

T H E
M E T E R S T A M P

B U L L E T I N

Journal of the
Meter Stamp Study Group

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REPORT FOR 1951

In reporting on the second year of the Group's operation, it is somewhat disappointing to have to say that the number of members increased by only one as compared with the first year, the total at the end of the year being 34. Eight new members were enrolled for the year, but unfortunately seven who had been members in 1950 did not renew their subscriptions. (One of these has died and two have ceased to collect; another has renewed since the end of the year, but nothing has been heard from the other three.) One further member enrolled for 1952 before the end of last year. As a result of editorial notes in the philatelic press, several enquiries were received for particulars of the Group and for specimens of the Bulletin, but from most of them no further response was received.

The distribution of membership was: United Kingdom, 20; Irish Republic, 2; U.S.A., 4; Europe, 5; South Africa, 2; Kenya, 1.

I give on the next page a statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year. As compared with 1950, income from subscriptions increased by 6/5 (the small discrepancy being due to the loss on dollar subscriptions); two of the

2.
European members have not yet been able to remit
Donations increased by 11/1, making a total in-
crease of 17/6 in income.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE

for the year ended 31st. December, 1951.

RECEIPTS

Subscriptions: 27 @ 7/6 ... (a)		£10. 2. 6
5 @ \$1 ...	1.15.-	
less loss on exchange	1.-	1.14. -
t o t a l		11.16. 6
Donations		6. 7. 7
TOTAL		£18. 4. 1

Note (a) : Including two (15/-) received in ad-
vance in 1950 but excluding four
(1.9.6) received in advance for 1952.

EXPENDITURE

Duplicating Bulletins (four issues) and Supplement ...		£ 9. 7. 3
Postage on Bulletins (b) ...		1. 1.11
" all other ...	1.16. 6½	
less stamps rec'd	2.11	1.13. 7½
Stationery		1. 2. 6½
Cheque Stamps		1. 0
TOTAL		£13. 6. 4

SURPLUS of Receipts over Expenditure 4.17. 9
18. 4. 1

Note (b) ; This relates to copies posted on day
of issue at reduced rate only.

BALANCE

Surplus for year 1950		5.12. 7½
Surplus for year 1951		4.17. 9
Subs. for 1952 received in advance	1. 9. 6	
TOTAL balance in hand		£11.19.10½

In spite of there having been only four issues of the Bulletin during 1951 instead of the (abnormal) five during 1950, the cost of duplicating increased by £1.17.8. Postage on the Bulletin increased by 7/9 but other postages decreased by £1.1.4½. There was an increase of 8/4 for stationery etc., but part of this remains in stock. The net increase in expenditure is therefore £1.12.4½.

This leaves a surplus of receipts over expenditure amounting to £4.17.9. as compared with £5.12.7½. It was not intended to accumulate a reserve, but the total surplus in the two years is in fact almost exactly equal to generous donations of £5.5.0. received in each year which could not well be budgeted for. It is proposed to utilize some of the balance for the issue of special supplements.

It does not look as though any appreciable increase in membership can be anticipated during 1952, while the cost of duplicating and postage will undoubtedly increase again, so that it would be unwise to make any reduction in the amount of the subscription. I propose there fore to maintain it at

7s.6d. (or U.S. \$ 1.00) for the year
and it will be greatly appreciated if all mem-
bers (who have not already paid in advance)
will be kind enough to remit as soon as possible.

If any member wishes to make any comment on the accounts, or would like any further explanation, I will do my best to satisfy him.

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I would like to repeat my invitation (which I am sorry met with little response last year) to members to submit articles and notes suitable for publication; if unable to provide anything themselves, perhaps they would suggest subjects on which they would like to have articles, for which I might be able to arrange.

A. A. D.

Philatelists all over the World will mourn the passing of H.M. King George VI, the World's Premier Philatelist (though there is no evidence that he was interested in our particular field!) but they will wish well to Queen Elizabeth II, herself also a stamp collector.

The change will of course necessitate alterations in this country's meter stamps, as in our ordinary stamps, but it is unlikely that any new designs will appear much before the end of this year. It is to be hoped that the opportunity will be taken to produce an entirely new design, and not merely another change of Royal Cipher in a frame which has served for over 25 years through three reigns. Would any member of this Group care to sketch a suitable design for submission to the authorities ?

The only other territories in the Commonwealth using the Royal Cipher in their meter stamps are Fiji, Jamaica, and Southern Rhodesia (the last for Neoposts only), and changes will likewise be needed there. Barbadoes shows the device of the King in a "Sea-charict," but whether the substitution of the Queen would be noticeable is somewhat doubtful.

