

Jan. 11, 1949.

J. C. WILSON

2,458,970

MYSTERY TOY OR PUZZLE

Filed May 25, 1948

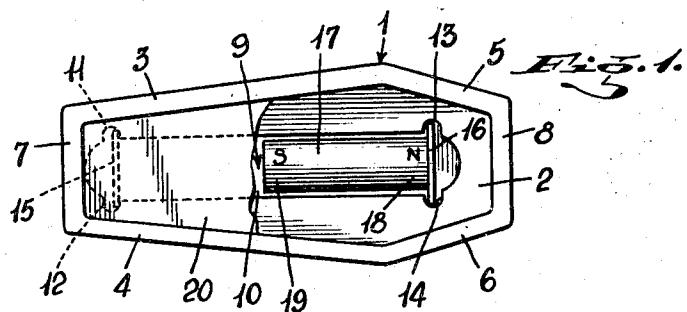


Fig. 2.

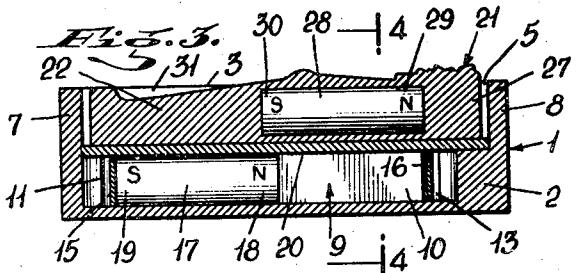
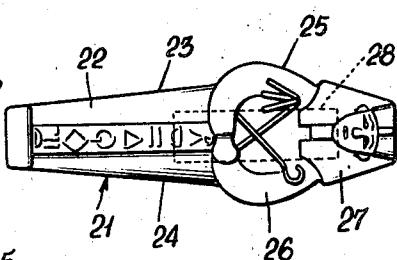


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

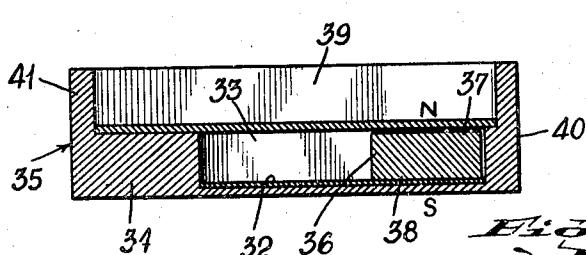
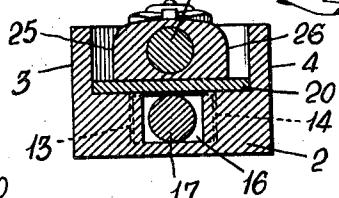
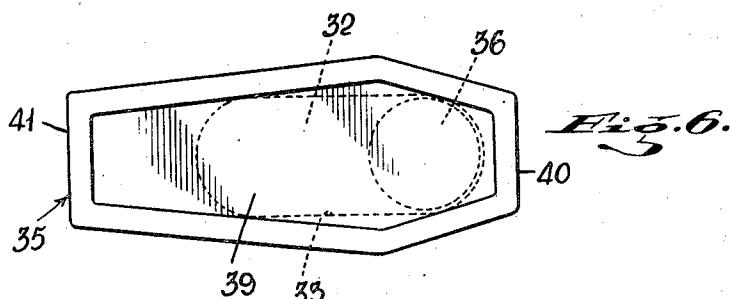


Fig. 5.



INVENTOR

JACK C. WILSON

BY *Lester Drew*
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,458,970

MYSTERY TOY OR PUZZLE

Jack C. Wilson, Garden City, N. Y.

Application May 25, 1948, Serial No. 29,168

4 Claims. (Cl. 46—45)

1

This invention relates to mystery toys and puzzles, and more particularly to a mystery toy employing the motive forces of magnets.

