

Historical Patent Statistics

1791 . 1961

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Associate Memberships

The Patent Office Society has received numerous inquiries from Journal subscribers as to why applications for Associate membership are no longer included with Renewal Notices.

Present Patent Office administrative policy provides, that "no employee of the Patent Office may attempt, directly or indirectly, to induce anyone who practices before the Patent Office to join any organization whatsoever." Inclusion of an application for Associate Membership with a Journal Renewal Notice has been interpreted as being inconsistent with this policy.

However, the Insurance company, which underwrites the programs sponsored by the Society, requires maintenance of membership as a prerequisite to continued participation.

Those persons, now (or who may become), involved in the insurance program and any others who may wish to aid the Patent Office Society in its objects to further the industrial development of the United States in so far as the patent system is a factor thereof, to promote and foster a true appreciation of the American patent system, to cultivate a high standard of professional ethics among patent practitioners and examiners and to promote the professional, intellectual and social welfare of the members of the Society may send their \$2.00 annual membership fee to the Patent Office Society, Box 685, Washington, D. C. 20044. No Special application form is required.

PREFACE

The difficulties of obtaining patent statistics of foreign countries have led to the preparation of the present compilation, which is intended as a source work for students, research workers, and others who may have need of it. Four series of tables are presented.

The first series covers the period 1791-1900 and gives the number of patents issued annually by some countries, by decades in eleven tables. The year 1791 was chosen as the starting point since this is the first year for which data for several countries is available. The first decade of the series includes four countries; other countries are added in the year in which data became available, and the last decade includes 28 countries.

The second series covers the period 1901-1950 and continues the first, but with the tables arranged by countries. For most of the countries included, the number of applications filed each year, as well as the number of patents issued, is given. In some instances the number of applications filed by domestic applicants, or the number of patents issued to domestic applicants, or both, is also given.

The third series merely continues the second, for the period 1951-1961 but omits data included in the fourth series.

The fourth series is limited to 21 countries and gives applications filed or patents issued, or both, subdivided according to the countries of origin of the applicants, for the ten years 1951-1961.

Notes on the sources used and on the countries included precede the tables.

Mrs. Anne Crittenden, Mr. Ernest A. Norwig, and Miss Nancy Wallen are to be thanked for their work in transcribing the data and typing the tables, and also the staff of the Library of the U. S. Patent Office for its valuable assistance.

Many gaps occur in the tables and in a work of this kind it is inevitable that some mistakes creep in; also

the secondary sources used may not be completely reliable. Consequently it is hoped that suggestions for revisions and additions will be received from those in a position to make them.

August 1963

P. J. FEDERICO

NOTES ON SOURCES

The figures used have been obtained from the following sources: (1) statistical reports published by individual countries in official publications, which were used whenever they were known and available; (2) the international journal *La Propriété Industrielle*; (3) other miscellaneous sources, which were used to supplement the first two mentioned and which will be mentioned later.

Official Publications

Most countries which issue patents publish an official journal, usually weekly or monthly. Some publish annual indexes of patents as well, or instead. About two dozen publish in printed form the specifications of patents which they issue. A bibliographic guide to the official foreign patent publications which are in the Library of the U. S. Patent Office appeared serially in the *Journal of the Patent Office Society* from March 1933 (vol. 15) to November, 1934 (vol. 16), and in collected form, *Manual of Foreign Patents*, by Belknap Severance (Patent Office Society, Washington, 1935 161 pages). These official publications will not be described here, and when referred to only the current title will be given with no attempt to indicate changes or beginnings. Those in the Library of the U. S. Patent Office will be indicated by "(For. pat. per.)", or by the call number, after the name.

In some instances an annual statistical report may be published in the official journal or other serial publication, and a few countries issue a separate annual statistical report. Those utilized will be mentioned under the countries involved.

La Propriété Industrielle.

The main general source for international patent statistics is the monthly *La Propriété Industrielle*, published by the International Bureau for the Protection of Industrial Property, located at Geneva, Switzerland (formerly at Bern). This Bureau is an international intergovernmental office established under Article 13 of the Convention of Paris for the Protection of Industrial Property. This multilateral treaty first came into force July 7, 1884, between fourteen countries. Since then the number of member countries has increased to nearly 60. The treaty has been revised several times; see the *Official Gazette of the United States Patent Office*, vol. 775, pages 321-337, February 13, 1962, for the text of the latest revision and a list of member countries on that date.

