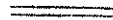




THE
METER STAMP
BULLETIN



Journal
of the
Meter Stamp Study Group

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



MEMBERSHIP

The position has greatly improved since I wrote the note in the last Bulletin. There are at the time of writing 27 members who have paid their subscriptions or who have promised to pay as soon as conditions permit (two on the Continent of Europe.) Those who have been sent the first two issues of the Bulletin but from whom I have still to hear number 10, five of whom wrote to me direct while the other five were introduced to me by other members.

Of the 27 members, 18 are in the U.K., two in the Irish Republic, two in Europe (Netherlands and Sweden), two in South Africa, and three in the U.S.A.

In addition, complimentary copies are sent to ten Journals, etc. in this country, some of which have kindly made editorial reference and provided helpful publicity.

THE BULLETIN

A member has suggested that to facilitate reference and indexing, the pages should be numbered consecutively throughout the year, and I have adopted this idea. The pages of No.2 should accordingly be re-numbered from 9 to 16, the present No. beginning at 17. He has also suggested that half foolscap would be a better page-size than the half-quarto so far used, as it produces a better appearance and allows one-third more matter per page. However, the cost of production seems to be more than one-third greater, and personally I find that the present page-size, which is the same as the Harris Catalogue, is more convenient for keeping with the Catalogue. The views of other members will be welcome.

The increased membership and a generous donation have enabled me to increase the size to 12 pages, which I hope it will be possible to maintain.

EXCHANGE SECTION

A Sheffield member has volunteered to run an exchange section, for which there appears to be a considerable demand. The detailed arrangements under now under consideration, and I hope to be able to make a definite announcement shortly. Suggestions from other members as to the organisation, in particular as to pricing, will be appreciated.

SUPPLEMENTS TO THE HARRIS CATALOGUE

The proposed supplements to bring up to date the lists in the 1940 edition of this Catalogue begin with this Bulletin. Countries will be dealt with in the order of the 1940 Catalogue - G.B.; British Empire (or should we now call it "Commonwealth?"); Europe, with Dependencies of European Countries; Rest of the World; in alphabetical order in each group. I shall therefore be glad to receive as soon as possible notes relating to British Countries A to C. As in the Catalogue, minor varieties, small differences in townmarks, and slogans will be ignored; and for the present, I shall leave out additions and amendments to the lists of die- or identification-nos. which are included for certain issues without any consistent basis. (These could form the subject of separate articles later on.)

The Catalogue is still available for lending on the terms as set out in the last Bulletin, and previous borrowers are welcome to apply again.

TERMINOLOGY

Compilation of these lists has prompted me to suggest that it would be advantageous to lay down a uniform terminology for meter stamps; my correspondence has shown that some people use one term and some another for the same thing, which seems

needlessly confusing, and may on occasion be misleading. Though I cannot hope that everybody will agree, I venture to suggest the following; ~~additions~~ additions to the list may be made as need arises. The definitions might form the basis of a Glossary of Philatelic Terms as applied to meter stamps.

Frank: the portion showing the value and (nearly always) the country of issue, and corresponding to the adhesive stamp.

Townmark: the portion showing the town and (usually) date of posting, corresponding to the post-office postmark. (Some people prefer to call this the "date stamp", but in the U.S.A. and Canada the date is omitted on printed matter posted in bulk, so that this term would be anomalous. Admittedly, in a few cases the town name is omitted, either for "security" reasons or in temporary use, but this is much less usual than omitted date.)

Slogan: the portion showing the name and/or address of the user of the machine, or advertising his products, or sometimes a more general announcement ("Save for Victory", etc.), this portion being unofficial.

Identification No.: this covers "Meter No." as in Canada, U.S.A., etc., and what is usually but inaccurately called "Die No." in G.B., and various other terms in other countries, being in any case the no. shown in the impression to identify the user of the machine. (The term is unfortunately rather long but in practice it can be abbreviated to "Id. No." or "Ident.")

Record No.: the serial no. applied by most European machines (but few others) as a count of items of mail passed through the machine.

These are the main items, but I shall be glad to have suggestions for additions as well as comments on the above - though, as I have already indicated, I cannot satisfy everybody!

G.B.: PITNEY BOWES L.V. TYPES

Several more additions to the list given on page 4(12) of the last Bulletin have been reported. One of them is an anomalous no. in the original large type (GviR), P 68, the only no. in this type above 45. The others are in the modified large type, - P 4, 16, 19, 64 and 71. The clearest distinction between the two types is the shape of the crown, which in the original type is tall and narrow, with a double band around its base, and in the modified type flatter and broader in proportion with a single band around its base.

A curious feature of this "P" series is the relatively large proportions of nos. which have been used by two or more different firms and also of firms which have used at different times two or more different nos.

By the way, will correspondents when reporting additions to this or any similar list kindly supply full details of town, user, value, and dates of their copies, so that complete detailed check-lists may be compiled for reference even though space does not at present permit of publication ?

