

T H E
M E T E R S T A M P
B U L L E T I N

Journal of the
Meter Stamp Study Group

No. 15

(Vol. II No. 6)

June 1953

Editor and Hon. Secretary:

A. A. Dewey, M.A., B.Sc. (Econ.),
46, Chester Drive, North Harrow, Middx.

=====

EDITORIAL NOTES

Subscriptions: If you find this para. marked with a red cross, your subscription for the current year has not yet been received. Will you kindly let me have it as soon as possible to avoid missing any issues of the Bulletin. (7s6d. or U.S. \$ 1.00 - by dollar bill.)

Gift: Members who have paid their 1953 subs. will receive with this Bulletin a "tape" of the special U.N. meter stamp with slogan "Peace, Justice and Security for All". It will be sent to other members on receipt of their sub.

Wants and Offers: (N.B. in accordance with Board of Trade regulations, all exchanges of meter stamps between the United Kingdom and countries outside the "Scheduled Territories" - which are chiefly the British Commonwealth, other than Canada, and Ireland, - must be sent via the B.P.A. Export-Import Control. Detailed regulations on request.)

M. le Commandant Michel de Wailly, La Theverie, par St. Agil, Loir-et-Cher, France, wishes to exchange metered entires with all countries. The following two members are interested in

62)

meter stamps relating to the United Nations,
U.N. Agencies etc:-

Wm.R. Bird, 600 North First Ave., Maywood,
Illinois, U.S.A.:

Dr. Detlef Schmidt, Rögencort 12,
(24a) Hamburg - Wohldorf, Germany.

Exchange: It has been suggested that the compilation and circulation of a list showing what each member collects, and what he has to offer by way of exchange, would be helpful. Will you kindly let me have the information not later than 1st August?

GREAT BRITAIN: "E II R" DIES

"The Times" reported on April 27 that "From May 1, postal franking machines licensed by the G.P.O. for private use may be fitted with dies bearing the cipher E R II (sic). Owners of machines bearing the cipher G R VI may continue to use them if they wish. ... The date of official approval was fixed as May 1 by agreement between the P.O. and manufacturers of the machines in order that the latter might have time to make adjustments in their production schedules."

The report further said it was estimated that about 10% of the franking machines now in use bear the cipher G R V, with a very much smaller number bearing the cipher E R VIII which are said to be cherished by their users as rarities.

What it does not explain is why it has taken even longer to bring out the new dies with only the minimum of change from those of the late reign than to issue completely new adhesive stamps.

We are grateful to Messrs. Roneo-Neopost Ltd., and Universal Postal Frankers Ltd. for "First Day" impressions of the N, P, SA and U types. No doubt the M, NZ, H and PB types will appear later; though the M and NZ machines are no longer made, many of the former and a very few of the latter continue in use.

63) THE NEW CATALOGUE

As many members know, our member Mr. S.D. Barfoot has been engaged for some time, with assistance from experts on their particular countries, on the compilation of a new whole-world catalogue to supersede that of Harris last published in 1940. Mr Barfoot now informs us that it is expected to be published within a short time. With 130 large pages listing and illustrating all the different types of all countries, it will include also an introduction giving a history of meter franking and illustrations of all the chief makes of machines. The price will probably be 12s.6d., and orders may be sent direct to Mr. Barfoot, whose address is 37, Forestdale, Southgate, London. N.14.

SUB-POSTMASTERS AND FRANKING MACHINES

It was reported by the "News Chronicle" that at the annual conference of the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters held in London in April, several speakers spoke of the loss in trade brought about by large firms using franking machines; one lady, from Glasgow, said she lost £5,700 of trade a week on this account. The pay of the sub-postmasters depends on the amount of business at their offices, and as the meters of the machines have to be taken to a head post office to be set, the sales of stamps at the sub-offices are seriously reduced.

The General Secretary of the Federation informs us that they see no reason why sub-postmasters should not be allowed to set the meters, which would also give greater convenience to the users. He adds that there are 22,000 sub P.Os. in the country as compared with 2,000 "Crown" and Head Offices, and the sub-offices discharge nearly 70% of the counter work of the Post Office.

GREAT BRITAIN: FIRST PITNEY-BOWES TYPE

Mr. Henry J. Howard has shown us a copy of No. 8 (Leicester) showing Variety 2 with date 2 MAY 1924, some seven months earlier than the earliest noted in the last Bulletin.

