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(54) PROTECTION AND AUTHENTICATION DEVICE FOR TRADING COLLECTABLE OBJECTS

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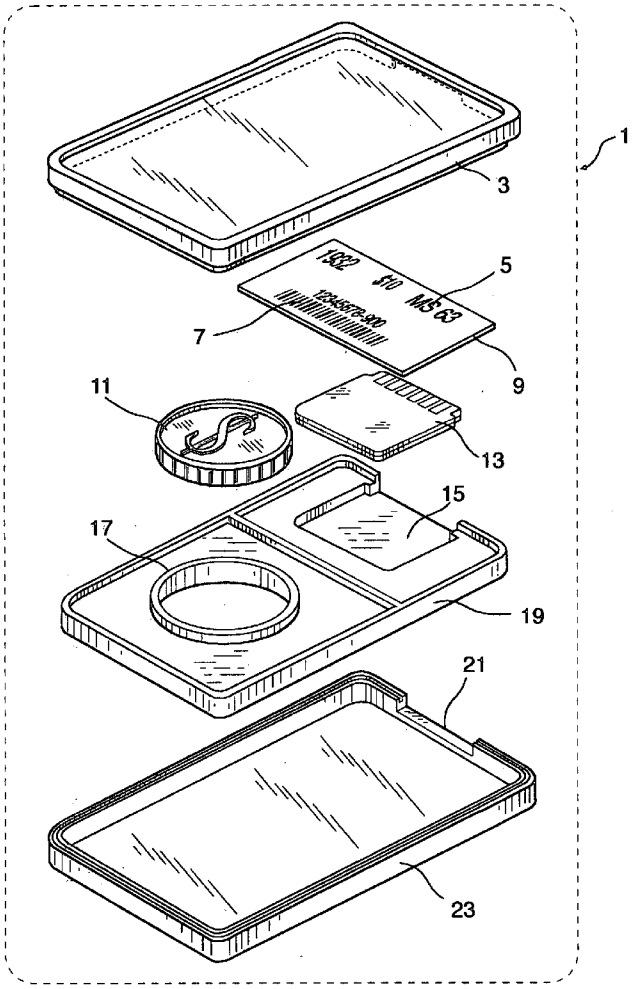
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A protection and authentication device for trading collectable objects is described. The device comprises a holder formed for assembly with at least one collectable object to provide protection and preservation of the collectable object. The holder is further formed to resist disassembly and separation with the collectable object, once it is assembled. A protection and authentication device for trading collectable objects also comprises a data storage device comprising data including at least one descriptor that identifies at least in part, at least one collectable object, and further comprises at least one electronic link that can fetch a predetermined external database that stores at least one digital image of at least one collectable object. The digital image may assist a user in the authentication of the collectable object, and may facilitate the ability of a user to trade the collectable object over a network such as the Internet. The data storage device is nondetachably secured to the protection and authentication device, and, the data storage device is compatible with a standard computer system. Thus, it is connectable, directly or indirectly to a computer system or equivalent system for Internet access, either by wire connection, wireless connection, or a combination thereof.



