

THE
METER STAMP
BULLETIN

Journal of the
Meter Stamp Study Group

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EDITORIAL NOTES

In order to avoid holding over a number of interesting items, and to provide a good start to the "season", we have made this a 16-page number.

The "record cards" sent out with the last Bulletin have brought a remarkably good response, and the idea seems to be generally welcomed; we hope it may prove possible to publish a list with the information provided. There are however still a few members who have not yet returned their cards; for them, we enclose another and shall be grateful if they will complete and return them.

The cover sent out with the last Bulletin was provided by the kindness of Mr F. Lloyd Parton (who, incidentally, has had another meter-stamp article published in the "Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly"). The items with this number were kindly provided by Mr D.R. Burchell and Mr W.M. Swan.

WANTS AND OFFERS

Mr Henry O. Meisel, Clintonville, Wisconsin, U.S.A., wishes to buy accumulations of metered covers, particularly early G.B. (back to the 1920s) and the "Wilkinson" of 1912.

EXCHANGE SCHEME PROPOSAL

Two or three members have been kind enough to offer to assist with an exchange scheme, but no definite decision has yet been made. Mr K.F. Jennings has suggested a scheme in which all contributions would be "pooled", the senders being credited with the value of the material sent in and then entitled to draw out to the same value from the packets which would be made up suitably by the exchange organizer. The values would be assessed in accordance with the "points" scheme devised by Mr D.R.Burchell, but persistent debits and credits could ultimately be settled in cash. A commission in cash would be necessary to defray the organizer's expenses. It would probably be necessary to restrict the scheme to members in Great Britain and Ireland, and (owing to the difficulty of valuation) to G.B. material, at least to begin with.

Will all those prepared to co-operate in such a scheme please communicate direct with Mr K.F. Jennings, 359 Milton Road, Cambridge, to enable us to judge whether it would meet with sufficient support to justify proceeding with it.

BACK NUMBERS OF THE BULLETIN

Owing to the number of enquiries received in the last year or so from potential members, and the small printings, the supplies of all issues except the last have now been exhausted. A member who has retired from collecting has however kindly returned to us his copies, and a few other odd copies have been unearthed. We therefore have for disposal one copy each of Nos. 3 to 13 except 6, 9 and 10; two each of Nos. 9, 14, 16, 17 and 18; and five of No.15. Nos.3 to 13 are now offered at 2/6d each and the later Nos. at 1/6 to the first applicants. Please do not send remittance until your order is accepted, to avoid trouble of refunds to unsuccessful applicants.

It has several times been suggested that to enable members to complete their sets, we should reprint Nos. 1 and 2. They do not contain much information of present importance, and to pay the cost of reproduction it would be necessary to sell at least 20 copies at 2/6 the two. How many members would be interested at this price?

In this connexion, also, it has been suggested that indexes should be published for each volume. Twenty copies of indexes to Vols. I and II could probably be produced at a price of 1/6 combined. Again, how many would be interested?

A.H. HARRIS'S COLLECTION

We have had conflicting reports as to the fate of the pioneer collection of meter stamps formed by Albert H. Harris, who died in 1945, but the following extract from "The Stamp Collectors' Bulletin" of Jan. 1947, issued by F. Hugh Vallancey of Sidcup, Kent (himself now dead), settles the question as regards the bulk of it:

"... Many were surprised when I bought the greater part of the huge collection of Meter Mail Markings formed by the late A. H. Harris. I was, in fact, only acting for Mr L. Brown, of Rutland, Sask., Canada. It was a huge lot, all arranged in countries and dates. Robson Lowe said he would send it to me in his car. I asked him if he would come too, but he said there would not be room, so now you know how big he (or it) is. The collection was sent in three large old-fashioned trunks by cargo steamer."

We still wonder what happened to the lesser part of the collection. Mr R. Axer, Capetown, kindly showed us the "S. C. Bulletin".

BRITISH RAILWAYS PARCEL STAMPS

The Barfoot-Simon Catalogue lists several railway parcel stamps used at Kings Cross and Liverpool Street Stations in London, produced by National Cash Register franking machines.

