

edited by Peter Cunningham and Nathan Fretwell, published in London by CiCe, ISBN 978-1-907675-19-5

Without explicit authorisation from CiCe (the copyright holder)

- only a single copy may be made by any individual or institution for the purposes of private study only
- multiple copies may be made only by
 - members of the CiCe Thematic Network Project or CiCe Association, or
 - a official of the European Commission
 - a member of the European parliament

If this paper is quoted or referred to it must always be acknowledged as Diamantopoulou, A. (2012) 'Community building: Local Press coverage of the incorporation of refugees from Asia Minor into the Greek State', in P. Cunningham & N. Fretwell (eds.) *Creating Communities: Local, National and Global.* London: CiCe, pp. 441 – 454.

© CiCe 2012

CiCe Institute for Policy Studies in Education London Metropolitan University 166 – 220 Holloway Road London N7 8DB UK

This paper does not necessarily represent the views of the CiCe Network.



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Acknowledgements:

This is taken from the book that is a selection of papers given at the annual CiCe Conference indicated. The CiCe Steering Group and the editor would like to thank

- All those who contributed to the Conference
- The CiCe administrative team at London Metropolitan University
- London Metropolitan University, for financial and other support for the programme, conference and publication
- The Lifelong Learning Programme and the personnel of the Education and Culture DG of the European Commission for their support and encouragement.

Community building: Local Press coverage of the incorporation of refugees from Asia Minor into the Greek State

Alexandra Diamantopoulou University of Patras (Greece)

Abstract

Community building is not something new nor is it solely future oriented; on the contrary, it can be equally examined with respect to historical events. The Asia Minor Catastrophe in 1922, which resulted in the two million refugees arriving in Greece, had a great impact on the economic, social, cultural and educational fields in Greece. The millions who arrived needed to become part of the fabric of Greek society but Greece was unprepared to receive and incorporate the refugees and inadequate measures were taken by the State. Nevertheless, the refugees from Asia Minor altered and improved the economic, social, cultural and educational characteristics of the Greek population and became an increasing component of the labour force; becoming, in fact, a community of note. Both the Catastrophe and its consequences dominated the Press of the time, with the local presses in particular dedicating many articles to the issue.

This paper studies the role of the media in community building by examining the position that local newspapers maintained towards a) the refugees as a community, and b) their incorporation into the local community. Our study seeks to look at how the local Press approached this issue and how it disseminated it to the local community. For the purposes of this study quantitative and qualitative content analysis will be used.

Keywords: community, Asia Minor Catastrophe, refugees, incorporation, alteration of the characteristics of the population, component of the labour force

Introduction

The Asia Minor Catastrophe in 1922 had a great impact on Greece. More than two million refugees were installed in Greece and about half of them found refuge in the county of Achaias. Measures had to be taken for their incorporation into the local society which required the cooperation of the authorities and the inhabitants. Despite the problems, the refugees managed to become a community of note and an increasing component of the labour force maintaining at the same time their characteristics and traditions.

The Press of the time played an important role in influencing the public opinion. The local press dedicated many headlines to this issue. On the one hand, the position of the local newspapers toward the refugees as a community and, on the other hand, their attitude towards their incorporation into the local community, give focus to this study. However, the focus of this paper is given to 'Neologos Patron', the biggest local newspaper in circulation and the way in which this particular newspaper approaches this issue and diffuses it to the local community.

1. Local Newspapers – Justification of the choice of 'Neologos Patron'

Four local newspapers dedicated headlines to the refugees from Asia Minor and to their incorporation into the local community of Patras:

- Telegraph: 1 newspaper in 1935.
- The Light II: 11 newspapers dating from 1922 till 1924.
- Research: 22 newspapers dating from 1922 till 1926.
- Neologos Patron: 187 newspapers dating from 1921 till 1941.

Telegraph was a daily eight-page newspaper published in Patras. But since only one number was dedicated to the refugees, we cannot really form an opinion about the attitude of this newspaper towards the refugees.

