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M. S. S. G. NOTES

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The Hon. Secretary and the Editor would like to extend to all members best wishes for the New Year.

We have two new members to welcome to the Group:
(No.146) J.W. Avery, Esq., M.B., CH.B.(N.Z.),
P.O. Box 11, Darfield, NEW ZEALAND.
(No.147) Capt. G.K. Gillberry, R.A.S.C.,
31 The Garth, Ash, ALDERSHOT, Hants.

THE NEW TITLE PIECE. Members seemed devoid of ideas for a more distinctive heading for the front page than the plain name etc. hitherto used, and only two suggestions were submitted, neither of which were thought entirely suitable; the design adopted is that of the Editor, and whatever members think of it, it is now too late to criticize! For reasons of economy, a year's supply has been printed. Please don't tell us that the "slogan" part has been put on the wrong side of the "frank" - this is intentional, as the normal arrangement seemed inappropriate here.

THE NEXT BULLETIN. This is to be dated March 1961, and all copy should be in the hands of the Editor by 25th February. Do please let us have YOUR contributions: for several years past, as most readers may have noticed, we have had to rely on no more than two or three members together with miscellaneous notes and gleanings by the Editor, and we cannot expect to continue in this way for much longer - the Editor's granary is almost empty! Surely other members can contribute a few notes and paragraphs of interest from time to time. If you are not

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in a position to produce anything at the moment, it would be helpful if you could give us an idea of the kind of material you would like to see - check-lists of Nos. etc. for particular types or varieties (such as the lists of Universal townmarks with dots, or Midgets with "A" or "B" prefixes); detailed articles on particular types (such as Canada "Maple Leaves" design); slogans; or what else? None of the three articles just referred to produced any response from other members.

RONEO-NEOPOST LTD. PROGRESS

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Sir Grenville S. Maginness, K.B.E., Chairman of Roneo Ltd., in his report to the 53rd annual general meeting of the company, held on 9th November last, stated that sales in each of the Divisions of the Company, of which Neopost is one, reached the highest figures yet attained in the history of the company. He also added:

"The Postal Franking Machine is rightly regarded today as an accepted feature of office mechanization and this is not only true of larger organizations but it applies equally to concerns which have no more than 15 or 20 letters per day. It may not be generally known that during the fiscal year 1959/60 franked mail accounted for 24% of the total revenue derived by the General Post Office from all cash-paid postage compared with less than half this figure 10 years ago."

THE STORY OF PITNEY-BOWES

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The Report of Pitney-Bowes Inc. (Stamford, Conn.) for the Second Quarter and First Half of 1960, according to Mr. W.M. Swan's "Meter Stamp News Letter" dated October 1960, announced that a book under the above title would be published by Harper Brothers sometime in 1961 at the price of \$4.50 (about 32/-d). It was written by Mr. William Cahn after several years of research and study of official records and documentary material, covering the company's development and growth during the last 40 years.

METER STAMPS AND THE LAW

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We quote the following from the regular columnist "Old Sleuth" in the weekly "Stamps" of New York, October 29, 1960:

"Our thanks to Herbert Berl and Roger A. Needham for calling our attention to the September 1960 edition of the American Bar Association Journal, which contains an article called "Post-Dated Postmarks, Or, How to Mail a Letter Yesterday", by James Robert Nielson. The article concerns the legal problems which arise with the use of metered mail which can be predated."

Have we among our members any lawyers who might care to comment?

THE 48TH BUSINESS EFFICIENCY EXHIBITION

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by J.A. Wilson

This Exhibition, the first of the future annual London B. M. Es., was organized by the Office Appliance and Business Equipment Trades Association and was held at Olympia from 3rd to 12th October 1960. On 8th October, John Mann, George Pearson and the writer visited the exhibition and spent a considerable amount of time at the stands of Pitney-Bowes Ltd. and of Roneo-Neopost Ltd.

Roneo-Neopost Ltd.

At Stand No. 69 on the ground floor of the Grand Hall, Roneo-Neopost were exhibiting their postal franking machines, national insurance stamp franking machines, cheque-signing and signature machines.

Three postal franking machines were on show: a hand-operated LV8 machine and two Frankmasters, one hand-driven and the other electrically-driven.

