

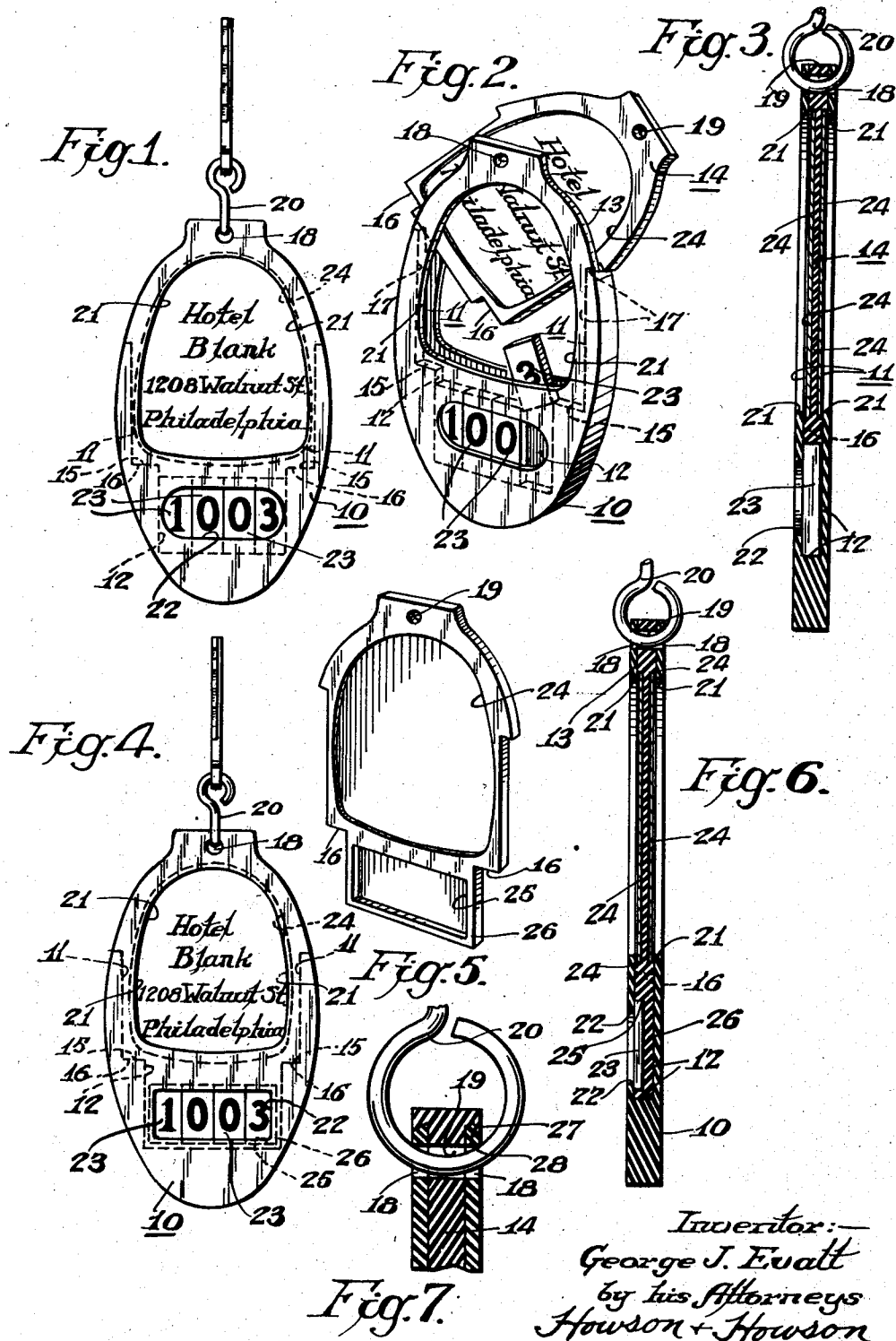
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HOTEL TAG OR THE LIKE

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6 Claims. (Cl. 40—2.2)

This invention relates to hotel key tags and the like and has for an important object thereof the provision of a tag for this purpose which may be conveniently altered as to the room number and which admits the use of a construction for sale to all hotels.