The Light II was a daily four-page newspaper published in Patras. It kept a positive and supportive attitude towards the refugees. Through its articles it informs the refugees and the local society about the measures taken by the government and the local authorities in order to deal with the problems occurred after their arrival.

Research was a weekly two-page newspaper published in Aigion, the second biggest city of the county of Achaias after Patras. Its position towards the refugees is rather hostile in all articles found. This is due to the fact that the refugees after their arrival were installed in public buildings such as schools and schools had to move to churches. Thus, schools did not work on a regular basis and pupils missed classes.

The choice of *Neologos Patron* as the main corpus of this study is due to the following reasons:

- It was a daily four-page newspaper published in Patras.
- It was the local newspaper with the biggest circulation. It circulated all over Greece.
- It sold more than ten thousand newspapers per day (a record for a newspaper of the time!).
- Its articles were written by famous journalists of Patras, politicians and authors of the time.
- It tried hard to maintain neutrality towards the various opinions expressed and not to insult or offend anyone through its articles.
- It published a variety of articles concerning the refugees.

2. Methodology

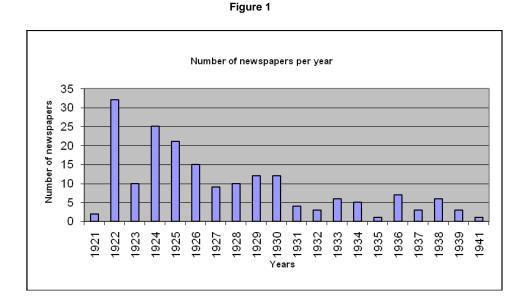
For the purposes of this study quantitative and qualitative content analysis will be used.

2.1 Quantitative content analysis

First of all, in the following table and diagram there is information on the distribution of numbers of *Neologos Patron* per year containing articles about the refugees and the efforts made for their incorporation into the local community.

Year	Number of Newspapers
1921	2
1922	32
1923	10
1924	25
1925	21
1926	15
1927	9
1928	10
1929	12
1930	12
1931	4
1932	3
1933	6
1934	5
1935	1
1936	7
1937	3
1938	6
1939	3
1941	1

Та	bl	е	1



From the above, we notice that the biggest distribution of numbers of 'Neologos Patron' is in 1922, when the refugees first arrive in Greece and in the county of Achaias in particular. Then, in 1924 and in 1925 the articles concern the efforts made by the government and the local authorities to raise money in order to house the refugees and improve their conditions of life.

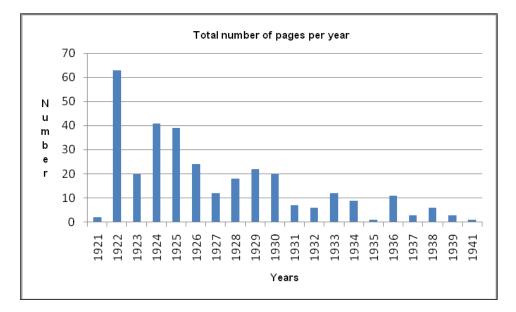
In the following table and diagram, there is the total number of pages of 'Neologos Patron' per year dedicated to the incorporation of the refugees.

Years	Total number of pages
1921	2
1922	63
1923	20
1924	41
1925	39
1926	24
1927	12
1928	18
1929	22
1930	20
1931	7
1932	6
1933	12

Table 2

1934	9
1935	1
1936	11
1937	3
1938	6
1939	3
1941	1

Diagram 2



We observe that most articles about the refugees are published in 1922, and after that, in 1924 and in 1925 respectively, which shows the importance given to this issue by the local community and the newspaper itself.

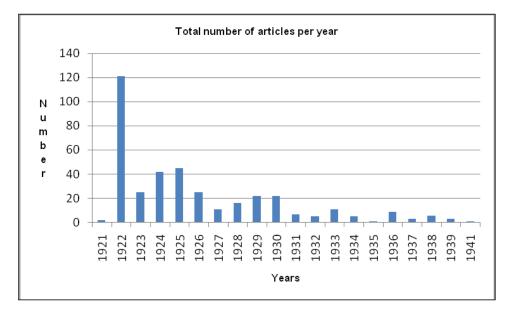
Finally, in the table and diagram that follow, there is the total number of articles that 'Neologos Patron' dedicates to the issue of the refugees per year.

