

THE
METER STAMP
BULLETIN

Journal of the
Meter Stamp Study Group

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Editor and Hon. Secretary:-

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EDITORIAL NOTES

Our Meter. We wonder whether any members omitted to notice that the September and subsequent Bulletins have been franked by a different meter from that used for the March and June issues? The earlier issues were posted at the Victoria House, Southampton Row, office of Messrs. Roneo-Neopost Ltd., using machine N 364, while the later ones were posted at their High Holborn office, using machine N 62. In both cases the townmark reads LONDON W.C.1., and the same slogan was used.

Record Sheets. Only three members (and one prospective member) have so far indicated their willingness to take up the printed record sheets proposed by Mr. Lloyd Parton (see page 82 of the Sept. Bulletin), and the total quantity is quite insufficient to proceed with the printing. Does the suggested cost seem too high, or are members not interested at any reasonable price?

Introductory Booklet. The proposed booklet on the collection of meter stamps, mainly designed for the benefit of new or prospective collectors, which was mentioned in the June and Dec. 1954 Bulletins, had to be abandoned owing to the excessive cost of production, but it has now been re-written in a greatly condensed form (though still including, it is

98)

hoped all the essentials). If all goes well, this will be ready early in the New Year. It will consist of twelve pages in the same size and style as this Bulletin, probably with illustrated cover, and the cost is expected to be 1s. to members or 1s.3d. to non-members. Advance orders will be welcome, but please do not send money until requested.

Membership List Amendments

Great Britain: For (3) W.H. Appleton (etc.) substitute: L.E. Head, Roneo-Neopost Ltd., 34/35 High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

U.S.A.: (103) Albert Huff, delete address; new address not yet known.

(106) should read Burleigh E. Jacobs, 2236 Menomonee River Pkway, (etc.)

Rest of the World: (90) Ernest Muhr, address is now Rua Oscar Freire 465, apt.31, Sao Paulo.

THE EXCHANGE PACKET

The organizer, Mr. K.F. Jennings, has submitted the following report:-

"The exchange system has been operating since January of this year, and up to the end of September a total of 20 packets had circulated, each member having received about seven.

"Although more uncommon items are welcomed, the bulk of material exchanged is composed of current Neopost and Universals, which are rated at one point each; a table of point values for other types is available to members. The total "sales" amount to over 7,000 points, and average takings per member are 128 points.

"Commission is charged at 1d. for 40 points (minimum, 4d. per 100 covers) and each member pays postage in forwarding the packet; there is no other expense provided enough material is supplied to balance takings. More members would be very welcome. The continued usefulness of the exchange depends on variety of material sub-

mitted.

"For the nine months, receipts from commission etc., amount to 19s.4d., and organizer's postages to 17s.1d."

It is obvious that Mr. Jennings has put a great deal of work into the scheme, and we are very much obliged to him.

Our member Mr. Delahoy has passed on an offer from the Hon. Sec. of a large works society to exchange the foreign and Empire metered covers from the firm's mail against ordinary stamps (not meters). If anyone is interested and in a position to exchange on this basis, will he please communicate with our Hon. Sec., who will furnish the address.

The forthcoming sharp increases in postal rates will unfortunately be an added burden on meter-stamp exchanges; but after all, the postage does not amount to very much per cover.

"T.I.M." PARCEL POST STAMP LIST

Thanks to Messrs. C.W.E. Coles, C. Delahoy, H.E. Hammond, K.F. Jennings, J.C. Mann, J.T.W. Mann and H.G. Morgan, also a few items received by the Hon. Sec. while the list was in the press, we are able to add seven new offices and a number of new dates.

Recent examples from Richmond and Watford suggest that a new red colour is coming into use, darker than the original and entirely different from the magenta. It remains to be seen however whether this is to be the standard, or whether it is peculiar to a few offices.

Examples from Huddersfield, submitted by Mr. J.T.W. Mann, are remarkable in showing use of the original red again for a period after the first use there of magenta. April 1953 is red; June, Oct. and Nov. magenta; Jan. and March 1954 red; and March 1955 magenta.

