

HON. SECRETARY
and TREASURER :

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SECRETARY'S NOTES

Membership. We have a new member to welcome:

(279) Mr Erik Teglbjaerg DK 7260, SDR Omme, DENMARK.

and one change of address to note:

Dr Allan Hauck is now P.O. Box 165, Somers, Wisconsin 53171, U.S.A.

The Bulletin and Subscriptions. Members will find enclosed with this issue a letter concerning issues of the "Bulletin" and their subscriptions.

Frank Parfett - Father of U.K. Postage Meters.

Some years ago, at a Pitney Bowes function, I was introduced to an elderly gentleman with the comment that we might like to chat with each other on early meters.

I had not met him before but found out that Frank Parfett was one of those rare people who can talk with someone whose interests are not really the same but at the same time generate an interest in both directions that does not come often.

His interest always was the mechanical innards of the machines, the impressions which we study and treasure were almost a by-product to him. He was always and primarily a brilliant mechanical engineer and by chance very early on the scene with meters.

In 1920, then in his thirties, he was well known as one who could translate ideas into practical propositions and was associated with a device known as the Auto-Map Dead Reckoner, designed for handy map reading while driving a car (and later developed in some ways for use in aircraft during the war of 1939/1945 before radar and the like took over)

Frank Parfett (Contd)

When Universal Postal Frankers first tried to win acceptance for the Moss machine from the Post Office it was turned down because it was fitted with only one recording unit, whilst the Pitney Bowes machine had both an ascending and a descending meter. Frank Parfett was engaged by Pedersens Guages - who were to produce the prototypes - with the specific task of re-designing the Moss model and within five months he had evolved the Universal N.Z. machine. He was subsequently responsible for the design of all the machines manufactured by Universal Postal Frankers, which later of course became part of Pitney Bowes.

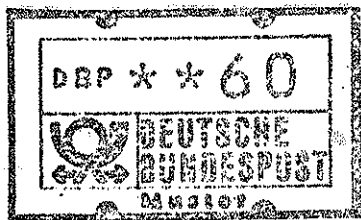
He served a total of 33 years with the Company and then a further 9 years with the Board, a total of 42 years.

Now, shortly before his 95th birthday, this grand old man has died, but his work lives on in those machines still being used in many countries and indeed is likely to go on for some time yet, and the memory of a truly wonderful person will remain with those of us fortunate enough to have met him.

- jcm -

IS IT A STAMP?, IS IT A FRANK?

(With apologies to a certain strip cartoon)



"Stamp Collecting" (to whom we are indebted for this illustration) reported in some detail the introduction, from 2nd January 1981, of a number of coin-operated machines which dispense printed labels with the value added by a meter. They are manufactured by Klussendorf in Berlin and capable of 14 values between 10pf and 280pf and to start with there will be 15 machines. They will be put into use on varying days at Berchtesgaden, Bonn (two), Cuxhaven, Darmstadt (two), Frankfurt am Main (three, including the airport), Cologne (two) Lubeck, Lubeck-Travemunde, Munich and Starnberg.

There is no indication on the labels as to the machine of origin but used examples will of course be cancelled.

From an example cover shown us by George Pearson we can add that the labels are printed in green with the upper rectangle having a yellow underprint and the bottom right rectangle having a green underprint. The DBP (Deutsche Bundespost) and value are in black.

The note regarding "14 different values" does not enlarge on these, apart from the 60pf on the specimen shown we have seen 10pf and 230pf and the stars suggest that if necessary four figures of value could be shown. Presumably if the selection of values does not have a numerical relationship one with the other then they must be the most popular or needed ones.

One more interesting thing regarding these is that the German Post Office have first of all gone to the trouble of adding "Muster" to the

Is it a Stamp, Is it a Frank? (Contd)

copy labels or illustrations in their press release, an honour they usually put on adhesive postage stamps, and the other is the discussion now taking place on cataloguing.