Years	Total number of articles
1921	2
1922	121
1923	25
1924	42
1925	45

Table 3

1926	25
1927	11
1928	16
1929	22
1930	22
1931	7
1932	5
1933	11
1934	5
1935	1
1936	9
1937	3
1938	6
1939	3
1941	1





From the above table and diagram, we notice that most articles concerning the refugees are found in the first five years (1922-1926) after their arrival, which shows the urgent necessity of the authorities to find a solution to the new situation created after the massive installation of so many people in the area.

2.1 Qualitative content analysis

In an effort to complete the picture about the attitude of 'Neologos Patron' towards the refugees and their incorporation into the local community of Patras, we examined the kind of articles published:

- Parliament sessions concerning the efforts made by the Greek governments to find funds abroad (in England and in the U.S.A. mainly) in order to solve the housing problem created by their massive installation and improve the conditions of their life.
- Informative articles concerning donations made and other initiatives taken by the inhabitants in order to help the refugees.
- Letters in which rich inhabitants of Patras try to encourage people to raise money, clothing and food for the refugees because the latter are their brothers (they have the same language and the same religion) who lost everything in the Catastrophe.
- Advertisements in which refugees mention their qualifications and look for jobs.
- Announcements in which the refugees try to get into contact with surviving members of their family and relatives.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we would say that 'Neologos Patron' played an active role in the incorporation of the refugees into the local community of Patras. First of all, it raised money for the refugees and encouraged the inhabitants of Patras to support them in any way they can. At the same time, it informed the refugees about the actions and measures taken by the government and the local authorities on their issue. Through its pages, it published advertisements and announcements concerning the refugees who tried to find a job or get into contact with surviving members of their family and relatives. In an effort to maintain its objectivity, it published articles expressing various opinions, even negative ones about refugees who tried to take advantage of the situation for their own interest. Finally, 'Neologos Patron' operated as a mediator between the government and the refugees by making known the demands of the latter to the government since it has a wide-range circulation despite being published locally.

References

Neologos Patron, Saturday, 21/8/1921, Year KH', No 228 Neologos Patron, Monday, 8/11/1921, Year KH', No 307 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 8/2/1922, Year KH', No 36 Neologos Patron, Thursday, 3/3/1922, Year KH', No 56 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 6/9/1922, Year K\O', No 137 Neologos Patron, Wednesday, 7/9/1922, Year K\O', No 138 Neologos Patron, Thursday, 8/9/1922, Year KO', No 139 Neologos Patron, Friday, 9/9/1922, Year KO', No 140 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 10/9/1922, Year KO', No 141 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 11/9/1922, Year K_{\O'}, No 142 Neologos Patron, Monday, 12/9/1922, Year KO', No 143 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 13/9/1922, Year KO', No 144 Neologos Patron, Thursday, 22/9/1922, Year KO', No 153 Neologos Patron, Friday, 23/9/1922, Year KO', No 154 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 24/9/1922, Year KO', No 155 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 25/9/1922, Year KO', No 156 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 27/9/1922, Year KO', No 158 Neologos Patron, Thursday, 29/9/1922, Year KO', No 160 Neologos Patron, Friday, 30/9/1922, Year K@', No 161 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 1/10/1922, Year KO', No 162 Neologos Patron, Monday, 3/10/1922, Year KO', No 164 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 4/10/1922, Year KO', No 165 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 8/10/1922, Year KO', No 169 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 16/10/1922, Year KO', No 177 Neologos Patron, Thursday, 20/10/1922, Year KO', No 181 Neologos Patron, Thursday, 27/10/1922, Year KO', No 188 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 30/10/1922, Year KO', No 191 Neologos Patron, Thursday, 24/11/1922, Year KO', No 316 Neologos Patron, Friday, 25/11/1922, Year K@', No 317 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 6/12/1922, Year KO', No 327 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 13/12/1922, Year KO', No 334 Neologos Patron, Friday, 16/12/1922, Year KO', No 337 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 27/12/1922, Year KO', No 347 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 31/12/1922, Year KO', No 351 Neologos Patron, Wednesday, 4/1/1923, Year KO', No 3 Neologos Patron, Monday, 9/1/1923, Year KO', No 8 Neologos Patron, Friday, 13/1/1923, Year KO', No 12 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 31/1/1923, Year KO', No 29 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 4/3/1923, Year KO', No 46 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 31/3/1923, Year KO', No 69

