

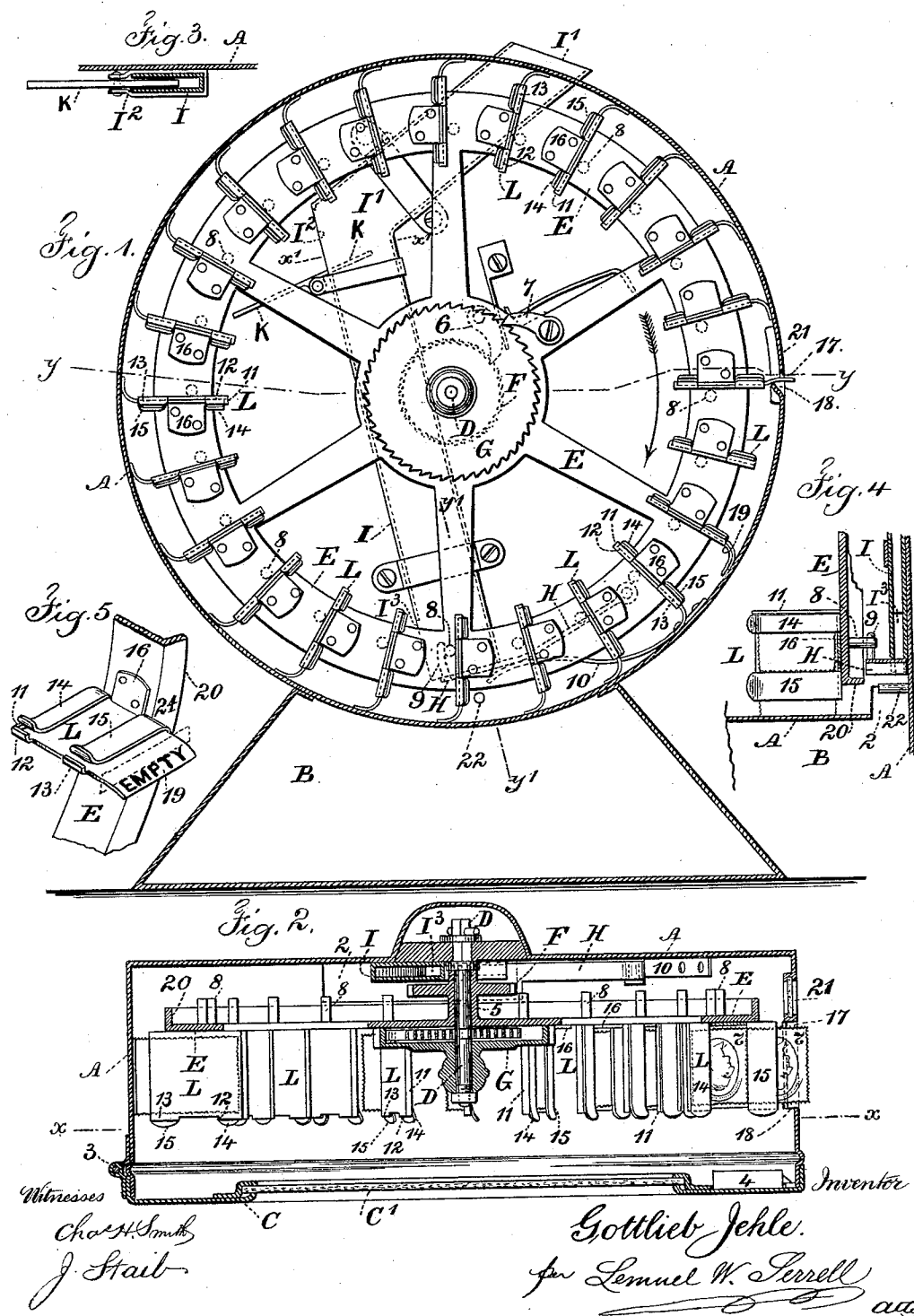
(No Model.)

G. JEHL.

COIN ACTUATED VENDING APPARATUS.

No. 475,567.

Patented May 24, 1892.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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COIN-ACTUATED VENDING APPARATUS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 475,567, dated May 24, 1892.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GOTTLIEB JEHLLE, a citizen of the United States, residing in Long Island City, in the county of Queens and State of New York, have invented an Improvement in Coin-Actuated Vending Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

At hotels and in drug and stationary stores postage-stamps are frequently provided for the convenience of customers, and the supply of these often involves considerable trouble without any profit.

