

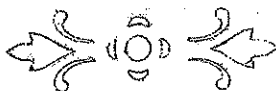
THE
METER STAMP
BULLETIN
~~MAGAZINE~~



Journal
of the
Meter Stamp Study Group



No. 1 January 1950



Editor and Acting Hon. Secretary:
A. A. Dewey, M.A., B.Sc.(Econ.),
46 Chester Drive, North Harrow,
Harrow, Middx.

INTRODUCTION

It is in the feeling that no one who collects meter stamps - or anything else - can get the best out of his hobby if he collects in isolation that I am starting this Bulletin. When a collector does not know what his fellows in the same field have found out, and are still trying to find out, and when he has no means of making known his own discoveries, he is liable very soon to become discouraged and lose interest.

Since the Meter Club founded in 1938 and organised by Mr C.H. Kidman had to suspend operations at the end of 1945, there has apparently been no organisation and no journal catering for meter-stamp collectors in this country. The general philatelic press has published very little on the subject, and that very infrequently.

As a collector for over 15 years (though for some years blindly) I hope that this new Study Group will receive the support of all who are interested in this branch of philately in this country and overseas, and that all readers will do their best to enable it to succeed by bringing it to the notice of all their friends who may be interested.

It is not intended to make a financial profit, but I cannot afford (and I feel sure that members would not wish me) to bear any loss. It is therefore necessary to fix a subscription high enough to cover the - now unfortunately very heavy - cost of reproduction of this bulletin and postages involved. The cost per copy

can be considerably reduced if the number of each issue sold is increased; hence the larger the membership, the lower the subscription can be.

For the present, it will be fixed at 7s.6d. (or \$1.00 U.S.) a year (air mail postage outside Europe extra) This will permit of a quarterly bulletin of the same size as this. (If the membership exceeds expectations, and sufficient contributions are received, the size and/or frequency of issue can be increased.)

An account of receipts and expenditure will be published at the end of the year, when the amount of the subscription will be reviewed.

A specimen copy of this bulletin will be gladly sent on request to any address (2½d. stamp for postage will be appreciated.)



CONTRIBUTIONS

It is hoped to publish in this bulletin all kinds of notes and news relating to meter postage stamps of all countries - though most space will naturally be devoted to those of Great Britain - and contributions (original or otherwise) are invited from all members. We can make use of even quite rough notes, so please do not hesitate on the ground that you have no time to write up your remarks and discoveries in literary form !

As we wish to establish a high reputation

accuracy, I hope that all contributors will take especial care to check all facts submitted; it is so easy to misquote or to misread names and numbers.

Before the War, the Bulletin of the late Meter Club was attempting to publish complete check-lists of the Great Britain machines, setting out town, die no., values, slogans, and users. The lists published were inevitably very incomplete but even so they took up far more space than could now be afforded, and complete lists today would require more space than the London Telephone Directory ! It is therefore quite impossible to consider publishing such lists in general, though perhaps we could produce lists of some early types where the number of items does not exceed say thirty.

Another desirable task for this bulletin would seem to be to attempt a supplement to the Harris Meter Stamp Catalogue, bringing up to date the lists therein. As most readers will no doubt be aware, the latest edition of this catalogue (the third) appeared in 1940, and the publishers inform me that it has been out of print for six or seven years, and that there is no possibility of their undertaking a new edition. (To save correspondence, I might add that I am unable to suggest where readers may now obtain copies of this catalogue.) Perhaps if this Study Group meets with success, the publishers might be induced to reconsider their decision.

I think that the number of new issues during the ten years 1940-1949 will not be unmanageably large - certainly nothing like the number of adhesives - so that to chronicle the arrears should not be an unduly heavy task. Will members when writing kindly let me know

whether or not they possess a copy of the 1940 catalogue, so that I may know how far references to its numbers and types will be understood ?