ADDRESS LIST

One or two members have suggested the publication of a complete list of all members' names and addresses, but I hesitate to do this partly on grounds of needless expense but chiefly because it may expose members to unwanted correspondence; it would moreover not seem to be of much use unless the members' particular interests were listed. But as mentioned previously, I am always willing to publish here the names and addresses of members who let me know that they desire this, and indicate their particular wants and offers.

Check-List, continued

Cipher G vi R

"U" Prefix: One more of the missing nos. has been discovered by Mr Jennings - U 846 (Junior). ✓

"UA" Prefix: Three more nos. have been found, 135 (Ordinary), 767 (Junior) and 931 (Intermed.) ✓

"UB" Prefix: These being more recent than the "U" and "UA" series, there is a rather long list of nos. not yet traced, as follows -

7, 24, 27, 29, 32, 52, 54, 60, 82, 99, 110, 111, 114, 121, 127, 145, 148, 152, 154, 166, 178, 184, 188, 198, 201, 202, 205, 225, 227, 228, 241, 242, 245, 247, 255, 261, 262, 265, 272, 275, 277, 282, 284, 291, 297, 300, 306, 308, 313, 314, 318, 319, 320, 322, 325, 327, 333, 345, 348, 349, 351, 353, 357, 361, 373, 375, 376, 385, 396, 399, 401, 413, 417, 422, 424, 425, 427, 437, 449, 452, 456, 457, 462, 471, 472, 475, 480, 486, 488, 490, 492, 495, 499, 505, 510, 511, 515, 516, 521, 523, 535, 536, 537, 546, 567, 570, 571, 572, 581, 584, 587, 595, 596, 598, 607, 617, 625, 626, 632, 636, 643, 645, 664, 669, 670, 673, 684, 712, 720, 735, 736, 739, 747, 748, 750, 754, 778, 780, 782, 783, 785, 798, 803, 809, 810, 815, 822, 827, 836, 852, 872, 877, 879, 881, 884, 888, 890, 905, 906, 907, 915, 917, 928, 931, 933, 939, 941, 942, 943, 950, 951, 959, 960, 962, 967, 971, 972, 984, 987, 993, 994, 995.

As usual with the possible exception of unknown nos. within the ranges indicated, the following are Junior models -

3-31, 108-126, 149-168, 208-226, 285-302, 350-356, 418-436, 468-487, 518-534, 568-591, 644-652, 788-797, 863-882, 923-940, 989-998.

And the following are Intermediate models -

53-97, 169-187, 229-240, 263-283, 303-326, 358-377, 388-416, 438-455, 489-517, 543-557, 592-623, 653-682, 713-772, 799-842, 903-922, 969-988.

The remainder are of course "Ordinary" models.

The total quantities are accordingly:

Ordinary, 238; Junior, 213; Intermediate, 366;
Not yet known, 182.

6.

Will members reporting additions kindly give full details - town, user, slogan (if any), and type of machine (O, J or I) - for incorporation in the records, although it is unfortunately not possible to reproduce them here. As before, acknowledgement has to be made to Mr. S. D. Barfoot for the information on which the above list of "UB" has been based.

CHANNEL ISLANDS : OCCUPATION ISSUES

As is probably known to most readers, the Channel Islands of Guernsey and Jersey use meter stamps of the "Great Britain" designs, just as they use ordinary British adhesives, in spite of their not being part of Great Britain proper.

In several articles and handbooks on the stamps and postmarks used during the German occupation, reference is made to the use of franking machines at the head post offices both in Guernsey and in Jersey for private mail when the supplies of adhesive stamps ran out at various times. None of the references however give many details, and some of them clearly confuse meter franks with the "PAID" postmarks applied either by the cancelling machines or by hand-stamps, which also were used in the same circumstances.

The dates when the meters were so used are stated to have been as follows:-

Guernsey - April 1945 to 8th May 1945 (the day of the liberation);

Jersey - May to August 1942; May 1943; and
(?) Dec. 1944 to 8th May 1945.

Probably owing to the shortage of paper and the failure of most people to recognize their philatelic interest, very few of the meter-franked covers seem to have survived.

Mr. S. D. Barfoot possesses a piece franked with a Neopost, EviiiR cipher, 2¹/₂d., identification no. N 8 (the machine believed originally to have been used by the Jersey Airways Co.) from Jersey, dated 30 VI 42.

Mr. William Newport, Hon. Sec. of the Channel Islands Specialists' Society, has very kindly supplied details of the only one in his possession. It is a registered cover bearing a block of four of the 1d. Jersey "Arms" type adhesive together with a 1½d. meter frank to make up the 5½d. rate; the date is 9 V 41, at which time the Jersey 1d. stamp had not been issued, so that there was no other way of making up the correct rate. The townmark is "JERSEY-CHANNEL ISLANDS", and the ident. no. is again N 8.