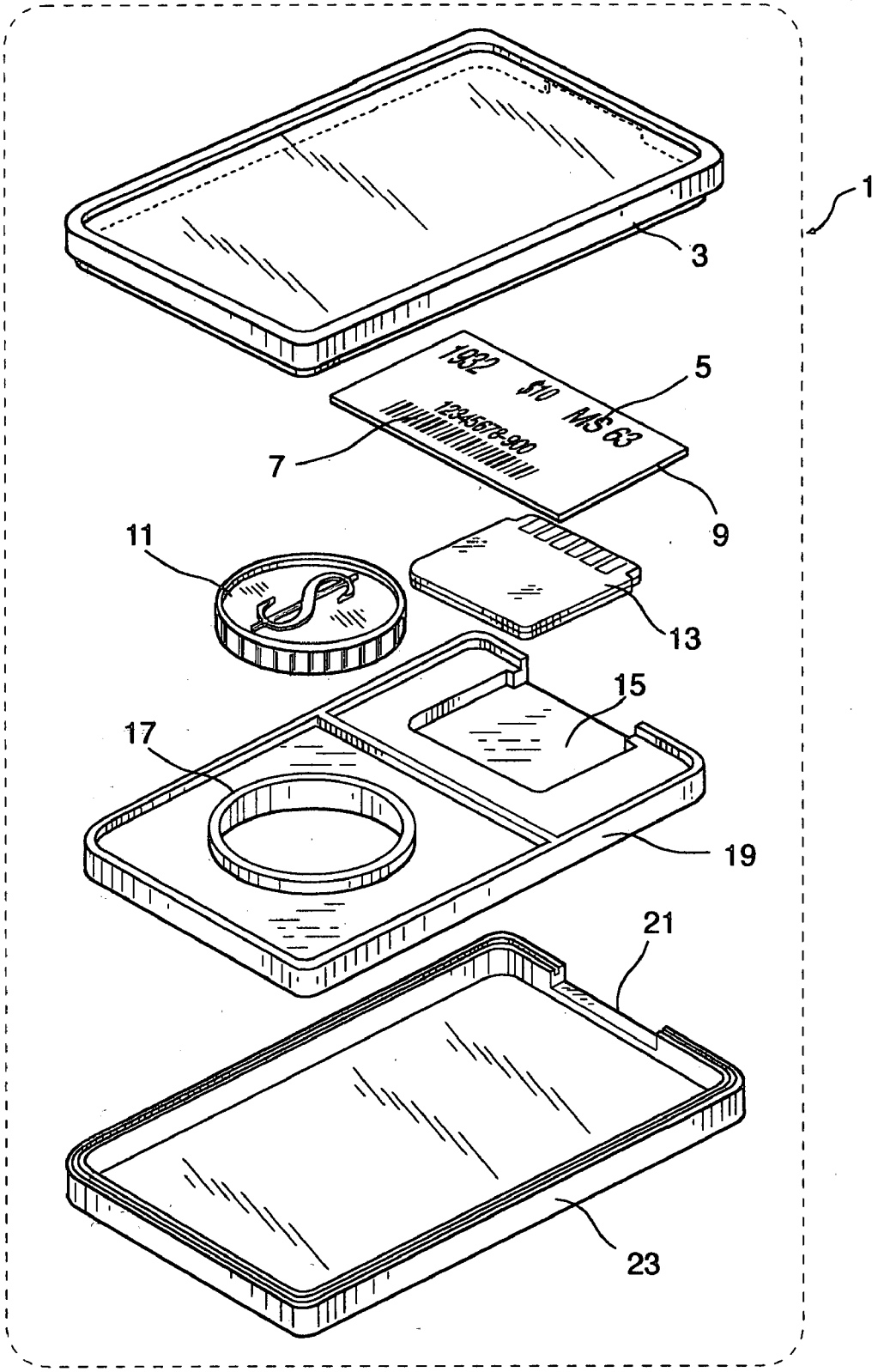


FIG. 1

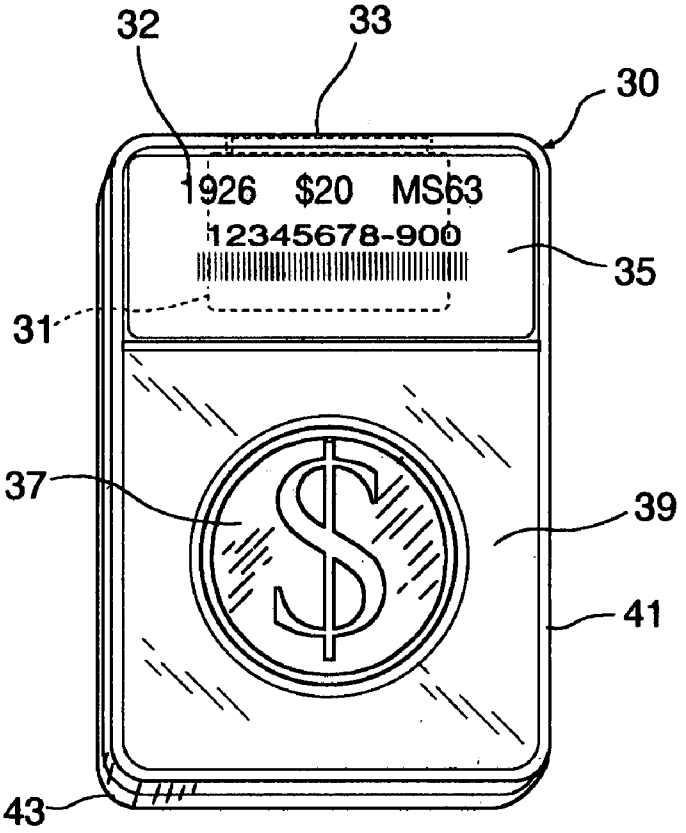


FIG. 2

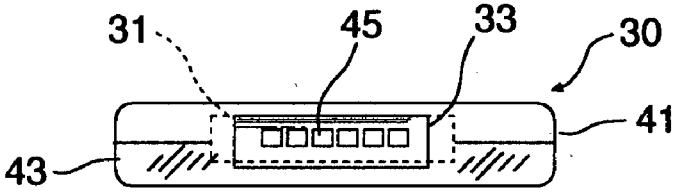


FIG. 3

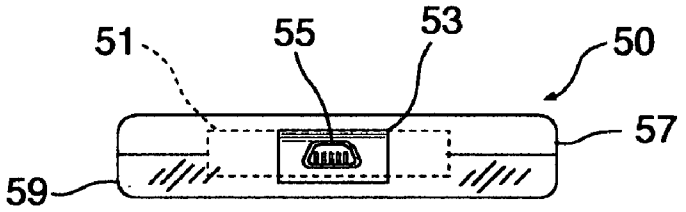


FIG. 4

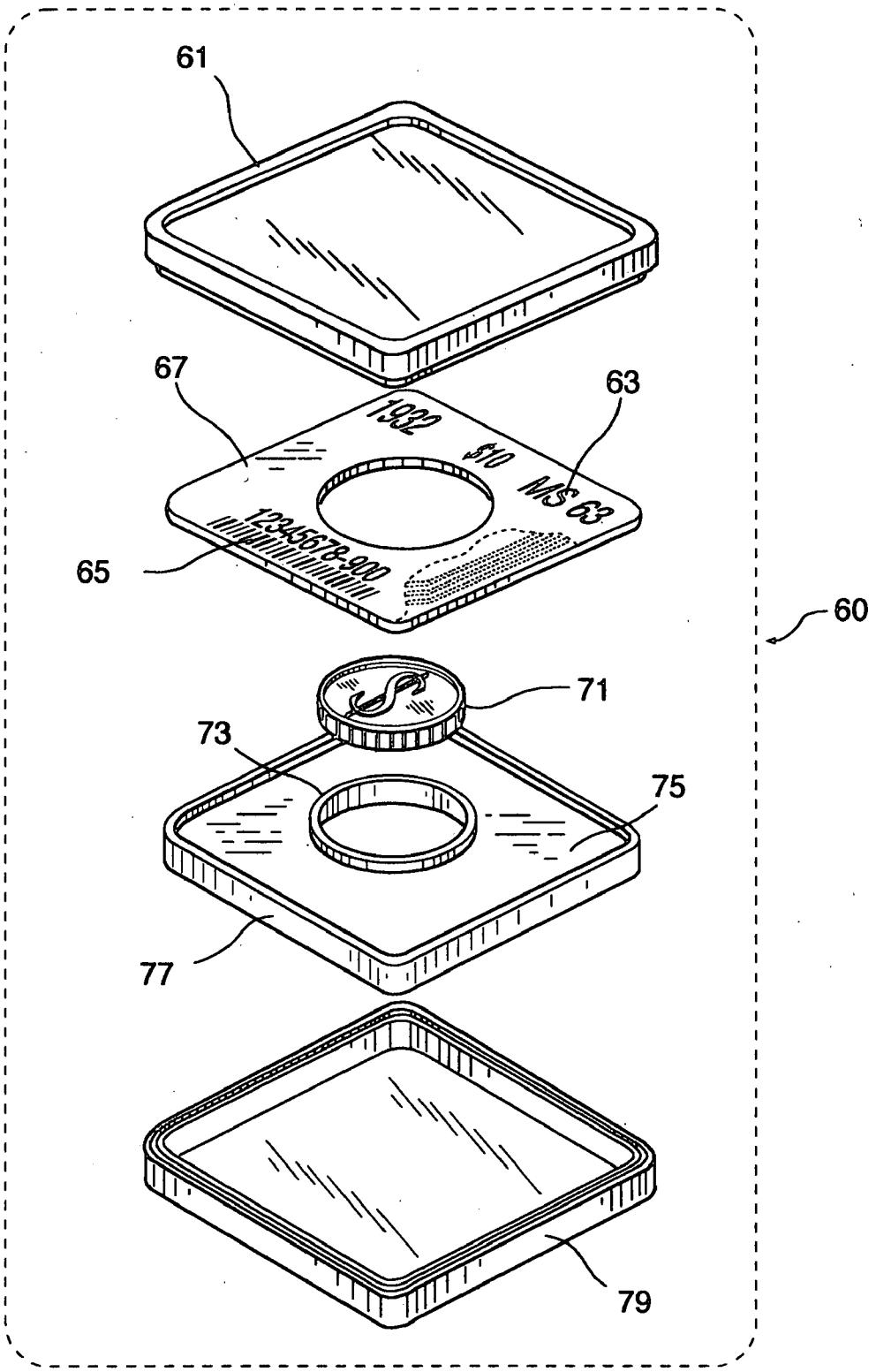


FIG. 5

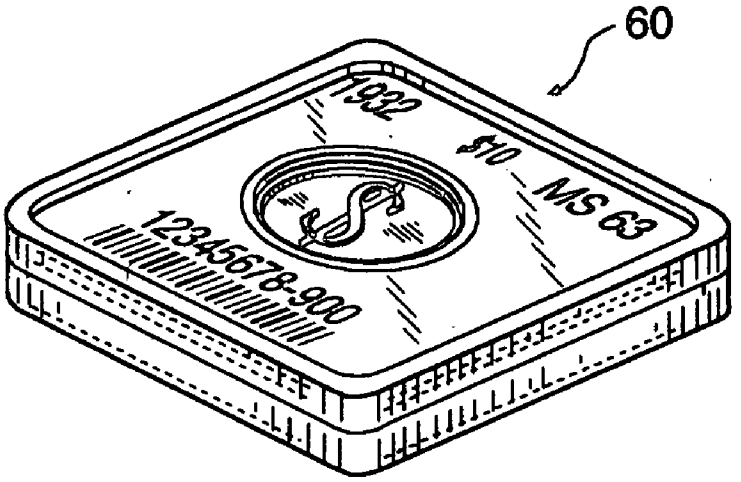

60
1932
$10
MS 63
12345678-900

FIG. 6

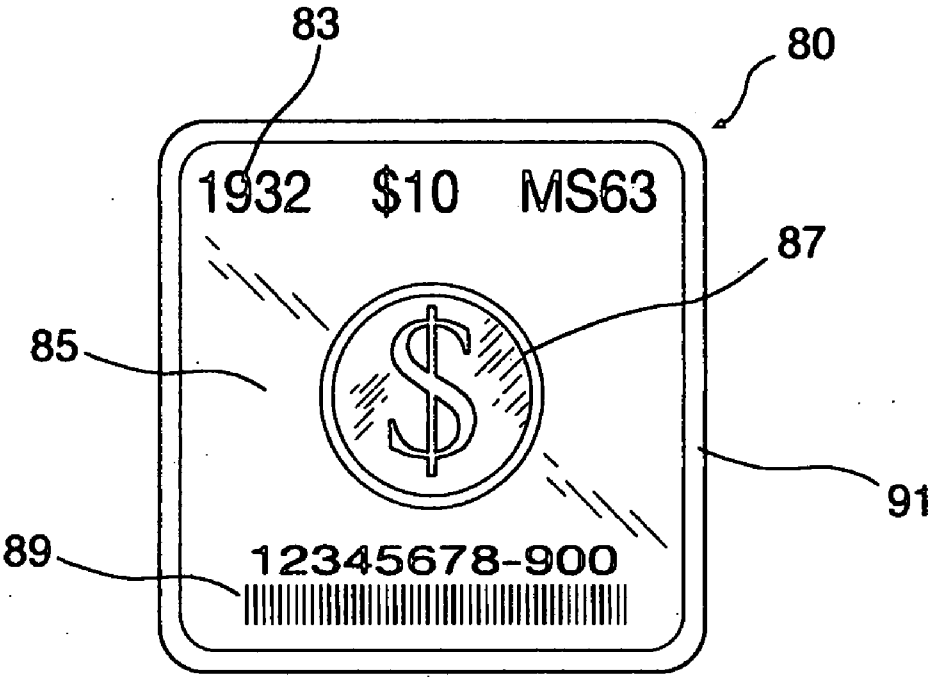

83
80
1932 $10 MS63
87
85
91
89
12345678-900

FIG. 7

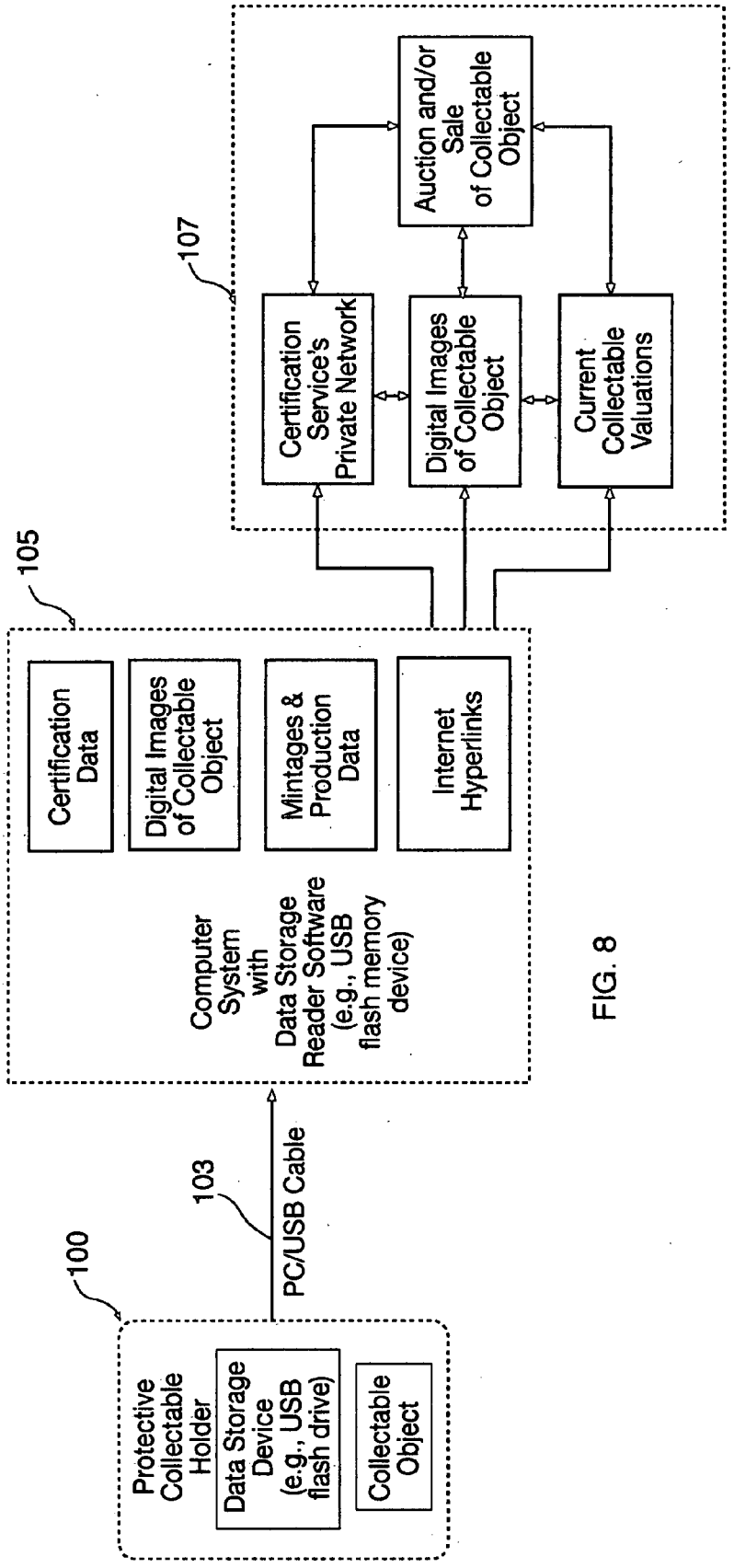