The new offices are:

FLEET STREET	--B.O.--	LONDON E.C.4.	(red)28	FE 51
EXCHANGE	--B.O.--	BIRMINGHAM 2.	(red) 7	NO 55
GLOUCESTER	-----	-----	(red)28	OC 55

✓
added
1957

Universal multi-values, it is impossible to distinguish between the models of different capacity.

Simplex. In the "Simplex Major" (prefix SX), we have seen a number as high as 917 (2 XI 55), so that the 1,000 should soon be reached; how the numbering will continue thereafter, we do not know.

Universal Multi-Value. The series with prefix "UG" came into use in August or earlier, and Mr. Barfoot has reported a No. as high as UG 118 already. Thus it has taken only about a year to run through the "UF" series; although we have no very precise dates on record, the four preceding series also averaged about a year each to complete, but the "UA" series, owing to the War, lasted about ten years, while the original "U" took eight years.

Reference was made in the March and June 1954 Bulletins to two distinct varieties of frame in the "EiiR" dies. In type I, the normal, the crown is raised about $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. above the tops of the letters "E R", while in type II the crown is practically touching the tops of the letters. The type II is confined to dies with letters UE and two earlier dies, U 621 and U 988, used by offices of Universal Postal Frankers Ltd. A further type has now been noticed in dies with letters "UF".

In what may be classed as type I, the letters "UF" are narrow and there is a space of $2 - 2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. between the "F" and the "E" of the cipher; the crown is centred between the points of the oval. In type Ia, the letters "UF" are wider and thicker, and the space between the "F" and "E" is only $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. while the crown is much nearer the left point than the right point.

Of the examples seen, Nos. UF 1 to 120 and 871 and 995 are type I, while UF 204 to 788 are type Ia (none between 120 and 204 or between 788 and 871 have yet been seen).

What must be considered as a more significant variety, which we may designate type III, has been brought to our notice by Mr. K.F. Jennings. This has a distinctly wider frank, $26\frac{1}{2}$ instead of 25 mm. the height being unchanged so that the central space

is now almost circular, 18 mm. wide instead of 16 mm. The shape and angles of the petals at the sides are altered, and the lowest at each side is nearly twice as long as before. The impressions seen are perfectly clear, and there can be no question of distortion in printing. Mr. Jennings submits UE 79 (an "Intermediate" model) and reports several UG's, and we have since found UA 134 (an "Ordinary" model).

UNIVERSAL M.V. MACHINES

Further notes derived from the records of
Universal Postal Frankers Ltd.,
by S. D. Barfoot.

15. Errors of Engraving (contd.) An interesting error of U 289 (MV.540) occurred in March-April, 1950. The machine is used at Hull, Yks., by Henry Booth (Hull) Ltd., without slogan, but another U 289 die with narrow "U" at bottom left was used with slogan "Hull for Tasty Fish". This was an error for UA 177, used by Stork Bros., also at Hull, Yks.

There is great confusion between U 354 and U 369, used by Unilever Ltd., and associated companies. These were MV.856 and 867; a third machine may also have been involved. At least two different machines used U 369 dies at the same time, and examples are known dated 4 IV 50, one from London E.1. (Crosfield Watson), the other with narrow U at left, from London E.C.2 (Lever Bros., and Unilever Ltd.).

U 364 (MV.863) is a IV-bank machine, used at Maidstone, Kent, but an example of U 364 dated 8 X 40 is known from a Junior machine, an error for U 326 (MV.696), used by George Jones & Sons Ltd. at Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.

U 927 (GviR) is found with error of town name St. Helen's Lancs. (with apostrophe) for St. Helens, used in 1944-47 in conjunction with two different frank dies.

UA 728 (GviR) when first used in 1952 had an error of spelling, showing Peeblesshire (with one "S") in Innerleithen, Peeblesshire. This was soon replaced by a correctly spelt die.

Two errors have occurred with EiiR dies. UE 753, used at Liverpool by MacAndrew Line, the town name was engraved LIVEPOOL. A new EiiR frank die for machine UB 609 used at Ipswich, Suffolk, by Shell & B.P. Ltd., was engraved UB 604 in error. The latter number is used by Ciba Laboratories Ltd., Horsham, Sussex.