This vending apparatus is primarily intended for the supply of postage-stamps, and it is adapted to hold postage-stamps—such, for instance, as pairs of postage-stamps placed around a holder—so that two two-cent stamps will be delivered when a five-cent piece is inserted in the coin-slot. Hence the vender is enabled to make a profit of one cent on each two stamps sold, and the apparatus is adapted to keeping the stamps in such a position that the mucilage will not cause such stamps to adhere to the holder, and the apparatus can be opened for the insertion of stamps when the supply is exhausted, and the holder is stopped automatically when the stamps are exhausted and an indication given that the apparatus requires to be refilled.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is an elevation of the holder with the case in section at the line *x x*, Fig. 2. Fig. 2 is a sectional plan at the line *y y*, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a detached sectional view of the coin-chute at the line *x'*, Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a detached sectional view at the line *y'*, Fig. 1; and Fig. 5 is a perspective view showing one of the stamp-holders with the projection thereon that forms the automatic stop.

The case A is preferably circular with a hollow base B, which forms a receptacle for the coins, there being an opening at 2 in the case A for the coins to pass into the hollow base B, and the front C is removable, the same being preferably hinged at 3 to the case A and provided with a locking device at 4 for holding the front closed, and it is to be understood that a padlock or a suitable fastening may be provided for securely holding the

front or movable portion of the case when the same has been closed.

The stationary arbor D is permanently secured in any desired manner to the case and it is adapted to receive the holding-wheel E, which has a tubular axis 5, surrounding the arbor D, and the wheel itself may be made either in the form of a disk or as a ring with arms. Upon the tubular axis 5 is a ratchet-wheel F, and there is a spring-pawl 6, (represented by dotted lines in Fig. 1,) which engages the teeth of the ratchet-wheel F to prevent the holding-wheel being turned backwardly, and there is a spring-barrel G upon the arbor D, having ratchet-teeth around its edge engaging with a pawl 7 on the holding-wheel E, and within the barrel G is a volute spring fastened at one end to the arbor D and at the other end to the spring-barrel, and this spring-barrel gives motion through the pawl to the holding-wheel E, when the retaining mechanism hereinafter described is liberated, so as to turn the holding-wheel E in the direction of the arrow, Fig. 1, and it is to be understood that each time the apparatus receives a fresh supply of stamps the spring-barrel G is given a rotation in the opposite direction to the arrow, Fig. 1, so as to wind up the spring and obtain the necessary movement to give a rotation to the holding-wheel progressively as the stamps are delivered.

Upon the back of the holding-wheel there are as many projections or pins 8 as there are stamp-holders, and these pins 8 engage the retaining-lever H, which is provided with a finger 9, that engages the pins 8, and there is a spring 10 for raising the retaining-lever H, and the strength of this spring is only sufficient to raise the lever H, and when a five-cent piece rests upon this lever, as hereinafter described, its weight causes the lever to descend, drawing the finger 9 out of contact with one of the pins 8, so that the wheel E is liberated and partially rotated by the action of the spring in the barrel G.

22 is a stop to limit the downward movement of the lever H.

The retaining-lever H is at the lower end

of the coin-chute I, by which the five-cent piece or other coin is directed upon the lever H, and when said lever descends by the weight of the coin the coin rolls out at an opening I³ in the side of the slide I and falls through the opening 2 into the hollow base B. The upper end I' of the coin-chute is at an inclination to the lower portion I, and there is an opening at I² in the edge of the coin-chute opposite to the inclined portion I', within which opening is a pivoted deflecting-lever K on the line, or nearly so, of and opposite to the lower edge of the inclined chute I', and this deflecting-lever receives whatever coin is passed into the chute at the upper end of the coin-chute I', and if a cent or a small coin is placed in such chute its weight is not sufficient to turn the lever K and it rolls over such lever K and falls into the inside of the case without operating the mechanism; but if the proper coin is placed in the chute it is too large to roll out at the opening I² in the edge of the chute and its weight is sufficient to swing the lever K into a nearly-vertical position, so that the coin passes down the chute I to the retaining-lever H, as aforesaid.

