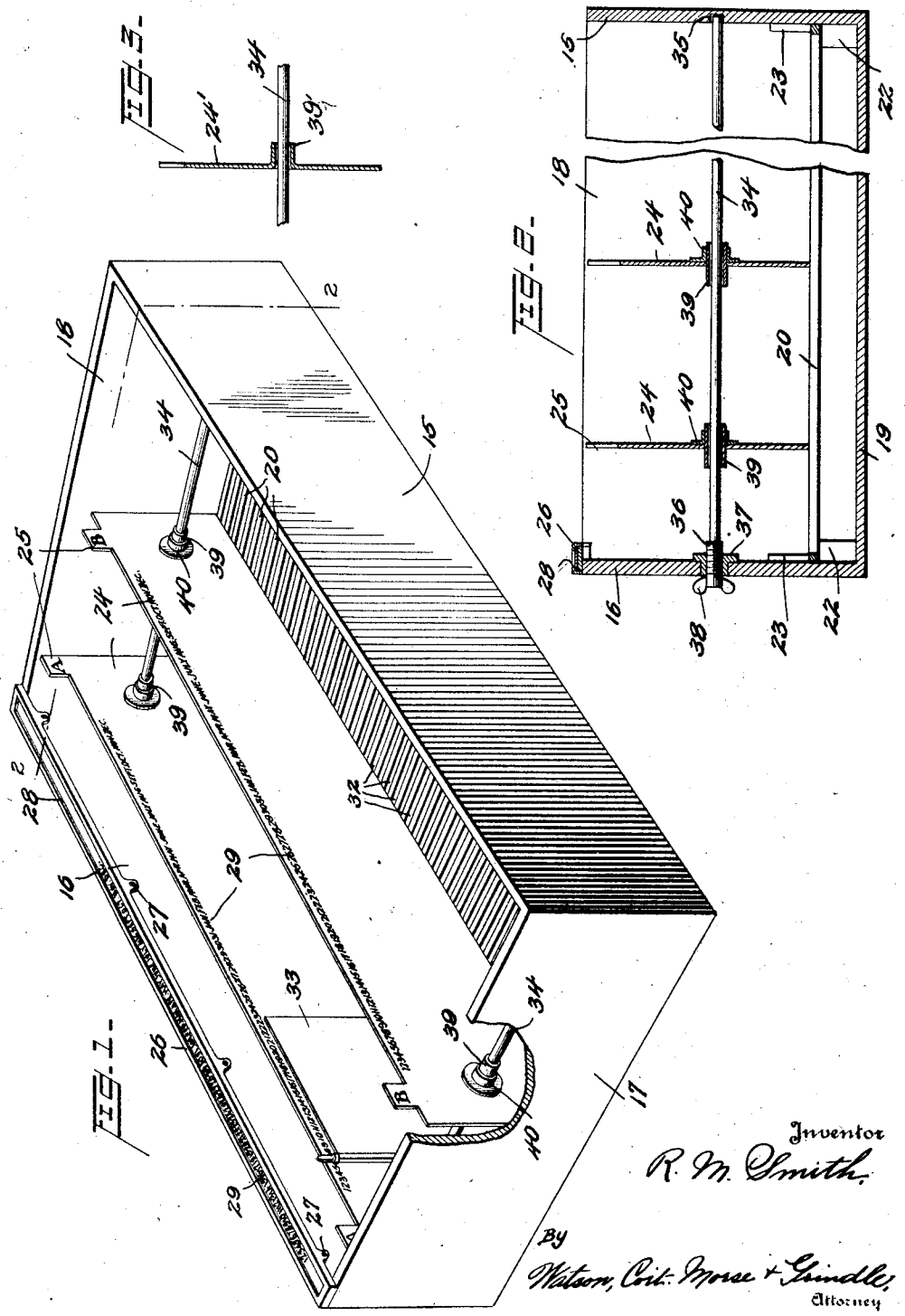
May 3, 1927. 1,626,979

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FILING DEVICE

Filed May 8, 1923



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FILING DEVICE.