The LV8 machine was a Model 8VH machine No.D50 with standard value range 881 (2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 4½d., 6d., 9d., 1/-.) Four other standard value ranges were advertised as being available, namely, 886, 882, 883 and 884 (see MSB Vol.V, No.10, page 148). The impressions given by this machine consisted of an "Emblems" die, No. N 001, in conjunction with a BIC (with arcs) townmark inscribed "NEOPOST / SPECIMEN". It was fitted with a slogan "Speed the post / USE NEOPOST" in two lines, the last word followed by a lower-case "n" in an arrow head, the whole in a single line rectangular frame measuring 2 x 15/16 inches.

The hand-operated Frankmaster machine was a Model 180H. It was fitted with a tape attachment and had a value range from ½d to 29/11½, and bore the manufacturer's No. D142 Mk II, Model MV130. The impression consisted of an "Emblems" die with the No. RN-001, a double-circle townmark inscribed "NEOPOST / SPECIMEN" and a slogan "Speed the post / USE / NEOPOST" in three lines with a lower-case "n" in an arrow-head to the left of the bottom two lines, the whole being enclosed in a single line rectangular frame measuring 1¾ x 1¼ inches.

A Model 195E electric Frankmaster machine was also on show. This machine was numbered D141 Mk III Model MV195 and had a value range from ½d to 99/11½. The impression was identical with that of the Model 180H machine, even to its number of RN-001.

The only easy way to distinguish between the impressions from the two Frankmaster machines on values less than 30/- is to examine the slogans: the bottom line of the slogan frame is broken at the right-hand corner on the Model 180H machine while it is full on the Model 195E machine.

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THE 48TH BUSINESS EFFICIENCY EXHIBITION (contd.)

Pitney-Bowes Ltd.

In the Grand Hall gallery area Pitney-Bowes were occupying Stand No. 141. Besides their postal franking machines, letter-opening machines, folding and/or inserting machines, note and card counting, and batching machines were also on show.

A total of nine postal franking machines were being used for demonstration purposes - five Automax, three Simplex and one P.B. mailing machine.

The five Automax machines were all fitted with "Emblems" dies, double-circle townmarks inscribed "PITNEY-BOWES / SPECIMEN", and the slogan "Speed / your mail / with a / Pitney-Bowes / letter opener" in five lines, with an outline drawing of the machine to the right and the Pitney-Bowes trade mark to the left. The machines showed Identity Nos. AB 831-835, machine Nos. 3831-3835, the first two being used with "tape" inscribed UG 513 and UB 36 respectively. AB 831 was an electric machine, as was one of the others. I think one machine (possibly AB 835) had a top value of 99/11½, while the other four had top values of 29/11½.

The standard Frankopost tape used with AB 831 was originally printed for "U.G. 513. WORKSOP.NOTTs." at the bottom and was overprinted "SPECIMEN" at the bottom over the original No. and town name. The tape used with AB 832 was similar but was originally printed for "U.B. 36. BIRMINGHAM" and overprinted in the same way.

The Simplex machines were likewise all fitted with "Emblems" dies, double-circle townmarks identical with those of the Automax, and all had the same type of slogan "SPEED / YOUR MAIL / with a / Pitney-Bowes / folding machine" in five lines with a Pitney-Bowes trade mark to the left. The numbers of the machines were SU 641-643 with machine Nos. S12641-S12643 respectively.

The Pitney-Bowes Mailing Machine was fitted with a LV6 meter, Model CV, with the identity No. P 9 and values of 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 4½d., and 6d. No slogan was fitted. The frank die was a Royal Cypher EiiR design. The townmark was the usual large double-circle type inscribed "PITNEY-BOWES / SPECIMEN".

In closing, I would like to thank both firms and their representatives for allowing us to obtain the "specimens" we required. As will be seen from the items enclosed with this issue of the Bulletin, we were able to obtain sufficient copies of the impressions from the electric machines RN-001, AB 831 and P 9 (on our own covers) to let all the members of the Group have one example from each, and I am sure that all of you will join with me in saying "thank you" to both Pitney-Bowes and Roneo-Neopost.

[Editor's note: Mr. Wilson has also provided details of the envelopes and labels used by each firm to demonstrate the machines, but we have had to omit these for reasons of space.]

