

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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Hon.Secretary/Treasurer: J.C. Mann, 11 Althorp Road, London, S.W. 17.
Editor of Bulletin: A.A. Dewey, M.A., B.Sc.(Econ.),
46 Chester Drive, North Harrow, Harrow, Middlesex.

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THE NEW BULLETIN

As stated in the last issue, all those members who had expressed their views on the proposed change in format of the Bulletin were against any change. Mr. D.R. Burchell, in agreeing with this view, adds that he "cannot see what is to be gained" by a change.

Unfortunately it has not been possible hitherto to explain fully what led to our suggestion, but as the Hon. Secretary's Report for last year now shows, it is very largely (though not entirely) a question of cost; the retirement from business of the original proprietors of the firm who had so well produced the Bulletins for a number of years also was a factor. With the continued employment of professional duplicating firms, the costs of production seemed likely to continue increasing, and the Committee took the view that few members would be really willing to pay higher subscriptions merely in order to maintain the old format; in fact, any increase might well defeat its purpose by reducing membership.

The small format had in any case been adopted at the start, ten years ago, for a reason which is no longer applicable (it was then practically the size of the then currently-used Harris Catalogue), and members' objections appeared to be rather to a change than to a larger format in itself. But after all, ten years' run without any change in style seems quite enough for a journal of this kind !

The arrangement now come to with the British Postmark Society (to which a substantial proportion of our members also belong) for the use, when required, of their newly-acquired duplicator at a nominal charge, using stencils typed direct by the Editor (simply in place of the fair copy which had to be sent to the former firm) or with the help of other London members, does not, of course, by itself compel a change in format. But to type the divided stencils necessary for the smaller pages would almost certainly be beyond the capabilities of the Editor and his non-professional helpers, and attempts to do so would be unlikely to give good results. Larger pages save both time and trouble in production.

The new arrangements should however prove advantageous in several ways besides the saving of expense: the reduction of cost will permit Bulletins with more reading matter, more attractively set out and less cramped; there will be less delay between completion of the copy and its issue to members; and eventually it may be possible to include diagrams and sketches.

12)

It is hoped that when members get used to the change, they will not regret it. For the convenience of those who bind their copies, it is intended to reprint the Jan. 1960 issue, the first of Volume VI, in the new size, and this will be sent to all members as soon as possible.

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1959.

Members will find enclosed with this Bulletin the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the past year. I feel that it calls for no comment from me - the figures for the previous year are there for comparison, and the position of the Group as regards finance remains much the same. Membership too remains steady; again we have lost as many members as we have gained.

It will be seen, however, that by far the largest amount of expenditure is for producing the Bulletins, and it is this that has made it necessary to change the format after all. By doing this, it will be possible for us to make our own stencils and by sharing the duplicator belonging to the British Postmark Society greatly to reduce our costs; in fact, we will be able to have bigger Bulletins (bigger, that is, in content) at less cost than before. We realize that this change, arrived at after much discussion, will not meet with the approval of all, but we also feel that members will be better served in the new size.

Town List. No figure has been shown in the Accounts for the cost of this, which up to now has been borne by Mr. Jennings himself. We feel that any eventual loss should be the responsibility of the Group, so that during the coming year, we shall take over the unsold copies, paying Mr. Jennings the difference between cost and receipts, any future sales then going to the general funds. You are reminded that copies are still available at 4/-d. each.

New member: M/Sgt. William K. Thomas, 11th Air Division (Def.),
A.P.O. 731, Box 82A, Seattle, Wash., U.S.A.

Changes of Address:

D.R. Burchell, Esq. Portobello is now Edinburgh 15 instead of Midlothian.
G.M. Stelfox, Esq. Add Postal District No. - Belfast 6.
M.M. Michel, now 12 Parc Athene, Nice, Alpes Maritimes, France.

MEETING

The next meeting has been arranged for Saturday 9th April at 6.30 p.m., at the "Crown & Sugarloaf", London E.C.4, as before.

THE NEXT BULLETIN

This will be dated May 1960. Material should reach the Hon. Editor not later than 23rd April. We hope for more reports of "Highest Nos.", and also a good response to the request on page 15.

Members who are able to submit their articles or paragraphs in type-script are asked to assist the Editor if possible by typing them at the rate of 75 characters to the line, corresponding to the actual Bulletin.

