

THE
METER STAMP
BULLETIN

Journal of the
Meter Stamp Study Group

No.41

(Vol.V No.8)

June 1959

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Editor of Bulletin:A.A.Dewey, M.A., B.Sc.(Econ.)
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SECRETARY'S NOTES

Membership. New addresses -

J.T.W. Mann, Esq.,	154 Coulsdon Road, Old Coulsdon, Surrey;
I.N. Wells, Esq.,	63 Winston Drive, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex;
K.C. Swanston, Esq.,	Caves Road, South Bowenfels 2W., N.S.W., Australia.

(Mr. Swanston has sent us a very interesting description of his new locality, which is about four miles from Lithgow.)

Resignation - S.R. Steward, Esq. (Doncaster.)

Constitution.

Very few comments on the draft Constitution were received, but these were fully discussed at the recent meeting when the member who had submitted most of them was present. As a result of the explanations given, it was eventually decided to make no change in the draft for the present (apart from the correction of a few typing errors: in Art.8(b) and (c) and Art.9(a) and (c), "empowered" should be "empowered".)

Town List.

Copies of this list, which runs to some 37 foolscap pages and includes an enormous amount of information, are still available. Price 4s. to members (5s. to non-members.)

Meetings.

A fuller report of the last meeting appears below. The next meeting has been fixed for the same place on Saturday 27th June, beginning at 6.30 p.m. It is hoped that more members will find it possible to be present.

Next Bulletin.

This will be dated September 1959, but owing to holidays it may not appear until towards the end of that month. Material should reach the Editor not later than 24th August.

THE LAST MEETING

The meeting held at the "Crown and Sugarloaf", Garlick Hill, E.C.4., on 11th April was unfortunately again attended by only a handful of members but it was as usual enjoyed by all those present.

After full discussion of the draft Constitution and other matters, the Hon. Editor exhibited some pages from his collection of G.B., beginning with various "Specimen" impressions, including two early ones letterpress-printed and one having the slogan only so printed, and various others down to EiiR. Then some high values, including Neopost GviR 1/6, 2/6, 3/-, 4/-, 5/- and 10/- and the complete range of values on the only Neopost machine with EiiR die running to 20/-, namely 3d., 2/-, 2/6, 3/-, 10/- and 20/-. This machine, N 30 of London S.W.6., was taken out of use in May 1957 and replaced by a Frank-Master (NB 430) from which a piece bearing impressions of 20/== and 20/6= was shown. There was also a piece franked by two impressions of 20/0 and a 28/9 from a Universal MV machine. By way of contrast two envelopes, normally used, bearing zero values were shown, the one a Univ.MV (U 206 with GvR die) where a 0/0 value was added to provide the townmark missing from an impression of P 14, 1d. frank; the second was a Neopost (GviR die, N5 of London E.1) in which the value space was completely blank, though accepted by the P.O.

Finally there were some odds and ends, including the "WOLVERHAMPTON" (P missing) error with GviR die N 32 (dated 28 II 5f) and lastly a piece showing the slogan "LONG LIVE / JUNE 1953 / THE QUEEN" from Bradford, Yorkshire, EiiR die N 40, the user of which was not known.

METERS AT STOCKTON-ON-TEES EXHIBITION

The Stockton and District (Co. Durham) Philatelic Society is to be congratulated on being the first society to organize a competition on a national level for "Meter Marks" (to use their description). These formed one of the classes in their Exhibition held from 2nd-31st May in the Preston Hall Museum. The winner was K.F. Jennings and second and third places were taken by J.C. Mann and G.R. Pearson respectively, all three being of course well-known members of our Group.

CURRENCY CHANGES IMPENDING

France is about to adopt a new "heavy" franc, equivalent to 100 of the present depreciated francs. Israel is to put into circulation shortly a new unit of currency called "agora" based on a division of the pound into 100 units instead of the present 1,000 pruta. These changes will of course have repercussions on the meter stamps, and interesting varieties can be looked for.

A more radical change is the adoption in South Africa of a decimal currency, the "Rand", equal to 10 shillings and divided into 100 cents, to be introduced early in 1961. It has been estimated that the cost by way of compensation for converting adding machines, cash registers and the like - including presumably postal franking machines - would amount to £9 million.