Publication of *La Propriété Industrielle* began in 1885 and an English edition was started in January 1962 under the title *Industrial Property*. For some time the December number of each year has included a special summary statistical report giving the number of applications filed and patents issued during the preceding year (the December 1961 number gives data for the year 1960) in a number of countries which are parties to the Convention. Supplemental data supplying omissions may appear in following numbers. The data is obtained by a circular letter and blank form sent to the member countries each year. Not all countries supply the data, and some of them have been somewhat irregular, so that the series is not at all complete for member countries. In some instances (of which the United States is one) the figures given do not always agree with those in the official publications of a country. The annual table appears in a different number during an earlier period, and also in a different form in still earlier years. Data going back to 1885 for some countries and to later years for others can be obtained from this publication, with the limitations mentioned.

The early years of the publication (the first 20 or more) also include occasional annual statistical reports of individual countries and, in a few instances, data for non-member countries.

In 1900 *La Propriété Industrielle* published a series called "Notes Statistiques pour servir a l'Histoire de la Protection en Matière de Propriété Industrielle," in three parts, with supplements appearing in the same and in the next two volumes. This formed a statistical patent review of the 19th century. Thirty one countries (including eight no longer separately issuing patents) were included, although data before 1880 was listed for only eleven countries.

Other sources.

A minor and somewhat unknown source of international patent statistics is the series of annual (calendar year) Reports of the U. S. Patent Office (these were published in the Official Gazette, in the front of the Annual Index of Patents, and some separately; they were discontinued after 1925). Beginning with the report for 1896 and continuing through the report for 1925, the last one published, there was published each year a list of patents issued by a large number of foreign countries. These lists give cumulative totals only, in some instances involving estimates; they were used when other sources were not available.

In 1960, the French Patent Office published a statistical study "*La Protection des Inventions en France et a l'Etranger*" (T 271 H 28) which included tables of applications filed in 23 different countries, divided by the country of origin of the applicants, for the years 1950 to 1957. The late Mr. A. Colas of Paris, who prepared this study, kindly supplied copies of his material, which has been used for Belgium, Israel, Luxemburg and Portugal, in Series IV.

A few other sources which were used are noted under particular countries.

NOTES ON COUNTRIES

The countries included were selected primarily on the basis of the availability of data. In general, with only a few exceptions, if a continuous series for a substantial period was available, the country was included. Jurisdictions no longer separately issuing patents (for example Newfoundland, Hawaii, Dantzig) were omitted, with a few exceptions.

Countries are entered in the tables in the year from which substantially continuous data is available. This corresponds, in many cases, with the year a formal patent law was enacted or came into effect. However, it should be kept in mind that in practically all the European countries, and in some others as well, patents were issued before the enactment of formal patent laws. In some instances the first year for a country is the year when it adhered to the Industrial Property Convention and began reporting its data to the International Bureau.

Some brief notes on the countries included in the tables are given. They contain some information which might be useful in utilizing the tables, but are by no means complete, in particular, changes in the laws have not been indicated and matters such as term, renewal fees, type of system, etc., may have been different at an earlier period. The following general information is given.

Year of the first patent law. In most instances patents were granted before a formal patent law was enacted and in some cases there were decrees or enactments relating to patents before the dates given here.

Membership in the Convention. The year in which the country first adhered to the Industrial Property Convention is given since, in some instances, this indicates when and how data became available, or suggests why more data is not available.

Term of patent. The term of the patent is given, and also a statement if renewal fees are payable to maintain a patent in force. Where the term is a certain number

of years after the filing date, the patent rights may not actually begin until a later date.

Type of system. There are several types of administrative procedures in issuing patents. Some countries issue patents to all applicants who comply with purely formal requirements; no investigation is made as to whether the substantive conditions of the law are complied with. In some countries such an investigation is made to determine novelty and other conditions. There are differences in the extent of the search for novelty, as well as in other matters considered. In some of the examining countries the search is through prior domestic patents, prior patents of a number of other countries, and other technical literature as well, while in others the search is limited to prior domestic patents only. "Examination" is used to refer to search and examination as to novelty, unless otherwise indicated. Most of the examining countries also publish the applications (not necessarily in printed form) after the office has determined that a patent may be issued, and members of the public may object to granting the patent (oppositions).

