DISPLAY HOLDER FOR COINS AND OTHER ARTICLES

INVENTOR.

IRVING L. HOLLANDER.

ATTORNEY.
This invention relates to a display holder for coins, medals and other objects. The present invention may be used by collectors of coins, medals, entomological specimens, photographic and X-ray films and other collectors' items and similar objects. It may also be used for sales display purposes, for example by salesmen of buttons, precious stones and other similar articles which are relatively small, generally relatively valuable, and having important or interesting features on both obverse and reverse sides, thereof. Still another use for this invention may be found in the watch-making and, more particularly the watch-repairing, and other industries where a great many relatively small parts are required to be stored and classified. Although the invention is useful in all these connections, the present specification will relate to it solely in its capacity as a coin holder. This will be done for purposes of clarity only and it will be appreciated that the features of this invention which are described as being applicable to coin collecting, are equally applicable to the other uses of which this invention has above been briefly described as being susceptible.

In the art of stamp collecting, stamp albums are widely employed. The data therein contained may be predetermined and incorporated therein by the manufacturer or it may be introduced therein by the collector himself. Stamp collections may be incorporated therein in any desired arrangement. Numismatists for a long time have sought a similar album for use in connection with coin collections. Loose-leaf coin holders have been devised in an attempt to meet numismatic requirements but heretofore no entirely satisfactory album has been devised. Those which have been put on the market or patented have been rather fixed and inflexible in respect to their coin arrangements, and they have not been provided with practical, efficient, locking means as well as releasing means for their coin inserts or mounts.

It is accordingly the principal object of this invention to provide a display holder of the character described which is as useful in the field of numismatics as stamp albums are in the field of philately.

Another object of this invention is the provision of a loose-leaf album in which each leaf carries a plurality of coin holders which may be arranged and rearranged at will in said leaf in accordance with any predetermined or arbitrarily selected plan.

A further object of this invention is the provision of an efficient locking and releasing means for coin holding mounts in loose-leaf albums of the character described.

A still further object of this invention is the provision of a display holder of the character described which contains a plurality of coin inserts or mounts that are readily arrangeable and rearrangeable in said holder.

Still another object of this invention is the provision of a unique type of coin insert or mount adapted to be used in connection with the coin holders of the general character described.

Preferred embodiments of this invention are shown in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a loose-leaf coin album made in accordance with the present invention; said album being shown in open position.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of one of the leaves of said album, showing some of the coin inserts or mounts enclosed therein and also showing some of the inserts or mounts being removed from said leaf or being inserted therein.

Fig. 2A is a fragmentary, longitudinal section on the line 2A—2A of Fig. 2.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the locking key of said leaf.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of one of the individual coin inserts or mounts.

Fig. 5 is a plan view of one of the coins which may be used in connection with said insert or mount.

Fig. 6 is a transverse section on the line 6—6 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary side edge view of the leaf shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 8 is a section through the leaf shown in Fig. 2, said section being taken on a plane which is parallel to the plane on which said leaf lies, said view being simply a plan view of the leaf with its top layer removed.

Fig. 9 is a section on the line 9—9 of Fig. 8.

Fig. 10 is a fragmentary, plan view of a modified form of this invention.

Fig. 11 is a fragmentary section through one of the inserts which cooperates with the holder shown in Fig. 10.

Fig. 12 is a fragmentary section through a third embodiment of this invention.

Fig. 13 is a plan view thereof.

Fig. 14 is a section therethrough taken on a plane which is parallel to the two broad sides of this embodiment, said view being the equivalent of a plan view thereof with the top layer removed.
Fig. 15 is a view similar to that of Fig. 14, with the individual inserts removed therefrom.

Fig. 16 is a plan view of the combination locking member and window which is used in said third embodiment of the invention.

Referring now to the first nine figures of the drawing, it will be noted that the first embodiment of this invention comprises a binder 10 having a plurality of rings 11 and at least one loose-leaf 12. The binder and its rings may be conventional in every respect. It is the loose-leaf 12 which alone constitutes the heart of this invention, although it is best used in connection with a binder of the general character shown in Fig. 1.