Neologos Patron, Friday, 13/4/1923, Year KO', No 81 Neologos Patron, Thursday, 26/4/1923, Year KO', No 94 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 6/5/1923, Year K@', No 103 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 8/5/1923, Year KO', No 105 Neologos Patron, Wednesday, 20/2/1924, Year A', No 49 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 1/3/1924, Year Λ', No 59 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 10/5/1924, Year Λ', No 123 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 17/5/1924, Year Λ', No 130 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 7/6/1924, Year Λ', No 151 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 17/6/1924, Year A', No 156 Neologos Patron, Friday, 4/7/1924, Year Λ', No 173 Neologos Patron, Monday, 14/7/1924, Year Λ', No 183 Neologos Patron, Monday, 11/8/1924, Year A', No 211 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 12/8/1924, Year A', No 212 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 30/8/1924, Year AA', No 15 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 31/8/1924, Year AA', No 16 Neologos Patron, Thursday, 11/9/1924, Year AA', No 27 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 20/9/1924, Year AA', No 36 Neologos Patron, Monday, 27/10/1924, Year AA', No 73 Neologos Patron, Friday, 31/10/1924, Year ΛA', No 77 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 2/11/1924, Year AA', No 79 Neologos Patron, Thursday, 6/11/1924, Year AA', No 83 Neologos Patron, Friday, 14/11/1924, Year AA', No 91 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 16/11/1924, Year AA', No 93 Neologos Patron, Friday, 5/12/1924, Year AA', No 111 Neologos Patron, Monday, 8/12/1924, Year ΛA', No 114 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 9/12/1924, Year ΛA', No 115 Neologos Patron, Wednesday, 17/12/1924, Year AA', No 123 Neologos Patron, Thursday, 25/12/1924, Year AA', No 131 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 4/1/1925, Year ΛA', No 139 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 31/3/1925, Year AA', No 193 Neologos Patron, Thursday, 2/4/1925, Year ΛA', No 195 Neologos Patron, Thursday, 9/4/1925, Year AA', No 203 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 12/4/1925, Year AA', No 206

Neologos Patron, Sunday, 3/5/1925, Year ΛA', No 224 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 24/5/1925, Year AA', No 244 Neologos Patron, Monday, 25/5/1925, Year ΛA', No 245 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 26/5/1925, Year ΛA', No 246 Neologos Patron, Wednesday, 27/5/1925, Year AA', No 247 Neologos Patron, Thursday, 28/5/1925, Year AA', No 248 Neologos Patron, Friday, 29/5/1925, Year AA', No 249 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 31/5/1925, Year AA', No 251 Neologos Patron, Monday, 16/6/1925, Year ΛA', No 266 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 21/6/1925, Year AA', No 272 Neologos Patron, Friday, 28/8/1925, Year AB', No 339 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 12/9/1925, Year AB', No 354 Neologos Patron, Thursday, 1/10/1925, Year AB', No 373 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 10/10/1925, Year AB', No 382 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 13/10/1925, Year AB', No 385 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 1/11/1925, Year AB', No 404 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 3/1/1926, Year AB', No 464 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 17/1/1926, Year AB', No 478 Neologos Patron, Friday, 12/2/1926, Year AB', No 504 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 21/2/1926, Year AB', No 513 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 20/4/1926, Year AB', No 569 Neologos Patron, Monday, 17/5/1926, Year AB', No 594 Neologos Patron, Friday, 18/6/1926, Year AB', No 626 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 14/8/1926, Year AB', No 682 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 15/8/1926, Year ΛΓ', No 683 Neologos Patron, Thursday, 14/10/1926, Year ΛΓ', No 742 Neologos Patron, Friday, 15/10/1926, Year ΛΓ', No 743 Neologos Patron, Friday, 5/11/1926, Year ΔΓ', No 764 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 6/11/1926, Year ΛΓ', No 766 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 7/11/1926, Year ΔΓ', No 767 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 11/12/1926, Year ΛΓ', No 800 Neologos Patron, Wednesday, 23/2/1927, Year ΔΓ', No 53 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 24/5/1927, Year ΛΓ', No 138 Neologos Patron, Wednesday, 10/8/1927, Year ΔΓ', No 216

