

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

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Editor and Hon. Secretary:

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

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1955

The previous year's Report recorded a very considerable increase in membership during 1954; this year, we have unfortunately to record a considerable decrease. Nevertheless, this still leaves the numbers higher than at the end of 1953. As the list circulated to members in October showed (there was no further change during the year) the membership at the end of 1955 amounted to 74, of whom only 28 were in Great Britain. Five new members were gained during the year - four of them in the U.S.A. and one in Great Britain - against which we lost 13 (including 7 in Great Britain and 4 in the U.S.A.) For the new year, we have to write off two further names (the late Mr. Axer, and Mr. Huff who has gone away leaving no address), and so far have gained only one.

Financially, we are still in a sound position. Though receipts necessarily declined, while expenditure increased entirely in consequence of increased costs of duplicating the Bulletins (the special issue in October was of course partly responsible), we still had a balance on the right side. A detailed statement of accounts, with comparative figures for 1954, is sent herewith to all members and further information will gladly be given on request. Part of the accumulated balance in hand is being used in the production of the introductory booklet, though if the greater part of the edition is sold, it will

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recover its cost - quite apart from any new members it may bring in.

We are glad that it has been possible to start the exchange packet, though few members at present participate in it, and we are grateful to Mr. K.F. Jennings for his work. Further participants will be welcome, and members interested should get into touch with Mr. Jennings (359 Milton Road, Cambridge). As will be seen from a later page, we are now trying the experiment of a postal auction such as is a regular feature of other study circles. If this proves a success, it will be necessary to appoint an Auction Secretary, and a volunteer for this job will be greatly appreciated. The work should not prove heavy, though requiring careful attention to detail.

No member had any definite answers to the questions posed in last year's Report, as to why we do not get more members in this country even when quite a number show themselves interested in the subject of meter stamps. Only six members commented on the suggestion that the old name of "Meter Club" might prove more attractive; three of them supported the change and three thought a change unnecessary or inadvisable, but as the three latter were all in this country whereas two of the former were overseas, there was insufficient justification for any change. In this connexion, it is disappointing that so few members offer any assistance, this applying both to general questions and to specific information about meter-stamps. The whole idea of a "Study Group" implies a co-operative effort by its members to advance knowledge of their particular speciality. It is recognized that there are subjects with which we deal that are of direct interest to only a few (even here, we hardly ever get any guidance as to what does interest the majority) but even on matters on which we might reasonably expect comments or reports from practically all members, we get only two or three letters - and it is usually the same few members. Perhaps the production of the introductory booklet (see page 4) will attract some new members.

We take this opportunity to extend sincere thanks to all those members who have kindly provided metered covers etc. for distribution through the Bulletins; it has unfortunately not always been possible to name them in the Bulletin, in some cases because of lack of time and in others because it was not possible to provide enough of the same item to send to all members at once.

Our duplicators have recently advised us that owing to the increased purchase tax and cost of materials it will be necessary to increase the charges for producing the Bulletins. The sharp increase in inland postal rates from the beginning of this year, though not affecting letters and printed papers up to 2 ounces, must also to some extent increase our expenses. However, taking into account the balance in hand, it has been decided to maintain the subscription for 1956 at the original rate of 7s.6d. (or U.S. \$1.00), but warning must be given that an increase seems inevitable for subsequent years. Members whose subscriptions are now due will find a reminder slip inserted in this Bulletin.

Membership List Changes. The following changes have to be made in the October list:-

- (29) H.J.Bellaart, address now:
Heerengracht 31, Leiden (Holland);
- (C) Dr. Detlef Schmidt, substitute No.107 for C.

We welcome as a new member -

- (108) Jacques Rosenberg, 5 avenue du Castel,
Bruxelles-Woluwe St.Lambert (Belgium)

Booklets. The introductory booklet entitled (not very originally, we fear!) "Introduction to Meter Stamps", mentioned on page 97 of the last Bulletin, is now available, price to members 1s. (non-members, 1s.3d.) post free. Though members will probably find little or nothing new to them in it, they might find it useful for giving to friends to interest them in our subject, and every philatelic society should have a copy in its library; why not present your local society with one?

As to the booklet on the United Nations meter stamps, so far only six copies have been requested so that its appearance must be held over at least for a time.

