Title: A DECORATIVE ARTICLE

Abstract: The invention relates to a decorative article (10) which comprises a hollow body (12) that defines a plurality of receiving formations (34) within which a selected set of body inserts (36), having different representations applied thereto, are releasably located. The hollow body is of a translucent material and has a light source located therein which, when energized, can illuminate the body. The body also has a clock mechanism (52) located therein that has an outwardly facing clock face. The representations applied to the set of body inserts are associated with a particular theme and is selected from a plurality of sets associated with the same or a different theme and having different representations applied thereto.
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A DECORATIVE ARTICLE

THIS INVENTION relates to a decorative article.

According to the invention there is provided a decorative article, which comprises

a hollow body of a substantially rigid material and defining a plurality of receiving formations therein which permit body inserts to be releasably located on the hollow body; and

a set of body inserts, selected from a plurality of sets having different representations applied thereto, releasably located on the hollow body via the receiving formations.

A preferred embodiment of the invention provides for the hollow body to be formed of a material which permits light to be transmitted therethrough and, as such, the decorative article may include a lamp holder, connectable to an electric current supply, securely mounted within the hollow body in a configuration in which a lamp received by the lamp holder can be electrically energised for illuminating the body by transmitting light therethrough.
The hollow body may be made up of at least two body parts which, in combination, define an enclosed space within which the lamp holder is located. The body parts forming the hollow body may be releasably secured to one another, particularly in a configuration in which at least one body part is separable from other body parts in order to provide access into the enclosed space defined within the hollow body.

Further according to the invention, the hollow body may define at least one display face and, as such, the receiving formations for body inserts may be defined within the said display face. The hollow body also may define two oppositely directly display faces with both display faces defining receiving formations for body inserts. The decorative article also may include an additional insert element located in at least one of the display faces.

Still a further embodiment of the decorative article of the invention includes a clock mechanism located within the hollow body with a display face of the hollow body serving as a clock face. As such, the hollow body may define twelve receiving formations positioned in locations where they coincide with the conventional clock positions associated with the numbers 1 to 12 and the set of body inserts may include twelve inserts having respectively the numbers 1 to 12 applied thereto and that are releasably located on the hollow body via the receiving formations in the respective clock positions associated with the numbers 1 to 12.

The body inserts may be formed of a material having the property of being any one of transparent, translucent and opaque.

Further according to the invention, the set of body inserts may have representations applied thereto that are associated with a predetermined theme and the set of body inserts may thus be selected from a plurality of sets which each have different representations applied thereto, associated with either the same or a different theme. More particularly, the theme associated with the representations applied to the set of
inserts may be a sports theme, with the representations being images of players that form a part of a team linked with a particular sport type.

One particular embodiment of the decorative article of the invention provides for each body insert to comprise a disc element having formations that can cooperate with a receiving formation for releasably clipping the element into its position with respect to the hollow body.

The decorative article of the invention further may include a stand formation for securely standing the article on a support surface. Clearly, the article also may be associated with any other support formation that is adapted to cooperate with a support for the article.

The hollow body of the decorative article of the invention, as well as the set of body inserts, may be formed of any suitable material and, preferably, are formed of a synthetic plastics material. The overall configuration of the hollow body of the decorative article and of the body inserts also may be greatly variable, both in relation to shape, configuration and size.

The different forms of the decorative article of the invention provides for the article to serve as any one of a light source, a clock, and a combination of both a light source and a clock.

Further features of the a decorative article, in accordance with the invention, are described hereafter with reference to an example of such a decorative article, illustrated with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings. In the drawings:

Figure 1 shows an elevational front view of a decorative article, in accordance with the invention; and
Figure 2 shows a cross-sectional, partially exploded, side view of the decorative article of Figure 1.

Referring to the drawings, a decorative article, in accordance with the invention, is designated generally by the reference numeral 10. The decorative article 10 includes a body 12 which defines a generally circular profile when viewed in front view and which is secured on a stand formation 14 for supporting the body 12 in a stable, upright configuration as shown.

The body 12 as shown is made up of three body components, 16, 18 and 20, the body components being secured together in their operative configuration in any suitable manner, for example, with a suitable adhesive. Clearly, the body components are configured to cooperate with one another in order to form the body 12 and in their operative configuration they define an enclosed space 22 between them.

The body 12 further defines a front face side 26 and a rear face side 28, the major face portions of these faces being defined by insert element 30 that clip into openings defined therefor by the respective body components 16 and 20.

The perimeter face region 32 defined by the body component 16, defines twelve receiving formations in the form of openings 34 therein, each opening 34 having a body insert 36 (only one shown both in an operative configuration, 36.2, and in an inoperative configuration, 36.1, in Figure 2) releasably located therein. As shown in Figure 2, each body insert 36 defines a disc-like element 38 which has a slotted skirt 40 extending therefrom on one side thereof, the skirt 40 having two or more clipping formations 42 projecting therefrom which permit the body inserts 36 to releasably clip into their operative configuration with respect to the body component 16. A similar clipping arrangement can be associated with the insert elements 30, which define the major face portions of the faces of the decorative article 10.
The body 12 further has a lamp holder 44 securely mounted therein via a mounting bracket 46, the lamp holder having an electric cable (not shown) connected thereto, which can extend from the stand formation 14 of the decorative article 10, to be connectable to an electric current supply. A lamp (not shown) received by the lamp holder 44 can thus be energised to emit light within the body 12.

Still further, the body 12 has a clock mechanism 52 mounted therein via support pillars 54 and by providing the insert element 30.1 as a transparent element, the face 53 of the clock mechanism 52 is rendered visible, thereby providing for use of the decorative article 10 both as a clock and as a light source.