GREAT BRITAIN :

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"INCOMPLETE METER FRANKING" SURCHARGE MARKS

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by George R. Pearson

In the last MSB were illustrated four of the hand-stamped marks used by the British Post Office to show the postage due charges on mail bearing incomplete or illegible franking impressions. The four then illustrated are detailed below together with others that are known to me.

1. IMPERFECT / IMPRESSION / 4^D TO PAY I.S. Size about 40 x 20 mm. Applied at London Inland Section (Mount Pleasant) and seen used in 1960. Used on printed-matter mail at 2d. rate, double the amount being charged. (Illus.)
2. TO PAY / POSTAGE CANNOT BE / etc. Size about 55 x 25 mm. Two types seen, the earlier having thin sans-serif lettering, seen 1956, while the other has thicker sans-serif lettering, seen used 1958-60. Both applied at London E.C. District Office (King Edward Building). (Illus.)
3. TO PAY / Incomplete Meter / etc. Size about 52 x 35 mm. Applied at London W.C. District Office, seen used 1960. (Illus.)
4. TO PAY / POSTAGE CANNOT BE PREPAID / BY MEANS OF INCOMPLETE / FRANKED IMPRESSIONS. / LIABLE TO RATE / ; space at right for amount, and "SE / 27". Size 65 x 25 mm. Applied at West Norwood, London S.E.27, District Office, and seen used 1960.
5. TO PAY / POSTAGE CANNOT BE / PREPAID BY MEANS OF / INCOMPLETE OR ILLEGIBLE FRANKING / IMPRESSIONS - LIABLE TO / RATE with space at left for amount and "162". Size about 52 x 27 mm. Applied at Cardiff, date unknown.
6. INCOMPLETE / METER / POSTING / ----- / LIABLE / TO / SURCHARGE with space at right for amount and "TO PAY / 223" Size about 52 x 27. Applied at Coventry, date unknown.
7. IMPERFECT / METER / IMPRESSION / LIABLE TO / SURCHARGE / 938" Size about 30 x 30 mm. Applied at Croydon, seen used 1959.
8. POSTAGE CANNOT BE PREPAID / BY MEANS OF INCOMPLETE / FRANKING IMPRESSIONS. Size about 48 x 9 mm., unframed. Applied at Liverpool, date unknown.
9. LIABLE TO POSTAGE SURCHARGE / IMPERFECT METER FRANKING Size about 52 x 11 mm. Applied at Nottingham, seen used 1960. (Illus.)
10. Liable to Postage Surcharge / Imperfect Meter Franking. Size about 42 x 6 mm., unframed. Applied at Salford, Lancs., date unknown.

All are franed unless stated. The colour of the ink varies, some are in green, others violet or black.

If any members possess items not listed, the Editor would be pleased to have details or (preferably) a sight of the cover.

G.B. NOTES

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AUTOMAX & UNIVERSAL: DASHES IN VALUE. In the old Universal Multi-value machines, with values under 10/- and/or without an odd halfpenny, there appeared simply a blank in place of the absent figures, thus the value of three pence was shown 0/3 (in the normal IV-bank machine) or =/3 (in the normal III-bank machine). (The "Junior", II-bank machine has of course a "D" after the pence and no shillings stroke). The Automax machines however print a double dash in front of a unit shilling figure, though, at first, still a blank after the pence, thus: =0/3 which is the same for both IV- and III-bank machines. For the former, the = is one of the digits on the "10s." wheel, in place of a zero, but for the latter, Messrs. Pitney-Bowes Ltd. tell us it is engraved as part of the die and was introduced at the request of the Post Office so as to minimize the risk of fraud. One might think that with such a difference in construction it would be easy to distinguish them, but this appears not to be so.

On the most recent machines, a similar though much smaller double dash has been introduced also in place of the "½" penny. The earliest machine we have so far seen is AB.170 but Mr. J.A. Wilson tells us that there are also some in the "AA" series; all in the "Emblems" design. This is a variety worthy of catalogue rank.

