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M E T E R S T A M P
B U L L E T I N

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Journal
of the
Meter Stamp Study Group

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MEMBERSHIP

This second number of the Bulletin is being sent out after only two months, partly because of the amount of material received and partly in order to maintain interest during the early stages of the Group. I am afraid that finance will not at present permit of issue more often than quarterly, so that the third number may be expected in June.

The first number, though necessarily taken up with introductory matter rather than philatelic information, met with a favourable reception. Copies have been sent to 31 prospective members; 19 in the U.K., 6 in the U.S.A., 3 in the Irish Republic, 2 in South Africa, and one in the Netherlands. So far, however, only 9 have paid their subscriptions, and 17 have not replied at all. I know only too well how quickly time passes and how easy it is to put off writing, but if you are one of the 17, please may I hear from you soon?

In addition to the above, complimentary copies, 12 in all, have been sent to journals, philatelic libraries, manufacturers, etc., for publicity.

The remaining stock of the first no. is now very small, but I shall still be glad to hear of further people who may be interested; surely there must be more than a score of collectors in this country!

By way of reminder: the annual subscription is 7s.6d. (or \$1.00 U.S.A.).

LOAN OF CATALOGUE

It appears that several members do not possess the Harris Meter Postage Stamp Catalogue, now out of print and difficult to obtain. I have acquired a spare copy of the last (1940) edition, and am prepared to lend it out to members who would like to consult it; this will, I feel, be of greater benefit than selling it to any one person

Anyone wishing to borrow it must please undertake to return it to me within a fortnight, post paid, and send me 6d. in stamps for outward postage and packing. Owing to possible difficulties over customs regulations, it cannot be sent outside the British Isles. (Irish borrowers: Irish air-mail and commem. stamps will be acceptable.)

I have also a copy of the brochure "The Mails: History, Organization and Methods of Payment" by Horace N. Soper, of Universal Postal Frankers Ltd., which has a few pages dealing with franking machines and their early history, with illustrations. This can be lent on the same terms as the Catalogue.

By the way, has anyone a copy of the second edition (1938) of the Harris Catalogue for disposal? I would like one for my library. Please state price required.

PITNEY BOWES L.V. TYPES ¹²

Messrs Donald Howard (Wanstead, E.11) and S.D. Barfoot (Southgate, N.14) have provided a considerable number of additions to the list in the last issue; Mr Barfoot has submitted a comprehensive check list setting out types, towns, users, denominations and dates of use, which unfortunately space does not permit me to reproduce. A summary of the types and identification nos. (including again for convenience those previously listed) follows:

- GvR : P 1 to 20 except 14 and 19
(No.2 lettered PB in error;
Nos.6 & 9 each with two towns.)
- Eviir : P 22, 23, 25, 26.
- Gvir :
small : P 7, 11, 14, 15, 19, 21, 25,
27, 29, 30, 33, 35, 34, 35
(Nos.11, 21, 27, 33 each with
two towns, and 30 with three.)
- large : P 12, 14, 23, 24, 27, 28,
36 to 45 except 39
(Nos.14, 28, 36 each with two
towns, and 23 with three.)
- large, modified : P 26, 47 to 70 except
53, 55, 64, 65 and 68; 73, 74,
76, 77, 78, 81, 83.
(No.54 with two towns.)

As will be seen, eleven nos. are now known in two types each. The introduction of the modified large type evidently took place between 45 and 47, but no.46 has not yet been found.

The earliest dates known, as given by Mr Barfoot, with the values in each type, are as follows:-

GvR (July 1935): $\frac{1}{8}$, 1, $1\frac{1}{8}$, 2, $2\frac{1}{8}$, $4\frac{1}{8}$ d.

Eviir (Jan. 1937): $\frac{1}{8}$, 1, $1\frac{1}{8}$, 2, $2\frac{1}{8}$, $4\frac{1}{8}$ d.

GviR

small (Aug. 1937) : $\frac{1}{8}$, 1, $1\frac{1}{8}$, $2\frac{1}{8}$ d.

large (Mch 1939) : $\frac{1}{8}$, 1, $1\frac{1}{8}$, $2\frac{1}{8}$, 3, $5\frac{1}{8}$ d.

modified (June 1947) : 1, $2\frac{1}{8}$ d.

All except P 24 (GviR large) have "D" after the figures of value.