100
Protective Collectable Holder
Data Storage Device (e.g., USB flash drive)
Collectable Object
103
PC/USB Cable
105
Computer System with Data Storage Reader Software (e.g., USB flash memory device)
Certification Data
Digital Images of Collectable Object
Mintages & Production Data
Internet Hyperlinks
107
Certification Service's Private Network
Digital Images of Collectable Object
Current Collectable Valuations
Auction and/or Sale of Collectable Object

FIG. 8

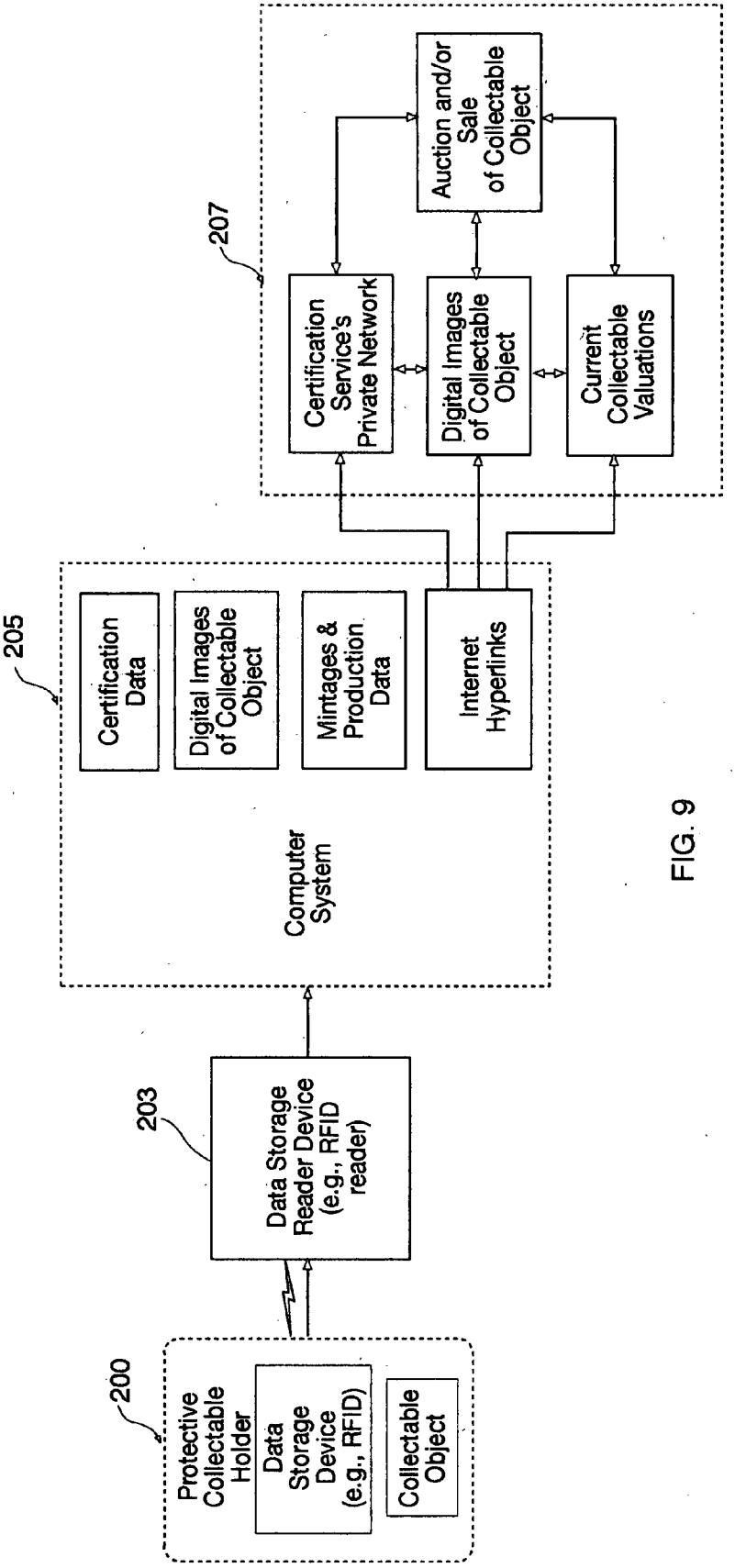

200
Protective Collectable Holder
Data Storage Device (e.g., RFID)
Collectable Object
203
Data Storage Reader Device (e.g., RFID reader)
205
Computer System
Certification Data
Digital Images of Collectable Object
Mintages & Production Data
Internet Hyperlinks
207
Certification Service's Private Network
Digital Images of Collectable Object
Current Collectable Valuations
Auction and/or Sale of Collectable Object

