

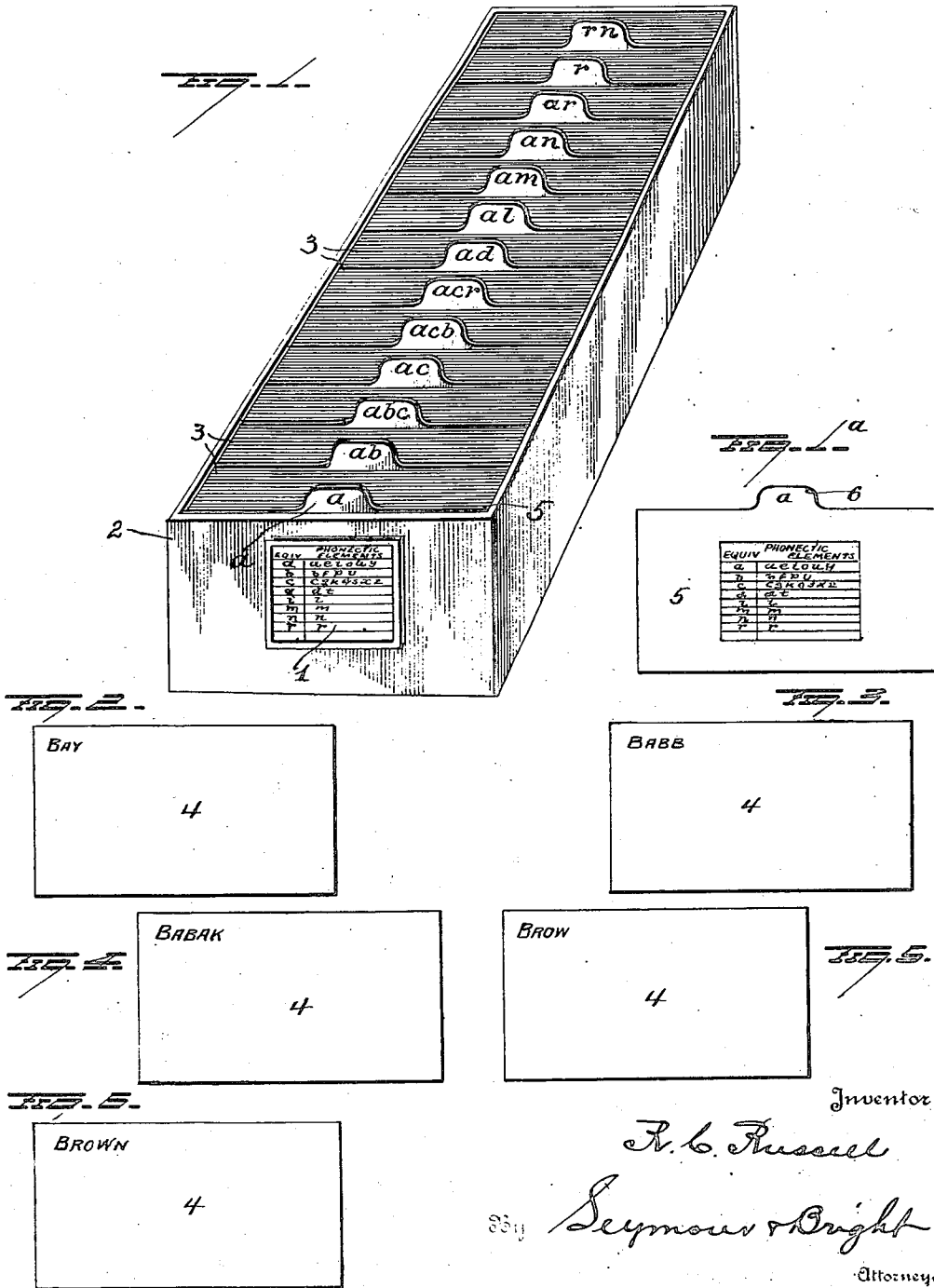
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INDEX.