Printed patent specifications. This detail is added as files of printed patent specifications of most countries which print them are in the U. S. Patent Office.

Domestic and foreign applicants. In Series II, the number of applications filed by domestic applicants or the number of patents issued to domestic applicants, or both, is given for some countries. The number filed by or issued to foreign applicants is of course, the difference from the total. For most countries "applicant" does not mean "inventor," as is the case in the United States, since the owner of the rights in the invention may file the application in his own name, as the applicant. "Domestic" and "foreign" refer only to residence.

In Series IV, applications or patents are divided by country of origin of the applicant (which, as indicated in the preceding paragraph, need not be the country of

origin of the inventor). In some instances the sources for the data give all the countries of origin, whereas in other instances only the major ones are given. In view of this difference, the countries of origin with very few applications or patents have usually been omitted.

Further notes are given by individual countries.

1. *Argentina*

First patent law 1864.

Not member of Convention.

Patents are granted for terms of 5, 10, and 15 years from date of grant and annual fees are payable. Applications are subject to examination, with search primarily through prior domestic patents only. Specifications are not printed.

2. *Australia*

First federal patent law 1903.

Member Convention, 1907.

Patents are granted for a term of 16 years from the date of filing the complete specification. Applications are subjected to examination with search primarily through prior domestic patents only, and published for opposition after being found allowable by the examiner. Annual renewal fees are due for the 5th and following years. Specifications are printed.

The figures in Series I, and in Series II to 1903, are the totals of the patents issued by the various Australian states (Queensland, New South Wales, Tasmania, Western Australia, Victoria, South Australia) with, for some years, a slight amount of estimation.

Brief annual statistical reports appear in *The Australian Official Journal of Patents, Trademarks, and Designs* (For. pat. per.). These give applications divided by the country of origin of the applicant.

See note under Great Britain regarding provisional and complete specifications. The application figures in Series II include uncompleted applications.

3. *Austria*

First patent law 1810.

Member Convention 1909.

There was an earlier decree of 1794, and various other laws during the 19th century. The early laws included Hungary, which did not begin issuing separate patents until 1894.

Patents are granted for a term of 18 years from the date of publication for opposition. Applications are subject to examination and search for novelty and are published for opposi-

tion after being found allowable by the examiner. Annual renewal fees are due for each year, including the first, of the term of the patent. Specifications are printed.

Statistics are published annually in the *Oesterreichisches Patentblatt* (For. pat. per.). These include both applications and patents divided by the country of origin of the applicants and also data relating to annual renewal payments.

The Austrian Patent Office ceased operating for receipt of new applications in 1938 but continued to act on applications already on file and became a branch office of the German Patent Office. It reopened in 1945 as the Austrian Patent Office, at first only for the receipt of applications.

4. *Belgium*

First patent law 1854.

Member Convention 1884.

The French and then the Dutch law were applied prior to 1854.

Patents are granted for a term of 20 years from the filing date. There is only a minimum examination as to formal requirements and patents are granted promptly, normally within a month. Renewal fees are due each year. Specifications are printed.

5. *Brazil*

First patent law 1830.

Member Convention 1884.

Patents are granted for 15 years from date of grant. Applications are examined and also published for opposition. Annual renewal fees are due.

6. *Bulgaria*

First patent law 1921.

Member Convention 1921.

Patents are granted for 15 years from filing date; author's certificates, as in the USSR, are also issued. Applications are examined with search through prior domestic specifications only. Annual fees are due.

7. *Canada*

First Dominion law 1869.

Member Convention 1923.

There was a patent law in Lower Canada from 1823 and Upper Canada from 1826. The data before 1869 is the sum of these. Newfoundland, not included in the tables, had a separate patent law until it joined Canada in 1949.

Patents are granted for 17 years from the date of grant, after examination. Search is primarily through prior domestic patents only, but an applicant may be required to supply a list of references cited in a corresponding application filed in another country. Specifications are printed.

Separate annual reports, with the title *Report of the Commissioner of Patents for the Year ended March 31, 19....*, are published. The U. S. Patent Office has files back to 1920 (T 226 H). Patents issued and applications filed divided by country of origin are given, but not from the beginning. Summary tables going back to 1872 are included in the reports for 1926 to 1949.

