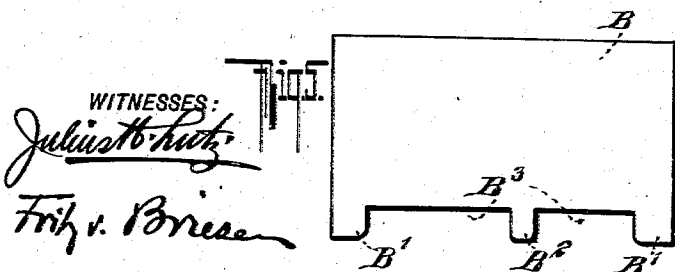
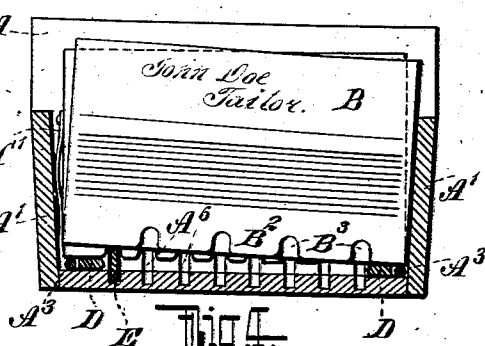
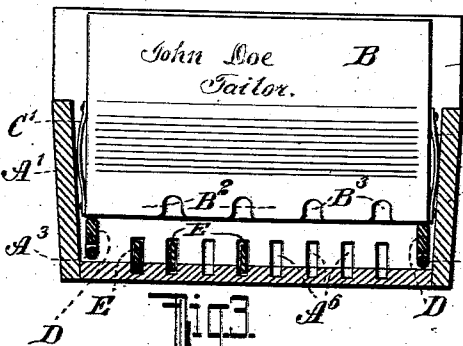
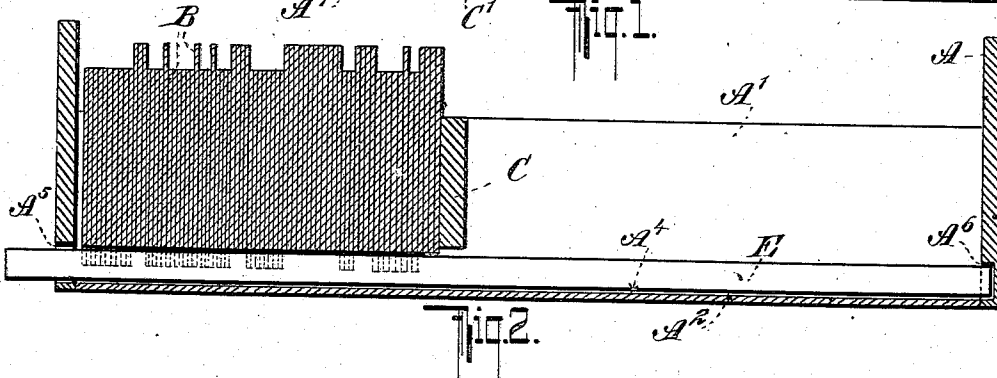
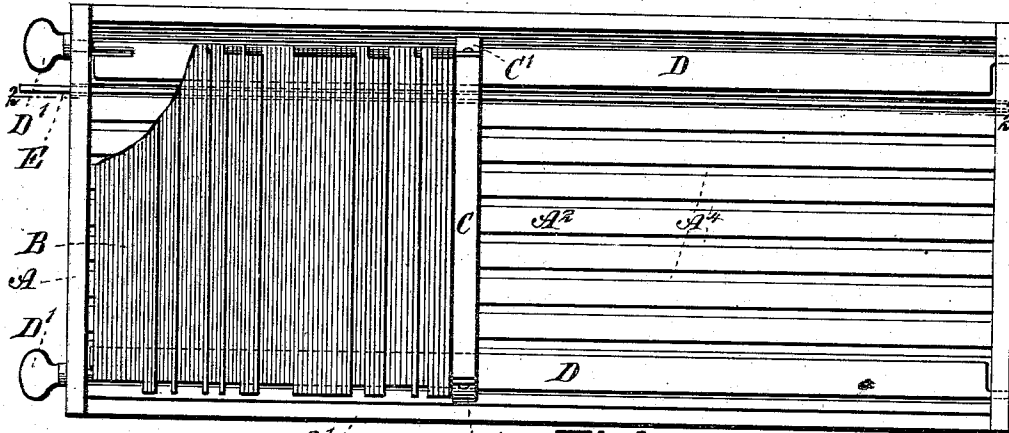


No. 873,305.

PATENTED DEC. 10, 1907.

E. ECKART.
CARD INDEX.

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EDMUND ECKART, OF NEW ROCHELLE, NEW YORK.

