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SECRETARY'S NOTES

We are pleased to welcome two new members to the Group:-

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|---------------------------|--|
| (161) Mrs Ruth Dolezal | 3810 South 59th Avenue,
Cicero 50, Illinois, U.S.A. |
| (162) J. D. Embray, Esq., | 14 Maxstoke Road,
Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire. |

Special Note for members in the U.S.A. - Please let the Hon. Sec. know your "ZIP" numbers !

Next Meeting: Saturday 16th November, at usual place and time.
Next Bulletin: To be dated November 1963; latest date for receipt of "Highest Numbers", 31st October.

METERED MAIL AND PHILATELY

At this year's Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, held at Scarborough from June 11 to 14, Mr J. W. Thompson of Leeds read a paper entitled "The Impact of Meter Stamped Mail on Philately" which was said to be the first Congress paper devoted to this subject.

Mr Thompson envisages the steady elimination of the (adhesive) postage stamp which has always been the principal subject of philately, and finally asks the question "How best can we absorb meter postage marks into our hobby, before they overwhelm us - has Congress any definite views on this matter ?"

According to 'Stamp Collecting', "Mr Thompson maintained a 'sitting on the fence' position with considerable skill." S.C.'s reporter added that "Many speakers discussed points in the paper and it was interesting to see that prominent postal historians were almost over-anxious to accept meter marks as an integral part of postal history."

Thanks to our Hon. Secretary, we have read the paper in full, and, though we understand that Mr Thompson is not himself a meter-stamp collector, his remarks include little that a meter-stamp enthusiast would dispute, and we learn that he had the benefit of expert advice.

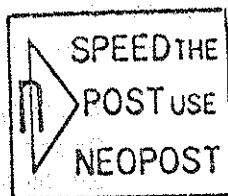
METERED MAIL AND PHILATELY (contd.)

One of Mr Thompson's remarks is that "Meter Marks are cold and lifeless and it is difficult to appreciate the beauty some people see in them." In our own view, a meter stamp used by a well-known firm or organization, or one used from an obscure but historic town, or maybe from one which you have visited, has far more "life" in it than a mint adhesive stamp which has probably never been near the place of its nominal origin! But as for "Beauty"! - can our most enthusiastic members really consider any meter stamps "beautiful" ? Interest, yes, but Beauty, no! - A.A.D.

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G. B. NOTES

Neopost 210. Herewith we illustrate the Specimen die, from which can be seen the differences from the postally-used die shown in the last MSB.



Even before the last Bulletin was in the hands of members, Mr G. R. Pearson reported his finding of the first example of this new machine used other than by Messrs Roneo-Neopost Ltd. themselves. This was J 83 (London E.C.3.), with date 27 63. As was the case with the same makers' "Frankmaster", this first number is a good deal higher than "No. 1", but they may not have appeared in strict numerical order.

Neopost "Emblems" Dies Query. Mr Denys Fletcher (Edinburgh) asks:- "Could you help me identify the Neopost L.V. 'Emblems' dies? The descriptions in MSB No.52 p.92 are quite clear, except that I have examples of N 4, Romford, Essex (Roneo Works, of course) dated 31 X 59 and 4 I 60 which seem to be Die 3 except that the rose sepals are similar to Die 2 and not Die 1 - the first example is of course far earlier than you record in the Bulletin for first use of Die 3 and I wonder if I am muddled in my identification?" Will some member please comment?

Frankmaster Inverted Townmark. Mr Pearson has reported the finding of a very rarely occurring variety, - a completely inverted townmark, circles and date both being inverted. This occurs with NJ-989 (Emblems die), the town-name being LONDON E.C.1 and date 2 IX 63. We wonder whether this error will be noticed and corrected before publication of this Bulletin? At any rate, we are sure it will not survive long!

G. B. NOTES (contd.)

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"COMMONWEALTH MEANS COMMON WEAL". The G.P.O. are trying to find out the user of this slogan, believed to have been in use in this country about a year ago. If any member has, or has seen, an impression, will he please let the Hon. Sec. know, giving details of the machine such as town, licence number, date (if known) ?

Highest Numbers. We are happy to have had more reports this time, and have to thank Messrs R. Haggett, F. Lloyd Parton (the first "SR"), G. R. Pearson, W.C. Teasdale. No new "PC" but otherwise:-

AG 552 J 83 NK-838 (PC 89) SR 85
(The last "PC" was reported almost a year ago; have they finished?)

