

THE
METER STAMP

BULLETIN

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Meter Stamp Study Group

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EDITORIAL NOTES

I am happy to report that the majority of last year's members have already renewed their subscriptions, as well as several new members (some of them in the U.S.A.) Those who have so far overlooked payment of their subscriptions for the current year (still 7s.6d. or U.S. \$ 1.00) will find a red cross against this paragraph. I hope I shall hear from them soon.

The second piece, this time showing an early G.B. "Midget" slogan, again very kindly provided by Mr. Hy J. Howard, is enclosed. The dates of the batch distributed run from 2 I 28 to 28 II 28. In spite of its claim that "adhesive stamps are out-of-date," there still nearly a quarter of a century later seem to be just as many new ones issued!

There is also enclosed a cover showing one of the Universal M.V. nos. (UA 878) previously recorded as not yet known, this having kindly been provided by Mr. H. E. Hammond. A cover bearing a Modern Pitney-Bowes stamp provided by another member will be sent with the next "Bulletin." (These items are sent only to members, and have to be omitted from complimentary copies.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH II DESIGN

Only one member, Mr. K. F. Jennings of Cambridge, ventured to submit a proposed design for the new reign; this is a neat and attractive type showing the Lion and the Unicorn supporting a shield on which is the Royal Cipher, with the figures of value above or below according to the type of machine. Messrs Roneo-Neopost have submitted several designs to the G.P.O., including one somewhat similar. They agree that a completely modernized design is desirable.

G.B.: ANOTHER NEW "NEOPOST" DIE

An entirely new die of the GvIR cipher type of Neopost, differing distinctly from the original, was described in the June 1950 "Bulletin." Another new die, which in some respects resembles the second type and in others the first, has since appeared. The differences are easier to see than to describe. Owing to variations in impression precise measurements would be misleading, but the three types may be briefly summed up as follows:

- (i) Central oval narrow. Top of crown strongly arched and well away from the inner curved lines of the oval. "POST PAID" in small letters. "G R" narrow.
- (ii) Central oval, and whole design, wider. Top of crown much flatter and close to oval lines. "POST PAID" in much larger letters. "G R" wider and thicker.
- (iii) Central oval, and whole design, wide as in (ii). Crown similar to (i) but redrawn in detail and more "open." "POST PAID" in small letters (height less than width). "G R" of similar shape to (ii) but thinner.

Type (i) was issued in Aug. 1937. The earliest date noted for type (ii) is Jan. 1948, and the earliest for type (iii) is April 1951. Types (ii) and (iii) normally have thinner value figures than type (i).

G. B. : EARLY P-B DISCOVERIES

An examination of the records of Universal Postal Frankers Ltd. by Mr. S. D. Barfoot has disclosed that two denominations hitherto unknown in the first Pitney-Bowes type (square with wavy lines at sides) were used for very short periods. It may well be that no examples of them are now in existence !

They are 3½d., ident.no.7 (Bristol, J.S. Fry & Sons), used from March 18 to 24, 1927, and 4d., ident.no.26 (Reading, Huntley & Palmer, Ltd.), used from Oct.8 to 26, 1928.

Some interesting points about the Pitney-Bowes "H" series also have emerged. The no. H 24 is missing from the Great Britain series because this machine was sent to Ireland, and the Eire die was numbered "H" 1". The machine H 39, after being used in London and in Aberdeen, was sent to Moscow. We have however no record of its use there.

G. B. : A STRANGE METHOD OF USE

Mr. H. E. Hammond has shown us an envelope addressed to a firm in Birmingham by the International Harvester Co. of Great Britain, Doncaster, bearing the impression of a Neopost frank (N 38) applied on a small piece of paper without either townmark or slogan and gummed to the envelope as if it were an ordinary adhesive; the envelope bears no postmark of any kind. He states that large envelopes sent by this company invariably show this strange procedure, which is almost certainly contrary to P.O. regulations, though small envelopes from them are franked in the normal way with townmark and slogan and sometimes the impression is on a white gummed strip printed with the customary town and No.

An enquiry to the I. H. Co. as to why they use this method received no reply. It is remarkable that both the Doncaster and the Birmingham post offices are apparently willing to allow it.

Check-List, continuedCipher G vi R

"U" Prefix: Still another of the missing nos. has turned up among a lot acquired by the Editor, U 174 (Guildford, Surrey), an "Ordinary" model of course.