Other Journals. As it is impossible for the Hon. Sec. to read all the philatelic periodicals in this country, it will be much appreciated if any member noticing an article or even a brief reference to meter stamps in any journal published in this country - including the news letters of other study circles - will at once advise us, so that, if required, a comment (or, as too often necessary, a correction!) can be sent to the journal concerned. Such comments incidentally often provide useful publicity for our Group. Articles in the following journals however need not be reported, as we see these regularly: The Stamp Lover, Gibbons Stamp Monthly, Stamp Collecting, S.C.F.

U. P. U. REGULATIONS

An article on the early meter stamps of Egypt published in "L'Orient Philatelique" of October 1934 refers to the first regulations for metered mail laid down by the 7th Congress (1920) of the Universal Postal Union. While three of the conditions are well-known, we have not previously seen mention of two others.

The conditions specify (translated from the French) - "The impressions obtained by the franking machines must be of the size of a postage stamp of small format, include an indication of the country

of origin, indicate the value in figures, which values must correspond to existing stamps, and be of red colour whatever value they represent."

Those new to us, that the impressions must be of the size of an ordinary stamp and that the values must correspond to those of existing stamps, have evidently never been adhered to; the earliest types of Great Britain, the U.S.A. and Germany, among others, are all much larger than ordinary stamps, while observance of the other condition would prevent the use of multi-value machines.

A "POSTAGE CALCULATOR" -
A REMARKABLE GERMAN INVENTION

According to the "Philatelic World" (Calcutta) a novel system of paying postage on letters, a so-called "postage adder", has been accepted by the German postal authorities. The new apparatus is intended to save labour and time to such firms or individuals as have a very large business correspondence. It will do away with their using postage stamps, and enable them to pay for their postage according to the figures registered by the little apparatus.

This apparatus, in the shape of a box, is not very large, and bears in the front several dials arranged like those of a gas meter, showing units, tens, hundreds and thousands, etc.; underneath the dials there are six push-buttons, each of which bears a figure corresponding with the values of the German postage stamps principally in use, viz.: 3, 4, 10, 20, 25 and 50 pfennigs. A long narrow slot is provided which will admit the letters to be stamped. Within the box just over the slot there is a steel die, representing a characteristic symbol; in this case, the arms of Germany, with the inscription "Deutsche Reichspost" as well as an unchangeable number, which is the registered number of the apparatus. Below this there are a stamp, giving the date and hour, and a wheel containing dies for the various values, fastened in such a way that the six push-buttons control the wheel bearing the figure dies, while the clockwork regulating the day

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and time, is accessible only to the postal clerk, who comes to inspect the apparatus once a week. If a number of letters are to be postmarked, they are placed one by one in the slot, and a pressure upon the knob on the top of the apparatus will stamp the necessary amount upon the envelope with indelible ink. The stamping of an envelope takes less than two seconds, so that with some practice it is possible to postmark about 2000 letters per hour with this little apparatus. A further advantage of this system is that it is not necessary to cancel this postmark at the post-office, which will save considerable work there. Another advantage is the possibility of paying for the postage, say, once a month, which is there regarded as of considerable benefit to both the public and the postal authorities. Since the apparatus registers automatically the entire amount of postage used by a firm, and since the mail matter placed into a post-office can be revised and counted off without much trouble by the postal clerk in charge at the receiving window for mail thus stamped, it will always be possible to compare the figures of the machine with those of the postal department, without entailing much labour upon the clerk receiving the matter. The new apparatus has been patented by a Munich engineer, and bids fair to revolutionize to a great extent the present system of selling stamps.

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The above account is reproduced from "The Philatelic Record", edited by Edward J. Nankivell and published by Buhl & Co., Ltd., London, April 1896 ! It was kindly brought to our notice by Mr. J. Negus, librarian of the Junior Philatelic Society. Almost precisely the same account (omitting the first six words of the above) was published in the "Philatelic Magazine" (London) of March 14, 1941, where it was attributed to "The 'Philadelphia Record' as reprinted in the 'Michigan Philatelist' of December 1895." The only significant difference is that the "Philatelic Magazine" although referring as above to six push-buttons, gives only five values, namely, 3, 5, 10, 25 and 50

pfennig; the 5 pf. appears to be more correct than the 4 pf. given by the "Philatelic Record".