Application filed May 8, 1923. Serial No. 637,553.

This application, which is a continuation in part of my application Serial Number 535,453, relates to a filing device for cards to be indexed according to subject matter and specifically considered consists in improved means for sustaining in proper position the partitions in a device of the kind illustrated in my copending application, Serial No. 403,906, filed Aug. 16, 1920, although its uses are not limited to that particular form of device. It consists in a single construction easily applied to card containers which securely holds the dividing members or partitions in position preventing longitudinal and vertical movement thereof or side tipping or accidental lateral movement while permitting free intentional lateral movement of the partitions. The novel features will be more fully understood from the following description and claim taken with the accompanying drawings. In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a card container having my invention applied thereto;

Figure 2 is a longitudinal vertical section on the plane indicated by line 2—2 in Figure 1; and

Figure 3 is a sectional view showing details of a modified form.

Referring to the drawings it will be seen that the filing device is shown as comprising a rectangular container or shell consisting of the four side members or walls 15, 16, 17 and 18, the upper side of this shell being open. Preferably the lower side of the shell is closed as by a backing 19, although this backing is not absolutely necessary. Spaced from the backing and the lower edges of the side pieces of the shell is a grid comprising spaced parallel members or bars 20, the spaces between the same being indicated by the numeral 32. In the form of the invention shown the grid is held spaced from the lower edges of the shell by the spacing blocks 22. It will be obvious that the filing device may be constructed with spacing blocks of various sizes so as to position the grid as desired relative to the lower edges of the shell. Any suitable means may be provided for holding the grid against movement toward the top of the shell. As shown for this purpose flat members 23 are secured to the sides 16 and 15 on the interior thereof.

With the present invention the cards may be filed in accordance with two kinds of data. To this end two series of index characters are provided, being disposed at right angles to each other. Preferably one series of characters is disposed to extend in a direction at right angles to the bars 20 of the grid while the other series of characters extends in a direction parallel with said bars. This latter series of characters is carried on the movable partitions 24 disposed within the container parallel to the first-mentioned series of characters. As shown, each of the partitions 24 carries a character of the series, such as a letter of the alphabet, the tab 25 at the upper edge of the partition being provided for this purpose. If desired, two of these tabs may be positioned on each partition on opposite sides of the center of the partition. One or more of these partitions may also carry the other series of characters disposed adjacent its upper edge. Thus as shown, each of the partitions carries the characters 29 consisting of the days of the month and the months of the year forming the series. If desired the upper edge of one of the sides such as 16 may also carry one of these latter series of characters spaced the same as on the partitions. For this purpose the characters 29 are disposed on a strip secured against the upper edge of the said side. The strip is secured to the upper edge of the side by the channel-shaped strip 26, a suitable slot 28 being provided in this latter strip so that the characters will be visible. As shown the channel strip 26 is secured to the side in any suitable manner as by the brads 27.

As fully explained in the copending application above noted, the cards used in the container shown are similar to each other and are of special construction to adapt them to remain in adjusted position indicating by that position the nature of the matter on them in two particulars, one of those cards being shown in Figure 1 marked 33. Since, however, the present invention does not relate to the structure of those cards or their cooperative relations to the other parts of the device detailed description is not here necessary.

It will be noted that the division plates or partitions are not secured to the ends of the shell or container or to the grid on which their lower edges rest and from which they extend upwardly at right angles. They fit longitudinally in the shell or container and are adapted to be moved laterally to increase or decrease the width of the column for

cards between them and the walls of the container or each other. The present invention relates particularly to novel means for properly holding them in position and adjusting them. That means in the specific form shown includes a pair of similar rods 34 passing through the wall 16 near its ends and through the partitions 24 and entering sockets 35 in the opposite wall 15. They are placed at the ends of the walls and partitions so as to leave the central portion of the container unobstructed and not interfere with the proper placing of cards in series. They furthermore preferably pass through the partitions approximately midway between their upper and lower edges so as to balance the strain. Each rod has a slightly enlarged screw-threaded portion 36 near one end adapted to engage internal screw-threads in a bushing 37 secured in an opening in wall 16 whereby the rod may be freely passed through the threaded opening in the bushing until its inner end is at or near wall 15 when the screw-threads on the rod and bushing will engage and turning the rod will then cause it to move gradually inward until its inner end is in the socket 35 and lateral movement is thereby prevented. The turning of the rod may be accomplished through a suitable key or hand-hold 38.

In the circular openings through the dividers or partitions 24 for the rods 34 the cylindrical short pipe-like sleeves 39 are placed preferably projecting equally from opposite sides of the partitions as shown. They have interior diameters slightly greater than the diameters of rods 34 whereby they may be freely moved along said rods with a sliding action when it is desired to move the partition laterally. Each sleeve is securely held in place in its opening in the partition by any suitable means as by collars 40 secured on them and having radial flanges fitting against and secured to the side surface of the partition. It will be observed that the rigid rods cooperating with the sleeves of the partitions furnish a sliding bearing surface of material length at the ends of the partitions about midway of their height which will effectively hold them and their index data in the same longitudinal position with reference to the container walls and the index data carried thereby, preventing either end from moving up or down out of place and holding the partitions always parallel to the side walls with which it is desired that they shall be parallel preventing one end from moving laterally without the other and holding them always in upright position at right angles to the rods and the supporting grid. The structure is such that any pressure against them at any point unless applied intentionally, simultaneously, equally and in the same direction longitudinally of the rods at both sleeves, will not have the effect of moving them to any appreciable extent out of the desired position. This is because if the pressure is above or below the line between the sleeves the tendency would be to tip the partition to a different angle from a right angle to the rod and the close fit of the sleeves would not only prevent this by end contact with the rod but would by gripping action interpose frictional resistance to side movement which would increase as the pressure increased. This same result would happen if the side pressure happened to be on the center line but not so positioned as to transmit the moving force to the two sleeves equally in the same direction laterally. On the other hand it is an easy matter for the user of the device to move a partition laterally when desired by simultaneously pressing in the same direction longitudinally of the rods on the two sleeves of the partition or on the partition itself on the center line on opposite sides of each rod. In thus moving the partition he does not have to use special care to maintain it in vertical or proper longitudinal position or parallel to the side walls since the structure constituting the present invention automatically does that.

Although for brevity and convenience in the use of terms for the purpose of distinction and identification of parts the open side or end of the container is referred to as the top or upper portion and similar terms of reference are applied to its parts, it is to be understood that they are not intended in a technical sense since the invention is obviously not confined to the use of the device with a particular side or part uppermost. Furthermore, although a particular embodiment of the invention is shown for purposes of illustration it is not confined to that form beyond what is particularly indicated in the attached claim.

For instance, it is not necessary to construct and assemble the partition and sleeves in the manner described, but the sleeve 39′ may be formed integrally with the partition 24′ by punching or pressing the sleeve from a metal blank of which the partition is made, as shown in Figure 3, or in any other suitable manner.

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

In a device of the class described, the combination with a rectangular container for cards, of a laterally movable rectangular partition in said container longitudinally parallel to two sides, a pair of guide rods parallel to each of the other two sides, said guide rods passing through said partition within its rectangular outline intermediate its top and bottom edges, one of said rods being at each end of the partition, the

said rods being stationary in normal use, and said partition having a pair of sleeves secured at right angles thereto through which said rods pass, said sleeves having an opening therethrough of slightly larger diameter than the diameter of said rods and being of such a length that the ends of the sleeves will frictionally engage the rods to prevent longitudinal movement of the partition thereon when the partition is canted slightly from a position at right angles to said rods.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

RITTENHOUSE M. SMITH.