No. 699,086. Patented Apr. 29, 1902.

J. C. HENNIS.

BURIAL VAULT.

(Application filed July 18, 1901.)

(No Model.)

FIG. 1.

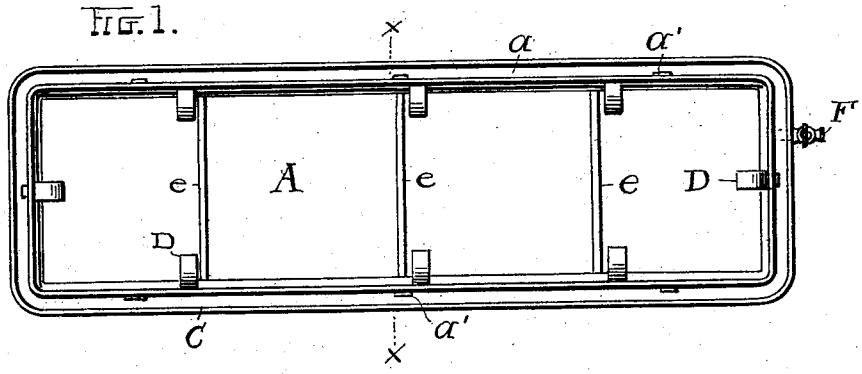


FIG. 2.

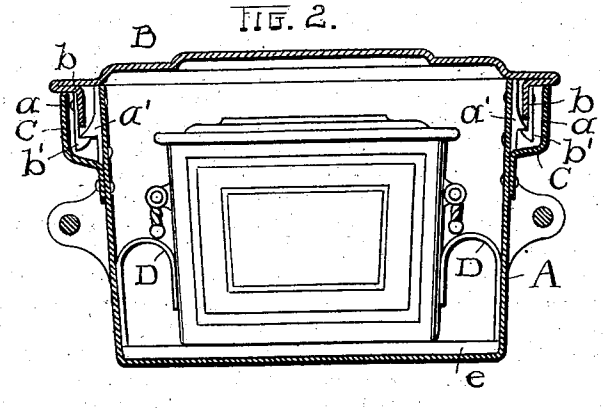


FIG. 3.

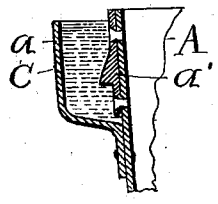


FIG. 4.

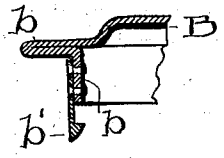
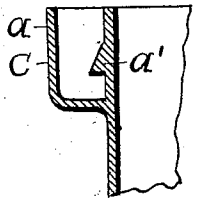


FIG. 5.



ATTEST.

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BURIAL-VAULT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 699,086, dated April 29, 1902.

Application filed July 18, 1901. Serial No. 68,784. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JULIUS C. HENNIS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cleveland, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Burial-Vaults; and I do declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to burial-vaults; and the object of the invention is to provide a burial-vault which is absolutely proof against opening when once locked and which also is hermetically sealed and made permanently air and water tight.

A further object is to provide a vault especially adapted for long-distance shipments, as across the ocean from one country to another, and in which there can be indefinite preservation of the body, while the vault itself does not add excessively to the weight to be handled or the space occupied, and which is admirably suited for temporary disposition in a crypt or other like depository.

In the construction of a vault serving these several purposes it is desirable, among other things, that it should be comparatively light, but firm and strong, so that it can be easily handled and shipped; that it should be burglar-proof, so that a body cannot be removed therefrom without blowing up the vault; that it should be hermetically sealed and in such way as to withstand the ravages of time and exposure to the elements, and, lastly, that it should be so constructed as that the air may be exhausted therefrom and the body preserved in vacuum.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view of my newly-improved vault with the lid or cover removed. Fig. 2 is a cross-section thereof on line $x\,x$, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is an enlarged view of a section of the lower portion of the vault, showing especially one of the catches for the catch on the cover. Fig. 4 is a section of one side of the cover, showing one of the spring-catches designed to automatically engage the corrresponding catch on the body part of the vault shown in Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a cross-section of one edge of the body shown in cast metal.