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INDEX.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT C. RUSSELL, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Pittsburgh, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Indexes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to improvements in indexes,—one object of the invention being to improve indexes wherein the names are arranged in accordance with phonetic subdivisions of a key rather than the alphabetical structure of the names.

A further object is to provide an index of the character above outlined, in which the placing of key designations on the name cards of the index shall be avoided and in which necessity for translating the subdivisions of the key into numerical or other designating or arbitrarily selected equivalents shall be obviated.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists in certain novel features as hereinafter set forth and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings Figure 1 is a view of a portion of a card index showing an embodiment of my invention; Figure 1^a is a view of a guide member of one of the index element groups, and Figures 2 to 6 are views of name cards of certain index element groups.

My improved index comprises a phonetic key element and a plurality of index element groups, each of said index element groups comprising a guide member and any desired number of name members.

In the embodiment of my invention shown in the drawings, I have illustrated the same in a card index, but my improvements might be embodied in an index of the "book" type.

The key element 1 may be produced on a card held in a suitable frame on one end of the drawer in which the index elements are placed, or it may be printed on the guide members of the index element groups or both, or the key may be adapted for use in operating the index without actual physical connection with the guide members or the container for the index elements.

In order that the names may be grouped

phonetically, I employ a key element 1, in which I provide a phonetic arrangement comprising eight divisions, as follows:

First: The oral resonants represented by their alphabetical equivalents *a, e, i, o, u* and *y* and their combinations:

Second: The labials and labio-dentals,—the former being represented by *b p* and sometimes *f*, and the latter being represented by *v* and sometimes *f*;

Third: The gutturals and the sibilants,—the former being represented by *g k q* and sometimes *x*, and the latter being represented by *c s z* and sometimes *x*.

Fourth: The dental-mutes represented by *t* and *d*:

Fifth: The palatal-fricative represented by *l*

Sixth: The labio-nasal represented by *m*:

Seventh: The dento or lingua-nasal represented by *n*

Eighth: The dental-fricative represented by *r*.

The eight elements comprising the phonetic arrangement may be graphically represented as follows:

a-e-i-o-u-y
b-f-p-v.
c-g (discard gh)-k-q-x-s (discard final s)
d-t
l
m
n
r

The several divisions of the phonetic key will preferably be represented, each by one of the letters of the phonetic divisions of the key, and where a phonetic division of the key comprises more than a single letter, I prefer to employ the first letter of the division to represent the entire group of letters contained in such a phonetic division of the key. Thus the phonetic key may be represented as follows:

a=a, e, i, o, u, y
b=b, f, p, v.
c=c, g, k, q, s, x, z
d=d, t
l=l
m=m
n=n
r=r

In the division "c" of the key element, the diagraph "g h" is not considered representative of the element, as the same is

usually silent, as in the name "Wright". Final "s" and "z" are disregarded, as usually the omission or addition of the final sibilant is immaterial in the pronunciation of a name as in the name "Myers".

Without exception, when two letters which represent the same phonetic division, or a repetition of the same letter, occur in a name, without being separated by a member of a different phonetic division, only the first is regarded. Thus the phonetic valuation of "Mack" is "M-a-c," and of "Ball," "B-a-l."

The division "a" of the key element (the vowels) is used only once in a name, regardless of how many times a vowel may appear in the name. Thus, the name "Carter" is phonetically represented by "C-a-r-t-e-r."

In the practical application of my invention, it is desirable to regard the initial letters of the names in their alphabetical significance. This allows the division of the index into twenty-six parts according to the initial letters of the names. Then the phonetic arrangement is applied, making the subdivisions of each surname initial letter group conform to a phonetic rather than the alphabetical standard.

In Figure 1 of the drawing, I have shown a drawer or container 2 to receive index elements 3 for names having the initial letter "B."

