
THE
METER STAMP
BULLETIN

Journal of the
Meter Stamp Study Group

(Annual Subscription 7s.6d.; U.S.A., \$1.00)

No. 5 December 1950

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EDITORIAL NOTES

THAT this is the fifth "quarterly" issue of the Bulletin although the Group has not yet completed its first year is due to the fact the first number was dated January 1950 instead of December 1949. It is therefore not quite time to give a report of the year, but it can be mentioned that membership continues to show a slow but encouraging increase. I hope that all present members will continue their support during 1951.

Publication of the Bulletin has been rather less regular than intended, partly owing to variation in the time taken to reproduce it, but I hope that as a result of experience, it will soon be possible to settle down to a greater regularity. It may even be possible to increase the frequency - or would members prefer a greater number of pages at the present interval?

EXCHANGE PACKET

The response to the announcement in the last "Bulletin" has been extremely disappointing; Mr Buckley informs me that he received only one small contribution (my own!) to the packet. What the reason for this is, I cannot tell; perhaps those interested would let Mr Buckley know their objections to the proposed scheme, so that a more acceptable one might be drawn up.

In the meantime, several members have expressed their desire to enter into direct exchange, and particulars follow:

Mr D.R.Burchell (Eastfield House, Portobello, Scotland) wants: G.B. K.G.v (except M and N Royal Cipher type), metered air mails of the World; offers: G.B. all types, foreign and colonial.

Mr H.A.Rydings (38 Calverley Road, Birmingham 30) wants: G.B.; offers: U.S.A. (current).

Mr F.Lloyd Parton (18 Richmond Rd., Wolverhampton) wants: slogans of Brewing Industry and Food Business; Wolverhampton marks; offers: marks of Steel and Engineering Trades, partic. Sheffield, Birmingham and Black Country.

Will any other members wishing to publish similar announcements please let me know? Please make them as brief as possible. (No charge for insertion.)

THE "SIMPLEX" MACHINE

A notable event for British collectors is the appearance of a new type of machine. This is the "Simplex", manufactured by Universal Postal Frankers Ltd., London N.18; as its name implies, it is a small, simply-operated and (comparatively) low-priced machine, which is intended to supersede the well-known "Midget".

The frank resembles that of the "P" series, having value in the centre and Royal Cipher at the foot, but the central space is circular

(broken at the bottom) instead of oval. The key letter "S" appears as usual in the bottom left corner and the no. at the right; the machines will be numbered consecutively throughout the country, unlike the "Midget", so that high nos. should soon be reached. One hundred have already come into use. The machine produces any value from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $6\frac{1}{2}$ d. The townmark is the usual double circle, with date in rather small figures.

The first day of use, for machine S 1 at Manchester, was 21 X 50.

As mentioned in Mr Barfoot's article, the "Simplex" machine has also been adapted for use on parcel-post labels. It is intended also that it shall be used in other countries, and it will produce 25 values in decimal currency, e.g., from 1 cent to 25 cents or from 5c. (by fives) to 125c.

G.B.: "UNIVERSAL" (M.V.) TYPES

The original model, introduced in 1932, was capable of printing all values from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $29/11\frac{1}{2}$. In 1935, a "Junior" model was brought in, printing values up to $11\frac{1}{2}$ d. only, and then in 1937, an "Intermediate" model, with values up to $9/11\frac{1}{2}$. The generally-accepted method of distinguishing the three models is the form of the value. In the "Original" model, the shilling stroke is preceded (in the case of values below 1/-) by a zero, and in the "Intermediate" model by a double dash (=), whereas the "Junior" model has no shilling stroke and the figure is followed by a small raised "D". (The "/" , it may be mentioned, is on the pence figure wheel, there being thus a separate one for each of the twelve figures; in the "Junior" model, there is one "D" by itself for integral pence, and one attached to the $\frac{1}{2}$.)

Mr Barfoot has however recently made the surprising discovery that several "Junior"

machines show the values in the form "0/1" ! At least two machines, U 249 and U 269, have been found with the value in both the "Junior" and the "Original" styles; the makers, Messrs Universal Postal Frankers Ltd., have confirmed that they are in fact "Junior" models.

Other points of distinction between the three models are that in the "Original", the distance between the nearest edges of townmark circle and frank is about 16mm, and the "/" is above the cross on the crown; in the "Intermediate", the distance is 17-18 mm. and the "/" is to the left of the cross; in the "Junior", the distance is about 20 mm. The reason for the variation in spacing is apparently so as to centre the value in the frame.

