

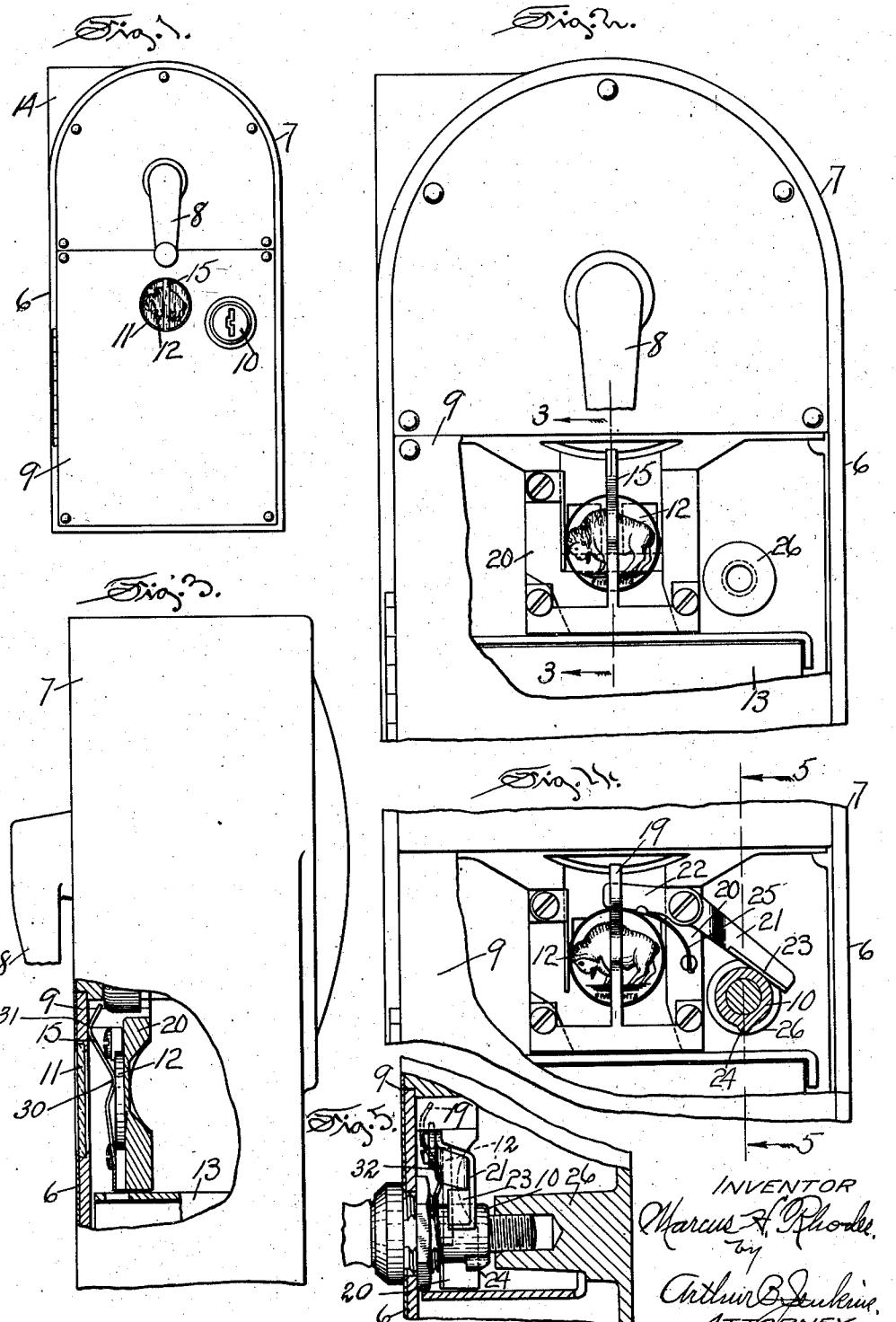
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COIN COLLECTION DEVICE

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## COIN COLLECTION DEVICE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 232—55)

My invention relates to the class of apparatus employed in prepayment devices for the collection of coins, and an object of my invention, among others, is to provide means to prevent unlawful extraction of coins from the machine.

One form of an apparatus embodying my invention and in the construction and use of which the objects herein set out, as well as others, may be attained is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a view in front elevation of a parking meter embodying my invention.

Figure 2 is a detail view on enlarged scale of the upper part of the machine with the door broken away to show construction.

Figure 3 is a side elevation, in partial section on a plane denoted by the dotted line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Figure 4 is a detail view illustrating a modified form of the invention.

Figure 5 is a view in section on a plane denoted by the dotted line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

While my invention is not limited for use in apparatus of any particular description, yet, as it is of particular value in connection with parking meters, such apparatus has been selected by me for illustration of my invention herein. In the use of such devices, and perhaps others, means are provided for retaining the coin inserted for use of the device in a suspended position between the coin chute and the coin receptacle so that the coin may be observed through a window for the purpose of determining whether or not a coin or valueless substitute has been used. This coin is released by the next coin employed for use of the apparatus, the released coin dropping into the coin receptacle and the other coin being retained in its place.

