

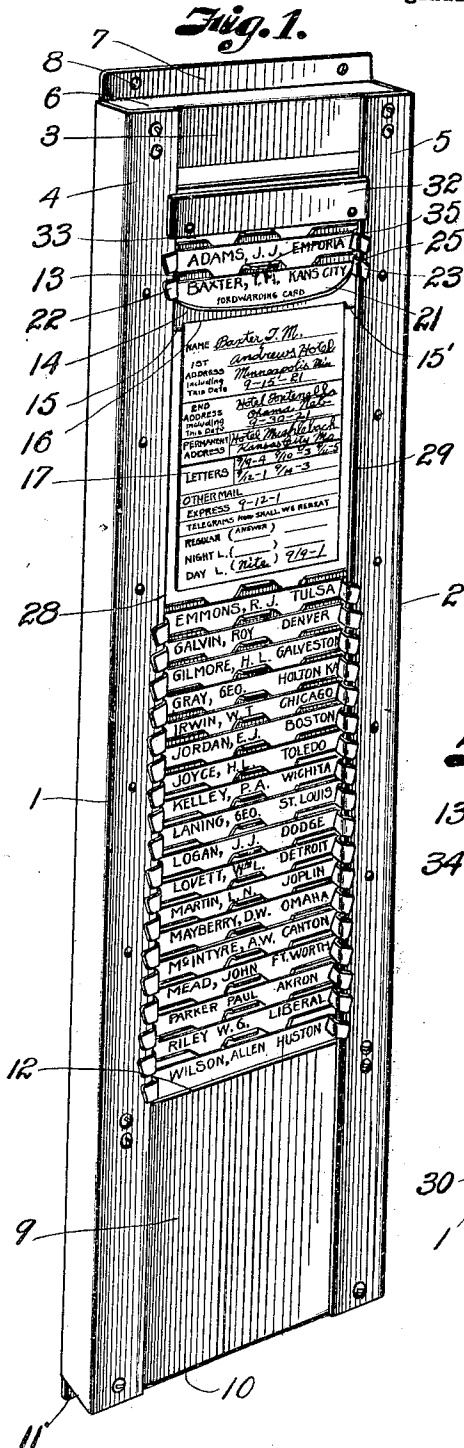
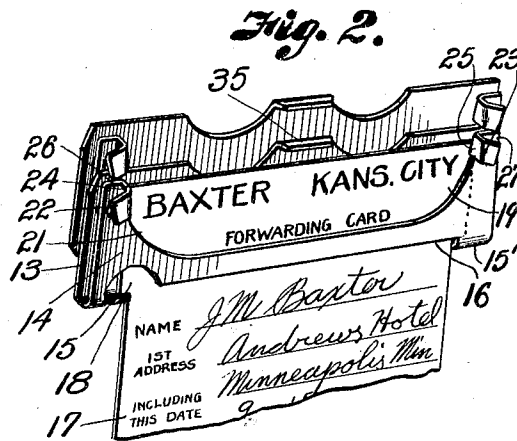
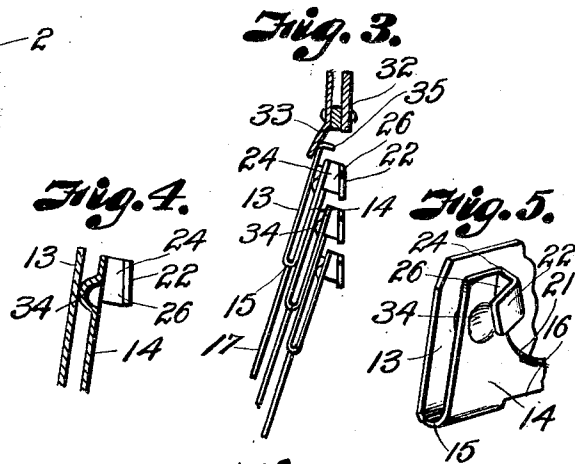
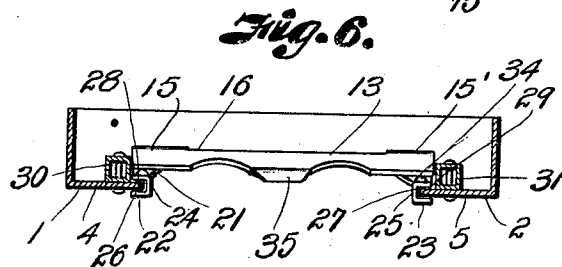
Sept. 16, 1924.

J. R. DUMONT

1,508,779

DIRECTORY RACK

Original Filed Sept. 19, 1921



Inventor
Joseph R. Dumont

By *Arthur Brown*

Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH R. DUMONT, OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI.

