

MANUFACTURERS OF G.B. POSTAGE METERS

In contrast with the U.S.A. as noted in the last "Bulletin", there have been only three different firms supplying postal franking machines in Great Britain for general use, and two more supplying machines for use only in post offices.

When meter stamps were first introduced, in 1922, machines were supplied by Postage Meters and Machines Co. and by Universal Postal Frankers Ltd., both of London. The former acted as agents for the American Pitney-Bowes machines and were not manufacturers, but the latter either manufactured or controlled the manufacture of their own machines. The P.M. & M. Co. was absorbed into U.P.F. Ltd. in June 1929, when the latter took over the British Agency for the Pitney-Bowes machines which they still retain.

The third firm is Roneo-Neopost Ltd., a subsidiary of Roneo Ltd. of London and Romford, Essex, who first put their "Neopost" (at first written as "Neo-Post") machines on the market early in 1925.

Machines manufactured by "T.I.M." (Ticket-Issue Machines) Ltd., of Cirencester, Glos., were introduced experimentally in 1947 for use at post offices to produce labels for parcel post, and the experiments have since been extended. A machine for the same purpose manufactured by Westinghouse Garrard Ticket Machines Ltd., a subsidiary of the Westinghouse Brake and Signal Co., Ltd., of London, was tried in 1947-48 but has eventually been withdrawn (see note on page 80).

At the present time, therefore, there remain only three firms supplying franking machines in this country.

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In addition to the makers of franking machines noted on the previous page, several other firms including three well-known foreign ones, sought permission to introduce their machines in this country; but this was always refused, on the ground - at least, so far as the foreign firms were concerned - that only British machines could be sanctioned. Details of these attempts have been supplied by Mr. Henry J. Howard.

The first was the Universal Automatic Co., of London, who asked in July 1926 for sanction for their machines, which were intended (like the Wilkinson machine of 1912) to be placed in post offices for stamping the letters and collecting them. One of their machines had been tried in South Africa but had been withdrawn as unsatisfactory; they were therefore not tried here.

In 1927, the German "Francotyp" Company asked leave to introduce their machines, and produced specimens of the then current German design with date 14.3.27. Again in 1929, they submitted a design somewhat like the British one but nearly square, with "GREAT BRITAIN" at top, value large in the centre - in a decimal-currency form as "020", "125" or "899" in the specimens - and "N GvR 00" at foot. At an exhibition held in connexion with the U.P.U. Congress in London in the same year, they demonstrated a machine printing a design almost identical with the "Midget" and "Neopost" Royal Cipher design but with key-letter "F" at left and value in the form $-\frac{1}{2}$. A range of different values from $-\frac{1}{2}$ to $9/11\frac{1}{2}$ exists, the machine evidently being multi-value. The townmark is a circle containing "LONDON" at top with a short arc below it and "S.W.1" at foot, the date in the centre being "15 V 29". There is a slogan in the usual position reading "Post Office at home by "FRANCOTYP" in two

lines with three wavy lines above and below.

In 1927 also, the Swiss firm of Hasler submitted their machine, producing a design like their current Swiss one; and again at the time of the London U.P.U. Congress they produced a design like the "Midget" and "Neopost" Royal Cipher design with key-letter "H". In this, the townmark is worded "SPECIMEN" and there is a slogan "Via Air Mail" above an aeroplane. Mr Howard possesses a 6d. value dated "28 V 29" and a 1d. dated 24 VII 29".

In 1929, the National Cash Register Co., an American firm, issued from their London office a leaflet showing the design produced by their machine for parcel-post labels in Canada, and putting forward their machine for similar use in this country. No special design suggested for Great Britain is however known.

G.B. PARCEL-POST METERS

The "Westinghouse" machine, referred to in Mr Barfoot's recent article on Parcel Post Meter Machines as used experimentally at Cambridge and at Birmingham, was manufactured by the Westinghouse Garrard Ticket Machines Ltd., who inform us that "it was found that the machine was unsuitable owing to the fact that it produced too much information for their (the P.O.'s) records, and in consequence too expensive."

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A "T.I.M." machine is in use in the P.O. at the London South Bank Exhibition. The design of the label differs from the normal in that the left-hand panel contains the "Festival of Britain" emblem above "PARCEL POST PAID" horizontally in small letters. The centre panel is inscribed "FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN - B.O. - LONDON, S.E.1." As it is unlikely that many people will post parcels from the Exhibition, the labels will probably be very scarce. (Thanks to Mr H.G. Morgan for first information.)