It is extraordinary that the two accounts, which are too much alike to be independent translations from a German original, should be attributed to two sources equally remote from the birthplace of the machine, and it would be interesting to find their common origin.

We wonder whether the "apparatus" was actually constructed, or whether perhaps it existed only "on paper". It has surprisingly modern features which were not adopted on the earliest machines in actual use, such as the "limited-value" principle, push-button operation, and - what has never yet been adopted - automatic changing of the date and time. It is a pity that the name of the inventor was not recorded.

A rather curious incidental feature in the description is that the die is said to have been inscribed "Deutsche Reichspost", yet at the time (and until 1920) postage stamps of Bavaria, and not those of the German Empire, were in use in Munich.

G. B. NOTES

Neopost. The Catalogue lists under GviR Neoposts several "provisionals" consisting of the perhaps rather trivial variety "M.No. produced by removal of portion of No. from older die", as evidenced by the remaining figures being to the left of the normal position, leaving a space where the last digit had been. (Incidentally, a similar provisional arising from the removal of a first digit could not be detected!). There are listed such varieties under the frank designs "A1" and "B1" only, but we have now found one in "B2" which was not introduced until 1948 so that it cannot be due to war conditions as may be those listed. This is London S.W.1, N 41, used by "Toc H" in 1954 but replaced by an EiiR die in or before I 55.

The highest No. so far reported in the multi-value "NA" series is NA 410 (submitted by Mr. F. Lloyd Parton), with tmk "CORBY NORTHANTS."

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Pitney-Bowes (first type). A puzzling item of this ("circles and squares") type has been submitted by Mr. Walter M. Swan. It is a $\frac{1}{2}$ d, M.No.7 (small), with the usual double-circle townmark but reading simply "LONDON" at top and a short arc at bottom; in the centre in three lines it has "NOV 25 / 6³⁰ PM / 1922". Printed on the left of the strip is what purports to be the name and address of the user, "JOHN BARKER, Ltd., 42-97 Kensington High St., W., LONDON."

The first curious feature about this is that M.No. 7 was used by J.S.Fry & Sons, Bristol, the No. of John Barker's machine being 3. Secondly, no townmark has been known with LONDON alone and no postal district letter and No., and also none in this country showing a time. Thirdly, the printed name and address show several apparent errors, the name of the firm being correctly "John Barker & Co. Ltd.", while it is usual to put the postal district after London rather than after the street and in 1922 the no. W.8, would normally be shown.

The opinion of the experts to whom it has been shown is that it must be a "specimen" impression, perhaps made in the United States before the machine was shipped over here, for advertising purposes. Mr. D.R.Burchell mentions that M.No.7 was not used (in this country) until early in 1923.

Simplex. Mr. Jennings has reported receipt of SY 1 (Barclays Bank, Peterborough) and Mr. Stelfox, SY 86; intermediate Nos. also have been seen. These no doubt continue the "SX" series; Messrs. U.P.F. Ltd. will be in some difficulty after another thousand of these machines; after "SZ" what next? Some time ago, we reported S 1000, showing that unlike the "U" series these ran to 1,000 before changing the letter; has any member seen SA 1000 and/or SX 1000 ?

Universal MV. Surprisingly, no members have reported any additions to the Nos. showing the varieties of die described on page 101 of the Dec. Bulletin, but we find that UF 130 is type I and

UF 860 is type Ia; the undetermined gaps are therefore now UF 131 to 203 and UF 861 to 870, inclusive. Will members kindly check up on their examples of the UF - and also UG - series, and report?

T.I.M. A few additional dates and alternative colours have been reported by members, but no new offices; a revised list will be given later. Mr. Lloyd Parton has ascertained that the machine at Wolverhampton is No.19.

CANADIAN DISCOVERIES

Mr. Werner Simon reports the discovery of a 30c. value in Pitney-Bowes Model HS (Cat. No.21), used for airmail with P.O.W. townmark from a camp.

The Editor has found a 4c. value in the Midget type with "METER" above No.(927) (Cat.No.7); also, cat.no.22 with townmark circle and date inverted, METRE NO.82413 (.02 cents), MONTREAL / QUEBEC, date MAR 3 36.

CANADIAN AND U.S. METERS

Mr. Walter M. Swan reports several further Nos. in the "Canadian" 54000 series used in the United States, and suggests that possibly these Nos. are being used in continuation of the 55000-59999 series, rather than representing transfers of the meters from Canadian usage.