INDEX TO THE BULLETIN

Detailed indexes to each volume of the Bulletin have been maintained (for his own convenience) by the Editor, but in the past, when enquiries have been made, the demand for copies of these has been too small to meet the cost of having them duplicated and supplied to individual members. However, the change of format together with the completion of the first five volumes (ten years) seems a good opportunity to produce a consolidated index to these issues. This is now being undertaken, but owing to the considerable amount of work involved and shortage of spare time, it cannot be ready for some months. In the meantime, will those members who would like a copy (at a nominal charge) please let the Hon. Sec. know.

THE PROPOSED G.B. CATALOGUE.

This was further discussed at the members' meeting on 13th Feb., and its main lines decided upon. As suggested previously, it will be arranged according to makes of machine, and not purely chronologically as were the Harris and the Barfoot & Simon catalogues, but as it is to be on the loose-leaf system, users will be at liberty to rearrange the pages in whatever order they prefer. Different members have undertaken to draft the sections for the different makes, but it will entail a great deal of work, and speedy completion is not to be expected.

DESIGNATIONS OF G.B. DESIGNS.

The latest design is coming to be known as the "Emblems" design, which is both brief and descriptive; when necessary, it can be abbreviated as "Emb." Its predecessors were known as the "Royal Cypher" or "Crown & Cypher" design (the latter, following Mr. D.R. Burchell, can be abbreviated "C & C"), or, where it is -as indeed it usually is - necessary to indicate the particular cypher, as the "GvR" etc. design.

The first design used in this country is, as Mr. J.A. Wilson has remarked, tending to be described as "Design A", its formal listing in the Barfoot & Simon catalogue, though this is not at all descriptive nor particularly convenient. Previously, it was usually designated the "Square" design, though this is accurate only in respect of one (scarce) form of it. Mr. Wilson puts forward the suggestion that it might well be termed the "Squared Circle" design; this is of course the accepted term for an old type of handstamped postmark, which it somewhat resembles in outline, but the double usage of the term should not cause any confusion. Has any other member a better alternative to suggest?

G.B. NOTES.

EARLY N.Z. TYPES. Arising out of the notes in the last two Bulletins on some early "Specimens" of the Universal N.Z. types, Mr. R.T. Needels (Akron, U.S.A.) tells us of a couple of items he possesses similar to /11/ in the Barfoot & Simon Catalogue (which is listed as having the slogan "Stop stamping, TRY FRANKING") but having a slogan like the Specimen referred to in the November 1959 Bulletin, namely, "Don't use stamps, GET A FRANKER". They are ½d. and 1d. values on separate envelopes, each M. No. 1 with townmark of SC in wavy lines,

WESTINGHOUSE PARCEL POST. Examples of the labels from these machines (B & S Cat.Nos. P.2 and P.3), the one used at Cambridge in 1947-8 and the other at Birmingham in 1949, appear to be extremely rare, in fact the Catalogue states that only one example of the latter was known. Though they were presumably multi-value machines, the only values recorded in the Catalogue for the Cambridge machine are 0/9 and 0/10. Mr.G.R. Pearson has however recently found examples with values of 1/3 and 1/4.

EARLY PARCEL POST LABELS. With the intention of establishing the relative scarcity of examples from the first T.I.M. machines (used at Cambridge and Romford in 1947-48) and the Westinghouse machines (as referred to above), all members possessing any of them are invited to submit full details to the Editor as follows: Make (i.e.T.I.M. or Westinghouse), town, date and value. Information (even without details) of any examples known to be in the collections of non-members also will be helpful. Names of owners will not be published without their expressed consent.

Care should be taken not to confuse the later T.I.M. with the early experimental ones, for which alone information is requested at this time. In the early type, the panel at left is worded only "PARCEL POST" and "POSTAGE PAID" appears below the date; whereas in the later type, the panel at left is worded "PARCEL POST / PAID" and there is only a bar below the date. The latter type was of course used at many other offices.

POSTAL MARKINGS RELATING TO METERED MAIL. Mention has been made previously in the Bulletin of handstamped markings applied by the P.O. calling attention to the inadmissibility of incomplete or indistinct meter impressions, though these markings seem to be employed but rarely in relation to the number of occasions which call for them.