DIRECTORY RACK.

Application filed September 19, 1921, Serial No. 501,757. Renewed July 10, 1924.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH R. DUMONT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Kansas City, in the county of Jackson and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Directory Racks; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to a directory rack and more particularly to a directory especially adapted for use in hotels or places where it is desirable to maintain cards on which indicia is arranged under main headings to be filed in a systematic order as, for example, alphabetically, numerically or the like, and in such a manner that the main heading will be visible at all times, the indicia thereunder, however, being adapted to be brought into view when desired.

The primary object of the invention is to provide means whereby the directory can be conveniently arranged within a minimum space so that the indicia will be readily accessible when desired.

In the illustrated embodiment of my invention I have shown it as consisting of a rack in which card holders are slidably mounted and having their body portions tilted so that the lower portions of the cards may lie flat one upon the other, out of view but whereby the tops of the cards containing the identifying indicia may be visible.

Where the invention is adapted for use in connection with hotels and the like, the card holders will be so arranged that the names and preferably but not necessarily, the addresses of the guests will be visible but the remaining portions of the cards containing other data, such as the forwarding addresses, receipt of telegrams, permanent addresses, mail receipts and other more or less confidential information will be obscured but will be readily accessible by sliding the card holders in the racks to bring the whole of the card into view.

Such a general organization is shown in my Patent No. 1,209,818 of December 26, 1916 and it is the purpose of the present

invention to improve on such a construction and to this end the invention consists in certain novel parts and combinations of parts, all of which will be specifically described hereinafter, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a rack unit showing the card holders in place and supplied with cards.

Fig. 2 is a detail perspective view of a plurality of holders detached and part of a card supported by one of the holders.

Fig. 3 is an edge view of three card holders, the positioning weight being shown in section.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail sectional view through a portion of one of the holders to illustrate the spacing stop between the front and rear walls.

Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view of one end of one of the card holders, and

Fig. 6 is a cross sectional view through the rack and a top plan view of the card holder.

For the purpose of illustration I have shown only one rack unit but it is obvious that the directory may consist of a multiplicity of units such as shown in Fig. 1, each being arranged side by side and fastened in a suitable frame or connected together so as to make a unitary structure. In each instance, however, each unit will be a duplicate of the others.

The rack unit is shown as consisting of two vertical angle bars 1 and 2, each provided with a flange to constitute one longitudinal edge of the rack and the other flange of the two angle bars constitute the longitudinal face of the rack. The ends of the members 1 and 2 are connected by a Z-shaped member, the flange 3 of which is fastened to the face flanges 4 and 5 of the angles 1 and 2, the web 6 constituting the top edge of the rack and the flange 7 being provided with openings 8, through which fastening devices may be passed to hang the rack upon the wall or other suitable support.

The bottom ends of the angles 1 and 2 are connected by a plate 9, having a web portion 10 to constitute the bottom edge of the rack and a flange 11, which corresponds to the flange 7 at the top and it is obvious that the flange 11 may also be provided with openings corresponding to 8, through which

fastening devices may be introduced to connect the rack to its support.

The plate 9 is long enough to cover the bottom card in the rack and supported above the plate are a plurality of longitudinally slidable card-supporting holders or traps, the number of holders or traps being less than will be required to fill the entire longitudinal space between the upper edge 12 of the plate 9 and the flange 3 of the top connecting Z-bar so that the card holders or traps may be slid a sufficient distance to expose the entire card supported by any one card holder or trap.

Each card holder or trap consists of a plate bent at approximately its longitudinal center to provide a back wall 13 and a front wall 14, the walls 13 and 14 being connected by the curved webs or portions 15 and 15'. The plate is provided with a slot 16, between the webs or shoulders 15 and 15' (see Fig. 2) so that the card 17 may be passed through the slot 16 and have its offset portions 18 and 19 resting upon the shoulders 15 and 15', as clearly seen in Fig. 2.

In order to expose the upper end 20 of the card 17, the front wall is cut away, as indicated at 21. Therefore, on the upper end of the card 17 may be applied suitable indicia indicating the main heading, such as the name of the guest, the address, etc.

The front wall 14 of the plate comprising the card support or trap is provided with out-bent fingers 22 and 23, connected to the front wall by the spacing webs 24 and 25 so that the fingers 22 and 23 are offset with respect to the front wall to provide grooves 26 and 27 to engage the inner edges 28 and 29 of the angles 1 and 2, there preferably being guide ribs 30 and 31 on the inner faces of the angles 1 and 2, as clearly seen in Fig. 6, to assist in guiding the card holders or traps during their vertical sliding movement within the rack frame.