We have found a case of the reverse, a Canadian stamp of the current Pitney-Bowes "Maple Leaves" design, No.150011 (Toronto, Ontario, -4 VII '55). Originally, only the 140000 to 149999 block in this model was reserved for Canada, 150000 upwards being used in the U.S.A. Can anyone give information of No. 150011 used in the U.S.A.?

NEW ZEALAND: ANOTHER MAKE

The German Francotyp machine (Model Cc) is now in use. The frank is similar to that of the same model used in South Africa (cat. type 10) with NEW ZEALAND at top and POSTAGE over = X 34 = (in the one copy seen) at bottom, and the townmark is BIC with arcs at sides (DUNEDIN / N.Z. 20.12.55) It seems unlikely that there are already as many as 34 machines of this make in use, so the no. is unexplained.

New Zealand and South Africa appear to be the only two countries in the Commonwealth using both Francotyp and Hasler machines.

BULGARIA HAS USED A METER !

In the last Bulletin, we mentioned Bulgaria as one of the countries which had not so far used meters. The Barfoot-Simon Catalogue says that at least one coin-freed machine is known to have been used in Sofia about 1938, but that impressions had not been seen. Herr Ruprecht Glasewald now informs us that he possesses two examples from a Francotyp machine used in 1945 by the Ministry of Education, Service for Text-books and Instructional Material; the frank is of transverse format with BULGARIE in Cyrillic and Latin characters at the top, a lion at either side, and No.1 at the base. The townmark is Sofia.

ISRAEL NOTES

Dr. Bowman has advised us that the former rules restricting the use of Neopost machines to Head P.Os. must have been lifted, as he possesses machine T.A. 2, hitherto used by TNUVA at Tel Aviv, used by the same firm at Petah Tiqva, the townmark now being a single ring. Likewise, T.A.3 used by Bank Halva'a Vehisahon at Tel Aviv has been transferred to their office at Hadera; this time, a double-circle townmark is still used.

An entirely new design has been introduced for the Francotyp Cc machines. With a single thick frame line at each side, this shows the Israeli stag

emblem at foot and ISRAEL in large Hebrew letters at top, the English and Arabic reading upwards at sides. Machines for firms' use have value as z001 and key-letter "fei", while machines used by the P.O. have value as z0.010 and key-letter "dalet". All have single-circle townmarks.

SWITZERLAND: DISTINCTION OF THE MAKES

The Barfoot-Simon Catalogue notes for this country that "All frame dies are supplied by the Postal Department"; consequently they do not, as in other countries, show differences - major or minor - by which impressions from the different makes of machine can be distinguished. In the first, oval, design with fixed values, the only possible difference is in the townmarks - and these rarely appear.

It is true that the identification No. (licence No.) gives an indication because these Nos. were at first allocated in blocks to the different makes, but there does not seem to be much point in separating in a collection the different makes when they are only recognisable by the No.; and in any case, since July 1946, the Nos. have been allocated indiscriminately, so that for copies postmarked after that date the No. is not a safe guide to the make.

There is one qualification to this. The Catalogue indicates that in the makes Franco and Hasler the licence Nos. are curved, while in the makes Francopost, Safag and Universal "5" the Nos. are straight (horizontal). However, apart from the difficulty in many cases of deciding whether a 3-figure No. (as are the great majority) is straight or curved, several examples in my collection appear to disprove this distinction. In No.107, used 9 I 30, which should be a "Franco" with curved No., the 10c. has curved No. but the 60c. straight No. Nos. 803 (Universal "5") (10c., 30c., 70c.) and 3002 (Francopost) (30c.) all have curved Nos.

- A.A.D.

UNITED NATIONS NOTES

The proposed booklet summarizing the information published in earlier Bulletins has so far met with too little interest to justify proceeding with it.

The two new slogans mentioned in "Stamps" as quoted on page 105 have now been seen. The first reads "SEND UNICEF CARDS / TO HELP THE / WORLD'S CHILDREN" in three lines of sloping capitals, and was used with the U.N. meter P.B.-2-. The second, kindly sent us by Dr. Detlef Schmidt, reads "U N I C E F / FOR ALL THE / WORLD'S CHILDREN" in three lines of upright capitals, and was used with meter P.B.-3-. It is possible that they were also used with the other machines; the first, at least, was used on ordinary U.N. secretariat mail, not by U.N.I.C.E.F. itself.