Mr. Newport also possesses a cover of the same period with a privately-used meter frank, the letter being addressed by the Jersey New Waterworks Co. Ltd. to the Guernsey Water Board. The frank is a Midget, 2½d. no. M 1, with townmark "JERSEY ST. HELIER - CHANNEL ISLANDS" dated 22 VII 41 and with slogan "DON'T WASTE WATER." The impression is very indistinct.

"UNITED NATIONS" METER STAMP

A special meter-stamp design for use by the U.N. secretariat, New York, was introduced on 24th October last, simultaneously with the introduction of the U.N. adhesive stamps. It is of the usual format of the Pitney-Bowes "Model R" (the type now most commonly used in the U.S.A. and Canada), and shows in the centre a sketch of the Secretariat Building; above the figures of value at right are "U.N." (large) and "POSTAGE," and below them "CENTS." The town-circle at left is worded "UNITED NATIONS NEW YORK." At centre foot is the meter no., of which there are at present four (1 to 4) prefixed by "PB". The whole is flanked at each side by a conventional olive-branch.

First-day covers, bearing at left the slogan "FIRST DAY / United Nations / METER STAMP", are believed to be very scarce, as the U.N. Postal Administration failed to give collectors sufficient advance notice. A later slogan reads "PEACE, JUSTICE AND SECURITY FOR ALL" at the right of the U.N. emblem as in (D) below.

8. Previously, the U.N. secretariat had used ordinary U.S. meters of the Pitney-Bowes "Model R" (streamline eagle), and as many as eleven nos. are known, the first with two different town-marks. A list follows; the dates are the earliest seen, and probably not the dates of introduction. This may be incomplete.

Key to slogans:-

- (A) Emblem of Globe wreathed by olive branches, with continents and leaves in outline.
- (B) As (A) but continents and leaves solid.
- (C) "UNITED NATIONS / GIVE ONE DAY / APPEAL for CHILDREN" in three lines in frame.
- (D) Emblem as (B) but smaller, with "UNITED NATIONS OFFICIAL MAIL" in four lines between bars at left.

<u>Meter No.</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Slogan</u>
113436	NEW YORK, N.Y.	Aug. 14, '46	none
do	LAKE SUCCESS, N.Y.	Oct. 30, '46	(A)
115515	LAKE SUCCESS, N.Y.	Jan. 15, '47	(B)
116710	WASHINGTON, D.C. (used by F.A.O.)	Mar. 8, '46	none
116728	LAKE SUCCESS, N.Y.	Nov. 23, '47	none
do	ditto	Jan. 9, '43	(C)
126118	LAKE SUCCESS, N.Y.	Jan. 16, '48	(C)
do	ditto	May. 28, '48	none
do	ditto	Jan. 18, '49	(B)
do	ditto	Feb. 23, '50	(D)
138421	LAKE SUCCESS, N.Y.	Feb. 21, '50	(D)
162488	NEW YORK, N.Y.	Aug. 14, '51	(D)
163706	LONG ISLAND CITY, N.Y.	(Nov. '49) ≠	none
do	ditto	Feb. 1, '50	(D)
180705	GREAT NECK, N.Y.	Mar. 31, '51	(D)
181615	NEW YORK, N.Y.	(Apr. '51) ≠	none
182488	NEW YORK, N.Y.	Feb. '51	(D)

≠ - on second-class mail, undated.

HOW MANY COUNTRIES USE METERS ?

Three definite additions have to be made to the list of countries given in the Sept. 1951 "Bulletin," - United Nations (described above), French Equatorial Africa, and the Free Territory of Trieste (see below). Meters are about to be brought into use, if not already in use, in Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey. There are also reports, not fully confirmed, of the use of meters in Hyderabad, Bulgaria (pre-war), Reunion, Ecuador, and Siam, the first two and the last now being discontinued.

On the other hand, Iran should be omitted for the present, as it is understood that the machine from which proofs exist is not yet in use.

TRIESTE TERRITORY

Although the Anglo-American zone of the Free Territory uses a special overprint on Italian adhesive stamps, its only meter frank so far seen is of an ordinary Italian type without special features. It is of the transverse rectangular design with floral pattern in the side panels and inscribed "POSTE ITALIANE" at top; five figures of value thus "060.00" without currency indicated. The town mark reads simply "TRIESTE" with a five-pointed star at foot of the circle.

Logically, if the F.T.T. is a distinct country for adhesive stamps, it should also be so regarded for meters, though only the town name distinguishes them from those used in (say) Rome.

ISRAEL LIST

Mr. Werner Simon reports an addition and an amendment to the notes in the Sept. 1951 Bulletin (page 86). A sixth type of Universal exists: "2d" 4 figures of value, a zero in first place.