The anomalous U 269 however has the spacing adjusted to conform to the style of the value. Thus it does not appear to be possible to distinguish impressions from "Junior" machines showing the value as "0/1" from ordinary "Original" machines; if so, for philatelic purposes, the machines will have to be classified by the style of the value and not by the capacity.

A further complication has arisen, as two machines (U 212 and U 228) which show the value as "0/1" and must from their ident. nos. be "Original" (the first "Junior" is U 247 and the first "Intermediate" U 451) nevertheless have the spacing and position of "/" like those of the "Intermediate" machines. The explanation has not yet been found.

INDIA & PAKISTAN. Referring to pp.33-34, the new "Neopost" designs have now been seen used; also the Indian "Universal" M.V. with altered national emblem, Wheel of Asoka, in place of Royal Cipher.

PARCEL POST METER MACHINES (contd.)

(by S.D. Barfoot)

Since the publication of the last "Bulletin", further information has been obtained concerning several of the machines there mentioned.

GREAT BRITAIN: The Westinghouse machine which was in use at the Head Post Office at Birmingham has now been withdrawn and the experiment concluded, according to information kindly supplied by the Head Postmaster, so that labels from this machine will be rare.

Two further machines were brought into use on Sept. 25th, 1950, one at Birmingham and the other at Romford. These are manufactured by Universal Postal Frankers Ltd. and modified from their new "Simplex" model (see page 42), the chief difference being that they issue gummed labels from a special attachment. These labels are of unusual design in that the frank is at the left of the townmark circle instead of at the right. The frank design consists of an imitation perforated rectangle (21 x 25 mm.) with Crown GvIR between "POST" and "PAID" at the top, value in centre, and "PARCEL POST" (in two lines) at the base. The townmark circle is double, with date in small figures. On all used labels seen there are two solid circles of colour at the top and bottom just to the right of the circle, although "specimen" pulls do not show these. The labels are of white paper, finely zigzag rouletted at the sides and measuring 63 x 29 mm. The values possible are from 9d. to 2/1, so that these machines must presumably be considered as multivalued models.

UNITED STATES: Five NCR machines were tried out at parcel-post windows of post offices. The labels can be distinguished by their meter nos., which are 101 PO (Washington), 102 PO (City Hall Annex, New York), 103 PO (Washington), 104 PO (Chicago) and 105 PO (Brooklyn). It is not known for how long they were used.

Two other very interesting machines, about which little is known, were also used experimentally. They were made by the International Business Machines Corp. The design is somewhat similar to those of the NCR labels but all inscriptions are horizontal and consist of "U.S. POSTAGE / (date) / SER.NO. WT. Z. AMT PAID / METER (with no.) / (Town name); with three small wavy lines at each corner. Meter 00001 PO was in use at the 45th St.Stn., New York and Meter 00005 PO at Washington, this latter from Feb.6, 1935, to Sept.25, 1936.

Five machines in the 90,000 series ("Flying Eagle") were also employed for parcel postage. Their numbers are PO 90059 (New York); PO 90060 (New York), PO 90061 (Brooklyn), PO 90062 (Washington) and PO 90796 (New York). At least one of them used violet ink. Ten machines of the "Large Eagle" type were used for the same purpose.

NORWAY: The "TIM" machine was used from Jan. 16 to Apr.14, 1950, and then returned to England. The labels were gummed, and the left-hand label inscribed "PORTO BETALT" was stuck on the parcel, while the right-hand label, bearing the value, was affixed to the parcel forwarding card. (As in most European countries, parcels are sent without stamps which are affixed to the "forwarding card" sent separately.)

Since Jan.1st, 1925, the Parcel P.O. at Oslo has used three machines manufactured by Anker-Werke, Bielefeld, Germany, for franking these parcel forwarding cards. They produce a one-line imprint vertically at the right of the card in violet, resembling the imprint produced by an ordinary cash register and varying from approximately 85 to 95 mm. in length. It has the date at left, with month in Roman figures or in letters (abbreviated), followed by 4-figure serial no., no. of machine (I, II or III), "OSLO", 4-figure value;

at the right, sideways, (at the top right corner of the card) is a colourless embossed circle with crown and posthorn inside, which also is produced by the machines.

For some time, another machine, manufactured by the National Cash Register Co., has been on trial at the same office. The imprint is rather similar to the Anker type, approx. 90 mm. long. The month is in letters (abbreviated), the serial no. in seriffed figures, followed by "A" between long dashes, six stars and three figures of value. Instead of the embossed circle is a small "Crowned Posthorn" and "OSLO", also in violet, below the rest of the imprint.

