

HON. SECRETARY and
TREASURER :

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SECRETARY'S NOTES
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Membership. We are able to welcome three members to the Group with this issue, they are :

- (241) Mr T. James. 58 The Green, Morden, Surrey, SM4 4HL
(242) Col. Ralph H. Pryor. 3006 Harrison Avenue, El Paso, Texas,
79930, U.S.A.
(243) Mr Hal Hoyte. 64 Strafford Road, Barnet, Herts, EN5 4LR
(whose interests are Zambia, Rhodesia, Malawi, Zaire, Angola.)

and, strangely, no changes of address.

Annual Statement of Accounts. The usual statement of accounts will be found on a separate sheet at the end of this issue.

Wants and Offers. We usually call this Members wants & offers but this time have not had any requests. We do have two though from non-members who seek our help.

Does anyone know of a slogan "1970 Lenin Centenary Year" used in London N.6. and London W.8. on meters. If so, please write to Mr M. B. Evans of "Willowdene", Bratton Clovelly, Okehampton, Devon EX20 4LB, who is seeking details.

Mr R. H. Sanders, "Rickaby", Kilmeston, Alresford, Hampshire, is seeking Great Britain Edward 8th material (our numbers 31 to 37)

If you can help in either request please write direct.

The Bulletin. One of the pleasures that comes from acting as Hon. Secretary to the Group is that occasionally one is able to meet members, both those from in and those from outside London and overseas. Sr Ernst Muhr from Brazil was in London recently on a short visit and we were able to spend a brief time with him when he gave us an article that begins in this issue.

This is the type of article that we want, all too often countries are mentioned in "note" form and unless we publish a booklet or something then they remain in this "note" form. It is obviously the result of many months work and we hope it will prove of interest.

G. B. NOTES (See also on page 21)

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Friden. Mr P. D. Wood tells us that G.0239 also exists in both versions. What are the lowest numbers we can report in each type, so far we have 170 for the large and 175 for the smaller design.

Roneo-Neopost Model 205. Mr P. D. Woods shows us several more examples with number with P prefix and notes P 34, P 66 and P 81. They seem to be a regular series replacing the JA-JZ series and presumably will continue with PA etc afterwards. They should not be confused with the Pitney Bowes Model CV which used the same prefix letter in the £sd version.

Pitney Bowes Series 5000. Arabic month figures in the date have been recorded in the £sd version but now we have one from Mr Bogue on the £p version, from PBT 441 A, used at Chichester, Sussex, and one from PBT 527 W used at Dorking, Surrey, shown us by George Pearson.

Roneo-Neopost Model 105-2 Mr P. D. Wood shows us an impression from W 142 A used from Maidstone, Kent, dated 27 VII 73 and an earlier impression from the same machine dated -6 VII 73 but in this case the number is quite clearly shown as WA-142, this must have been a very short-lived error.

Curiosities. Mr R. P. Doig shows us an impression from Pitney Bowes Series 5000 number PBT 354T. This has a townmark reading CARR BRIDGE / INVERNESS-SHIRE instead of the correct INVERNESS-SHIRE. He remarks that the error is more often seen on GPO postmarks than on meter townmarks !!

Another one from Scotland is an impression from Mr Bogue of PBS 038T with the townmark showing Ardrosson Ayrshire. The address in the slogan shows the correct Ardrossan.

Fiscals. Mr W. H. Bogue shows us a Roneo-Neopost Model 305 used for the Registration Fee at the Companies Registration Office. This shows a value of £01.00 and has a square die with an inner square round the value. The "townmark" is double-circle with the name of the office.

This reminds us too of what may be an LV machine used to indicate the payment of Television Licence fees with values that we have seen of £7 and £12, other values may exist.

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS.

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We must thank, as usual, our faithful band of reporters, without whom we would not be able to compile these notes. Keep the reports coming in.

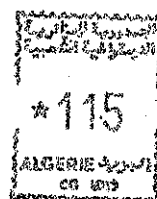
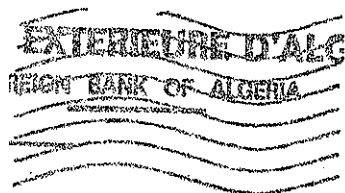
ABU DHABI. Roneo-Neopost Model 205 number N 11 used on 1 III 73. Townmark has the name of the country at the bottom. Figures of value as 001 (MdeW)

BELGIUM. Frama A 189 has figures of value 00.01 and Belgique/Belgie but unlike A 344 which we showed in MSB 101 this has the number below the frame.

