Nov. 24, 1931. R. C. COTTON ET AL 1,833,869

SAFETY CHECK

Filed Oct. 5, 1927

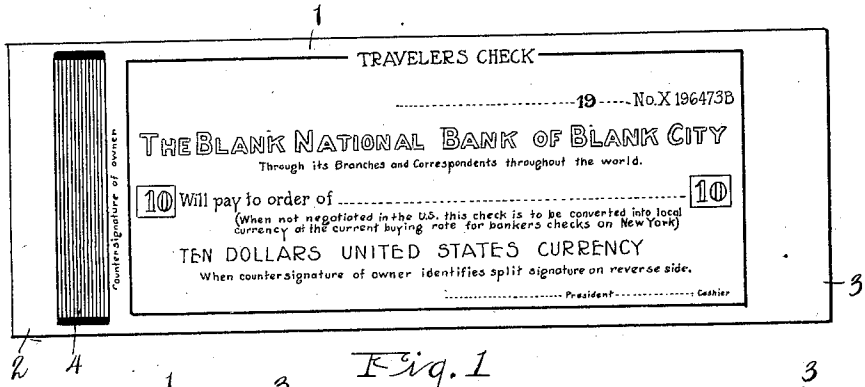


Fig. 1

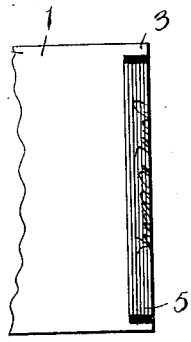


Fig. 3

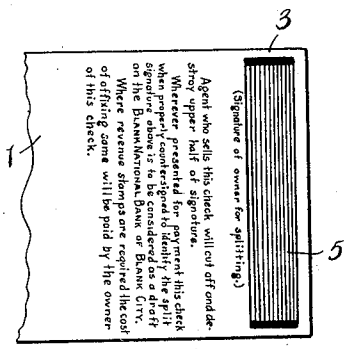


Fig. 2

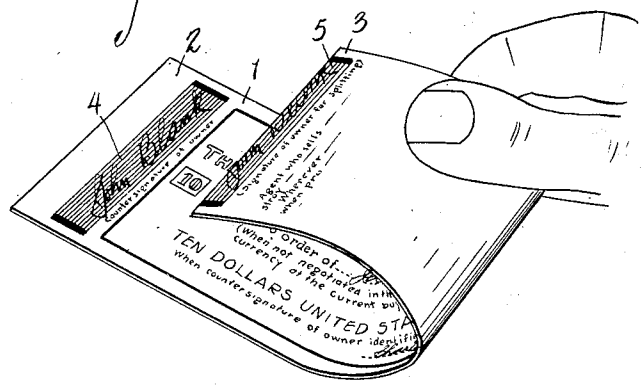


Fig. 4

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SAFETY CHECK

Application filed October 5, 1927. Serial No. 224,110.

The present invention relates to safety checks or the like and has for its principal object the provision of documentary means for establishing the identity of a person by comparison of signature and counter signature, while at the same time maintaining the identity of the person undisclosed during the period between the times of signature and counter signature.

The above object is accomplished by providing on any desired document a space for the signature of the person to be subsequently identified, such space being positioned on the document so that the signature when affixed may be rendered illegible by parting the signature along a substantially central longitudinal line. The signature in accordance with the invention is then parted and identification of the person whose illegible signature portion appears on the document is established at any desired time, subsequent to the signing of the document, by comparing the illegible portion of the signature appearing on the document with the complementary portion of a counter signature made by the person to be identified at the time when identity is to be established.

The more detailed nature of the invention and the advantages to be derived from its use will appear more fully from the following detailed description of the manner in which the invention may be applied to a traveler's check, a form of document with respect to which the invention is well adapted for use.

A structure which is a preferred embodiment of our invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this invention, in which:

Fig. 1 is a face view of a traveler's check blank embodying the features of our invention.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary rear view of the check shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary rear view with a signature of the person entitled to sign and countersign the check, longitudinally divided, the name "John Blank" being employed.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the fully signed check illustrating the manner of manipulating the check to bring the longitudinally divided portion of the signature into complementary relation with a portion of the complete signature, the parts, however, not being shown in registering relation in this figure.

While in the accompanying drawings, we have illustrated our improvements as embodied in travelers' checks, it will be understood that they may be readily adapted to various forms of documental means such as checks and the like where identification of the signature is desired.

