upper part of the fountain, and are arranged to cover in the part from the ice-box outward. They are recessed for the reception of the covers F F' of the ice-box. This construction of cornice enables either flap of the ice-box to be raised at will, and also binds together very firmly the incrustation with the casing A. In consequence, however, of this arrangement of cornice-tile, the casing A is necessarily of less height than the wall of the

ice-box B. Below this cornice there is a course of belt-tile $b b'$, in which the parts b are parts with a running modeling, and the parts b' have return modeling. This belt course in the specimen produced forms the frieze of the entablature. Below this again is another course of belt-tile $c c'$, in which the parts c have a running modeling and the parts c' a return modeling. This forms the architrave of the structure. Below this again, at the exterior corners of the structure, are the pilaster-sections d , which are made with return modeling, and between the pilaster-sections are the panel-sections $k k'$, $l l'$, $m m'$, $n n'$, $o o'$, and $p p'$. These panel-sections are modeled to make up some agreeable figure, perhaps alike on each of the several sections, perhaps a composite figure, some portion of which is exhibited on each of the sections, the sections in that case differing entirely each from the other. The number of tile going to make up the panel-section may be greatly varied; but the peculiarity of the tile making up these panel-sections is that they are surface-modeled and surface-glazed only, while the tile of the belt courses and the tile of the cornice courses and the tile of the pilasters are return-modeled and return-glazed on some or all of their members. The pilaster and panel members rest on a pedestal which is made up of belt courses.

$i i'$ are the belt course forming the crown of the pedestal, of which the tiles i have running modeling and the tiles i' return modeling.

$f f'$ is the die or dado of the pedestal, of which the tiles f have a running modeling and the tiles f' a return modeling. The tiles f are perforated with comparatively large holes for the passage of the sirup-tubes e . These holes should be considerably larger than the tubes, because in the irregular shrinking of the tile it will be difficult to make the parts come together correctly unless an allowance is made at this place for all the irregularity which will occur. Below this dado-section is another belt course $g g'$, surface-modeled on the tiles g and return-modeled on the tiles g' , forming the base-molding. Below this, again, is a belt-section formed of the tiles $r r'$, of which the tiles r have a running modeling and the tiles r' a return modeling. These tiles $a a'$, $b b'$, $c c'$, d , $f f'$, $i i'$, $k k'$, $l l'$, $m m'$, $n n'$, $o o'$, $p p'$, $g g'$, and $r r'$ are affixed firmly by cement or cramps to the exterior of the casing A. The layer of cement is marked in Fig. 2 of the drawings h and is of pretty even thickness.

It will be seen readily that a great variety of modeling and a great variety of color with a most brilliant surface texture can be obtained in this way, and that it would be almost impossible to absolutely duplicate any fountain, because of the difficulty of perfect reproduction of the glaze. It will also be seen that out of two or three varieties of cornice, base, pilaster, and panels the variety of model-

ing may be varied and the various fountains given individual character of modeling in a geometrical progression of number—that is, with two sets of cornice, pilasters, panels, and base-tile there could be sixteen fountains of individual appearance set up, and if each belt is considered by itself the number would be greatly increased; also, it can be readily seen that the length of the fountain can be increased or diminished and the number of sirups served varied within reasonable limits at comparatively slight expense by adding single panel and belt sections or panel and pilaster sections, or both, with very little cost or trouble.

As a result of this form of construction, a fountain giving a much greater show and presenting a much finer appearance than the marble fountain now in use for the same service and with substantially the same interior structure can be furnished on remunerative terms to the manufacturer for about three-fourths of the cost of a polished-marble fountain.

Having thus described my invention, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. A soda-fountain composed of an ice-box B and an inclosing exterior casing A, separated from said ice-box by the space D, and a tile-facing attached to the exterior of said casing and composed of small tiles formed with closely-abutting edges and of approximately uniform thickness, each of said tiles carrying on its surface a part of a composite intaglio and relief design larger than itself, the lower belt tiles and panels and the ice-box and casing beneath the tile being perforated from front to back with holes for the passage of the draft and sirup tubes $g e$, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. The combination of the casing A, formed with a plane surface on its interior and an irregular surface roughly conforming to the exterior surface of its incrusting tile, with the incrusting tile and with the cement between the casing A and the tile, and with a cornice $a a'$, which projects outward beyond the exterior surface of the next adjacent tile and inward beyond the inner surface of the casing A, substantially as described.

3. The combination of the ice-box B and inclosing-casing A of said ice-box, the height of which is less than the height of the ice-box, and cornice a , extending outward from the ice-box B over and beyond the top of the casing A, and the incrusting tile surface exterior to said casing A and fastened thereto by cement, and containing panel and belt tile perforated for the passage of the draft and sirup tubes $g e$ through holes in said tile larger than the size of the tube, said tile-surface being modeled and glazed, substantially as and for the purposes described.

JOHN G. LOW.

Witnesses:

THOS. WM. CLARKE,
F. F. RAYMOND, 2d.