Notes and News from Overseas (Contd.)

ALGERIA. The first machine we illustrated with a Republican design was CG 3182 with Roman month figures in the date. Another similar machine, CG 21372, has Arabic month figures on 26.10.73 (MdeW)

Havas with Arabic inscription at the top now in two lines and also Arabic following ALGERIE at the bottom. Value as *001 Another similar one, CG 1158, has the figures of value as *01



15.10.73 ALGER R.P. 3182 001.01



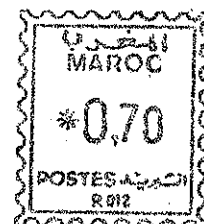
AUSTRIA. Pitney Bowes Model 6300 from Mr W. H. Bogue.

CEYLON. Changed its name to SRI LANKA some time ago but the first cover we have seen from there for some time was shown to us by Mr J. Fowler and is from an old Universal MV number 223 and still in our Type 9.3 dated 23 XI 73

CHILE. The Hasler exists in two forms. H 2, which we have illustrated, has the townmark level with the frank but H 14 has the townmark lowered to make room for a 5-figure registration number. (W. H. Bogue.)

CONGO. Satas SR 7001 with 'REP.POP' at the top. (MdeW)

ef-congo

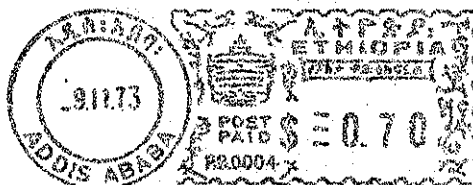


MOROCCO. Hasler, with R prefix. (MdeW)

Notes and News from Overseas (Contd.)

EGYPT. This country now has another new name, Arab Republic of Egypt, and new initials, A.R.E., are shown on a Universal MV in the smaller design by Mr Lapham, used from Cairo on 14 III 73

Protect your Eyes
with Optrex
Eye Lotion



ETHIOPIA. Pitney Bowes Series 5000. (MdeW and J. Fowler.)

FINLAND. The Francotyp in the design with 3 posthorns at the top exists either as a wide setting between the townmark and the frank, as 1520 shown as long ago as MSB 62 or narrow setting, as on 1576, shown us by Mr Fowler.

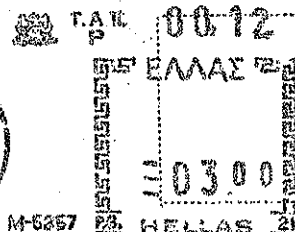
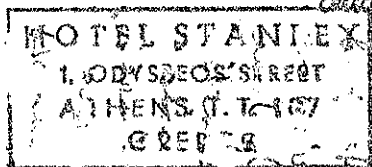
GABON. H 7628 is inscribed Republique / Gabonnaise instead of Gabonaise (MdeW)

GREECE. Satas with the crown removed and replaced by a Republican symbol, ? an eagle.

003638



04375



This Pitney Bowes Series 5000 (GB) from George Pearson has several unusual features. Firstly an additional line at the top for a tax of some kind which also has a separate (and different) date, a registration number, not common on these machines and not only a number in the frank die but also another different one between the townmark and the frank. There is no sign of either a Crown or a Republican emblem in the frank but there is a small device included in the tax line.

Notes and News from Overseas (Contd - Greece)

Hasler, similar to B/S Type 1 but with HELLAS at the bottom also with crown removed leaving a blank space. Figures of value as ***00.oi (MdeW)
Automax PB 37 with crown removed and blank space and Francotyp F 1090 with the crown very roughly removed. (J. Fowler).

HONG KONG. A variety in the numbering of the Roneo-Neopost Model 205 machine is N 002 (i.e. with two zeros) used at Kowloon on -8 3 72 (ESL)

INDIA. An additional value for the Neopost, our Type 10.1, is the 0.60 used on G-131 (ESL)

ITALY. In Bulletin 103 we showed an unidentified machine used for Registered Post. Mr Lapham shows us a similar machine, this time numbered 313 and with a small square below the townmark instead of a triangle.

MALAYSIA. Another machine with the new currency notation is the Automax showing "Sen". U 429 shown us by Mr J. Fowler.