"UA" Prefix: Another of the missing nos. has been discovered -UA 878, a "Junior" - and enough copies for distribution to each member have kindly been provided by Mr. Hammond. The initials of the user signify "Southern Counties Agricultural Trading Society."

"UB" Prefix: No less than 59 of the nos. reported in the last list as not yet traced have now been reported; even so, this is less than one-third of the missing nos. Thanks for the information are due to Messrs Blower, Delahoy, Hammond, Jennings, Lloyd Parton, Stelfox, and Stribling. The value of this wide co-operation is well shown by the fact that no less than 46 out of the 59 have been mentioned by only one member each, and only one has been mentioned by more than two members !

Accordingly the following should be deleted from the list on page 5 of the last "Bulletin" -

7, 32, 82, 99, 114, 121, 127, 166, 174, 178, 184, 201, 225, 228, 255, 272, 275, 282, 318, 320, 333, 348, 351, 413, 449, 457, 471, 472, 475, 480, 486, 499, 505, 515, 536, 537, 546, 567, 570, 572, 607, 632, 643, 645, 673, 684, 748, 836, 877, 907, 915, 917, 931, 939, 959, 972, 987, 995, 999.

Certain of the ranges for Junior models should be amended as follows, the altered nos. being underlined -

3-32, 108-127, 518-537, 568-592, 643-652; also one of the ranges for Intermediate models - 593-623.

The position is now as follows:-

Prefix	U	UA	UB
Ordinary	391	261	249
Intermediate	39	432	390
Junior	334	228	237
Not yet known	235	78	123

It may be mentioned here that the "UD" series is now well under way, nos. as high as UD 416 having been reported, and doubtless higher nos. are now in use.

HERM ISLAND SLOGAN

Mr. Wm Newport, of the Channel Islands Specialists' Society, is kind enough to give particulars of an interesting and extremely scarce Channel Islands item. Herm Island, which is leased by the States of Guernsey to a tenant, has had no British Post Office since 1838. During the tenancy of Mr. A. G. Jefferies, local stamps were issued to pay for carriage of mails from Herm to St. Peter Port, Guernsey, about three miles away, but before these were ready, a meter frank was used. This was a Neopost, with ident. no. N 13 and townmark "GUERNSEY - CHANNEL ISLANDS", and showed a slogan with the Herm crest and the legend "Herm can give you an enchanting holiday and peace and tranquillity." Mr. Newport's cover, the only one known to him, is dated 17 VII 48, and he suggests that the meter was withdrawn after a few months owing to the misspelling of "Tranquillity" with only one "L": but it may rather have been because the machine was too expensive.

HOW MANY COUNTRIES ?

With reference to the note on page 9 of the last "Bulletin", Mr. Barfoot now states that the machine sent to Ecuador appears not to have been sanctioned for use. Although use in Reunion is confirmed, the frank does not bear the name of the colony but (like the current adhesives) is of the French type with "CEA" (= French African Colonies) added. Ruanda-Urundi has to be added to

the list, a Hasler machine with the same design as for Belgium and Belgian Congo being in use.

NEWFOUNDLAND - CANADA "MIDGET"

The franks of the "Midget" machines used in Newfoundland before its incorporation in Canada were of the G.B.Royal Cipher design with only the name of the country changed. On Confederation with Canada, the frank of machine No.1. was adapted by changing the name to CANADA and the Royal Cipher from "GvR" to "GvIR". (Information due to Mr S.D.Barfoot.)

UNITED NATIONS

A few additions and amendments to the list of United States meters used by the U.N. as given in our last "Bulletin" have been reported by Mr Walter M.Swan (Corinth, N.Y.)

No.108314 (New York, N.Y.) dated Oct.6, '44 with slogan "In War and Peace / UNITED NATIONS" (used from the U.N.Information Office); also the same No. with the slogan (D) dated Oct.24, '50.

No.113436 (New York, N.Y.) - the first day was Mar.25, '46 and slogan (A) was then used.

No.186897 (New York, N.Y.) dated Oct.3, '51 with slogan (D).

In spite of the introduction of the special U.N. type, official U.N. publications continue to be mailed under a United States meter, No. 181615 (New York, N.Y) without slogan.