FIG. 9

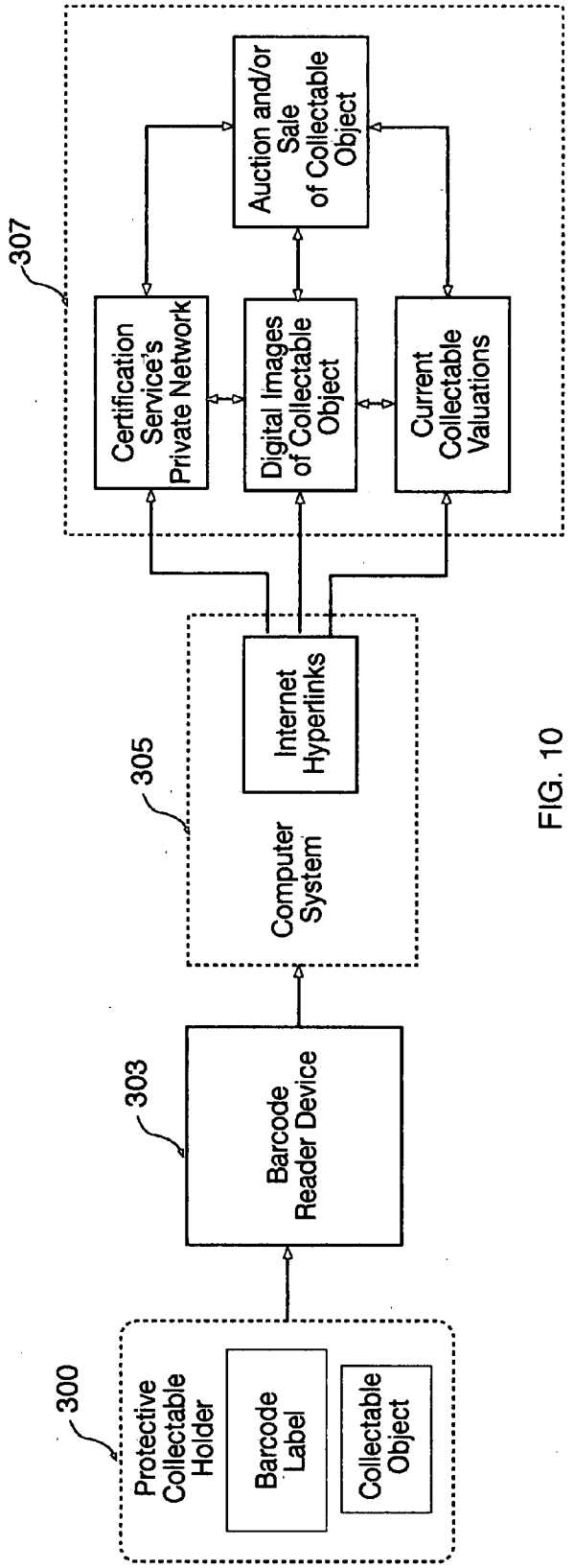

307
Auction and/or Sale of Collectable Object
Certification Service's Private Network
Digital Images of Collectable Object
Current Collectable Valuations
305
Internet Hyperlinks
Computer System
303
Barcode Reader Device
300
Protective Collectable Holder
Barcode Label
Collectable Object

FIG. 10

PROTECTION AND AUTHENTICATION DEVICE FOR TRADING COLLECTABLE OBJECTS

REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/493,312 filed on Jul. 26, 2006, by the inventor herein, entitled PROTECTION, AUTHENTICATION, IDENTIFICATION DEVICE FOR A COLLECTABLE OBJECT.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to the protection, authentication and trading of collectable objects such as coins, stamps, currency, baseball cards, autographs and historical documents.

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

[0003] An industry for authentication, identification and certification of collectables has gained prominence and certification companies such as the Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS) and the Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) have developed protective collectable holders to protect collectable objects such as coins, stamps, currency, and baseball cards. They encapsulate the collectable object and provide a professional opinion for condition and authenticity. These certified holders contain a standard barcode and/or serial number label that are used for processing and basic data storage of the certification data. The information merely relates to the grade, date and denomination of the collectable object and fails to validate that the collectable object has not been deceptively switched with a similar like kind collectable object that is inferior in grade, damaged, or even counterfeit. Although the certification services provide a tamper resistant holder, there are documented cases of deceptive practices of removing the collectable object (e.g., coin) from one holder and utilizing the barcode label and certified grade label of another collectable to fraudulently misrepresent the actual collectable object, and often times this is done by unscrupulous sellers that intentionally utilize this activity to deceive a perspective buyer utilizing internet based trading of the collectable object. There are other instances of fraud that have occurred in internet auctions, wherein the collectable object is misrepresented by a digital image of different collectable object, but of lesser value, grade or rarity. Furthermore, there are numerous cases of counterfeit collectables that are bought by unsuspecting buyers due to the lack of clear images of the collectable object or images that are poor in quality and do not provide the visual authentication for an informed collector to scrutinize the visual attributes of the collectable object for authenticity. Professional and trustworthy certification companies are an asset to the collectibles industry but still fall short in assuring the integrity and authenticity of collectable products that are traded by means of digital images by unscrupulous sellers. From an ergonomics viewpoint, certified industry protective holders are designed to be small and portable which necessitates a small label that only allows for minimal marking space and certification information. Often times the owner would have a need to utilize a digital image of the collectable object in conjunction with the certification data for additional authentication of the collectable. A device that improves the representation, security and authenticity of the visual images of the collectable would improve the integrity of industry-wide authentication, marketing, and Internet based trading of collectable objects. Additionally, the owner or buyer of a collectable object may desire to or have additional information relative to the collectable such as historical information, current valuations, condition populations, and other relevant information. Applicant believes that a better device for the protection and authentication for trading collectable objects is herein described.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] In one embodiment of the present invention, a protection and authentication device for collectable objects is described. The device comprises a holder formed for assembly with at least one collectable object to provide protection and preservation of the collectable object. The holder is further formed to resist disassembly and separation with the collectable object, once it is assembled. The protection and authentication device also comprises a data storage device that comprises data that includes at least one descriptor that identifies at least in part, the collectable object, and further comprises at least one electronic link that can fetch a predetermined external database that stores at least one digital image of the collectable object, so as to assist a user in the authentication of the collectable object, and may facilitate the ability of a user to trade or sell the collectable object over a network. The data storage device is nondetachably secured to the protection and authentication device for trading a collectable object, and, the data storage device is compatible with a standard computer system. Thus, it is connectable, directly or indirectly to a computer system or equivalent system for Internet access, either by wire connection, wireless connection or a combination thereof.

[0005] Recognizing the need for an improved protection and authentication device for trading a collectable object, the following objectives are considered:

[0006] It is an important objective of the present invention to provide for a commercially viable protection and authentication device for collectable objects in a portable holder form-factor that provides long-term protection for valuable collectable objects such as rare coins, currency, stamps, baseball cards, autographs, historical documents, etc.

[0007] It is another important objective of the present invention to provide improved authenticity detection of a certified holder and the associated collectable object.

[0008] It is another important objective of the present invention to provide for a visual identification system to promote authenticity of the certified collectable object by providing the owner with the means for easily accessing and comparing original digital image(s) of the certified collectable object that may be created and stored during or after the certification process of the collectable object, and providing possible unique characteristics of the collectable object. For example, common characteristics of a coin may include strike, luster, color, defects, abrasions, centering, date, mintmark, and die variations.

[0009] It is another important objective of the present invention that it may provide relevant information of the actual collectable object (e.g., grade, certification data, mintages, population survival reports, current valuations, historical data and other attributes) while still maintaining a small and portable sized holder.

[0010] It is another important objective of the present invention to provide an owner or buyer with the means of

easily accessing and viewing secure digital image(s) of the collectable object with a standard computer system.

[0011] It is another important objective of the present invention to provide a user with the means of utilizing at least one stored digital image of the collectable object for certification verification purposes, collectable documentation, identification, marketing, appraisals, and trading of the collectible object.

