This invention relates to articles such as billfolds and wallets, and more particularly to such articles in which a secret compartment is provided which is normally concealed from view.

It is among the objects of this invention to provide a wallet or billfold having a novel and improved secret compartment normally concealed from view; to provide a wallet construction including a first compartment which may be closed by a separable fastener and a secret compartment in said first compartment normally concealed from view; to provide a wallet construction including inner and outer walls secured together to form a pocket, a first partition dividing the pocket into separate compartments and a second, normally concealed, partition dividing one of the compartments into sub-compartments, one of which is normally concealed from view; and to provide a wallet construction having main compartments and a sub-compartment provided with a novel closure member.

These and other objects, advantages and features of the invention will become apparent from the following description and the accompanying drawing.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of the invention embodying a separable fastener.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view on a somewhat smaller scale, illustrating a secret compartment forming part of the wallet or billfold illustrated in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a novel closure member for a sub-compartment of the wallet or billfold illustrated in Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a vertical sectional view on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged vertical sectional view on the line 5—5 of Fig. 1 showing the wallet or billfold in an expanded, open position.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view similar to Fig. 2 illustrating another embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 7 is a vertical sectional view of a wallet incorporating the secret compartment of Fig. 6, and corresponding to the line 7—7 of Fig. 6.

In the wallet or billfold of the present invention, inner and outer walls are secured together to form a pocket, with the inner wall being less in width than the outer wall. The outer wall is provided with an integral outer edge portion turned inwardly towards the inner wall. A first partition is disposed between the inner and outer walls to divide the pocket into compartments. A flap is secured between the integral edge portion and the main portion of the outer wall and extends downwardly, below the outer edge of the partition, into the compartment formed between the partition and the outer wall. A second partition is disposed in the compartment formed between the first partition and the outer wall, and has its outer edge normally concealed by said flap. In one embodiment of the invention, the inner wall is divided into longitudinally spaced sections, and means are secured to these sections to form additional sub-compartments or pockets. One of these pockets is provided with a novel closure member which has one end secured in the pocket by a fastener which also cooperates with the other end of the closure member to form releasable fastening means for the closure member.

Referring more particularly to Figs. 1 through 5, the billfold therein illustrated includes an outer wall 10 and an inner wall 15 secured together by stitching 11, 12 to form a pocket therebetween. If desired, the inner and outer walls 10 and 15 may be formed from a single member which is folded back upon itself. As shown, the upper edge 13 of inner wall 15 terminates below the upper edge 14 of outer wall 10. Outer wall 10 is provided with an integral edge portion 16 turned inwardly towards the outer edge 13 of the inner wall. A first partition 20 is disposed between walls 10 and 15 to divide the pocket formed thereby into compartments 17 and 18. Preferably, partition 20 is formed at each end with tabs 21 and 22, which project upwardly beneath inner turned edge 16 of wall 10, and are secured thereto by stitching 11 and 12.

The novel feature of the present invention is the provision of a secret pocket which is normally concealed from view. While prior constructions have provided such a secret pocket, such arrangements have not been adapted for use in billfolds in which a releasable fastening means, such as a slide fastener, is used to close one of the compartments 17 or 18. In the present invention, this difficulty is overcome by providing a separate flap 23 having its upper edge secured beneath upper edge portion 16 by stitching 24 and 25. Flap 23 extends into pocket 17 with its lower edge 27 disposed inwardly of the outer edge 28 of partition 20. As shown more clearly in Fig. 2, a second partition 25 is arranged between partition 20 and outer wall 10. The lower outer ends 30 and 31 of partition 25 are secured to the walls 10 and 15 by stitching 11 and 12. The upper edge 32 of partition 25 is disposed beneath the flap 23, and is located a considerable distance above the lower edge 27 of such flap. Flap 23 therefore normally conceals the compartment formed by partition 25.
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from view. To enhance such concealment, partition 25 may be of the same material and have the same configuration as outer wall 10, so that when the wallet is opened partition 25 appears to be a part of wall 10. Partition 25 cooperates with outer wall 10 to form a secret pocket 98, which is a subdivision of pocket 10.

A separable closure means 35 is provided to close the compartment 17. This closure means may comprise a slide fastener having one portion 33 secured beneath edge 18 and the other portion 34 secured to the upper edge 20 of partition 25. The ends of fastener 35 may be secured to walls 10 and 15 by the stitching 11 and 12. The opening provided when fastener 35 is disengaged is of less length than the length of wall 10. Therefore, the outer ends of partition 25 are always concealed from view, so that it is impossible to detect the presence of this partition, and the secret compartment formed thereby, even when fastener 35 is opened.

Inner wall 15 is cut away as at 36 and 37 to form two longitudinally spaced sections 38 and 40. As shown more particularly in Fig. 5, a member 41 has its upper edge 42 secured to the innermost edge 13 of section 40 of wall 15 and extends parallel thereto to form a second pocket 43. Referring to Fig. 4, a partition member 44 has its upper edge 45 secured adjacent the left end thereof to the upper edge 13 of section 36 of wall 15. The opposite or right end 45 of partition member 44 extends into the pocket 43 forming, with partition 41, a pocket 95. Partition member 44 and section 38 of wall 15 cooperate to form a pocket 44. Adjacent its upper portion, wall 15 is provided with a small tab 47 folded inwardly behind partition member 25 and secured to wall 15. Tab 47 bulges partition 25 into a curved recess (Figs. 1 and 4) of partition 20 to substantially interlock these partitions.