MALAGASY REPUBLIC. Satas SR 6200 also has an "unframed" townmark similar to the one we showed in MSB 105 (MdeW)

NETHERLANDS. Francotyp FR 17424 has the usual lozenge but oval figures, so it looks as if they are abandoning the unique and rather attractive angular figures used now for over 45 years. (ESL)

ARUBA CARIBBEAN HOTEL-CASINO
NETHERLANDS WEST INDIES



NETHERLANDS ANTILLES. Very attractive design for the Postalia. (ESL)

NEW ZEALAND. Additional values for the "Y" machines are the 3, 15 and 18, shown us by Mr Lapham, and the 23 from Mr Bogue.

Mr J. Fowler shows us a Francotyp X 505 used from Wellington on 08.10.73 with the value shown as 0.23- (i.e. with an "-" replacing the $\frac{1}{2}$)

NIGERIA. Two new machines, both in decimal form and in the usual style of design with palm trees each side are the Roneo-Neopost Model 505, figures of value 001, number RV 002, used on 20 12 73 and the Pitney Bowes Model 6300 with figures of value as w001 number PBN 065. Both are from Lagos.

(we will continue from "N" in the next Bulletin).

(Editors Note). In the article that follows Sr Muhr uses two abbreviations that may not be so apparent to our newer members, L. No for Licence number and R. Die for replacement dies. Figures of value are shown as 999.99 in some cases, meaning the highest value possible with the digits lowered to indicate those in a smaller type. In the more usual form, as =00i.00 the zeros to the right of the last figure indicate fixed zeros.

AUTOMAX IN BRAZIL
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(by Ernst Muhr, Sao Paulo.)

The Pitney Bowes Automax postage meters, or the series 800 Franking Machines, as they are known in Brazil, are, from a technical point of view, no more than a link between the Universal Multi-Value meters and the Pitney Series 5000. In practice, however, they are the most numerous group of meters in Brazil and even now a majority of all metered mail is franked by means of the Automax.

As far as it has been possible to ascertain, the Automax was never officially presented to the Department of Posts and Telegraphs (DCT) as a new meter; rather, the first meters were imported and licenced in series with the U.S.-made Pitney Model R or 4250 meters. Only around 1963, when the author had occasion to contribute to the new meter regulations, was the numbering corrected and further U.S. meters, though not more than 60 or 70 in number, were licenced in the 50000 series.

The oldest known franking is dated 23 I 61 and most of the early meters were licenced during that year. It seems possible that P.O. meters (and the first two of the series were P.O. machines) started franking before they were officially licenced, and that would explain why those licences are dated 1961. Numbers go from 5524 to 6896 (which would give a total of 1373 L. Nos.), but the following do not belong to the series

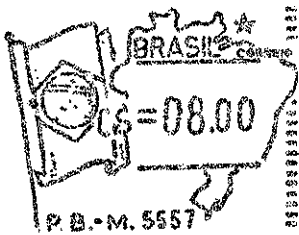
12	5584-5595	mod. 4250
4	5600-5603	do.
1	5606	do.
13	5723-5735	do.
3	5932-5934	do.
1	6835	lost in accident before use
1	6872	not shown in books
1	6892	do.

which gives a total of 36, resulting in a nett 1337 meters. It should be noted that the manufacturing number for 6872 is in sequence with the adjacent L. Nos. This is not the case with 6892; the adjoining L. Nos. belong to different lots. In addition, L. Nos. were issued from 17001 to 17033, possibly for revenue meters changed to postage meters. One of those, 17004, was never used, as is the case with 17026 to 17032. The nett adds us to another 25 meters, bringing the total to 1362, which, as mentioned before, is by far the largest group of one make and model in Brazil.

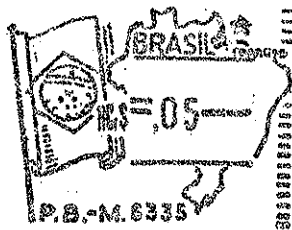
Automax in Brazil (Contd.)

As is well known, the Brazilian currency underwent an upheaval during the early years of the last decade, with the result that meters had successively to be adapted to higher and higher postage rates, until the old cruzeiro was replaced by a new one, worth a thousand of the former, when the meters again had to be adapted to new low nominal rates. Some of the meters apparently were never used with the original number of figures of value and it is rather difficult to establish which is the original. Even an examination of P.O. records, which have been open to the writer, does not allow a precise conclusion about the matter.

