

THE BULLETIN

From its first issue, now almost ten years ago, the Bulletin has kept unchanged both its title and its format. In order to provide greater scope for printing of lists and also greater convenience in binding, it is proposed as from the first issue of the next volume in January 1960, to change to full quarto pages, i.e. the same size as the present Bulletin if opened out flat and with the text running the other way. Have members any comments to offer?

It also seems desirable to adopt a more attractive title: as Messrs. J. and R. Negus remarked in their valuable series of articles on "Producing an Amateur Magazine" published in "The Stamp Lover" (1957-59), "Too many nondescript 'Newsletters' and 'bulletins' exist already", and they recommended "Make it (the title) as brief as possible". Ideas will be welcome.

PROPOSED G.B CATALOGUE

At the meeting of members of the Group held on 27th June, the main subject of discussion was the proposal to bring out a specialized catalogue of the meter stamps of Great Britain; a further meeting on the same subject took place on 25th July, when the half-dozen members present agreed to prepare drafts of a small section so as to facilitate a decision on the form and lay-out of the work. A meeting to consider these will be held at the usual place, the "Crown and Sugar-loaf", Garlick Hill, London E.C.4., on Saturday 10th October, beginning at 6.30 p.m., when other members also will be welcome.

It was agreed that it was essential to show prices in the catalogue, however tentative and even arbitrary they must inevitably be. It also was agreed that the new catalogue should be arranged primarily by makes of machine rather than chronologically like both Harris and Barfoot and Simon. It is of course too early yet to indicate the publication date or the probable cost.

AT LAST! NEW DESIGN FOR G.B.

The "Financial Times" (London) of 27th Aug. (but no other paper so far as we know) reported that "a new and more attractive design for franking machine impressions" would be introduced on 1st September, and described its main features. Actual examples used on the first day with the Frankmaster and Automax machines (NB 297 and A 1 respectively) have now come to hand from the manufacturers, and it is hoped that this issue of the Bulletin will be franked with one so that detailed description is unnecessary.

We quote, by permission, from a leaflet issued by Messrs. Roneo-Neopost Ltd.:-

"For the first time since the introduction of franking machines in 1922 an entirely new and distinctive frank design, which bears no resemblance to either the adhesive stamp or any official paid impressions, has been approved by Her Majesty the Queen.

"Gone are the perforated edges and the old fashioned look - in their place an original and artistic design incorporating the four national emblems together with the symbolic St. Edward's Crown, which will give distinction and prestige to franked mail.

"It is over three years since Universal Postal Frankers and ourselves (i.e., R.-N. Ltd.) first approached Sir Gordon Russell, Director of the Council of Industrial Design for advice on the design of a new die. At his suggestion we commissioned Mr. Stuart Rose, who has been responsible for many adhesive stamp designs, to work for us and in the early part of this year the final design was approved by Her Majesty.

"Apart from the increased size, one of the interesting features is the absence of the Royal Cipher. This should remove the resentment some of our Scottish customers have felt towards the present die. Another feature is that, with both the Frankmaster and the 8-value machines,

the value segment will now appear in the centre of the die.

"Since the existing design has remained virtually unchanged, apart from alterations to the Royal Cipher, for over 30 years we forecast that the new die is going to arouse considerable interest in franking amongst the general public." (And doubtless also amongst philatelists who have hitherto neglected this field. - Editor.)

The feature that the value must now appear in the centre means that the new dies cannot be fitted on existing Neopost L.V. machines without their being slightly modified so as to raise the value figures to the level of the date and also to delete the short lines below the value intended to fill the gap in the frame of the "Cipher" design. We can foresee some interesting varieties where the latter modification has not been carried out! If ever the new design comes to be fitted to old Midget, N.Z., or Pitney-Bowes single-value machines, there will not arise any similar difficulty because in these the value is an integral part of the die and can be arranged in any way therein.

For the benefit of foreign readers, it might be explained that the "national emblems" are, at left, the rose (England) and shamrock (Ireland) and, at right, the thistle (Scotland) and daffodil (Wales). The Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey are not catered for - will they demand their own designs? But what, we wonder, do the six-rayed stars in the top corners represent?

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OLD DIES STILL IN USE. Mr. R. Haggett reports that the GvR die "PB 2", with the error "PB" for "P", was still in use by the Hendon Borough Council towards the end of last year. Another addition comes from Mr. J. Wilson:- EviiiR die, M 91, Birmingham (value 3d.)