Machine "HF 5" (Haifa) although numbered in the Neopost series is not a Neopost but appears to be a Francotyp.

10. CLASSIFICATION OF UNITED STATES
POSTAGE METER PRINTS

A booklet under the above title was published towards the end of last year by the Meter Stamp Society and Meter Slogan Associates in the U.S.A., and a copy has very kindly been sent to us by Lieut. Col. W. V. Hannay, Treasurer of the M.S.S. This illustrates all the numerous types of meter stamp used in the United States, and classifies them according to an entirely new and ingenious scheme.

The stamps are classified primarily on the basis of their design. The designs which have been used up to the present are first of all classified into eight Groups, designated by the letters A to H; the Group is defined as "A set of meter prints with a common basic shape which sets them apart from all other prints.

Each Group is then subdivided into from one to ten Types, the Type being defined as "A meter print which differs from others in its Group by a major difference in design." The Type is designated by a second letter, A, B, C, &c.; following the Group letter.

The Type is, when necessary, further divided into Varieties, which show "a minor difference in design, not always obvious at a hasty glance, but easily distinguished from all other varieties upon examination." The Variety is designated by a number, 1, 2, 3, &c., following the Type letter.

Provision is also made for the designation of so-called "Special uses" such as the inclusion of the indication "Sec. 562 P.L.&R." town name omitted, used with slogan, printed on paper tape, etc., these being indicated by a small letter following the Type letter or Variety No.

The booklet runs to 20 large pages with some 160 illustrations, so that it is impossible to reproduce the full classification here but it may be helpful to list the major Groups.

By the "Indicia" is meant the portion containing the denomination, "U.S. POSTAGE", etc., - what is usually termed in this country the "Frank."

Group A: Early experimental meters (1903-14).

The designs feature a large 5-figure "Copy No." in the centre. All are very rare, and none listed by Harris. One Type, AA.

Group B: Square indicia with wavy lines at left and right. One Type, BA. (Harris type 1.)

Group C: Oval indicia with wavy lines at left and right. Ten Types, CA to CJ. (Harris types 2 to 5.)

Group D: Square indicia with an oval design in the centre and bordered by imitation perforations. Eight Types, DA to DH. (Harris types 7, 8, 9 and 14.)

Group E: Rectangular design without frame or town-circle, printed on yellow, orange or buff gummed labels. Two Types, EA (Harris NCR 2 - mis-printed as "type 9" in the 1940 Catalogue) and EB (experimental and not listed by Harris.)

Group F: Town, date and denomination contained within one rectangular frame of imitation perforations. Four Types, FA to FD (Harris types 6, 10 to 13, and 16.)

Group G: Transverse rectangular indicia without oval in centre, having border of imitation perforations or wavy line. Three Types, GA to GC. (Harris type 15 and others issued after 1939.)

Group H: Large streamlined eagle, town-circle and denomination box without a frame. Two Types, HA and HB. (Not listed by Harris as they appeared after 1939.)

The currently commonest type is classified HA3 (with dot in front of denominations below \$1.00) or HA4 (with three wavy lines instead of dot.) The smaller "Desk Model" is HB5 (HB1 to HB4 being experimental versions of the same.)

It appears that the catalogue supplements, listing all items which have appeared since the publication of Harris's Catalogue in 1940, are of little or no interest to many members, and those not possessing this Catalogue find them difficult to understand. As there is moreover no prospect of completing the listing even of British Commonwealth items within a measurable time, it has accordingly been decided to discontinue the formal listings. Instead, brief notes of the main types which have appeared will be given.

CEYLON. There are three distinct types of frame in the Universal multi-value (upright design.) Originally, the words "POSTAGE CEYLON REVENUE" were all of the same size, but on some dies "POSTAGE" is much larger than the other two words (? in error) and on the most recent dies it is "CEYLON" which is larger than the other two words.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

In continuation of the Supplement accompanying the Sept. 1951 Bulletin, there is included with this issue a Supplement listing, firstly, a number of further articles on meter stamps published in the philatelic press of this country (a few of which are available for lending to members, as indicated) and, secondly, some pamphlets etc. published abroad (in various languages) which are available for lending. It should be made clear that this latter does not purport to include all that has been published, but only what is available here for lending. Attention is also drawn to the footnote to the former list.

EARLY "NEOPOST" SLOGAN

By the kindness of Mr. H. J. Howard, we are able to send to members with this Bulletin a piece showing one of the original "Neopost" slogans, used with die N 99 of London, S.W.1. The dates of the batch circulated run from 20 IV 27 to 7 XI 27. With the next Bulletin, a corresponding "Midget" slogan will be sent.