(Concluded).

ANOTHER NEW COUNTRY

Mr. Walter M. Swan, in "The Postage Stamp" (Bethany, Miss.), reports the use of the first meter in Ecuador. It is of the Pitney-Bowes model R, the central design showing a bird (doubtless a Condor), the townmark reading "CORREOS DEL ECUADOR / QUITO" and the date 24 III 55.

It will now be shorter to give a list of countries which have not used meters! (The most important, commercially, are probably Bulgaria, Lebanon, Malta, Syria and the Portuguese Overseas Provinces - Angola, Mozambique, etc.).

RHODESIAN "UNIVERSAL M.V." DATES

In the March Bulletin, we mentioned that the machines U 332 and 333 (Southern Rhodesia) and U 334, 336, 337 and 341 (South Africa) showed the month in letters, and we asked if anyone had the "missing" U 335. The late Mr. Axer told us that this was used in Johannesburg, South Africa, by a firm of solicitors, but impressions are apparently scarce. Unfortunately, he omitted to say whether or not this also showed month in letters.

INDIA: IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

Several additions to the list of towns with their respective code-letters published in the June Bulletin have been reported by Messrs. S.D. Barfoot and K.F. Jennings. They include one new letter, P, which may denote Patna. The new towns are:

A - Allahabad, Ragaul; B - Ahmedabad, Bulsar, Poona; C - Howrah; DA - Chittagong (Pakistan). (Dacca against DA in the list was a typing error and should be deleted.); EP - Rohtak; L - New Delhi (1947); M - Hyderabad-Dn., Madurai (another spelling of Mathurai already listed), Quilon, Trivandrum; P - Indranagar, Jamshedpur.

The Hon. Sec. has found one with the remarkable name of "SOLAN BREWERY P.O.", code-letter L, without town, which from the Registration label on the cover appears to be in or near Simla. On the back of the cover is a postmark reading "SOLOM BREWERY" - note the difference in spelling.

As pointed out by Mr. Barfoot, there are also a number of townmark names which represent sub-offices in towns already listed, such as "HINDU PRESS SG. OFFICE" (Madras), "KARACHI SADDAR" (Pakistan), "BENGAL GOVERNMENT" (Calcutta), and many others. Mr. L.H. Dodd has submitted "SHAHJAHAN ROAD P.O." with letter D, probably in Delhi. As the intention of the list was primarily to establish the areas covered by the various code-letters, we have not included these. Incidentally, Mr. Jennings confirms that "Barabazar" is in Calcutta.

UNITED NATIONS TENTH ANNIVERSARY

The "Tenth Anniversary" commemorative slogan, described in our last Bulletin as used with U.N. meters PB-3- and PB-4-, has now been seen with PB-1- and PB-2-, thus completing the set of four meters used by the U.N. Headquarters. Dr. Detlef

Schmidt informs us that the slogan was brought into use about the middle of April.

Until recently the meter PB-3- was apparently rarely used and probably kept in reserve as a "stand-by" machine, but it now seems to be in regular use.

"Stamps" (N.Y.) reports that since 23 August, the U.N. Postal Administration has been using the following two meter slogans on mail emanating from the U.N. International Children's Fund: (1) "Send UNICEF Cards to help the World's Children"; (2) "UNICEF for All the World's Children". We have not yet seen them and have no further details.

The London office of the U.N. Postal Administration has recently been moved from the W.C.1 to the W.1. district, and the town-mark of its meter, UB 733, altered accordingly. The frank however remains of the GviR design. As in the past, normally no slogan is used and none has been introduced for the Tenth Anniversary. However, the usual "United Nations Day, 24th October" was to be used on that day only; regrettably, the office refused to frank any envelopes with this slogan for collectors.

The F.A.O. Tenth Anniversary slogan has been slightly altered, Dr. Detlef Schmidt points out. The inscription above the emblem now reads "10TH ANNIVERSARY" (without "YEAR") and the dates in the scroll below have been changed from "1945-1955" to "16 OCTOBER 1955". The new version was introduced on 16th October. The English-language slogan was used even on a letter to Germany.