For the same reason, a great many franks, with the currency symbol Cr in its original form (1), had it replaced by the new symbol NCr (2) and



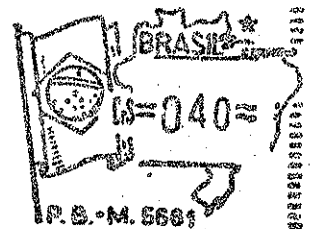
(1)



(2)



(3)



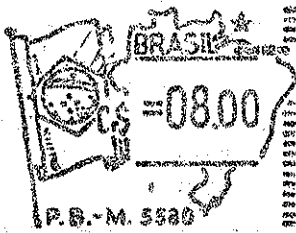
in turn the N removed, to give the original form (3), though of a different size; and finally more recent meters were again supplied with franks having the symbol in its original form.

Leaving aside the meters as supplied by Pitney Bowes Ltd., it will be very difficult to find similar prints from any two different meters with replacement dies, which might be classified under one single heading, especially as townmarks - which will be the subject of a later study - come in many different forms. The object of the present study is the identification of the different types of figures of value and dies.

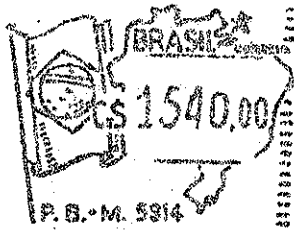
There are two basic types of figures of value. Meters No. 5524 to 5573? (a question mark after a L.No. means that the borderline between types is not clear, there being meters missing from the author's collection) have "cruzeiro" figures 4.5 mm high and "centavo" figures 4 mm high (1). From 5574?, the heights are 5 mm and 4.5 mm respectively and the lines in the figures are somewhat thicker (4). However, there are some meters in the 5600s, which have the smaller (Type 1) figures; and of course there are R. Dies in the earlier meters with the larger (Type 2) figures.

In addition, it should be noted that fixed zeros may be smaller than, or different-shaped from, standard "centavo" figures (5). On the other hand, on being changed from old to new cruzeiros, and therefore having their capacity reduced from 5-bank to 4-bank or even 3-bank, many meters received new F. of V. wheels, not of standard P.B. make, with different shapes and sizes (6). Such figures generally are regional and it is possible that some future attempt may result in a classification.

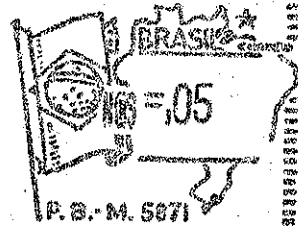
Automax in Brazil (Contd.)



(4)



(5)

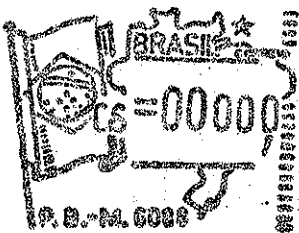


(6)

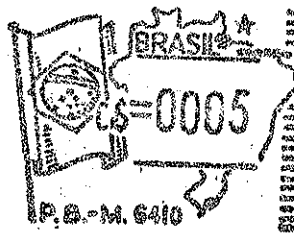
A tentative identification of original figures of value would appear as follows :

Type 1	=00.oi	999,99	5524-5573?	(1)
Type 2a	=00.oi	999,99	5574-5958; 6125-6166; except 2b	(4)
Type 2b	=00i.oo	999,00	5837-5846	(5)
Type 2c	=00oio	99,00,00	6028-6099	(7)
Type 2d	=0001	9999,00	6234-6423	(8)
Type 2e	=0,oi	99,99	6424-6896	(9)

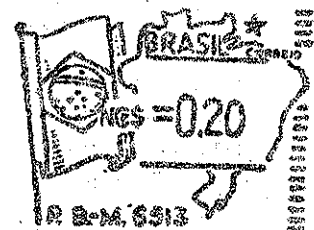
the column with the 9s indicating the maximum amount that can be franked with each type. (However, Type 2d was for some time interpreted as meaning 999,99).