COLOMBIA: AIR-MAIL METER

Mr Walter M.Swan (Corinth, N.Y.) has kindly submitted a cover from Bogota, bearing two separate and complete meter impressions, one placed immediately above the other. Both are of the same general design, a "perforated" transverse rectangle with "COLOMBIA" at foot, but the upper one is inscribed at top "SOBREPORTE AEREO", representing the air fee surcharge, while the lower one has instead "COMUNICACIONES", representing the ordinary postage. On this particular envelope

the respective values are "Cts -030" and 19
"-0,05". In addition, however, the latter has
the left-hand part of the central space divided
off and inscribed vertically "SOBRETASA 0.01",
indicating the special surtax for the P.O.
Rebuilding Fund. From the characteristic shape
of the value and date figures, they appear to be
Hasler meters. No identification no. or slogan
appears on either.

OUR AMERICAN CONFRERIES

Even in relation to the greater number of
philatelists in the United States, there are
more societies of meter-stamp collectors there
than in this country, where we ourselves seem to
be the sole organization. We have entered into
friendly correspondence with three of these
societies and they are kind enough to send us
their journals regularly.

The American Metered Postage Society, although
constituted only in January of this year, is in
reality a continuation of the American Postage
Indicia Society which was founded in Sept. 1935
and therefore claims to be "the original metered
mail society." Instead of a separate bulletin,
it has adopted as its official organ the general
philatelic journal "The Sentinel", published
weekly in newspaper style at Luverne, Alabama,
in which it has a regular section. The Secretary
and Treasurer is Henry O. Meisel, of Clintonville,
Wisconsin. Annual subscription to the Society,
including the official organ, is \$ 1.25.

The Meter Stamp Society publishes its own
"Monthly Bulletin", a four-page leaflet (5½" x
8½") neatly produced by a lithographic method
with line illustrations. However, owing to lack
of material and other difficulties, these have
recently appeared somewhat irregularly; the
latest received is No. 34, nominally dated May
1951 but issued much later. The Society's Presi-
dent is H. Allen Osborne, of Houston, Texas, and
the Secretary, Evelyn P. Chapman, of Blue Bell.

20.) Road, R.D. Newfield, N.J. The annual subscription is \$ 2.00.

The Philometer Society of Chicago, which advocates the use of the term "philometer" (which seems to us wrong etymology) instead of "meter stamp", was started in 1949, and unlike the others holds monthly meetings, attended on the average by some 15 members. They are organizing a big Exhibition (the second) with bourse and auction in Chicago on Sept. 26, 27 and 28 next. Their journal "The Philometrist" is a four-page printed leaflet (6" x 9") and appears nominally monthly, but recently three or four numbers have been combined into a single issue; the latest received is Nos. 31-34, dated Sept. to Dec., 1951. The President is Gustav W. Conrad and the Editor and Treasurer Joseph Whitebourn, 68 West Washington Street, Chicago 2, Ill. The annual subscription is \$ 3.00.

These societies naturally all deal chiefly with U.S. meter stamps, but the A.M.P.S. intends also to deal with other countries, and has overseas members. No doubt all the societies would welcome members in Great Britain, but it is probable that collectors here would have difficulty in paying their subscriptions legally owing to our currency restrictions.

HOW TO FORM A COLLECTION

Several members have asked for advice on this subject. I am however a little hesitant on saying anything that may appear to be laying down rules, for there must be almost as many different ways of arranging a collection as there are collectors and it is not possible to say that some ways are "right" and some "wrong"; every collector should collect what and how most pleases him. Nevertheless a few general remarks may be helpful to some.

The subject really falls into three distinct parts - (1) What items to include in the collection; (2) In what sequence to arrange these; and

(3) How to store them. No. (2) to some extent depends on (1), but (3) is quite independent of the first two. 21

As to (1): it will soon be found impracticable to endeavour to include in one's collection every item differing in any respect from another (even though it is usual to ignore different denominations in multi-value machines, and of course different record nos. and dates.) Further, if one takes any of the larger countries, it would prove a very heavy task to attempt to include examples from every machine (i.e. every different identification no., meter no. or the like.) It is suggested therefore that the main collection might include only one example, irrespective of identification no. etc., of each "cataloguable" variety. Particularly in some of the earlier types but also in some others, there are small differences of various kinds between impressions from different machines of the same general series, and the extent to which a collector recognizes these as "different" must be left to him. In the main, Harris's Catalogue recognized differences only in the "frank" portion and ignored distinct differences in the "townmarks" but others may not accept this.

A subsidiary collection might be formed including all different nos. etc. either of some one series of machines (e.g. in this country, all the "PB" or all the "H", or all of the original design of one or more makes) or what is becoming popular, of all the machines used in the collector's home town. The foregoing remarks apply equally to collections of one country or whole-world collections; but of course the more countries one collects, the fewer or less extensive subsidiary collections is it advisable to add.