INDIAN ARMY METER

We have acquired from a non-meter-collector an "O.H.M.S." cover from India to England franked by a Neopost L.V. meter of normal "India Postage" GRI design (values $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas and 2 annas), the townmark reading (at top) "JHANSI" and (at bottom) "02ALF. A-33". This, we are told, was used solely on official mail by the Allied Forces Headquarters at Jhansi, United Provinces, during the six months that the HQ were stationed there. As, by Army Regulations, practically all the covers so franked were destroyed, impressions must be very scarce. Our cover, dated 15 VI 43, has also a backstamp "CAMP P.O. / 15 JUN 43 / A.102" as well as other Army cachets.

The initials "02ALF" in the meter townmark denote, we understand, "0.2 Section, Allied Land Forces".

Can anyone tell us more about it ?

Meters in the South-African Protectorates

Mr Sylvester L. Crozet has kindly obtained for us from the Postmasters of the three Protectorates details of the meters used there; these are as follows:

BASUTOLAND. Three machines are in use, all in Maseru, the administrative capital; they are Simplexes S 600 and S 823 and Automax UA 160, all numbered presumably in the South African series.

SWAZILAND. The Postmaster reported two machines, but after contacting the licence-holders, it appeared that only Simplex S 796 was in use (at Mbabane).

BECHUANALAND. No machines were in use (May 1963) but applications for their introduction (makes unknown) were in hand.

- J.C.M.

M E T E R S I N M A L T A

The "Newsletter" of the Malta Study Circle (G.B.) confirms that licences for the use of franking machines in Malta were granted as from 1st January, 1963; apparently all of the first machines are Pitney-Bowes "Automax" models. The "Newsletter" says that Barclays Bank D. C. O. at Valletta started to use their machine, FB 5, on 2nd January; a list of eleven users is given, though the numbers noted run up to PB 13.

SWITZERLAND: " + GF + "

The majority of Swiss meter impressions show the machine number in the lower segment of the townmark (below the date) as well as beneath the frank, presumably as a precaution - hardly necessary in Swiss machines! - against illegibility.

Some of the earlier Hasler machines had instead, below the date, a Roman figure denoting the postal region (we have found I to XI but not VII or X). Recently however we came across an example having the letter "M" instead of a number; this is machine no. 5905 (as B. & S. Cat.No. 44), with town "BRUGG / (AARGAU), the date being 5.IV.62. This has as slogan "+GF+" in large uncoloured letters on a background of close horizontal lines.

Can any member tell us its significance ?

METER PROGRESS IN THE U.S.A.

From an advertising brochure entitled "Metered Mail: What it does for the Postal Service", published recently by Pitney-Bowes Inc. of Stamford, Conn., we quote the following facts:-

By the end of 1960, there were nearly 300,000 meters in use in the United States, approximately 6,000 of which are used by Post Offices for handling "over the counter" transactions - parcel post, registered mail, &c.

In the principal metropolitan areas of the nation, metered mail accounts for more than 60 per cent of all letter mail handled, while an estimated 75 per cent of all parcel post packages throughout the United States bear meter stamps.

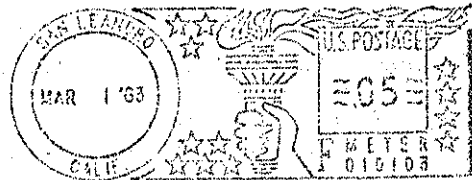
In 1961, postage revenues were (to the nearest million dollars):-

Metered Postage	...	...	...	\$ 1,470 million
Stamps and Stamped Paper	...	...	...	\$ 1,253 "
Permit Mail	...	...	...	\$ 359 "
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	\$ 186 "
Total (gross) Postage Sales	\$ 3,268 "

Metered Mail thus represents about 45 per cent of all postal revenue.

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U.S.A. Friden Meters. We now illustrate the design, as referred to in the last MSB. It is understood that none of the machines have yet been sold.



It was reported in the "Financial Times" on 25th July that the Friden Company had been acquired by the Singer Company (presumably the well-known sewing machine manufacturer). What effect this will have on the meter business remains to be seen; Friden had taken over from the Commercial Controls Corp. in 1956. Commercial Controls succeeded the National Postal Meter Co. in 1944, N.P.M. acquired Multipost also in 1944 and Whitlock about 1930.