A represents the body of the vault, and B the cover. The body, as here shown, is a substantially rectangular box or receptacle, made, preferably, out of cast metal; but it may be made partly or wholly of heavy sheet metal or equivalent material. If it be desirable to increase the strength without materially increasing the weight, the parts may be formed with ribs or corrugations stamped or otherwise produced therein or thereon. Ordinarily, however, the parts are plain throughout and covered or coated on one or both sides with enamel or other permanent and durable coating, so that the vault can remain indefinitely in a damp place and not oxidize or rust. This adapts the vault to burial in the ground and preserves it from disintegration or decay.

Around the top portion or edge of the body A is a cement channel or trough a, formed in this instance by adding an outer plate C, forming one side of the wall of said channel; but said channel may be otherwise formed as may be found desirable or convenient. Said channel is open at the top and closed at bottom and sides, so as to fill the same with a cement which will harden and seal the vault, and the said channel may have substantially the shape shown or any equivalent shape in cross-section. The cover or lid B has a continuous flange, rim, or projection b extending down into this channel or trough, while the outer edge of the cover overlaps said channel and its outer wall C.

In the channel a at suitable intervals apart are fixed catches a'—say three or more on each side and one or more at the ends—and these catches a' are adapted to be engaged by spring-dogs b' on the projecting rib b of the lid B. These dogs b' have spring-shanks, as here shown, so that they will automatically engage the catches a' when the cover B is placed in position, and the said dogs and catches are designed to so match that when locked together the lid is held down closely on the body A of the vault.

In order that the joint between cover and body shall be hermetically sealed and the said locks held immovably in engagement, I fill the channel a with a cement which when first placed there is preferably in a liquid

state, but which soon hardens and becomes as firm as rock. The lid B cannot be raised when the catches *a' b'* are in engagement, and these catches cannot possibly be disengaged when firmly held by the hardened cement. Hence the vault is proof every way against entrance and against outside air, as well as against emission of odors, and is admirably adapted to ship bodies long distances and to keep for indefinite periods before burial.

If a glass window be provided in the top of the vault, it will afford a view within, so that a face could be clearly exposed to view, while at the same time the vault would be as truly sealed as it could otherwise be.

It should be understood that any suitable equivalent of the dogs and catches *a' b'* may be adopted without departing from the spirit of the invention, and the only object in using spring-shanks on the dogs is to cause them to automatically lock when the cover is shut down.

Within the body A, along the sides and ends thereof, are flat substantially U-shape springs D, which are used to center and hold the casket. As larger caskets are used the springs are more compressed and may spread to hold smaller ones.

Across the bottom of the body are strips *e*, upon which the casket rests and which afford room to withdraw the ribbons when the casket is lowered into position.

F represents a short valved tube in the end of the vault to which an exhaust-pump or other suction may be attached for exhausting the air from the vault. Any suitable means of exhaustion may be adopted.

What I claim is—

1. The body of the vault having a channel constructed to hold a sealing material adapted to harden and catches for the cover in said channel, in combination with the cover overlapping said channel and having a flange projecting down into the channel and provided with dogs adapted to lock on said catches, and sealing material in said channel immersing the said flange and the said catches and dogs, substantially as described.

2. The body of the vault having a continuous channel in the upper edge of its bottom part constructed to hold a hardening sealing material, in combination with a top part provided with a continuous flange on its bottom in position to dip into said channel, and mechanism for holding the said top and bottom parts together, said mechanism connected with both parts and constructed to interlock when the cover is on and arranged to be confined wholly within said channel, whereby when the sealing material fills the said channel it immerses and binds the said mechanism in locked position, substantially as described.

Witness my hand to the foregoing specification this 26th day of June, 1901.

JULIUS C. HENNIS.

Witnesses:.
R. B. MOSER,
H. E. MUDRA.