Mr. D.R. Burchell has submitted two examples from "A 938" in the Cypher (EiiR) design, both of the same date and value 3d., but one shows the dashes before the unit shillings (=0/3) while the other is without them (0/3). He suggested that this indicated two different machines with the same number, but Messrs. P-B Ltd. confirm that there is only one machine of this No. (or of any other No.), thought they are at a loss to account for the absence of the dashes on one example; being a III-bank model, they must be engraved on the frame die. Apparently it is some non-constant freak of impression.

It might be added here that the Roneo-Neopost Frankmaster machines all have the dashes in front of the unit shillings and (in the absence of a ½) after the pence, thus resembling the latest Automax; but unlike the latter, they also have them in place of a zero on the pence wheel so that for a value of an integral number of shillings there are two pairs of dashes after the stroke, thus: =5/==. Here again the first dashes in III-bank models must be engraved on the die, but they are not distinguishable from the dashes on the figure wheel in IV-bank machines, - at any rate, not with certainty.

FRANKMASTER INVERTED TOWNMARK. Mr. G.R. Pearson has shown us an example of NC 783 (EiiR die) with the town circle (WELWYN-GARDEN-CITY - HERTS -) inverted, the date (10 VI 60) being normal. Owing to the length of the name, the words "WELWYN" and "CITY" read practically vertically, so that the inversion is perhaps less obvious than it would have been with a shorter name. We do not know how long the error was in use.

MIDGET WITH "A" OR "B" PREFIX TO NO. Two additions to the list on page 49 of the last MSB have been reported by Mr. J.A. Wilson:

<u>L.No.</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>User</u>	
A1	London S.W.18	- ? -	also 1½d.
A4	London S.W.15	Amalgamated Engineering Union	1½d., 3d.

This last also forms an addition to the list (last referred to in the March 1960 MSB, page 14) of GvR dies still in use, the latest date seen by Mr. Wilson being 5 X 60.

PITNEY-BOWES L.V. WITHOUT TOWNMARK. Mr. G.R. Pearson has two covers from P 96, GvR cypher, of London S.E.1., with townmark and date missing; the slogan and the frank (2d. rate) are printed normally but in the space between there is a blank circle surrounded by a rough red square where the base of the die has inked and printed. From the date of receipt it would seem that the machine was used in this state on 5 December 1960. This is the only instance known to us of such a usage in this country.

HIGHEST NUMBERS. The Pitney-Bowes Model CV (Prefix PC) has not yet been found with the "Emblems" design used by all other series now current; the highest Nos. reported to date are:

AC 70; PC 16; NE 896; SU 716.

We are now dropping the "SV" from current series as nothing new has been reported for more than a year; its highest No., in the EiiR cypher, is SV 57.

We are glad to have received reports from Messrs. F.Lloyd Parton, G.R. Pearson, W.C. Teasdale, and J.A. Wilson.

MIXED FRANKINGS. Mr. J.T. Brown has shown us an envelope franked by an impression of PA 97 (2d value) in the normal position and NC 94 (=0/1=) in the diagonally opposite corner, and has asked whether this is a common procedure, and the reason for it. Although it is certainly not common, we have more than once found similar examples, and suggest the following explanation. The first impression usually seems to be from a series "PB" or "PA" machine, which are large, high-speed machines suitable for use only when franking large batches of mail of the same size; if one of such items is advertently included when subject to a higher rate of postage (letter rate instead of printed-paper rate) or if it fails to get a clear or complete impression, then it has to be passed through a smaller machine to make up the deficiency.

THREE MORE NEW COUNTRIES

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An example from French Polynesia (formerly French Establishments in Oceania) has been shown us by Mr. G. Pearson. Of the usual French design (SATAS make), the frank is inscribed at top "POLYNESIE FRANÇAISE" with the No. SP 3001 at the bottom; 4 figures of value (≠130 fr.) The townmark (circular) reads "PAPEETE R.P. / ILE TAHITI".

Meters also have been introduced recently in CYPRUS and in MOZAMBIQUE; descriptions, with perhaps illustrations, will be given in our next issue.

