

THE OLD AND THE NEW.

A COMPARISON OF THE UNIVERSAL AND SCIENTIFIC KEY BOARDS

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The question has been asked thousands of times, of agents and users of the Blickensderfer typewriter, "why was the Scientific arrangement of the keyboard adopted on the machine in

changes), and to-day it is found endorsed by thousands of users, who as we have said before, have no idea why this arrangement was selected years ago.



THE ARRANGEMENT OF THE UNIVERSAL KEYBOARD 22 YEARS AGO.

preference to the old established Universal keyboard." and while the explanation has always been forthcoming, the writer has never found an operator who could explain why the older keyboard was ever adopted.

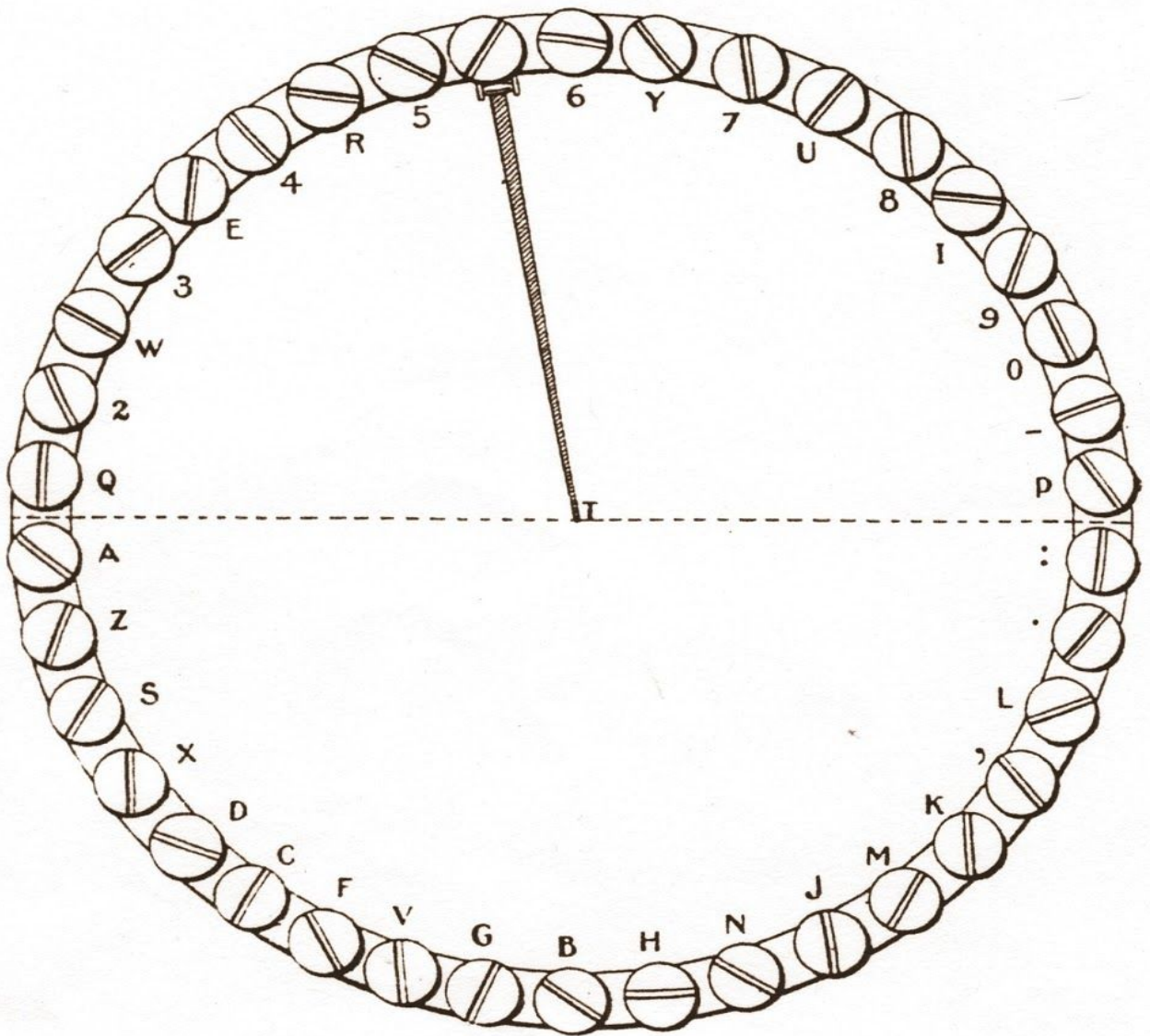
It is necessary to go back a number of years into the history of typewriters to find the causes which led to this peculiar arrangement of keys and although it may seem strange to a number of typewriter operators, it is nevertheless true, that years ago the arrangement was criticised as severely as the Scientific was two years ago, before people saw its advantages.

