

"IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO COFFINS"

~~This invention relates to improvements in or relating to~~
coffins and more particularly to lightweight coffins making
limited use of timber materials.

Conventional coffins are constructed using a combination
of timber materials. An all timber construction produces a
heavy coffin which is difficult to carry and transport
especially when combined with the weight of a corpse.
Further, an all timber construction necessitates the use of a
large volume of timber which is environmentally damaging. The
construction time involved in producing an all timber coffin
is considerable and timber itself is an expensive commodity.

A coffin should perform two basic functions. Firstly, a
coffin should be able to hold and store a corpse for a
limited period of time. Secondly, a coffin should be able to
be sealed to prevent a corpse inside from being attacked by
external environmental agents over a limited period of time.

The present invention seeks to provide a coffin which is
lightweight and which requires significantly less timber than
a conventional all timber coffin construction.

Accordingly, the present invention provides a coffin
comprising an open receptacle assembly for receiving a corpse
and a cover assembly, in which coffin at least one of the
receptacle assembly and the cover assembly is constructed from
corrugated panels fixed to a skeletal frame structure.

In order that the present invention may be more readily
understood, embodiments thereof will now be described, by way
of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in
which:-

~~FIGURE 1 is a perspective view showing a coffin embodying the present invention;~~

FIGURE 2 is a perspective view of a lower cover assembly of the coffin of Figure 1;

FIGURE 3 is a perspective view of a wooden frame for use with the lower cover assembly shown in Figure 2;

FIGURE 4 is an enlarged perspective view of the construction of a corner of the lower cover assembly shown in Figure 2;

FIGURE 5 is a perspective view of an upper cover assembly of the coffin shown in Figure 1;

FIGURE 6 is a cross-sectional view of a part of a panel of the coffin of Figure 1; and

FIGURE 7 is a perspective view of another coffin embodying the present invention.

FIGURE 1 shows one embodiment of a coffin according to the present invention. The coffin 1 comprises an open receptacle assembly 2 in which a corpse may be rested and a cover assembly 3 for attachment to the receptacle assembly 2 to act as a lid to close the receptacle assembly 2.

Referring to Figure 2, the receptacle assembly 2 comprises a shallow elongate box having an elongate rectangular floor 4, two elongate side walls 5, 5' and two end walls 6, 6' extending upwardly from the transverse edges of the floor 4. In the embodiment shown in Figures 1 and 2, the side walls 5, 5' are rectangular and extend at an angle to the floor 4 to diverge upwardly from the floor 4. The end walls 6, 6' are trapezium-shaped and extend perpendicular to the ~~floor~~.

~~In use of the described coffin 1, the corpse is laid in~~
the receptacle assembly 2, the cover assembly 3 is placed on
the receptacle assembly 2 and the sealing strips 10, 20 are
joined together to seal the cover assembly 3 (the lid) of the
coffin to the receptacle assembly 2 (the base) of the coffin.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, each
panel of the floor 4 and the walls 5, 5', 6, 6' 14, 15, 15' 16
and 16' used in the coffin 1 is constructed using a three
layer corrugated cardboard sandwich comprising a first layer
21 of corrugated cardboard, a first layer 22 of foil lining,
such as aluminium foil, a second layer 23 of corrugated
cardboard, a second layer 24 of foil lining and a third layer
25 of corrugated cardboard. This construction is shown in
Figure 6, the first foil layer 22 separating the first and
second corrugated cardboard layers 21 and 23 and the second
foil layer 24 separating the second and third corrugated
cardboard layers 23 and 25.

The use of the illustrated sandwich construction provides
high strength panels. The provision of the foil linings 22,
24 acts as a barrier to external environmental attack on a
corpse within the coffin.

If the coffin 1 embodying the present invention is to be
used for cremation purposes rather than for burial, then the
foil linings 22, 24 may be omitted from the sandwich
construction. Coffins 1 embodying the present invention are
particularly suited for cremation due to the corrugated
cardboard sandwich construction being readily combustible.

The major components of coffins embodying the present
invention are manufactured from corrugated cardboard which is
a light yet strong product. Only the skeletal frame structure
consisting of the U-shaped frames 7 need be manufactured from
~~stronger material such as timber.~~

CLAIMS

- ~~1. A coffin comprising an open receptacle assembly for receiving a corpse and a cover assembly for closing the receptacle assembly, in which coffin at least one of the receptacle assembly and the cover assembly is constructed from corrugated cardboard panels fixed to a skeletal frame structure.~~
2. A coffin according to Claim 1, wherein the skeletal frame structure is made of wood.
3. A coffin according to claim 1 or 2, wherein each corrugated cardboard panel comprises a sandwich of a plurality of layers of corrugated cardboard with a foil layer disposed between adjacent corrugated cardboard layers.
4. A coffin according to Claim 3, wherein the or each foil layer is an aluminium foil layer.
5. A coffin according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the skeletal frame structure comprises a plurality of substantially U-shaped frames which are spaced apart along the coffin.
6. A coffin according to Claim 5, wherein a floor of the receptacle assembly comprises two spaced apart floor panels fixed to a cross-member of each of the frames of the skeletal structure, each of two side walls of the receptacle assembly comprises two spaced apart side wall panels fixed to a respective arm of each of the frames, and each of two end walls of the receptacle assembly comprises a single end panel ~~fixed to a respective endmost frame of the skeletal structure.~~

~~7. A coffin according to Claim 5 or 6, wherein a top wall of the cover assembly comprises two spaced apart top wall panels fixed to a cross-member of each of the frames of the skeletal structure, each of two side walls of the cover assembly comprises two spaced apart side wall panels fixed to a respective arm of each of the frames, and each of two end walls of the cover assembly comprises a single end panel fixed to a respective endmost frame of the skeletal structure.~~

8. A coffin according to any one of Claims 5 to 7 wherein the arms of each of the frames diverge from the cross-member of the arm.

9. A coffin according to any preceding claim, wherein a sealing strip is fixed to the receptacle assembly and/or the cover assembly around a rim thereof.

10. A coffin according to Claim 9, wherein carrying handles for the coffin are attached to the sealing strip.

11. A coffin substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawings.

12. Any novel feature or combination of features disclosed herein.