A new variety of marking relating to meters has just been shown us by Mr. G.R. Pearson. Handstamped on the back of a meter-franked envelope sent from Croydon to London, and presumably applied at the former place, this reads:

IRREGULARLY INCLUDED BY POSTER
IN A BUNDLE OF LATE POSTED
METER-FRANKED PRINTED PAPERS.

enclosed within a long narrow rectangular frame. It is apparently intended to account for the delay in delivery of the letter; the date shown on the meter was 12 II 60 and a Croydon handstamp on the back is dated 2-AM 13 FE 60 (a Saturday - the letter being delivered on Monday the 14th February.

JOINT SORTING OFFICES. With reference to the last paragraph of Mr. Jennings's article in the last Bulletin, several members have written to report the appearance of the double name ILFORD & BARKING, ESSEX on both A 635, and AA 261. This will presumably be standard practice in the future.

It seems rather doubtful whether the name SENNEN & LAND'S END which we mentioned in a footnote as occurring on a machine postmark can properly be regarded as an instance of a "joint sorting office"; Land's End is not a town, and its inclusion in the postmark is probably solely for touristic reasons.

GREAT BRITAIN

PARCEL POST METERS

by J.A. Wilson.

I have recently found two articles dealing with Parcel Post meters. In comparing the information contained in these articles with that previously in my possession I find several new points of interest and also some discrepancies. Since both of the articles appear in "The Post Office Electrical Engineers Journal" and are written by Post Office personnel, I think they can be relied upon.

For reference, I have used the following system:

- "POEEJ 1" refers to "A Parcel Label Machine" by M.H. Jones, D.F.H., A.M.I.E.E. in "The P.O.E.E. Journal" for January 1950, Vol.50, Pt.4.
 "POEEJ 2" refers to "Parcel-Label Printing and Issuing Machines" by H.E. Witton and R.H. Gibbon in "The P.O.E.E. Journal" for October 1958 Vol.52, Pt. 3.
 "SC,1" refers to "Parcel Post Meters of G.B." by John C. Mann, in "Stamp Collecting" for 26 September 1958, and "SC,2" to "Additional Notes" to the preceding in "S.C." for 13 March 1959.
 "B & S" refers to "The Meter Postage Stamp Catalogue" by S.D. Barfoot and Werner Simon (1953).

Both POEEJ,1 and 2 start by listing the main advantages which can be gained by the use of these machines, including the saving of time in finding and extracting the appropriate stamp or stamps from a portfolio, the elimination of the cancelling operation, the provision of a legible postmark, and the simplification of accounting. One other feature which was made use of during the trial of the T.I.M. machine at Romford is that the machine could be used by a one-armed counter clerk.

POEEJ,1 deals briefly with the trial of the T.I.M. machine (B & S Type PP.1.) and gives full details of the production models (B & S Type PP.3) which were put into service as a result. No reference is made to the concurrent trials of the Westinghouse machine (B & S Type PP.2). Some extracts from POEEJ,1 are given below.

"Trials with Experimental Prototypes.

Two experimental machines, which were modified by "T.I.M." (Ticket-Issue Machines) Ltd., Cirencester, from their standard bus ticket machine to make them suitable for Post Office purposes, were installed for trial at Cambridge and Romford in 1947. The duration of this initial trial was about nine months, during which the machines issued 30,500 and 24,600 labels respectively. During this period no faults occurred and the machines received no maintenance. As a result of this successful preliminary trial, it was decided to proceed with a large-scale trial with 100 machines, which will incorporate the mechanical improvements standardized by the makers in their latest bus ticket machines, as well as a number of modifications which the trials of the two experimental prototypes had shown to be necessary for Post Office purposes.

"The Production Model.(To be known as Parcel Label Machine No.1)

The machine is designed to print labels of 12 different denominations, the range of values on the 100 new machines being 9d to 1s.9d in steps of 1d., omitting 10d., but the design of the machine permits the choice of any 12 values within the range 1d to 11s.11d, with the proviso that the lowest value must be less than 1s.

"Operation of the Machine.

During the printing of the label the totals on the numerical counters are advanced by one unit and the totals on the pence and shilling counters are increased by the appropriate amounts. In this connection it should be pointed out that there is no carry-over from the pence counter to the shilling counter, both shillings and pence being recorded on separate four-figure cyclometer type counters.

"The Value Selection and Printing Mechanism.

The steel die has etched on its surface the design of the label, with the exception of the value and date.