Australia and New Zealand also are showing official interest in the adoption of decimal currencies, though decisions have not so far been taken.

G. B. NOTES

OLD DIES STILL IN USE. One addition has been submitted: GvR, N 76 of London S.E.1., the 1d value as well as the $1\frac{1}{2}$ d already recorded.

PB EIR DIES. Two additions and two small amendments have been reported to the list compiled by Mr. G.R. Pearson as published in the January Bulletin.

Mr. H.G. Morgan reports PB 92, London W.1., 2d. (wide). The second addition, found by Mr. Pearson himself, is surprising - a $1\frac{1}{2}$ d value in PB 172 (London W.2., wide). Its date is 30 May 1956; the earliest date found for the 2d is 30 July 1956 - yet this high No. did not come to light until early in 1958!

The user of PB 62 is confirmed as being the Consett Iron Co., Ltd. In PB 158, the 3d., at least, has wide setting.

Details still lacking are the settings of PB 128, 169 (Penarth) and 170, also the exact inscription in the Penarth townmark and the user of the machine there. There is also no information of PB 171 which presumably should exist.

It might be well to emphasize, in view of one letter received, that the list related only to the single-value meters, with prefix "PB" on the dies. The limited-value meters, with prefixes "P" and "PA", are far more numerous and are still in production.

PARCEL POST MACHINES. In the November Bulletin we mentioned the article on these machines by our Hon. Soc., published in "Stamp Collecting" of Sept. 26th, 1958. "S.C." of March 13th published some additional notes on the subject by Mr. Mann, including the list of names accidentally omitted from the first article. It appears that, although the "S.C." readers reported several of these, they were not able to add any offices not already known to us. As the total recorded is only 71, including probable transfers, this means that even now there must remain 30 or

more to be found - that is, if the figure of 100 machines acquired by the P.O. is correct. We are beginning to doubt this; or perhaps a number of them have been held in reserve and not put into service?

SIMPLEX LETTERS. As already reported, when the "major" model reached the end of the "SZ" series towards the end of last year, the prefix jumped back to "SW". The highest "SW" No. reported in our last Bulletin was SW 222, and the only higher No. found since is SW 239; but G.R. Pearson was surprised to find SV 17 and SV 49! It seemed highly unlikely that the "SW" series could already have run to 999, or, if it had, that none above the 200's would have been reported. Messrs. U. P. F. Ltd. have now provided the explanation that the "SV" series represents machines of the "S/SA/SB" series rebuilt so as to run to $1/0\frac{1}{2}$ like the "SX/SY/SZ" instead of only to $6\frac{1}{2}$ as originally.

HARRIS PUBLICATIONS METERS. The G.B. meter probably best known to stamp collectors is Universal MV "UA 296", used since about 1941 by Harris Publications and the "Philatelic Magazine", London W.C.2.; it has retained throughout its original GviR die. A short time ago, however, it was replaced by the Roneo-Neopost "Frank-Master", ND 26, with of course EiiR die.

As is well known to most meter collectors, the "P.M.", under the late A. H. Harris, was one of the pioneers of the use of meters in this country, having first used a Universal N.Z. machine on 18 Oct. 1922. Before UA 296, they used the LV Neopost N 115 of London W.C.2., successively with GvR, EviiiR and GviR ciphers, the two latter having been adopted as soon as they were introduced.

HIGHEST NOS. All current series continue to make good progress, and a slightly higher No. in the Univ. MV series has been found. It is now necessary to insert the "SV" series. Thanks to Messrs. Hammond, Lloyd Parton, Pearson, Wells and Wilson.

A 643; PA 92; PB 172; ND 425;
SB 609; SV 49; SW 247; UK 590.

(Proofs of some higher Nos. have been seen, but it seems preferable to record only Nos. actually found in use.)

"VARIETIES" FROM A TOWN-LIST POINT OF VIEW

- Some Queries by K. F. Jennings -

Many of the varieties in the newly-published meter town list showing inscriptions which are not now correct are probably caused by changes in postal addresses. Has any member an old copy (1930-1950) of "Post Offices in the U.K." which he would lend? Recent examples are Solihull and Sutton Coldfield, which were transferred from Birmingham to Warwickshire in 1956.