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U.S.A.: INTRODUCTION OF "ZIP" NUMBERS

From 1st July 1963, the U.S. Post Office introduced a system of coded address suffixes, to be known as "ZIP" numbers, the initials standing for "Zone Improvement Plan". Each delivery area in the United States has been given a five-digit number which works as follows: Akron, Ohio, for example is now "Akron, Ohio, 44310", the first digit representing a national district of several states, the second the state within that district, the third the area within the state - probably comprising several counties or towns; the last two digits are the local delivery area and in the case of several cities these remain the same as before. Other examples we know of are Clintonville, Wisconsin, 54929, and Corinth, N.Y., 12822.

When a similar code system was introduced in Germany recently, the numbers soon appeared in the townmarks of meters as well as in the normal cancellations, and we had assumed that this would be the case in the U.S.A. Messrs Pitney-Bowes Inc. tell us, however, that this is not the case.

A standard slogan was designed by Pitney-Bowes, in two sizes to suit respectively their "Model R" and 5300, or the "DM" and "DM-3", and several thousand of these had been distributed to users before the start of the scheme. They were suddenly taken off sale on 25th July after a request from the Post Office Department, the reason given being that a maximum effort was being made for the codes to be included in the addresses on "corner cards" and nowhere else, and printed in the same type and colour so that it would soon become accepted as a normal part of the address.

Those slogans which have already been distributed and are now in use will not be recalled, but continued use after introduction of stationery with the ZIP code number incorporated will be discouraged; they will therefore not be very common. Being distributed on a national basis, they can be compared with the "NRA" and "Parcel Post Jubilee" slogans from pre-war years.

- J. C. Mann.

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U. S. A.: "ADDITIONAL - PAID" SLUGS

Mr Swan tells us of a new variety, "BLK. RT. Ad'l 5/8 ¢ Pd", used on a machine not fitted with a 1/2 ¢ rate; Mr Werner Simon had previously reported "Ad'l 1/8 ¢ Pd." Mr Swan has also shown us an impression made up of a 1 ¢ rate with "NON PROFIT ORG / AD'L 1/2 ¢ PD" mimeographed in black at the left. All printed matter rates in the U.S.A. will be changing again on 1st January 1964, so many of these odd rates will be scarce in the future.

Some Notes on

POSTAGE RATES AND METER CAPACITY

in Brazil

by E. Muhr (Rio de Janeiro)

(Editor's Note: 1\$000 denotes one milreis, replaced in 1942 by one cruzeiro, denoted by Cr\$1.00 .)

Inflation being the main characteristic of the Brazilian Economy since World War II, postal rates have (apparently) risen sharply over the years. Around 1938, \$1 was about 54\$000 (or US\$ 1 = 13\$000); in 1947, \$1 was still Cr\$ 78.00. *Nowadays, \$1 gets you Cr\$ 1800.00 (or US\$ 1 = Cr\$ 640.00), even if the rate for postal calculations is about 25% lower. The inland letter rate, which was 200 réis around 1930 (100 réis for local mail), and 400 réis = Cr\$ 0.40 during and after the War, was raised successively to Cr\$ 0.60, then 2.50, went up to Cr\$ 10.00, and is now Cr\$ 8.00. It goes without saying that meters show this inflationary process quite clearly, both by requiring multiple impressions and by the addition of fixed zeros.

NZ and Midget Meters. Early meters were usually geared to print low rates, for ordinary printed matter, local, inland and foreign surface mail. A large part of the meters printing over, say, 700 réis, were P.O. meters, used for paying registration and special delivery fees in one impression. Air mail fees were collected by special stamps, specially accounted for - sine qua non. Over the years, certain basic sets of values were installed on new meters, and older ones did not always get up-to-date franks. From early 1942, values were changed to cruzeiro units, usually the same value (at first) and using the same dies. Those few meters that are still in use do manage to print the inland letter rate in two or three impressions.