SOURCES OF G.B. POSTAL REVENUE

The Postal Services Department of the G.P.O. has kindly provided us with the following figures of the breakdown of postal revenue in this country for the year 1958/59 according to the various means of payment:-

Adhesive Postage Stamps	55%
Stamped Stationery (including stationery charges)	3%
Meter Franking Machines	22%
Postage Collected in Cash	14%
Postage from other Government Departments	6%
Total	<u>100%</u>

Similar figures are unfortunately not available for pre-war years.

OTHER COUNTRIES

The United States P.M.G. gave figures for the U.S.A. in the year 1956/57 (quoted in a Bulletin of the A.M.P.S.) from which we have calculated the following figures for comparison:

Adhesive Stamps and Stamped Paper	42%
Metered Postage	44%
Permit-imprinted Mail	9%
Second-class Mail and "Controlled Circulation Publications"	3%
Government Agencies	2%
Total	<u>100%</u>

The recent German Meter Catalogue (Durst and Glasewald) states that in the German Federal Republic in 1955, 27.2% of postal revenue was accounted for by "post paid" marks and 21.6% by firms' meters.

Has any member corresponding figures for any other country?

THE 46th BUSINESS EFFICIENCY EXHIBITION

by J.A. Wilson

The exhibition, which in future is to be an annual London event, is organized by the O.A.B.E. T.A. (Office Appliance and Business Equipment Trades Association). This year's show was held at Olympia between 25th May and 4th June. All types of office aids were on show, and as you may expect, Messrs. Roneo-Neopost Ltd. and Universal Postal Frankers Ltd. were exhibitors. Armed with packets of envelopes the writer and George Pearson visited the show on the 30th May.

Roneo-Neopost were exhibiting three Frankmasters and an 8-value (LV8) "RB" machine. One of the FM machines, ND 001, with a maximum value of 29/11 $\frac{1}{2}$ had a DC townmark inscribed "NEOPOST / SPECIMEN". The slogan stated that "THIS SPACE / RESERVED / FOR YOUR / ADVERTISEMENT", the words "THIS SPACE" being contained in the body of an arrow situated in the top left corner of a framed rectangular area containing the rest of the wording. This machine was using standard Neopost tape inscribed "RONEO-NEOPOST LTD. / LION HOUSE, / RED LION STREET, / RICHMOND, SURREY." in four lines with the word "SPECIMEN" at an angle across the tape. The address occurred three times and the word "Specimen" six times every 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. The "RB" machine was numbered N 001 with BIC townmark with arcs, inscribed "NEOPOST / SPECIMEN". This machine was fitted with the same slogan as the FM and had values of 2d., 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., 4d., 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 6d., 9d. and 1/-.

We were assured that the FM series ended at 999 and machines numbered 1000 do not exist.

Universal Postal Frankers were exhibiting four Automax, two Simplex Major and a P.B. Mailing Machine. The four Automax machines, A 32, A 169, A 170 and A 662, all had new-style townmarks inscribed "FRANKOPOST / SPECIMEN" and

were fitted with Die 9 franks. At least A 32 and A 169 had slogans which depicted the "Automax Secretary" with the wording "THE NEW AUTOMAX / POSTAL FRANKER / SAVES MY TIME / YOUR TIME / POST TIME / =FRANKOPOST=". Standard Frankopost tape overprinted "SPECIMEN" down the centre in letters $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm high, the word being $37\frac{1}{2}$ mm long and repeated every $54\frac{1}{2}$ mm, was in use along with non-curl white labels 4 x 2 in. inscribed "U.D. 324, LONDON, S.E.11". The Simplex machines SW 369 and SW 370 were on show. At least SW 369 was fitted with a slogan consisting of a curved indicating arrow with the wording "ADVERTISE the easy way / FRANK your mail - / - its sure to pay. / FRANKOPOST." New-style townmarks "FRANKOPOST / SPECIMEN" were used on both machines. The Pitney-Bowes Mailing Machine (Model AV?) was fitted with a LV6 meter (Model CV) P 51 with values of $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2d., $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., 4d. and 6d. The machine had the usual type of DC townmark inscribed "FRANKPOST / SPECIMEN".

We learnt the surprising fact that some Simplex Major machines (LV 25) were erroneously issued with Simplex Minor (LV 13) identity Nos., prefix S, SA or SB. It is understood that all have now been recalled. (A demonstration machine at the 1953 Business Efficiency Exhibition had EIR die SA 461 with values to $1/0\frac{1}{2}$ - Editor.)

Another interesting exhibit at the U.P.F. stand was an Automax machine with the main covers removed and running continuously at low speed.

In closing I would like to thank the representatives of both firms for the cordial reception we were given and for the patient way in which our questions were answered and our requests for samples dealt with.