Mr J.C. Mann found that the NCR machine at Liverpool St., issued in 1950, was still in use in May this year, but at King's Cross a Westinghouse-Garrard machine was being used. Mr K.F. Jennings reports use of a similar machine (? NCR) at Northampton Castle station. Subsequently, the "Financial Times" of August 11th reported:

"British Railways is to mechanize the method of issuing parcels stamps and ledger labels at 322 of its principal stations, which collectively handle about 70% of the 72 million parcels consignments sent by rail every year. At present, stamps and labels are printed specially for each station. ... In future, both stamps and labels will be printed on the spot by machines, 540 of which are to be installed. ... The two types of machines to be used will be supplied by Westinghouse Garrard Ticket Machines and T.I.M. (Ticket Issue Machines.)"

Thus the stamps should become much more common; but we cannot agree with the Catalogue editors that they are "postage" items any more than the ugly old printed parcel stamps.

G.B. UNIVERSAL N.Z. MACHINES

It had been thought that the only examples of these old machines still in use were the four owned by "The Times" newspaper, for use on wrappers, London E.C.4, NZ 13, 16, A16 and 17, which were changed to the E II R cipher on 1 VI 54. However, we have now been shown London E.C.4, NZ A14 (GvR cipher), dated 14 V 54, used by the journal "West Africa", also on a wrapper for which they are evidently more convenient than more modern machines.

Mr S.D. Barfoot gives the values on "The Times" machines as follows:-

NZ 13:	$\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, $1\frac{1}{2}$, $2\frac{1}{2}$, 6d, 1/-
NZ 16:	1d, 2d, 3d, 6d, 9d, 1/-
NZ A16:	$\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, 3d.
NZ 17:	4d, 6d, 8d, 1/-, $1\frac{1}{4}$, $1\frac{1}{8}$.

G.B. NEOPOST NOTES

A member asked some time ago whether any of the old "fixed value" machines were still in use. We have not found any dies with the "E II R" cipher, and there must be very few remaining with earlier ciphers; one we have noticed, used in I 54, is Birmingham N 76, GviR, $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d. Can any member report any others used during this year?

The latest style of value figures, noted in the 1/- and 1/3 values in the last Bulletin, has now been found in the $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, 3d and 4d. The "D" is much bolder and wider than the previous type, particularly in the values without a " $\frac{1}{2}$ ", and the figures have more pronounced thick and thin strokes and knobs.

A curiosity of numbering in an "E II R" die has been shown to us: London W.1., N 966 (?) with the 9 reversed, resembling an "e". There is another curious figure in a "GviR" die, London W.C.2., N 144 or it may be N 194, used by Bayer Products Ltd. in I 50; the second figure resembles a "q" though without a serif at the bottom, and could be a distorted 4 or a distorted 9.

G.B. UNIVERSAL M.V. NOTES.

The highest known No. with GviR cipher remains as reported in our last Bulletin, UE 814 (Dundee, Angus), and Mr W.G. Amedro has found that apparently all GviR Nos. above UE 500 are used in Scotland (though there are of course also higher Nos. with EiiR cipher in Scotland.) Perhaps the U.P.F. Scottish office had a large stock of old dies when the new cipher was introduced.

Mr Amedro also reports two further divergencies from the general rule that dies lettered U to UD are "type I" (raised crown) and those with UE are "type II" (low crown). U 569 (London E.C.2) is Type II and UE 801 (Edinburgh) is Type I. It appears that the dies UF have all reverted to Type I. Thus Type II appears to be confined to U 569, 621 and 988, and almost all UE Nos.

PHILATELIC EXHIBITION SLOGANS

It was not intended to convey that the Isle of Thanet slogan described in our last Bulletin was the first of its kind, but Mr Eric Buckley mentions that the Yorkshire Philatelic Association did the same for its second annual convention in Sheffield in Oct. 1948, using Neopost machine N 1. The British Association of Palestine and Israel Philatelists had a slogan for their exhibition in April 1953, using London W.C.1., N 378. At a much earlier date, a slogan was used at the Stamp Exhibition held at Dorland Hall, London, Oct. 17 to 24, 1936, with London W.C.2., N 130 (we believe at the stand of "Stamp Collecting".)

A G.B. "MYSTERY" ITEM.

A detailed comparison of the Barfoot-Simon Catalogue with the last edition of Harris's will show that, quite apart from the enormous number of new issues since 1939, a large number of new discoveries have been recorded in the older types. It is therefore rather surprising to find that some items positively listed by Harris have been completely omitted from the new Catalogue.