Universal Multivalve. Early meters printed up to 9₉₀ (= 9\$990), to 99₉₀ and even to 999₀₀₀, sometimes with two instead of one fixed zeros. Rare is the letter with more than 9\$000, and very rare with more than 99\$000. A few meters printed less, i.e. up to \$990 (with one error, No. 1086, as 9₉₀ for 9₉₀) but even those sufficed till the unit change. Except for some rare cases, one fixed zero was chopped off the die, and the "Rs." changed to "Cr\$." New meters were either 99₉₀ or 999₉₀, with oval figures from No.1330 on. With the years, used dies were replaced and in some cases, oval fixed zeros were tacked on meters with angular figures. Since 1961, further changes were made, generally by adding one or

POSTAL RATES AND METER CAPACITY IN BRAZIL (contd.)

two fixed zeros, which may be oval, angular, or Automax-style, with no relation to the style of the actual figures. As the latter were not changed, there exist freaks such as 99₉₀₀ (for 99900). The use has been authorized of revenue machines for postal use, printing 9999₉₀, but none has been seen yet.

Pitney-Bowes Omni. Of the four IV-bank meters, with angular figures, at least one never reached the cruzeiro era; the others just had one fixed zero removed. All the remainder began their life with cruzeiros, some having the distinction of being the only ones ever made by P-B Inc. with angular figures. An additional fixed zero has been added since 1961, without the third figure being changed, so that a large part of the meters now print 9995₀ for 9995₀.

Hasler F 88. Meters have been in use printing 99,9₀, 99,99 and 999,9₀. Some are having an additional fixed zero attached, but as the Swiss as usual are very particular about it, one cannot tell the difference, unless one knows the original form. The author possesses a complete list, taken from P.O. records. Adapted revenue machines will probably print 9.999,9₀.

Pitney-Bowes DM. Originally fitted to print 0,10 to 2,00. None has been changed yet. Most have been replaced by Francotyp meters.

Postalia. Up to 10282, these were as 99,90, with one exception, 10018, printing 9,99 for booksellers' catalogues. From 10283, they are as 999,90 except 10501 which was imported direct from Germany, printing 9990. Meters are now being adapted to print 999,00, including revenue machines.

Francotyp Co. Original meters print 99,90 or 999,90. Of the former, some have been changed to 999,00. More recent meters print 999,00 (with different style of fixed zeros) and there are a few with 9.999,90 and 9999,00. Revenue meters will probably be in the latter case.

Universal Simplex. Originally fitted to print 0,10 to 2,50, some have been changed to 1 to 25 (Cr\$.) Most however are out of use.

Pitney-Bowes Automax. These meters came into use after the new rates had been set, and some were changed (wrongly) even before commissioning. Originally fitted for 99,9₀, 999,9₀ and 9999,9₀ quite a few had a fixed zero added without changing the size of the third-from-right. Meters in the 5900 range are believed to be correct, but this has yet to be checked. The stop does not always register.

There has been talk of setting up a "Cruzeiro Forte" in the manner of the "New Franc", but it is widely felt that there would be no point in doing that without first curbing inflation; otherwise it would just mean another zero in a few years. Recent measures seem to indicate an earnest effort to stabilize the economy.

(* The rate has further deteriorated since this was written. - Ed.)

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

Although the list of China in the last MSB was intended to conclude the regular Supplements to the Barfoot and Simon Catalogue, we have decided now to publish a list covering the Portuguese "Overseas Provinces" (formerly Colonies) which constitute a compact group, none of which had issued any meter stamps when their proper place had been reached in our series.

A N G O L A



1961. Type 1 (above). Universal M.V.
 /1/ W 0 00\$io (Ov.)
 /2/ W 0 0\$io (Ov.)

M O Z A M B I Q U E



1. Used by Private Firms

1960. Type 1. Universal M.V. As illustrated but number, such as 005, 012, etc. after "U" in frank instead of "CTT".

/1/ W 0 000\$io (Ov.)
 /2/ W 0 00\$io (Ov.)

196?. Type 2. Francotyp Co. Similar to Type 1 but lic.no. as "I-003" below value. TM DC-A, Arabic M.F.

/3/ W 0 z00\$io (Ov., \$io v. narrow)

196?. Type 3. Automax. Similar to Type 1 but Automax-style F.of V. without \$ sign. TM DC.

/4/ W 0 =00.io

CATALOGUE SUPPLEMENT, contd.

MOZAMBIQUE, contd.

II. Used by Post Offices

As above, but with "CTT" (= Correios, Telegrafos, Telefonos) in place of lic.no. after "U".

/PO.1/ Universal M.V. 000\$io (as /1/)
/PO.4/ Automax. =00.io (as /4/)

PORTUGUESE INDIA

1959 (?). Type 1. Francotyp Co. As Type 2 of Mozambique but frank inscribed "CORREIOS DO ESTADO DA INDIA" with M.No. "I-001" at bottom. TM DC-A inscr. "C.T.T." at top and "GOA" at bottom. Arabic M.F. with stops.