The Frama machines used in Switzerland and latterly many other countries have raised the question of inclusion in "Stamp" Catalogues and this German label with added value will pose editors with yet another problem.

We shall consider them to be Post Office Label Issuing machines which just happen to have a rather attractive printed label.

G. B. NOTES.

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Hasler Model FL204 We mentioned in our last report that most of the new machines have a five-figure number and we have seen a number in the 18--- range and one of 29226. It was suggested that in fact these are the actual machine numbers and that if so there may be more than one series and they may well be spread over more than one country.

In recent months we have seen the following:

HF 39507	from	Manchester
HF 40730	from	East Grinstead, Sussex
HF 50367	from	Chippenham, Wilts
HF 50977	from	Uxbridge, Middlesex
HF 70402	from	London, E.C.2.
HF 70849	from	Hemel Hempstead, Herts

so there does not seem to be any settled pattern as regards location that we can see. Until we hear otherwise (or unless someone can come up with a system we can follow) we will assume that they are machine numbers and not try and record them with our usual reports.

Another machine we have also seen recently is HF 90000 used from London W.C.2. to frank an International Telegram Account envelope which in the past had the usual Official Paid logo in black and FIRST CLASS in blue. This logo is now of course out of date and with a red frank (and also a black validating handstamp) the cover looks quite attractive!

Neopost Model 2205 What looks like a new "master die" has appeared. It can be identified by a larger "2N" placed at the extreme left of the space at the bottom of the frank with the number and suffix in thinner letters and figures as before.

We show one overleaf and wonder if we can establish the approximate change-over point between the old and the new?

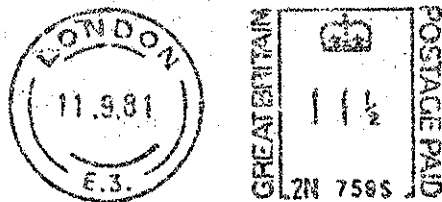
"PB" again! We have seen one or two impressions recently from machines in the style usually found on the Series 5000 models but with a simple "PB" prefix and a five digit number as PB 00004 etc.

At the moment we do not know what these are, they may be connected with some of the trials of the "electronic" machines we report on elsewhere or they may be connected with the trials of the Remote Resetting System.

This prefix was, of course, used many years ago on some of the original Pitney Bowes machines.

G. B. Notes (continued)

The new Roneo-Neopost 2205 die described on the previous page.



METERS AT BIRMINGHAM 1981

The now regular International Business Show held in Birmingham in October provided us once again with an opportunity to look at, and try out, nearly all the franking machines on offer in Great Britain to the potential user, plus one to come and one newcomer.

What we saw, stand by stand, was as follows, and here we should record our thanks for the courtesy and help we were given on the stands where the real aim is to find business and not necessarily to answer obscure questions from peculiar collectors such as us! In alphabetical order then:

Frama This was, to us, a surprise newcomer to the British market. For ages now we have heard that they were coming and on the stand of Mailing and Mechanisation Ltd were displayed the "Frama 100" electronic machine. We understood that it had only been approved for Great Britain the week before and the impressions we saw were all in the usual Swiss type design, the only possible clue to their being for this country being the "Specimen" lettered townmark (complete with the usual Swiss style cross at the bottom of the townmark circle)

The ones we saw were all 4-bank models running from 0001 to 9999 but presumably for the British market they will have to be 000½ to 999½. They have all the usual functions such as label dispensers, optional slogan, security lock, etc. Inking is by a replaceable roller and the machine can take letters up to 10mm thick.

What they describe as a "Disengageable additional printing device - Duty Paid" will presumably produce the additional "First Class" etc but we are not sure on this. The value-card system is used for charging the machine.

We do not know either what identifying letters, if any, will be used so await reports from members.

Meters at Birmingham 1981 (contd)

Hasler had on show their full range of machines and attachments, which we have described before.