CARD-INDEX.

No. 873,305.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 10, 1907.

Application filed February 8, 1906. Serial No. 300,053.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDMUND ECKART, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of New Rochelle, Westchester county, State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Card - Indexes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to devices for the convenient recording and tabulation of information which are commonly known as card indexes, and has for its object to provide certain improved means, as hereinafter fully described, for permitting a number of index cards to be so stored that those cards which contain a reference to matter of the same kind may be readily selected from among their neighbors.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, in which

Figure 1 is a top view of my improved device, with parts broken away; Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section on line 2—2 of Fig. 1; Figs. 3 and 4 are cross sections showing the device in two different positions; and Fig. 5 is a face view of one of the cards employed in connection with my invention.

The device comprises a suitable holder or box A, which may be in the nature of a drawer, adapted to fit into a suitable shelf or other article of furniture, said receptacle being preferably open at the top in its entire length. The sides A' of the receptacle form guides for the index cards B which are contained in said receptacle, being loosely inserted therein at the forward portion, and in order to properly hold the cards from falling backward any suitable follower may be employed. In Figs. 1 and 2 I have shown a follower consisting of a board C provided at its vertical edges with springs C' in frictional engagement with the sides of the receptacle A. The cards B normally rest by means of tongues B' on lifting members or bars D which are located at the sides of the receptacle, near the bottom thereof, and which are pivoted as indicated at A³ so that they may be folded down as shown in Fig. 4, or raised as shown in Fig. 3. In order to manipulate the lifting members D, knobs or handles D' are provided on them at the forward end of the receptacle. The normal position of the lifting members is that shown in Fig. 4. The cards B are provided at their lower edges with one or more projections B² so that cut-

out portions B³ appear between the said projections and the tongues B' except where the projections B² occur adjacent to said tongues. These tongues or projections B' which are at the outer edges of the cards are adapted to be engaged by the lifting members D, so that all the cards may be raised as indicated in Fig. 3. The projections B' and B² may have rounded corners as shown. The cards will then be flush with each other at their upper edges. In the bottom A² of the receptacle I provide a number of longitudinal guides or grooves A⁴, and in registry with these grooves the front of the receptacle has openings A⁵, and the back of the receptacle, recesses A⁶. Into these openings, grooves and recesses I may introduce a series of selecting members or selecting bars E, of such a height that they will pass freely under the bottom edges of the index cards when the latter are raised into the position shown in Fig. 3 by the lifting members D. These selecting members are adapted to register with certain of the tongues or projections B² on the index cards.

The use of the device may be readily understood by reference to an example. Supposing that all the index cards in the box or drawer represented in the drawings contain information concerning merchants in a certain town, and that it is desired to classify these merchants according to their particular lines of business, some as clothiers, some as shoemakers, others as hardware dealers, and so on. In this case all the cards which relate to clothiers would have the projection B² in the same position, different from the position of the projections on all the other cards; that is, there would be as many different positions of the projection B² and as many selecting bars E as it is desired to establish divisions in the classification. If any particular merchant should handle goods in several divisions of the classification, the card on which this merchant's name and other information would be entered would have two, three or more projections B² adapted to be engaged by a corresponding number of selecting bars E.

The selecting bars E might normally be removed from the receptacle, and I prefer this; or they might all be inserted, in which case the lifting members D would normally be turned up, and the raised position of the cards shown in Fig. 3 would be their normal

position. This is open to the objection that the drawer would require a higher space in the shelf or other article of furniture, and for this reason I prefer the manner of use first indicated, when the cards will be lowered so as to rest on the lifting bars D while the latter are folded down. The first thing to be done in the use of my selecting members would then be to turn the lifting members into the position shown in Fig. 3 so as to raise all the cards; if the receptacle A is a drawer it would of course first be pulled out from the article of furniture into which it slides. The cards being thus raised, one or more of the selecting bars E would be inserted through the proper openings A⁵ in the front of the receptacle. Suitable indications might be provided near these openings to indicate the particular division corresponding thereto. Thus, if the first opening at the left corresponds to clothiers and it is desired to select those cards containing information concerning clothiers, one of the bars E would be inserted through the first opening at the left and slid back all the way, as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2. The follower C should of course terminate at a distance from the bottom A² so as to leave a sufficient clearance for the movement of the lifting bars D and of the selecting bars E. The selecting bar having thus been inserted, the lifting bars D would be turned down as shown in Fig. 4, and then all the cards would drop as the lifting bars are swung down except those cards in which the position of the projection B' would correspond to the selecting bar previously inserted. Such cards would be raised above their neighbors, and would thus be readily picked out from among them. In case it was desired to select several divisions at the same time, as, for instance, clothiers, haberdashers and shoedealers, the corresponding number of selecting bars, say three bars, would be inserted as indicated in Fig. 3, and upon the lowering of the lifting bars D all the cards belonging to these three divisions would be left in a raised position so as to be readily separated from their neighbors. The sides of the receptacle guide the cards in their up and down movement. Fig. 4 shows that when only one of the selecting bars E is inserted the cards selected by it will have a tendency to lean over to one side, and for this purpose the sides A' of the receptacle may be inclined to diverge upwardly as shown.