One of the most interesting omissions occurs in Great Britain. Harris listed under the King George V Pitney-Bowes (PB) series the following:

"Provisional : Owing to a breakdown, the $\frac{1}{2}$ d meter PB 81 was fitted temporarily with a Midget date-case (single line rotary). In use one day only, Sept. - 1937."

Now, these PB machines normally have the date made up of separate pieces of type and we find it difficult to believe (though we have not had the opportunity to examine closely the construction of the machine) that a "rotary" date mechanism could be fitted in an emergency, or indeed at all; nor can we see how a "breakdown" could occur in the normal date - unless the loss of a piece of type were so called! It also seems strange for it to be known that the "provisional" was in use for one day only without that day being precisely known.

Presumably the omission of this item by Barfoot and Simon indicates their disbelief in its existence. Can anyone offer any explanation of Harris's listing? It occurs to us that, if such an item actually existed, it might more likely be due to the temporary use of the "PB 81" frank die on a Midget or a P-B Model H machine (both of which have the same style of townmark and date) than as explained by Harris.

UNIVERSAL M. V. MACHINES

(Further notes derived from the records
of Universal Postal Frankers Ltd.)

by S. D. Barfoot.

8. Some of the early MV machines were IV-bank models (i.e. with four banks of keys), up to 9999 units in decimal currency or 29/11½ in British currency. The decimal currency machines have tall angular Francotyp figures of value. Other machines were III-bank, up to 999 units, and with Francotyp CE (standard design) figures of value, e.g. first Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Palestine and Uruguay. Incidentally, U.P.F.Ltd. do not consider the III- and IV-bank machines as distinct models. Their two models are the "Multivalve" (III- or IV-bank, and now also V-bank) and the "Junior Multivalve" (II-bank, to 99 units or 11½d.) The terms "Original" and "Intermediate" for IV- and III-bank respectively were introduced by A. H. Harris in his Catalogue. These names are of less significance since the V-bank machines were introduced for decimal currency.

A few early British machines were III-bank models, to 9/11½, although impressions are indistinguishable from those of IV-bank machines, both reading "0/0½". These machines are U 145 (MV 304), U 150 (MV 309) and probably U 451 (GviR). Other machines, although IV-bank models, were

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limited to values below $29/11\frac{1}{2}$ at the request of the users. U 92 was originally to $9/11\frac{1}{2}$ only but was later changed to $29/11\frac{1}{2}$; U 102, 212, 238, 253, 335, 496 (GviR) to $0/11\frac{1}{2}$; U 199, 256, 472 (GviR) to $1/11\frac{1}{2}$; U 223 (Eviir) to $2/11\frac{1}{2}$ - previously a "loan" machine to $29/11\frac{1}{2}$; U 312 to $3/11\frac{1}{2}$, later to $29/11\frac{1}{2}$; U 174 to $4/11\frac{1}{2}$; U 183, 195, 204, 251, 259 (GviR), 391 (Eviir), 639 (GviR) to $9/11\frac{1}{2}$; U 301 originally to $29/11\frac{1}{2}$, later to $9/11\frac{1}{2}$.

U 157 was limited to $29/11\frac{1}{2}$ when used at Kidderminster, but on transfer to the Bank of England was the first high-value machine, to $99/11\frac{1}{2}$ (GviR). Only machines used by larger concerns with heavy foreign mailings, such as Banks and the B.B.C., have the limit of $99/11\frac{1}{2}$ for which special permission from the Post Office is required. The known high-value machines are U 157, U 443, UB 48, 52, 104 (University of London, June 1949, formerly to $29/11\frac{1}{2}$), UB 623-627, 785-787, 861-862, 901-902; UC 27-29, 179-180, 368-370, 513-515, 733-735, 973-975; UD 219-221, 277-278, 331-333, 424, 425, 427; there are also newer machines such as UE 265-269, 635-639, etc.

2. The earlier British machines, up to U 67, had figures of value showing $0/-\frac{1}{2}$ with wide 0, followed by $0/0\frac{1}{2}$ with wide 0 in June 1933. The only single-lined frame dies known with wide $0/0\frac{1}{2}$ are U 1, 5, 6 and 11. With double-lined frame, wide $0/0\frac{1}{2}$ is known on U 39, 43, 68-203, 213, 214 and 279; the last appears to have been fitted with figures from an earlier machine. It is of course only on the $\frac{1}{2}$ d values that $0/-\frac{1}{2}$ and $0/0\frac{1}{2}$ can be distinguished.

