

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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Meter Stamp Study Group

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EDITORIAL NOTES

Membership: I am glad to report that all but two of last year's members in this country have now renewed their subscriptions for the current year. About half a dozen overseas have not yet responded, but I still hope to hear from some of these. A very full account of our Group was published in the weekly "Stamp Collecting" of July 10th, and brought more than twenty enquiries - from as far afield as Israel and Northern Rhodesia! A few of them were from people wanting to dispose of accumulations of meter stamps (no great "finds", unfortunately!) but, up to now, six new members have joined, and others may decide to do so when the "season" begins.

Exchanging: Now that the official import and export control regulations have been virtually abolished, the exchange of meter stamps between this country and overseas is greatly facilitated; exchanges against similar material - though not buying and selling for cash or equivalent - can now be made direct without any restriction except that of a maximum value of £10 per sending.

74)

It had accordingly been intended to sent out with this Bulletin a complete list of members, showing what they collected and what they had to offer by way of exchange. But I must apologize that pressure on my time due to domestic reasons and general summer conditions has delayed this; I hope to have the list ready for circulation during the autumn. Meanwhile, if any member who has not yet supplied the necessary particulars will do so by return, these can be included.

Gift: Thanks to Mr. F. Lloyd Parton (Wolverhampton) and Mr. J.T. Dallimore (Australia), members will receive with this Bulletin a cover franked by a G.B. "MIDGET" (GviR) and a strip of the Australian "Kangeroo & Map" type (Neopost) - mostly 1/- values, some showing also 2d., 3d., 3½d., 6d and/or 6½d.

THE BARFOOT - SIMON CATALOGUE

We should have mentioned in our note in the last Bulletin that our member Mr. Werner Simon is joint editor with Mr. Barfoot; the catalogue will be known as the "Barfoot-Simon Catalogue".

The cost of production unfortunately having proved substantially greater than first estimates, the price will have to be higher than previously announced and will probably be 2ls. in Great Britain and \$/ 3 in America. Orders from America should be sent to Mr. Simon, 345 Lundee Street, Memphis 11, Tennessee, and those from other countries to Mr. S.D. Barfoot, 37, Forestdale, Southgate, London, N.14.

CHINA: INFORMATION WANTED

With a view to establishing the dates of issue of recent Chinese meter-stamp types, about which information is scanty, Mr. Henry G. Morgan (Staplake Mount, Starcross, Exeter, Devon) requests that other members will kindly let him see any and all Chinese meter stamps in their possession.

GREAT BRITAIN NOTES

"E II R" First Days. Although the official First Day for the dies with the new cipher was 1st May 1953, the "First Day Impressions" of the "P" type (P 18) were dated 24 Apr. 1953, but it is uncertain whether any actually passed through the post as early as that. The First Day of the Midget (E.C.3 - M 105) was 12 V 53. The "H", "PB" and "NZ" dies with the new cipher have yet to be seen (it is believed that only two of the "NZ" machines now remain in use.)

Pitney-Bowes L.V. Mr. Jason T.W. Mann reports "PA 5" (E II R), with "P 96"* as the highest "P" seen, which seems to indicate that the "A" affix has been introduced after no. 99 instead of 999 as with the "U" and "S" machines. It is to be hoped that, if and when "PA 99" is reached, "PB 1" will not be used, or confusion will be caused with the F.V. dies (of which the Nos. have reached PB 186).

A New Simplex Model. When the "Simplex" machine was introduced into this country in October 1950, its range was from $\frac{1}{2}$ d to $6\frac{1}{2}$ d. only, although when used in other countries, its range was 24 or 25 times the basic unit, e.g., $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1/-; 1d. to 2/-; 10c. to 250c. The larger-range model has recently been introduced into Great Britain, where it is designated the "Simplex Major" and franks from $\frac{1}{2}$ d to $1/0\frac{1}{2}$. Only with values of 7d. and over can impressions be distinguished from those of the earlier model.

It will be noticed that it now covers the range of the Junior model Universal multi-value, though probably some of these will still be supplied for special reasons, as is the case with the Midget which the Simplex was designed to supersede.

* Later: "P 99" (GviR) now seen.