In the ordinary hotel key tag the hotel name and room number are embossed upon the tag or otherwise permanently attached thereto. It often happens that keys are lost or are carried away by the patron and naturally such losses occur most frequently with the keys of popularly located rooms. The result is that the hotel must either pay an exorbitant price for individual key tags for the particular room or rooms, the tags of which have been misplaced, or must order an entire new set of tags for the rooms as a group. Furthermore, indicia stamped upon the tag is subject to wear and becomes obliterated in time, necessitating replacement of the tag.

Important objects of the present invention are the provision of a key tag in which the room number may be readily changed, thus enabling the use of any tag for identifying the key of any room, and in which worn or dirty identification may be readily replaced.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a structure in which the hotel identification indicia is readily interchangeable, thus enabling the use of the tag in various hotels.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a structure of this character which lends itself readily to production by molding from suitable plastics and which accordingly may be very readily and cheaply produced.

These and other objects I attain by the constructions shown in the accompanying drawing, wherein for the purpose of illustration, I have shown preferred embodiments of my invention and wherein:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a key tag constructed in accordance with my invention;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the tag of Figure 1 showing the elements of the tag in partially disassembled relation;

Figure 3 is a vertical sectional view through the tag;

Figure 4 is a side elevation of a slightly modified tag structure;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the insert employed in the tag of Figure 4;

Figure 6 is a vertical sectional view of the tag through Figure 4; and

Figure 7 is an enlarged sectional view of the upper end of the tag showing a form of con-

nection between the insert and sheath of the tag which may be employed in any of the constructions of Figures 1 to 6.

Referring now to the drawing and more particularly to Figure 1, the numeral 10 indicates a sheath having a main pocket 11 and an auxiliary pocket 12 which is in communication with the lower end of the main pocket. The main pocket opens through the edge wall of the tag forming a slot 13 through which an insert 14 may be placed in position in the sheath. The sheath at the point of communication between the pockets 11 and 12 has upwardly facing shoulders 15 upon which shoulders 16 of the insert seat. The side walls 17 of the main pocket terminate short of the upper end of the tag and closely embrace the side walls of the insert 14 and the upper end of the insert is formed to close the slot 13 and give the assembled tag the appearance of a solid body.

The sheath 10 and insert 14 are preferably formed of molded plastic and fitted snugly against one another so that there will be practically no relative movement therebetween when the insert is held against the longitudinal displacement with relation to the sheath. This may be best accomplished by forming aligned openings 18 and 19 in the upper ends of the sheath and insert a passing and key retaining element 20 through these openings.

The main pocket is provided preferably in both front and rear walls with openings 21 while the front wall of the auxiliary pocket has a smaller opening 22 formed thereon. Within the auxiliary pocket there are disposed a plurality of indicia bearing elements 23 having an aggregate area somewhat greater than the area of the opening 22 and combining to produce the desired room number. The insert 14 has shallow recesses 24 in its opposite side faces which are slightly larger than the size of the openings 21 and which receive closely fitting cards bearing at one face of the tag the hotel name and address and on the opposite face of the tag suitable advertisements, lists of hotel facilities or the like. These recesses are aligned with the openings when the insert is in position and the insert furthermore serves to maintain the indicia bearing elements 23 in proper relation to one another and to the opening 22.

In the form of the invention shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3, the indicia bearing elements 23 substantially fill the auxiliary pocket and the lower end of the insert 14 seats thereon to hold the elements 23 in proper position. In the form of

the invention shown in Figures 4, 5 and 6, the indicia bearing elements 23 are assembled in a shallow recess 25 in an extension 26 on the lower end of the insert which enters into and substantially fills the auxiliary pocket.