In view of the considerable interest that has been shown in the U.N. meters, it is suggested that we collect together and publish in a booklet (of the style of this Bulletin, and probably 12 pages) all the information that has been published in our past Bulletins (mostly now out of stock). Will all members who would like a copy (price probably about 1s.6d.) please let the Hon. Sec. know; but do not send money yet. Also, any further details that can be provided will be welcome for incorporation.

NETHERLANDS NOTES

Some time ago (March, 1953 to be exact), we commented on the large number of different makes of machine that had been used in the Netherlands. There were then listed ten different makes, of four different countries of manufacture (none being made in the Netherlands). Yet another make, the Swiss "Frama", was introduced early in 1954, though apparently few are yet in use.

Its frank design resembles that of the current "Francotyp" but is much wider and the townmark is a double circle. The identification letters are "FM" ("FR" being used for the Francotyp), and on FM2 and FM3 the identification is shown in very tiny letters vertically at the left of the frank, while FM4 has slightly larger letters at the right. All are of course multi-value, three-bank with initial five-pointed star.

The Francotyp machines, unlike most of the other models, have hitherto shown the month of the date in ordinary (Arabic) figures, but the Post Office has now requested them to change to Roman figures; new machines are being so fitted, and old machines are being changed.

U.S.A. METERED MAIL REGULATIONS

Mr. A.P.H. Overment has kindly sent us a copy of the U.S. Post Office Department regulations regarding metered mail. These are far more detailed and comprehensive than those of Great Britain (which are comprised in the licence itself), and present a number of interesting points of difference.

The first paragraph is a definition - "Metered Mail is matter mailed under Section 35. 4, Postal Laws and Regulations, on which the required postage is printed by a postage meter approved for this purpose by the P.O. Department. Metered Mail may be of any class and is entitled to all the privileges and subject to all the conditions applying to matter mailed with stamps affixed, except as stated herein. Its use

eliminates the manufacture and sale of adhesive stamps and the facing, canceling, and postmarking of mail in the post office, thereby expediting its handling and dispatch".

Subsequently comes a "Description" of Postage Meters - "a device embodying a complete postage printing and recording mechanism which is brought to the post office by the mailer to be set for postage from time to time as required. The meter may be a detachable portion of a mailing machine, or it may be complete in itself".

A difference of great importance to the users is that, whereas in G.B. each meter user has to fill in a "docket" showing details of the meter readings and hand it in at the P.O. each working day, in the U.S.A. the meter users are supplied with a "Meter Record Book" in which to record the daily meter readings, and this book - providing space for a period of twelve months - has to be taken to the P.O. only when the meter is re-set for additional amounts of postage.

In the U.S.A., again, meter stamps (this is the actual term employed in the regulations) can be used to prepay reply or return postage provided that they are printed directly on envelopes or cards on which the return address, that of the meter permit holder, has been printed. Also, metered mail may be deposited in any street collection box or other place under the jurisdiction of the P.O. of meter settings where mail is accepted.

U.S.A. "SECTION" NUMBERS

Referring in the September Bulletin to the use of the short-lived designation "39 CFR 34.66" on two meters by the American Metered Postage Society after it had normally been superseded by "BULK RATE" or similar indications, we added that this could not be regarded as bona-fide commercial usage. Mr. Henry O. Meisel, President of the A.M.P.S., has since informed us that these indications had been fitted by the makers for regular usage and not at his request; in

fact, the usage on the 2¢ I.P.S. Meter 5652 was not required by him. It is quite likely that the indications therefore were used by others, and the suggestion that use on the A.M.P.S. machines was not bona-fide must be withdrawn, with apologies for the misunderstanding.

CANADIAN METERS IN THE U.S.A. ?

Most models of the Pitney-Bowes meters have been employed in Canada as well as in the United States, and the Nos. have always been allocated in "blocks" so that there is no duplication between the two countries. Thus, Nos. in the 50000's, 51000's and 52000's were allocated to the U.S.A., (53000's have apparently not been used), 54000 to 54999 to Canada, 55000 to 55999 to the U.S.A., and so on.