G.B.: UNIVERSAL M.V. HIGH VALUES

Originally the "ordinary" model of these machines had a maximum of $29/11\frac{1}{2}$, but by special permission some of them are now capable of registering up to $99/11\frac{1}{2}$. Impressions from these can only be distinguished from the normal in the case of values of 30/0 and over. Mr. Walter M. Swan reports UC 735 (Stafford) with value 45/0 and Mr. R. Axer has sent UD 332 (London E.C.2.) with value 32/6; both are on "tapes". Details of any other values above $29/11\frac{1}{2}$ will be welcomed.

G.B.: TWO DATE ODDITIES

The Pitney-Bowes "PB" and "P" series (but not the "H"), used with the mailing machines, and the short-lived "High-Speed" machines show the month in letters and the year in full, but all other British meter townmarks show the date in the form "13 V 53", that is, with the month represented by Roman numerals. Two odd exceptions have however been found. One is on a Neopost machine, London E.C.2., N 269, and the other on a Universal M.V., London S.E.1., U 41, each having the month in ordinary figures. Only one date of each has been seen, strangely enough both in May, the Neopost 2 5 42 and the Universal 17 5 44. How long these varieties were in use is not known; has any member any others?

KENYA, UGANDA AND TANGANYIKA

Acknowledgement is made to Mr. W. Tunstall, of Kenya, for the information on which the following is based.)

For some fifty years, Kenya - known as East Africa Protectorate until 1920 - has formed a postal union with Uganda and they have used a common series of stamps. In 1935, Tanganyika Territory was added to this Union. Franking machines, of the British "Neopost" make, were introduced into Kenya early in 1931, but were not used in Tanganyika prior to its inclusion in the Postal Union.

The first dies, of the usual small upright format, had a wavy imitation-perforated outline, a large figure of value in the centre with "CENTS" below, "POST" "PAID" at left and right respectively, and "KENYA & UGANDA" in an arc above. This is catalogued only in the 5 c. value but the 10c., 15c., and 20c., also are known. They are probably "fixed-value" dies.

This design was soon replaced by a rather more elaborate one, the smaller figures of value being enclosed in a rectangle from the top and sides of which sprouts foliage apparently adapted from the low-value adhesive stamps of 1922 then current and representing palm and banana leaves. In some dies, possibly to provide for shillings values, the figures of value are followed by "c" and "CENTS" below is omitted, though at least one die has both "c" and "CENTS".

A peculiar feature of these Neopost dies is that many of them have a small rectangular block in each bottom corner. The dies were sent out thus with the intention that the key-letter "N" and the No. should be engraved locally on these blocks as required; but for some unknown reason the Post Office decided that this should not be done. Nevertheless, some dies have the "N" in the bottom left corner with a solid block in the right-hand corner, and some have both "N" and a No. In the unnumbered dies, the different

66)

machines can be distinguished only by the slogans if any.

The townmarks are of the usual G.B. style and rather surprisingly do not show the name of the territory in addition to the town; none of the machines are known used in Uganda.

Although Tanganyika had been incorporated in the Postal Union in 1935 it was not until about 1950 that the name on the dies was altered to "KENYA & UGANDA" horizontally with "TANGANYIKA" in an arc below. Apart from this, there was little change in the design but all those seen so far have "CENTS" below the figures of value which are without the "c" and all have "N" in the bottom left corner though some still have a solid block instead of a No. Like far too many Neopost impressions however, some are scarcely legible and it is impossible to see whether or not there is an "N" or No. None of this type have been seen used in Uganda, but there is at least one in Tanganyika (Dar es Salaam.)

(The Universal multi-value and Simplex will be dealt with in the next issue)

NORTHERN RHODESIA.

The use of franking machines is extending rapidly here. Mr. R. Axer (Cape Town) has kindly sent us a list of all machines so far in use and copies of Neopost N6 (NR and N6 in the bottom left and right corners respectively), Simplex S 2, and the first Universal multi-value U 1. Like the Simplex, the latter is of the same design as for Southern Rhodesia with only the different name. These three are used from Ndola, and the Neopost has only this name in the town-circle; the Simplex has in addition "NORTHERN RHODESIA", and the Universal "N.R" This last has the name spelt with an apostrophe, "N'DOLA", which may be an error.

NYASALAND

The first franking machine in the Protectorate has been introduced by Nyasaland Railways Ltd., Blantyre. It is a Universal multi-value, the frank being of exactly the same design as for Gold Coast and Jamaica, - a large upright rectangle with denticulated border, "NYASALAND" at top, "POSTAGE" at left, "PAID" at right, and "U" and "1" in the bottom corners with a crown between.

UNITED NATIONS

The meter recently introduced by the F.A.O., Rome, described on page 60 of the last Bulletin, is not, as was suggested, a new make. Mr S.D. Barfoot states that it is a Francotyp model AN. Dr Detlef Schmidt (Hamburg) has learnt that it was brought into use on 17.12.52.