NEW ZEALAND "NEOPOST" RARITY

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The B & S Catalogue lists under Type 16, Neopost, the variety: /24a/ TM with solid ring in place of townname (unengraved), with or without date figs. (VR.) ½d., 1d. Whether there were more than one such machine is not indicated, no further details being given. I have however such an example from Machine N 63 (1d.), with date 24 I 34 in the TM, the whole having also a continuous machine postmark "A TELEPHONE PROTECTS / THE HOME / STRATFORD N - Z / JA 25 - 1-PM 1934". At left is a slogan showing the name of the users, "Taranaki Chain Stores Ltd. / Merchants / P.O. Box 17 / STRATFORD." Another example from the same machine, dated 12 V 34 and without postmark, has the town name engraved in the circle, "STRATFORD"; the slogan is the same as before.

. A. D.

FAROE ISLANDS METERS

Normally, the Faroe Islands, although having a measure of independence, use ordinary Danish stamps, just as the Channel Islands use the stamps of Great Britain, though in the Faroes, as in the Channel Islands, there were special stamps and a special use of a meter during the war-time occupation period. Post-war use of meters in the Faroes has not hitherto been noted, but in a lot recently seen, we found examples from four different machines there:

(Old design, perforated outline, "DANMARK" at left)

M.No. (D) 830, Thorshavn (Francotyp C with stops in date)

M.No. (D) 1260, Thorshavn (Francotyp Cc with stops in date)

(New design, straight outline, "DANMARK" at top)

M.No. D 1289, Klaksvig / Faerøerne (Francotyp Cc)

M.No. D 1508, Thorshavn (Francotyp Cc)

A point of interest is that the names in the return addresses printed on the envelopes differ in spelling from those in the townmarks as listed above, namely, Tórshavn, Klakksvík, Fároyar; presumably these are Faroese as against Danish for the townmarks.

BELGIUM: HASLER WITH GREEN SLOGAN

Mr. G.R. Pearson has shown us a cover bearing an impression from the Hasler M.No. B 1697 (Anterpen 8) with slogan at left of the TM in green; this is the first time slogans have been seen from Belgium in a colour other than the customary red, though a few machines in Denmark and in Sweden have been noted with blue slogans. This slogan consists of the name of the user (in English) between circles rather smaller than the TM. The frank is as B & S. Type 6 but with "BELGIE" at top and "BELGIQUE" at bottom, 5 figures of value (x00io) in the new smaller size. The date is 2.XII.60

POLAND: EARLY ERROR

Mr. E.S. Lapham (N.Y.) has shown us a photostat copy of an early error which is not mentioned in the recent specialized Polish Catalogue. This is the first-type Midget showing Lic.No. "A 44" in the frank (50grn) and Lic.No. "A.30" in the townmark (WARSAWA). There is a slogan showing the user as "Canadian Pacific". As however Mr. Lapham describes is as a proof, it may not have actually been used thus.

CANADA AND UNITED STATES

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PITNEY BOWES "MODEL R"

The article in the last MSB on the Canadian "Maple Leaves" design referred to the change in style of figures used for the Meter No., and mentioned that the same change occurred in the United States (the large "Unframed Eagle" design). Besides the change in the "4" previously mentioned, the "3" also is easily recognizable, the old having rounded top and the new, flat top. The "5" and "6" also are distinguishable though the differences are less easily described.

An examination of my U.S. material indicates that the change there took place around No. 179000, 178748 having the old style and 179356 the new; the only No. I have between these is 178758 which cannot be indentified with certainty. The similar but smaller design from the "Model DM" likewise shows the change, my highest No. with the old style being 211440, the next recongnizable being 211941 with the new style. Have any of our U.S. members a note of the precise points of changeover, or any examples to locate it more precisely?

Incidentally, no member has yet provided any additional information regarding the Canadian machines.

- A. A. D.

CORRECTION: page 52, at the beginning of line 12, "x001" should have read "x01" (one zero only).

U.S.A. SLOGAN ERROR

We have occasionally mentioned errors of spelling in G.B. slogans but errors in other countries have hitherto not come to our notice. We have now found one used with P.B. Meter 323215 (New York, N.Y.) of the United States, this reading (in a rectangular frame) "WORLD WIDE/TRANSPPORTATION / SERVICE" the word in the middle line having two Ps. The date of our copy is JUL 29 '59.