Among the objects of the present invention it is aimed to provide an improved mystery toy such as disclosed in my co-pending application for patent Ser. No. 6,374, filed February 5, 1948, including a casing having a recess for receiving an object and including a magnet fixed in the object, and a second magnet movable in the casing so that in one position of the movable magnet it will peacefully receive the object and in another position it will reject the same, characterized, however, by the fact that magnetic anchoring means are disposed in the casing temporarily to anchor the movable magnet for predetermined actions, one action to receive the object and the other to reject the object.

These and other features, capabilities and advantages of the invention will appear from the subjoined detail description of specific embodiments thereof illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which

Fig. 1 is a plan view partly broken away of the casing employed for one embodiment with a magnet in object rejecting position.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the object employed.

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section of the casing shown in Fig. 1 and of the object shown in Fig. 2 when the magnet in the casing is positioned in object receiving position.

Fig. 4 is a section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a longitudinal section of the casing of another embodiment.

Fig. 6 is a plan view of the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 5.

In the embodiment illustrated in Figs. 1, 3 and 4, the casing 1 is formed in the shape of a coffin having an enlarged base 2, two elongated diverging side walls 3 and 4, two short diverging side walls 5 and 6, and two end walls 7 and 8, all formed of one piece with a recess or pocket 9, see Fig. 1, in the base 2 having an elongated chamber 10 with recesses 11 and 12 extending laterally from one end and recesses 13 and 14 extending laterally from the other end. In the recesses 11 and 12, there is positioned a plate 15 composed of soft iron or the like substance attractable by a magnet. In the recesses 13 and 14, on the other hand, there is positioned a similar soft iron plate 16. The length of the plates 15 and 16 is such that they will be anchored by such recesses at the ends of the elongated chamber 10. In the chamber 10, in turn, there is positioned a strong permanent magnet 17, having a north pole 18

2

and a south pole 19. The magnet 17 in length is preferably about half the distance between the plates 15 and 16, and in the present instance is cylindrical in cross section.

The casing 1 is preferably composed of a plastic or the like non-magnetic substance and is provided with a plate 20 of cardboard, plastic material or the like which is secured in place after the plates 15 and 16 and the magnet 17 are located in the base 2. The short side walls 5 and 6 determine the head room of the casing 1.

The object 21 in the present instance is conformed to portray an Egyptian mummy. Its leg portion 22 has diverging sides 23, 24 readily to fit between the side walls 3 and 4 of the casing 1, and the sides 25 and 26 of the head portion 27 similarly are diverging readily to fit between the side walls 5 and 6 of the casing 1. The object 21 preferably is also composed of some non-magnetic substance, such as a plastic material, and has molded or located within the same, a permanent magnet 28, with its north pole 29 facing toward the head end of the object 21 and its south pole 30 facing toward the foot end thereof. Preferably, also as shown, the magnet 28 is less than half the length of the object 21 with its south pole 30 disposed adjacent the middle thereof.

From the foregoing it will thus appear that when the magnet 17 of the casing 1 is moved into the position shown in Fig. 3, one end of the same, its south pole 19, will be magnetically held in engagement with the plate 15 and then when the object 21 is placed in the chamber 31 formed between the walls 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, the south pole 30 of the object 21 will be disposed adjacent to the north pole 18 of the magnet 17 and the object 21 will rest peacefully in the chamber 31. If, now, however, the object 21 is removed, and the casing 1 is given a sharp blow on the head end, that is, on the outer face of the wall 8, the magnet 17 will be caused to move into engagement with the plate 16 and as soon as its north pole 18 engages the plate 16, the magnet 17 will be magnetically anchored in such position, until the casing 1 is again given a sharp blow on the foot end of the casing 1. In this position, however, where the north pole 18 of the magnet 17 engages the plate 16, when an attempt is made to place the object 21 into the chamber 31, the north poles 29 and 18 and the south poles 30 and 19, respectively, will repel one another and cause the object 21 to be rejected from the chamber 31. As distinguished from the earlier application for patent, Ser. No. 6,374, it will be

seen that here the plates 15 and 16 very nicely anchor the magnet 17 in either position so that the chance of detecting the operation of the device is decreased and the mystery heightened.