The coin receptacles are locked so that access cannot be obtained to them by persons regularly employed for collecting the receptacles. However, when the door is opened by the person for the removal of the coin receptacle the suspended coin hereinbefore referred to is accessible and may be removed and appropriated by such person. My invention now about to be described prevents such unlawful appropriation of the suspended coin and provides means whereby such coin is released and deposited in the coin receptacle before the door can be opened sufficiently to provide access to such suspended coin.

In the accompanying drawing the numeral 6 denotes the case of a parking meter in the upper part 7 of which coin operated mechanism is enclosed and which is operated by a handle 8 out-

side of the case and projecting thereinto for the operation of the mechanism. A door 9 closes the lower part of the case and is locked in closed position by a key operated lock including a plug 10 or barrel 10 which may be of common construction operable by means of a key. A window 11 in the upper part of the door enables a coin 12 within the enclosure to be observed. A coin receptacle 13 is enclosed in the bottom of the case 6 in position for the coin 12 to drop into it through a narrow slot in the cover which is locked, as hereinbefore mentioned.

In order that the device inserted into the coin chute 14 may be retained for observation through the window, as hereinbefore stated, I provide a spring retaining finger 15 which is pressed by the door 9 when closed into contact with the coin 12 thereby holding it in the position shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

20 The resilient spring-retaining finger 15, it will be noted, curves inwardly at 36 toward a projecting frame 20. The coin is discharged into the space between the resilient spring-retaining finger 15 and the frame 20, and is held in position there by the portion 30 of finger 15. It will likewise be noted that finger 15 contacts door 9 at 31 so that door 9 positions the resilient spring-retaining finger 15 and especially the portion 30 thereof in the proper relation to frame 20 so as to temporarily hold a coin therebetween, and position it opposite window 11. It will be understood of course that coin 12 is discharged into the space between finger 15 and frame 20 by the coin-operating mechanism operated by handle 8. When the door is released for removal of the coin receptacle 13 the spring finger 15 moves outward, thereby releasing the coin which promptly drops into the receptacle before the door can be opened sufficiently to prevent such action and there is therefore no opportunity for such coin to be unlawfully obtained.

In the arrangement just described the coin is released by an opening movement of the door, while in the modified form illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5 the coin is released by rotation of the plug 10 to release the lock, the coin therefore dropping before any opening movement of the door takes place. This modified form of the mechanism comprises a spring finger 19 fastened at its lower end to the frame 20 as in the structure hereinbefore described. Resilient spring finger 19 projects inwardly at 32 to contact a coin and hold it in cooperation with the frame 20. The spring tension, however, is toward and against the coin, instead of away from it, as in the case

of the finger 15. A coin releasing lever 21 is pivotally mounted on the frame 20 as shown in Fig. 4, the end 22 being offset toward the door 9 as shown in Fig. 5. The opposite end of the lever has a lip 23 which is located in the path of movement of a lug 24 on the plug 10, a spring 25 engaged with the lever pressing the lip 23 into engagement with said lug.

Contact of the end 22 with the resilient member 19 occurs when the lip 23 is elevated, as by contact therewith of lug 24 on plug 10. This presses the end 22 downward where it contacts the portion of resilient member 19 which is bent in to form part 32 thereof. This pushes the resilient member toward the door 9 and releases the coin.

The plug 10 is screw threadedly engaged in a threaded hole in a post 26 projecting from the back wall of the case, as shown in Figs. 2 and 5, the key rotating the plug 10 several times before disengagement of the threads to permit the door to be opened. The lug 24, however, will on its first engagement with the lip 23 cause the end 22 of the lever to engage the finger 19 and release the coin so that the latter is freed and drops into the box well before any opening movement of the door.

In both forms of the structure herein disclosed the coin is released and drops into the coin receptacle before any access can be gained to the interior of the case sufficient to enable removal of the coin, in the form of the apparatus first described a slight opening movement of the door releasing the coin and in the structure last described the operation of the key plug freeing the coin before the door is released for opening movement.

I claim:

1. A coin collector comprising a case which contains a coin receptacle and a temporary coin holder, said temporary coin holder having resilient coin-retaining means, closure means for said case contacting said temporary coin holder, and means for releasing a coin before said closure means opens sufficiently for access to said coin receptacle.
2. A coin collector comprising a case which contains a coin receptacle and a temporary coin holder, said temporary coin holder having resilient coin-retaining means, and closure means for said case contacting said temporary coin holder comprising a lock, said lock operating said resilient coin-retaining means to release a coin as soon as the closure means starts to open.
3. A coin collector comprising a case which contains a coin receptacle and a temporary coin holder, said temporary coin holder having resilient coin-retaining means, and closure means for said case contacting said temporary coin holder positioned to flex said coin-retaining means for retaining a coin when the closure means are closed, but not when said closure means are open.
4. A coin collector comprising a case which contains a coin receptacle and a temporary coin holder, said temporary coin holder having resilient coin-retaining means, closure means for said case contacting said temporary coin holder comprising a lock, and means for operating said resilient coin-retaining means to release a coin upon operation of said lock.

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