

THE
METER STAMP

BULLETIN

Journal of the
Meter Stamp Study Group

No.40

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SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1958

Our membership again remained the same during the year; we seem to lose members at about the same rate as we gain new ones. I was again pleased to welcome at least one overseas member.

As you will see from the accounts which are included with this issue of the Bulletin, our financial affairs remain much the same. Income from subscriptions has increased naturally because of the increase from 7/6 to 10/-, and again we have been very fortunate in receiving a number of very welcome donations. These are increased also by the commission we have received from the sales of Mr. Swan's catalogues. Expenditure has increased for Bulletins because of the extra issue, and as was expected postage has again shown a slight rise; the increase in basic rates of course came in the middle of the year before. Miscellaneous expenditure was mainly the cost of hiring a room for our first meeting during "Stampex". Subsequent meetings have not cost the Group anything, as the cost of the room has been met by those present; this seems only fair, as there are a number of members who could not possibly hope to come to a meeting in London.

We have managed to circulate a few parcels of duplicate material, mostly foreign so as not to clash with the ordinary exchange packet. This seems to have been fairly successful and I hope to send off some more material soon.

So far, I have received only a few comments on the proposed Constitution; should this be approved and adopted from next year, I think that all members will agree about the clause regarding subscriptions and their non-payment. If yours is still outstanding when this Bulletin is issued, then SEND IT BY RETURN - that will save a lot of trouble and possible misunderstanding.

We are pleased to welcome as members:-

- (133) R. E. Brunston, Esq., 19 Birch Tree Avenue,
Birstall, Leicester
- (134) M. Burrows, Esq., 20 Hillside,
Stowmarket, Suffolk

Changes of address:-

Mr. Walter M. Swan, P.O. Box 786, Corinth, N.Y.,
U.S.

Sr. Ernst Muhr (B.Sc.Eng.), Rua Joaquim Nabuco
226 - Ap. 703,
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Resignation:-

Prof. J. M. Watt (South Africa).

We congratulate our member Mr. G.V. Eltringham upon his recent election as a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

EDITOR'S NOTE

We are glad to have had during the past year fully-written contributions from several members (and a few are awaiting publication); it would be a great help if we could have more of this kind - though notes which can be written-up into an article also are welcome. We regret that we are still too heavily dependent on only a few members for material, and we should like to be able to include items from the many other members who have not so far contributed.

Unlike some other study circles and philatelic organizations, we have from the beginning had our Bulletins duplicated by professional firms; besides having neither the facilities nor the time to "do it yourself", we think that most members will agree that the appearance of the result has made it worth while. But it entails one rather unfortunate feature; there is always a delay of two or three weeks between our completing the "copy" and receipt of the Bulletin by members, and on several occasions recently this has meant that some items have become out-of-date or incorrect before they are read. This is of course unavoidable so long as we have to rely on "outside" duplicators, but as already indicated we cannot undertake to do the work ourselves, irrespective of the cost of the equipment.

NEXT BULLETIN. As during the "Summer" months last year, we are now reverting to a three-month interval and the next issue will be dated June. Notes and news should reach the Editor not later than 11th May, please.

MEETING

A meeting of the Group has been arranged for Saturday, 11th April, as before at the "Crown and Sugarloaf", Garlick Hill, London, E.C.4., beginning at 6.30 p.m. All members and friends are invited.

MEMBERS' WANTS

M. Michel (106 Avenue des Arenes, Nice, A.M., France) wishes to obtain - by purchase or exchange - meters of Monaco.

THE G.B. METER TOWN LIST

Thanks to very generous help from certain members, it has now proved possible to publish this list compiled by Mr. K.F. Jennings. A sample page is enclosed with this Bulletin. Members wishing to have a copy should send 4s. (60c. U.S.) to the Hon. Sec.; as the quantity is limited, please apply quickly.

It is hoped to publish addenda in this Bulletin from time to time, and the co-operation of all readers is invited.

CAN YOU NAME THEM?