The U.N. Headquarters at New York were reported (as mentioned here in March 1952) to have four machines with their own special frank design, introduced on 24 Oct. 1951. Impressions from Nos. 1, 2 and 4 appear to be more or less equally common, but impressions from No.3 are, for some reason not yet established, scarce.

Dr Detlef Schmidt has kindly supplied a list of the meter stamps used by the various U.N. offices and "Specialized Agencies" in different countries, apart from those used by the Headquarters in the United States already listed in this Bulletin (March 1952 onwards). With a few additions, this is as follows.

ECAFE (Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East): THAILAND, Universal multi-value No. U 6 tmk "BANGKOK THAILAND".

FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization): ITALY, Francotyp AN, tmk "ROMA", with full name and address in English as slogan.

International Bank : UNITED STATES, Pitney-Bowes model "R" No. PB 113246, tmk "WASHINGTON D.C." Seen in blue with "AIR MAIL" slogan.

ICAO: (International Civil Aviation Organization); CANADA, Pitney-Bowes model "R" Nos. PB 140001 and 145437, tmk "TORONTO ONTARIO", and PB 140498, tmk "MONTREAL QUEBEC".

ILO (International Labour Office): SWITZERLAND, Hasler (posthorns, crosses and angles design), Nos. 469 and 818 (5 figs. of value), tmk "GENÈVE 1 / DEPOT"; No. 818 sometimes with slogan the triangular emblem lettered "O I T" in centre and "TRAVAILLEURS / EMPLOYEURS / GOUVERNEMENTS" round the edges.

IMF (International Monetary Fund): UNITED STATES, P-B model "R" No. PB 137097, tmk "WASHINGTON D.C."; Commercial Controls Corp. No. CC-51814, tmk. "WASHINGTON D.C.", sometimes with slogans "SEC.562 P.L.&R." or "PRINTED MATTER".

ITU (International Telecommunications Union): SWITZERLAND, Hasler (as for ILO), No. 899 (4 figs of value), tmk "GENÈVE 14/ PALAIS WILSON" ; also without tmk on perforated gummed labels printed in black with name in French.

UNESCO. (U.N. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization): FRANCE, Havas Nos. G 1252 and G W83 (G 1252 in both "POSTES FRANÇAISES" and "REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE" designs), tmk "PARIS-75" and slogan "Propagate and Defend Human Rights" in French and English; Havas No. G 4467 ("POSTES FRANÇAISES") and Satas No. SC 1345, both with tmk "PARIS-75" and slogan "Paix par/Peace through / Education Science Culture / UNESCO".

UNICEF (U.N. International Children's Emergency Fund) : FRANCE, Satas No. SC 1065 ("REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE"), tmk "NEUILLY s/ SEINE" and slogan "AIDER L'UNICEF / C'est aider l'enfance".

UPU (Universal Postal Union): SWITZERLAND, Hasler (as for ILO), No.478 (4 figs. of value), without or with tmk "BERN 15 / SCHOSSHALDE".

WMO (World Meteorological Organization): SWITZERLAND, Hasler (as for ILO), No. 1452 (5 figs. of value), tmk "GENÈVE 10 / NATIONS UNIES".

It will be noticed that the majority of these have no special indication of the user, to show which the envelope "corner card" is required.

In addition, special machines were used during the General Assemblies of the U.N. in Paris. Both are Havas machines with the "POSTES FRANCAISES" and Winged Letter franks. (1948) No. G 0234 (3 figs. of value) and G 0887 (4 figs. of value) with tmk "ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE PARIS" and slogan "COURRIER DES NATIONS UNIES / UNITED NATIONS OFFICIAL MAIL". (1952) No. G 4471 (4 figs. of value) with tmk "NATIONS UNIES / ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE" and slogan "UNITED NATIONS OFFICIAL MAIL / (emblem) / POSTE OFFICIELLE DES NATIONS UNIES."