Later, the wide 0 was replaced by a narrow one, quite easily distinguished. U 215 appears to be the first machine to be fitted with the new figures of value, about July 1935. Several earlier machines, including U 16 and U 58, are also found with narrow 0 after replacement.

Earlier MV machines were fitted with small German date-figures and with larger townmarks

than the standard size introduced later. British machines with small date are U 1 to U 67, i.e. those fitted with $O/\frac{1}{2}$ figures of value. Later date figures, fitted to the machines after U 67, were larger with angular top to the 3.

Some very interesting combinations occur, especially with replacement dies. Outstanding examples are:-

GvR, Single-lined frame -
 Small date; $O/O\frac{1}{2}$, narrow O: U 11 only.
 Large date; $O/O\frac{1}{2}$, wider O: U 5, U 6.

GvR, Double-lined frame -
 Small date; $O/O\frac{1}{2}$, wide O: U 39, U 43.
 " " $O/O\frac{1}{2}$, narrow O: U 16, U 58.
 Large date; $O/\frac{1}{2}$: U 25, U 32, U 34, U 66.

EviiiR - Small date; $O/\frac{1}{2}$: U 24, U 31, U 64.
 Large date; $O/O\frac{1}{2}$, wide O: U 19, U 113.
 U 143, U 163, U 223, U 405.

GviR - Small date; $O/\frac{1}{2}$: U 8, 9, 12, 13,
 22, 41, 44, 64.
 Small date; $O/O\frac{1}{2}$, wide O: U 39 only.

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THE MACHINE-IMPRESSED POST OFFICE
"POST PAID" MARKS OF GREAT BRITAIN

by Jason T. W. Mann.

* The author reserves the right *
 of reproduction.

Post Office "Paid" (including "Official Paid") markings, the study of which is somewhat neglected, constitute a class of postmark closely related to meter stamps. In these few notes, I will refer only to the machine-impressed marks; handstamps are used for items not suitable for putting through a machine and at very small offices which have no machine.

For impressing "paid" postmarks, the Post Office employs ordinary stamp-cancelling machines; special dies are fitted to the machines and the impressions, being franking marks, are in red.

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Stamp-cancelling machines can be divided into single-impression types, designed to make one impression on each item of mail, and continuous-impression types, which give a continuous series of impressions across the letter. As the former count the items being handled, they could be regarded, when doing franking duty, as meter franking machines, although the use of this term is usually restricted to the types of machine issued to licensed users.

Many firms and organisations make use of the prepayment facilities offered at their local post office when posting large batches of circulars; a few however also use these facilities for most of their general mail instead of having a licensed franking machine on their own premises. For example, practically all the mail that I have seen over many years originating from Messrs May and Baker has borne a Dagenham "Paid" mark, and letters from the Wealdstone offices and factory of Kodak Ltd. have had a Harrow "Paid" mark.

As a result, the "Paid" marks of these towns are quite common, but in many of the smaller towns "Paid" marks are used almost exclusively on local mail such as rate demand notes, gas, water and electricity accounts, and bulk mail from local organizations. Little of this mail goes outside the district and so the collector will find it very difficult to achieve anything like completeness if he aims to get examples from all places at which "Paid" marks are impressed by machine.

For some towns, no "Paid" marks exist since all paid mail is passed to a superior office for franking. Most London sub-district offices come under this heading; exceptions are Eltham, Lewisham, Norwood, Streatham and Woolwich, and - in respect of Post Office Savings Bank mail only - West Kensington, Acton, and Holloway (Savings Certificate Division). P.O.S.B. franking marks however are a subject on their own; some are similar to other post office "Paid" marks but

some are impressed by Pitney-Bowes franking machines, printing either the date-stamp alone or a slogan with the date-stamp, but no frank or indicia portion, the date-stamp including the word "PAID".

I list below the principal types of machine "Paid" marks. Full descriptions are not given, but rather attention is drawn to those points which make identification possible. Up to the 1930's there were various experimental or exceptional types in use at different times and these are especially interesting and some are very scarce, but I deem them to be outside the scope of this brief article.

(1) Columbia Machines, 1903-21.

At first the date-stamps were circular, with the town name inscribed round the circumference, and enclosing, besides the date, the word "PAID" printing in a horizontal line and the amount paid.

Later, unframed rectangular date-stamps were used with the town name in a horizontal line and below it, also in a horizontal line, the word "PAID" and the amount paid.