The fingers 22 and 23 are so disposed with respect to the front walls 14 that they incline outwardly in a downward direction. The purpose of this is to cause an inherent tendency in the card holders or traps to swing rearwardly due to the fact that the inner faces of the fingers will tend to assume the positions parallel to the outer faces of the angles 1 and 2 and thereby tilt the plates rearwardly, as shown in Fig. 3, so that one will overlap the other and thereby cause the cards to overlap one another, as clearly seen in Fig. 3. The card holders or traps will be urged into such positions by the sliding weight 32, which has grooved engagement with the edges of the flanges 4 and 5 and which has a rearwardly extending bottom flange or lip 33 to overlap the top card holder or trap at the upper edge and thereby tend to pivot it rearwardly so that the lower edge will swing rearwardly from the trap

immediately below it and, in turn, ride over the upper edge of its next succeeding complementary trap and in turn swing it rearwardly, thus all of the traps or holders will be maintained in the position shown in Fig. 1.

In order to prevent the binding of the card and in order to prevent it being clamped between the front and rear walls 13 and 14 I have provided a spacing stop 34, which may be struck out in the form of a boss at each end of the wall 14, the convex portion being adapted to bear against the front face of the back wall so that the front and rear walls will be held in spaced relation to an amount at least equal to the thickness of the card 17, thereby allowing the cards to be readily inserted and removed from the holders or traps whenever desired.

When the parts are properly assembled, it will be apparent that the cards can be readily inserted through the slots 16, exposing only the upper edges through the cut-away portion 21 of the front face 14 of each holder or trap and that the cards will assume the positions shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 without special manipulation.

If it is desired to examine the indicia or memorandum on the card of any guest as, for example, the second card in the frame shown in Fig. 1, the clerk will press upwardly on the lip or flange 35 at the upper edge of the rear wall of the holder or trap, raising all of the holders or traps above it as well as the weight 32, as indicated in Fig. 1. Then the entire card held by the lowest trap raised as, for example, the second trap shown in Fig. 1, can be brought into view and examined for whatever information is desired.

When the required information is obtained, the clerk will release the pressure on the lip 35 and the weight 32 will be effective in causing the previously raised traps or holders to gravitate upon those below and restore all of the raised holders or traps to their normal positions.

The construction of the holders or traps which insures the rearward swinging of the lower portions of the walls 13 and 14, the spacing stop members, and the weight for normally maintaining the holders in proper position and for restoring them to proper positions after they have been raised, are important features of my invention, as they facilitate the manipulation of the holders within the rack frame.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters-Patent is:

1. A card holder having oppositely disposed flat guide fingers spaced from the body of the holder to provide guide-receiving grooves, the flat faces of the fingers being disposed at angles to the body of the holder so that the grooves will be wider at

the bottom than at the top to allow the bottom of the holder to tilt away from the guides.

2. A card rack comprising spaced guides 5 and card-receiving holders, each having oppositely disposed flat fingers spaced from the body portion of the holder and directly opposite to the same at all points to provide guide-receiving grooves to be engaged by 10 the guides on opposite sides of the rack.

3. A card support comprising a plate bent longitudinally to provide front and rear walls, the front wall being cut away intermediate its ends to expose a portion of 15 the space between the front and rear walls, and outstanding guide fingers integral with the plate, the inner faces of the fingers being at angles to the front plate to provide vertical guide grooves wider at the bottom 20 than at the top.

4. A card support comprising a longitudinally slotted plate bent at the slotted portion to provide parallel walls, one of the walls being cut away to expose a portion 25 of the space between it and its complementary wall, and parts of the front wall being bent back upon itself to provide vertical guide grooves to receive the vertical guide rails of a supporting rack frame.

5. A card holder comprising a plate 30 having a longitudinal slot and bent back upon itself to provide two parallel walls, a boss struck out from one wall and within the space between the walls to serve as a spacing stop to maintain the two walls in 35 proper spaced relation, and guide fingers carried by one of the walls for engagement with guides.

6. A card holder comprising a longitudinally slotted plate bent at the slotted 40 portion to provide parallel walls, one of the walls being cut away to expose a portion of the space between it and its complementary wall and one of the walls having portions near its ends bent outwardly to 45 form guide fingers substantially parallel with the wall to receive guide rails therein, and one of said walls carrying a spacing stop in the space between the two walls.

7. A directory comprising a frame having 50 vertical guide rails, a plurality of vertically movable card holders supported one upon the other and engaged by the guide rails, and a vertically slidable weight normally bearing against the topmost card holder. 55

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOSEPH R. DUMONT.