GREAT BRITAIN: "MIDGET" GvR DIES

The existence of two distinct dies in the "Midget" type with GvR cipher has been discovered by Mr D.R. Burchell. The differences, which are all to be found in the crown, are, though small, he claims, quite definite.

In "Die 1", the crown is somewhat squat and broad; the fleurs-de-lys are centred and very nearly touch the upper arch of the crown. In "Die 2", the crown is taller and narrower and the fleurs-de-lys are an appreciable distance from the arch and tend to the sides, giving a "lighter" effect. A further distinction, which is believed to be constant though variations in amount of inking may obscure it, is in the white band immediately below the fleurs-de-lys; in "Die 1" there are three strokes but in "Die 2" these are replaced by three dots.

"Die 1" appears to be much commoner in conjunction with the unbroken double-circle townmark than with the townmark having inner circle broken at each side; and "Die 2" conversely. This will probably provide a useful means of enabling collectors roughly to sort out the two dies in the first instance.

GREAT BRITAIN: UNIVERSAL M.V.Check-List, continuedCipher G v R

One more of the missing nos. has been reported: U 352 (Stockport Cheshire).

Does any member possess a clear copy of U 285 regarding which there has arisen some doubt, inasmuch as indistinct impressions of U 286 may sometimes be mistaken for the lower no. ?

Cipher G vi R

"U" Prefix: the following nos. have now been reported - 57, 193, 442, 843, 867. ✓

The following should be added to the list of "Junior" models - 273, 275, 843, 867. ✓

"UA" Prefix: Nos. known, 1 to 999 except the following:-

3, 37, 43, 45, 58, 68, 82, 90, 94, 134, ~~135~~,
 168, ~~197~~, 207, 215, 222, 223, 259, 260, 297,
 304, 324, 348, ~~350~~, 383, 387, 390, 392, 394,
~~395~~, 397, 404, 424, ~~439~~, ~~453~~, 467, 470, ~~483~~,
 484, ~~499~~, 526, 530, 532, 543, 545, 549, ~~575~~,
 583, ~~618~~, 640, 648, 660, ~~677~~, 679, 694, 707,
 738, 750, 752, ~~767~~, ~~769~~, ~~774~~, 789, ~~791~~, 792,
 799, 801, 802, 809, 812, 829, ~~831~~, 835, ~~840~~,
~~847~~, 857, 858, 862, 873, 878, 891, 894, 902,
 903, 904, ~~907~~, 910, 911, 913, 922, 924, ~~931~~,
 933, 936, ~~944~~, 951, 952, 964, 967, 986.

The list is again due to Mr S.D. Barfoot. Unlike the "U" series, where missing nos. may still be using GvR or EviiiR dies, it is probable that all the above nos. have in fact been issued. Will members reporting additions kindly give full details - town, user, slogan (if any) and type of machine (Ordinary, Junior, or Intermediate) ?

The following (UA) are Junior models (with the possible exception of unknown nos. in the ranges given): 1-40, 51-70, ~~86~~, ~~87~~, 89-98, 111-120, ~~155~~, 161, ~~250~~, 262-271, 307-316, ~~332~~, 398-406, 434-441, 452-461, 492-501, 542-551, 579-588, 639-647, 680-688, 749-768, 790-808, ~~832~~, 839-846, 872-881, 885, 905-909, 932-941.

The following (again with the possible exception of nos. not yet known) are Intermediate models: 41-44, 81-85, ~~87~~ 88, 99-103, ~~109~~ 110, 121-125, 137-140, 151-154, ~~155~~ 156-160, 172-191, 202-221, 242-249, ~~250~~ 251-254, 256-258, 261, 277-301, 317-331, ~~332~~ 333-336, 342-361, 367-376, 388-396, 407-416, 427-433, 447-451, 472-491, 512-531, 552-568, 589-608, 619-638, 649-668, 689-708, 719-728, 739-748, 810-818, 830, ~~831~~ 833-838, 848-851, 863-871, 882-884, 886-890, 912-930, ~~931~~ 942-981.

The total numbers are accordingly: Ordinary, 254; Junior, 226; Intermediate, 419; Not yet known, 100.

HOW MANY COUNTRIES USE METERS ?

It is impossible to say precisely how many countries have used postage meters because of uncertainty whether each subdivision of a country should be counted separately and whether the same territory with a changed name and/or status should be counted each time. For example, are Czechoslovakia, Bohemia & Moravia, and Slovakia to be counted as three, two or one ? And should Netherlands Indies and Indonesia each be counted ?