The placing of a Post Town either with the office name or with the county is a matter which seems to follow no constant rule. At one time, it seemed that the Post Town and County were being placed together, but there are many cancellors and some meters in use which do not follow this rule. Does any member know the Post Office policy at different dates?

Why do Camborne-Redruth and Bournemouth-Poole have hyphens while other joint sorting offices have "&"? There is one cancellor showing "Brighton-Hove" but this variation has not been seen on meters, though N 108 shows "-&-"

Is there any special feature of organization to account for the appearance of "B.O." after Hanley and Tunstall, both in the Stoke-on-Trent area?

UNIVERSAL TOWNMARKS WITH DOTS

Some time ago, Mr. Hammond remarked that some of the double-circle townmarks used with Universal MV and Midget machines showed a large dot at each side, centred between the names of the town (at top) and county (at bottom). While investigation has indicated that this feature is not quite so uncommon as first believed, it is sufficiently unusual to deserve mention. A check through the collections of Mr. Hammond and the Editor has revealed only sixteen U MVs with the peculiarity, namely,

U 81 TORQUAY AND PAIGNTON . DEVON .
 U 153 ALLOA . CLACKMANNANSHIRE .
 U 155 BILLINGHAM . CO. DURHAM .
 U 243 LEAMINGTON . WARWICKSHIRE .
 U 316 WESTHOUGHTON BOLTON . LANCS. .
 U 526 CHESTER-LE-STREET . CO. DURHAM .
 U 599 WELLINGBOROUGH . NORTHANTS .
 U 602 ALLOA . CLACKMANNANSHIRE .
 U 716 PORT GLASGOW . RENFREWSHIRE .
 U 793 MALVERN . WORCESTERSHIRE .
 U 798 BRIDGNORTH . SHROPSHIRE .
 U 813 MOTHERWELL . LANARKSHIRE .
 U 859 COVENTRY . WARWICKSHIRE .
 UA 123 COVENTRY . WARWICKSHIRE .
 UA 927 STRATFORD-ON-AVON . WARWICKSHIRE .
 UB 143 ELLESMERE PORT . WIRRAL . CHESHIRE .
 U 465 is similar to UB 143 but has short dashes instead of the dots.

Although all are long names, this cannot be the reason for the insertion of the dots as some other TMs with the same names, and others at least as long, do not have them; we can only attribute them to an idiosyncrasy of the engraver. As will be noticed, 8 out of the 16 fall in the range U 520 - 860, and none are found on recent machines. Can any member report any further items?

Mr. Hammond has noted 15 Midget TMs with these dots and doubtless there are a few more, but we have not investigated these yet.

UNUSUAL SLOGANS

The vast majority of slogan blocks are used to indicate the name of the sender of the mail or to advertise his products, and use for any other purpose is sufficiently uncommon to be worth mentioning.

A number of local authorities have used them in furtherance of road safety or "clean food" campaigns, and one slogan "Long Live the Queen" marking the Coronation has been found (as mentioned on page 115.)

Of a different nature are two noticed not long ago. UF 765 (EiIR die) has "PRINTED MATTER" in two lines of bold capitals (used by the International Sugar Council, London S.W.1.); UH 543 has "PRIVATE" level with the top of the frank, the user being Lombard Banking Ltd., London W.1.

PITNEY-BOWES INC. CHARGED WITH MONOPOLY

The American Metered Postage Society's Bulletin of 10th Feb. reported that the Pitney-Bowes postage meter firm was summoned into the Federal District Court at New Haven, Conn., on 9th Jan. 1959, being accused by the Department of Justice of attempting to monopolize the postage meter industry in the United States from 1924 to 1959. It was brought out that the P-B firm had approximately 241,000 postage meters in service and an income of \$36,776,240 from this business in 1957 whereas less than 4,100 meters of other makes were in use with a total income of only \$500,000 from the business; thus more than 99½% of the business was controlled by P-B.

