

T H E  
M E T E R S T A M P

B U L L E T I N

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

I have to apologize for the delay in sending out the September issue, due partly to a change in printing arrangements and partly to a coincidence of holidays. I hope that this, and all future issues, will appear early in the month for which they are dated.

Several additions to the list of Meter-Stamp Articles in the British Philatelic Press have been reported, some of them old and some recent (one is mentioned on Page 90 of this issue), and I hope to issue an additional list with the next Bulletin, in conjunction with a list of articles and booklets published overseas which are available for lending to members.

Is any member interested in the post-office "Paid" marks applied to matter prepaid in cash? I find some of them from time to time mixed with lots of meters, and shall be glad to dispose of them to anyone who collects them. (Many continental meter collectors apparently include them on the same footing as meters proper, which the marks often resemble.)

G. B. NOTES

No clearly "improvised" or provisional  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. dies consequent on the recent raising of the 1d. rate for printed matter have so far been reported. A number of Neopost users have however had to employ  $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d. franks in combination.

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In the "Universal M.V." type, the "U" prefix series will soon be completed although only begun last year; at the time of writing, UC 894 is the highest seen.

The "Simplex" machines are increasing just as rapidly; S 582 came into use about the beginning of October.

The spread of the "Neopost" machines is not so easy to determine, but in London W.1. alone (which appears to have the greatest number of all districts) the no. has reached N 744. It will be interesting to watch for how they are numbered after N 999.

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An important article by H.J.Howard, entitled "Some Designs of Meter Postage Stamps" was published in "The British Philatelist" of Oct.1951. It describes and illustrates a number of "essays" for the designs of G.B.franks in 1922-26, also one for South Africa (1920). It appears that the familiar "Royal Cipher" design originated with Mr.Howard himself and was put forward by the Neopost Company, being adopted later by U.P.F. and Pitney-Bowes. The original sketch is illustrated; this has the figures of value in each lower corner with "PENCE" between and the no. (N 1) below the cipher. A similar die was produced, but it was not approved in this form.

G.B. UNIVERSAL M.V. VARIETIES.

The "Intermediate" model of the U.M.V. is characterized by a double dash before the shillings sign, thus =/. But Mr.H.J.Howard

has pointed out that some machines show dots like two colons thus ::/ instead of the dashes, or even two dots above a dash or conversely. These varieties appear to be constant, at least for a time, and not due to defective impressions. They are however probably caused by damaged type-segments, and not intentional; it is doubtful therefore whether they deserve mention in a catalogue. Two machines showing the dots ::/ are U 547 and U 550.

It may be mentioned here that on more recent machines, the dashes are appreciably shorter than on the earlier machines. The change-over seems to take place about UB 70.

GREAT BRITAIN: UNIVERSAL M.V.

Check-list, continued

Cipher G vi R

"UA" Prefix. A number of additions and amendments have been reported by Heer W. J. Pieterse and Mr. W.E. Stribling.

The following have to be deleted from the list of nos. not known: 197, 350, 395, 439, 453, 483, 499, 575, 618, 677, 769, 774, 791, 831, 840, 847, 907, 944.

Junior models: the following should be deleted - 86, 87, 155, 250, 332, 832.

Intermediate models: the following should be added - 86, 87, 109, 155, 250, 332, 831, 832.

An up-to-date summary of the numbers of meters of each model is as follows:-

<u>Prefix</u>	...	...	...	<u>U</u>	<u>UA</u>
Ordinary	...	...	...	391	260
Intermediate	...	...	...	39	431
Junior	...	...	...	333	226
Not yet known	...	...	...	<u>236</u>	<u>82</u>
<u>Total</u>	...	...	...	<u>999</u>	<u>999</u>

Australia operates a peculiar system of numbering its meter dies, and a further development has recently come into view.

As in most countries, machines are numbered consecutively throughout the country irrespective of town or State; but here, they are also numbered consecutively irrespective of make (of which there are at present four, - Neopost, Midget, Universal MV, and Simplex.) The first 234 machines were numbered A 1 to A 9, B 1 to B 9, C 1 etc. to Z 9. Thereafter, nos. ran from 10 to 999 without prefix (except that some Neoposts had an "N" which was not taken into account in the sequence.) 999 having now been reached, nos. began again at A 10 to A 99, then B 10, etc. This will allow for a total of 3,500-odd machines, after which something new will have to be devised !