In multi-value machines of various makes, the Barfoot-Simon Catalogue designates the different styles of value-figures which occur as "oval", "angular", "Gothic", the different shapes of "angular" figures being distinguished by the manufacturers' series letter of the model of machine. Although we doubt whether these names would convey much to anyone who had not actually seen the different styles, they are convenient, and no better descriptions have been suggested.

The style used on all the Universal MVs in Great Britain and most in other countries has been designated "oval" (a few machines of this make in certain countries having "angular" figures like the German Francotyps.) The style used on the new Automax, however, resembles that used on (e.g.) the Swiss Hasler which, also, is described as "oval" although it is quite different from that of the Universals.

In view of the possibility that the Automax style may in the future be found on old "Universal" machines and vice versa, we now require two distinct designations for these styles. Can anyone offer any suggestions? (The fairly obvious idea of "Univ.-style" and "Automax-style" does not seem very satisfactory, as the styles are not exclusive to these makes.)

THE NEW-STYLE U.P.F. TOWNMARK

(See November 1958 Bulletin, page 70)

A detailed study of this question, as regards the Universal MV, has now been made by Mr. J. Wilson; slightly over half the total number of machines in the "UG" series, fairly evenly distributed over the range, have been observed.

It is apparent that there is no clear demarcation between the old (large-letter) and the new (small-letter) townmarks, though in the first half of the range, UG 1 - 499, the old outnumber the new by about 8 to 1, while in the second half, UG 500 - 999, this ratio is reversed. The most likely explanation seems to be that the machines were not issued (and so furnished with TM dies) strictly in order of the Nos.

Four of the lower Nos., UG 19, 70, 85 and 263, have been found first with the old style and later, with a change of town-name, with the new, but it is improbable that many of the other lower Nos. found with the new style can be explained in the same way, for these include all Nos. known in the 140's (142, '3, '6 and '7) and in the 350's (350, '1, '4, '5, '7, '8 and '9).
//Can any member give information regarding the missing Nos. in these blocks? //

Of the 28 found above UG 500 with the old style, 20 are between 500 and 560, the only higher Nos. with this style being 573, 577, 615, 629, 742, 756, 837 and 838. In subsequent series, there are also UH 151, 281, 282, 667, 723 and UJ 267, 425, 453, 817 (these include the two first reported, of which UJ 425 had at first the new style.) These higher Nos. might perhaps be accounted for by the re-use of old TM dies salvaged from altered or disused machines.

Additions to this list, and reports of any of the same Nos. with the new style, will be welcomed.

FRANK-MASTER "GviR" DIE

Messrs. W.G. Amedro and F. Lloyd Parton have provided further information about this possibly unique die, NA 156 (Edinburgh), described in the last Bulletin. It appears that at first the machine had a normal EiiR die, dates from 28 VI to 3 XII 55 being reported. The earliest known with the GviR die is 10 IV 56, and it is still current. Presumably, when the "patriotic" user had his attention drawn to the "un-Scottish" cipher, he requested the makers to provide him with a special new die!

Mr. Lloyd Parton notes that in his earliest GviR (10 IV 56), the date figures are of the "FM" type, but his next copy (5 VI 57) has them in the type designated by Mr. Hammond, in his recent notes on these machines, as "NL". All copies have the slogan: "Use/SECUREX / THE Solderless JOINT".

Mr. Amedro reminds us that there is in fact at least one Universal machine above UE 500 with GviR die used in England, namely UE 519 (London S.E.1), the user of which is not known to him.

As regards the Simplex, Mr. J. Wilson tells us that, while SA 360 was the last regular GviR die, SA 372 and SA 379 (both Glasgow) also have the GviR cipher, presumably by special request of the users. None have so far been reported in the "SX" series.

G. B. NOTES

AUTOMAX - NEW DIE. Messrs. Hammond and Wilson have both reported the discovery already of a new Die for this machine. The shape of the central oval more closely resembles that of the Die 1 of the Universals than its immediate predecessors, but the Royal Cipher is the most distinctive feature. The crown is more like the accepted "St. Edward's Crown" shape, with narrower base and more curved sides, and the letters "E R" are slightly taller with the tail

of the "R" projecting more. Examples from this machine are slow in coming to hand; so far, only A 181, 191 and 204 have been noted in this new Die, and Mr. Hammond reports that A 379 has reverted to the previous type.