G.B.: FIRST "UNIVERSAL" TYPE

The existence, queried in the last "Bulletin", of all the catalogued types of townmark is confirmed by Mr Henry Howard, who possesses copies used on letters from the U.P.F.Co. with dates in Oct. 1922 and Jan. 1923, all $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. values, ident. no.1. He reports also two varieties, one as illustrated in the Catalogue with the wavy lines not passing through the slogan - which reads "Don't use Stamps TRY FRANKING" - and the other with lines passing through the slogan but broken both above and below the town and date.

G.B.: NEW "NEOPOST" TYPE

Although not a wholly new design like those described in the last Bulletin, there has been an appreciable alteration in the familiar "Royal Cipher" (GviR) design of this country. The differences are easily seen by comparison, but less easily described. The central oval is wider and rounder, the whole frank being slightly wider; the crown has a flatter arch and is closer to the top of the oval; the letters G VI R are thicker, i.e. with more white space between their double outlines; POST PAID is slightly larger.

The new figures of value (all the new type appear to be L.V. dies) are of a different style and thinner, the "1" being especially distinct, having smaller serifs. I have however found one instance of the new frame with the old figures - Oakengates Shropshire N 2 (my date is 17 X 48) - and quite a lot with the new figures in the old frame.

The earliest date I have found with the new frame is 15 I 48 (London N.W.10, N 55), followed by several others in Feb. and March, 1948; the earliest of the new figures in the old frame is in April of the same year.

Values found in the new type are reported by Mr Barfoot as follows:- 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 6½d., 8d., 1/-, 1/2 and 1/3. (The 6½d. and 1/2 are not known in the old type, and Mr Barfoot states that the latter is found on only one machine, London N.W.1, N 110.)

BERMUDA REJECTS METER STAMPS

Bermuda has qualified for what should be notoriety by being, it is believed, the first country to refuse to permit the use of postage franking machines - at any rate, on philatelic grounds.

Mr H.N. Soper, of Universal Postal Frankers Ltd., London, has kindly sent me cuttings from the islands' paper (about April 20th last), reporting the discussion in the House of Assembly, and also a specimen impression of the design proposed by his firm.

The latter, for a multi-value machine (apparently to 9/11 $\frac{1}{2}$), shows the value in the centre of a very simple design, "BERMUDA" in large letters at the top, POSTAGE upwards in a panel at left and PAID downwards in a similar panel at right, with a large crown at centre foot; the identification letter U and No.1 appear in small squares in the lower corners. The whole is surrounded by a "perforation" line of very coarse gauge, 6 x 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the usual philatelic scale.

The House of Assembly barred the use of these machines by a vote of 14 to 12; the majority of members expressed the view that the convenience they would offer business firms with large mailing lists did not out-weigh the advantages of using stamps. Bermuda stamps were, it was said, good advertising for the Colony, and even locally-used stamps were collected by the Lady Cubitt Compassionate Association and went abroad for stamp collectors, adding to the Colony's publicity. A compromise proposal that franking machines should be allowed only for local mail was likewise rejected, in spite of the Postmaster's claim that a great deal of time would be saved if large firms used the machines, and the argument that in any case only a few firms in Bermuda would require the machines so that the effect on advertising value of the stamps and on collectors would be negligible. One Member mentioned incidently that the "attempt by certain larger organizations to use these machines has been in the air for the last ten years."

G.B.: UNIVERSAL M.V. TYPES

Mr S.D. Barfoot has compiled comprehensive detailed check-lists of these, with GvR, EviiiR and GviR ciphers, which I propose to attempt to summarize in the next "Bulletin."

As regards GviR, after running from U 1 to U 999, prefix UA was started (in 1940 ?) and also ran to 999, then UB was started (date ?); the highest no. so far reported is UB 975, but it is probable that series UC has already come into use.

HELD OVER

Other notes held over for the next issue deal with Parcel Post meters; Southern Rhodesia; and Metered Insurance Stamps.

CATALOGUE SUPPLEMENT
GREAT BRITAIN

The following abbreviations will be used:

Id.No. - Identification (or "Die") No.
 tmk - Townmark (or "Date Stamp")
 / ... / - indicates proposed new Cat.Nos. (To avoid confusion, no general renumbering will be undertaken, though highly desirable in some cases.)

Most of the information in the following list is due to Mr S. D. Barfoot.

® Type 2 (Universal N.Z. with separate tmk.)
 Date of first use should be Oct.11, and not June 17, 1922.

Type 3 (Pitney Bowes, value in each corner and id.no. in centre.)

Date of issue (first licence) should be Aug 16, 1922. In this type, slogans had to be applied separately on the back of the envelope, by fitting a printing attachment in place of the frank die, and are known in black, red, and green (no.31 only.)

For adapted denominations, with upper semicircle blank, see under 1940 later.

Type 4 designs (value in each corner, id.no. in centre.)

(e6) Univ.N.Z., tmk circle in 6 wavy lines variety, wavy lines shorter than normal, id.no. 2A in white on red background, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Used Feb. 1924 by Sterling Telephone Co., and possibly experimental only. (See Phil.Mag., June 7, 1940.)