It has however recently been noticed that some low Nos. in the 54000 series are now being used in the U.S.A.: Messrs. H.O. Meisel and W.M. Swan have reported 54006 (New York), 54010 (New York), and 54018 (Chicago). It is not yet clear whether these are meters formerly in use in Canada, refitted with U.S. dies and transferred to that country, or whether (presumably obsolete) Nos. in the Canadian series have been allocated to U.S. meters in consequence of the exhaustion of the available Nos. allocated to the U.S.A.

"MAILED UNDER WATER" !

An amusing cover has kindly been sent us by Mr. A.P.H. Overment. Franked by the U.S. PB meter 319416 (usual modern eagle frank) at San Marcos, Tex., the slogan depicts a bathing girl posting a letter in a mail-box under water, with the words "MAILED UNDER WATER at AQUARENA". There is a cachet explaining that Aquarena is "Texas's only submarine theatre" (yes, theatre!). Mr. Overment did not know how the trick was done.

COLOMBIAN COLOUR VARIETY

We have already chronicled the Universal MV type for ordinary postage ("COMUNICACIONES" at top) and for airmail ("CORREO/AERREO" at top); an impression of each requires to be used on airmail covers as the air fee has to be accounted for separately. In most cases seen, both impressions are in red, but Mr. Jan Dekker has shown us covers with the ordinary postage impression in blue and the air mail in red (the reverse of what one would expect). Lic.88 (ordinary) and Lic.98 (air mail) from Banco Comercial Antioqueno, Cali.

PANAMA CANAL ZONE

A Bulletin of the American Metered Postage Society dated 29 Sept. has given a complete history and detailed check-list of postage meters in the Panama Canal Zone. The main facts are as follows. (The complete Bulletin can be lent to any interested member in Great Britain).

The use of meters in the Zone was authorized by the Postal Service on Dec. 18th, 1952, and meters were first placed in service on Aug. 6th, 1953. Only Pitney-Bowes meters have been approved for use, and so far, ten permits have been issued.

Both the ordinary "Model R" and the smaller "DM" are used, and are numbered in the same series though Nos. were not issued consecutively (no reason for this is given). PB 2, 3 and 9-13 are varieties of Model R, and PB 15-17 are DM with a narrower "indicia" though of the same general design, showing a ship passing through the Canal between the town circle and the value box, above which is "CANAL ZONE / POSTAGE". PB 2, 13 and 15 are used at Cristobal, 3 at Balboa, 9, 10 and 11 at Albrook Air Force Base, 16 at Rodman, and 12 and 17 at Fort Amador. Only those at Cristobal and Balboa are used by commercial organizations, the others being used by the U.S. Forces. PB 2 and 13 were both placed in service on the first day, the rest at various dates up to March 2, 1955.

CATALOGUE SUPPLEMENT

The items in this instalment are due mainly to Mr. S.D. Barfoot and partly to items in the Editor's own collection. The new method of designating the figures of value on multi-value machines described in the last Bulletin has been approved by Mr. Barfoot and will be adopted permanently. Briefly, it represents the appearance of the figures in the lowest possible value printed by the machine, with * denoting an initial star and z a lozenge; o and i denote zero and one smaller than the other figures.

For ease of reference, the number and page of the previous listing are shown after the name of the country; "A" there denotes a reference in the Catalogue Addenda, pages 117-119.

AUSTRIA (24/93)

/69/ Also TM. BIC-B

BELGIAN CONGO (24/94)

Type 3, Universal MV. B. Narrow frank, TM. DC.
 /A6/ N O F.of V. ?00oi (Ov.) (? initial * or O)
 Ditto. C. Wider frank, Sl. left.
 /A7/ N O F.of V. *00io (Ov.) (fixed zero.)

BELGIUM (24/94)

Type 1, Timbrographe
 /5/ Add also 2fr. (R)
Type 9B, Francotyp Cc; frank 26 x 30 mm.
 /72/ VN O F.of V. z0.oi (thin Ov.) TM. SC.
Type 9C, Francotyp Cc; frank 30 x 30 mm.
 /73/ VN O F.of V. z00.oi (Ov.) TM. nil or SC.