"A PHILATELIC SALUTE" AT "CAPEX"

The official catalogue for the Canadian International Philatelic Exhibition ("Capex") held at Toronto from Sept. 21 to 29 contains a "Philatelic Salute" from Pitney-Bowes of Canada Ltd., from which is quoted:

"... if there should be those who look with concern and regret upon the swift advance of Metered Mail, let them be assured that the Postage Meter holds no threat to the beloved hobby, can never wholly replace the engraved adhesives, and can only serve to make them somewhat less common and prolific, and hence slightly rarer than they are and will be !

"Instead, it can now be recognized in philately, as it has long been known in business and industry, that the mechanically imprinted postage meter stamp with

its dated postmark, needing no cancellation, and non-negotiable, - represents the one notable advance in the payment of postage in more than a century.

"To-day, the postage paid on Metered Mail amounts to nearly two-fifths of the total in Canada and in the United States. The annual dollar volume is approximately \$32,000,000 and \$6000,000,000 respectively.

"A small but increasing amount of that postage is finding its way into collectors' albums, because even the utilitarian meter stamp, with its "slogans" or "postmark advertisements," now has its own philatelic followers. They are making Metered Mail an interesting if minor branch of the greatest of all hobbies."

Thanks to Mr. Tom Morgan of the "Philatelic Magazine" for a first-day cover mailed from Capex by Pitney-Bowes Ltd. (Meter PB 145574 with appropriate slogan.)

#### NORTHERN RHODESIA

The description given last month requires a slight modification: the words "POSTAGE PAID" are around the upper part of a central circular space. Values are 1½d., 2d., 3d., and 4d. There appears a slogan showing the trade-mark device of African Explosives and Industries Ltd. at left of "FERTILISE AND REALISE." Thanks to Mr. R. Axer for further details.

#### "STIPLIX" ABROAD

Mr Axer states that some sixty of these machines have been sold in South Africa. They are also in use in Australia and the Netherlands. In all countries, the design of frank is practically the same as that of the Universal multi-value, the South African having key-letter S and the Dutch US.

A meter machine is in use for franking souvenir cards posted at the top of the Eiffel Tower. The frank is of the ordinary "Winged Envelope" type, with no. C.4182; three figures of value preceded by a star and followed by "F". The town-mark, of the usual straight-line type, reads " = (date) = PARIS VII = " and above it is a slogan reading "PARIS LA TOUR EIFFEL SOMMET 300 METRES." (Thanks to Mr.V.B.Roberts for an example.)

CHINA: INFLATION ISSUES

Some notes on Chinese meters were given in the March "Bulletin" (page 60.) I have since learnt the meaning of the Chinese inscriptions, which are (at the top of each type) "East China Postal Administration" and (at bottom of the "Universal" or immediately above the value-box in the "Pitney-Bowes") "Postage Already Received" i.e. Post Paid.

The two copies then referred to, both from Shanghai, were of the following dates and values: "Universal," 28.IX.49, value ~~¥~~ 440 Y; Pitney-Bowes, 18.II.49, value ~~¥~~ 8000 with Y below the last zero which appears to be fixed. (I use "Y" to represent the Chinese character for "yuan.") A further "Universal" has now been received, similar to the previous one but with six Chinese characters at top, now reading only "Chinese Postal Administration," and the flying goose omitted; the town Shanghai, and indent.no. (4) are the same as before, but the value now is ~~¥~~00800 with "Y" below the last two zeros which are fixed and somewhat taller than the other figures.

The following paragraphs are quoted from an article "The trail of the Noughts in Chinese Inflation" by J.O.Davies,

published in the "Philatelic Magazine" of Oct. 26, 1951 to which acknowledgement is made:

"An abortive attempt had been made in 1936 to introduce the postal meter system of franking into China, but the government of the day declined to sanction their use. The inability to print stamps fast enough brought the few existing meter machines into their own in 1949. They were set to read in tens of thousands and letters so franked with G.Y. 1,600,000 (160 tens of thousands) are quite common dated about May, 1949.

