

Initiation Stamps Sold by District for the Workers Party of America. January to December 1923.

Based on a document in the Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 206, l. 10.

Date	Boston D1	New York D2	Philadelphia D3	Buffalo D4	Pittsburgh D5	Cleveland D6	Detroit D7	Chicago D8	Minneapolis D9	St. Louis D10	Seattle D12	San Fran. D13	Wilkes-Barre D13	New Haven D15	Dakotas Ag.D	n/a Unorg.	TOTAL
01/1923	10	82	35	†	40	42	42	58	100	21	33	28	‡	†	§	15	506
02/1923	43	236	77	†	5	46	22	60	67	4	27	30	‡	†	§	10	627
03/1923	39	40	42	†	31	56	15	44	50	7	13	25	‡	†	§	28	390
Q-I Tot.	92	358	154	†	76	144	79	162	217	32	73	83	‡	†	§	53	1,523
<i>pct.</i>	6.0%	23.5%	10.1%		5.0%	9.5%	5.2%	10.6%	14.2%	2.1%	4.8%	5.4%				3.5%	
04/1923	21	24	29	†	16	9	12	64	65	6	8	44	‡	†	§	30	328
05/1923	28	98	28	†	28	31	23	37	52	19	3	21	‡	†	§	73	441
06/1923	40	102	7	†	31	39	7	156	49	43	5	28	0	†	§	5	512
Q-II Tot.	89	224	64	†	75	79	42	257	166	68	16	93	0	†	§	108	1,281
<i>pct.</i>	6.9%	17.5%	5.0%		5.9%	6.2%	3.3%	20.0%	13.0%	5.3%	1.2%	7.3%	0.0%			8.4%	Δ = -15.9%
07/1923	6	99	13	0	7	101	6	53	57	20	36	1	‡	0	§	22	421
08/1923	15	75	37	25	36	28	2	32	33	66	6	25	‡	0	§	14	394
09/1923	34	131	18	30	21	23	67	77	90	31	35	22	‡	13	0	15	607
Q-III Tot.	55	305	68	55	64	152	75	162	180	117	77	48	‡	13	0	51	1,422
<i>pct.</i>	3.9%	21.4%	4.8%	3.9%	4.5%	10.7%	5.3%	11.4%	12.7%	8.2%	5.4%	3.4%		0.9%	0.0%	3.6%	Δ = +11.0%

Date	Boston D1	New York D2	Philadelphia D3	Buffalo D4	Pittsburgh D5	Cleveland D6	Detroit D7	Chicago D8	Minneapolis D9	St. Louis D10	Seattle D12	San Fran. D13	Wilkes-Barre D13	New Haven D15	Dakotas Ag.D	n/a Unorg.	TOTAL
10/1923	60	137	21	20	92	40	28	37	204	32	13	1	‡	22	0	35	742
11/1923	81	140	59	10	106	93	45	44	99	39	1	39	‡	31	0	47	834
12/1923	35	186	25	0	94	117	17	49	106	22	17	15	‡	13	0	34	730
Q-IV Tot.	176	463	105	30	292	250	90	130	409	93	31	55	‡	66	0	116	2,306
<i>pct.</i>	7.6%	20.0%	4.6%	1.3%	12.7%	10.8%	3.9%	5.6%	17.7%	4.0%	1.3%	2.4%		2.9%	0.0%	5.0%	Δ = +62.2
* YEAR *	412	1,350	391	85	507	625	286	711	972	310	197	279	0	79	0	328	6,532
<i>pct.</i>	6.3%	20.7%	6.0%	1.3%	7.8%	9.6%	4.4%	10.9%	14.9%	4.7%	3.0%	4.3%	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%	5.0%	

†- Buffalo and New Haven districts established effective July 1, 1923. ‡- Short-lived Wilkes-Barre district immediately folded due to insufficient size.

§- "Agricultural District" (Dakotas and Eastern Montana) established effective September 1, 1923.

Notes:

1. The above series is that of "initiation stamps actually sold" — according to the constitution of the WPA, each new member of the organization was to pay an initiation fee of \$1, receipted by a special stamp for their membership card, the proceeds of which were to go to support the work of the national office. In practice, however, it seems that the collection of these initiation fees were handled differently by the branches of the various federations. Some federations, such as the Finnish and Italian groups, collected the fee in a more or less regular manner, while others, like the Jewish, German, and Latvian Federations, seem to have pretty clearly avoided the use of the initiation stamps altogether. The totals of initiation stamps sold listed here very definitely represents a substantial undercount of the actual number of new members coming into the party in 1923.
2. The tally sheet did not include a column for the "Agricultural District." Presumably, any initiation stamps sold to the Dakotas or Eastern Montana were included in the "Unorganized" count.
3. The explosion of initiation stamp sales in the 4th Quarter of 1923 combined with a similar burst in the 1st Quarter of 1924 seems to be related to the launch of the *Daily Worker* in January 1924.

Compiled by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2006. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.

The content of this document is reproduced with permission of the Reference Center for Marxist Studies (RCMS), New York, NY.

For additional reprint information, please contact RCMS.