In Series I and II, the year 1893 is for ten months only and the years 1894 to 1905 are fiscal years ending October 31 of the indicated year. The years 1906 on are fiscal years beginning April 1 of the indicated year. The last two months of 1905 and the first three months of 1906 are hence lost from the table; the figures for these five months are 2857 applications and 2378 patents, with 332 of the latter of domestic origin.

8. *Chile*

First patent law 1840.

Not member of Convention.

Patents are granted for 5, 10 or 15 years from date of issue. Applications are examined.

9. *Czechoslovakia*

First patent law 1919.

Member Convention 1919.

Patents are granted for 15 years from filing date. Applications are examined and also published for opposition. Renewal fees are payable annually after the 8th year. Specifications are printed.

10. *Denmark*

First patent law 1894.

Member Convention 1894.

Patents are granted for 17 years from filing date. Applications are examined and also published for opposition. Annual renewal fees are due for the second and following years. Specifications are printed.

Annual statistical reports are published in *Dansk Patent-tidende* (For. pat. per.); these give both applications and patents divided by country of origin of the applicant, renewal fee statistics appear in the reports up to 1937.

11. *Egypt (United Arab Republic)*

First patent law 1949.

Member Convention 1951.

Patents are granted for 15 years from filing date. Examination as to form only, but published for opposition. Renewal fees are due for the second and following years.

12. *Finland*

First patent law 1898.

Member Convention 1921.

There was a prior decree of 1876 and patents were granted even before this date.

Patents are granted for 17 years from filing date. Applications are examined and also published for opposition. Annual renewal fees are due. Specifications are printed.

13. *France*

First patent law 1791.

Member Convention 1884.

There was a decree of 1762 relating to patents, and patents date back to the sixteenth century. A collection of specifications of 18th century patents was published; *Machines et Inventions Approuvées par l'Académie Royale de Science*, Paris, 1735-1777, 7 volumes (TJ 71 A 6).

Patents are granted for a term of 20 years from the filing date. There is no examination as to the merits and no opposition. Annual renewal fees are due. Specifications are printed. Recently instituted special pharmaceutical patents, still few in number, are not included in the tables.

Patent statistics are published annually in the official journal of the French Patent Office, the *Bulletin Officiel de la Propriété Industrielle* (For. pat. per.). This journal appears in several parts. Beginning 1959 a separate annual part is devoted to statistics; patents are divided by country of origin, and an annual cumulative list of patents issued back to 1791 is included. Prior to 1959 the annual statistical reports appeared in Part 1, *Legislation et Jurisprudence* of the *Bulletin*. The U. S. Patent Office Library has separately printed annual reports, reprints from the *Journal Officiel de la République Française*, for 1920 to 1937 and earlier reports covering the period 1901-1919 (T 271 H 28).

14. *Germany*

First patent law 1877.

Member Convention 1903.

Prior to the unification of Germany and the coming into force of the first general patent law in July 1877, most of the

individual German states had patent laws enacted at various times during the first half of the 19th century (but invention patents go back to the 16th century). A treaty of 1842 relating to patents, among the members of the Customs Union (Zollverein), spurred the enactment of patent laws by those states which did not already have them. Statistics on the number of patents issued by the Germany states are given in Alfred Muller, *Die Entwicklung des Erfindungsschutzes und seiner Gesetzgebung in Deutschland*, Munich, 1898 (T273T2M9). See also, for Wurttemberg, E. Mohler, *Entwicklung des gewerblichen Rechtsschutzes in Wurttemberg*, Stuttgart, 1927 (T273-7T2M7). Series I of the tables, under the heading "German States", gives the totals of the patents issued by 26 German states, obtained from these sources. Most of these states issued only a small number of patents. Those with the greatest number, with the totals for the period covered and the first year of appearance in the data, are: Saxony, 5030 (1840); Bavaria, 4207 (1812); Prussia 3910 (1815); Württemberg, 2539 (1820); Baden, 1586 (1819); Hanover, 677 (1838-1866); Grand Duchy of Hesse, 592 (1831); Braunschweig, 564 (1837); Oldenburg, 310 (1834).

Patents are granted for a term of 18 years from the filing date. Applications are subjected to a rigorous examination including search through not only prior German patents but also the patents of a number of other countries and other technical literature as well. Allowed applications are also published for opposition. Renewal fees are due for the third and following years. Specifications are printed.