The body 1 of the check or other document is, in the embodiment illustrated, printed with a suitable blank to be filled in and provided with the usual signature spaces for proper officers of the bank issuing the check.

At its ends the check is provided with extensions 2 and 3, the extension 2 being at the left hand end of the blank and having a transversely ruled signature space 4 on its face.

The extension 3 has a corresponding or duplicate transversely ruled signature space 5 on its rear side.

Below the signature space 4 are the words "Counter signature of owner" and below the signature space 5 on the rear are the words "Signature of owner for splitting".

When the checks are issued by the bank, the person to whom they are issued signs in the space 5 and the person issuing the check clips off a portion of this signature, as indicated in Fig. 3, longitudinally dividing the signature, the portion clipped off being destroyed. Instructions as to this may appear on the rear of the document, the document illustrated having the words "Agent who sells this check will cut off and destroy upper half of signature".

When the check is presented for cashing, the owner countersigns in the space 4, and the person cashing the check may quickly identify the signature by folding or bending the check upon itself, as indicated, bringing the longitudinally divided portion of the signature into complementary relation with

a portion of the signature in the counter signature space 4.

The ruling of these spaces is preferably in lines quite close together which facilitates bringing the parts into registering relation. The document may be easily manipulated to accomplish this.

The back of the blank illustrated may also advantageously contain the further instructions—

"Wherever presented for payment this check when properly countersigned to identify the split signature above is to be considered as a draft on the Blank National Bank of Blank City.

Where revenue stamps are required the cost of affixing same will be paid by the owner of this check."

These instructions are deemed sufficient for practical use but other instructions or information may be given if desired.

We have not attempted to illustrate various adaptations or embodiments of our improvements as we believe the disclosure made will enable those skilled in the art to embody or adapt our improvements to various documents, such as ordinary bank checks, vouchers, tickets, identification cards, and the like.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

1. Means for aiding in the establishment of identification comprising a document having disposed along one marginal edge thereof a portion of a whole signature, the whole signature having been affixed to the document and longitudinally parted to render the portion of the signature retained on the document illegible as a signature, and having a portion designated for the reception of a counter signature so spaced from said signature portion that manipulation of the document may be effected to place the divided signature portion over the portion designated for the reception of the counter signature.

2. Documentary means of the character described having a body portion bearing a legible statement, a space designated for entry of the counter signature of a person to be identified and a space designated for entry of the signature of said person, said signature space being offset with respect to the body portion of the means so that it may be divided, without impairing the body portion, to longitudinally part a signature thereon for removal of a part of the signature to render the retained portion of the signature illegible, said signature portion also being spaced from said counter signature space so that the signature portion may be placed over the counter signature space.

3. A document of the character described having a body portion bearing a legible statement, a space designated for entry of the counter signature of a person to be identified and a space for the reception of the signature of said person, said signature space being offset with respect to the body portion of the document and adjacent a marginal edge of the document so that the document may be divided, without impairing the body portion thereof to longitudinally part a signature on said first space for removal of a part of the signature to render the retained portion of the signature illegible, said signature portion also being spaced from said counter signature space so that the document may be manipulated to place the signature portion over the counter signature space.

4. A safety check comprising a printed body portion, there being a portion at each end of the check extending beyond its said printed body portion, said extending portions having spaces designated for entry of payee's signature with relatively close parallel lines thereon disposed transversely of the check and on opposite sides thereof, one of said signature spaces having a longitudinally divided signature thereon whereby the check may be folded transversely upon itself to bring said longitudinally divided portion of the signature into complementary relation to a signature written on the other of said signature spaces.

5. A safety check comprising a printed body portion, there being a portion at each end of the check extending beyond its said printed body portion, said extending portions having duplicate spaces designated for entry of payee's signature with relatively close parallel lines thereon disposed transversely of the check and on opposite sides thereof so that a signature in one of the spaces may be longitudinally divided by cutting away a portion of the check through the signature and such longitudinally divided portion of the signature brought into relation with the complementary portion of the signature in the other space.

6. A document having a body portion adapted to receive a signature with a space designated to receive the signature of the person to be identified at one end on the front and a corresponding space designated to receive the signature of the person to be identified on the rear side at the other end, there being a portion of a longitudinally divided signature in one of said spaces.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands.

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FRED J. MERSHON.