The writer remembers, as does every man who has followed the business for years, that when typewriters first began to come into general use the majority of people could not understand why the letters were not arranged in alphabetical order, and recollect that the claim was often made by prospective purchasers that they could find the letters much more rapidly if such an arrangement was made.

Users soon saw how absurd such a distribution of the letters would be and in a short time the arrangement was accepted and adopted (with a few

TABLE.

	1st Thou.	2nd Thou.	3rd Thou.	84 Words.	Total
A....	383	364	338	26	1,111
B....	80	61	88	6	235
C....	143	155	153	13	464
D....	166	190	182	16	554
E....	570	612	602	54	1,838
F....	89	133	111	13	346
G....	72	85	83	5	245
H....	224	246	223	17	710
I....	363	294	375	38	1,070
J....	3	5	9	0	17
K....	9	2	1	0	12
L....	175	175	180	13	543
M....	96	106	94	3	299
N....	383	409	396	36	1,224
O....	321	395	368	27	1,111
P....	111	129	100	9	349
Q....	5	5	2	0	12
R....	277	284	272	28	861
S....	310	354	317	27	1,008
T....	502	529	495	39	1,565
U....	134	144	174	10	462
V....	50	58	48	4	160
W....	54	64	78	6	202
X....	14	8	8	1	31
Y....	87	78	79	5	243
Z....	0	10	3	0	19
	<u>4,621</u>	<u>4,895</u>	<u>4,779</u>	<u>396</u>	<u>14,691</u>



② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ -

Q W E R T Y U I O P

A S D F G H J K L :

Z X C V B N M , .

SHOWING THE TYPE BASKET AND KEY BOARD DIVIDED INTO EQUAL PARTS.

To look for the cause operators must go back twenty-two years and examine one of the first machines placed upon the market; we find a crude machine compared with the modern ma-

center rows of keys. It is only in rare combinations that the two type bars hanging side by side are brought into use at one time.

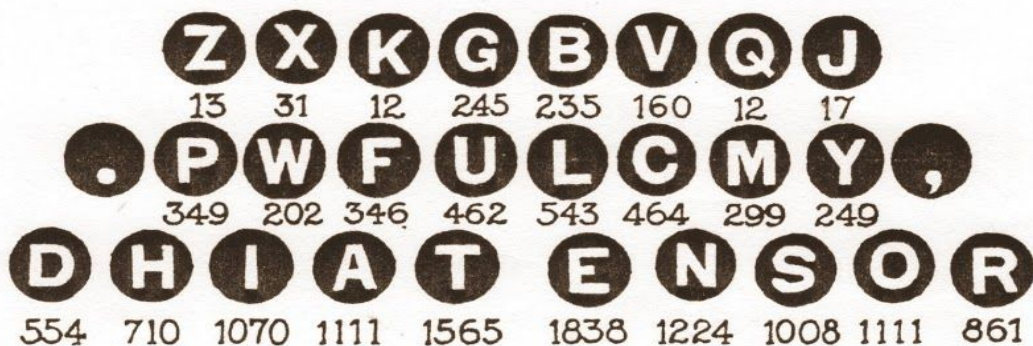
We next note that the keys left over

UNIVERSAL KEY BOARD.



Showing the proportionate frequency in which the 14,691 letters were used. Lower Bank, 2,426. Middle Bank, 4,546. Upper Bank, 7,719.

SCIENTIFIC KEY BOARD.



Showing the proportionate frequency in which the 14,691 letters were used. Lower Bank, 11,052. Middle Bank, 2,914. Upper Bank, 725.

chines of to-day. The action is stiff, and the movement of the working parts sluggish.