/1/ W 0 00\$io

(The above was illustrated in the Bulletin of the American Metered Postage Society dated Jan.30, 1962, but we have no confirmation that it was postally used. An essay for Postalia also is known in a similar type but smaller.

All stamps of Portuguese India were withdrawn as from 6th January 1962, following incorporation of the territory in the Republic of India.)

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NOVELTIES FROM OVERSEAS

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This feature is intended to take the place of formal, detailed Catalogue Supplements, but it may include brief notes on items of interest which would not qualify for catalogue status.

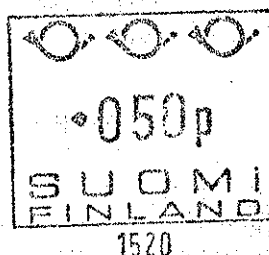
AUSTRIA. Automax now in use; double-lined frame similar to other makes, townmark as in G.B. F.of V. as =0300 (? =0010), last zero slightly spaced from preceding and probably "fixed".

CEYLON. In the first half of this year, Automax No. 300, used by National and Grindlays Bank Ltd., Colombo, showed a simulated slogan "NATIONAL AND GRINDLAYS / CENTENARY / 1963" apparently hand-stamped in red in the approximate position of a meter slogan. The latest date we have seen is -2 VII 63. However, in an example dated 14 VIII 63, this has been superseded by a machine-printed slogan with the same wording in a somewhat smaller lettering. It looks as though receipt of the block from Pitney-Bowes was delayed, making a "provisional" necessary!

NOVELTIES FROM OVERSEAS (contd.)

CONGO. Nearly two years ago, we reported Satas machine N.151 still in use with the original "BELGISCH CONGO BELGE" die; this was dated 2 XI 61, and we have a later example, dated 1 VII 62, still unchanged. But we now have one dated 31 VII 63 from which the words "BELGISCH" and "BELGE" have been removed (rather roughly).

FINLAND.



We illustrate above (thanks to J. C. Mann) a new design used on the Francotyp machine, with denomination in "new marks". We do not know whether this was also used for the old currency.

ICELAND. Automax now in use; frame as for Simplex (B & S Type 4), townmark as for G.B. F.of V. as =06.00 (last "o" presumably fixed.) Lic. No. in bottom panel (76 first seen).

INDIA. Another "Factory P.O." (see MSB VII/38): "HINDUSTAN AIRCRAFT P.O./AIRCRAFT - B.976" (Univ. M.V. with solid block for M.No.) Dated 27 V 60

KENYA-UGANDA-TANGANYIKA. Another Neopost L.V., like N 268 (see MSB VII/78) without the "&" is N 257 (KAMPALA, without the name of the country, Uganda) and Mr Werner Simon reports also N 260 (town not stated by him.)

The Simplex has correspondingly been redrawn without the "&", which in this case preceded "TANGANYIKA"; the "perforated" frame has now shallower teeth and "CENTS" is smaller and higher. Our first example, S 59, has the crown at foot removed, but whether the new frame was introduced before removal of the crown, we do not know. Townmark of S 59 is DAR-ES-SALAAM (in Tanganyika) and date seen, 12 VII 63.

Universal M.V., U 121, used by Makerere University College at Kampala (Uganda) likewise has had the crown removed (date seen, 25 V 63), but the "AND" remains.

Mr Werner Simon mentions Frankmaster N 602 as having (? only) "KENYA" at top, and at bottom "POST PAID" in place of Royal Cipher.

PAKISTAN. Mr J. C. Mann shows us Satas (? or Neopost 210) used; small coarsely-perforated stamp-like design inscribed only "PAKISTAN POSTAGE" in two lines at top, value as *2.00 in centre over "Rs" at foot; no Urdu or Emblem. Townmark SC, "G.P.O." at top and "KARACHI" below, Arabic month figure in date (15 5 63). No licence number or other indication of user, but probably the Post Office. On white "tape" about 70 x 36 mm.

SUDAN. We have mentioned that the first Automax seen (U 63) had blank townmark circles. This continued until at least 20 II 63, but from 12 III 63 or earlier, it has had a normal townmark worded "KHARTOUM" at top and the Arabic equivalent below. Its user remains the same.