GROWING USE OF FRANKING MACHINES

"The Financial Times" of May 29, 1953, reported: "Although the printing and sale of postage stamps continues on a phenomenal scale in Britain, a steady inroad is being made on this system by 'meter' stamping. The use of a meter by industrial and commercial concerns saves them labour and time. Since the end of the war, the number of meters in use throughout the country has doubled, and £13.6 million worth of stamps are now being franked on correspondence - one-seventh of the total of £94.8 million spent each year on postage. The total face value of adhesive stamps sold annually is now some £78 million. "

The "F.T." kindly advises us that the figures relate to the fiscal year 1951/52 and are authoritative though not to be regarded as official (The G.P.O. had previously told us that precise figures of the amount of postage paid annually through meters could not be given.) The actual number of machines is believed to be now about 20,000.

In contrast with these figures, Mr. Walter M. Swan informs us that the latest annual Report of Pitney-Bowes Inc. states that the amount of postage collected through meters in the United States last year amounted to \$ 716,432,000 (= nearly £256 million), or 42% of the postage paid on all U.S. Mail. This proportion has almost doubled in the last six years. There are now 121,000 postage meters in service in the U.S.A. The same Report shows that in Canada, postage meters account for 37% of the country's postage paid.

COLOURED METER STAMPS

In reply to our enquiry arising out of previous notes in this Bulletin regarding the use of different colours for meter stamps in the U.S.A. and Canada, the Postal Services Dept. of the G.P.O., London, on behalf of the Postmaster General, says that "The detailed regulations of

the Universal Postal Convention have for a number of years specifically required that 'Impressions produced by postal franking machines shall be of a bright red colour, whatever value they represent.' This requirement is continued in the Universal Postal Convention of Brussels which came into force on the 1st July 1953. It is understood however that reciprocal arrangements have been made between the United States of America and certain other countries, including Canada, for the admission of correspondence bearing franked impressions permissible under their own internal regulations. This has possibly led to franked impressions contrary to the international postal regulations being used on overseas mails and may explain why you have seen franking impressions other than red on correspondence received from other countries.

"This country, on the other hand, invariably abides by the international postal regulations, and, to avoid any confusion, applies the same principle to the Inland Postal Service.

"In the circumstances the Postmaster General is unable to agree to the use of any colour other than bright red in franking machine impressions."

G.B.: NEOPOST GvIR TYPES

Although we have made several references to the three types of the Neopost GvIR franks, no complete list has so far been given of the denominations found in each. Their supersession by the EIR type is a suitable opportunity to draw up a list.

The three types relate to the limited-value (LV) dies, but it is convenient also to include the fixed-value (FV) dies which are now rarely met with.

The F.V. dies are recognizable by the bottom frame lines being continuous, whereas in the LV small breaks separate the section immediately below the value from the main frame. The FV

78)

design otherwise corresponds to Type I of the LV.

Type I: Central oval narrow, about $13\frac{1}{2}$ mm. across the centre. Narrow crown with strongly curved arch. "POST PAID" small. (Issued August 1937).

Type II: Whole design wider, central oval $14\frac{1}{2}$ - 15 mm. across the centre. Crown with flatter arch and much closer to the lines below "GREAT BRITAIN". Letters of "G R" broader. "POST PAID" larger. (Earliest seen, Jan. 1948).

Type III: Design and oval wide as Type II. Crown with more curved arch and further from lines below "GREAT BRITAIN" (similar to Type I but larger). "POST PAID" in short, wide letters. (Earliest seen, April 1951.)

The differences are more easily seen (in reasonably clear impressions) than described, and once recognized are unmistakable.

There are also three distinct types of the figures of value, which (in the LV) may be found in any combination with the types of frame. There are rather more difficult to describe, and in the case of some figures not easy to recognize, though the $1d.$ and $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ are very easy to distinguish.

Type a: Small thick figures, the " $\frac{1}{2}$ " with fraction-bar horizontal and "2" with curled foot.

Type b: Larger figures with distinct thick and thin strokes; " $\frac{1}{2}$ " with fraction-bar slanting; "1" very thick with broad base and large "flag"; "2" with pronounced knob at beginning, back of curve distinctly thicker than downstroke, and thick base. The "D" almost as broad as tall.

Type c: Large figures as b but more uniform thickness throughout; "1" much slenderer than b; "2" with only slight thickening at beginning, and thinner base; in " $\frac{1}{2}$ " the "1" and "2" are of the same style as the same integral figures. The "D" narrow.