G. B. NOTES

AUTOMAX. The first thousand machines has quickly been reached, and our Hon. Sec. was the first to report the second prefix, with "AA 2", on 10th July.

From a tabulation made by Mr. J. Wilson, it appears that three Master Dies have been used (for the old design). A 1 to A 170 are all Die 9 (the same as the last used for the Universals); A 176 to 320 are Die 10; A 325 to 365 Die 11; thereafter, Dies 9 and 11 alternate in batches the precise limits of which there is at present not enough material to determine. There may of course be exceptions not yet discovered in the ranges 176 to 320 have been found. The distinctions between the three Dies are difficult to describe, and are best made by actual comparison.

AUTOMAX AND FRANKMASTER. Each of these makes provides both three-bank (one figure for shillings, to $1/11\frac{1}{2}$ or $9/11\frac{1}{2}$ etc.) and four-bank (two figures for shillings, to $29/11\frac{1}{2}$ or $99/11\frac{1}{2}$) models, but unlike the former "Universals" it does not appear practicable to distinguish their impressions. In both models, values below 1/- show both a double dash and a zero before the stroke, thus: $=0/2\frac{1}{2}$. (If there is no $\frac{1}{2}$ d., the Frankmaster has another = in its place whereas the Automax has merely a blank.) It has been noticed that the first = differs slightly in size and position from one machine to another, both in the Automax and in the Frankmaster, and it may be that these differences are associated with the 3-bank and 4-bank models respectively, but the differences are far too small to provide a reasonable means of distinction. Incidentally, the 2-bank (Junior) model as in the "Universal" has been discontinued in both these makes.

NEOPOST NUMBERING. For a long time it was the practice for all the Neopost machines operated by one user (at one office) to show the same identification No. on their dies, but Messrs. Roneo-Neopost tell us that they are not now allowed to duplicate any No. and when a customer has more than one franking machine they must have a licence for each machine with a different identification No. Whether this change has been applied with retrospective effect, we are not informed.

Occasionally, of course, mistakes occur; it has just been discovered that during March 1956 (and perhaps much longer) at Gloucester, both the Gloster Aircraft Company and British Road Services used dies (EiIR) showing "N 44" which is correctly the No. of the former, that of British Road Services being N 77. Others have been mentioned from time to time.

SETRIGHT REGISTERS LTD. Reference is made on page 139 to the ownership of the British postage-meter manufacturing firms. It was disclosed recently, in the report of the British Match Corporation for the year to March 1959, that Bryant & May Ltd., which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the B.M.C., acquired Setright Registers Ltd. during that year. Setright Registers manufactures ticket machines, totalisators etc., and is producing the new parcel-post meters for the G.P.O. Matches and meters seem rather an incongruous combination!

None of these new "Setright" machines have yet been reported in use apart from that at the Remnant St., London W.C.2, office.

UNUSUAL SLOGANS. The single word "PRIVATE", similar to that on UH 543 already reported, occurs also on A 151 (Croydon, Surrey); the user is not known. (Reported by Mr. J.A. Wilson.)

HIGHEST NOS. Thanks for reports from Messrs. D. Fletcher, F.L. Parton, G.R. Pearson; and J. Wilson. There are no additions to the PB, SB and UK series; as mentioned above, "A" has given place to "AA".

AA 93; PA 99; PB 172; ND 493;
SB 609; SV 57; SW 622; UK 590.

All the above are in the old "Royal Cipher" designs.

THE NEW STYLE U.P.F. TOWNMARK (contd.)

Information additional to that given in the March Bulletin (V,101) has come to light due to the acquisition of further material by Mr. J.A. Wilson and the Editor.

Two more "UG" Nos., UG 88 and UG 458, have been found with both old and new styles, and in these, unlike those quoted previously, the town name remains unchanged.

Both the UG 140's and UG 350's, referred to as being sequences of Nos. with the new style prior to its general adoption, are, it has now been observed, all "Junior" models and moreover the only "Juniors" with UG prefix above UG 65. The former group in fact extends from UG 137 to 146 and the latter from UG 348 to 366, except that 137, 138 and 364 have the old TM and some of them have not yet been discovered.

There have now been noted 29 of the old style above UG 500, of which 23 occur between UG 500 and 577; the six higher have already been listed.

Four in the UK series have been found with the old style, namely,

UK 33 MIDSOMER NORTON, BATH / SOMERSET
UK 407 HIGHAM FERRERS WELLINGBOROUGH / NTHS
UK 417 TUNSTALL, STOKE-ON-TRENT / STAFFS.
UK 422 ELLESMERE FORT, WIRRAL / CHESHIRE

all of which have unusually long names - several letters longer than any found with the new style - which may provide the explanation for the revival of the old style.