The F.A.O. Tenth Anniversary slogans were withdrawn at the end of 1955, and the previous slogan showing full name and address in English was reverted to.

U.S.A. DISCOVERIES

Meter-stamps of the first (oval) design as manufactured by the Continental Postage Meter Corp. are all rare. Only 1, 2 and 3 cents values are listed in the Catalogue, but Mr. Henry O. Meisel has discovered a 4c., in the type of Cat. No.38; Meter No. P10030, Permit No. 34.

Another unlisted item discovered by Mr. Meisel and illustrated in the Bulletin of the American Metered Postage Society of 29 August 1955 is the P.O. machine manufactured by International Business Machines Corp., Cat.No.P 1, with M.No. 00003 (Nos. 00001, '2, '4 and '5 are listed.) This was used in March 1935 at Philadelphia, Pa., Post Office.

VIET-NAM

The meter stamps so far chronicled, of the normal French design inscribed "VIET-NAM" at top and "POSTES" below the value, emanated from Saigon in the southern part of the now divided country.

M. de Wailly has now shown us one from Haiphong in the northern part; this has "VIET-NAM" in smaller letters and "BUU-CHINH" (signifying "Postage") curved below. Meter SC 3005, used by the Haiphong agency of the Banque de l'Indochine. The date is 8 FEV 55.

POSTAL AUCTION

Although we believe that other Study Groups make a regular practice of holding postal auctions, we have not hitherto attempted this. The exchange section however, as mentioned in Mr. Jenning's report in the last Bulletin, is practically confined to current G.B. material. We are therefore by way of experiment introducing a postal auction for scarcer material.

All the items listed below are good collectible pieces on entire covers in excellent condition. The Nos. between // are those of the Barfoot-Simon Catalogue, and R, VR and RRR represent the degrees of rarity as indicated therein. It is hardly possible at the outset to give valuations or to specify reserve prices, but a minimum bid of 5/- would seem reasonable.

The item will go to the highest bidder at a price slightly above that of the next highest bid. In the case of two or more equal "highest" bids, the earliest postmarked will be successful. Closing date for receipt of bids is 30th April. Commission of 10% is charged for Group funds.

Lot

- 1 AUSTRIA /1/: 1924 Hasler, 3000kr., M.No.1 postmarked WIEN 12.IX.24. (VR)
- 2 BRAZIL /1/: Univ.N.Z. 400 reis, M.No.10, black wavy line tmk RIO DE JANEIRO 11 V 25.
- 3 BRAZIL /1/: As lot 2 but two impressions of the same stamp, with same tmk and date.
- 4 FRANCE /1/: Havas Tiranty, 1 F., M.No. A.0043, tmk "PARIS 49 - 11 AOUT 25" without wavy lines or slogan above.
- 5 FRANCE /1/: Havas Tiranty, 1F.25, M.No.A.0144, tmk "PARIS 51-24 FEVR 26" with wavy lines.(R)

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Lot

- 6 GERMANY /9/: Francotyp A, with Arabic month; tmk "BERLIN W8 14 8 25". (R)
- 7 INDIA /2/: Univ.N.Z., 2a. M.No.2, narrow black tmk "H.M.&Co. / 28 VIII 24 / C-1". (R)
- 8 NETHERLANDS /1/: Univ.N.Z., one cover with 3 cent, another with 15 cent, both M.No.12, black tmk, dated -5 III 26 and 10 III 26.
- 9 NEW ZEALAND /14/: Moss, cover (addressed to Yokohama) with three impressions in black of $\frac{1}{2}$ d CHRISTCHURCH 56, postmkd 19 MR 1917. (R)
- 10 STRAITS SETTLEMENTS /1/: Midget, registered cover with 1c. and three 6c., M.3. Tmk PENANG S.S. 27 III 28.
- 11 Same type but 2c. M.18, tmk SINGAPORE S.S. 17 X 28.
- 12 SOUTH AFRICA /29a/: Neopost Springbok, large envelope with 1/6 and 2/3 (N 574), tmk JOHANNESBURG 13 I 54 and slogan. (VR)

CATALOGUE SUPPLEMENT

The items in this supplement are again due mainly to Mr. S.D.Barfoot, and partly to M. de Wailly and the Editor's collection. "(A)" after the name of the country indicates a previous reference in the Catalogue Addenda, pages 117-119.