Elaborate statistical tables appear each year in the monthly "*Blatt für Patent-, Muster- und Zeichenwesen*" (For. pat. per.) in the March issue, giving reports for the previous year. Granted patents are subdivided by all the countries of origin of the applicants, but for applications filed for about a dozen selected countries only. Renewal data is given. These reports were discontinued during the war years except for some abbreviated ones and were not resumed until the volume for 1950.

The German Patent Office in Berlin closed early in 1945. Offices for the filing of applications only were opened in Darmstadt and Berlin October 1, 1948. The Patent Office as such was reopened January 1, 1950 in Munich, but examination of applications filed up to January 1, 1952 was dispensed with (although oppositions were retained). Applications filed October 1, 1948 to December 31, 1949 were 74,192 new and 2,135 old, a total of 76,327 of which 11,682 were by foreign applicants. In 1950 there were 53,375 new and 76,749 old applications, a total of 130,124 of which 21,595 were by foreign applicants. Old applications are applications which had been filed during

the war and which were refiled or reinstated under temporary legislation. In Series IV total applications, as well as new applications, are given since the division by country of origin includes both. For some purposes, it hence becomes necessary to estimate the distribution between domestic and foreign applicants for new applications.

15. Great Britain

First patent law 1852.

Member Convention 1884.

Patents for inventions in England go back to the middle of the 16th century. E. Wyndham Hulme has collected the Elizabethan grants; *A sketch of the Early History of the English Patent System*, *Law Quarterly Review*, vol. 12, pages 141-154, April, 1896, and *The History of the Patent System under the Prerogative and at Common Law*, same, vol. 16, pages 44-56, January 1900. The Statute of Monopolies of 1623, which declared monopoly grants illegal; exempted patents for new inventions. While there were some earlier enactments on patents, the first statute relating to the granting of patents was not until 1852. At this time the grants back to 1617 were collected and numbered, and the specifications and indexes printed.

Patents are granted for a term of 16 years from date of the complete specification. Applications are examined but the search is primarily through prior British patents only, and the examination is otherwise restricted. Allowed (accepted) applications are published for opposition. Annual renewal fees are due for the fifth and following years. Specifications are printed.

The application for patent may be accompanied by either a "provisional" specification or a "complete" specification. The provisional specification need only give the general nature of the invention; the complete specification must be filed within a certain time after the provisional and only when it is filed does the process of examining the application and issuing a patent commence. Nothing is done before then and no patent can be granted; if it is not filed, the application is abandoned. For statistical purposes, the provisional specification amounts to merely a declaration that the applicant intends to apply for a patent in the future.

Series II gives total applications and complete applications (specifications). Division by country of origin of the applicants is for total applications (including those never completed); foreigners file only comparatively few provisional specifications and hence the applications filed by foreign applicants are listed. Series IV gives applications filed with priority (which, with statistically insignificant exceptions, would be by foreign applicants or inventors) and those without. An application claiming pri-

ority must have a complete specification in every case and these figures give a lower limit to complete applications filed by foreigners; an upper limit is given by the line labelled "foreign".

The provisional specification obtains in Australia, India, Ireland, New Zealand and South Africa.

Separate annual reports have been issued since 1852; these are printed except for a few years during the war (T 257 H2). Applications are divided by country of origin of the applicant, but include incomplete applications. Patents divided by country of origin, with a change in the system used, are given up to 1944, but most years are incomplete. Renewal fee statistics are included.

16. *Greece*

First patent law 1920.

Member Convention 1924.

Patents are granted for 15 years from day following filing date. Examination as to form only. Renewal fees are due for second and following years.

17. *Hungary*

First (separate) patent law 1894.

Member Convention 1909.

Patents are granted for 20 years from filing date. Examination as to form and possibly as to novelty, published for opposition. Renewal fees due each year. Specifications are printed.

Also see Austria.

18. *India*

First patent law 1856 (1859).

Not member Convention.

The patent law of British India of 1856 was repealed as not properly passed and a new law passed 1859. Eleven Indian native states had separate patent laws before 1950. The new regime continued the existing law, which was subsequently amended.