Each index element group or section comprises any desired number of name cards 4 and a guide card 5,—the cards 4 being hereinafter referred to as "name members" and the guide cards 5 being designated "guide members." The name members of each index element group is intended to contain the surnames of persons (preferably one on each name member) and these members may also have written thereon such reference data as the character and purpose of a particular index may require. The guide member of each index element group will preferably be made of heavier card board than that employed for the name members, and each guide member is provided with a tab 6 to receive letters emblematic or representing divisions of the key element. A guide member may contain a letter representing one division of the key element, or it might contain letters representing two or more divisions of the key element. Thus in an index of considerable size, it will be found desirable to sub-divide the index so that names containing phonetic elements in accordance with two or more divisions of the phonetic key element, may be grouped together and thus segregate such names from those which may contain a less number of phonetic divisions of the key so that the time required to construct the index or to search for a particular name may be minimized.

Each phonetic division of the key may be

combined with one or more other phonetic divisions according to the phonetic structure of names to be indexed. In Figure 1 of the drawings, I have illustrated how the phonetic division "a" of the index may be combined with each of the other phonetic divisions and instances in which a third phonetic division may be combined with two of the others. The first index element group shown in Figure 1 has upon its guide member, the designation ("a") which represents the first phonetic division of the key. The name cards in this index element group will contain names which contain only (after the initial letter), a letter of the phonetic division "a" of the key. Thus the name "Bay" may be entered on a name card of this index element group, and also such names as may contain any one of the vowels without also containing any of the other phonetic divisions of the key. The second index element group is shown as intended to receive names which contain phonetic divisions "a" and "b" of the key, such for example as, Babb, Bobb, and Bibb. The next index element group shown in Figure 1 is designated to contain names which contain three phonetic divisions of the key, such as "a," "b" and "c." In this index element group, such names as "Babak" or names containing any one of each of the letters of the phonetic divisions "a," "b" and "c" of the key. Such names as "Brow" would appear in the index element group designated on its guide member by the phonetic division "r" of the key, and such names as "Brown" would be found in the index element group having the phonetic key divisions "r" and "a" and "n" designated on its guide member.

In any case, regardless of the minuteness of subdivisions of the index, all names containing phonetic divisions of the key, between the key designations on the guide member of one index element group and the key designations on the guide member of the next succeeding index element group would be entered. Thus in the example shown in Figure 1, should the index element group designated by the phonetic key divisions "a b" be omitted, all names which would otherwise be entered in such index element group, would be found in the index element group having the phonetic division "a" of the key designated on its guide member.

By employing letters contained in the divisions of the key as emblematic or representative of the phonetic divisions of the key, I minimize the possibility of error which might arise from the accidental transposition of numerical equivalent key designations and I also avoid the danger of error arising out of the translation of phonetic key division into the division equivalents. By confining the phonetic key designations

to the guide members of the key element groups, I save the time, labor and expense of applying such designations to the name members of the index element groups and at the same time reserve the space on the name members for names and other matter which they must contain.

Having fully described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters-Patent, is:—

1. An index comprising a key element and index element groups, said key element having inscribed thereon a plurality of phonetic divisions of letters of the alphabet and designations for said divisions each consisting of a letter contained in the phonetic division which it designates, and the index element groups provided with designations corresponding to designations of the phonetic divisions of the key.

2. An index comprising a key element and index element groups, said key element having inscribed thereon a plurality of phonetic divisions of letters of the alphabet and designations for said divisions each consisting of a letter contained in the phonetic division which it designates, each index element group comprising guide and name

members, the guide members of the index element groups having thereon key designations in accordance with the letter designations of the phonetic divisions of the key and in accordance with the names indexed on the name members of the index elements.

3. An index comprising a key element and index element groups, said key element having inscribed thereon a plurality of phonetic divisions of letters of the alphabet and designations for said divisions each consisting of a letter contained in the phonetic division which it designates, and the index element groups provided with designations corresponding to designations of the phonetic divisions of the key, means subdividing said index element groups into sub-index element groups, such means being provided with designations consisting of combinations of designations of phonetic divisions of the key.

In testimony whereof, I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ROBERT C. RUSSELL.

Witnesses:

J. CLIFFORD RUSSELL,
ROBERT A. DODDS.