PITNEY-BOWES INC. CHARGED WITH MONOPOLY

The action against Pitney-Bowes Inc., of Stamford, Conn., brought by the United States Government under the so-called Sherman Act - "to protect trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies" - was referred to in the last Bulletin (page 120). The American Metered Postage Society has now published photographic reproductions of the "Complaint" against the firm and the "Final Judgment", which include legal definitions of "postage meter" etc., an account of the firm and its trade, the detailed offences with which it was charged, and the orders made against it.

Altogether this makes most instructive reading; any member (in G.B.) who would like to see it may apply either to the Hon. Secretary or to the Editor.

PITNEY-BOWES AND U. P. F. LTD.

One of the "offenses" with which P-B was charged was that it had "purchased the controlling interest in a major foreign competitor for the purpose of acquiring its technology and patent rights and preventing its competition with defendant in the United States." It may perhaps not be known to all our members that the "foreign competitor" in question is Universal Postal Frankers Ltd., London. According to the latest annual report of Pitney-Bowes, as quoted by the A.M.P.S., P-B owns 65% of the stock in U.P.F. The Royal Insurance Company owns 20% and the remaining 15% is owned by individual stockholders, many of them employees of U.P.F.

Another "offense" was that P-B had "persistently attempted to acquire substantial or controlling stock ownership of other foreign competitors in England, France and Germany to prevent those companies from manufacturing or

(continued at foot of page 141)

ADEN METERS

The May 1959 number of "OPAL", the organ of the Oriental Philatelic Association of London, published an article on Aden Meter Marks (amplifying a note on the subject in its March number). Besides general information furnished by ourselves, this article includes a complete list of the users of meters in the Colony secured by Mr. J.H.F. Rudkin, the Secretary of the O.P.A.L., from the local agents of the manufacturers.

Neopost numbers run from N 1 to N 16 and Universal numbers from U 2 to U 18, but N 3, 7 and 8, and U 12 and 15 are indicated as "not licensed". It is not clear whether this means that these machines have not yet been issued, or whether they have been used but are now withdrawn. (Does any member possess examples from these machines?) The missing U 1 would of course be the original machine in the annas/pies currency.

The article can be lent to any member interested; please apply to the Editor.

INDIA: PUZZLING NEW TYPE

In this new type, shown us by Mr. G.R. Pearson, the frank resembles that of the Neopost but is larger and has much larger "perforations"; the value is however not in a "box" and has "Rs" in tall letters to its left and "S" in a small corner square at the right. The envelope seen bears two impressions, values 1.00 and 0.03, but it is impossible to determine whether the machine is a LV or a MV model. Despite the key-letter "S" it is obviously not a Simplex machine, and the value figures are larger and wider overall than seems possible for a Neopost LV.

The townmark, CALCUTTA, with licence No. C-1460, is similar to that of the Neoposts with large date figures (-1 VI 59)

Can it be an experimental Indian make?

BRUSSELS "EXPO 58"

The notes prefixed to the list of slogans compiled by M. Xhaflaire in our last Bulletin suggest - due perhaps to a misunderstanding in translation - that the meter F 987 was the only machine used by the Exhibition authorities. We have however an envelope from the "Commissariat General du Gouvernement" of the Exhibition franked by Hasler B 1328 (large die, value as $\approx 00oi$, B-S 58) without townmark or slogan; also one from the "Foire Internationale, Palais des Centenaire, Bruxelles" (which may or may not be the same as "Expo") franked by a Hasler B 1095 (small die, value as $\approx 0oi$, B-S 48), also without townmark or slogan but showing in place of the date the single figure "I." - which our Hon. Sec. in sending us the cover remarks must surely be the smallest possible townmark!

FRENCH CATALOGUE PRICES

Referring to our comment on the new edition of the French meter catalogue, Lt. Col. de Wailly explains to us that the prices were based on the experience gained from the numerous lots he saw. There are in France (as in G.B.) no dealers in meter stamps, and the prices are useful mainly in connexion with exchanges among members of the society "ACEMA" (Association des Collectionneurs d'Empreintes de Machines a Affranchir). After slight modifications as a result of successive editions, he thinks that they are fairly accurate.

P-B and U.P.F. (continued from page 139).

selling postage meter machines in the United States." Their only other competitor in England is Roneo-Neopost Ltd., which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the large public company Roneo Ltd. and so would appear to be beyond P-B's clutches.