Patents are granted for 16 years from filing date. Applications are examined as to novelty, ordinarily searched through prior Indian patents only, and published for opposition. Annual renewal fees are due for the fifth and following years. Specifications are printed.

See remarks under Great Britain concerning provisional specifications, which, however, are not as numerous in proportion.

The U. S. Patent Office library has separately printed annual reports from the year 1929, with 1936-7, 1941, and 1949 missing (T 303 H2).

19. Ireland

First patent law 1927.

Member Convention 1925.

Patents are granted for 16 years from filing date. Applications are examined and published for opposition. Renewal fees are due for the fifth and following years. Specifications are printed. See remarks under Great Britain concerning provisional specifications.

Separate annual reports are published, of which the U. S. Patent Office library has those for 1955 and subsequent years (T 259.2H).

20. Israel

First patent law 1924.

Member Convention 1933.

The Republic of Israel (1948) carried over, and subsequently amended, the patent law of Palestine passed under the British mandate, and continued the membership of Palestine in the International Convention under its new regime.

Patents are granted for 16 years from the filing date. Applications are examined for novelty, primarily prior Israeli patents are searched but the examination may be broader, and also published for opposition. Renewal fees are due at three intervals only; prior to the beginning of the 5th, 9th, and 13th years.

21. Italy

First patent law 1859.

Member Convention 1884.

The Sardinian patent law of 1859 was extended to the rest of the peninsula in stages and remained the Italian patent law until it was replaced in 1939. Prior to the unification, the individual states had separate patent laws, but very little statistical data has been found.

Patents in Italy date back to the 15th century. Probably the earliest known definite patent for an invention granted to an inventor was in Florence in 1421 (Frank D. Prager, *Brunelleschi's Patent*, *Journal of the Patent Office Society*, vol. 28, pages 109 - 135, February 1946.). Venice had a patent ordinance in 1474. The Venetian patents to 1550 are listed in Giulio Mandich, *Venetian Patents (1450 - 1550)*, *Journal of the Patent Office Society*, vol. 30, pages 166 - 224, March 1948, translated from *Rivista di Diritto Commerciale*, vol. 34, pages 511-547, 1936.

Patents are granted for 15 years from filing date. There is no examination for novelty and other conditions nor any publica-

tion for opposition. Renewal fees are due each year. Specifications are printed.

Up to the volume for 1957, the January number of the *Bollettino dei Brevetti per Invenzioni, Modelli e Marchi* (For. pat. per.) contained a few pages of application and patent statistics for the preceding year, giving only patents divided by country of origin of the applicant. Beginning with the year 1958 the January number includes a special statistical supplement (which appears about three years later), containing elaborate tables, giving both applications and patents divided by country of origin, renewal payment data, and other information.

22. Japan

First patent law 1885.

Member Convention 1899.

Patents are granted for 15 years from date of publication for opposition. Applications are examined and also published for opposition. Annual renewal fees are due. Specifications are printed.

Separate annual reports are printed; the U. S. Patent Office library has those for 1914 to 1936 and 1961 with the text in both Japanese and English, and reports for 1957 and 1959 in Japanese only (T 305 H2).

23. Lebanon

First patent law 1924.

Member Convention 1924.

Patents are granted for 15 years from filing date. No examination or opposition. Annual renewal fees.

The 1924 date and the data in Series II for 1925 to 1944 under Syria are for Syria and Lebanon combined.

24. Liechtenstein

Member Convention 1933.

Liechtenstein has no separate patent law. By the Customs Union with Switzerland (1923), Swiss patents extend to Liechtenstein without any additional formalities or costs. The figures given for Liechtenstein in Series II are the applications filed by and patents issued to residents of Liechtenstein, in Switzerland.

25. Luxemburg

First patent law 1880.

Member Convention 1922.

The Dutch law of 1817 was applied before 1880.

Patents are granted for 20 years from date of application. Examination as to form only and no publication for opposition. Renewal fees are due each year.

26. Mexico

First patent law 1832.

Member Convention 1903.

Patents are granted for 15 years from date of application. Applications are examined, with search ordinarily through prior domestic patents only. Annual fees are due for the fourth and following years.

27. Morocco

First patent law 1916.

Member Convention 1917.

Patents are granted for 20 years from date of application. No examination or oppositions. Annual fees are due.