As to (2): the subsidiary collections of the form mentioned will naturally be arranged in

numerical order, though there is sometimes the possibility of either grouping together all the denominations of any one no. or grouping together all the nos. of each denomination. In general the former seems preferable. The arrangement of the main collection should be in chronological order, but it may often be found most satisfactory to treat each make or series of machines as a separate "chapter" instead of mixing all in pure order of date.

The remaining part has to be deferred to the next "Bulletin." Comments and criticisms on the foregoing rough notes will be welcome, and if possible will be dealt with in the next article. In the meantime, a relevant contribution from one of our members - a collector of long experience - follows .

A. A. D.

COVERS v. "CUT-OUTS"

by D. R. Burchell

Please do not think I decry the Cut-out: I don't. I collect cut-outs equally avidly as covers. But the fact is, I prefer dealing with covers. They are much easier to handle. And frequently they bear the name of the user - I think half the fun of meter collecting is in finding and noting the user. Then there is always the chance of coming across a variety suitable for my Type Collection, which contains varieties and is composed almost entirely of covers. Also covers look better than cut-outs when properly mounted.

Another, and I think the best, argument in favour of covers, at any rate for exchange purposes, is that so many people have such a hazy idea of what should be collected. The meter impression, date-stamp and slogan should be taken in conjunction, and when any one is different, then the mark is different. Far too often the mark is cut off short by the edge of the date-stamp, and sometimes indeed by the side of the meter (frank) impression, leaving it out square in all its glory - absolutely valueless. If there is no slogan, there should be

at least two inches left beside the date-stamp to show that there is none.

In dealing with early Universal and P.B. machines, it is almost essential to retain the full cover. In the latter case because often the slogan appears on the back of the envelope or the bottom left corner, both well away from the meter and date-stamp impression. With the former, too, it is important to have the cover, as when the date-stamp was impressed independently from the meter, it frequently is inches (I have seen it 4.8 inches) distant. In this case, if the cover was cut it would be valueless. The same thing is true when the slogan was printed separately.

Of course, I know that some marks - more especially modern ones - are impressed on gummed strips and labels. In these cases it is often impossible to get a clear two inches on the left of the date-stamp. Then it can be safely assumed that, if there is no trace of a slogan on the label, there is none.

I am in favour of the cover for a specialized collection, but the general collector may find it more convenient to go in for cut-outs. They have the undoubted advantage of not being nearly as bulky as covers, and the object of the collection is to accumulate as many different "marks" as possible, not to amass a quantity of waste paper. Another factor to the detriment of the cover is its variation in size, and the fact that many are badly torn in opening.

To re-capitulate: for exchange purposes, the cover should always be the medium. Comparatively small specialized collections should be composed of covers, if possible; while for general collections the choice is optional, but if the cut-out is favoured it should be cut to allow at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " above and below the meter impression, and 6 inches long to show the presence or absence of a slogan.

Several members are forming collections and compiling check-lists of all the meters used in their own cities or districts. These not only provide a more manageable collection than attempting to collect a whole country but also make a valuable contribution to local postal history.

The following members will be pleased to hear from any other members who may be able to add to their lists or to assist them in their collections.

BELFAST: Mr.G.M.Stelfox, 18 Knockbreda Drive,
Belfast.

CAMBRIDGE: Mr.K.F.Jennings, 359 Milton Road,
Cambridge.

SHEFFIELD (& District): Mr.E.Buckley,
114 Birley Moor Road, Sheffield 12.

The Editor will be pleased to hear of any additions to the above.

WANTS AND OFFERS

Mr.T.Blower,(77 Leicester Road, Mountsorrel, Loughborough, Leics) wants G.B.Harris types 1, 2 and 3; offers in exchange type 3.

Mr.H.E.Harmond, (16 Elton Grove, Birmingham 27) wants G.B.Harris types 1 and 2 and other early N.Z. and High-speed types, also Parcel Stamps; offers G v R itens. ●

Mr.Henry J.Howard (36 Mulgrave Road, Sutton, Surrey) wants G.B.Pitney-Bowes first type nos. 13,15,16,18,21,23-25,27-29,31,32,34-38,40-44, 47,52-60.

Mr.Walter M.Swan (P.O.Box 618, Corinth, N.Y., U.S.A.) wants New Zealand 1903-04, offers in exchange U.S.A. 1903-04 (shield type experimental) die-proof.