lower element the indelible graphic pattern which is in the form of decorative imprints and thereby create a fake case. Further, technologies for making holograms are well known and holograms are extensively reproduced around the world.

Europan patent application EP 0613628 discloses a case containing a security plate which comprises mutually laminated sheets. The case and the security plate are secured so that each precious stone cannot be removed therefrom and so that the security plate cannot be separated from the rest of the case without detectable destruction thereof. The security plate includes visible security characters. The visible security characters make it virtually impossible to falsify (tamper with) the security plate.

European patent application EP 2189390 discloses a safety case comprising an upper element and a lower element made of a transparent polymer material, a decorative imprint on the upper face of the upper element of the case and an irreparably destroyed layer on the inner face of the lower element of the case. The upper and the lower elements are adhesively bonded to each other by means of the irreparably destroyed layer.

[0007] In view of the foregoing, there is a need to overcome the drawbacks of the prior art and to provide a tamperproof case for genuine articles such as articles of value which provides a high level of security and makes a faithful reproduction thereof difficult, if not impossible and which can further be tracked and traced from its production to the market where it is sold.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] The present invention provides tamperproof case that contains a genuine article . The case comprises a space (e.g. a cavity or shell) that contains the article between two sheet members (first and second sheet members) which are permanently bonded together in at least an area or zone that substantially completely surrounds the space. At least one of the two sheet members comprises at least one security element that is invisible under light in the visible wavelength range, and /or at least one security element that is invisible under light in the visible wavelength range is present in the area or zone in which the two sheet members are permanently bonded together.

[0009] In one aspect of the tamperproof case, at least one security element that is invisible under light in the visible wavelength range may be present in the area surrounding the article in which the two sheet members are permanently bonded together.

[0010] In another aspect of the case, at least one security element that is invisible under light in the visible wavelength range may be present on and/or inside at least one of the two sheet members.

[0011] In a still further aspect, the case may comprise at least two (e.g., two, three, four or more) security elements which are invisible under light in the visible wavelength range. Further, at least one of these security elements may be present in the area in which

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tamperproof case containing a genuine article, wherein the case comprises a space containing the article between first and second sheet members which are permanently bonded together in at least an area that substantially completely surrounds the space, and ~~wherein and~~ at least one ~~of~~ security element that is invisible under light in a visible wavelength range is provided in at least one of:

   (i) at least one of the first and second sheet members ~~comprises at least one security element that is invisible under light in a visible wavelength range~~, and

   (ii) ~~at least one security element that is invisible under light in a visible wavelength range is present in the~~ an area in which the first and second sheet members are permanently bonded together.

   wherein at least one of the first and second sheet members in at least an area that comprises the security element is made of a material that is transparent for light under which the at least one security element is visible. *(adapted from claim 6, 7 and paragraph [0037])*

2. The tamperproof case of claim 1, wherein at least one security element that is invisible under light in a visible wavelength range is present in the area surrounding the article in which the first and second sheet members are permanently bonded together.

3. The tamperproof case of any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein at least one security element that is invisible under light in a visible wavelength range is present at least one of on and inside at least one of the first and second sheet members.

4. The tamperproof case of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the case comprises at least two security elements which are invisible under light in a visible wavelength range.

5. The tamperproof case of claim 4, wherein at least one of the at least two security elements is present in the area surrounding the article in which the first and second sheet members are permanently bonded together.

6. The tamperproof case of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the ~~at least one security element is visible under UV light and at least one of the first and second sheet members is made of a~~

~~material that is transparent for UV light in at least an area that comprises the security element~~light under which the at least one security element is visible is UV light.

7. The tamperproof case of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the ~~at least one security element is visible under IR light and at least one of the first and second sheet members is made of a material that is transparent for IR light in at least an area that comprises the security element~~light under which the at least one security element is visible is IR light.

8. The tamperproof case of any one of claims ~~6 and 7~~1 to 7, wherein the material that is transparent for light under which the at least one security element is visible comprises at least one material selected from acrylic resins, methacrylic resins, polyvinyl chloride, and polycarbonate.

9. The tamperproof case of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the first and second sheet members are permanently bonded together by at least one of ultrasonic welding, laser welding, lamination, crimping and gluing.

10. The tamperproof case of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the at least one security element comprises one or more of a flake, a dye, a crystal, a polymer, a polymorph, an organic compound, an inorganic compound, a complex compound, a chelate compound, a salt and nanoparticfes.

11. The tamperproof case of any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the at least one security element has been applied in a form of an ink.

12. The tamperproof case of any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the at least one security element is present as at least one of a data matrix, a logo, a character, a barcode, a motif, a pattern and an indicia.

13. The tamperproof case of any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the article is or comprises an article of value.

14. The tamperproof case of claim 13, wherein the article of value is at least one of a coin, a medal, an ingot, a gem, a diamond, a pearl, jewelry, a watch, a stamp, a banknote, and an antique or ancient article.