Bars, when used on these machines, were straight for some years, but later wavy.

(2) Continuous-impression Machines, 1908 to date.

Impressions, to be complete, should show both date-stamps and, if bars are in use, both sets. Specimens showing only one date-stamp may be mistaken for the later Columbia marks but the bars are shorter. As with the Columbia machines, the bars were at first straight and later wavy. The word "PAID" with the amount paid appears in a line in the date-stamp, and since 1925, the words "GREAT BRITAIN" also appear.

(3) Universal Machines, 1914-24.

The date-stamps are circular with the word "PAID" round the foot of the circle. The ob-literator, when used, has wavy lines.

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(4) Universal Machines, 1925-28, and
Krag Single-impression Machines, 1927.

Square single-frame date-stamp with the words "GREAT" and "BRITAIN" reading upwards at the left and right-hand sides respectively. Bars as in (3), word "PAID" at foot of date-stamp.

(5) Hey-Dolphin (International) Machines, 1914-33

The date-stamp is a narrow oblong framed rectangle. No bars were used. From 1925, the words "GREAT BRITAIN", printing in one or two horizontal lines, were included in the dies.

(6) Universal and Krag (Single-impression)
Machines, 1928-36, and
Hey-Dolphin (International) Machines, 1933-36.

As (4) but with an inner as well as an outer frame to the date-stamp. Krag dies were wider than Universal up to 1933 when the size was standardized and impressions from the three makes became indistinguishable.

(7) All Single-impression Machines, 1936 to date.

Circular date-stamps with the words "GREAT BRITAIN" inscribed in the circle round the foot of the die. There is a break in the bars, "OFFICIAL PAID" or "PAID" with the amount paid being inserted as a movable section in the obliterator die; the bars are wavy.

Columbia machines were withdrawn in 1921 so that impressions from this type of machine do not exist after that year.

Dies giving impressions of type (5) were withdrawn in 1933.

Krag dies giving impressions of type (4) were replaced by type (6) in 1928 or 1929.

For the other types, the dates given indicate the period over which dies of the type in question were issued. Dies which are not badly worn often continue in use over long periods. Even when they have been replaced, old dies sometimes remain in sorting offices and occasionally

reappear in use. Thus many offices are still using dies of type (6), a few type (4), and I can even remember observing isolated usage of a type (3) die only about two years ago.

The words "GREAT BRITAIN" frequently appear in an abbreviated form, usually as "GT. BRITAIN".

Slogan dies cannot be used when printing "Paid" or "Official Paid" marks of type (7), nor could they be used when type (5) impressions were made.

The date-stamp used for ordinary cancelling of adhesive stamps, which does not show the name of the country, is frequently used since 1936 on "Paid" marks at some offices. This is against international agreement if any of the mail is intended for a destination overseas. Less frequently the converse occurs, and a die with the words "GREAT BRITAIN" is used when the machine is doing stamp-cancelling duty (black impressions.)

It is hoped that this brief account will arouse interest in "Paid" markings among those who do not as yet include them in their collections.

RECENT ISSUE NOTES

AUSTRALIA. Neopost old type No. Z/1, Sydney, N.S.W., has date with month in words thus: 28 APR 54 and is the only one known thus.

Neopost Kangaroo type, 1/6 value found.

In the "Flag" type, a five-bank model has appeared; it has "£/ s/ d" below "POSTAGE PAID", with the value as "-/-0/3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The flag is of the smaller size. (J. Dallimore)

CANADA. Some of the P-B Model R (maple leaves type) have been altered to print a $\frac{1}{2}$ c., the word "POSTES" being removed from the right of the value box to the bottom left of the town circle.

A Postage Due meter is being used at Toronto; in the same format as the usual Model R, the maple leaves etc. are replaced by the very large words "POSTAGE DUE", and "CANADA" appears at the base of the town circle. (W. Simon)

FIJI. The "Midget" machine M 2 with "G R" cipher was in use at least in March this year, though the dies appeared very much worn. The solitary Neopost Machine used by Mr Michelmore was however discarded many years ago. (Information from the Sec. of the Philatelic Society of Fiji.)

MALAYA. N 135 (Singapore) has "DOLLARS" above the value instead of the usual "CENTS".

(J. Dallimore)

NEW ZEALAND. Hasler machines are reported to be in use, but no details are known to us.