"The logical extension of this method was that the firms who owned meter machines, and sometimes the authorities themselves, should run off impressions on pieces of paper to sell to their less fortunately placed neighbours and in fact some post offices actually printed and perforated these meter impressions and sold them over the counter to be used as stamps."

The P.M. illustrates a perforated label, apparently on safety paper, bearing a "Universal" similar to that of 28.IX.49. described above except that two of the four characters at the top differ (the meaning still "Chinese Postal Administration") and also the character after the value which is ~~an~~001 ("fen" or cent). In the townmark, KWEIYANG, only the month of the date appears (VI), the other figures showing only as solid blocks.

#### J A P A N

Although trials are believed to have been made before the War, Japan has only recently brought postage meters into use, and these are so far used only at post offices.

They are "NCR" machines manufactured by the National Cash Register Co. of Dayton, Ohio, and the stamps are printed on large square gummed labels of the same style as the NCR labels used

in the U.S.A., Canada and South Africa, except that the Japanese are printed in red on white paper. All inscriptions are in European characters, the date (e.g. May 29 1951) at top, then "JAPANESE POSTAGE", with at foot in two lines "PAID TOKYO" flanked by conventionalized birds. The figures in the central line read, for example, "0000.168 A 173"; the last three, smaller, are the record no. and the value is 168 yen (equivalent to 3s.6d. or 47¢ U.S.) It will be noticed that no provision is made for fractions of a yen. The letter "A" indicates the postal clerk operating the machine. Mr. Walter H. Swan reports also letters "H", "L" and "M", and states that machines are in use also at Yokohama, Osaka, and Kobe.

#### UNITED STATES: TYPE "EA" METERS

A detailed "History and Listing of Type EA Meters" has been compiled by H. Allen Osborne and published by the Meter Stamp Society in the U.S.A., and a copy has very kindly been sent to me by Lt. Col. William V. Hannay, of Albany, N.Y.

Type EA corresponds to Harris's type 5, the oval design with wavy lines at each side and having the Meter No. in a curvilinear box in the centre. It was brought out by the Pitney-Bowes Co. in July 1933 and was generally withdrawn in 1950. The machines are combined franking and sealing machines.

Meter Nos. run from 9100 to 9816, but nearly two hundred of them are not yet known. Denominations recorded are 1, 1½, 2, 3, 3½, 4½, 5, 8, 9, 12, 16, 18, 21 and 23 ¢ (the higher values are not listed in Harris's Catalogue), and 2¢ with "AD'L 1¢ PD" below frank. Impressions are known in blue, black, brown, green, orange, purple (or violet) and red.

The list can be lent to members on receipt of 4d in stamps.

### THE "FRANCOTYP" MACHINES

(Translated from an article by Heiner Dürst in "Schweizer Briefmarken-Rundschau," Sept. 1947.)

The German Francotyp machines, employed in some dozen countries, are marketed in four different models. The impressions are to be distinguished primarily by means of the spacing between townmark and frank. The standard is always the distance from the middle of the townmark to the middle of the frank; it would be incorrect to take the measurement between the two parts, for this varies according to the form of the frank. On the other hand, the date and the value-figures are built in to the machine and their distance apart therefore unalterable.

Francotyp A ... 60 mm.

Francotyp AN ... 67 mm.

Francotyp B ... 74 mm.

Francotyp C ... 79 mm.

Further points of difference are as follows:-

"A" has large date-figures without stops;

"B" has varied date-figures with stops;

"C" has small date-figures without stops.

Varying forms of figures of value have come about in course of development of the manufacture (these are not easy to describe, but are illustrated in the original article.) The figures of Francotyp A are always the same to the minutest detail; the figures of Francotyp B on the contrary differ on every machine as they were cut by hand, and one finds all shapes of zeros from a true oval to a rectangle. Francotyp A, which has four figures, has either a star, a round dot or a lozenge in the first place. Francotyp B all have only three figures.

The tall and thick figures of Francotyp C occur in general only on four-figure machines; on the three-figure machines, there can be distinguished four varieties;

CA : manufactured by the Anker Works;  
 CB : " " " Bafra Works;  
 CE : standardized model of both Works;  
 CG : the same but with Gothic figures.

Gothic figures were however later introduced in Francotyp A and B, and these are designated as AG and BG; the former are again all identical and the latter different on every machine.