15. The tamperproof case of any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the article is or comprises a foodstuff, perfume, cosmetics or a pharmaceutical.

16. The tamperproof case of any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the article is or comprises a software storage medium, a computer part, a CD/DVD, or a spare part for an automobile or an appliance.

17. The tamperproof case of any one of claims 1 to 16, wherein a certificate of authenticity is present between the first and second sheet members.

18. The tamperproof case of claim 17, wherein the certificate is present in a form of a sheet member.

19. The tamperproof case of any one of claims 17 and 18, wherein the certificate comprises a void and the article is at least partially surrounded by the certificate.

20. The tamperproof case of any one of claims 16 to 19, wherein the certificate comprises at least one security element that is invisible under light in a visible wavelength range.

21. The tamperproof case of any one of claims 16 to 20, wherein the certificate is permanently bonded to the first and second sheet members in at least a part of the area in which the first and second sheet members are permanently bonded together.

22. The tamperproof case of any one of claims 20 and 21, wherein the at least one security element of the certificate is present in the area in which the first and second sheet members are permanently bonded together.

23. A tamperproof case for a genuine article, wherein the case comprises a space for accommodating the article between first and second sheet members which are capable of being permanently bonded together in at least an area that substantially completely surrounds the space, and wherein at least one of the first and second sheet members comprises at least one security element that is invisible under light in a visible wavelength range,~~.~~ wherein at least one of the first and second sheet members in at least an area that comprises the security element is made of a material that is transparent for light under which the at least one security element is visible.

24. The tamperproof case of claim 23, wherein the first and second sheet members comprise at least two security elements that are invisible under light in a visible wavelength range.

25. The tamperproof case of any one of claims 23 and 24, wherein each of the first and second sheet members comprises at least one security element that is invisible under light in a visible wavelength range.

26. The tamperproof case of any one of claims 23 to 25, wherein the first and second sheet members are bonded together to not more than an extent which still allows the article to be placed in the space for accommodating the article.

27. A method of making a tamperproof case for a genuine article, wherein the method comprises permanently bonding together two sheet members which together provide a space for accommodating the article between the sheet members, the bonding being conducted to not more than to an extent which still allows the article to be placed in the space, and wherein at least one of the first and second sheet members comprises at least one security element that is invisible under light in a visible wavelength range, and at least one of the first and second sheet members in at least an area adjacent to the security element is made of a material that is transparent for light under which the at least one security element is visible.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the at least one security element is present in an area where the first and second sheet members have been permanently bonded together.

29. A tamperproof case for a genuine article, wherein the case is obtainable by the method of any one of claims 27 and 28.

30. A method of authenticating a genuine article, wherein the method comprises arranging the article in a space between first and second sheet members, and permanently bonding the first and second sheet members together in at least an area that substantially completely surrounds the space containing the article, at least one of the first and second sheet members comprising at least one security element that is invisible under light in a visible wavelength range, wherein at least one of the first and second sheet members in at least an area adjacent the security element is made of a material that is transparent for light under which the at least one security element is visible.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the at least one security element is present in the area surrounding the space containing the article where the first and second sheet members have been permanently bonded together.

32. The method of any one of claims 30 and 31, wherein the method further comprises including a certificate of authenticity between the first and second sheet members.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein the certificate is present in a form of a sheet member.

34. The method of any one of claims 32 and 33, wherein the certificate of authenticity is permanently bonded to the first and second sheet members.

35. A tamperproof bag containing a genuine article, wherein the bag is permanently sealed and comprises

at least one security element that is invisible under light in a visible wavelength range, and

a material that is transparent for light under which the at least one security element is visible.

36. The tamperproof bag of claim 35, wherein the at least one security element is present in an area in which an opening of the bag is permanently sealed.

37. The tamperproof bag of any one of claims 35 and 36, wherein the at least one security element is present inside a material from which the bag is made.

38. The tamperproof bag of any one of claims 35 to 37, wherein the bag has been permanently sealed by at least one of ultrasonic welding, laser welding, lamination, crimping, and gluing.

39. A tamperproof bag for a genuine article, wherein the bag comprises a single opening that is capable of being permanently sealed and wherein the bag comprises

at least one security element that is invisible under light in a visible wavelength range, and

a material that is transparent for light under which the at least one security element is visible.

40. The tamperproof bag of claim 39, wherein the bag comprises at least two security elements that are invisible under light in a visible wavelength range.

41. A method of authenticating a genuine article, wherein the method comprises placing the article in a bag and permanently sealing the bag, the bag comprising at least one security element that is invisible under light in a visible wavelength range, and a material that is transparent for light under which the at least one security element is visible.

42. An authenticated genuine article which is obtainable by the method of any one of claims 30 to 34 and 41.