Post Office Machines

/P 4/ Add 5c. /P 5/ Add 80c.
 /P 13/ Also TM nil.
 /P 14/ Nos. B003, B005

Used by State Railways

/R 2b/ Add 3fr.

Railway Parcels

Type X2-A. /RP.A2/ - O F.of V. 00oi (Ov.)
 (A14).

/RP.23/ originally had solid lozenge preceding F.of V.,
later outline lozenge as illustrated.

BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA

Type 1C.

/A5/ W 4S-TC F.of V. *Ooi (Ov.) TM as for /1a/.

CROATIA

Under Type 1, "R.No.48" should read "R.No.4S".
All Croatian meter stamps are R or VR.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Type 1A(i) was also used again after 1945.

Type 1G - as type 1A but all bottom ornaments
removed.

/A23/ W 4S-TC F.of V. *Ooi (Ov.) TM. SC.

Type 1E /18/ Also TM. SC.

Type 2A.

/A25/ N TC F.of V. *001 (Ov.) TM. DC-A.

/B25/ N TC F.of V. z010 (G) (Last F.of V out-lined,
probably fixed). TM. BIC.

/A28/ N TC F.of V. *0010 (Ov.) TM. DC-A.

/24/ Also TM.SC, BIC-B. /27/ Also TM. SC.

/29/ Also TM. DC-A. /30/ Also TM. DC-A.

Type 2AA Francotyp AN.

/A30/ Med. 0 F.of V. z001 (G) TM. DC-A.

Type 2B Francotyp B.

/B30/ W 4L-MC F.of V. *010 (Ov.) TM. SC. (R)

/A31/ W 0 F.of V. 001 (Ov.) TM. SC.

/B31/ W TC F.of V. *Ooi (Ov.) TM. DC-A.

/A34/ As /34/ but small solid circle preceding F. of
V., and ? fixed zero. TM.SC.

Type 2C Francotyp C

/39/ and /41/ should be 4(st.+1+2) or, in the new
notation, *Ooi.

/39/, /47/ and /52/, all also TM. DC.

/A46/ W TC F.of V. 0001 (G) TM. DC-A.

/A51/ W 0 F.of V. •001 (Ov. new type). TM.DC-A.

/A53/ W 0 F.of V. z0010 (G) TM. DC-A.

Type 2D Hasler

/54/ Also TM. DC.

Note currency revaluation on 1st June, 1953.

From 1st-18th June, all postal rates ten times the

112) From 19 June rates
old rates (in new currency) approx. one-fifth of
rates before 1st June. Meter stamps dated between
1st-18th June are of special interest when on
entires.

DENMARK (A)

An Essay of Universal MV is known, as type
4 but blank squares at top, U 1 in bottom squares;
N O F.of V. 001 (A) Dated 9 VII 40.

Type 4 Francotyp

/11c/ Variety, M.No. also in oval below R.No.
(D126)

/A17/ has frank 31 mm. wide.

/A18/ As /18/ but frank 31 mm. wide.

P.O. Machines /P 4a/ is used for postage
due on foreign mail, the charge being collected
from the sender.

EIRE (IRELAND)

Type 4C Neopost

/14/ Add: 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 5d, 7d, 1/3, 1/7, 1/10.

ESTONIA

Type 1 M.Nos. 1 to 13 and 15 now known

FINLAND (A)

Type 3B Francotyp

/AA22/ W O F.of V. z0010 (Ov., new type.)
TM. has stops in date.

Type 5 Hasler

/29/ has TM. DC.

/30/ VN O F.of V. 00010 TM. SC. (1014 up)

W A N T E D

By exchange or purchase: Great Britain,
Festival of Britain (tape used or proof); 1922-
24 slogans on "Universal"; Australia "Royal Visit";
South Africa, any of the NCR types. Please write
first and describe those you may have and if cut
down please state exact size cut to. - Walter M.
Swan, Palmer, New York, U.S.A.

=====

Thurston's, 39 Longley Road, Harrow, Middlesex.
Telephone: HARrow 5324.