[0012] It is another important objective of the present invention to utilize the stored digital image(s) of the collectable object to provide greater authentication and security for the trading of the collectable object.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0013] FIG. **1** shows a right front perspective, exploded view of a present invention device shown disassembled.

[0014] FIG. **2** shows a top plan view of a present invention device similar to that shown in FIG. **1**.

[0015] FIG. **3** shows a rear elevation view of the present invention device shown in FIG. **2**.

[0016] FIG. **4** shows a rear elevation view of a present invention device similar to that shown in FIG. **3**.

[0017] FIG. **5** shows a right front perspective, exploded view of another embodiment of the present invention device shown disassembled.

[0018] FIG. **6** shows a right front perspective view of the present invention device shown in FIG. **5**.

[0019] FIG. **7** shows a top plan view of another embodiment of a present invention device.

[0020] FIG. **8** shows a diagram of a present invention device that is similar to that shown in FIGS. **1**, **2**, **3** and **4**, and a typical corresponding interface with a standard computer system with Internet capability.

[0021] FIG. **9** shows a diagram of a present invention device similar to that shown in FIG. **5** and FIG. **6**, and a typical corresponding interface with a standard computer system with Internet capability.

[0022] FIG. **10** shows a diagram of a present invention device similar to that shown in FIG. **7**, and a typical corresponding interface with a standard computer system with Internet capability.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0023] Referring now to the drawings which are for the purpose of illustrating preferred embodiments of the present invention and are not for the purpose of limiting same, FIG. **1** shows a right front perspective, exploded view of a present invention device shown disassembled. A protection and authentication device for collectable objects **1**, is shown comprising a collectible holder having an upper housing **3** and a lower housing **23** that are formed for assembly with a collectable object, such as coin **11**. Other collectable objects such as stamps, currency, baseball cards, autographs, historical documents, etc., are additional examples of collectable objects that may be applicable to the present invention. The holder housings **3** and **23** may be made of a clear plastic, such as acrylic, to provide protection, preservation and viewing for a collectable object, such as coin **11**. A data storage device **13**, such as a Flash Memory Card (FMC), is nondetachably secured to the protection and authentication device for trading collectable objects **1**. A Flash Memory Card is illustrated only as an example a data storage device for it's compact size, and preferred non-volatile memory (NVM) capability, but many other examples of data storage devices could also be used such as a USB flash drive, PC Card, Memory Card, MultiMedia Card, Secure Digital Card, Memory Stick, xD-Picture Card and other compact sized, solid-state data storage devices. For data security reasons, the data storage device **13** may comprise a Read-Only-Memory (ROM) condition that is immutable to prevent a user from altering or erasing the data of the data storage device **13**. Immutable shall mean that the data is highly resistant to change or alteration. Data storage device **13** would also likely have security features, such as, secure encryption, copyright protection, and/or write-protection. A core component **19** may secure the collectable coin **11**, to a preformed cavity **17** that is cut through core component **19** for viewing coin **11** on both sides, the obverse side (front) and reverse side (rear) of the coin. A cavity **15** may be provided to nest data storage device **13** with core component **19**. Core component **19**, coin **11**, data storage device **13**, and barcode label **9** are nondetachably secured with upper housing **3** and lower housing **23** by a method that resists disassembly, such as ultrasonic welding of the upper and lower housings **3** and **23** during an assembly process. Upper housing **3** and lower housing **23** show an example for an access opening **21** that provides for connection of a data storage reader device or electronic cable device to the port end of the data storage device **13**. Data storage device **13** comprises data that includes at least one descriptor that identifies at least in part, the collectable object. Such descriptors may include, for example, image/s of the collectable coin, the date, denomination and certification grade of collectable coin **11**. Data storage device **13** is compatible with a standard computer system. Thus, it is connectable, directly or indirectly to a computer system or equivalent system for Internet access, either by wire connection, wireless connection, or a combination thereof. Data storage device **13** further comprises at least one electronic link that can fetch a predetermined external database that stores at least one digital image of the collectable coin **11**, so as to assist a user in the authentication of the collectable coin **11**, and may facilitate the ability for a user to trade the collectable coin **11** over a network, such as the Internet. The electronic links, might include for example, the certification service's private network, which may be in the form of Internet Hyperlinks that also provide predetermined characteristics of the collectable coin **11**, and other dynamic (changing) data, such as the current certification population and current valuation of coin **11**. Typically, more than one digital image of the collectable object would be stored, such as the front (obverse) and back (reverse) of collectable coin **11**, and can provide authentication and identification of the unique characteristics of coin **11**, such as the strike, luster, color, defects, abrasions, centering, date, mintmark and die information of coin **11**. Additional information, such as, historical information that is associated with coin **11** may also be stored. The certification's private network would typically utilize security features, such as a user login and password, and secure encryption technologies. The Hyperlink/s fetch the stored digital image/s of coin **11**, and provide a protocol for Internet based trading of coin **11**. For example, the trusted resource site could be the certification service's website, that provides a user the ability to access the digital image/s of coin **11**, and provide a service to facilitate the trading of coin **11** by means of various trading options such as an "auction menu" or a "sale menu." Collectable object

descriptors **5** may provide basic certification information of coin **11**, for example, the denomination, the date of mintage, and the certification grade of coin **11**. The certification grade of coin **11** may refer to the condition grade of coin **11** as determined by a commercial grading certification service. Barcode **7**, when read by an appropriate barcode reader may also provide predetermined characteristics of coin **11** by means of an appropriate barcode reader device. Additionally, barcode label **7**, may also reveal Hyperlink/s when read by an appropriate barcode scanner that are capable of fetching corresponding stored digital image/s of the collectable object, coin **11**, and that may provide a protocol for internet based trading by means of a trusted remote resource site. Furthermore, the certification service's website could also be linked to additional trusted resources/databases, such as an auction company's website, that facilitates trading of the collectable object and utilizes the trusted digital image/s of the collectable coin **11** from the certification service's database.

[0024] FIG. **2** shows a top plan view of a present invention device similar to that shown in FIG. **1**. A data storage device **31** (not fully seen in this view), such as a Flash Memory Card (FMC) is nondetachably secured to the protection and authentication device for collectable objects **30**, by means of a holder with an upper housing **41** and a lower housing **43** that are formed for assembly with at least one collectable object, such as coin **37**. The holder is further formed by a method that resists disassembly, such as ultrasonic welding of the upper and lower housing during an assembly process. This is merely one example of a method that resists disassembly and separation of coin **37**, and can promote a nondetachably secured data storage device such as **31** and the protection of a collectable object **37**. Opening **33** provides access for a Memory Storage Reader device, such as a Flash Memory Reader device to electronically attach to Flash Memory Card (FMC) **31**. Data storage device **31** is compatible and with a standard computer system and connectable, directly or indirectly to a computer system or equivalent system for Internet access, either by wire connection, wireless connection or a combination thereof. A barcode label **35**, when read by an appropriate barcode reader may also provide predetermined characteristics of coin **37**. And, collectable object descriptors **32** may also provide basic certification information of coin **37**, for example, the denomination, the date of mintage, and the certification grade of coin **37**. The certification grade of coin **37** refers to the condition grade of coin **37** as determined by a commercial grading certification service.