Although the makers state that these machines have six-value matrices, no die has been found with more than five, and many with only one or two values.

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GREAT BRITAIN: FIRST ISSUES

Evidence based on official documents has been produced by Mr Henry Howard (Sutton, Surrey) proving that the dates for the first issues given in the Harris Catalogue, viz. 17 June 1922 for the Universal N.Z. and 6 Sept. 1922 for the Pitney Bowes, are incorrect.

The Pitney Bowes, produced by an American concern (and in use in the U.S.A. since Dec. 1920), was in fact the first to be considered. On 13 May 1922, the Secretary to the Post Office informed the Universal Stamping Co., that the P.M.G. was prepared to grant a licence for the

use of a Pitney-Bowes Postage Meter.

Accordingly, the "Inland Post Amendment (No. 25) Warrant 1922" dated July 1922, which was to come into operation on 1st August of that year, authorized the payment of postage by means of impressions of "stamping machines" (&c.); thus meter stamps could not properly have been used earlier than August 1922.

The P.O. Circular dated 23 Aug. 1922 notified all Postmasters in the country that the design there illustrated — the well-known large design with value in four corner squares and wavy lines at each side — "will shortly be brought into use".

The first licences were issued on 16 Aug. 1922 to the Prudential Assurance Co. Ltd., London E.C.1 (die no. 2 for values 2d. and 1½d.); John Barker & Co., Kensington W.8 (no. 3, ½d., 1d., 1½d.); Derry & Toms, Kensington W.8 (no. 4, ½d., 1d., 1½d.); Joe Lee Ltd., London W.1. (no. 5, ½d. & 1½d.) Die no. 1 was used by the makers in London E.C.2, E.W.1, Liverpool and Manchester. The first day of postal use is not recorded, but may have been earlier than 6 Sept.

The "Universal N.Z.", developed from the original New Zealand machine by Universal Postal Frankers Ltd., of London, was approved by the P.M.G. very shortly after the Pitney Bowes, and the P.O. Circular dated 18 Oct. 1922 announced that it was "now in use", the design of frank resembling the P.B. but differing in points of detail, notably in having no

wavy lines at sides and in the type of "date stamp" which was printed in black. The illustration in that Circular was taken from a proof, and included the date "17 JUN 1922" which Mr Harris wrongly assumed was the date of issue; the "Warrant" above referred to shows that this could not have been so. In fact the first licence was issued on 11 Oct. 1922 to the U.P.F. Co. itself, the denominations provided being ½d., 1d., 1½d., 3d. and 1/-. As mentioned in the Catalogue, the 1d. was used on the wrappers for the "Philatelic Magazine" on Oct. 1922. The date of first use by the Company is not known to me.

Mr Barfoot questions whether the varieties "b" (townmark with six wavy lines, including slogan, in black) and "c" (townmark a circle in six wavy lines, in red) are known actually used. The normal "a" has five wavy lines (in black).

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NEW "NEOPOST" DESIGNS

New designs, mostly much more elaborate and artistic than any previously used have recently been introduced for several Commonwealth countries; I have to thank Messrs Roneo-Neopost Ltd. for "specimens" and Mr Axer (Capetown) for used copies of some of them.

Australia. Kangaroo standing in front of map of Australia with Southern Cross constellation to the N-E., the whole surrounded by a wavy ribbon.

British Guiana. Sailing ship within oval garter (above the 1860 adhesives), POST and BRITISH in scroll at left, GUYANA and PAID in scroll at right.

India. Similar to previous type ("GRI", which is strangely still in use) but frame ornamentation omitted and Royal Cipher replaced by the Wheel of Asoka.

Kenya-Uganda-Tanganyika. Similar to previous type - value in central rectangle flanked by palm leaves - but KENYA & UGANDA straight across top with TANGANYIKA curved below.

Pakistan. Crescent and Star and PAKISTAN in square above value-tablet Urdu equivalent at top; POSTAGE up left with Urdu at right.

South Africa. Leaping springbok; SOUTH AFRICA - SUID-AFRIKA up left, along top and down right side.

Southern Rhodesia. A very plain design; SOUTHERN at top, RHODESIA at foot, each with straight line above and below; POSTAGE vertically downwards at left and N and no. similarly at right.

South-West Africa. Not seen by me, but reported to be similar to South Africa with an aloe in flower instead of springbok.