Each loose-leaf 12 comprises an outer layer or wall of relatively stiff material 15, a second outer layer or wall of equally stiff material 16 spaced therefrom and a plurality of spacers sandwiched in between the two outer layers 15 and 16. Each outer layer comprises a rectangular member having a plurality of spacers transversely extending cut-outs 20 to 24 and 27 formed therein. A marginal cut-out 18 is also provided in each of these outer layers, this cut-out being formed in the top edge of each said layer adjacent one of the side edges thereof. A plurality of holes 20 is formed in each of said outer layers, along the opposite side edge thereof, these holes being spaced to conform to the spacing of rings 11, in binder 10. It is by means of these holes that each loose-leaf member 12 may be mounted in binder 10.

A spacer 21 is provided between the two outer layers 15 and 16, and it will be noted in Fig. 8 that this spacer has a backbone portion 22 which lies along that marginal edge of the two outer members in which holes 20 are formed. This backbone 22 is also provided with holes corresponding to, and registering with holes 20, formed in the two outer layers 15 and 16. Integral with said backbone 22 is a plurality of laterally extending fingers 23a, 23b, 23c, 23d and 23e which extend along the top and bottom edges of the two outer layers 15 and 16, and also between each pair of adjacent cut-outs or windows 17. The bottom finger 23e extends the full width of the two layers 15 and 16. The other fingers 23a to 23d, inclusive, have rounded ends which are spaced from the side edge of said layers 15 and 16. Corresponding to said fingers 23a to 23d inclusive are marginal spacers 24a to 24d inclusive. These marginal spacers lie along the edge of the two layers 15 and 16, spaced a predetermined distance from the rounded ends of fingers 23a to 23d inclusive. These marginal spacers also have rounded inner end portions, facing the rounded end portions of their corresponding fingers. It will also be noted that marginal spacers 24a to 24d inclusive, are aligned respectively with fingers 23a to 23d inclusive. Any adhesive or other means may be used to fasten said fingers 23a to 23e and spacers 21 and 24a to 24d inclusive to the two layers 15 and 16 of leaf 12. In the preferred form of this invention however, these spacers are integral with one of the layers (see Fig. 9) and they are fastened by means of an adhesive to the other layer.

Four compartments are thereby formed between the two outer layers 15 and 16 and fingered spacers 23a to 23e inclusive. Each compartment is adapted to receive an insert 30 such as is shown in Fig. 9. Each insert 30 comprises a pair of spaced outer layers 31 and 32 respectively, and a plurality of individual inserts or mounts 33 which serve as spacers between said outer layers 31 and 32. Outer layers 31 and 32 are identical with each other and each comprises a sheet or strip of transparent material such as transparent cellulose or other plastic material. The dimensions of these strips of transparent material are such as to enable them to be inserted into the several compartments thus formed between the outer layers 15 and 16. Their respective lengths are just short of the lengths of fingers 23a to 23d inclusive, and their respective widths also just fall short of the transversely separate said fingers 23a to 23d inclusive. Strips 31 and 32 are therefore dimensioned to enter the compartments above referred to but it will be understood that their dimensions are somewhat larger than those of cut-outs 17 and hence there will be little danger of strips 31 and 32 falling through said cut-outs 17.

Transparent strips 31 and 32 serve as retaining walls for individual inserts 33 and they also serve as windows through which the obverse and reverse sides of such coins 35 as may be mounted therein, may be seen. Each individual insert 33 comprises a substantially rectangular member which may be imperforate or may have one or more holes 36 formed therein to accommodate at least one coin 35, the thickness of the material of which said insert 33 is made being sufficient to enable said insert to accommodate the coin. The length of each insert 33, that is, the distance between its top and bottom edges, should correspond to the width of each of the two strips 31 and 32, reference being had to the distance between the top and bottom or long edges of said strips. The width of each insert 33 should be determined by the number and size of coins 35 that it is desired to mount in said insert 33. It will appear in Fig. 2 that a plurality of inserts corresponding to insert 33 is provided, said inserts being of varying dimensions as to their width, but all of them being equal in length or height.

