F. & J. SKOWRONSKI.

TOMB FOR RECEIVING COFFINS.

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991,033.

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Fig. 1

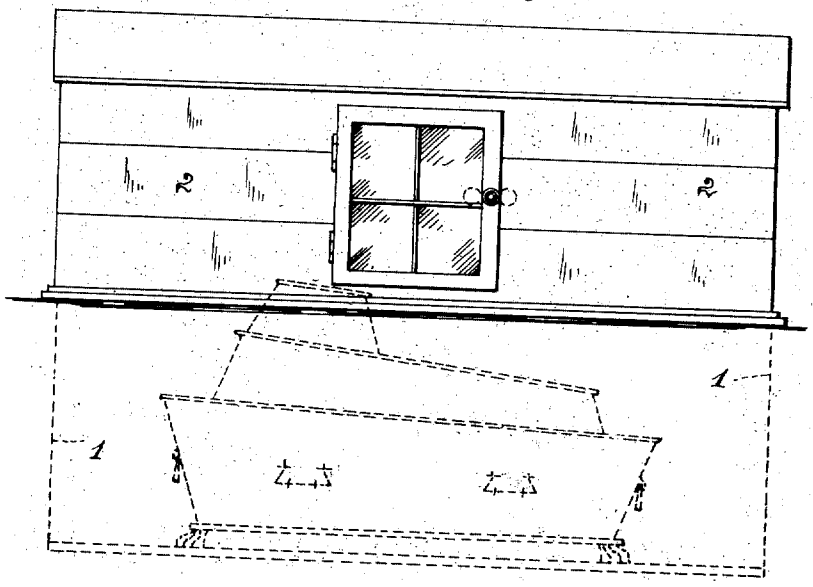
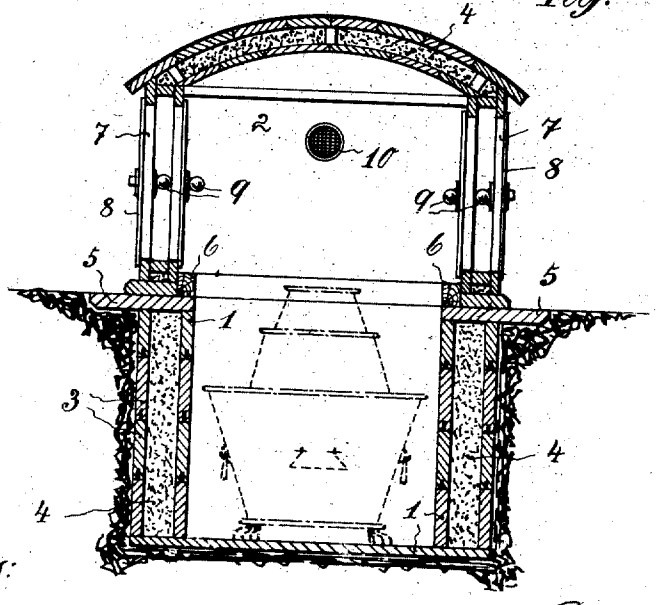


Fig. 2



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANZ SKOWRONSKI AND JOHANN SKOWRONSKI, OF OSTROWO, GERMANY.

TOMB FOR RECEIVING COFFINS.

991,033. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 2, 1911.

Application filed February 11, 1909. Serial No. 477,420.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, FRANZ SKOWRONSKI and JOHANN SKOWRONSKI, both subjects of the German Emperor, residing at Ostrowo, Province of Posen, Kingdom of Prussia, German Empire, have invented new and useful Improvements in Tombs for Receiving Coffins, of which the following is a specification.

The invention has for its object to provide a tomb adapted to receive a coffin, and means in connection with said tomb to avert from the person buried in the coffin the danger of being suffocated and to offer to him a constantly moderate temperature any season, without artificially heating the tomb. The latter plays, so to say, the part of a mortuary as ordinarily used for laying out the body, but has this advantage over the usual mortuary that the supervision of the buried person may be continued as long as desired. After a lapse of a certain time, *e. g.* half a year, after which time an awakening of the seeming dead seems to be positively out of question, the definitive burial may take place. This burial then is preferably effected in the same tomb which previously contained the coffin. This tomb may either remain in its state so as to form a vault continuously accessible or may be used as an ordinary tomb filled up with earth. In the latter case the upper part of the tomb may be used repeatedly as hereinafter will be more particularly described.