SWEDEN: Mr Thorsten Ingeloff, of Karlstad, has kindly intimated that three second-hand machines have been used in Sweden for franking parcel forwarding cards at the Boras Parcel Post Office. They have licence nos. 3, 4 and 5, and are Franco-typ C, Hasler C, and Franco-typ A machines respectively. The imprints resemble those produced by normal machines of these models, the Francotyps having serial nos. between frank and townmark circle and the Hasler at the left of the townmark circle which is in each case inscribed "BORAS 1 - PAK". No. 3 was used from Feb. 26, 1935, to 1940; no. 4 from Sept. 6, 1940, to Dec. 9, 1940; and no. 5 Dec. 9, 1940, to 1947 or later.

BELGIUM: Railway Parcel Post meter machines have been in use since 1928 or earlier, but little is known about them. The imprints produced rank equally with the Railway Parcel Post stamps and are found in place of them on the "forwarding cards" which in this case are rather large sheets of paper. At least eight types are known, but a full listing must be deferred.

GERMANY: It has just come to light that Anker-Werke machines have been used in all larger Post Offices for a considerable time for franking the parcel forwarding cards. They

produce imprints, in red or cerise shades, resembling those of the Norwegian machines but without machine no., with star and 4-figure value followed by a colourless embossed circle; in earlier machines this circle contained the German Eagle, but under the Nazi regime the Eagle standing on a Swastika in circle. What type is in use at present is not known.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA: Three parcel-post machines were brought into use, commencing on Aug. 15, 1949. These are standard multivalve "Universal" models, and produce labels on yellow U.S. Pitney-Bowes safety paper with "METERED MAIL" underprint. The design is a double-lined rectangular frame (about 64 x 32 mm.) broken at top left by the 4-figure serial no. and at bottom left by the date. At top centre is the no., UR 1 (or 2 or 3) with "PARCEL POST/ PAID" below. At top right is a panel containing "£ s d" with value figures below, e.g. 1/16/9 or -/-1/4 (pence figures are smaller.) The town name above "SOUTHERN RHODESIA" is at the base. UR 1 and 2 are in use at Salisbury and UR 3 at Bulawayo.

SINGAPORE: Since Jan. 3, 1950, a Universal machine (no. U 106) has been in use at the Parcel Post counter at the G.P.O. The machine is electrically operated, and produces labels very similar to those from Southern Rhodesia but on paper with "FRANCOPOST" underprint as used on G.B. Universal machines at present. "¢ c" is in the place of "£ s d", with four figures of value (two small); at the base is simply "SINGAPORE".

U.S.A.: THE PITNEY-BOWES "MODEL R"
(by Werner Simon, Memphis, Tenn.)

The Pitney-Bowes "Model R" omni-denominational postage meters are available in two different sizes, "Model RT" printing any amount from $\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$ to \$1.00 inclusive and "Model RF" for postage from $\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$ to \$9.99 $\frac{1}{2}$. The im-

pressions from both types of meters are identical.

The first figure of value was originally a dot, but later meters print three wavy lines in its place. The last figure appears as a colon if no $\frac{1}{2}$ is required and on recent installations the two dots appear closer together than on earlier meters.

Most of the "Model R" meters show 13 small stars on the right side of the impression, but a few hundred early meters printed 5 dots in their place while the first few meters had neither dots nor stars.

Coloured plastic wheels in front of the meter control printing or non-printing of slogan as well as omission of date and townmark. The townmark wheel can be turned to three positions, "Postmark", "Postmark without Date", and "No Postmark". Date, as well as city and state name, are mounted on two separate dies which by turn of the wheel are lifted out of printing position. According to U.S. Postal Regulations the date is to be omitted on printed matter, and the entire townmark must be left blank on registered mail.

Between frank and slogan plate a small opening permits insertion of a die about 10 x 8 mm. large. Thus provision is made for printing the hour of mailing, or the special "P.L. & R." legends. These are required on mailings at reduced postage rates such as bulk printed matter, catalogues, books, etc. and refer to the paragraphs of the Postal Laws and Regulations which establish the postal reductions. In some cases a small slogan was used in this space.

Envelope flaps are sealed automatically, and a simple swing of a lever sets the machine for printing on gummed tape which is delivered dry or wet depending on the position of another lever. Tape with a red border on top and bottom comes from the end of the roll which is so marked as a warning that the tape roll is almost

exhausted.