(W. Simon)

SIERRA LEONE. Franking machines were authorized for use in the Colony in June, but examples have not yet been seen.

(H.A. Rydings)

COSTA RICA. Hasler machines have been introduced with a large design showing mountain scenery; and Pitney-Bowes showing the National Monument in the centre.

(W. Simon)

FRANCE. A new machine, "S.E.C.A.P." (we don't know the meaning of the letters) has been introduced. The frank is of the usual "REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE" design, the No. having "N" prefix (though certainly not Neopost); unlike any other, the town and date appear immediately below the frank in two lines thus:

PARIS 22

Three or four figures of value, 29 6 54

followed by "F". There will also be a series "NG" for use on gummed labels.

(M. de Wailly)

SPECULATIVE AND UNNECESSARY ISSUES

The Preface to Barfoot & Simon's Catalogue remarks that "there are no unnecessary or speculative issues of meter stamps, and their use, and the types of dies employed, is strictly controlled"; and the same claim has been made before. It seems to us highly deplorable that the founder and "Manager" of the American Metered Postage Society - the largest meter-stamp society in the U.S.A., and indeed in the world - has adopted a

policy which contradicts this claim, by having special dies (franks and townmarks, not merely slogans which would be unobjectionable) made for use on mail from the Society for only one day or a very short period. Although perhaps not actually speculative, they can lend themselves to speculation not in the interests of the hobby, and they are undoubtedly "unnecessary".

The varieties, which ought not, we think, to be recognized in a Catalogue, will normally be found only on covers bearing the A.M.P.S. cachet. The following list (types and Nos. are those of the B-S Catalogue) gives a few examples of the kind of thing; a complete list would take up too much space here.

Oval design (type C1, as no.3) with month in Roman figure instead of word (V 5 /1953) or with one-line date (10 X 53); both SAINT LOUIS Mo., Meter No. 5116, 3 cents.

Oval design (type C4, as no.28) with hour in townmark and solid block in place of Permit No. - Meter No.1014; similar but three horizontal lines in place of Permit No. - Meter No.1013; similar but "1c PAID EXTRA" in place of Permit No. - Meter No.1028. All are 2 cents values.

Small square design, wavy lines in centre, (type D5, as no.71) with three large stars in TM (Meter No.5648) or one large star (Meter No.5736).

Same design but inscribed "I.P.S.NO." instead of "METER NO." (Meter No.5504).

Square design, amount paid in centre (type D7, as no.85), with circles of TM cut away except adjacent to name. P.B.Meter 55539, Chicago Ill.

Small eagle design, P-B Desk Model (type H3, as no.151), with rosette ornaments in TM between town and state names; or with rectangular blocks similarly. Both PB Meter 227406, Clintonville, Wis.

We shall be glad to hear whether other members support our disapproval of these productions.

"POSTED AT SEA"

A. A. D.

I have never heard of a franking machine installed on board ship, but two pieces bearing meter stamps and postmarked with maritime postmarks are in my possession. The earlier is a Norwegian stamp, ident. no. 50 (Bergen), dated -2.10.33, postmarked with circular handstamp "BUREAU DE MER DE NORVEGE - 2 X 33 - BERGEN - NEWCASTLE" and with Norwegian-type Registration label inscribed "Bergen-Newcastle B." The other is from Denmark, ident. no. D 10, townmark ESBJERG 28.12.46 and slogan "REIS MED (ship) D.F.D.S.", which is machine-postmarked "LONDON.F.S. 30 DEC 1946 : PAQUEBOT / POSTED AT SEA". It would appear that both these items must have been handed in to the ship's officers instead of at the normal land post office.

METER STAMPS BEING SUPERSEDED!

In recent years, meter stamps have to a large extent superseded precancelled adhesive stamps in the U.S.A., and now Joseph Strelak in a recent number of his "Meter Digest" (Waukegan, Ill.) says that a considerable amount of mail previously franked by meter is now being mailed under printed non-meter "Permit" indicia; some firms have found that it is cheaper and simpler to have these "Permit" marks printed along with the return address on the envelope, instead of using a meter. Also a new patent "Postage Printer for Address-Printing Machines" will have the same effect, as it will print the "Permit" indicia along with the address. This procedure however is applicable only to bulk mailings of printed matter, under "P.L. & R. Sec. 34.66" (Postal Laws and Regulations.)

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