FRANCE (A)

(Note: the designations of the M.V. machines given in the Catalogue translated into our new notation are as follows:-

| | |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Type I | : *01 (K and Satas machines, *.01) |
| " II | : *0oi (K and Satas machines, *0.oi) |
| " III | : *00io (Satas, *00.io) |
| " IV | : *01 (with F) (K machines, *01.) |
| " V | : *001 (with F) |

- /11/ Add 25c., lf.50 (WB.0486)
- /34b/ As /34/ but frank and R.No. only.
- /46/ Also var.(i) - date only.
- /46a/ M.No. with two figures only (C.W.06 and 12)
- /A72/ R.No. Type IV.

/87a/ Style b, top 3 and bottom 2 lines removed
at left (G.4455)

/A92/ O. Type IV. (G.W095)

/A103/ Design A. O. Type V. (CG.1600)
(N.B. /103/ is design A, see Cat.Addenda)

Havas Model CG, replacement machines. Design A.

/A104/ O. Type IV. (C-GW98)

Satas Model C (prefix SC). Roman month-figures.

/A112/ - as /112/; /B113/ - as /113/; /A114/ - as
/114/; /A116/ - as /116/; /A118/ - as /118/.

/A114a/ - As /114/ with large M.No. (SC.0865).

Satas Model D (prefix SD). Roman month-figures.

/A126/ - as /126/.

Satas Model E (prefix SE). Month in letters.

/A132/ - as /132/.

Satas Model E, replacement machines. Design A.

/B132/ O. Type V. Roman month-figs. (SE.W107 &c.)

Havas Model K, replacement machines. Design A.

/140a/ Variety, M.No. K-W-5.

Havas Model M. Cat. description should read
Rm. (not Ar.) month-figs. (N.B. Cat.Addenda.)

/A144/ Type III, style a. (M-0864).

1954. Type 12. Design ? with circular date-
stamps showing date and time in one line.

I. Machine manufactured by Nationale Caisse En-
registreuse; M.No. H 000; impression on imperf.
labels. Used at P.O. Paris VIII, Rue la Boétie,
for a short time experimentally.

/148/ Values to 9999F.

II. Machine manufactured by S.E.C.A.P.; M.No.
N 000; impression on mauve label perf. horizontally.
Used at P.O. Paris XVII, Av.Wagram, for a short
time in Sept.-Oct.1954 experimentally.

/149/ VN. O. Value as *0001F. (fixed star)
(See article on pp.89-91 of the Sept.1955
Bulletin for further information.)

1954. Type 13. Design A, with Town/Date in two
or 3 lines below frank. Prefix N. Manufactured by
S.E.C.A.P. Arabic month-fig.; slogan at left.

/150/ Type IV (*01)

/151/ Type V with star (*001)

/152/ Type V with zero (0001)

Replacement machines; prefix NW.

/153/ Type V (? zero or star)

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FRANCE (continued)

Note: Machines of the ordinary French designs are in use in Fort de France, Martinique. (M-1023 and M-1090 are known.)

Parcel Post Machines, for Railway Parcels.
/R.4/ As /R.3/ but dash instead of star in value.

FRENCH CAMEROONS (A)

Type 1. As France type 7 design A but inscr.
R CAMEROUN F at top and C F A at foot.
R FRANÇAIS POSTES SD 3147 at foot.
/1/ O *001 F. 8 wavy lines above date.

FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA

Type 1, Universal MV. Similar to /1/ but no R.No.
/2/ N O *01 (U 6)
Type 2. Satas Model D. As France type 7 design A but inscribed A.E.F. at top.
/3/ O *001 F Roman month-figures.

FRENCH SOMALI COAST (A)

Description in Cat. Addenda should read "inscribed COTE FRANÇAISE at top." Also with
DES SOMALIS
8 wavy lines above date and town.

FRENCH WEST AFRICA

/3/ also with slogan instead of wavy lines.
Type 2. Havas Model M. Similar to France type 9 but inscribed
R AFRIQUE OCCIDENTALE FRANÇAISE at top.
Prefix MG.
/4/ O *001 F (Slogan above date and town)