NEOPOST G-vIR TYPES

Model	FV						LV							
	I		-- I		--		II		--		III		--	
Value	a	b	a	b	c		a	b	c		a	b	c	
1/2d.	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x			x	x	
1d.	x		x	x	x		x	x	x			x	x	
1 1/2d.	x		x	x	x		x	x	x			x	x	
2d.	x		x	x			x	x					x	
2 1/2d.	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x		x	
3d.			x	x			x	x				x	x	
3 1/2d.			x					x					x	
4d.			x	x			x	x	x				x	
4 1/2d.			x					x						
5d.			x				x	x					x	
5 1/2d.			x	x			x						x	
6d.			x	x			x	x	x				x	
6 1/2d.								x						
7d.			x									x		
8d.			x	x				x					x	
9d.			x	x				x					x	1/2
10d.			x					x						
11d.			x					x					x	
1/-			x	x			x	x				x	x	
1/2			x				x	?						
1/3			x					x					x	
1/6								x					x	
2/-			x	x				x						
2/6			x					x				x	x	
4/-			x											
5/-								x						
10/-														
£1														

In the above list, a "x" denotes that the particular variety is known; a "?" denotes that the value has been reported and is probably in the variety indicated though this has to be confirmed. All the denominations listed are known to exist but it is not known in which type some of them occur.

Undoubtedly other varieties exist, and details will be welcomed. To avoid confusion arising from uncertainty in classification - which, as indicated, is not always easy - it would be preferable for the actual examples to be submitted (for immediate return if desired.)

AUSTRALIA: MULTI-VALUE MACHINES

by D.R. Burchell

To date there have been four M.V. types issued in Australia.

Type 1. The first, large size, 26 x 29 mm., was issued in 1936 and has the double circle in the frank complete. There are three models:

- a. Ordinary, termed "MV/1.Ord.", franks up to $29/11\frac{1}{2}$;
- b. Intermediate, termed "MV/1.Int.", franks up to $9/11\frac{1}{2}$;
- c. Junior, "MV/1.Jun.", franks to $11\frac{1}{2}$ d.

The difference between (a) and (b) lies in the position of the figures of value in relation to the letters of "POSTAGE PAID". In (a), the shilling stroke "/" is to the right of "G" in "POSTAGE", centralizing the value in the frank. In (b), the shilling stroke is to the left of the "G", making the value appear on the left of the frank. In (c), there is no shilling stroke but there is a "D" after the figure of value, so it is quite distinctive.

Type 2. The second is as type 1 but has the double circle incomplete at the foot; issued in 1950. The same three models occur as in Type 1, termed respectively (a) "MV/2.Ord.", (b) "MV/2.Int.", and (c) "MV/2.Jun".

Type 3. This type is somewhat similar to the MV/2.Jun., the main difference being in its smaller size and in the date-stamp which shows the month of the date in Roman figures, whereas previous types had the month abbreviated as MAR, DEC, etc. (Editor's Note: some in the previous types also have month in Roman figures;

Simplex dates are however all in much smaller figures). It is known as the "Simplex", and was issued in 1951, and may be termed "MV/3". It may be considered as a multi-value, franking any value to 1/-, or a 24-denominational limited-value type as each of the denominations employable is a separate entity. Thus the " $\frac{1}{2}$ " used in $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. is not the same as the " $\frac{1}{2}$ " used in $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. or $6\frac{1}{2}$ d., and the "3" used in $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. is not the same as used in 3d. This precludes the machine from being a true M.V. but it is more convenient to consider it so - after all, it does frank any denomination up to the given limit. It is for this reason that we prefer to acknowledge it as a M.V. and a parallel to the previous M.V. machine Junior model. As all machines are fitted with the same 24 denominations, there is no point in collecting one of each from the same machine.

Type 4. This was issued in 1952 and shows a departure from traditional design by incorporating the date-stamp and frank in one block. It is of oblong format somewhat similar to the "H" group of U.S.A. meters. It show the Australian flag at the top centre, the value on the right under "POSTAGE PAID", on the left is the town of issue above the date, while "AUSTRALIA" and the identity no. fill in the bottom. As yet there is only one model, the Ordinary, - "MV/4.Ord.", franking up to 29/11 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Varieties.

- Type 1. va) Ident.No. in albino on coloured ground; MV/1.Int. and MV/1.Jun.
 vb) Part of Ident.No. on left and part on right; MV/1.Int. and MV/1.Jun.
 vc) Numeral omitted on left of the "/" stroke; MV/1.Int.
 vd) "D" omitted after value; MV/1.Jun.
 ve) Month in Roman figures; MV/1.Ord.

82)

Type 2. va) Ident.No. in albino on coloured ground; MV/2.Int. and MV/2. Jun.

Type 3. So far, no varieties have been reported (Edit.Note: Mr. K.C. Neville has shown us M61 - Melbourne Vic. - proved by the date and value figures to be a Simplex, but with the larger and slightly different frame of the MV/2.)

