Oct. 29, 1929. B. F. CONNER 1,733,649

CONTAINER

Original Filed Oct. 3, 1927

Fig. 1

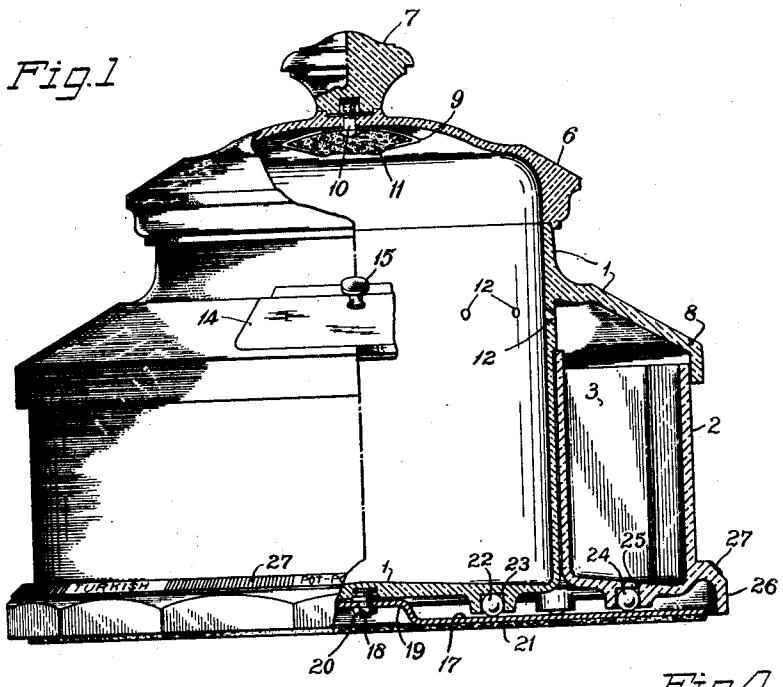


Fig. 4

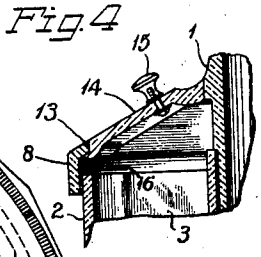


Fig. 2

Fig. 3

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Patented Oct. 29, 1929 1,733,649

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CONTAINER

Original application filed October 3, 1927, Serial No. 223,658. Divided and this application filed December 19, 1927. Serial No. 241,067.

The invention relates particularly to humidors or containers adapted for holding cigars, cigarettes, tobacco and the like, although as to some of its features it is not necessarily so limited.

The general object of the invention is to provide a humidor or container which is simple and compact in construction and pleasing in appearance and which has separate and conveniently accessible receptacles or compartments for receiving different classes of smoking articles or materials. Preferably there is a relatively large central compartment or receptacle adapted for holding cigars and in addition there are several smaller compartments arranged circularly about the central compartment and adapted for holding different varieties of cigarettes, smoking tobacco and the like. A cover means is provided for the outer compartments which makes it possible to conveniently obtain access to any one of them independently of the others.

A specific object of the invention is to provide a humidor or container having a central receptacle and an annular receptacle divided into compartments, together with a convenient cover means which permits access to be had to any compartment of the annular receptacle while other compartments thereof remain closed.

Another specific object of the invention is to provide a humidor or container having an annular receptacle divided into compartments and also having an annular cover with an opening therein, the said receptacle and cover being so mounted that each of them can be rotated with respect to the other so as to bring the said opening in the cover to a convenient position and so as to permit any compartment of the receptacle to register with the said opening.

A still further specific object of the invention is to provide a humidor or container having a main central receptacle, an annular receptacle surrounding the central receptacle and divided into compartments and an annular cover for the annular receptacle having an opening therein and preferably rigidly connected with the central receptacle, the said annular receptacle and cover being so mounted that either or both of them can be rotated as desired so as to bring the opening in the annular cover into a convenient position and so as to bring any compartment of the annular receptacle into register with the said opening.

A still further object of the invention is to provide certain improved structural features whereby the foregoing objects of the invention are attained.

Additional objects of the invention will be apparent from the following specifications and claims.

In the accompanying drawing I have shown the embodiment of the invention which I now deem preferable but it will be understood that the drawing is intended for illustrative purposes only and is not to be construed as defining or limiting the scope of the invention, the claims forming a part of this specification being relied upon for that purpose.