The question has been raised as to whether it would be more convenient to continue numbering the Automax Dies from those of the Universals (this latest type being then Die 10) or to start again at 1, with Die 1 of the Automax the same (apart from the letter) as Die 9 of the Universal. There are certain advantages in either system, and a decision has not yet been made.

The No. of the earliest example, other than the manufacturer's "First Day", found by Mr. J. Wilson as reported in the last Bulletin, is A 62 dated 19 XI 58 with TM LONDON N.4.

ELIZABETH TUDOR? The apparent omission of one "I" from the Royal Cipher has now been noted on several other dies in addition to the two mentioned in the last Bulletin. As all are in Die 7, it would appear that this Master Die had some weakness at this point.

FRANK-MASTER. The numbering seems to have taken a big jump, Mr. Wilson having reported ND 104 and Mr. Hammond ND 128, both early in January. Mr. Wilson points out that the style of the letters has again been changed, being of the same width as before but shorter and thinner, giving them a short, squat appearance, and much neater than the unduly large NB and NC.

SETRIGHT PARCEL POST. Thanks to Mr. G.R. Pearson we have now received an example of this. The general design is similar to that of the "T.I.M." but the left-hand panel is worded only "POSTAGE / PAID"; the crown at the top of the right-hand panel is larger and more detailed, and the Royal Cipher at the bottom of this panel is omitted. In this example the name of the

office in the centre is in three lines:
 REMNANT ST. / (KINGSWAY) B.O. / LONDON, W.C.2. and
 there are no horizontal bars above and below it,
 nor at either side of the date, though shorter
 office names may well show a different arrangement.
 The whole is printed through a ribbon in cerise on
 a white label cut straight on all sides. The
 omission of the words "Parcel Post" seems to
 suggest that the machines may possibly also be
 intended for other postal purposes as well; but
 the absence (so we understand) of provision for an
 odd $\frac{1}{2}$ d. would prevent use for letter rates on the
 present scale.

OLD DIES STILL IN USE. From the very few
 reports, it would appear that there are now very
 few of these still in use. The full list of
 those reported is:

GvR Dies: M 2, London E.15 (2d.)
 N 76, London S.E.1 ($1\frac{1}{2}$ d.)
 N 170, London W.1 ($1\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d.)
 U 101, Birmingham
 U 235, Hyde / Cheshire.

EviiiR Dies: M 25, Leeds ($1\frac{1}{2}$ d.)
 U 368, Dundee / Angus.

All were in use at some time during 1958, but the
 first listed is believed to have now been with-
 drawn. Thanks are due to Messrs. Burchell,
 Hammond, Pearson and Wilson for reports.

HIGHEST NOS. The Frank-Master, Automax
 and Simplex Major have all shown rapid progress,
 and a higher universal MV has been found, but
 again there are no advances for PA, PB and SB.
 Thanks to Messrs. Amedro, Hammond, Lloyd
 Parton, Pearson and Wilson for reports.

A 421; PA 87; PB 172; ND 145;
 SB 609; SW 222; UK 581.

BRIGHOUSE CURIOSITY

A batch of pieces I have franked by Neopost machines N 2 of Brighthouse, Yorks. (GviR die) shows the year as 41 on 26 VI and 31 on various dates from 24 VII to -9 XI, all evidently in error for 51. The GviR frank had of course not been introduced in 1931. Errors of year in the dates are not so very unusual, but it is surely remarkable that the wrong year continued to be shown for more than four months and was even altered - still wrongly - during the period.

But that is not all. All these pieces are franked with a $\frac{1}{2}$ d and a 1d, making up the then printed-paper rate, and the $\frac{1}{2}$ d is in variety "B1" but the 1d is in "B2"! They must therefore have been passed through two different machines. All have the old-style "BIC-A" townmark with name "BRIGHOUSE-YROKS." reading consecutively around the top.