C A T A L O G U E S U P P L E M E N T

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The following list of the U.S.S.R. (incorrectly designated as "Russia" in the Catalogue) is, as usual, due mainly to Messrs. S.D. Barfoot and Werner Simon. As no additions have been reported for Vatican City (has any member examples of recent usage even of the catalogued types?) and Yugoslavia was dealt with under "J" (MSB No.39, Jan.1959), we have now finished the European countries - though there are of course certain to be subsequent additions to our lists - and there remain only the non-British countries in Asia and Africa.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Type 4. Francotyp A.

/7c/ Var., TM missing, date only. Black (1954)

/A7/ N O x001 (A). TM BIC or as for /7c/. Blk.

U.S.S.R. (continued)

1950? Type 7. Make unknown, presumably Russian. Upright octagonal frank, 26-28 x 32-35 mm; P. of V. in rectangle in centre with "K K" at either side (except where noted, the letters "K" do not break or touch the rectangle); "CC&CP" at top, "TIOHTA"/"CCCP" at bottom. TM SC with date (Ar.M.F.) in a "box" in centre and "CC&CP" inside above. (x is used here to represent the Emblem of 5-pointed star with hammer and sickle.) Slogan (name and address) between TM and frank.

A. Octagon single lined. "TIOHTA" curved; x in frank and in TM outlined.

/11/ W O OOL (G) Red.

B. Octagon double-lined.

(i) "TIOHTA" curved. x outlined.

/12/ W 4S-TC OOL (G) Red.

(ii) "TIOHTA" straight. x outlined.

/13/ W 4S-TC OOL (Ov., thin) "K K" break sides of value box. Black.

/14/ W 4S-TC OOL (Ov., thin) "K K" touch sides of value box. Red.

(iii) "TIOHTA" straight. x solid.

/15/ W 4S-TC OOL (Ov., thick) Vio., red or blk.

/16/ W 4S-TC OOL (Ov., thick) "K K" break sides of value box. Red or black.

/17/ W 4S-TC OOL (Ov., thin) Black.

* In /13/ the box enclosing the date has straight ends; in all the others it has convex ends.

There are minor variations of the frank, not listed here; some have stops after "CCCP" at the top and/or bottom of the frank and/or in the TM, others having no stops.

1960? Type 8. Hasler F88. Upright rectangle, 25½ x 35 mm., "CCCP / TIOHTA" at top, "KOIT" at bottom,

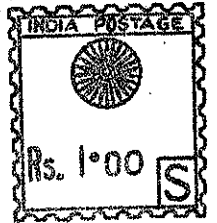
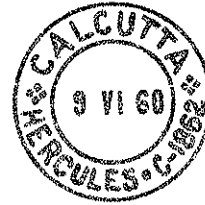
with value in rectangle in centre. TM (lowered)

similar to that in type 7. Slogan (name and address) at left of TM

/18/ N O xOOL (Ov.) Red.

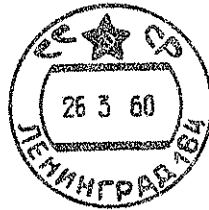
P.O. MACHINE FOR REGISTRATION

Proofs are known from a Hasler machine, with impressions similar to those for Italy, but used examples have not been seen.



U.S.S.R. - Fig. 1 (slogan centre)

India - Stampmaster



ЛЕНИНГРАД 1964

0014
БИБЛИОТЕКА
АКАДЕМИИ НАУК
СССР
БИРЖЕВАЯ ЛИНИЯ 1.



U.S.S.R. - Fig. 2 (slogan centre)

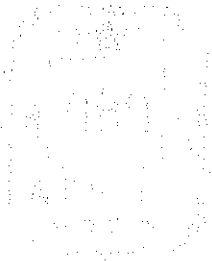
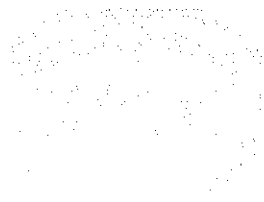
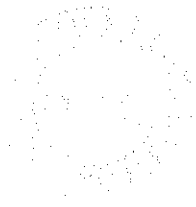
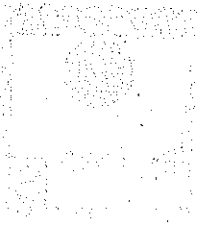


U.S.S.R. - Fig. 3 (slogan centre)

U.S.S.R. - Fig. 4 (slogan left)



U.S.A. - Postalia



POSTAGE
PAID
BY ADDRESSEE