Neologos Patron, Sunday, 21/8/1927, Year ΛΔ', No 226 Neologos Patron, Friday, 26/8/1927, Year ΛΔ', No 231 Neologos Patron, Monday, 12/9/1927, Year ΛΔ', No 248 Neologos Patron, Wednesday, 14/9/1927, Year ΛΔ', No 250 Neologos Patron, Friday, 21/10/1927, Year $\Lambda\Delta'$, No 287 Neologos Patron, Thursday, 27/10/1927, Year ΛΔ', No 293 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 31/1/1928, Year $\Lambda\Delta'$, No 30 Neologos Patron, Thursday, 16/2/1928, Year ΛΔ', No 46 Neologos Patron, Wednesday, 22/2/1928, Year ΛΔ', No 51 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 18/3/1928, Year ΛΔ', No 74 Neologos Patron, Friday, 17/8/1928, Year AE', No 226 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 18/8/1928, Year AE', No 227 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 18/9/1928, Year AE', No 258 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 23/12/1928, Year AE', No 352 Neologos Patron, Monday, 24/12/1928, Year AE', No 353 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 30/12/1928, Year AE', No 358 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 22/1/1929, Year AE', No 21 Neologos Patron, Monday, 11/2/1929, Year AE', No 41 Neologos Patron, Monday, 15/4/1929, Year AE', No 101 Neologos Patron, Wednesday, 17/4/1929, Year AE', No 103 Neologos Patron, Friday, 19/4/1929, Year AE', No 105 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 20/4/1929, Year AE', No 106 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 21/4/1929, Year AE', No 107 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 21/5/1929, Year AE', No 135 Neologos Patron, Friday, 26/7/1929, Year AE', No 201 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 7/9/1929, Year ΛΣΤ', No 242 Neologos Patron, Thursday, 12/9/1929, Year ΛΣΤ', No 247 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 9/11/1929, Year ΔΣΤ', No 303 Neologos Patron, Friday, 24/1/1930, Year ΛΣΤ', No 23 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 25/1/1930, Year ΔΣΤ', No 24 Neologos Patron, Wednesday, 19/2/1930, Year ΛΣΤ', No 49 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 25/2/1930, Year $\Lambda\Sigma T'$, No 53 Neologos Patron, Wednesday, 26/2/1930, Year $\Lambda\Sigma T'$, No 55 Neologos Patron, Monday, 7/4/1930, Year ΔΣΤ', No 93