Of the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a combined elevational and vertical sectional view of a combined humidor and container embodying the invention. The section is taken along the line 1—1 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 2 is a plan view.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along the line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

Referring to the drawings, 1 represents a main central receptacle and 2 represents an annular receptacle surrounding the central receptacle and divided by means of partitions 3, 3 into a plurality of separate circularly arranged compartments 4, 4 and 5. The compartment 5 is preferably somewhat larger than the compartments 4, 4.

The central receptacle 1 is preferably openable at the top and is otherwise substantially closed. As shown it is provided with a cover 6, the said cover having a knob 7 by means of which it may be put in place or removed. The receptacle 2 is provided with a suitable cover means 8 which will be hereinafter described in detail and which is so

arranged that it is possible to obtain access to any compartment of the annular receptacle while other compartments thereof remain closed.

Preferably the two receptacles 1 and 2 are so arranged and connected that the atmosphere in them can be moistened or humidified by means of a single moisture retaining device. This device is preferably located in the central receptacle 1 and the peripheral wall of this receptacle is preferably provided with a plurality of openings which enable the moistened or humidified atmosphere in the central receptacle to pass into the compartments of the annular receptacle.

As illustrated the device for maintaining a supply of moisture is carried by the cover 6 of the said receptacle 1. I provide a metallic clip 9 suitably secured to the cover, as by means of a screw 10, which screw may also serve to hold the knob 7 in place. The clip 9 serves to hold a sponge or other suitable device 11 which may be moistened and which will serve to retain moisture and to thus moisten or humidify the atmosphere in the central container. The beforementioned apertures in the peripheral wall of the central receptacle 1 are shown at 12, 12. These apertures communicate with the annular receptacle 2, being located below the cover means 8. The apertures 12, 12 permit a continuous transfer or circulation of atmosphere throughout the entire device, the atmosphere in the outer annular receptacle being humidified as well as the atmosphere in the central receptacle.

The two receptacles 1 and 2 are preferably separate from each other so that the outer annular receptacle can rotate relatively to the central receptacle about a central vertical axis. This rotation of the annular receptacle makes it possible for any one of the compartments 4, 4 or 5 thereof to be brought to a position where access may be conveniently had thereto. As already stated the construction of the cover means 8 is such that access can be obtained to any compartment of the annular receptacle while other compartments remain closed.

The cover means 8 is preferably in the form of a continuous annular cover which is concentric with the annular receptacle 2 and which is provided with an opening 13 therein through which access may be had to a compartment of the said annular receptacle while the other compartments remain closed.

The opening 13 in the cover 8 is preferably closed by an auxiliary cover 14 provided with a handle or knob 15. The edges of the opening 13 and of the cover 14 are preferably bevelled as shown in Fig. 3 so that the auxiliary cover is held in place and prevented from passing through the opening. The said auxiliary cover 14 is preferably provided at its outer edge with a lip 16 which is adapted to fit under the body of the cover 8 as clearly shown in Fig. 4.

The receptacle 2 and the cover 8 are so mounted that at least one of them can be rotated so as to bring any desired compartment of the receptacle into register with the opening 13 in order that access may be had to the said compartment. I have already referred to the receptacle 2 as being rotatable and it will be understood that by rotating this receptacle any compartment thereof can be brought into register with the opening 13 without changing the position of the cover 8. Preferably, however, in addition to providing for the rotation of the receptacle 2 I also provide for the rotation of the cover 8 so that the opening 13 thereof can be located in the most convenient position. It will be obvious that with the cover 8 and the receptacle 2 both rotatable it is possible for the user to bring the opening 13 to the most convenient position and to then bring the desired compartment 4, 4 or 5 into register with the opening.

The manner of mounting the cover 8 may be varied but I prefer and have shown the cover 8 as rigidly connected with the main central receptacle 1. When the cover is thus rigidly connected with the receptacle 1, I provide for the rotation of the central receptacle about its vertical central axis in order that the cover may be rotated as already stated. The cover 8 is located above the apertures 12, 12 in the wall of the receptacle 1 and it has a depending peripheral flange which surrounds and substantially fits the annular receptacle 2 at the outer surface thereof. Thus when the auxiliary cover 14 is in place the annular receptacle is substantially closed at the top but is nevertheless in communication with the receptacle 1 through the apertures 12, 12. The cover 8 may be and preferably is formed integrally with the receptacle 1.

The several parts referred to or described, that is, the receptacle 2, receptacle 1 with the cover 8 combined therewith, the auxiliary cover 14, the cover 6 and the knob 7, are preferably formed of a suitable material adapted to permit the plastic molding of the said parts. A phenolic condensation compound may be taken as an example of such a material.