It is obvious that the upper end walls of the sheath at the slot 13 will be necessarily quite thin and might be readily sprung. This springing may be eliminated by forming the upper end of the insert with projecting shoulders 27 undercut as at 28 to engage over the upper edges of the side walls of the sheath, thus preventing such springing.

Since the constructions illustrated are obviously capable of some modification without departing from the spirit of my invention, I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself thereto except as hereinafter claimed.

I claim:

1. A key tag comprising a unitary rigid sheath having communicating main and secondary pockets accessible through a slot in the edge of an end of the sheath, a rigid insert for and closely fitting within the main pocket and closing the slot, the main pocket having shoulders facing the slot and limiting the insertion of the insert and side walls holding the insert against transverse displacement, the front walls of the main and auxiliary pockets having openings, a plurality of indicia bearing elements having a combined area slightly greater than the area of the opening in said secondary pocket wall maintained in alignment by said insert, an indicia bearing element carried by said insert and maintained thereby in alignment with the opening of the main pocket, and key attaching means maintaining said insert in position in the sheath, the side walls of the main pocket terminating short of the end of the sheath having the slot therein, said insert having shoulders engaging the walls of the sheath at said slot to prevent spreading thereof.

2. The structure of claim 1 wherein the insert has a projection extending into the secondary pocket, said projection having a recess in its face receiving the first-named indicia bearing elements.

3. A key tag comprising a unitary rigid sheath having communicating main and secondary pockets accessible through a slot in the edge in the end of the sheath, a rigid insert for and closely fitting within the main pocket and closing the slot, the main pocket having shoulders facing the slot and limiting the insertion of the insert and side walls holding the insert against transverse displacement, the front walls of the main and auxiliary pockets having openings, a plurality of indicia bearing elements having a combined area slightly greater than the area of the opening of the secondary pocket in said secondary pocket, said insert when disposed in the sheath closing the upper end of the auxiliary pocket and having engagement with the indicia bearing elements of the secondary pocket maintaining said

indicia bearing elements in accurate alignment with the opening of the secondary pocket and against displacement from said secondary pocket, an indicia bearing element carried by said insert and maintained thereby in fixed alignment with the opening of the main pocket, and key attaching means maintaining said insert in position in the sheath.

4. The structure of claim 3 wherein the insert has a projection extending into the secondary pocket, said projection having a recess in its face receiving the first named indicia bearing elements.

5. A key tag comprising a unitary rigid sheath having communicating main and secondary pockets accessible through a slot in the edge of an end of the sheath, a rigid insert for and closely fitting within the main pocket and closing the slot, the main pocket having shoulders facing the slot and limiting the insertion of the insert and side walls holding the insert against transverse displacement, the front walls of the main and auxiliary pockets having openings, a plurality of indicia bearing elements having a combined area slightly greater than the area of the opening in said secondary pocket wall maintained in alignment by said insert, an indicia bearing element carried by said insert and maintained thereby in alignment with the opening of the main pocket, and key attaching means maintaining said insert in position in the sheath, the insert having a projection extending into the secondary pocket, said projection having a recess in its face receiving the first named indicia bearing elements.

6. A key tag comprising a unitary rigid sheath having communicating main and secondary pockets accessible through a slot in the edge in the end of the sheath, a rigid insert for and closely fitting within the main pocket and closing the slot, the main pocket having side walls holding the insert against transverse displacement, the front walls of the main and auxiliary pockets having openings, a plurality of indicia bearing elements having a combined area slightly greater than the area of the opening of the secondary pocket in said secondary pocket, said insert when disposed in the sheath closing the upper end of the auxiliary pocket and having engagement with the indicia bearing elements of the secondary pocket maintaining said indicia bearing elements maintaining them in accurate alignment with the opening of the secondary pocket and against displacement from said secondary pocket, said insert having a shallow recess in its face aligned with the opening of the front wall of the main pocket and of slightly greater size than said opening, an indicia bearing element snugly fitting said recess and key attaching means maintaining said insert in position in the sheath.

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