Neologos Patron, Wednesday, 18/6/1930, Year ΔΣΤ', No 160 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 21/6/1930, Year ΔΣΤ', No 163 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 24/6/1930, Year ΛΣΤ', No 166 Neologos Patron, Wednesday, 25/6/1930, Year ΔΣΤ', No 167 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 13/9/1930, Year ΛΖ', No 248 Neologos Patron, Friday, 3/10/1930, Year AZ', No 268 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 17/1/1931, Year AZ', No 16 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 3/5/1931, Year ΛΖ', No 115 Neologos Patron, Wednesday, 3/6/1931, Year AZ', No 146 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 28/7/1931, Year AZ', No 201 Neologos Patron, Friday, 15/4/1932, Year AH', No 102 Neologos Patron, Wednesday, 31/8/1932, Year A Θ ', No 225 Neologos Patron, Monday, 19/9/1932, Year AΘ', No 244 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 6/5/1933, Year A Θ ', No 121 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 7/5/1933, Year A@', No 122 Neologos Patron, Friday, 19/5/1933, Year AΘ', No 134 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 27/6/1933, Year AΘ', No 173 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 13/8/1933, Year AΘ', No 221 Neologos Patron, Monday, 21/8/1933, Year M', No 229 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 3/3/1934, Year M', No 59 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 22/4/1934, Year M', No 107 Neologos Patron, Wednesday, 4/7/1934, Year M', No 179 Neologos Patron, Friday, 21/9/1934, Year MA', No 257 Neologos Patron, Thursday, 1/11/1934, Year MA', No 298 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 23/2/1935, Year MA', No 53 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 14/1/1936, Year MB', No 339 Neologos Patron, Friday, 31/1/1936, Year MB', No 30 Neologos Patron, Monday, 3/2/1936, Year MB', No 33 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 8/2/1936, Year MB', No 38 Neologos Patron, Wednesday, 25/3/1936, Year MB', No 80 Neologos Patron, Wednesday, 29/4/1936, Year MB', No 114 Neologos Patron, Friday, 3/7/1936, Year MB', No 176 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 16/2/1937, Year MF', No 46 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 5/6/1937, Year MΓ', No 149

Neologos Patron, Sunday, 6/6/1937, Year MF', No 150 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 6/12/1938, Year ME', No 291 Neologos Patron, Wednesday, 7/12/1938, Year ME', No 292 Neologos Patron, Thursday, 8/12/1938, Year ME', No 293 Neologos Patron, Friday, 9/12/1938, Year ME', No 294 Neologos Patron, Saturday, 10/12/1938, Year ME', No 295 Neologos Patron, Wednesday, 28/12/1938, Year ME', No 307 Neologos Patron, Sunday, 2/7/1939, Year ME', No 150 Neologos Patron, Wednesday, 5/7/1939, Year ME', No 152 Neologos Patron, Friday, 7/7/1939, Year ME', No 154 Neologos Patron, Tuesday, 11/2/1941, Year MZ', No 42 Research, 25/9/1922, Year IA', No 58 Research, 2/10/1922, Year IA', No 59 Research, 30/10/1922, Year IA', No 63 Research, 13/11/1922, Year IA', No 65 Research, 4/12/1922, Year IA', No 68 Research, 22/1/1923, Year IB', No 73 Research, 12/2/1923, Year IB', No 76 Research, 27/5/1923, Year IB', No 89 Research, 3/6/1923, Year IB', No 90 Research, 24/6/1923, Year IB', No 93 Research, 1/7/1923, Year IB', No 94 Research, 5/8/1923, Year IB', No 98 Research, 12/8/1923, Year IB', No 99 Research, 19/8/1923, Year IB', No 100 Research, 2/9/1923, Year IB', No 102 Research, 9/9/1923, Year IB', No 103 Research, 23/9/1923, Year IB', No 105 Research, 4/11/1923, Year IB', No 109 Research, 11/11/1923, Year IB', No 110 Research, 2/12/1923, Year IB', No 113 Research, 29/11/1925, Year I∆', No 197 *Research*, 19/9/1926, Year IA', No 238 *Telegraph*, 1/1/1935, No 6913

The Light II, 23/10/1922, No 1156 The Light II, 26/10/1922, No 1159 The Light II, 30/10/1922, No 1170 The Light II, 3/2/1923, No 1460 The Light II, 3/2/1923, No 1462 The Light II, 6/5/1923, No 1534 The Light II, 3/6/1923, No 1562 The Light II, 20/8/1924, No 1562 The Light II, 4/12/1924, No 112 The Light II, 9/12/1924, No 117 The Light II, 18/12/1924, No 126