It will of course be understood that an index card receptacle, such as above described, may be used in the ordinary way when it is not desired to take advantage of the selective features which constitute my invention. Furthermore, tab or ordinary index cards may be used in the same receptacle together with cards of the kind herein described. Such tab or ordinary index cards would have

tongues such as B' at the lower corners, with a continuous cut-out portion B³ between them, that is, without any projection B².

In bringing the cards to the lower position (Fig. 4) it may be advisable to jar the box so that the cards will descend more readily.

Various modifications may be made without departing from the nature of my invention, as defined in the claims.

The ends of the receptacle A may be made inclined or provided with inclined surfaces, so that the cards instead of being perpendicular will be arranged in an inclined position.

I claim as my invention:—

1. A selective card index device comprising a receptacle, card-lifting members movably mounted in said receptacle, and movable selecting members adapted for insertion at different points in the width of the receptacle so as to engage the cards at different points.

2. A selective card index device comprising a receptacle, cards adapted to be contained in said receptacle and provided at their bottom edges with projections placed differently to correspond to a classification plan, movable lifting members for raising the said cards, and selecting members adapted for insertion at different points corresponding to the positions of the said projections on the cards, to keep certain cards raised when the others are lowered.

3. A selective card index device comprising a receptacle adapted to contain index cards, lifting members movably mounted at the bottom of said receptacle, and a movable selecting member adapted for insertion between said lifting members.

4. A selective card index device comprising a receptacle for index cards, lifting bars pivoted at the bottom of said receptacle, and selecting members adapted for insertion at various points between said lifting members.

5. A selective card index device comprising a receptacle adapted to contain cards, lifting members for raising the cards, and selecting bars adapted to be slid lengthwise of the receptacle and under the cards at different points.

6. A selective card index device comprising a receptacle having longitudinal guides at its bottom, lifting members adjacent to its corners, movable selecting bars adapted to be inserted in the said guides, and a set of cards provided at their bottom edges with differently placed projections in positions corresponding to those of said selecting bars.

7. A selective card index device comprising a receptacle for index cards, provided with inclined upwardly diverging side walls, and selecting members for engaging the bottom edges of the cards at different points of their width and causing certain cards to project above the others

8. A selective card index device comprising a receptacle for index cards, provided with inclined upwardly diverging side walls, selecting members for engaging the bottom edges of the cards at different points of their width, and index cards provided at their bottom edges with differently placed projections in positions corresponding to those which may be assumed by the said selecting members.

9. A selective card index device comprising a receptacle, card-lifting members movably mounted in said receptacle, and a movable selecting member adapted for insertion at different points in the width of the receptacle so as to engage the cards at different points.

10. A selective card index device comprising a receptacle, cards adapted to be contained in said receptacle and provided at their bottom edges with projections placed differently to correspond to a classification plan, movable lifting members for raising the said cards, and a selecting member adapted for insertion at different points corresponding to the positions of the said projections on the cards, to keep certain cards raised when the others are lowered.

11. A selective card index device comprising a receptacle for index cards, lifting bars pivoted at the bottom of said receptacle, and a selecting member adapted for insertion at various points between said lifting bars.

12. A selective card index device comprising a receptacle adapted to contain cards, lifting members for raising the cards, and a

selecting bar adapted to be slid lengthwise of the receptacle and under the cards at different points.

13. A selective card index device comprising a receptacle having longitudinal guides at its bottom, lifting members adjacent to its corners, a movable selecting bar adapted to be inserted in the said guides, and a set of cards provided at their bottom edges with differently placed projections in positions corresponding to those which may be assumed by said selecting bar.

14. A selective card index device comprising a receptacle for index cards, provided with inclined upwardly diverging side walls, and a selecting member for engaging the bottom edges of the cards at different points of their width and causing certain cards to project above the others.

15. A selective card index device comprising a receptacle for index cards, provided with inclined upwardly diverging side walls, a selecting member for engaging the bottom edges of the cards at different points of their width, and index cards provided at their bottom edges with differently placed projections in positions corresponding to those which may be assumed by the said selecting member.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name hereto in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

EDMUND ECKART.

Witnesses:

JOHN RAABE,
MINNIE EULHARDT.