(e7) Univ.N.Z., tmk circle in 7 wavy lines: these are electrically-driven models "HS" (High-Speed) and "EH" (Extra High-Speed) manufactured by International Postal Supply Co. of U.S.A. Add /35-e7, 38-e7/ 6d., 1/- . Id.no. 1 (London S.W.11) has large seriffed "1" and Neopost type frank (4h).

(f) Univ.N.Z., tmk double circle. Add /35-f/ 6d. (London S.W.11, no.2). Same type frank used in Midget machine, /33-f/ $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. (Birmingham M 34, June 1933.)

(g) Midget. First date, 12 IV 26.

(h & i) Neopost. First date, 22 VII 25. Tmk below frank, type (h): add /A49-h/ 1d. (London E.C.3, N 10.)

Wavy lines at sides of tmk, cat.nos.A39-A41: frank is of "Universal" type as 4e or 4f, and no. "5" (not "M5"). Hand-built pre-standard Midget machine, model TV or SM, used from Aug.1924 to (with GvR frank) Sept.1931.

Type 5 designs (Royal Cipher GvR in centre).

(a) Univ.N.Z., wavy lines tmk: add /58-a/ 4d. ✓

(b) Univ.N.Z., circle tmk: add /64-b/ 1/-.

(c) Midget, tmk circle in wavy lines: cat.nos. 51g and 53g have complete double circle, but 53h has broken inner circle.

(d) Neopost: there is a large number of different types of tmk (Mr Barfoot says 13) which it is impossible to detail here. There are also distinct variations in the frank.

(e & g) Pitney Bowes, wide setting. Slogans had to be applied separately as with type 3, and are known in red and (on front) in violet (PB 50 only).

Add /105-e and 105-g/, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. ✓
 1/2 ~~1~~ ² Add. (10~~8~~-h), PB 11 also has single-lined frame at base. ✓

High-speed (cat.no.110): tmk is 4e(7), not 4c(7). Add /111/ 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (London E.C.3, no.3); used for a few days only in March 1931 as replacement of type 4 frank.

Type 6 (Value in centre, GvR at foot).

Universal M.V. First date, 13 I 32 (no.U 2).
 Highest no. is U 408.

"Junior" model (cat.no.123): lowest no. is U 247 (not 254), highest U 412. (50 different nos.)

Type 7 (as type 6 but smaller and "P" prefix except no.2 which has "PB".)

Omit cat. no.139, 5d.

Type 8 designs (Royal Cipher EviiiR.)

(b) Neopost L.V.: add /157-B/ 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Type 9 (Value in centre, EviiiR at foot.)

Universal M.V.: scattered nos. U 10 to 391, most nos. U 402 to 501. "Intermediate" model, U 451 to 460 only.

Pitney Bowes L.V.: add /A170, B170, C170/, 2d., 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Type 10 designs (Royal Cipher GviR.)

(a) Neopost F.V.: add /175-A/ 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. ✓

(b) Neopost L.V.: add /B182-B, C182-B, A183-B,

185-B, 186-B/, 7d., 8d., 10d., 1/3, 2/- . For re-drawn type, see later.

(c) Midget: add /178-C, 181-C, B182-C/, 4d., 5½d. 7d.

(d) Pitney Bowes "H": two types of frank:-

(d1) Narrow "H", thin base-line. /171-D1, 172-D1, 173-D1, 175-D1/, ½d., 1d., 1½d., 2½d.,

(d2) Wide "H", thick base-line, larger figures of value. /171-D2, 172-D2, 175-D2/, ½d., 1d., 2½d.

(e & f) Pitney Bowes "PB": Four types of frank:

(1) Double-lined base: 10 leaves at each side, none cut by "GREAT BRITAIN" scroll; tall, narrow crown with double band round its base; "PB" very small.

(2) Single-lined base; 10 leaves at each side, three cut by "G.B." scroll; crown as in (1); "PB" usually larger, but variable.

(3) Single-lined base; 9 leaves at each side, three cut by "G.B." scroll; crown as in (1); "PB" very tall.

(4) Single-lined base and leaves as in (3); broader, flatter crown with single band round base; "PB" broad and medium-sized.

The size of the crown and shape of the Royal Cipher in (1) to (3) vary appreciably. The two styles of crown are precisely similar to those in the "P" series (cf. page 21). Values in each type /cat.nos. 171 to 175, 181, followed by -E1, -E2, etc./ are:-

(e) Wide setting of frank and tmk:

(e.1) ½d., 1d., 2½d., 5½d.

(e.2) ½d., 1d., 1½d., 2d., 2½d.

(e.3) ½d., 1d., 1½d., 2½d.

(e.4) 1d., 2½d.

(f) Narrow setting of frank and tmk:

(f.1) ½d., 1d., 1½d., 2½d.

(f.2) ½d., 1d., 1½d., 2½d.

(f.3) ½d., 1d., 1½d., 2½d.

(f.4) None known.

(g) Universal N.Z. Key-letters "NZ". Insert /172-G, 173-G/, 1d., 1½d. (One machine only, London E.C.4, no. NZ 17.)

(To be continued)