Series II gives data for French Morocco. After the unification in 1956 of French Morocco, Spanish Morocco (which had no separate patent law), and the International Zone of Tangier, the separate patent laws of French Morocco and Tangier continued in force for the respective territories.

In Series IV, Tangier has been combined with Morocco in the countries of origin.

28. Netherlands

First patent law 1809.

Member Convention 1884.

Patents in the Netherlands go back to the first half of the 16th century. A catalogue of the early grants has been published: G. Doorman, *Patents for Inventions in the Netherlands During the 16th, 17th and 18th Centuries*, The Hague, 1942, 348 pages, abridged English edition, 228 pages; supplement, in Dutch only, 1942, 28 pages (T 277 Z1D 68o). Also a catalogue of 19th century patents, G. Doorman, *Het Nederlandsch Octrooiwezen en de Techniek der 19e Eeuw*, The Hague, 1947, 578 pages (T 277 Z1D 65n) and a supplement to both collections, G. Doorman, *Techniek en Octrooiwezen in hun Aanvang*, The Hague, 1953, 126 pages (T 277 Z1D 65t). The law of 1809 was replaced in 1817 but this law was suspended in 1869 and no patents were granted until a modern patent law was enacted in 1912.

Patents are granted for 18 years from date of grant. Applications are subject to rigorous examination, with search through prior domestic and foreign patents and the technical literature, and also to opposition. Annual renewal fees are due. Specifica-

tions are printed. (A new system of delayed examination begins January 1964.)

The U. S. Patent Office library has copies of unprinted annual reports for 1951 and following years (T 277 H2). Both applications and patents are divided by country of origin, but for only a few selected countries. Tables of patents kept in force by payment of renewal fees or annuities are given.

29. *New Zealand*

First patent law 1865.

Member Convention 1891.

Patents are granted for 16 years from the date of filing the complete specification, after examination and a period for opposition.

The U. S. Patent Office library has separately published annual reports for the years 1920 to 1949, and 1951 (T 322 N6 H2).

See remarks under Great Britain concerning provisional and complete specifications.

30. *Norway*

First patent law 1885.

Member Convention 1885.

Patents are granted for 18 years from date of filing. Applications are examined and there is a period for opposition. Annual renewal fees are due for the second year and following years. Specifications are printed.

Statistical material is published annually in *Norsk Tidende for det Industrielle Rettsvern* (For. pat. per.) and in the annual index, *Register over Norske Patente* (For. pat. per.). Two collections have been published: *Statistiske Oplysninger vedkommende Patentvaesenet i Norge 1886-1903*, Christiania, 1904, 16 pages (T 281 J 1904) and *Statistiske Oplysninger om Patente, Varemærker og Monster (1922-1933)* Oslo, 1935, 39 pages (T 281 J 1935); both of these have French translations in the text. A commemorative volume published in 1962, *Styret for det Industrielle Rettsvern, 50 år*, 311 pages plus 44 pages English synopsis, also contains statistical tables, including patents granted before 1885.

31. *Poland*

First patent law 1919.

Member Convention 1919.

Patents are granted for 15 years from date of filing. Examination as to form and sometimes as to novelty, no oppositions. Annual renewal fees are due. Specifications are printed.

32. *Portugal*

First patent law 1852.

Member Convention 1884.

Patents are granted for 15 years from date of grant. Formal examination only but applications are published for opposition. Annual fees are due.

33. *Roumania*

First patent law 1906.

Member Convention 1920.

Patents are granted for 15 years from filing date; author's certificates as in the USSR are issued. For patents; examination as to form, with no oppositions, annual fees are due.

34. *Russia - USSR*

First patent law 1812.

Not member of Convention.

A short historical note and a comprehensive description of the present law in the USSR relating to patents and inventions is given in the *Journal of the Patent Office Society*, vol. 43, pages 5-96, January, 1961.

Patents and author's certificates are issued in the USSR. The former are for 15 years from date of application and annual renewal fees are required. The latter have no term and carry no fees; the inventor is entitled to remuneration based on a percentage of the gains from one year's use of the invention, and other perquisites. Very few patents are applied for. Both are examined with search through domestic specifications and the patents of a number of other countries. Specifications are printed.