But on a reasonable basis, the number of countries has now reached a hundred. In the following list, countries named in brackets are not counted separately, being included also under another name. Countries marked * have ceased to have a separate existence and their meters are accordingly obsolete; there are also so marked Cirenaica and Ethiopia, both of which ceased to use meters on "enemy" occupation and have not ~~have not~~ so far as is known yet resumed.

It is likely that there may be a few countries omitted and I shall be glad to have details of their issues. Acknowledgement is made to Mr Werner Simon for several additions.

British Empire and Commonwealth

Great Britain, Aden, Australia, Bahrain, Barbados, British Guiana, (Burma), Canada, Ceylon, Fiji, Gold Coast, Hong Kong, India, (Irish Free State), Jamaica, *Kenya & Uganda, Kenya-Uganda-Tanganyika, *Federated Malay States, Malaya-Perak, Malaya-Negri Sembilan, Malaya-Selangor, Malaya-Singapore, *Malaya-Straits Settlements, *Newfoundland, New Zealand, Nigeria, Northern Rhodesia, Pakistan, *Palestine, South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, South West Africa, Sudan, Trinidad & Tobago.

Total, 34 less 2 = 32 (5 obsolete).

Europe with Dependencies

Austria, Belgium, Belgium Congo, Czechoslovakia, *Bohemia & Moravia, *Slovakia, *Danzig, Denmark, *Estonia, Finland, France, Algeria, French West Africa, Indo-China, Morocco, Tunisia, Germany, German Federal Republic, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Irish Republic, Italy, *Cirenaica, Jugoslavia, *Croatia, *Serbia, *Latvia, *Lithuania, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, (Curacao), Neth. Antilles, (Neth. Indies), Norway, Poland, *Poland-General-Gouvernement, Portugal, Romania, Saar, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, U.S.S.R., Vatican City.

Total, 47 less 2 = 45 (10 obsolete).

Asia & Africa

Burma, China, Egypt, *Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Philippines.

Total, 10 (1 obsolete)

America

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Total, 14.

Grand Total, 105 less 4 duplications = 101
of which 16 are now obsolete.

SOUTH WEST AFRICA & NORTHERN RHODESIA

(by Mr R. Axer, reproduced and adapted from "The South African Philatelist", May 1951.)

During the past year, considerable progress has been made in the use of meter machines in South West Africa. The old "Francotyp" type has been withdrawn and replaced by a standard Neopost type (similar to the latest South African but showing an aloe plant) as well as the Union Neopost type 3 (large figure in centre) and the Union "Universal" with the name tablets suitably amended.

A curious variety has arisen: instead of the town name in the "townmark" in N 2 and

N 4, the English and Afrikaans version of the country was used. This has since been corrected in N 4.

The following is a complete list of all users so far as is known:

Francotyp

F 1 Windhoek (Metje & Ziegler Ltd.), 1d.

F 2 Windhoek (Landbank), 1d.

Neopost (Union type)

N 1 Windhoek (S. Cohen & Co.), 1½d., 2d.

Neopost (S.W.A. type)

N 2 South West Africa - Suidwes Afrika
(A. Wutow & Co.), 1d., 1½d., 2d., 3d.,
6d., 1/-.

N 3 Windhoek S.W.A. (Metje & Ziegler Ltd),
½d., 1d., 1½d.

N 4 South West Africa - Suidwes Afrika
(Metje & Ziegler Ltd), 1½d.

N 4 Luderitz S.W.A. (Metje & Ziegler Ltd),
1½d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1/-.

N 5 Windhoek (M. Pukowitz), 2d.

Universal (Union type)

U 1 Windhoek (Farmers' Co-op. Union),
"Junior"

U 2 Swakopmund (v. Tippelskirch & Co.
Nachf.), "Ordinary".

Northern Rhodesia is a new country to take up the use of meter franking. Only one machine is so far known, a Neopost used from Ndola by African Explosives and Chemical Industries, and the only value recorded is 2d. though there are doubtless others. The frank has the country name in two lines at top, "POSTAGE PAID" vertically up and down in a central oval, and denomination at centre foot with "N.R." at left and "N 1" at right.

U.S.A. TOWNMARKS

Mr Werner Simon states that the U.S. Post Office has, as from 1st July, reversed its regulation that town-name and date must be omitted from meter impressions on registered

mail; henceforth, name and date must both be shown.

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

An article on Israel Meters, by Werner Simon and S.N. Shure, appeared in "Stamps" (New York) of June 2, 1951, and Mr Shure, who is President of the Israel-Palestine Philatelic Society of America, has very kindly sent me copies of their detailed lists of the meters in use in Israel and also in the former Palestine.