As these inserts 33 may vary in size, so may they vary, as has already been indicated, in the number and size of their respective coin cut-outs 36. The arrangement of these inserts between any given pair of outer layers of transparent strips 31 and 32 may be varied as will. The sequence which they follow may be at the pleasure of the manufacturer of the album, and the loose-leaf may be labeled accordingly, or the sequence of said inserts may be determined by the user of the album and he may accordingly label the loose-leaf in which these inserts are mounted, to correspond with the chosen arrangement of parts. It will be readily apparent that each complete assembled insert 30, comprising the two outer strips and the plurality of individual inserts lying in between, may readily be inserted between the two outer layers 15 and 16 of loose-leaf 12 and it may equally readily be removed therefrom. (See Fig. 2.) A locking member or key 40 is provided to lock the several assembled inserts 30 in place, in their respective compartments in loose-leaf 12. Each locking member or key 40 comprises a rod-like member whose thickness corresponds to the thickness of layer 15 and 16 to 24d inclusive. Its width corresponds to the distance which separates fingers 23a to 23d inclusive from spacers 24a to 24d inclusive. Its length corresponds to the distance from the top edge of the two outer layers 15 and 16 to the top edge of lowermost finger 23e. Hence key 40 may be inserted into the space formed between the two outer layers 15 and 16 and fingers 23a to 23d.
inclusive on the one hand and spacers 24 to 24a inclusive on the other. When it is inserted into said space, it serves to prevent the assembled inserts 30 from slipping out of the loose leaf 12 in the manner shown in Fig. 2.

It will be recalled that a pair of cut-outs 18 is formed in the top marginal edge of the two outer layers 15 and 16 of leaf 12. These cut-outs serve to expose the eye. The long slot 23 thereby enabling said exposed end to be grasped by the fingers of the user to withdraw it from its locking position. This top end 41 of key 43 is shown in Fig. 3 to be colored differently from the rest or body of the key. This is intended to conform to the outer appearance of the two outer layers 15 and 16 respectively. In the preferred form of this invention, these outer layers are colored black, on their outer exposed sides or surfaces. The top or exposed end 41 of key 43 is accordingly colored black.

The second form of this invention, shown primarily in Fig. 10, indicates that a holder 50 may be made in accordance with the present invention, which corresponds in all essential respects to loose leaf 12 except that it has no holes formed therein corresponding to holes 28 of said loose leaf 12, and further that it has only two cut-outs 61 in place of the four cut-outs 17 in said first embodiment. It will be evident from this embodiment that the invention is not limited to loose leaf albums but instead it may be applied to separate or individual holders such as holders 53. These holders may be stored in a file such as a card index file and they may there be catalogued correspondingly. Fig. 10 also shows that the invention is not limited to a holder in which four assembled inserts 30 are mounted. Instead, it will be understood that holders for any number of inserts 30 may be provided within the scope and coverage of this invention. And it is immaterial whether they have marginal holes for rings 11 or not, and if they do have marginal holes it is immaterial how many, provided the holes correspond to the rings.

A third embodiment of this invention is shown in Figs. 12 to 16 inclusive. Here a holder 66 is shown which accommodates but a single insert corresponding to insert 30. It comprises a pair of outer layers or sheets 61 and 62 respectively, spaced from each other by means of a U-shaped spacer 63. The two outer layers 61 and 62 are identical with each other and each comprises a rectangular sheet having a rectangular cut-out 64 formed therein. It will be noted that U-shaped spacer 63 has a vertically extending backbone 63a and a pair of laterally extending flanges 63b and 63c respectively. This backbone and these flanges are parallel to and spaced from the edges of said three sides. An adhesive may be used to affix the two outer layers 61 and 62 to spacer 63 in the same manner as the outer layer of the first embodiment are affixed to their spacing member corresponding to insert 30 above described. Each insert of the present embodiment comprises a pair of transparent strips 65 and 66 removable held by means of staples 68 or similar fastening members. It will be observed in Fig. 12 that transparent strip 65 is somewhat longer than strip 66.

It will be noted in Fig. 15 that fingers 80a and 80c do not extend to the edge of layers 61 and 62. A space is thereby left between the two ends of said fingers and the ends of said layers which accommodate rigid member 67. Hence this member serves as a locking member by virtue of its frictional engagement with the ends of the layers 61 and 62, and it also serves as the means by which the insert corresponding to insert 30 may be withdrawn from holder 66.

Individual inserts 70 may be mounted between the two strips 65 and 66 in the same manner as inserts 30 may be inserted between strips 31 and 32 of the first embodiment. It will be noted in Figs. 13 and 14 that each insert 70 is provided with substantially rectangular hole or cut-out 71. This shape of cut-out is not peculiar to the third embodiment of this invention. Instead it may be incorporated into any one of the three embodiments of this invention and into any other embodiments thereof which may be devised.