(7)

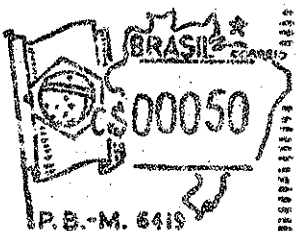


(8)



(9)

There are some isolated cases in which the initial double dash is replaced by a zero (10), but they are probably a result of the substitution of one of the internal wheels. (It should be noted that the existence of a dash, lozenge, or even of no sign at all, in the place of the highest figure of value, as opposed to the use of a zero, seems possible only when the highest value printed does not exceed 99, 999, etc.) Another explanation might be the fact that the meter was originally for fiscal use; but as such meters are in series with the regular postage meters, this does not sound plausible.

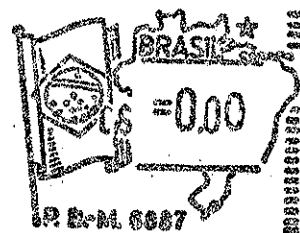
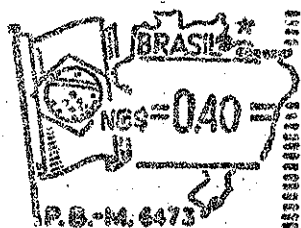


(10)

(18)

Automax in Brazil (Contd.)

There are two basic dies for the frank, distinguished by the dash that follows the stop after the B. of P.B. In the first die, the dash comes after a short space (1); in the second, the dash starts almost on top of the stop (9).



(11)

(12)

The first die can again be divided into two subtypes, one having a larger sized Cr (1), the other having a smallish NCr (11), from which of course the N has very often been removed. The second die is also divided into two subtypes, the earlier one with NCr (9) and the later one with Cr (12), similar to the first subtype of the first die. In addition, the second subtype has generally two horizontal dashes after the figures of value (11); these dashes are not part of the last figure of value wheel, but belong to the frame. The dashes are also found in the 17000 series and of course in R. Dies. It should however be noted that not all the meters in this group are of the type mentioned, some of them having the first subtype Cr symbol and others having R.-type Cr signs; still others do not have the double dash. As yet there is no explanation for these differences.

There is a third type of die 2, with the flagstaff unbroken and a larger NCr (or Cr, with N removed) under the flag (13). All others, including those of the type mentioned but not in series, must be considered R. dies.

The following table might therefore be set up :

Die 1	P.B.-	Subtype 1 - large <u>Cr</u>	5524 - 6423	(1)
		Subtype 2 - small <u>N</u> <u>Cr</u>	6424 - 6475?, generally with dash	(11)
Die 2	P.B.-	Subtype 1 - small <u>N</u> <u>Cr</u>	6478?- 6743?, 6808, except s't 3	(9)
		Subtype 2 - large <u>Cr</u>	6757?- 6896, except 6808	(12)
			17001 - 17033	
		Subtype 3 - <u>N</u> <u>Cr</u>	below 6534, 6542, 6543, 6595, 6662	(13)

There seem to be 22 different types of L. Nos., differing one from the other by the size and the shapes of the figures. It has not been possible as yet to describe each type adequately, though a few are easily distinguished by, e.g., the existence of a transverse stroke on the figure 1. It is also possible that some of the later coincide with earlier ones. They come in series as follows :

(19)

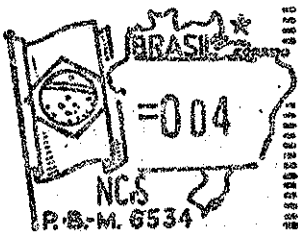
Automax in Brazil (Contd.)

1	5524 - 5573	9	6222?- 6259?	16	6609?- 6646?
2	5574 - 5622	10	6261?- 6430	17	6649?- 6458?
3	5627?- 6134?	11	6431 - 6457	18	6661?- 6708?
4	6136?- 6165	12	6458 - 6475?	19	6710?- 6749?
5	6166 - 6189?	13	6478 - 6555?	20	6757?- 6800?
6	6191?- 6198?	14	6558?- 6599?	21	6803?- 6896
7	6201?- 6209	15	6601?- 6602?	22	17007?-17016?
8	6210 - 6219?				

A few of them seem to end where there is a change in the series of M.Nos., but some of course, as Type 3, range over a whole lot of them. The most plausible explanation might be that the dies were engraved in lots, and whenever a new lot was started, the engraver used a different master die. In addition there is a certain amount of hand-engraved L.Nos. which are easily distinguished. The majority of them are of course R. Dies.