Pitney Bowes again had their full range of franking machines, the 6300 and various models in the 5000 series with all the mailing attachments and bases to produce the mailing set-ups, building up to what they call the "flowline" assemblies which consist of collating, folding, inserting and franking machines.

They also had on show the new "6500 Electronic Postage Meter" which fits into the 6100 Mail Processor. Like the various "5000" set-ups it looks as if the meter will stay constant but we may well see new bases. This new meter also fits all existing bases as well.

The 6500 had recently completed its field trials (in Great Britain) and introduction was expected soon. The selection of values (from £00.00½ to £99.99½) is by a telephone type push button keyboard and the value that has been selected is shown on an illuminated digital display. An intentional extra button depression is required for high values and the digital display can also be used to show the balance remaining in credit, amount used so far today, no of items in a batch, etc. The machine can be linked to one of the electronic scales and at the touch of the appropriate button will produce the value required without manual setting. It can also be linked to an accounting device which will keep track of costs between departments and the like.

The impressions we saw were in the usual design lettered "PBE" but of course we do not know if that is what the production machines will use.

Also being demonstrated - and we found this quite fascinating - was the Remote Meter Re-Setting (RMRS). By telephoning the RMRS Data Centre (at present at Harlow) and following a series of instructions to identify the machine being linked and confirming that credit is available the meter can be re-set without moving from the office. We assume, but did not make sure, that this facility will be available more or less all the time. The instructions from the computer at Harlow were in quite a pleasant "standard English" female voice, not at all like a Dalek, and perhaps in the future we might look forward to regional accents if there are ever more than one Data centre!

Roneo-Alcatel were exhibiting under their new name since Roneo-Neopost was acquired from Vickers by the French electronic organisation. They too had their full range of current machines, the 2205, the 405/505 and the 605, all with various attachments and bases.

Both Pitney Bowes and Roneo had on show their increasing ranges of the new Postal Scales. Now, with the use of modern technology, it is a far cry from the old days. Depending on the complexity of the machine being used, all these indicate either the weight digitally displayed or, when particular

Meters at Birmingham 1981 (Contd)

buttons have been pressed the cost of postage for that service. Additional buttons can add on Registration, etc and it only takes a moment to compare the cost of using one service with another. When rates change the machines can be re-programmed without any trouble.

To sum up, an interesting show which certainly points the way to an interesting future.

G. B. "Highest Numbers"

As has happened in the past, some of the series seem almost dormant and at the same time others seem to be leaping ahead. This may be due to the fact that some particular machines are "reported" quite quickly after they are brought into use or that they remain "undiscovered" by meter collectors. The latest we have is as follows, where there is no change we have enclosed the number in brackets.

<u>Hasler</u>	HGB	(1387)	(2026)	(3053)	(4105)	(5040)	(6036)	(7005)	(8003)
	HAS	(1318)	(2019)	(3018)	(4011)	(5011)	(6012)	(7007)	(8014)
	HF	- see the note on page 35							

<u>Francotyp</u>	(AC:A 40)	<u>Singer</u> Model 410/420	(G.0822)
		Model 9010/9020	(G.1099)

<u>Pitney Bowes</u>	(PEL 1631 B)	(PBR 766 A)	PBT 2789 E (i)
	PB 00004 (ii)	(PBR 018 C)	

<u>Roneo-Neopost</u>	(J 718 M)	(W 93 C)	(TN 663)	
	(N 842 N)	(NX 996)	(RR 11438)	} (iii)
	2N 758 S	(PX-40)	(RR 25923)	
			(RR 53214)	

(i) Into the 2000's - suffix Y for the 1000's and B, C and D for the 2000's have not been reported.

(ii) See the note on page 35.

(iii) These may be machine numbers.