The details of mechanical construction and mounting of the two receptacles can be varied but preferably I provide a base 17 upon which both receptacles are mounted. As illustrated this base is in the form of a sheet metal disc. The central receptacle 1 is provided with a pivot pin 18 which is molded in place therein and which projects downward through a bearing aperture in an upward offset portion 19 of the base 17. A nut 20 on the pin 18 serves to prevent separation of the receptacle 1 from the base 17. The bottom

of the base 17 may be covered with a sheet 21 of felt or other suitable cushioning material.

Preferably in order to assist in supporting the receptacle 1 and in order to reduce the rotational resistance to a minimum I provide a plurality of supporting balls 22, 22 which are seated in recesses 23, 23 in the bottom of the receptacle 1 and which engage the smooth upper surface of the sheet metal base 17. It will be understood that I do not limit myself to the exact ball bearing construction shown.

The annular receptacle 2 is preferably directly guided by the central receptacle 1. To this end the said central receptacle is provided with a peripheral bearing surface circular in horizontal section and the said annular receptacle 2 is provided with an inner bearing surface substantially fitting the said peripheral bearing surface of the receptacle 1. Thus the inner receptacle serves as a pivot or guide for the outer receptacle. The outer receptacle is preferably supported directly on the base 17 by means of balls 24, 24 seated in recesses 25, 25.

Preferably in order that the base 17 may be concealed when the device is in its ordinary position on a table or other horizontal support the outer annular receptacle 2 is provided with a depending skirt 26 which extends nearly to the plane of the said table or other support.

A device embodying the invention, as already stated, is particularly adapted for containing smokers' supplies and it will be so described although the invention as to some of its phases may not necessarily be so limited. The central receptacle 1 is particularly adapted and intended for holding cigars which may be arranged on end. The several compartments 4, 4 of the annular receptacle are primarily adapted and intended for holding cigarettes of various kinds. In order that the kinds of cigarettes in the different compartments may be indicated from the exterior of the device I prefer to provide means or legends on the exterior of the receptacle 2 adjacent the respective compartments. As illustrated a surface for these names or legends is provided at 27 as indicated in the drawing. The larger compartment 5 is primarily intended and adapted for containing smoking tobacco which is preferably placed directly in the said compartment after being removed from its original container.

It will be understood that the sponge or other device 11 is kept constantly moistened with the result that the atmosphere in the central receptacle 1 is kept moistened or humidified. By reason of the apertures 12, 12 the single moisture retaining device 11 serves not only to humidify the atmosphere in the receptacle 1 but also serves to humidify the atmosphere of the several compartments of the receptacle 2.

As already described the said central receptacle carrying the cover 8 and the said annular receptacle are rotatable each independently of the other about a central vertical axis. By rotating the central receptacle and the cover 8 the aperture 13 of the cover can be quickly brought to a position to best suit the convenience of the user. Then without further rotation of the central receptacle and the cover the outer annular receptacle can be rotated to bring into register with the opening 13 the compartment containing the desired kind of cigarettes or other articles, the relative position of the desired compartment being indicated by the name or legend carried by the annular receptacle on the surface 27 thereof. With the proper receptacle in register with the opening 13 the cover 14 is removed and the desired article, whether a cigarette or a supply of smoking tobacco, can be removed. The cover 6 can be removed at any time, regardless of the relative rotational positions of the receptacles, to provide access to the central receptacle.

This application constitutes a division of my copending application for humidors, Serial No. 223,658 filed October 3rd, 1927.

What I claim is:

1. In a container of the class described, the combination of a central receptacle openable at the top, an annular receptacle substantially concentrically surrounding the central receptacle and rotatable with respect thereto about a vertical axis, the said receptacle having a plurality of separate circularly arranged compartments, and cover means for the compartments of the annular receptacle movable relatively thereto to permit access to any compartment while other compartments remain closed.

2. In a container of the class described, the combination of a supporting base, an annular receptacle on the base having a plurality of separate circularly arranged compartments, and an annular cover for the annular receptacle having an opening through which access may be had to a receptacle compartment, the said annular receptacle and the said cover being independently rotatable with respect to the base about a common vertical axis to enable the cover opening to register with any compartment.

3. In a container of the class described, the combination of a central receptacle openable at the top, an annular receptacle substantially concentrically surrounding the central receptacle and having a plurality of separate circularly arranged compartments, and an annular cover for the annular receptacle having an opening through which access may be had to a receptacle compartment, the said annular receptacle and the said cover being relatively rotatable about their common vertical central axis to enable the cover opening to register with any compartment.

