

Patterns of the Adelaide Co operative Society – ACS

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Introduction

HAPP (2003) lists 2 patterns in the ACS Group as follows:

ACS.1 2 types with usage from 1915 – 1948, the pattern has rather thick pins in the format AC over S, AC/S.

ACS.2 1 type with no stated usage. This is a slightly larger pattern than ACS.1 and is again in the format AC/S

Notably CPA (1998) had listed only a single ACS pattern (ACS.1) with 1 type and it shared the usage of HAPP's ACS.1.

The HAPP image of ACS.1 is a little fuzzy (the CPA image is better) and because of this I have always had trouble reconciling the 2 types of ACS.1. I had thought that they may have been the result of a multi head device but unfortunately I have not been able to find any multiple strikes on joined pairs that would support this theory.

Given the indistinct image of ACS.1 and the lack of multiples to confirm the nature of the types I decided to get out all of my ACS's and do a fresh series of tracings of the patterns and see if I could establish both a better image and better chronology for both ACS.1 and ACS.2

Findings

I started by making fresh tracings of the patterns that I had and comparing the 50 odd examples of ACS's against these. I discovered that there were in fact 3 ACS patterns as follows:

ACS.early This is only found used between 1913/4 -1915. It is similar in size and scale to ACS.1 but the top 3 pins of the A are different. Late strikes of ACS.early (1915) often show sections of the inside triangle at the top of the A missing indicating that there was a problem with the device. It seems likely that the device was repaired at this point (1915) and that the repair resulted in what we know as the ACS.1 pattern. The ACS.early pattern has bold pins and note the pair of pins that make up the second top row of the A. The left hand pin is lower than the right hand pin.



Image of ACS.early
with missing pins



ACS Early

ACS.1 This pattern is the one shown in HAPP but the image in HAPP is slightly distorted. The image in CPA is excellent. Postmark evidence shows this pattern on issues used between 1915 and 1920 only. There is only a single type and I would suggest that the listing of a second type in HAPP was an attempt to define the similar ACS.early pattern. Note that the relationship between the pair of pins that make up the 2nd row of the A is reversed to what is found in ACS.early, now the left hand pin is higher than the right hand pin. Also the left hand base of the A is more splayed.



ACS.1

ACS.2 This pattern is of a slightly larger scale than ACS.early and ACS.1 but it retains the same basic format. It is found on issues from 1920 until at least 1950. I have one on a 2 1/2 red KGVI of the 1950-52 definitive series. The usage from the late 1930's show an increasing number of blind pins which indicates that the device was deteriorating.

It is listed in HAPP as rare but this is generally the rating given to new reports. Also HAPP does not advise its usage period. The late report and absence of reported usage is odd as I found that ACS.2 was actually the most common of the ACS's. It is possible that it was confused with other ACS's.



ACS.2

Conclusion

There are 3 clearly different ACS's and these cover the approximate period of reported usage in both CPA and HAPP.

If you have any difficulty in telling your ACS patterns apart or indeed have some earlier or later usage then please feel free to

share it with me. I will amend the document to reflect any new information and mention the person who has provided it.