These reports indicate that several of the series we have been recording are now "dormant" and in fact it seems that several of the machines are no longer being marketed in this country. Unless we have some advance to note we will leave out of future reports the Francotyp, Singer and Roneo-Neopost 105 (N --- -) and various 305's (W, NX and the ? PX prefixes)

BOOK REVIEW

"FREISTEMPELKATALOG SCHWEIZ/LIECHTENSTEIN 1980"

by Heiner Durst (178 pages, 150mm x 210mm, Card Covers)

obtainable from the author at: CH-8803 Ruschlikon/Zh,
Alte Landstrasse 60,
SWITZERLAND.

We have, in a recent issue, mentioned this fine new work by our member in Switzerland and have already quoted both from the main part, on Switzerland, and from the part on Liechtenstein, which although an independent sovereign state has had its postal affairs since 1921 administered with those of the Confederation, with which it forms a postal union.

It is not merely a catalogue, as the title would suggest, but a complete handbook with details of values used for the FV's etc, various die and townmark types and all "priced" to give relative scarcity.

Although written in German it is not difficult to follow for the non-German speaker or reader as in every section there are many excellent illustrations.

He starts off with definitions and terms and shows the basic types used, details of manufacturers, numbers of machines and the details of townmarks and then moves on to treat each basic type in more detail.

Thus for what we call the "ovals" he describes and illustrates the various forms the number takes (curved, straight), shows all the values from 3 rappen to 5 Francs, all the types of townmarks used on each make and then under each manufacturer lists in detail the values used (each one is priced and they vary, 5 rp on Franco is 20.00 but on Hasler only 0.50) and gives details of proof impressions. For the Franco he actually lists the users and details are included of slogans.

Next, in similar detail, come sections on the rectangular design with HELVETIA at the bottom and the more recent one with HELVETIA at the top - it was from this latter section that we reproduced some illustrations recently.

At this point we are about two-thirds of the way through the book and there is still more to come.

Then follows a very detailed and comprehensively illustrated section on the various adhesive labels, both large and small, imperf, perf and rouletted. Next the machines used to impress customers own stationery, including illustrations of some combinations and used also for official mail and to revalue postal stationery postcards and air letters. Then the special postage due machines.

Book Review (Contd)

Parcel Post and the special machines used for it have their place, as do the new automatic machines which issue labels and the development and use of which is still spreading inside and outside Switzerland.

What next, you might ask, for surely that covers it all.

Well, then we have United Nations machines used in Switzerland which are identifiable by their slogans and townmarks and latterly their own design and following that Liechtenstein, with all facets covered in detail.

The printing is offset litho from a reduced typescript original and is very clear throughout, as are all the (reduced) illustrations, the binding allows the book to lie flat when open.

All in all one of the best books on meters we have seen, it will be the standard work on this group for many years. Get it.

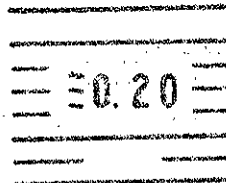
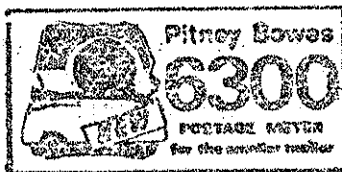
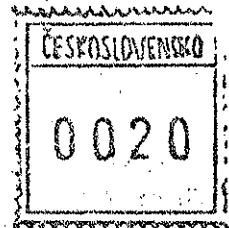
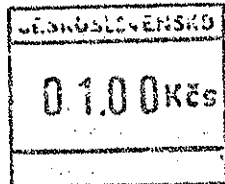
NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS

===== With, of course, thanks to our ever faithful reporters.

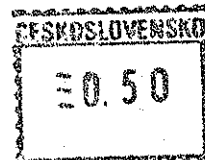
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PRAŽSKÁ
INFORMAČNÍ
SLUŽBA
ODBOR VYSTRIZKOVÉ
SLUŽBY



Notes and News from Overseas (Contd)

CZECHOSLOVAKIA. Thanks to Dr Bouska we can now show the Frama Post Office machine - he tells us just the one in use on an experimental basis - and a Lindaco-Krag, again Post Office, two in use.