The body components 16, 18 and 20, forming the body 10, as well as the body inserts 34 associated with the body components 16 and 20, all are formed of a suitable translucent material, e.g. a translucent synthetic plastics material, thus providing for the complete body 12 to give a illuminated appearance when the lamp therein is energised.

In order to accommodate heat generated by an energised lamp within the enclosed space 22, the back of the clock mechanism 52 has an aluminium sheet element 55 applied thereto that can serve as a heat sink. Also, the insert 30.2 has an aluminium sheet element 57 applied thereto for the same purposes, whereas it is envisaged that the element 30.2 can be located proud of the component 20 to provide for a ventilation opening.

By providing twelve body inserts 36 in the configuration as shown, the body inserts themselves may be associated with the numbers 1 to 12 for facilitating use of the clock mechanism 52, although it is envisaged also that the body inserts 36 can permit the decorative article 10 to be associated with different themes by having different representations applied thereto. For example, the body inserts 36 may have representations of animals, or the like, applied thereto, in order to associate the
decorative article with a nature theme. Alternatively, the decorative article 10 can be associated with a sports theme for which the body inserts 36 can have representations of the faces of the members of a football team applied thereto, so that the complete decorative article can be associated with a particular football team or club. By rendering the body inserts 36 replaceable with different sets of inserts that can be selected from, the decorative article 10 can be associated with different football teams, particularly by having representations of the faces of the players of different football teams applied to the body inserts 36 to be releasably located on the body 12 of a particular decorative article.

It will thus be appreciated that the components and parts forming the decorative article of the invention can be utilised for forming a series of decorative articles associated with different themes, teams, or the like. This clearly is accommodated by the provision of a plurality of sets of releasably locatable body inserts from which a set can be selected to be located on the body 12 via the openings 34.

It will be understood also that the decorative article of the invention can be provided without a clock mechanism, in which case it will merely serve as a light source, or without a lamp holder, in which case it will merely serve as a clock. Also, the decorative article can be provided without a stand formation, in which case it can be suspended from a wall or be supported by any other suitable support.

The exact construction of the decorative article 10 also is greatly variable, as is the shape and configuration thereof, and the invention extends to all such variations which still incorporate the general principles of the article as described above.
CLAIMS

1. A decorative article, which comprises

a hollow body of a substantially rigid material and defining a plurality of receiving formations therein which permit body inserts to be releasably located on the hollow body; and

a set of body inserts, selected from a plurality of sets having different representations applied thereto, releasably located on the hollow body via the receiving formations.

2. An article as claimed in Claim 1, in which the hollow body is formed of a material which permits light to be transmitted therethrough and which includes a lamp holder, connectable to an electric current supply, securely mounted within the hollow body in a configuration in which a lamp received by the lamp holder can be electrically energised for illuminating the body by transmitting light therethrough.

3. An article as claimed in Claim 2, in which the hollow body is made up of at least two body parts which, in combination, define an enclosed space within which the lamp holder is located.

4. A decorative article as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3, in which the hollow body defines at least one display face and in which the receiving formations for body inserts are defined within the said display face.

5. An article as claimed in Claim 4, in which the hollow body defines two oppositely directed display faces with both display faces defining receiving formations for body inserts.
6. An article as claimed in Claim 4 or Claim 5, which includes an additional insert element located in at least one of the display faces.

7. An article as claimed in any one of Claims 4 to 6, which includes a clock mechanism located within the hollow body and in which a display face serves as a clock face.

8. An article as claimed in Claim 7, in which the hollow body defines twelve receiving formations positioned in locations where they coincide with the conventional clock positions associated with the numbers 1 to 12 and in which the set of body inserts include twelve inserts having respectively the numbers 1 to 12 applied thereto that are releasably located on the hollow body via the receiving formations in the respective clock positions associated with the numbers 1 to 12.

9. An article as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the body inserts are formed of a material having the property of being any one of transparent, translucent and opaque.

10. A decorative article as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the set of body inserts have representations applied thereto that are associated with a predetermined theme and in which the set of inserts is selected from a plurality of sets which each have different representations applied thereto, associated with either the same or a different theme.

11. An article as claimed in Claim 10, in which the theme associated with the representations applied to the set of inserts is a sports theme with the representations being images of players that form a part of a team linked with a particular sport-type.
12. An article as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which each body insert comprises a disc-like element having formations that can cooperate with a receiving formation for releasably clipping the element in its position with respect to the hollow body.

13. An article as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, which includes a stand formation for securely standing the article on a support surface.

14. An article as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the hollow body is formed of a synthetic plastics material.

15. An article as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the body inserts are formed of a synthetic plastics material.

16. A decorative article substantially as described in the specification with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

17. A set of body inserts provided for releasable location on the hollow body of a decorative article as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 16.
**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**  

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  

- IPC 7  604B19/02  604B47/04  604B19/10  604B19/30  

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC.  

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**  

- Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
  - IPC 7  604B  

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched.  

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)  

- EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ  

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**  

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
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| X        | DE 77 39 585 U (HÖMBERG)  
  27 April 1978 (1978-04-27) | 1-5,  
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  15-17  |
|          | the whole document              | 12, 14               |
| X        | US 5 654 940 A (WEI CHAO-CHIA)  
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| Y        | DE 295 21 678 U (BOMBEK)  
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| Y        | DE 94 13 324 U (BATELT DIETER DR)  
  22 December 1994 (1994-12-22) | 14                   |
| A        | claims 1,4,5,7,9; figures       | 1,3,4,7, 8           |

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.  

Patent family members are listed in annex.  

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