In the embodiment shown in Figs. 5 and 6, the object 21 may be used without change. In this embodiment, however, only one anchoring plate, to wit, the plate 32, is provided, in the present instance positioned in the bottom of the recess or pocket 33 formed in the base 34 of the casing 35 to cooperate with the permanent magnet 36. In the present instance, the magnet 36 is conformed as a disk or block with its flat face resting on, or in engagement with, the upper face of the plate 32. Here, just as is the case with the embodiment shown in Figs. 1 and 3, the magnet 36 may be moved from one end of the pocket 33 to the other by a sharp blow struck at either end of the casing 35, the magnet 36 here, however, being always in engagement with the plate 32 and magnetically anchored in position by said plate 32. The disk 36 preferably has its north pole 37 facing upwardly and its south pole 38 facing downwardly so that when the object 21 is attempted to be positioned in the chamber 39 when the magnet 36 is disposed adjacent to the head end 40 of the casing 35, the north poles 29 and 37 will repel one another to reject or oppose reception of the object 21. On the other hand, when the foot end 41 of the casing is given a sharp blow, it will cause the magnet 36 to be moved to the other end of the pocket 33, and thereupon, when the object 21 is placed in the chamber 39, the north pole 37 of the magnet 36 and the south pole 30 of the object 21 will attract one another and permit the object 21 to rest peacefully in the chamber 39.

It is obvious that various changes and modifications may be made to the details of construction without departing from the general spirit of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a magnetic toy, the combination of a non-magnetic casing having two adjacent chambers, one open and the other closed, separated from one another by a non-magnetic partition, a permanent magnet mounted in said closed chamber and adapted to move longitudinally therein, releasable anchoring means fixed in said closed chamber and adapted to retain said movable magnet in two positions in said closed chamber by the attraction of said movable magnet on said means, and a body of non-magnetic material simulating a human figure or the like having a second permanent magnet fixed therein in a predetermined longitudinal portion thereof, said body conforming in shape and size to fit

into the open chamber only in properly oriented end to end position, like poles of the permanent magnets cooperating with one another to expel said body from said position in the open chamber when the movable magnet is in one of said two positions and said like poles being out of coercive range to enable said body to remain in said open chamber when the movable magnet is in the other of said two positions.

10 2. In a magnetic toy, the combination of a non-magnetic casing having two adjacent chambers, one open and the other closed, separated from one another by a non-magnetic partition, a permanent bar magnet longitudinally slidable in said closed chamber, means for releasably anchoring said permanent magnet in two positions in said closed chamber, and a body of non-magnetic material simulating a human figure or the like having a second permanent bar magnet fixed therein longitudinally in a predetermined longitudinal portion thereof, said body conforming in shape and size to fit into the open chamber only in properly oriented end to end position, like poles of the permanent magnets being adjacent to one another to expel said body from said position in the open chamber when the movable magnet is in one of said two positions and unlike poles being adjacent to one another to hold said body in said open chamber when the movable magnet is in the other of said two positions.

15 3. The combination as set forth in claim 1 in which the releasable anchoring means consists of a soft iron plate disposed in the bottom of the closed chamber and extending the full length thereof for slidable engagement with the movable magnet.

20 4. The combination as set forth in claim 1 in which the releasable anchoring means consists of two soft iron plates disposed at the opposite ends of the closed chamber for engagement with the movable magnet, one at either end of said closed chamber.

JACK C. WILSON.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
487,085	Buehl	Nov. 29, 1892
1,947,920	Primrose	Feb. 20, 1934
2,109,953	Bates	Mar. 1, 1938
2,220,049	Dunmore	Oct. 29, 1940
2,240,035	Catherall	Apr. 29, 1941
2,249,454	Brake	July 15, 1941
2,261,349	Edelman	Nov. 4, 1941