The figures for 1925-1929 are from *La Propriete Industrielle* (1930, page 144) and are for fiscal years ending September 30 of the indicated year. The "patent" figures for 1956-1960 include both patents and author's certificates and are derived from the numbering sequence; the application figures for 1958-1960, partly estimates, are derived from figures and statements in the *Bulletin of Inventions* (For. pat. per.). Issues to foreigners are in the neighborhood of 1% or less.

35. *South Africa*

First patent law 1910.

Member Convention 1947.

Patents are granted for 16 years from the date of the complete specification. Formal examination only, with oppositions. Annual renewal fees are due for the 3rd and following years.

See under Great Britain for provisional and complete specifications.

36. *Spain*

First patent law 1826.

Member Convention 1884.

Patents are granted for 20 years from date of issue. No examination as to novelty, no oppositions. Annual fees are due.

37. *Sweden*

First patent law 1819.

Member Convention 1885.

Patents are granted for 17 years from date of application. Applications are examined with search through domestic and foreign patents, and published for opposition. Renewal fees are due, annually from the 5th year. Specifications are printed.

The application data in Series IV was obtained from the Swedish Patent Office. The patent data in Series IV is from Magne Falk, *Patentsökande och Patenthavare i Sverige*, published in the periodical *Nordiskt Immateriellt Rättsskydd*, 1959. This is a statistical study of patents in Sweden.

38. *Switzerland*

First federal patent law 1888.

Member Convention 1884.

Patents are granted for 18 years from filing date. There is a strict formal examination, without oppositions: in two classes only beginning in 1959, there is novelty examination with oppositions. Renewal fees are due annually from the second year. Specifications are printed.

Three pages of statistical information appear in the annual index, *Catalogue Annuel des Brevets d'invention et des Dépôts de dessins et modèles/Jahres-Katalog der Erfinder-Patente und der Muster- und Modell-Hinterlegungen* (For. pat. per.), which give both applications and patents, divided by country of origin of the applicant; renewal payment data is also given. A recently started official journal also gives some patent statistics.

39. *Syria*

First patent law 1924.

Member Convention 1924.

Patents are granted for 15 years from filing date. There is no examination or opposition and annual renewal fees are due.

Table in Series II is for Syria and Lebanon, for the years 1925-1944, and for Syria alone beginning 1946.

40. *Tangier Zone*

First patent law 1938.

Member Convention 1936.

Patents are granted for 20 years from filing date. There is no examination or opposition and annual renewal fees are due.

The International Zone of Tangier has continued its separate patent law after the unification of 1956, but no longer exists as a separate member of the Convention. In Series IV applications and patents of Tangier applicant origin have been combined with Morocco.

41. *Tunis*

First patent law 1888.

Member Convention 1884.

Patents are granted for 20 years from filing date. There is no examination or opposition and annual renewal fees are due.

42. *Turkey*

First patent law 1880.

Member Convention 1925.

Patents are granted for 15 years from filing date. There is no examination or opposition and annual renewal fees are due.

43. *United States*

First patent law 1790.

Member Convention 1887.

Applications are examined with search through domestic and foreign patents and other literature; no oppositions or renewal fees. Specifications are printed. Term: 17 years from date of issue.

The sources of U. S. patent statistics are explained, and tables are given in the U. S. Bureau of Census publication, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1957*, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1960, pages 603-608.

The first year, 1790, is not in Series I; three patents were issued in that year. Patents had been issued by the individual states and before them by some of the colonies, the first one in 1642. Texas and Hawaii had separate patent laws before they joined the United States.

Design patents (except as noted below) and reissues are not included in the tables; plant patents, granted since 1930 and currently averaging about 100 per year, are included.

Applications filed by foreign applicants (in this case inventors) were not tallied until 1960; the figures in Series IV from 1951 to 1959 are estimates. Data for patents divided by the

country of origin of the applicants (inventors) has been published going back almost to the beginning; *Historical Statistics* gives the totals to foreign applicants from 1836. These figures, however, include design patents. The column "foreign" in Series II, includes design patents, which are excluded in Series IV. During the 10 years 1951 to 1960 the ratio of design patents to foreign applicants to total patents to foreign applicants was 1.8%.

44. *Yugoslavia*

First patent law 1921.

Member Convention 1884.

Patents are granted for 15 years from date of publication. Applications are examined and published for opposition. Annual renewal fees are due.

The 1884 date is for Serbia and the 1921 date as well as the data for 1921-1928 in Series II, are for Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia.