June 10, 1969 J. M. SEGEL ET AL 3,448,850

ORNAMENTAL COIN HOLDER

Filed Nov. 30, 1967

FIG. 1

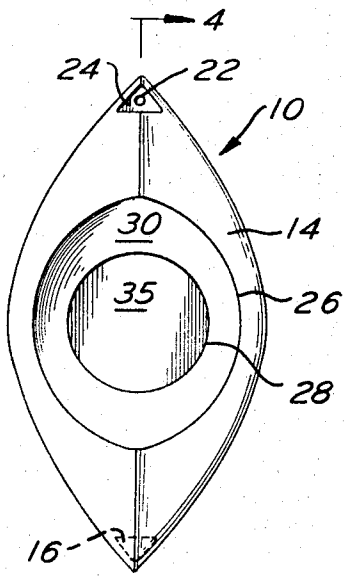


FIG. 2

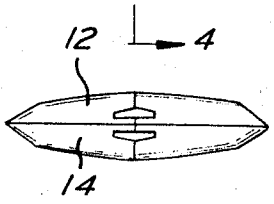


FIG. 3

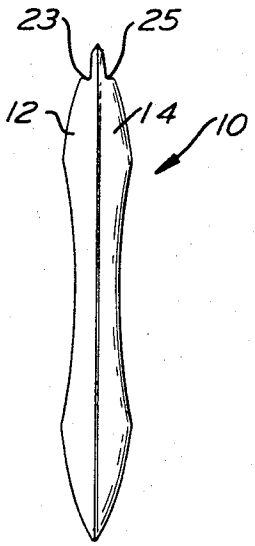
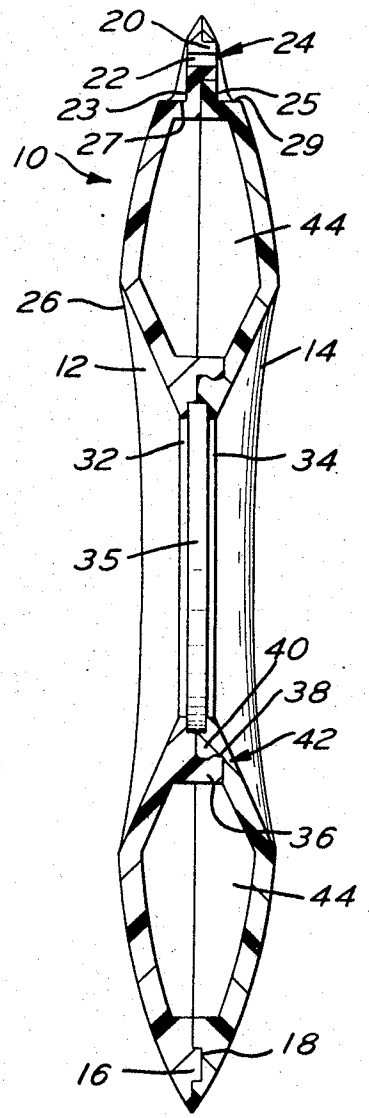


FIG. 4



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ORNAMENTAL COIN HOLDER

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An ornamental coin holder comprising first and second halves, each having an opening through the center portion thereof. Cooperating securing means are provided at opposite ends of the half members and further securing means are provided adjacent the center of the members. Flanges are provided on each half surrounding the openings so that a coin may be held between the halves by the flanges concentric with the faces of the coin exposed through the aligned openings. The ornamental coin holder is secured together by first interconnecting the end securing means and thereafter snapping together the centrally located securing means. When the halves are so interconnected, they have the appearance of a sealed unitary device having a coin fixedly retained therebetween.

The present invention relates to an ornamental coin holder and more particularly to an attractive coin holder which may be readily taken apart and yet, when secured together has the appearance of a sealed unitary device.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a new and useful ornamental coin holder.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an ornamental coin holder which is highly attractive in appearance and, when interconnected, has the appearance of a sealed unitary device.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide an ornamental coin holder which can be hung from a Christmas tree and which is adapted to retain a coin therein and expose the major faces thereof.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide an ornamental coin holder which exposes substantially the entire major faces of a coin retained therein by providing aligned openings on male and female halves of the coin holder.

It is still a further object of the present invention to provide an ornamental coin holder which is simple to interconnect, relatively inexpensive to produce, and yet highly attractive in appearance.

Other objects will appear from the disclosure which follows hereinafter.

The above and other objects are accomplished by means of the present invention. A coin holder is provided which is composed of two halves. One half may be referred to as a male member and the other half may be referred to as a female member. The male and female members are adapted to be secured together and retain a coin therebetween. The male and female members have openings therein.

Securing means for connecting the male and female members together are provided at several locations. The initial securing means is provided at opposite ends of the coin holder. Projections on the male member are adapted to fit into openings on the female member at the ends to interconnect the halves of the coin holder. Thereafter, it is merely necessary to exert a slight pressure at locations adjacent to concentric openings so that the further securing means may be snapped together. When all securing means are interconnected, the device has a sealed unitary appearance which is highly attractive.

Openings may be provided in the sealing means at one end of the halves of the coin holder to permit the coin holder to be connected to a Christmas tree or the like. The coin utilized may commemorate any of the events of Christmas and may be of any desired color. The coin is retained in its desired position by the flanges which extend slightly into the openings on each half of the coin holder. The coin holder is generally elliptical in shape to further enhance the attractiveness thereof. A conical surface is provided on each half of the coin holder which extends upwardly and outwardly from the openings to the top surface of each half of the coin holder.

The mating edges of each half of the coin holder are flat and present a smooth attractive appearance when the halves of the coin holder are interengaged. The halves of the coin holder may be separated by physically prying apart the halves. This may be accomplished by merely sliding one's fingernail between the halves and prying the halves apart.

For the purpose of illustrating the invention, there is shown in the drawings a form which is presently preferred; it being understood, however, that this invention is not limited to the precise arrangements and instrumentalities shown.

FIGURE 1 is a side elevation view of the ornamental coin holder of the present invention;

FIGURE 2 is a top elevation view taken on FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a side elevation view taken on FIGURE 1; and

FIGURE 4 is a section view taken on an enlarged scale along the line **4—4** of FIGURE 1 looking in the direction of the arrows.

Referring now to the drawings in detail wherein like numerals indicate like elements throughout the several views, there is shown in FIGURES 1–4 an ornamental coin holder designated generally by the reference numeral **10**. The coin holder is composed of two half members which may be referred to as a male member **12** and a female member **14**. The half members **12** and **14** are not identical in construction as will be made clear hereinafter.

The male member **12** has a triangular projection **16** adjacent the lowermost end thereof. The member **14** is provided with a triangular recess **18** which is adapted to receive the projection **16**. The projection **16** is adapted to be tightly frictionally engaged in the triangular recess **18**.

A further triangular projection **20** extends from member **12** adjacent the uppermost end thereof. The triangular projection **20** has a hole **22** extending therethrough for a purpose which will be made clear hereinafter. Member **14** has a triangular hole **24** therein in which the projection **20** is received. The projection **20** is adapted to be tightly frictionally engaged in the triangular hole **24**.

The upper ends of the members **12** and **14** may be cut away as at **23** and **25** to provide shoulders **27** and **29**. When the members **12** and **14** are interconnected the cutouts **23** and **25** define a projecting tab formed by the upper surfaces of the members **12** and **14** therebetween. The shoulders **27** and **29** permit the holder **10** to be supported by a slotted mounting member (not shown) which receives the tab for shipment or display purposes. Projecting tab can project into a suitable base and used as a desk ornament or the like. A string or other suitable securing means can be threaded through the hole **22** and triangular hole **24** so that the coin holder **10** may be attached to a Christmas tree or the like.

An ellipse **26** is defined on each of the members **12** and **14**. The outer surfaces of the members **12** and **14** have a conical surface extending downwardly and inwardly away from the ellipses **26** toward circular openings **28** defined on each of the members. In order to enhance the aesthetic

qualities of the coin holder, the conical surfaces may be frosted by any suitable means. The frosting may be effected by producing the members **12** and **14** with a stippled die. The members **12** and **14** are preferably composed of plastic although the use of any material is within the scope of the present invention.

Flanges **32** and **34** extend inwardly from the circular openings **28**. The flanges **32** and **34** are adapted to retain a coin **35** therebetween. Only the outermost edges of the major faces of the coin **35** are retained between the flanges **32** and **34**. Hence, almost the entirety of the major faces of both sides of the coin are visible through the circular openings **28**.

A peripheral extension **36** extends from the male member **12** around and is spaced from the openings **28**. The extension **36** has an enlarged head **38** thereon. The head **38** extends around the entire periphery of the member **12** and extends inwardly toward the openings **28**.

The female member **14** is provided with an enlarged peripheral head **40** at its innermost portion adjacent the periphery of the circular openings **28**. The enlarged head **40** extends around the entire periphery of the member **14** and extends outwardly with respect to the openings **28**. A recess **42** is defined by the enlarged head **40** and the main body portion of the member **14** and extends around the periphery of the enlarged head **40**. The enlarged head **38** is adapted to be received within the recess **42** when the members **12** and **14** are interconnected. The enlarged head **38** will be frictionally retained within the recess **42** until the members **12** and **14** are physically pried apart. This may be accomplished by sliding one's fingernail between the members **12** and **14** and forcing the enlarged head **38** out of engagement with the recess **42**.

When the members **12** and **14** are interconnected, they define a space **44** therebetween. Coins such as those commemorating the twelve days of Christmas can be retained between the flanges **32** and **34**. Any other suitable coins can be retained therein although the invention is primarily directed to coins having a beautiful decorative finish and is not directed primarily for use by numismatists.

The coin is adapted to be frictionally retained in the circular opening **28**. The diameter of the coin is substantially the same as the diameter of the opening **28**. The coin is placed so that it rests against either flange **32** or flange **34** in the hole **28**. The securing means on the upper and lower edges of the coin holder **10** is aligned and snapped together. Thereafter, it is necessary to apply pressure in the center of the coin holder to effect interengagement of the securing means provided for the enlarged head **38** and the recess **42**. After the coin holder **10** has been snapped together the mating edges of the members **12** and **14** appear sealed. The coin has the appearance of being embedded in the coin holder **10** but yet can be easily and readily replaced.

The members **12** and **14** may be made of any suitable material. However, in the preferred embodiment, plastic is the preferred material. In the preferred embodiment the

overall height of the coin holder is approximately 5½ inches long. The circular opening **28** is approximately 1½ inches in diameter. The width of the coin holder may be approximately 2⅞ inches and the thickness of the coin holder at its thickest point may be approximately ¾ of an inch. The major dimension of the ellipses **26** may be approximately 2⅝ inches with the minor dimension being approximately 2¼ inches.

Hereinafter, the members **12** and **14** may be referred to as first and second halves, each being a semi-ellipsoidal body having a circular opening therein and tapered ends. When the halves are joined together, they form an ellipsoidal body having tapered ends with the openings aligned.

We claim:

1. A coin holder comprising first and second halves each being a semi-elliptical body having convex peripheral surfaces and tapered ends, said body having a circular opening therethrough, cooperating means on said halves at said ends and adjacent said openings for removably selectively interconnecting the halves together to form an ellipsoidal body having tapered ends with the openings aligned, a flange on each half surrounding each opening, and a coin held between the halves by said flange concentric with the aligned openings.

2. A coin holder in accordance with claim **1** wherein said cooperating means at said ends includes projections on one half and openings in the other half, said cooperating means adjacent said opening including a circular member on one half having an enlarged end concentric with said flange on said one half and a circular member on the other half having a recess therein, said enlarged end being received in said recess with a snap fit.

3. A coin holder in accordance with claim **1** including an opening in the cooperating means at one end of said body to facilitate supporting the ellipsodial body from above.

4. A coin holder in accordance with claim **1** wherein said halves have mating recesses between the cooperating means adjacent said opening and the cooperating means at said ends to define a space wherein the halves are out of contact with one another.

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