[0025] FIG. **3** shows a rear elevation view of the present invention device shown in FIG. **2**. Upper housing **41** and lower housing **43** show an example for an access opening **33** that provides for a data storage reader device to electronically attach to the port end of data storage device **31**, such as a Flash Memory Card. The location of the access opening **33**, that provides interface with data storage device **31**, is shown in a rear view only as an example of placement location and could be located at other locations of the present invention, depending on the orientation of data storage device **31** and data storage device port **45**.

[0026] FIG. **4** shows a rear elevation view of a present invention device similar to that shown in FIG. **3**. This rear view shows a protection and authentication device for collectable objects **50**, comprising a holder formed and shown assembled, consisting of upper housing **57** and lower housing **59**. The holder has been formed for assembly by a method that resists disassembly, for example, by using barbed interlocking tabs (not shown) during an assembly process. Upper housing **57** and lower housing **59** show an example for an access opening **53** that provides for attachment of an electronic Universal Serial Bus (USB) interface device (such as a Universal Serial Bus. (USB) cable) to the port end **55** of the data storage device **51** (such as a Universal Serial Bus (USB) type flash drive). Data storage device **51** would typically have a compact form factor, and Non-Volatile Memory (NVM) condition. For data security reasons, the data storage device **51**, for example, a USB Flash Drive memory device, may also comprise a Read-Only-Memory (ROM) condition that is immutable to prevent a user from altering or erasing the data of data storage device **51**. Immutable shall be defined herein as being resistant to change or alteration. Data storage device **51** is nondetachably secured to the protection and authentication device **50**.

[0027] FIG. **5** shows a right front perspective, exploded view of another embodiment of the present invention device shown disassembled for a protection and authentication device for collectable objects **60**, has an upper housing **61** and a lower housing **79** that are formed for assembly to protect and secure a collectable object, such as coin **71** and data storage device **67**. Other collectable objects such as stamps, currency, baseball cards, autographs, historical documents, etc., are additional examples of collectable objects that could be applicable to the present invention. The holder may be made of a clear plastic, such as acrylic that provides protection and may provide viewing of the collectable object, such as coin **71**. Data storage device **67** may be, for example, a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) transponder label that has a barcode **65** and collectable object descriptors **63**. A core component **77** may be used to secure collectable coin **71**, within cavity **73**, which is cut through core component **77** for viewing coin **71** on both sides, the obverse side (front) and reverse side (rear) of the coin. The recessed area **75** of core component **77**, is formed to receive and hold data storage device **67**. Plastic core component **77**, coin **71**, and data storage device **67** (with barcode **65** and collectable object descriptors **63**), are nondetachably secured to the present invention device **60**. Upper housing **61** and lower housing **79** are assembled to resist disassembly, by way of ultrasonic welding or other effective means. Data storage device **67** is compatible with an appropriate RFID reader device and compatible with a standard computer system. Thus, it is connectable, directly or indirectly to a computer system or equivalent system for Internet access, by wireless connection. Data storage device **67** further comprises at least one electronic link that can fetch a predetermined external database that stores at least one digital image of the collectable coin **71**, so as to assist a user in the authentication of the collectable coin **71**, and may facilitate the ability for a user to trade the collectable coin **71** over a network, such as the Internet. The electronic links, might include for example, the certification service's private network, which may be in the form of Internet Hyperlinks that also provide predetermined characteristics of the collectable coin **71**, and other dynamic (changing) data, such as the current certification population and current valuation of coin **71**. Typically, more than one digital image of the collectable object would be stored, such as the front (obverse) and back (reverse) of collectable coin **71**, and can provide authentication and identification of the unique char-

acteristics of coin **71**, such as the strike, luster, color, defects, abrasions, centering, date, mintmark and die information of coin **71**. Additional information such as historical information that is associated with coin **71** may also be stored. The certification's private network would typically utilize security features, such as a user login and password, digital encryption and/or digital watermark security features. The Hyperlink/s could access the associated stored digital image/s of coin **71**, and provide a protocol for Internet based trading of coin **11**. For example, the trusted resource site could be the certification service's website, that provides a user the ability to fetch the digital image/s of coin **71**, and provide a service to facilitate the trading of coin **71** by means of various trading options such as an "auction menu" or a "sale menu" over a network, such as the Internet. Collectable object descriptors **63** may provide basic certification information of coin **71**, for example, the denomination, the date of mintage, and the certification grade of coin **71**. Barcode **7**, when read by an appropriate barcode reader may also provide predetermined characteristics of coin **71** by means of an appropriate barcode reader device. Additionally, barcode label **65**, may also reveal Hyperlink/s when read by an appropriate barcode scanner are capable of fetching corresponding stored digital image/s of the collectable object, coin **71**, and that may provide a protocol for internet based trading by means of a trusted remote resource site. Furthermore, the certification service's website could also be linked to additional trusted resources/databases, such as an auction company's website, that facilitates trading of the collectable object and utilizes the trusted digital image/s of the collectable coin **71** from the certification service's database.

[0028] FIG. **6** shows a right front perspective view of the present invention device **60** shown and described in FIG. **5**.

[0029] FIG. **7** shows a top plan view of another embodiment of a present invention device. A protection and authentication device for trading collectable objects **80**, is shown comprising a holder **91** that is formed for assembly to protect a collectable object, such as coin **87**. A data storage tag device such as Barcode Label **85**, is secured within holder **91** which is formed for assembly by a method or means that resists disassembly. Collectable object descriptors **83** may provide basic certification information of coin **87**, for example, the denomination, the date of mintage, and the certification grade of coin **87**. The certification grade of coin **87** refers to the condition grade of coin **87** as determined by a grading certification service. Barcode **89**, when read by an appropriate barcode reader provides predetermined characteristics of coin **87**. Barcode **89** comprises at least one electronic link that can fetch a predetermined external database that stores at least one digital image of coin **87**, to assist a user in the authentication of coin **87**, and may facilitate the ability of a user to trade coin **87**, over a network, such as the Internet. The electronic link may be in the form of Hyperlink/s and could access stored digital image/s of coin **87**, and provide a protocol for internet based trading of coin **87**.