NEW GERMAN METER CATALOGUE

This "Katalog der deutschen Freistempel" compiled by Heiner Dürst and Ruprecht Glasewald, runs to 90 pages with stiff cover; besides listing clearly and fully all German meter stamps, it covers the impressions applied to mail posted in bulk - the equivalent of the British "Paid" marks - from as early as 1802, and nearly all are priced (often very highly).

It gives details of a number of hitherto unrecorded varieties, and is an asset to anyone collecting German meter and "paid" marks. It is profusely illustrated and well produced by photo-lithography. It is obtainable at DM 7.50 plus postage (0.25) (approximately 13s.) from Ruprecht Glasewald, Fuhlsbüttlerstr. 92, Hamburg 33, Germany.

- G.R. Pearson.

U.S.A. PITNEY-BOWES "MODEL R" CHANGES

The Pitney-Bowes "Model R" machine, with the very well-known "large eagle" design of imprint, was introduced into the United States at the beginning of 1940; apart from the insertion, firstly of five vertical dashes at the extreme right, soon replaced (before 500 machines had been issued) by thirteen stars - presumably to assist the feeding of envelopes through the machine - no change has been made in the frank up till the present, even though something like 200,000 machines have been issued. (What a contrast to the British dies!)

But now the American Metered Postage Society Bulletin of 30th May illustrates two stamps, submitted by Mr. E.S. Lapham (a member also of our Group) in modified types. The first, P.B. Meter 341042, has a wider value box, clearly noticeable by the space at either side of "U.S. POSTAGE", and the eagle's wings are slightly altered. It was later reported that Meters

341038 and 341039 also have been found in this type. The second, P.B. Meter 500071, has still larger value box, "U.S. POSTAGE" larger and without line below it, no guide line along the top, and other minor differences. Both have a dot as well as the three short wavy lines preceding the value figures. With townmark "STAMFORD, CONN." all were used by the makers, and are doubtless experimental; the dates noted are in March and April, 1959.

It will be noted that the second item is numbered in the 500,000 series, but we do not yet know whether this indicates that the 300,000 series has been finished - we have not seen any above 369,000-odd. The 400,000s are being used for the smaller Model DM which has presumably exhausted the originally allocated 200,000 series.

BURMA: UNIVERSAL M.V. TYPES

The Barfoot-Simon Catalogue illustrates a proof of a "Peacock" design for the Universal M.V. machine, denominated in annas and pies, but so far as we know this was never put into use. The design actually used (denominated in kyats and pyas) is even more ornate, being apparently based on the frame of the 1949 U.P.U. anniversary adhesives, with a "chintse" seated at the base of an ornamented pillar at either side. There is a lengthy Burmese inscription along the top and "UNION OF BURMA" between "U" and the No. along the bottom.

We find two slightly different dies for U 1. The first (our copy being dated 23 V 57) has the Burmese inscription in much taller letters than the second (earliest date 10 XII 58) and it appears to read differently. Also the first has a short plain vertical bar between the indications of currency, "K : P", whereas the second has a triangular pylon-like ornament joined to the curved ground below.

The only other machines seen, U 7 and U 9, are in the second type, but have the now usual narrower townmark circles. All have four figures of value, as 00oi.

NEW ISSUES IN BRIEF

BELGIUM. Post-office machine. Small frank with "BELGIQUE" at top and "-BELGIE-" at bottom and No. P 2001 below frame. TM SC with tall date figures and hour between TM and frank. Value as x00.0i. S.A.T.A.S.?

IRAN. French-type machines (S.A.T.A.S.?) are now in use. Large "perforated" frank with crown; all inscriptions, including value and date figures, in both Persian and French. (Examples from G.R. Pearson.)

NEW CALEDONIA. The first from this colony. Usual French design, inscribed at top "NLE CALEDONIE / ET DEPENDANCES"; "SD" series (No. SD 2021), value as x001 (presumably in French Pacific francs worth 5.50 Metropolitan francs). Single-circle townmark (NOUMEA R.P.) Thanks to Lt. Col. de Wailly for an example.

SAAR. Normal German franks ("DEUTSCHE BUNDESPOST") are now in use.

CATALOGUE SUPPLEMENT

We regret that the next instalment of the supplement to the Barfoot-Simon Catalogue has had to be held over.

R O A D S A F E T Y. Mr. R. Haggett is preparing an exhibit for a Road Safety Exhibition at Hitchin in November, and would like to show appropriate slogans from as many countries as possible. Will any members able to help please write direct to Mr. Haggett, 40 Burford Way, Hitchin, Herts?

Thurstons, 39 Longley Road, Harrow. Phone:HAR.5324