The case was however settled satisfactorily without it going to trial, but the A.M.P.S. states that P-B will now be compelled to help restore competition in the industry. Presumably this implies new makes of meter in the U.S.A.

CEYLON: ERRATIC RECORD NO.

A further batch of pieces franked by the Universal MV machine No. 138 commented on in the March 1958 Bulletin has now come to hand; these date from -8 XI 57 (nine days after the last of the previous lot) to -3 III 58, and continue to show the same peculiarity of a fixed last digit 6 in the record No. with the preceding three digits advancing slowly and erratically - again in several cases showing the same No. several days apart. There is however one odd exception: on 27 I 58 the last digit is a 7 (6067) although four days earlier and three days later it was the usual 6.

BRUSSELS "EXPO 58"

Last year's Brussels World Exhibition gave rise to a large (and mostly uncalled-for) crop of adhesive stamps, but its only manifestation in meter stamps appears to have been in the unofficial slogans. The following is based on a list compiled by M. Fernand Xhafflaire (Verviers), the President and Provisional Secretary of the recently-formed Belgian Meter Stamp Society "C.A.M.B.E."

The organizers of the Exhibition used a Francotyp Cc - similar to B-S type 9 but wider frank with five figures of value (z00.01), No. F 987 with TM "BRUXELLES-BRUSSEL". With sector No. 12 at bottom of the TM they used the following seven slogans:-

- (1) Exposition Universelle Bruxelles 1958
Brussel Wereldtentoonstelling
- (2) Brussel 1958 17 April - 19 Okt.
Weltausstellung
- (3) Brussels 1958 17 April - 19 Oct.
Universal Exhibition
- (4) Bruxelles 1958 17 avril - 19 oct.
Exposition universelle
- (5) Brussel 1958 17 april - 19 okt.
Wereldtentoonstelling

- (6) Devenez interprète benevole Expo 58 -
Wordt vrijwillige tolk achtenvijftig
- (7) Emblem: large star, globe and "58".

With sector No. 24 instead of 12, the last slogan alone was used.

Thirteen firms in Belgium (two with two meters each) used slogans referring to their participation in the Exhibition, and also two firms in France.

If any members know of any slogans in Great Britain (or in other countries) relating to this Exhibition, we shall be glad to have information to pass on to M. Khaflaire.

NEW EDITION OF FRENCH CATALOGUE

By courtesy of Lt. Col. M. de Wailly, we have received a copy of the fourth edition (1959) of the Catalogue of the Meter Stamps of France and associated countries, compiled by M. Michel and himself. Like the previous editions, this work, consisting of 24 mimeographed pages ($8\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ in.) within a printed cover and including a sheet of illustrations, lists in detail all the types of meter stamps used by France, countries of the French Union, and Monaco. Prices are quoted for each variety, though the basis of pricing is not explained; they range from 5 fr. (nearly 1d.) for a few of the commonest up to 1,000 fr. (14/6) for the scarcest values (17 $\frac{1}{2}$ c., 1f.60, 1f.65, 1f.80, 1f.85, 2f.10, 4f.10 and 4f.80) of the "A" series, and two to four times as much for certain of the experimental P.O. machines.

The Catalogue also includes an account of the machines used by post offices, experimentally in 1956 and now widely, and other new models.

The price of the Catalogue is not indicated; members (in G.B.) who would like to borrow it should apply to the Hon. Secretary.

FRANCE "R. P."

Collectors having French meter stamps may have wondered at the meaning of the letters "R. P." which are often found following the name in the townmark. M. Lemonnier explains that they signify "Recette Principale", the principal office in each "Departement" which is situated in the chief town ("Prefecture"). In other towns having more than one post office, the principal one is indicated in the townmark by "Principal" or its abbreviation "Ppal" after the name of the town.

U.S.S.R. POST-WAR TYPES

When recording the various post-war types of meter stamps used in the U.S.S.R. in our March 1957 issue, we remarked that all were in black or violet-blue instead of the regulation red. An example dated 24 I 59 from the same machine as type (c) then listed is however now in red. Like the previous example, it is on a cover addressed to London, the user being the Academy of Sciences, Moscow.