The tomb or vault according to our invention comprises a substructure or foundation part embedded in the ground and a monumental superstructure which can be placed upon said substructure. Both parts are preferably constructed of wood and with hollow walls, the hollow space being filled up with heat insulating material to make artificial heating in winter superfluous. The superstructure may be lifted from the foundation part when the definitive burial shall take place and then may be used again in the same manner. The tomb also may be continuously used as a mortuary for laying out bodies.

Our invention will be best understood by reference to the accompanying drawings in which—

Figure 1 shows a side elevation of the tomb containing the coffin. Fig. 2 shows the tomb in vertical cross section, the coffin being indicated in dotted lines.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, the tomb comprises a substructure consisting of a chest 1 and a superstructure or top piece 2. The walls of the chest 1 as well as those of the superstructure 2 are formed of oak boards 3 preferably impregnated with tar, carbolineum, or the like and preferably joined by mortise and tenon. The side walls of the chest 1 and of the top piece 2 as well as the upper wall of the latter are hollow, the hollow spaces 4 being formed by putting two rows of boards together at a little distance from each other and filled with chaff or any other suitable heat insulating material. The under side of the chest 1 also consists of oak boards joined preferably by means of grooves and ledges in order to keep off the underground-water. After the chest 1 has been put in the ground and the hollow spaces 4 of the substructure have been filled with chaff, or the like, said hollow spaces are covered with plates 5. Ledges 6 are secured to the tops of the plates 5 to guide the superstructure 2 and to hold it in its place when put in position. This is effected by placing it on the plates 5 after the coffin containing the person to be buried has been put into the chest 1. The superstructure 2 may be secured to the chest 1 by any suitable means.

In the side walls of the superstructure or top chest 2 double windows 8 are provided the frames 7 of which are seated in openings in the side walls of said chest. The window frames are packed with strips of rubber or the like in order to prevent cold air from entering the tomb. The windows may have one or two wings. In both cases care is to be taken that the windows may be opened easily from within. For this purpose the handles 9 are placed inwardly. The windows may also be opened from the outside. In one of the end walls of the chest 2 air openings 10 are provided preferably covered with wire work.

Owing to the fact that the walls of the substructure as well as of the superstructure are well insulated, while the bottom of the chest forming the substructure consists of a comparatively thin boarding affording a rather free transition of heat from the ground below said chest into the latter, and vice versa, the interior of the tomb will assume substantially the temperature of the ground below it, which at the depth referred to is nearly constant throughout the year

and substantially corresponds to the mean temperature of the place. An artificial heating of the tomb therefore may be dispensed with.

We claim—

1. In a tomb for receiving a coffin the combination of a substructure or foundation part embedded in the ground and a superstructure or top part above the ground and capable of being put on said substructure or foundation part as an integral body.

2. In a tomb for receiving a coffin the combination of a chest embedded in the ground and a top part adapted to be put on said chest, said top part having the function of a cover, the side walls of said chest and the side walls and the top wall of said top part consisting of double rows of boards joined together, said rows of boards being spaced one from another so as to form hollow spaces between them, said hollow spaces being filled with insulating material.

3. In a tomb for receiving a coffin the combination of a substructure or foundation part embedded in the ground and a superstructure or top part capable of being put as a whole body on said substructure or foundation part, said substructure or foundation part and said superstructure or top part having hollow walls filled up with insulating material and windows in the side walls of said superstructure or top part said windows being adapted to be opened from within.

4. In a tomb for receiving a coffin the combination of a chest embedded in the ground and a top part adapted to be put on said chest, the side walls of said chest and the side walls and the top wall of said top part consisting of double boardings forming hollow spaces between them, said spaces being filled with insulating material, double windows in the side walls of said top part, said windows being adapted to be opened both from within and from the outside and air openings in the walls of said top part.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands in presence of two witnesses.

FRANZ SKOWRONSKI.
JOHANN SKOWRONSKI.

Witnesses:
ERNST VIDTZ,
ERNST BLEIROH.