[0030] FIG. **8** shows a diagram of a present invention device that is similar to that shown in FIGS. **1**, **2**, **3** and **4**, and a typical corresponding interface with a standard computer system with Internet capability. A protection and authentication device for trading collectables object **100** is comprised of a holder for at least one collectable object and a data storage device, such as a USB Flash Drive that comprises data including at least one descriptor that identifies at least in part, at least one collectable object, and further comprises at least one electronic link that can fetch a predetermined external database that stores at least one digital image of the collectable object, to assist a user in the authentication of the collectable object. Predetermined external database/s may facilitate the ability of the user to trade the collectable object over a network, such as the certification service's private network. Computer system **105** reads the USB data storage device of the present invention **100** by means of a USB cable **103** and fetches at least one predetermined link. The data storage device may also include additional data such as certification data, mintages, production data, or historical information. Predetermined external database/s **107**, such as a Certification Service's Private Network could store corresponding images of the collectable object and other data, such as current valuations of the collectable object, and may facilitate the ability of a user to trade the collectable object over a network such as the Internet.

[0031] FIG. **9** shows a diagram of a present invention device similar to that shown in FIGS. **5** and FIG. **6**, and a typical corresponding interface with a standard computer system with Internet capability. A protection and authentication device for trading a collectable object **200** is shown having a holder for at least one collectable object and a data storage device, such as a RFID transponder label that comprises data including at least one descriptor that identifies at least in part, at least one collectable object, and further comprises at least one electronic link that can fetch a predetermined external database that stores at least one digital image of the collectable object, to assist a user in the authentication of the collectable object. Predetermined external database/s may facilitate the ability of the user to trade the collectable object over a network, such as the certification service's private network. Computer system **205** reads the RFID data storage device of the present invention **200** by means of the appropriate RFID reader device **203**. The data storage device may also include additional data such as certification data, mintages, production data, or historical information. Predetermined external database/s **207**, such as a Certification Service's Private Network could store corresponding images of the collectable object and other data, such as current valuations of the collectable object, and may facilitate the ability of a user to trade the collectable object over a network such as the Internet.

[0032] FIG. **10** shows a diagram of a present invention device similar to that shown in FIG. **7**, and a typical corresponding interface with a standard computer system with Internet capability. A protection and authentication device for trading collectable objects **300** is shown comprising a holder for at least one collectable object and a barcode label. Computer system **305** may read the barcode label of the present invention **300** by means of the appropriate barcode reader device **303**. The barcode label comprises at least one electronic link that can fetch a predetermined external database that stores at least one corresponding digital image of said collectable object, so as to assist said user in the authentication of said collectable object, and may facilitate the ability of said user to trade the collectable object over a network. Predetermined external database/s **307**, such as a Certification Service's Private Network could store corresponding images of the collectable object and other data, such as current valuations of the collectable object, and may facilitate the ability of a user to trade the collectable object over a network such as the Internet.

[0033] Upon reading and understanding the specification of the present invention described above, modifications and alterations will become apparent to those skilled in the art. It is intended that all such modifications and alterations be included insofar as they come within the scope of the patent as claimed or the equivalence thereof.

Having thus described the invention, the following is claimed:

1. A protection and authentication device for trading collectable objects, said device comprising:

a holder formed for assembly with at least one collectable object to provide protection and preservation of said collectable object, said holder further being formed so as to resist disassembly and separation with said collectable object; and,

data storage device comprising data including at least one descriptor that identifies at least in part, said at least one collectable object, and further comprising at least one electronic link that can fetch a predetermined external database that stores at least one digital image of said collectable object, so as to assist said user in the authentication of said collectable object, and may facilitate the ability of said user to trade the collectable object over a network, said data storage device being nondetachably secured to said protection and authentication device for trading collectable objects, and, said data storage device being compatible with a standard computer system.

2. A protection and authentication device of claim 1, wherein said data storage device is a solid-state Flash Memory storage device that may also provide predetermined characteristics of said at least one collectable object.

3. A protection and authentication device of claim 1, wherein said data storage device is a Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) that may also provide predetermined characteristics of said at least one collectable object.

4. A protection and authentication device of claim 1, further comprising a barcode that may also provide predetermined characteristics of said at least one collectable object.

5. A protection and authentication device of claim 1, wherein said predetermined external database may also provide predetermined characteristics of said at least one collectable object.

6. A protection and authentication device of claim 1, wherein said collectable object is a coin.

7. A protection and authentication device of claim 1, wherein the electronic link is a Hyperlink.

8. A protection and authentication device of claim 1, wherein the electronic link is a UNIFORM RESOURCE LOCATOR (URL).

9. A protection and authentication device of claim 2, wherein said predetermined external database may also provide predetermined characteristics of said at least one collectable object.

10. A protection and authentication device of claim 3, wherein said predetermined external database may also provide predetermined characteristics of said at least one collectable object.

11. A protection and authentication device of claim 4, wherein said predetermined external database may also provide predetermined characteristics of said at least one collectable object.

12. A protection and authentication device of claim 2, wherein the collectable object is a coin and said predetermined external database comprises predetermined characteristics of said at least one coin including at least its date, condition, mintage, certification population, and valuation.

13. A protection and authentication device of claim 3, wherein the collectable object is a coin and said predetermined external database comprises predetermined characteristics of said at least one coin including at least its date, condition, mintage, certification population and valuation.

14. A protection and authentication device of claim 4, wherein the collectable object is a coin and said predetermined external database comprises predetermined characteristics of said at least one coin including at least its date, condition, mintage, certification population and valuation.

15. A protection and authentication device for trading collectable objects, said device comprising:

a holder formed for assembly with at least one collectable object to provide protection and preservation of said collectable object, said holder further being formed so as to resist disassembly and separation with said collectable object; and,

a data storage tag device comprising data including at least one descriptor that identifies at least in part, said at least one collectable object, and further comprising at least one electronic link that can fetch a predetermined external database that stores at least one digital image of said collectable object, so as to assist said user in the authentication of said collectable object, and may facilitate the ability of said user to trade the collectable object over a network, said data storage device being nondetachably secured to said protection and authentication device for trading collectable objects, and, said data storage device being compatible with a standard computer system.

16. A protection and authentication device of claim 15, wherein said data storage tag device is a Barcode Label that includes at least one predetermined characteristic of said at least one collectable object.

17. A protection and authentication device of claim 15 wherein said data storage tag device is a Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) that may also provide predetermined characteristics of said at least one collectable object.

18. A protection and authentication device of claim 15, wherein said predetermined external database may also provide predetermined characteristics of said at least one collectable object.

19. A protection and authentication device of claim 15, wherein said collectable object is a coin.

20. A protection and authentication device of claim 15, wherein the electronic link is a Hyperlink.

21. A protection and authentication device of claim 15, wherein the electronic link is a UNIFORM RESOURCE LOCATOR (URL).

22. A protection and authentication device of claim 15, wherein the collectable object is a coin and said predetermined external database comprises predetermined characteristics of said at least one coin includes at least its date, condition, mintage, certification population and valuation.

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