The value figures are engraved on the 12 facets of the bevelled periphery of a wheel mounted so that the appropriate facet registers with a rectangular aperture in the printing die.

"Inking Arrangements.

During the first part of each revolution of the printing drum the die makes contact with a spring-loaded felt roller impregnated with ink and thus picks up sufficient ink to print one label."

Comments on the above by J.A.W.

1. B & S gives the period of use as 28 iv 47 to 28 ix 48. SC,1 gives 28 iv 47 to 29 ix 48. SC,2 gives withdrawal date of 24 ix 48 for the Romford machine.
2. B & S lists the machines as fixed-value types, but from the description it can be seen that B & S Type PP.3 is a limited-value type of machine and it would be surprising if the prototype, B & S Type PP.1, was different, though this is possible.
3. B & S and SC,1 give Type PP.1 as a 12-value machine and Type PP.3 as a 14-value machine. The above definitely states that both were 12-valued. POEEJ,2 confirms that Type PP.3 had 12 values only.
4. In M.S.B. No.41 the Editor questioned the correctness of the figure of 100 production machines supplied. This figure is confirmed above and also in POEEJ,2. (Editor's note: Our query, though badly worded, was intended to relate to the number of machines actually issued rather than to the number supplied to the G.P.O.)
5. A facsimile of a label is illustrated in POEEJ,1. This is inscribed HANGING DITCH / --B.O.-- / MANCHESTER 4. This office is not listed in SC,1 or SC,2, nor has it been recorded in the M.S.B. While the illustration is not absolute proof that the machine was issued, it is very likely that it was.
6. While the above article does not give any dates for the introduction of the production model, B & S gives 1948 and SC,1 and POEEJ,2 both give 1950.

Extracts from POEEJ,2 will be given in the next instalment./

POLISH METER-STAMP CATALOGUE

Following on the specialized single-country catalogues we have reviewed for the United States, France and Germany, we are now pleased to receive one for Poland. This is entitled "Polskie Frankatury Mechaniczne / The Meter Postage Stamps of Poland", compiled by Tadeusz Hampel and published in Warsaw. It is a neatly-printed (photo-litho from typescript) book of 97 pages 5¼ x 8 in., with a large number of illustrations and diagrams. The first 69 pages are in Polish, followed by an abridged version in English by Mr. J.C. Crimlisk, in which most of the illustrations are repeated to make it easy to follow. (We regret being unable to read what has been left out of the English).

Naturally it goes into much fuller detail than the articles by the same author which we published in our Bulletins of Sept. & Nov. 1958, and it contains some items omitted from our recent Catalogue Supplements for the country. It is not priced, but the Licence Nos. of the machines showing each variety are given; many must be of very great rarity.

Copies of the Catalogue are obtainable in Great Britain from Mr. John C. Crimlisk, 9 Victoria Avenue, Fily, Yorkshire, price 10/= post free.

CATALOGUE SUPPLEMENT

The following lists are due to the joint work of Messrs.S.D.Barfoot and Werner Simon, and we regret that we omitted to thank Mr.Simon for his work on the lists of Poland and other countries.

R O U M A N I A

A) KINGDOM

Type 5. Francotyp C.

/A17/ W O 2001 (A,7) TM DC as in Type 3.

Type 7. Francotyp C

/21/ Also L.No. 162 (P.O. machine)

B) REPUBLIC

N.B. Currency Reform, 15 VIII 47: 1,000 old lei = 1 new leu. (Probably /22/ and /23/ show the new currency).

Type 10. Francotyp C.

/A26/ W 4S-TC #01,00 TM DC. (L.No.162)
(Also found with initial star absent, probably defective machine).

Type A10. Francotyp C. As Type 10 but POSTA LEI at bottom. TM DC.

/B26/ W 4S-TC #00.10 (CB) (L.No.150)

/C26/ W 4S-TC #0.10 (CB) (L.No.200)

/D26/ W 4S-TC 00.10 (CE) (L.No.127)

Type 11. Francotyp C.

/A29/ W 4S-TC #0.10 (CB) 34x28mm. (L.No.157)

/B29/ W 4S-TC z0.01 (Ov.) TM DC (L.No.307)

/C29/ W 4S-TC z0.01 (Ov.) TM similar to BIC-C

but with bars broken above and below date. Stops in date. No. L.No.