Type 4. vf) "POSTAGE PAID" replaced by three horizontal lines.

vg) "PAID" placed below "POSTAGE".

KENYA, UGANDA AND TANGANYIKA

(concluded from the June Bulletin, page 66)

Universal multi-value machines were introduced about 1950. The frank is somewhat similar to but larger than the Neopost design, and the name at the top reads "KENYA UGANDA / AND / TANGANYIKA" in three lines. The key-letter "U" and No. are each enclosed in a small rectangle, and always appear. There are two varieties of the frame - narrow and wide - and two styles of the figures of value - angular and oval; where there are more than two figures, the last two (cents) are smaller than the others (shillings.) The following combinations occur:

<u>Frame</u>	<u>Figs. of Value</u>	<u>Nos. Known</u>
Narrow	Star & 2 oval	U 20, 21
Wide	Star & 1 large & 2 small, angular	U 24, 25, 26, 28.
Wide	Star & 1 large & 2 small, oval	U37, 38, 47, 48, 51
Wide	1 Large & 2 small, oval	U 31, 39

(The missing Nos. have not yet been seen).

As well as in Kenya, machines of this make are known used in Uganda (Kampala) and Tanganyika (Dar es Salaam), though as with the Neoposts, the name of the Territory does not appear in the townmark.

The Simplex machine was introduced in 1952. The frank is of a plainer design, with no rectangle or foliage around the value but three vertical lines at each side instead. The name reads "KENYA UGANDA / & TANGANYIKA" in two lines at top (so that all three makes differ in the position of "&" or "AND"). The key-letter "S" and the No. are in small rectangles in the bottom corners. Values run from 10 cents to 250 cents in multiples of 10.

Acknowledgement is again made to Mr. W. Tunstall, of Kenya, for the information.

SOUTH AFRICAN NOTES

Both the Hasler and the Francotyp machines have recently introduced models with extended capacity, examples having kindly been submitted by Mr. R. Axer. The Hasler (no. H 24) apparently registers to $999/11\frac{1}{2}$; the Francotyp (F 50) registers to $9/19/11\frac{1}{2}$, and the frame is wider than for the smaller capacity in order to accommodate the extra figure. It is curious to note that the frames continue to show divergences in the Afrikaans inscription, the Hasler having at right "POSGELD BETAAL" and the Francotyp "POSGELD BETAALD".

A new and larger frank die has been introduced for the locally-made "Mercury" machines. It has a straight outline instead of the former "imitation perforation", and "SOUTH AFRICA" and "SUID AFRIKA" are straight instead of curved, while "POSTAGE PAID" and "POSGELD BETAAL" at the sides are each in two lines instead of one; all lettering is larger. Further, there now appears a "slogan" or user's name immediately below the bottom frame line. No town- or date - indication is however yet provided. Some of the old machines have been provided with the new dies.

UNITED NATIONS METER STAMPS

The main addition to the list of meters used by U.N. offices and Agencies outside the U.S.A. given in our last Bulletin is, strangely enough, one of Great Britain.

The U.N. Postal Administration opened an office in London (Russell Square House, W.C.1.) on May 26th last for the sale to collectors of the U.N. adhesive stamps and stamped stationery, and they are using a Universal M.V. Intermediate model, UB 733 with cipher Gvir and townmark "LONDON W.C.1." without slogan. The U.N.P.A. informs us that the machine actually serves the U.N. London Information Centre, by whom it was first used in January 1950. Regrettably, they do not intend to use any slogans.

An addition in respect of UNICEF has also come to light. In Oct. 1950, the town was "PARIS 78", the change to "NEUILLY s/SEINE" taking place sometime not later than Sept. 1951.

NEW "FRANCOTYP" MODEL - CORRECTION

The note in the last Bulletin (page 70) about the new model CC was not quite correct. In addition to the narrow setting described, there is a wide setting (79-80 mm.) like the "C" from which it is distinguishable by having stops between the date-figures; also, if there is a record no., this is distinctly nearer the townmark than the frank. However, the latest models "C" also have stops between the date-figures, so that distinction between these and the "CC" is difficult.

The "CC" is now in use in many countries.

GERMANY - WEST AND EAST

Dr. Detlef Schmidt advises us that the "Deutsche Post" type with the new rounded value-figures has (so far) been used only in West Berlin and not in Eastern Germany as was stated in the note in the last Bulletin. West Berlin does not come under the postal system of the Federal Republic.