Over 3,000 "Model R" meters are in use at Parcel Post Office Windows of American post offices. These meters can be identified by the inscription "POST OFFICE" or the symbols "P O" in the townmark. Normally impressions exist on tape only as these meters are not destined for letter mail. A few machines are used at registry windows but cannot be identified due to the omission of the townmark on registered mail. In three cities, post offices used meters for postage due collection and the impressions can be recognised by the special slogan reading either "Collect Postage Due" or "Postage Due Paid".

A few interesting varieties are Model R meters with Permit No. (P.-) or post office station name in the townmark. One meter has the two initials of its user in the townmark, and a meter used by a Naval Post Office prints a "U.S.Navy" townmark.

The impressions of the coin-operated Mailomats are the same as those of Model R meters except that the Mailomats are numbered in the 51,000 series while ordinary Model R meters run from 100,019 upwards and have reached into the 180,000s by now.

"Model R" has been installed in various foreign countries, and impressions are on hand from Canada, Newfoundland, Brazil, China, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

(Edit.Note: The impressions of the U.S. "Model R", sometimes called the "Modern Eagle" type, will probably be familiar to all collectors; in Canada, the design shows Maple Leaves between townmark and frank, with crown above the value. If any member wants a copy of the U.S. type, he can have one on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.)

CATALOGUE SUPPLEMENT
GREAT BRITAIN (contd.)

Amendments to previous list (for full descriptions, please refer to Bulletins Nos.3 and 4.)

Type 4(e7): 1d.No. 1 has Neopost type frank on the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. value only.

Type 5(dd): the 2d. and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. are var. B2, not A1.

Type 10(c): add also /179-C/, $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. ✓

Type 10(d): No./182-D/ should be /182-D1/, narrow "H", 6d.

Type 10(f): add /175-F4/, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. (1d.No. PB 2)

Type 10(h): add /171, 173, 180, 183, B185 - each -H/, $\frac{1}{2}$ d., $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., 5d., 9d., $2/6$.

1940 Provisionals. Neopost dies with $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. value altered to 1d. by deletion of the " $\frac{1}{2}$ ", thus leaving space between "1" and "D".

/209/ EviiiR, L.V., 1d. from $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.

/210/ GviR, F.V., ditto

/211/ GviR, L.V., ditto

1950. New model, "Simplex". Value in centre, Royal Cipher at foot. Key-letter "S" at bottom left. Multi-value, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $6\frac{1}{2}$ d. /212/.

PARCEL POST STAMPS

(To avoid repetition of much matter in this and last "Bulletin", a formal list is deferred.)

OFFICIAL STAMPS

Delete the listing of /SB.1/ to /SB.3/ and substitute /SB.1/ - Various town-names and code-letters following "PAID".

(In addition to those listed previously, London N.7., Manchester, and Richmond & Twickenham have been reported.)

A D E N

1950. Large rectangular design, combining townmark and frank; Arms (Dhow in circle) in centre. Value in annas. "Universal" model.
/1/ Multi-value.

A U S T R A L I A

Type 1 (Neopost.) Add /A3-a, A4-a, C6-a/,
2½d., 3½d., 9d.

Type 1A (Neopost.) Similar to type 1 but
ident. no., prefixed by "N", in white on solid
ground. /2-c, A3-c, 6-c, 7-c/, 1½d., 2½d.,
6d., 1/-.

Type 2 (Midget) Add /A3-b, A6-b/, 2½d., 6½d.

Type 2A (Midget.) Similar to type 2 but
curved lines at sides of small oval containing
ident.nc.
/2-d/ 1½d.

Type 3 (Universal M.V.) Harris's illustra-
tion is from a "proof"; issued dies do not
have the prefix "U" as shown.

Type 4 (Neopost.) New design, Kangaroo on
map, with Southern Cross.
/11, 13/ 1½d., 2½d.

Type 5 (Universal.) Similar to type 3 but
circle surrounding value broken at bottom and
ends turned inwards (to leave more space for
the ident. no.)
/21/ Standard model, 0/0½ to 29/11½.

B A H R A I N

(Proofs have been seen from a Neopost L.V.
machine, in design of normal small format
showing posthorn below name at top, with
scrolls inscribed "POSTAGE PAID" above value
at centre foot, but it is not known whether
the machine has yet come into use.)

B A R B A D O S

Type 1 (Neopost type of 1934 - value in large
central square.) Add /A5/, 4d.

Type 1 but value in cents.
/13, 16/, 6c., 24c.

(Proofs have been seen of a new Neopost type,
King seated in Sea Chariot, with value in "c"
at centre foot, but it is not known whether it
has yet come into use.)