The Pitney Bowes Model 6300, with a slogan worded in English and an "anonymous" demonstration frank was used on a trial basis as a Post Office machine at OLOMOUC 2, which we show, and also at MLADA BOLESLAV 3 in 1978 and at the latter only without slogan, at least in April 1980.

The normal version with definitive frank is also shown. (previous page)

GERMANY. We can add a little more to our notes in MSD's 117 and 128 concerning the impression which showed a large '40' Postalia confirmed that it was a trial and for which they had not sought approval.

A friend of Heiner Durst has spoken to someone else who was working with Mr Komusina in the 1920's and he remembers it as one of his first practical meters, one value only, designed for fiscal rather than postal use. He tells us that a rebuilt machine of this type is to be seen in the Postalia museum.

GREENLAND. A recent article by Peter Ibbotson in "Stamp Collecting" remarked on the number of meters in use in Greenland and recorded no less than 49. 33 of these are used in the capital, Godthab and the remainder scattered amongst 13 other towns. 26 are Pitney Bowes, 20 Francotyp and the remainder are two Satas and one Hasler.



HONG KONG. Pitney Bowes P.B.6099 is an addition to our List of migrant machines and it also gives us two new "towns", Aberdeen and Kwai Fong.

ICELAND. The currency was revalued on the 2nd January 1981 ("The Times" reported queues of up to one hour to change old notes) with the "New Krona" equal to 100 "Old Krona" and the use of the smaller unit, aurar, 100 to the Krona being resumed.

Adhesive stamps have only shown values such as 160 for some time and these will now be considered as aurar instead of Krona. We do not know what meters will do. The exchange is to be completed by 30th June 1981.

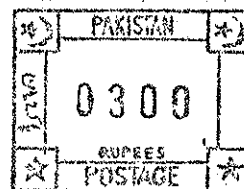
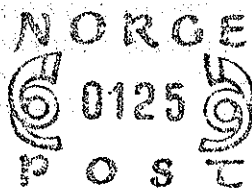
Notes and News from Overseas (Contd)

LESOTHO. Beginning in 1979 the names of the units of currency were changed - we think actually from the 1st of June but are not certain.

The Rand became MALOTI and the Cent became ISENTI. Maloti is the name of a range of mountains in Lesotho and this matches the upland "rand" of South Africa and shown as M instead of R. The smaller unit is shown as "s" from "sente" as Sotho words become plural by the addition or alteration of the prefix.

NEW ZEALAND. A cover bearing three impressions from Y 1127 postmarked at Wellington on 30 JUL 80 has one clear 2c and two impressions with apparent handwritten values of 24c. The cover also bears a handstamp of the "FMB" (Foreign Mail Branch) of the same date but at 9 PM, presumably to validate them. Is this the result of a rate change?

NORWAY. Frama label-issuing machines, 35 in all, using values of 125ø and 180ø went into use on the 2 Dec 1980. We have not yet seen one but understand that the actual labels are numbered.



PAKISTAN. The Roneo-Neopost Model 505 with the blank panel at the right, presumably as we suggested earlier after the removal of Bengali?

SAUDI ARABIA. We have recently had chance to examine a large batch of covers, all of which had impressions of the Pitney Bowes Series 5000.

We have already remarked on the dates in Saudi Arabia, our earlier ones being as 21.11.97, 19.3.98 etc to 99 then the year figures change to three digits and we have 39.5.400 (this from PB226 at TAIF 1) and then on to -5.1.401

Presumably the three-figure year wheels are specially manufactured to suit the Arabian calendar.

The numbers in the townmarks appear to go from 1 upwards, the "highest numbers" we have seen so far are:

TAIF	15
DAMMAN	29
TABOUK	1
JEDDAH	40
RIYADH	41
MEDINA	4