Some similar, earlier pieces from the same user, J. Blakeborough & Sons, Ltd., dated from 8 III 50 to 13 III 51, are franked with the 1d "B2" only (the rate was increased as from 1 VI 51) and this has BIC townmark reading "BRIGHOUSE" at top and "YORKSHIRE" at bottom, showing that the BIC-A townmark belonged to the machine with B1 frank. The B2 machine has the slogan "THE RIGHT VALVE / for / EVERY SERVICE" between parallel lines.

Finally, on 11 III 52, I have a $1\frac{1}{2}$ d value from the B2 machine (with townmark and slogan as just described.) I also have $2\frac{1}{2}$ d and 3d values from this machine, but no others from the B1.

- A. A. D.

STILL MORE NEW COUNTRIES

Not so many years ago, we published a brief list of all the countries that were using meters or had used them while they had separate existence; now, it would require much less space to list the countries which are not using meters.

Mr. Barfoot reports that Universal MVs are now in use in North Borneo and Zanzibar, and has shown us proofs from these machines for Angola and Mozambique and for the "United Kingdom of Libya", also a Simplex proof for Papua and New Guinea. He tells us that Simplex machines also have been ordered for Angola and Mozambique.

That for Papua & New Guinea is, we think, the most attractive of Simplex designs. With a plain rectangular border (lacking the conventional "perforations"), the value is in a circle at either side of which is a long-tailed bird of paradise perched on a branch. "POSTAGE PAID" is along the top, and "PAPUA & / NEW GUINEA" in two lines at the bottom.

The design for Libya also is attractive. Of tall upright format, this time with "perforations", it has a large crown at top with Arabesque ornaments in the corners; the name of the country is in English at the bottom: "UNITED KINGDOM / OF LIBYA" with the Arabic above it; the value has one large and three smaller figures (in mills), and unlike Egypt only the European figures are shown.

The designs for Angola and Mozambique are of circular format like that for Portugal but with the M.No. below the value; they have townmarks of the "DC-A" type smaller than the frank (which rather spoils the balance.)

Other proofs of types not so far recorded in use are Simplex for Costa Rica and Norway, and Universal MV for Ecuador, Pakistan "Service" and Sierra Leone. There are also various categories of revenue machines for Hong Kong, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago, Chile and Guatemala.

The only countries of any commercial importance which have not so far authorized meters seem to be Cyprus, Malta, Lebanon, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

AUSTRALIA.....

The new numbering system is rendered even more difficult to understand by the finding of "UF1", a Simplex machine used by an Insurance Society in Adelaide, S.A. We have not yet enough material to indicate the solution.

NEW ZEALAND.....

Simplex Dies. Mr. Barfoot has found that, as in the case of South Africa (see below), there are three varieties of these dies:

- (i) S 1, 2: no lines at sides;
- (ii) S 3-22, 33-36, 39-40: narrow lines at sides;
- (iii) S 23-32, 37-38, 41 upwards: wide spaced lines at sides.

Frank-Master. It was mentioned in the last Bulletin that impressions of this had not been seen; we now have to thank Mr. Hammond for an example. The design is (as in several other places) based on that used in Great Britain but with crown only at bottom centre and "POSTAGE" "PAID" horizontally above and below the value. The key-letters are "RN" and the No., in the copy sent, "002". A curious feature of this is that the name in the (DC) townmark, "AUCKLAND", reads upwards at the left as if the die had inadvertently been turned through 90° to the left.

SOUTH AFRICA.....

Simplex Dies. With further reference to this question, Mr. Barfoot has now been able to examine the records of Messrs. U.P.F. Ltd., and finds that the proofs show three types:

- (i) S 1: SUIDAFRIKA in one word; ends of name tablets more horizontal;
- (ii) S 2 - 460: SUID-APRIKA with very small hyphen; ends of tablets more vertical;
- (iii) S 461 upwards: SUID-APRIKA with larger hyphen; ends of tablets similar to (i).