I will now describe the peculiarity of the holders for the postage-stamps or similar articles. It is to be understood that any desired number of these holders can be connected with the wheel E. I have represented twenty-four, and each holder L is made by preference of sheet metal, with lips 11 12 13 turned upon the edges of the sheet metal, and the sheet metal is also cut with tongues 14 and 15, bent down into the position indicated in the perspective view, Fig. 5, so that there is a slight space between their outer ends and the lips 12 and 13, and these holders are conveniently connected to the wheel E by the flange 16, riveted or soldered to the wheel. The size and shape of each holder is such that the two connected stamps can be received easily between the tongues 14 and 15 and the sheet-metal base or body of the holder, and the lips 12 and 13 prevent the stamp becoming displaced, and the lip 11 is at the opposite end of the stamps to the interior of the case A, and the holders are sufficiently near the interior of the case A for the ends of the stamps to be bent around into the curved position shown in Fig. 1 as they are introduced into the respective holders, so that as the holding-wheel E is revolved the curved end of the stamp is moved forward against the interior of the circular case A, and this case is smooth, except where there is a mouth 17 cut therein with an inwardly-projecting lip 18. Hence as the stamps are brought around in succession the advancing end of the stamp passes into the mouth, and in being straightened, or nearly so, by the lip 18 the end of the stamp projects, as indicated in Fig. 1, sufficiently to be caught by the fingers and drawn out from the holder. It will now be understood that

each time the proper coin is introduced it passes down the coin-chute, and its weight upon the retaining-lever H causes such lever to move downwardly and draw the finger 9 away from one of the pins 8, and the spring within the barrel G rotates the holding-wheel. The coin rolling off the lever H into the hollow base allows the lever H to return to its position and its finger 9 to catch the next pin 8, and during this movement the stamp-holder L, next to the mouth 17, is brought to that mouth and the stamp held by the holder projects at its end through the mouth and can be easily withdrawn by the purchaser.

If the parts before described only were made use of, the holding-wheel might turn after all, the stamps were exhausted. To prevent this, the sheet metal of one of the holders is projected in the form of a spring-lip 19, upon which the word "empty" may be marked, and the last stamp in the apparatus is presumed to rest on this holder. Hence as the stamp is brought down to position for being withdrawn the sheet metal of the lip 19 stops against the lip 18, and the holding-wheel cannot turn any farther until the case has been opened and the lip 19 sprung inwardly sufficiently to clear the lip 18, and the holders are to be filled with stamps introduced laterally with their projecting ends curved forwardly, and the apparatus is again ready for use.

I have represented in the front C an opening with a glass at C'. This allows the interior of the apparatus to be observed; but this glass is not always desirable, especially in places where the apparatus is not under the care of an attendant, because the interior construction might be observed and an effort made to tamper with the apparatus by means of a wire or otherwise; and in order to allow for ascertaining the number of stamps that remain in the apparatus, especially if the glass C' is dispensed with, I provide a suitable dial with numbers thereon corresponding to the number of the stamp-holders L. This dial may be applied in any convenient manner upon the wheel H. I have represented such wheel H as having a cylindrical flange 20, and upon this flange numbers may be placed opposite to the respective stamp-holders, and there may be an opening at 21 with a glass, by which to observe the number upon the flange of the holding-wheel, and this opening and glass I have shown as adjacent to the mouth 17; but it may be placed in any convenient portion of the apparatus.

I claim as my invention—

1. The combination, in a coin-actuated vending apparatus, of a wheel, a spring to actuate the same, a retaining-lever and coin-chute for causing the wheel to be liberated by the coin, a series of holders upon the wheel, each adapted to receive a stamp or similar article, and an inclosing case, against which the ends of the stamps or similar articles are in contact and

bent forwardly, there being a slot through the case with a lip at the opposite edge to the stamp, so that the end thereof will pass through the opening by coming into contact with the lip, substantially as specified.

5 2. The combination, with an inclosing case having an opening and a lip at one side, of a wheel, a spring to actuate the same, a retaining-lever and coin-chute for causing the wheel
10 to be liberated by the coin, and a series of holders upon the wheel, each adapted to receive a stamp or similar article, with its projecting end against the interior of the case, so as to be presented through the opening by
15 the end coming into contact with the lip, and a flange upon the wheel to arrest the wheel

after one rotation by coming into contact with the lip, substantially as specified.

3. The combination, with the wheel in a coin-actuated vending apparatus, of a series 20 of holders for postage-stamps or similar articles, each formed of a plate of sheet metal, with a flange fastened to the wheel, lips 11, 12, and 13, and tongues 14 and 15 above the stamp, substantially as specified. 25

Signed by me this 12th day of September, 1891.

GOTTLIEB JEHL.

Witnesses:

W. H. BIRTWHISTLE,
JAS. D. HENDERSON.