Members are invited to send me notes of all new issues since the end of 1939, and of unlisted types before that date, for record. Actual specimens (which will be returned promptly) will be best, otherwise a complete description, including town, date, and no., should be sent. To avoid congestion, I suggest that British Empire countries (including ex-Empire countries such as Ireland and Burma) should alone be dealt with in the first place. When these are completed so far as possible, we can go on to Europe, America, and the rest of the world in turn.



EXCHANGE

Meter stamps, mainly owing to their bulk (especially on entire, as some collectors prefer), do not lend themselves so readily to the circulation of exchange packets as do adhesive stamps. Moreover the organisation of an exchange packet system demands a great deal of time and work, so that at present the Study Group cannot undertake to provide this amenity. But if any other member volunteers to run one and there appears to be a wide demand for it, it can be reconsidered. In the meantime, individual exchange between members may be carried out, and those wishing to do so are invited to send me a note of their wants and offers which will be inserted in the next

issue of the bulletin free of charge.

As a simple "one for one" basis is in most cases hardly equitable and there exists no suitable "catalogue value" for balancing exchanges, Mr D. R. Burchell has evolved a "point system" applicable to G.B. meter stamps, assessing the various types at different numbers of points as shown below.

See page 21

<u>Letter</u>	<u>"Points" Values</u>			
	<u>Square</u> (centre no.)	<u>Type</u> GvR	<u>Royal Ciphers</u> Eviir GviR	
H	-	14	-	6
M	14	6	9	4
N	18	5	6	3
NZ	(note ⌘)	25	-	75
P	-	14	20	6
PB	(note /)	10	20	6
U, UA, UB	-	10	12	3

Notes:

- ⌘ "Universal" red townmark 30, black townmark 50, Wembley (note /), High-speed 40.
- / Values by arrangement according to no., denomination, etc..

These relate to stamps on entire covers; cut strips should be valued at say half of the above points. Unusual items, odd and high values (except U, UA, UB) should be assessed higher, by arrangement between the parties.

Members exchanging G.B. stamps may like to base their respective takings on these points values, which can however be adjusted if experience shows that some types are relatively under or over pointed

PITNEY-BOWES L.V. TYPES

The Harris Catalogue (1940) indicates that this type with GviR cipher (value in centre, Royal Cipher at foot, and identification letter "P") occurs in two sizes. There is actually a more significant difference than size: the small die has the words "POST PAID" on either side immediately above the identification letter and no., like the Midget and Neopost types, whereas the large die has these words at the top of the oval above the value, like the Universal M.V. type. A modification of the large type has recently been introduced, having "POST PAID" somewhat smaller and a smaller and differently-shaped crown, together with other minor differences.

Harris noted that "the larger die, which will be standard, was introduced in Dec. 1938" (the smaller die with GviR cipher was issued in July 1937.) It might be thought from this that, since these dies (like all Pitney-Bowes machines) are numbered consecutively throughout the country irrespective of town, all up to a certain no. would be small and all higher nos. large; but the following list of nos. found in my collection show that this is not so:-

Small: P 7, 11, 19, 21, 25, 29, 30[‡], 33, 34.
Large: P 12, 14, 23, 24, 27, 28, 36, 38, 40,
41, 42, 43.
Large, modified: P 54, 58, 61, 62, 69.

[‡] with two different townmarks - Tunbridge Wells Kent, and London E.C.2.

The GvR and EviiiR ciphers occur only in

the small die, and I have the following nos:-

GvR: P 1, 2/, 3, 8, 9, 13, 17, 18.

EviiiR: P 22 only.

/ no.2 is lettered "PB" in error for "P".

It may be noticed that I have no number in more than one type throughout; nevertheless, a possible explanation of the lower nos. in the GvR large die is that they are replacements of GvR dies with the same nos. - unless of course the dies were not numbered in the order of their production.

Can anyone confirm this or offer another explanation, and make any additions to the list of nos. ?