In type (iii), S 475-505 and 526-575 have large "S." with stop; S 576-595 have large "S" without stop; S 506-525 and 616-717 have small "S" without stop. Which variety the missing Nos. are, Mr. Barfoot omitted to record.

CEYLON - UNIVERSAL M.V. Nos.97 and 98

It has sometimes been thought that the large rectangular "all-in-one" design, B-S type 4, was used on post-office machines, no doubt owing to its close resemblance to the designs used by the Parcel Post meters in Gibraltar, Singapore, Southern Rhodesia etc. The "private" usage of No.98 in this design is conclusively proved by a recent impression on a very large label (no less than 203 x 77 mm.) which has printed at one end, apparently by means of an office duplicator:-

"Name and address of Licensee

Planters' Association of Ceylon,

P.O. Box No.855,

Colombo.

Licence No.98"

All the impressions known to us also emanate from this Association.

No.97 in the same design appears to be used by Messrs. Mackinnon, Mackenzie & Co., Ceylon, Ltd. Why these, the only two machines of the type listed in the B-S Catalogue, should employ this different design is not known; but it may well have originally been intended for Post Office use.

Proofs are known of No.123 in the same type (likewise Colombo) except that the value has an initial zero instead of a star as in 97 and 98; they have date 13 X 52, but used examples have not so far been seen.

(If any member would like an example of No. 98 - not on the label mentioned, however - I shall be happy to send one on receipt of stamp for postage.

- A. A. D.)

IRELAND: PARCEL POST MACHINES.....

There were, according to the U.P.F. records, ten "Simplex" machines furnished to the Irish P.O. for parcel post, with townmarks as follows:

6 machines, with franks numbered I to VI -

SRAID AINDREIS NTHA / B. A. C.

3 machines, with franks numbered I to III -

SRAID ANNA THEAS / B. A. C.

1 machine, with frank numbered I -

SR. SAN AINDRIAS A CLIATH.

All are apparently in Dublin (Baile atha Cliath.)

GERMANY: A RARE IMPRESSION.....

A recent Bulletin of the American Metered Postage Society illustrated an impression from the trial "Bafra" meter as catalogued under B-S No.4. The Catalogue does not make it quite clear that this is in fact similar to the illustrated Type 2A except that the frank is octagonal, as in Type 3A, and has "Berlin N 39" and "Schering" (in script letters) instead of "Berlin W 66" and "Reichsfinanz- / ministerium" below. The value (M120 in the copy shown), M.No. (B1) and R.No. are all as in Type 2A, not 3A. It is stated that this copy is on a postcard bearing also a Berlin postmark dated July 23, 1923. These early trial impressions are all very rare.

TWO-COLOUR IMPRESSIONS.....

A year or so ago, a new model of the Hasler meter was introduced in Denmark which allowed the printing of the slogan (at left of the town circle) in any desired colour while the frank and townmark remained in the regulation red. A similar model has now been introduced in Sweden by the Taxopost firm, the slogan in this case being between town circle and frank; we have to thank Hr. Thorsten Ingeloff for an example.

With the slogans in green or blue, these make the "publicity" stand out more effectively and give a very attractive appearance. We wonder, however, if users ever inadvertently transpose the inks and produce impressions with red slogans and green or blue franks? This would doubtless soon happen if the idea were tried in Great Britain!

CHILE: CURRENCY DEPRECIATION.....

During the past few years, the value of the Chilean currency has declined so catastrophically that the centave in which the meter stamps were all denominated has become completely worthless. (at the time of writing, the rate of exchange was nearly 3,000 pesos to £1 or 1050 to \$1 U.S., but may well be lower before this is read.) Accordingly the frank dies have had the "Cts." replaced by "\$"; Mr. Barfoot has sent us proofs of the Universal MVs, for ordinary postage with four figures of value followed by a dot and dash (as \$3151.-) and for air mail with six figures including a fixed zero (\$011110). At the present rate of exchange; these would provide for postal rates up to the equivalent of over £3 and £300 respectively, so will allow for some further depreciation!

