NUMISMATIC DISPLAY DEVICES

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This invention relates in general to numismatic display devices and, more particularly, to coin holders adapted to protect, as well as display, valuable coins in a coin collection. At the present time, numismatists have considerable difficulty with the adequate protection and display of coins in a coin collection. Many coins are minted from comparatively soft metals and wear away slightly during circulation. Even after such coins become part of a coin collection, they are likely to become scratched, scarred, or otherwise damaged if allowed to rub against each other in bags or boxes and this is quite undesirable inasmuch as the value of a coin, as a collector's item, is not only attributable to its rarity and its face value, but also to its perfection as a specimen. Consequently, most numismatists keep valuable coins in cloth-lined boxes having circular depressions into which the coins will fit. Obviously, such boxes have many disadvantages. They are expensive and somewhat cumbersome to handle. Moreover, since most coin collections are very valuable and are usually kept in safes or safe-deposit vaults, the space consumed by such boxes is costly. In addition, a cloth-lined box has little, if any, display value. Even if covered with some sort of transparent top, only one side of the coin can be viewed unless it is manually removed and turned over.

Another problem encountered by numismatists relates to the diametral size of a coin. All collector's coins, except newly minted ones, are subject to more or less wear particularly around the "coined" edges and this wear causes variation in diametral size. In fact, there is usually several thousands difference in diametral size between two coins of the same denomination and issue. Consequently, the circular depressions in coin-boxes are substantially oversized with the result that the coins tend to lie loosely with the depressions or compartments housing them and will shift to-and-fro as the boxes are handled. Even when the boxes are lined with the softest cloth, this will, over many years, produce a type of surface polish on one side of the coin which many collectors consider undesirable. In fact, some coin-collectors go to the trouble of periodically turning boxed coins over to prevent differences in the surface appearance of the two sides of a coin. Closely connected with this problem of surface appearance is the matter of the sharpness and clear definition of the "coining" around the periphery of the specimen. The value of the coin is increased when the coinings around the edge is sharply defined and unworn. Consequently, collectors not only desire to protect the coined edge, but also would like to display it, if this were possible.

It is, therefore, the primary object of the present invention to provide a numismatic coin holder which will protect the coin and also clearly display both sides thereof.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a coin holder of the type stated which is readily adaptable for receiving and displaying coins of various diametral sizes and also is capable of self-adjustment to compensate for variations in diametral size resulting from wear suffered by the coin during circulation.

With the above and other objects in view, my invention resides in the novel features of form, construction, arrangement, and combination of parts presently described and pointed out in the claims.
to accommodate different coins of the same denomination simply by replacing an adapter ring by the prongs 10 of which have been deformed to fit one coin with a fresh adapter ring, the prongs 10 of which have not yet been deformed at all. This is particularly useful for coin collectors who buy, sell, or trade their coins. Since coins of the same denomination are not all of the same identical size, it is quite possible that a subsequent coin of the same denomination would not fit in exactly the same deformations formed in the prongs 10 by a previous coin. In such instance, the coin holder A' can be readily adapted to receive the new coin simply by replacement of the adapter ring.

It should be understood that changes and modifications in the form, construction, arrangement, and combination of the several parts of the numismatic display devices may be made and substituted for those herein shown and described without departing from the nature and principle of my invention.

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

1. A coin holder comprising a flat plate-like member having an upper surface and a lower surface and being provided with at least one relatively large aperture having radially inwardly projecting prongs through the peripheral edge of a coin, said prongs having inwardly facing margins which are oblique to the axis of the aperture, said prongs having a triangular shape, the apex of which is located adjacent the upper surface of said plate, the base of said prongs being substantially coplanar with the lower surface of said plate, said prongs being substantially rigid and yet sufficiently fragile so as to be slightly broken away by the coin as it is pressed downwardly into the prongs, and a pair of transparent cover plates removably mounted upon opposite faces of the plate-like element and extending across the aperture therein.

2. A coin holder comprising a plate-like element having at least one aperture extending therethrough, said aperture being substantially larger than the peripheral size of the coin to be housed therein, an adapter ring having an outer peripheral contour and sized substantially identical with the peripheral contour and size of the aperture so as to fit snugly in the aperture, said adapter ring being provided with a plurality of radially spaced inwardly projecting prongs for peripheral engagement with the coin to be held therein, said prongs having a triangular shape, the apex of which is located adjacent the upper surface of said plate, the base of said prongs being substantially coplanar with the lower surface of said plate, said prongs being substantially rigid and yet sufficiently fragile so as to be slightly broken away by the coin as it is pressed downwardly into the prongs, and transparent cover plates means removably disposed upon said plate-like element across the aperture and adapter ring fitted within the aperture.

3. A coin holder comprising a flat plate-like member provided with at least one relatively large aperture having radially spaced inwardly projecting prongs for engagement with the peripheral edge of a coin, said prongs being fragile so as to be partially broken away by the coin as it is pressed downwardly into the prongs so that the coin will be snugly held within and in annular spaced relationship to the aperture.

4. A coin holder comprising a plate-like element having at least one aperture extending therethrough, said aperture being substantially larger than the peripheral size of the coin to be housed therein, an adapter ring having inner and outer annular faces, said outer annular face having an outer peripheral contour and size substantially identical with the peripheral contour and size of the aperture so as to fit snugly in the adapter ring, said inner annular face of the adapter ring being larger in diametrical size than the coin to be inserted therein and being provided with a plurality of radially spaced inwardly projecting
prongs for peripheral engagement with the coin to be held therein, said prongs having a triangular shape, the apex of which is located adjacent the upper surface of said plate, the base of said prongs being substantially coplanar with the lower surface of said plate, said prongs being frangible so as to be partially broken away by the coin as it is pressed into the adapter ring and thereby hold the coin snugly in annularly spaced relation within the adapter ring, and a pair of transparent cover plates removably disposed upon opposite faces of the plate-like element in closurewise disposition across said aperture.

5. A coin holder comprising a flat plate-like member having an upper surface and a lower surface and being provided with at least one relatively large aperture having radially inwardly projecting prongs for engagement with the peripheral edge of a coin, said prongs having inwardly facing margins which are oblique to the axis of the aperture, said prongs having a triangular shape, the apex of which is located adjacent the upper surface of said plate, the base of said prongs being substantially coplanar with the lower surface of said plate, said prongs being substantially rigid and yet sufficiently frangible so as to be partially broken away by the coin as it is pressed downwardly into the prongs so that the coin will be snugly held within and in annularly spaced relationship to the aperture, and a pair of transparent cover plates removably mounted upon opposite faces of the plate-like element and extending across the aperture therein.