"OPERATION HINGE-BACK"

A pamphlet under the above title has been sent us by Mr. A. P. H. Overment (Chicago); it was produced for the Iroquois District, Chicago Council of the Boy Scouts of America, with the object "to promote an interest in philately, following the official requirements for the collecting of either adhesive or meter postage stamps".

It is regrettable that this informs the Scouts that the earliest meter stamps were the 1920 issue of the U.S.A.; one is by now accustomed to Russian claims to have been the inventors of all sorts of devices which had been known to the West years earlier, but it is unexpected to find the Americans doing the same!

We were surprised also to learn from this pamphlet that "meter slogans are now known as postmark ads". This does not seem a very sensible change when they are not "postmarks" and often are not "ads" (taking this to mean advertisements). Another controversial point is the recommendation as to size of cut strips, - much smaller than is usually considered desirable.

However, the "Operation" will doubtless bring in some recruits to our hobby, and is on the whole a useful outline of meter collecting.

A SIMPLIFIED U.S. METER COLLECTION

by William Pamperien

If you are puzzled by a swarm of U.S. meters and what to do about them, you might try this. It is a sort of simplified combination of different kinds of collections.

Start with one album.

1. The first two or three pages, reserve for the names of meter towns, one town to a line. On this line write the meter town, and after it, the type or types. Also page number on which you have it.

2. On the next two or three pages, mount one of each type of meter you find.

Thus under "1" you have a start for a "Town" collection, and under "2" you have a "Type" collection.

3. Save a couple of pages for parcel post "Tapes". These are tapes with "P.O." or "POST OFFICE" in the circle. Take off paper before mounting.

4. Soak off and mount tapes without slogan. If you have several from the same firm in different amounts, try to keep these together, so

you'll have one of each but no duplicates. You will find varieties in these which it will be interesting to study later. You may have, say, 6 or 7 pages of these at first.

5. Pick some kind of meter slogan to save. It might be railroad, or "safety", or telephone. Concentrate on this slogan. It will be your "topical" collection, and you should save 10 or 12 pages for this.

6. If you have meter towns not in the above, cut them 2" x 4" or 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 4" as you like, and mount on the next few pages.

Then you have in one volume all types of collecting done by U.S. meter collectors. The rest of the material you can put in your "junk" box for the benefit of other collectors. When you have enough material you may want to concentrate on only one of those collections.

Thus you avoid saving too much stuff, and save work.

RECENT ISSUES IN BRIEF

(Fuller descriptions must await the appropriate Catalogue supplement.)

AUSTRALIA. Frank-Master. Two designs - (1) similar to Universal MV, type 5; (2) similar to Neopost "Kangaroo & Map" but Ram above and Map below value. Both types have letters "RN" at bottom left.

BAHRAIN. Frank-Master. "RUPEES" over posthorn below value, as 0.01

BELGIUM. Pitney-Bowes Model R. Usual style with lion between town-circle and value.

BURMA. Frank-Master. Somewhat similar to Neopost but value in centre and Arms below.

CEYLON. Simplex. Inscriptions still in English only. Values 1 to 25 cents.

EIRE (IRELAND). Frank-Master. Similar to type 5, key-letters "NV"; values as in G.B.

KENYA UGANDA AND TANGANYIKA. Frank-Master. Similar to Univ. MV but crown over EIIR at foot; letter "N" at bottom left. Value as 00.01

As usual the following list is due mainly to Mr. S.D. Barfoot, with additions by the Editor; some details also have been derived from a check-list (in Dutch) compiled by E.J. Enschede with supplements published in 1946-52 by the Nederlandse Vereniging van Poststukken- en Poststempelverzamelaars.

NETHERLANDS

Note. Machines with prefixes F, H and P and Francotyp 101-1723 are "Value Card" machines, operated by insertion of a card representing the value of franking paid for, purchased from the P.O., and locked when the value is used up. Machines with prefixes FR, HR and PR and Francotyp 5001 up are "Current Account" machines, having a meter set by the P.O. for the amount of franking.

Essays. Universal Simplex P.O. machine, in design of Type 11 (M.No. SZ 001) with VN setting and TM at right of frank; not sanctioned.

Dates. The P.O. now requires the months to be indicated in Roman figures, and Francotyp and Postalia machines are gradually being changed accordingly.