4. In a container of the class described, the combination of a central receptacle openable at the top, an annular receptacle substantially concentrically surrounding the central receptacle and rotatable with respect thereto about a central vertical axis, the said annular receptacle having a plurality of separate circularly arranged compartments, and an annular cover for the annular receptacle having an opening through which access may be had to any receptacle compartment when the said receptacle is rotated as aforesaid.

5. In a container of the class described, the combination of a central receptacle openable at the top, an annular receptacle substantially concentrically surrounding the central receptacle and having a plurality of separate circularly arranged compartments, and an annular cover for the annular receptacle having an opening through which access may be had to a receptacle compartment, the said cover being rotatable independently of the annular receptacle about the vertical central axis thereof to enable the cover opening to register with any compartment.

6. In a container of the class described, the combination of a central receptacle openable at the top, an annular receptacle substantially concentrically surrounding the central receptacle and rotatable with respect thereto about a central vertical axis, the said annular receptacle having a plurality of separate circularly arranged compartments, and an annular cover for the annular receptacle having an opening through which access may be had to any receptacle compartment when the said receptacle is rotated as aforesaid, the cover being also rotatable independently of the annular receptacle about the axis of rotation thereof to bring the said cover opening to any desired position.

7. In a container of the class described, the combination of a central receptacle openable at the top, an annular receptacle substantially concentrically surrounding the central receptacle and rotatable with respect thereto about a central vertical axis, the said annular receptacle having a plurality of separate circularly arranged compartments, and an annular cover for the annular receptacle carried by and rigidly connected with the said central receptacle and having an opening through which access may be had to any receptacle compartment when the said receptacle is rotated as aforesaid.

8. In a container of the class described, the combination of a central receptacle openable at the top, an annular receptacle substantially concentrically surrounding the central receptacle and having a plurality of separate circularly arranged compartments, and an annular cover for the annular receptacle carried by and rigidly connected with the said central receptacle and having an opening through which access may be had to a receptacle compartment, the said central receptacle and cover being rotatable independently of the annular receptacle about the common vertical central axis of both receptacles to enable the cover opening to register with any compartment.

9. In a container of the class described, the combination of a central receptacle openable at the top, an annular receptacle substantially concentrically surrounding the central receptacle and rotatable with respect thereto about a central vertical axis, the said annular receptacle having a plurality of separate circularly arranged compartments, and an annular cover for the annular receptacle carried by and rigidly connected with the said central receptacle and having an opening through which access may be had to any receptacle compartment when the said receptacle is rotated as aforesaid, the said central receptacle and cover being also rotatable independently of the annular receptacle about the common vertical central axis of both receptacles to also enable the cover opening to register with any compartment.

10. In a container of the class described, the combination of a central receptacle provided with a peripheral bearing surface circular in horizontal section, an annular receptacle having a plurality of separate circularly arranged compartments, the said annular receptacle being rotatable with respect to the central receptacle and being provided with an inner bearing surface substantially fitting the said peripheral bearing surface of the central receptacle, whereby the rotative movement of the annular receptacle is directly guided by the central receptacle, and cover means for the compartments of the annular receptacle movable relatively thereto to permit access to any compartment thereof while other compartments remain closed.

11. In a container of the class described, the combination of a base, a central receptacle supported on the base and provided with a peripheral bearing surface circular in horizontal section, an annular receptacle having a plurality of separate circularly arranged compartments, the said annular receptacle being rotatable with respect to the central receptacle and also with respect to the base and being directly supported on the latter independently of the former and the said annular receptacle also being provided with an inner bearing surface substantially fitting the said peripheral bearing surface of the central receptacle, whereby the rotative movement of the annular receptacle is directly guided by the central receptacle, and cover means for the compartments of the annular receptacle movable relatively thereto to permit access to any compartment thereof while other compartments remain closed.

12. In a container of the class described,

the combination of a base, a central receptacle supported on the base and rotatable with respect thereto about a central vertical axis, the said central receptacle being provided with a peripheral bearing surface circular in horizontal section, an annular receptacle having a plurality of separate circularly arranged compartments, the said annular receptacle being rotatable with respect to the central receptacle and also with respect to the base and being directly supported on the latter independently of the former and the said annular receptacle also being provided with an inner bearing surface substantially fitting the said peripheral bearing surface of the central receptacle, whereby the rotative movement of the annular receptacle is directly guided by the central receptacle, and an annular cover for the annular receptacle carried by and rigidly connected with the said central receptacle and having an opening through which access may be had to any receptacle compartment when either receptacle is rotated as aforesaid.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 14th day of December, 1927.

BENJAMIN F. CONNER.