UNITED STATES NOTES.....

(from information supplied by W.M. Swan)

When the inland letter rate was recently raised to 4 cents, some of the older single-rate meters required a change of numerals and resetting for this value, and some of them are of much interest, particularly the old oval design with "CENTS" only at the bottom (B-S Cat. No.17, Swan 4-00); two meters, Nos.7088 and 8220, have been observed. In the small square "centre-rate" type, B-S No.77 has been found with the new 4c. on P.B. Meter 01762. The "State House Sta." at Boston, Mass., which is used by the State authorities only, has used P.B. Meter 05256 with the same rate.

Another uncatalogued value recently discovered is a 6 cents in the oval design with M.No. in an oval tablet in the centre - B-S No. 49 or Swan 5-00, used in 1952 by the Cities Service Co., New York.

CATALOGUE SUPPLEMENT

The following items are, as usual, due mostly to Mr. S.D. Barfoot. Owing to pressure on space and to avoid splitting up the Netherlands list, due next, we are this time devoting only two pages to the Supplement.

L I E C H T E N S T E I N

Type 1.

- /1/ Delete "in place of 1 value die"; this is Hasler Model F2 and is still current!
- /1a/ This is Model D106 and was used only for a short time for a dispatch of lottery tickets by a German firm.

Type 3. (1955?) Hasler F88. As Switzerland type 3 but with "LIECHTENSTEIN" in place of "HELVETIA", and cross at top centre omitted.

- A. "P F" at sides very narrow.
- /3/ VN O 0001 (Ov.) TM BIC-B (Balzers) with M.No.(2689) below date. Slogan left.
- B. "P F" at sides wide.
- /4/ VN O 001 (Ov.) (M.No.2920)

L I T H U A N I A

Type 1 - II. Universal MV. A second machine exists, at least as a proof; slogan reads "Draudimo A/B / "KOOPERACIJA" " between lines; TM KAUNAS / CENTR.

L U X E M B O U R G

Type 1. The slogan is probably from a separate machine, Model F2.

Type 2C. Date has stops after D and M.

- /8/ Also TM SC (130)
- /A8/ W O 0001 (Ov.) TM DC. (119)
- /10a/ Variety, TM SC.

LUXEMBOURG - continued.

Type 4. Francotyp C.

/A13/ - O X01 (A, CB) TM nil. (301, RR)

/B13/ W TC 001 (A, CE) TM SC. (306)

Type 5. Probably Hasler F2.

/24/ Add 0,20 RM.

Type 6A.

/A24/ - O x00i (Ov.) (108)

/26/ should read x00i (Ov.), i.e. "2 S" not "1 S"

Type 9. Postalia. Amend heading to "Upright rectangular design with Greek border. 401 up".

TM DC-A, Ar MF in D.M.Yr.

1952. Type 10. Universal MV. Design as type 8 of Belgium with "LUXEMBOURG" at top (produced in Brussels from a Belgian die.) TM DC with RM Mf.

/40/ N O x00i (Ov.) (No. U 501, used by the European Authority for Coal and Steel.)

M O N A C O (A)

Type 1. Havas Tiranty.

/1/ Add 90c., 1 F.

Type 2. Havas Grandjean.

/3/ The 6F., 9F. and 10 F. are not known.

Type 3. Havas Francotype.

/7/ Also C.0872.

/8/ Also found without slogan or wavy lines above TM.

/A8/ W O x001 F (C.4320)

Type 4. Havas K.

/A10/ x0.01 with "POSTES" curved.

In XI 49 the French machine, Design A, CW 048 was used by Radio Monte Carlo with date only (no town) during repairs to C.0872.

(For /11/, see Catalogue Addenda, p.119.)

Type 5. Havas Model MG. Rm MF in date.

/12/ x001 F

Type 6. Satas C. As type 7 of France.

/13/ W O x001F. (Rm MF in date. Slogan left.)