MAILED

Div. 53

Room Address only
The Commissioner of Patents,

and not any official by name

253 REF\_ID 17436/7433 PARTMENOOF COMMERCE TEB 3 - All communications respecting this parties from should give the serial number united states patent office the applicant

Paper No. 3

RICHMOND 20, VIRGINIA

Please find below a communication from the EXAMINER in charge of this application.

16-27815-3 **GPO** 

Commissioner of Patents.

Applicant: William F. Friedman

Ser. No. 551,172 Filed Aug. 25, 1944 For AUTHENTICATING DEVICE

William D. Hall c/o Chief Signal Officer Pentagon Bldg. Washington, D.C.

References:

1,683,072 1,584,660 Sept. 4, 1928 May 11, 1926 Hebern 35-4 Scherbius 1,938,028 Dec. 5, 1933 Korn Apr. 3, 1934 May 18, 1937 1,953,829 Morris 2,090,416 Friedman Dec. 13, 1938 Friedman 2,139,676

An illustration of the mechanical set-up of the device is required, provided of course new matter is not introduced. Mere electrical diagrams are not considered sufficient. The claims: are all rejected as based on an inadequate disclosure.

Claim 2 is rejected as failing to define the invention properly in the "means" of lines 7 and 8. In these lines "significance of energization" is not understood. If this means that the user may think of "9" for example as meaning one thing at one occasion of use, as for example a date and at another an amount of money this is of ho patentable consequence, since like the same number used on an ordinary typewriter or hand written it can mean whatever the user wants it to mean. A "means for varying the significance" is a statement of function or purpose and whatever "varying the signification" may mean the structure is not sufficiently set out in the ourpose disclosed. The claim is therefore further rejected.

Claim 5 is rejected as indefinite in line 2 "or the like" and is therefore rejected.

Claims 1-5 all set out a series of switches and then another switch. Just what essential difference there is between any of the switches of a series and another switch is not seen.

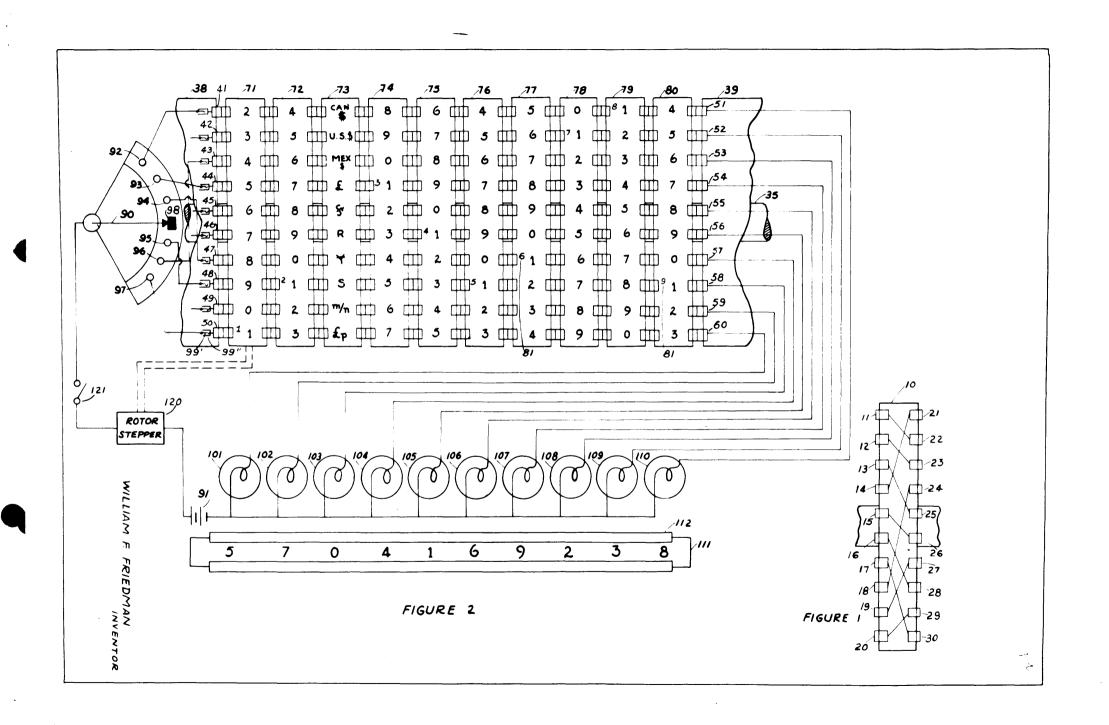
Serial No. 551,172

-2-

claims are rejected on Hebern in which the last switch in the cascade is "another switch" and the preceding switches are the "series".

The claims are all directed to a device of the character described and this is described as being an authenticator. In what respect an authenticator differs from an ordinary crytographic means such as Hebern's is not stated and since Hebern's device could be used for such a purpose the claims are again rejected as failing to define properly and as unpatentable over Hebern, and also as unpatentable over any of the other devices cited.

Examiner.



111