In various countries such as Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, etc., Francotyp employs completely different types of figures.

#### METER FISCAL STAMPS

No doubt collectors of meter stamps, like collectors of adhesive stamps, usually confine their attention to stamps used for postage, but it may be of interest to note that franking machines have also been adapted to a variety of fiscal purposes.

The meter postage stamps of most countries are inscribed for "postage" only and are presumably restricted to that purpose, but those of Barbados, Ceylon, and Southern Rhodesia (the original Neopost type only) also bear the word "Revenue"; the Ceylon Universal IV has been used on receipts, and early New Zealand meters, though not so inscribed, are often found on receipts.

Special meter machines for collection of taxes such as wine and liquor taxes, tobacco tax, driver's licences etc. have been used extensively in the United States for some twenty years. In South Africa, some machines numbered in series with the postage machines are reserved for fiscal purposes. There are doubtless others.

In Great Britain, the "Neopost" machine has been adapted to print National Insurance stamps, but as the Insurance Cards have to be surrendered on expiry, the stamps are unlikely to be obtainable by collectors.

Except for railway parcel stamps, there does not appear to be any other use of franking machines in this country.

#### COLOURED METER STAMPS

The meter stamps of Great Britain and almost all other countries are now invariably printed in "red" (varying from cerise to orange-red), though in early "Universal N.Z." models as used in G.B., India, Netherlands, etc. the townmark portion was in black, and occasionally errors have been reported in which the whole is in black. This red colour is prescribed by U.P.U. regulations for all marks denoting that postage has been paid without stamps.

For reasons which are not clear, the United States and Canada alone depart from this regulation, and, in the former especially, a variety of colours is found. Originally it was laid down that the colour of the meter impression should be the same as that of the equivalent adhesive stamp; thus, in the U.S.A., 1¢ green, 1½¢ brown, 2¢ red, 3¢ violet, 5¢ blue, and in Canada, 1¢ orange, 2¢ green, etc. But with the introduction of L.V. and M.V. meters this could not be adhered to.

Users of such meters now appear to be allowed to use whatever colour they choose, and even bi-coloured prints, regarding which the following remarks are taken from the Bulletin of the U.S. Meter Stamp Society, June 1949 :-

"In the usual case, the meter user has switched from one colour to another and traces of the first colour remain to mix with the new. Such prints appear very blotched, with the two colours mixed up in various shades and no sharp dividing line. Sometimes, however, two colours are purposefully used at the same time; these prints show one colour on the top half and one on the bottom half, with a sharp line dividing the two and little if any mixing of colours."

"Examples are: red & green, PB meters 58573 and 70458; red & violet, 55896; red & blue, 72731; blue & green, 75759. The first colour named is on the top half." These franks are the square type with "AMOUNT PAID" in a central oval.

CATALOGUE SUPPLEMENTCANADA

Neopost. The listing in the Sept. 1951 Bulletin should be replaced by the following: A - inscribed "COMPTEUR / METER" ; B - inscribed "COMPTEUR / METER NO." (Nos. 101 to 106 only are type A.)

/77A,79A,80A,82A,84A,86A/ 1,3,4,7,15,25c.

/79B,80B,81B,82B,83B,86B/ 3,4,5,7,10,25c.

Postage Due. Adhesive labels (N.C.R. machines.) (These were inadvertently omitted from the June 1951 supplement.)

(i) Long vertical strip type, printed in red on safety paper with green underprint.

Wording from top to bottom as follows:

/D.1/ CANADA POSTAGE DUE (date & serial no.)  
(denomination as .05) No.137 TORONTO  
(year) (denom. as \$00.05)

(ii) Square type printed in violet.

Wording as follows, in seven lines:

/D.2/ (date) CANADA POSTAGE DUE (denom.  
followed by letter B and serial no.)  
Amount to be Collected N.C.R. Meter  
739 WINNIPEG, MAN.

(Note. There is only the one machine in each type.)

E I R E

(Will be listed under "Ireland.")

F I J I

Midget. Crown and Royal Cipher type as 1929 but monogram "G R" instead of "GVR".

/7,10,13,14/  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2d., 1/-, 1/6.

(Note. The 1/- and 1/6 seen, from machine M 1, have the value in "typewriter" type; the lower values, from machine M 2, have thick figures.)