Fig. 10 also shows that the invention is susceptible of a wide range of equivalents. For instance, one of layers 61 and 62, or 65 and 66 may be of opaque material. In illustrative of the modifications of which the present invention is susceptible is a variation in the positions of the inserts relative to the holder proper. In the three embodiments shown in the drawing, the inserts are insertible and removable through a side opening and it appears that they are movable along a lateral or horizontal path only. It will be appreciated that the compartments in which they are contained may be rearranged to allow for vertical or longitudinal insertion and removal of said inserts. The locking key should, of course, cross the paths of the inserts at right angles thereto and in the case just mentioned, therefore the locking key will be horizontally or transversely insertible into the holder rather than vertically as appears in the drawing.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is

1. An article of the character described, comprising a holder having a plurality of compartments formed therein, windows to said compartments formed in two opposed walls of said holder, said windows being slightly smaller than the compartments themselves, a plurality of inserts removable in said holder, each insert in each compartment, and a locking bar to restrain all the inserts from accidentally falling out of their respective compartments, said
locking bar being slidable past said inserts in an opening in said holder which extends normally to the path of travel of said inserts, to retain said slidable inserts in said compartments.

2. An article of the character described, comprising a holder having a plurality of compartments formed therein, windows to said compartment formed in opposite walls of said holder, said windows being slidable past said inserts, in said holder, a plurality of inserts removably slidable mounted in said holder, at least one insert in each compartment, and a locking feature which extends normally to the path of travel of said inserts in said holder, each said insert comprising a pair of transparent sheets having a plurality of display mounts removably mounted therebetween, each of said display mounts having at least one cut-out formed therein to accommodate an article for display purposes.

3. An article of the character described, comprising a holder, said holder having a top wall and a bottom wall spaced from each other by means of spacers, at least one compartment formed in said holder between said top and bottom walls, openings in said compartment formed in one side edge of said holder, windows to said compartments formed in said side edges of said holder, an insert for each of said compartments slidably insertable thereinto, and a locking bar which is removably mounted in said holder within said space and across said compartments, to prevent accidental dislocation of said inserts, each said insert comprising a pair of transparent sheets and a plurality of display mounts removably supported therebetween, each said individual display mount having at least one cut-out formed therein to accommodate an article for display purposes, said article being held in place in said cut-out by the two transparent sheets which enclose the display mount in which said article is mounted, said article being visible through said transparent sheets and through the windows formed in the walls of said holder.

4. An article of the character described comprising a holder having a top wall and a bottom wall, spacers between said walls forming compartments between them, openings formed in one of the sides of said holder to provide access to said compartments, windows to said compartments formed in said top and bottom walls, an insert slidable mounted in each of said compartments, said insert being shorter than their respective compartments and being insertable into and removable from said compartments through said side openings, and when slid home allowing a space between their proximal ends and the open side of the holder and a locking bar slidable mounted in said holder to occupy some of said space and close said side openings to retain the insert in their respective compartments, each said insert comprising a pair of transparent sheets having a plurality of individual display mounts removably supported therebetween, each said display mount having at least one cut-out formed therein to accommodate an article for display purposes, said article being held in place in said cut-out by said transparent sheets and being visible through said sheets and through the compartment windows formed in the top and bottom walls of said holder.

5. An album for coins and similar articles, said album comprising a loose-leaf binder and a plurality of leaves removably contained therein, each of said leaves comprising a holder having top and bottom walls and spacers mounted between said walls, compartments formed by said spacers between said walls, openings to said compartments formed in one side edge of said holder, windows to said compartments formed in the top and bottom walls of said holder, each insert for each of said compartments slidably insertable thereinto, and removable therefrom through said side openings, said inserts being shorter than their respective compartments and when slid home enclosing a plurality of individual display mounts removably supported therebetween, each said individual display mount having at least one cut-out formed therein to accommodate an article for display purposes, said article being held in place in said cut-out by the two transparent sheets which enclose the display mount in which said article is mounted, said article being visible through said transparent sheets and through the windows formed in the walls of said holder.
between, the respective lengths of the inserts being just short of the length of the fingers and their respective widths just falling short of the distances which separate said fingers, each said display mount having at least one cut-out formed therein to accommodate an article for display purposes, and a locking bar to lock the several assembled inserts in place in their respective compartments, said bar comprising a rod-like member removably disposed in the space bounded by the two walls, the fingers, and the marginal spacers.

IRVING L. HOLLANDER.

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