Most of the R. Dies are of course the original franks with the old Cr symbol removed and an N substituted for it. In most of the cases, the N was later removed. Again a majority of them were provided with the symbol used in subtype 2 of die 1 (or subtype 1 of die 2) and it should be noted that the symbol is by no means of uniform size, not even when it was originally supplied to the user. It might be suggested that the meters were supplied from England with a blank in place of the symbol, and that hand-engraved pieces were then inserted in this blank. This specific type of R.Die is easily recognised by the fact that its L.No. is below 6423, i.e. die 1 subtype 1. It should however be noted that lately some die 2 frames, mostly with hand-engraved L. Nos. are being used on these older meters. Again, they should be considered R. Dies.

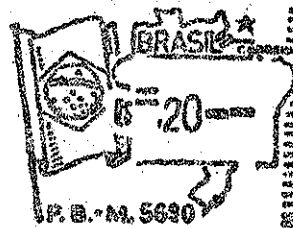
An effort has been made to classify the various types of R. Dies (but for the one already mentioned) and, as might be expected, they seem to represent local variations. Whenever a certain variety appears in more than one region, it is probable that the supply is made by one branch of the agents. Certain small repair shops, not owned by the agents (actually a subsidiary of Pitney-Bowes Inc.), are also authorised to work on meters, which again might explain some of the varieties.



(13)



(14)



(15)

(The article will be completed in our next issue)

G. B. Notes (Continued from Page 12)

"Highest Numbers". Our notes this time are mainly due to reports which we have received from Messrs P. D. Wood, W. H. Bogue, J. M. Beard, D. Fletcher, R. L. Woodward-Clarke and T. A. Stalker. Our thanks to each of them.

The latest position is now :-

<u>Hasler</u>	HGB	1153	*2012	*3042	*4010	*5030	*6014		
	HAS	*1002						*7003	*8001
<u>Francotyp</u>			*AC.A.40			<u>Friden</u>		G.0963	
<u>Pitney Bowes</u>			*PBA 556 F		PBL 585 J			*PBC 045 A	
			*PBR 029 A		PBS 413 H			*PBT 1891 F	
			PBR 241 A		PBS 434 P				
<u>Roneo-Neopost</u>			JZ 694 (i)		N 589 M (ii)			NX 597	
			P 787						
			*W 358 A		RM 379			TN 318	

As in the past, we have indicated with an asterisk those series for which we have, at the moment, no advance.

- (i) We are listing both JZ and P, which replaced it, as there is still a bit of a gap.
- (ii) Mr Bogue also notes N 803 P which would seem to indicate that the "N" and "O" suffixes have not been used.

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1973

The accounts for the Group for the last year are printed overleaf and in most aspects speak for themselves.

I am pleased to report that this year, in contrast with the one before, we have managed to achieve a surplus. This is in the main due to the "profit" on publications and it must be added that the whole of the cost of our "GB" book has been allowed for and sales in 1974 will result in a further profit.

Membership continues to stay roughly the same, each year we lose some of our older friends but at the same time find new ones to replace them, it is still a great pleasure to see how many have in fact been members for many years now and we hope that they will continue to enjoy their membership.

There is little more to add except my grateful thanks to those who have contributed notes and articles during the year and have on many occasions been patient for an answer and the special thanks that are due to George Pearson for his invaluable help in the production of the bulletin.

THE METER STAMP STUDY GROUP

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DEC 1973

(1972)

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	
(17.17)	Subscriptions for the current year. 27.71
(-.98)	Subscriptions from previous years 1.75
(5.98)	Subscriptions received in advance 4.00
	<hr/>
(24 13)	33.46
(1.50)	Donations -.25
(8.64)	Sales of publications 29.61
	<hr/>
(34.27)	63.32
(5.98)	Deduct advance subscriptions 4.00
	<hr/>
(28.29)	59.32
(12.75)	Add subscriptions received last year 5.98
	<hr/>
(41.04)	65.30
	<hr/>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
(43.02)	Production and despatch of Bulletins 46.27
(-.60)	Stationery 5.29
(4.39)	Postage - nett after stamps received 5.67
	<hr/>
(48.01)	57.23
	<hr/>
	Excess of Income over Expenditure 8.07
(6.97)	(Excess of Expenditure over Income)
<u>BALANCE IN HAND</u>	
	Balance in Hand at 1st January 1973 17.82
	Deduct advance subscriptions 5.98
	<hr/>
	11.84
	Add excess of Income 8.07
	Add subscriptions received in advance 4.00
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	Balance in Hand 31st December 1973 £23.91
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