ROUMANIA (Continued)

(19)

N.B. Further currency reform, 28 I 52: (? 20 old lei = 1 new lei)

Type 12. Francotyp C.

/A11/ W 4S-TC x01 (A) 0 (Ov.) (L.No.88)

/32b) Var., blue-black impression (L.No.164)

/33/ Also L.No. 163.

/34/ W 4S-TC x0.01 (A,CB). TM DC.

a. Var., TM as /32a/

/35/ W 0 00.01 (A,CE) "POSTA LEI" small, spaced. (L.Nos. 78, 114.)

1957. Type 13. As Type 11 but without "PTT" in top corners. Bottom inscriptions more widely spaced.

/36/ W 4S-TC z0.01 (Ov.) (L.No.at left and right between TM circles. TM DC, Ar.M.F. (L.No. 302)

a. Var., TM, consisting of date only; no slogan

/37/ W 0 z0.01 (Ov.) (L.No. 302) (1957)

/38/ W 4S-TC 00.01 (CB.) TM DC, M. in letters.

(Note: Although the spelling of the country's name on the adhesive stamps was changed to "R.P. ROMINA" in 1954, no meter stamps have yet been reported with the new spelling.)

R U S S I A

(This will be dealt with under the title "U.S.S.R.")

S A A R

Essays exist of Hasler as Type 3: N 0 000^F and N 0 0000^F (F. of V. small, oval.)

Type 3-II. Francotyp AN and C.

/14a/ With "F" missing after F. of V. (Used by Saarlandische Kreditbank, 1956.)

/A14/ Whole frank missing, only F. of V. (Same user, 1957)

/18/ to /30/ Correct TM "BIC-A" to "DC-A".

/25/ Also TM SC^F

/A26/ W 0 x001^F (A,7) DC-A

/A27/ W 0 001^F (Ov.) SC, DC-A

/B27/ W 0 001^F (Ov.) DC-A, stops in date.

/30a/ Var., TM inverted though date normal. (Wiebelskirchen).

Type 3-III. Francotyp AN. As type 3 with "F" before F. of V., between inner and outer frame.

/A36/ Med 0 z001 (G) SC (Neunkirchen; Neunkircher Eisenwerke).

20)

SAAR (Continued)

Type 3-IV. Francotyp C. As type 3 but with small posthorns in place of lines at either side of "POST". Large "F" before F. of V., inside inner frame.

/B30/ W TC FOOL (G) DC-A (Feb.-May 1950)

1957. Type 7. Design as Germany Type 33 (upright rectangle with posthorn at bottom) but inscribed "DEUTSCHE / BUNDESPOST / SAARLAND" at top.

A. Francotyp AN.

/35/ Med O zOOLF (G) SC.

B. Francotyp B.

/36/ W O OOLF (A) SC.

C. Francotyp C.

/37/ W TC OOLF (CB) SC, DC-A.

/38/ W O OOLF (CB) SC, DC-A.

/39/ W TC OOLF (CE) SC, DC-A.

/40/ W O OOLF (CE) DC-A.

/41/ W TC OOLF (G) DC-A.

/42/ W O OOLF (G) SC, DC-A.

/43/ W O OOLF (Ov.) DC-A.

/44/ W O *OOLF (CB) DC-A.

/45/ W O *OOLF (A,7) DC-A.

D. Francotyp Cc.

/46/ W TL OOLF (G) DC-A.

/47/ W O OOLF (G) DC-A.

/48/ W O OOLF (Ov.) DC-A.

/49/ W O zOOLF (Ov.) DC-A.

1957. Type 8. Satas. Frank as Type 7, TM as in Type 5.

/50/ - *OOLF (Ov.)

1958. Type 9. Satas. As type 8 but with "SAAR" instead of "SAARLAND". (One machine only, which originally had "SAARLAND".)

/51/ - *OOLF (Ov.)

1958. Type 10. Hasler F99. Design as Type 7.

TM DC, Ar M.F., stops after D.&M. Slogan left.

/52/ N O OOLF (small ov.)

/53/ N O OOOLF (small ov.)

1959(?). Type 11. Postalia. Design as Type 7.

/54/ W O OOL (small ov.) TM DC-A (?)

a. Var., with stops in date.

P.O. MACHINES FOR PARCEL POST.

(Held over to next Supplement)

Note. The Saarland was incorporated in the German Federal Republic and adopted German currency on 6th July 1959. German designs are now in use.

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