We also find a series of type bars arranged in a small circle, each one coming up to a common center. To convey a better idea of the arrangement we produce a cut to illustrate the method in which the type were arranged. Upon close examination it will be found that by dividing the circle into two equal parts that the two lower banks of a key operate the type bars in the lower part of the circle, while the upper bank of keys operate the type bars in the upper part of the circle.

By this ingenious arrangement it will be found that with the characters most used distributed on the two

from this arrangement are used to fill the spaces on the lower bank which brings a number of characters seldom in use, into a more prominent position than keys occupy which are used constantly.

It is readily seen that if the keys were arranged in a scientific arrangement, or upon the first and second banks, the type bars would conflict with one another, as they would all be arranged upon the lower side of the circle, making rapid work impossible, as a type bar traveling to a common center from one side of the circle could not pass the preceding one until it had returned within an inch of its resting place, while under the universal arrangement they are enabled to pass

within one inch of the carriage.

There have been great improvements made within the past few years, and a number of mechanical difficulties have been overcome, but the arrangement of the keyboard is practically the same as it was twenty years ago, probably because the majority of operators have become accustomed to this keyboard and the manufacturers prefer to follow the custom rather than attempt such an innovation as a change of keyboard.

As stated in the January Stenotypist the writer decided to utilize that part of President Cleveland's last message referring to Cuba, for a thorough and practical lesson, regarding the arrangement of the two keyboards. Knowing that many expressions and terms would appear therein, that are not generally used in actual business, which fact would give the preference to the older keyboard.

That part of the message devoted to the affairs of Cuba contained 3,084 words, and now that it has been compiled, proves very interesting reading.

By comparing the first, second and third thousand words, the reader will note that there is little variation in the number of times that each letter is used, also that the total number of characters used in each thousand words vary but slightly.

For the benefit of the reader, the writer has arranged two keyboards, and placed the totals as they appear in the table under the key of the corresponding letter, and this will enable an operator to see at a glance that the Scientific keyboard was arranged for the convenience of the operator and not the machine.—The Stenotypist, Feb. 1897.

EXTRACTS.

Greater speed may be acquired on your keyboard than any other.
Bryant & Stratton College, Boston, Mass.

The arrangement of the keyboard is such as to enable the operator to acquire a high speed.

C. F. Moore, Prest. Hall's Business College, Logansport, Ind.

I explain its great capacity for speed by the ingenious disposition of its type keys and the compactness of their arrangement.

W. T. Harrison, Commissioner, Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C.

One becomes accustomed to the keyboard very easily and in a short time.
Jessie Purcell, stenographer with Drs. D. & H. Hinkly, Grand Rapids, Mich.

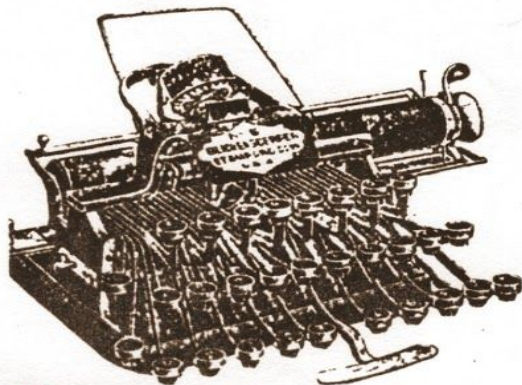
The Superiority of the arrangement of the Blickensderfer Scientific Keyboard is demonstrated after once using the machine.

A. L. Rose, Cheboygan, Mich.

I am a stenographer and a Remington operator, and have tried many of the standard high-priced machines, but none of them are equal to the Blickensderfer in point of compactness, visibility, and neatness of work, legibility, uniformity or alignment.

W. W. Valentine, U. S. Post Office, Washington, D. C.

FIFTEEN THOUSAND OPERATORS SAY THE SAME.



Full Key Board with 84 Letters and Characters.

WEIGHT 6 LBS.

In this machine can be accomplished anything that can be done on any one hundred dollar typewriter now on the market.

The Blickensderfer Mfg. Co.

New York Salesroom and
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182 BROADWAY,
Cor. John St.

(Elevator Entrance,
No. 2 John Street.)

NEW YORK CITY.