With the ending of the British Administration in May 1948, the use of postage meters was discontinued throughout Palestine. Only in the early summer of 1950 were postage meters again permitted by the Israel postal authorities. As in Palestine, meter machines of two British manufacturers, Universal Postal Frankers Ltd. and Ronco-Neopost Ltd., are in use.

All the franks have the inscriptions in Hebrew "Yisra'el" at top and "D'mei Do'ar Shulmu" at foot, meaning "Israel Post Paid", together with "ISRAEL" in English at left and in Arabic at right. The townmarks have the name in the three languages in varying order.

Five distinct types of the Universal (all multi-value) are known:

- (1) Wide setting with serial no.; 3 figs of value.
- (2) Narrow setting without serial no.; 3 figs. of value, angular, a zero in first place.
- (2a) As (2) but star instead of zero in first place.
- (2b) As (2a) but figures of value oval.
- (2c) As (2b) but 4 figures of value; a star in first place.

The Neopost (limited-value) is known in values 5, 10, 15, 40 and 80 prutot, but doubtless others exist.

The Universals all have key-letter "Aleph" in the bottom left-hand corner, and nos. 1 to 26 are known. The Neoposts have as key-letters abbreviations of the town-name and the follow-

ing exist:

"Heit Fei" (Haifa) 1, 2, 3, 5; "Yod Meim" (Jerusalem) 1 to 5; "Tav" (Tel Aviv) 1 to 6.

The article and lists referred to can be lent to members on receipt of 4d. in stamps.

CATALOGUE SUPPLEMENT

GREAT BRITAIN

Two typing errors in previous supplements have been pointed out:

Page 26 (June 1950): Under Type 5 (e & g), 1½d. (103-h) should be ½d. (101-h).

Page 51 (Dec. 1950): Under "Simplex", ½d. to 5½d. should be ½d. to 6½d.

BARBADOS

Type 1 (Neopost), values in cents. The following have to be added to the Dec. 1950 Suppt.: /9, 11, 15/ 1c., 3c., 12c.

CANADA

Neopost (authorized Jan. 1951). Small upright design, large crown in centre with "CANADA" above, "POSTES" vertically at left and "POSTAGE" vertically at right; "COMPTEUR/METER" in bottom left corner and no. in bottom right corner.

/77 to ?/ 1c., 4c.

There are six values on each machine but other denominations have not yet been reported.

CEYLON

Type 2 (Neopost L.V.). (d) No frame-lines at sides of figure of value. Add:

/3-d, 4-d/ 3c., 5c.

(e) With frame-lines at sides of fig. of value.

/1-e, 3-e, 4-e, 5-e, 10-e/ 1, 3, 5, 6, 20c.

New value: /A10-e/, 21c.

Type 2(e), error "REVENUS" for "REVENUE"
/X4, X5, X6, X10/ 5, 6, 9, 20c. (die N 35).

Note: Harris's list of "Dies and Values Known" requires a considerable number of additions but space at present is insufficient to give these.

Type 3 (Universal M.V.) Cat.No.12 - the record no. has four figures, and the date-line of the townmark is level with the bottom of the frank; the (4) figures of value are somewhat angular, zeros being pointed at top and bottom.

Type 3a: five-figure record no. above tmk; bottom of tmk level with bottom of frank.
/13/ 4 figs. of value (meter no.54)

Type 3b: as type 3 (no.12) but figures of value rounded, zeros oval.

/14/ 4 figs. of value (meter nos.78, 79)

Type 4: Universal M.V., new design. Transverse rectangular frame (65 x 33 mm.) containing "CEYLON / POSTAGE REVENUE" at left above tablet containing meter no.;

"Rs : Cts" above and below figures of value at right, with "COLOMBO" below. 4-figure record no. inset in top left of frame and date inset in bottom left.

/15/ 4 figs. of value (meter no.98)

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

There is included with this "Bulletin" a supplement listing all known articles on the subject of meter stamps published in the philatelic press of Great Britain. Information of any omissions will be appreciated. Most of the journals are available for lending to members of the Group, as indicated in the supplement.

The only book published in this country is "The Meter Postage Stamp Catalogue" compiled by Albert H. Harris: 1st Edition, 1935; 2nd Edition, 1937; 3rd Edition, 1940.

A list of articles published in other countries which are available for lending will be published later.

Multiplex Duplicating & Printing, Stroud, Glos.