A FRENCH CATALOGUE

A copy of a Catalogue of the meter stamps of France, Countries of the French Union, and Monaco, (second edition, March 1953) has very kindly been sent to us for the use of members by Commandant de Wailly, its joint compiler with M. Michel. This consists of 34 pages in mimeographed typewriting, with a sheet of illustrations, describing fully all the meter stamps of France (where the first machine was introduced on 26 May 1924), French Equatorial Africa, French West Africa, Cameroons, French Somali Coast, Madagascar, Algeria, Indo-China, Morocco, Reunion, Tunisia, and Monaco. (Several of these are, incidentally, new additions to the list we gave recently of countries using franking machines)

In France, machines are not sold but are hired out by two firms, Havas and S.A.T.A.S.,

each of which has produced a number of different models. The earliest was the single-value "Tiranty" machine distributed by Havas and showing key-letter "A". In consequence of the steady depreciation of the franc, no less than 54 different denominations from 1c. to 30f. are known with the "REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE" inscription, and 13 (including two not amongst the 54) with the war-time "POSTES FRANÇAISES". Havas also distributed the limited-value (6) Grandjean key-letter "B", and the multi-value with key-letters C, G, CG, K, KG, M and MG (The "C" denoting adaptation to producing gummed labels.)

S.A.T.A.S. (Société pour l'Affranchissement et le Timbrage Automatique) started in 1934 with the single-value "Sanglier" machine, key-letter "SA" followed by the single-value "SB" and the multi-value "SC", "SD", and "SE" (the second letter indicating a different model, not as with the British "Simplex".)

A NEW "FRANCOTYP" MODEL

An article in the Dec. 1951 Bulletin described the characteristics of the four models of the German-made "Francotyp" machine. The simplest distinction lies in the distance from centre of townmark (or date) to centre of frank (or figures of value), this being in the original model "A" 60 mm., in "AN" 67 mm., "B" 74 mm. and "C" 79 mm. Model "A" also can be distinguished by large date-figures without stops between, "C" having small date-figures also without stops, and "B" figures of varying sizes with stops.

A new model was introduced in 1951, known as "CC", which has much narrower spacing, only 40 mm., and differs also in having the slogan (if any) to the left of the townmark instead of between townmark and frank. This model has been noted in South Africa, Belgium, Germany and Netherlands, and doubtless will be used in other countries where the make is employed.

On the resumption of postal services after the War, the existing German meter franks were adapted by the removal of the offending Eagle or Swastika emblems and part or the whole of the inscriptions from the dies. This was done in a great many different ways, resulting in numerous varieties. In some cases, the whole of the frame was removed, leaving only the figures of value.

After a few temporary provisional designs, the standard design of an upright rectangle inscribed "Deutsche Post" at top and with Posthorn and Lightning-flash emblem at bottom was introduced on 30 June 1947. This was used in the British, American and Russian Occupation zones, the French Zone having (as was the case with adhesive stamps) its own design, a large Posthorn framing the value in its loop and inscribed "DEUTSCHE POST" at top.

On the conversion of the British, American and French Zones (Western Germany) into the German Federal Republic, the inscription "Deutsche Post" (in one line) was altered to "DEUTSCHE BUNDESPOST" in two lines, the earliest date known (according to Dr. Detlef Schmidt) being 11 Dec. 1950.

All franks in use in the Federal Republic now conform to this type, but it is somewhat strange that Eastern Germany - the Russian zone now the German Democratic Republic, - and Berlin have continued up to the present time to use the old "Deutsche Post" type without any change. There is however effectively one variety peculiar to Eastern Germany, viz: the "Deutsche Post" frame with the new large and rounded value figures (Francotyp), these figures having been introduced only after the alteration in Western Germany to the "DEUTSCHE BUNDESPOST" type.

It is interesting that the East German Government itself uses franking machines even for internal correspondence, and we have a cover from the Ministry of Labour, Berlin, with a meter stamp of the standard design described above and a slogan reading "Regierung der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik" in a large rectangle between frank and towmark which reads "(1) BERLIN W.1."

COLOURED METER STAMPS

Reference was made in this Bulletin some time ago (Dec. 1951) to the diversity of colours used for meter stamps in the United States. Mr. Walter M. Swan advises us that the P.O. in Gary, Indiana, has had the novel idea of using on its machine a different colour for each month, with an extra variety for Christmas! The machine is Pitney-Bowes model "R" (eagle type) No. PB 156063. They started with Black for Oct. 1952, Brown for Nov., Purple for Dec., except the Christmas period when a bicoloured print was used, red on the top half and green on the bottom half; then Blue for Jan. 1953, followed by Orange, Green and Red in the next three months. What will then follow, Mr. Swan does not say; there are only seven standard colours available.

U.S. CATALOGUE DELAYED

The comprehensive catalogue of U.S. meter stamps being compiled by Joseph Whiteborough of Chicago under the title of "JW Philometer Compendium" was mentioned in this Bulletin nine months ago. It was to have appeared in Sept. 1952, but having been expanded over the original plan to contain over 4,000 listings, it is now expected this month (June.) The price has been increased to \$ 10, which will regrettably put it beyond the reach of many interested.

=====