- Type 3. Francotyp. M:Nos. should read "5001-5056; FR 5057 up."
- /10/ Only in 1935-36.
 - /11d/ This variety is probably only indistinct printing, due to wear.
 - /14/ From 1938 only.
 - /15/ No.1717 was later (before 5 51) changed to type as /16/.
 - /16a/ Var., as /16/ but Roman M.F.
 - /19/ Used from 1931, not 1932.
 - /A30/ Var., as /30/ but stops in date.
 - /33a/ Var., as /33/ but Roman M.F.
 - /A38/ Var., as /38/ but stops in date.
 - /A40/ W TC #001 (CA); Ar.M.F., stops in date.
 - /A41/ W O #001 (CA); " " " "
 - /A41a/ Var., as /A41/ but Roman M.F.

Type 3E. Francotyp Co. Occurs with or without stops after D and before Yr in dates.
/43a/ Var., as /43/ but Roman M.F., stops in date.

Type 4. Hasler.

/45/ Delete H 506 (which is as /46/)
/46/ H 505, 506.
/47/, /48/ Query - delete?
/49/ Change "H 509" to "H 507-513".
/50/ H 509 only, from 1950.

Type 4C. H 501 up, incl. replacement dies.

/52/ (H 523 was as /51/ from 7.30 to 5.36; as
/53/ from 5.36 to 10.36; as /52/ from
10.36 to ??)
/55a/ Add H 609.

Type 5. Komusina. M.Nos. K 145-166 were not issued. Sanction for the use of these machines was withdrawn as from 8.4.52.

Type 6. Neopost.

/58/ Add 7c., 20c.
/59/ Add 7c.

Type 7. Hasler. Change to Type 7A and insert:

Type 7B. Hasler F99. As type 7A but F. of V. smaller. Arc of TM higher, four lines below.
HR 1501 up (?).

/A67/ N O zz01 (first lozenge fixed)

Type 8. Safag.

/A68/ Small date figs. N O 0010 (Ov.)

Type 9. Universal MV.

/76/ should read 3(st.+ 2), i.e. *01

Type 10. Postalia.

/81a/ Var., as /81/ but Roman M.F.

/82a/ Var., as /82/ but Roman M.F.

Type 11. Universal Simplex.

/84/ This has slogan in space below TM.

1954. Type 13. Frama. Large rect. frank resembling type 3 but wider. TM DC, Roman M.F. with stops after D and M. Slogan at left.
- (A) Frank 36 x 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. M.No. with prefix FM very small, vert. downwards at left of frank.
/86/ VN 0 x01 TM 27/16 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. diam. (FM 2)
/86a/ As /86/ but TM 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ /19 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. diam. (FM 3)
- (B) Frank 41 x 31 mm. M.No. with prefix FM larger, vert. upwards at right of frank.
/87/ VN 0 x01 TM 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ /19 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. diam. (FM 4)

POSTAGE DUE MACHINES

1953. Type PD.2. Postalia. New design resembling type PD.1 but with scroll-work borders at sides. Blue impressions.
- (A) Inscr. "AMSTERDAM / TE BETALEN" at top; no M.No.; no TM.
/PD.2/ 001 (Ov.)
- (B) Inscr. "NEDERLAND / TE BETALEN" at top; M.No. with prefix PR at bottom. TM DC-A, inscr. "POSTKANTOOR/ (town)"; Roman M.F.
/PD.3/ 001 (Ov.)

POST OFFICE MACHINE

1956. Type P.1. Postalia. Square design, inscr. "NEDERLAND" at top outside frame; "POSTKANTOOR" at left, town at right; M.No. with PR prefix at bottom. No TM. Red impr.
/PO.1/ 001 (Ov.)
(Used on underpaid foreign mail.)

CANADIAN METERS: AN OFFER

A member of the British Postmark Society (of which, incidentally, our active member G. R. Pearson is now Hon. Secretary/Treasurer) has about 20 lbs. weight of Canadian meter stamps for disposal. He is Mr. L. Harris, 50 Victoria Road North, Southsea, Hants.; and any member interested should get into touch with him direct.