Another important feature of the present invention is the provision of a novel closure member for pocket 43. This closure member comprises a strap 50 having its inner end 51 disposed in pocket 43 and turned back upon itself. The inner end 51 has secured thereto one member 52 of a suitable fastening means such as a snap fastener. The member 53 is secured to and extends through section 40 of inner wall 15. The outer end 53 of strap 50 normally extends parallel to the outer surface of section 45, and the other member 54 of the snap fastener is secured in outer end 53 for cooperation with member 52 of the snap fastener. The closure comprises a flap 55 which is folded upon itself and has a substantially rectangular end 56 disposed in pocket 43 and an outer end 57 extending along the outside of section 40. Inner end 58 again subdivides pocket 43 into pockets 59 and 95. As shown in Fig. 3, flap 55 is provided with apertures 60, 61 and 62 through which strap 50 extends. Thereby flap 55 is sidely mounted on strap 50 and is held in closed position by engagement of the portion 52 and 53 of the snap fastener. As will be noted in Figs. 1 and 3, strap 50 extends through flap 55 in such a manner that the outer portion of the strap is disposed externally of the outer portion of the flap.

Fig. 6 illustrates how the principles of the invention may be applied to a wallet or bilfold which does not include a slide fastener. Generally speaking the embodiment shown in Fig. 6 is essentially the same in construction as that shown in Figs. 1 through 5. It comprises an outer wall 65 and an inner wall 70 secured together to form a pocket, with the outer edge 66 of the inner wall being disposed beneath the outer edge 61 of the outer wall. Outer wall 65 is provided with an integral edge portion 68 extending towards inwardly toward edge 66. A first partition 71 is disposed between walls 65 and 70 and divides the pocket formed thereby into compartments 72 and 73. A flap 74 has its upper edge secured between turned edge 66 and the main portion of wall 55. The lower edge 64 of flap 74 is disposed inwardly of the outer edge 76 of partition 71 and also inwardly of the outer edge 66 of wall 70. The secret compartment 77 in this instance is formed by a second partition 78 having its upper edge 69 disposed beneath flap 74. The remainder of the construction shown in Figs. 6 and 7 is substantially the same as that shown in Figs. 1 through 5, so that further description thereof does not appear to be necessary.

By the described construction, a secret compartment is provided which is normally concealed from view both when the wallet is opened as well as when wallet 1 is closed. The arrangement permits the use of a separable fastener for closing one compartment of the wallet. Additionally, the partition forming the secret compartment is preferably of the same material and has the same configuration as its adjacent outer walls so that it is substantially impossible to detect the presence of the partition or the secret compartment formed thereby. The construction also embodies a novel closure arrangement for a sub-pocket of the wallet, in which a single closure means is used both to secure the sub-pocket and to form a releasable fastening means therefor. The illustrated wallet constructions are simple and economical to manufacture and reliable and long wearing in use.

While specific embodiments of the invention have been shown and described to illustrate the application of the principles thereof, it will be obvious that the invention may be otherwise embodied without departing from such principles.

What is claimed is:

1. An article of the character described comprising an inner and outer walls secured together to form a pocket, said inner wall being narrower than said outer wall and said outer wall having an integral edge portion turned inwardly toward said inner wall; a first partition disposed between said walls to divide said pocket into two compartments and having an outer edge disposed between the outer edges of said inner and outer walls; said first partition having tabs at each end extending outwardly therefrom, to define an access opening to one of said compartments, which tabs are secured between said integral edge portion and the main portion of said outer wall; a flap secured between said integral edge portion and the main portion of said outer wall, said flap extending into the compartment between said partition and said outer wall; a second partition disposed between said first partition and said outer wall; a fastener attached to said first partition and said walls, the outer longitudinal edge of said second partition being normally concealed by said flap and the transverse edge thereof being concealed by said tabs, whereby said second partition and said outer wall cooperate to form a secret pocket, said said outer wall cooperating with a slide fastener connecting the outer edge of said first partition to said integral edge portion between said tabs to releasably close the compartment in which said second partition is disposed;
said fastener extending only between the inner edges of said tabs to assist in concealing said second partition.

2. A billfold or the like comprising a pair of walls secured together to form pocket means therebetween, one wall being divided to form longitudinally spaced sections; a strap having cooperating portions of a separable fastener on each end, one end of said strap extending into said pocket means with the fastener portion thereon secured through the adjacent section of said one wall, and said strap being reversed on itself at a point substantially intermediate said separable fastener portions, the free end of the strap extending along the outer side of said adjacent section of said one wall for releasable engagement of said fastener portions; and a flap member slidable on said strap and having a portion inside and subdividing said pocket means and a reversely directed portion extending along the outer end of said strap to form a closure for one of the subdivisions of said pocket means.

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