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(71) Applicant: **SICPA HOLDING SA** [CH/CH]; Avenue de Florissant 41, CH-1008 Prilly (CH).

(72) Inventor: **TALWERDI, Mehdi**; 640 Montroyal Blvd., North Vancouver, British Columbia BCV7 2G3 (CA).

(74) Agents: **SCHEIBLE, Dominik** et al.; HOFFMANN · EITLE, Arabellastraße 4, 81925 Munich (DE).

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(54) **Title**: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR READING A DOCUMENT AND PRINTING A MARK THEREON

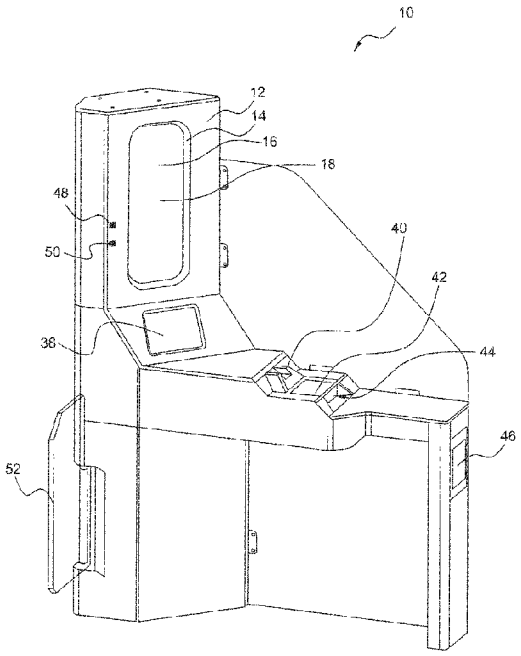


FIG. 1

(57) **Abstract**: An apparatus for verifying whether a user of an object is an authorized user of the object includes: (a) means for detecting a biometric feature of the user and generating data representing the biometric feature; and (b) a reader- printer for reading and printing on the object, which includes: (i) reader system for reading the object to obtain a digital representation of biometric information associated with the authorized user; and (ii) printer system for printing on the object; the apparatus being operable to cause the printer system to print on the object if the data matches the digital representation. Separately or incorporated into the apparatus, the reader-printer may include: (a) reader for reading the object to obtain a digital signature representing a unique feature of the object; and (b) printer for printing on the object if the digital signature matches a reference digital signature associated with the object.

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