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SECRETARY'S NOTES

We are pleased to welcome a new member :-

(163) Mr H. A. Gordon ... P.O. Box 1033, Station "B",
Montreal, CANADA.

Also a change of address :-

Mr J. Daynes is now at "Snaefell", South Chard, CHARD, Somerset.

EDITOR'S NOTES. We are particularly pleased that we have received answers to three queries in our last issue; we hope that this will convince other members that not all of our queries are unanswerable! Also that more members will do likewise.

The next Bulletin is to be dated January 1964; copy for possible inclusion should reach the Editor by 27th December ("Highest Numbers" can be inserted up to a week later).

MEMBER'S OFFERS

Mr Gordon can offer the following lots (all prices post paid); please apply to the Hon. Secretary, not direct.

12 different covers from various countries with slogans of United Nations Organizations and affiliations, 5/-.

12 different covers from uncommon countries, 3/-.

6 different "tapes", 2/-.

(All are good clear impressions.)

NEXT MEETING. This will be held on December 14th at the usual venue, "The Crown and Sugar Loaf", Garlick Hill, London E.C.4. from 6.45 pm.

SUPPLEMENTARY CATALOGUES

As has been mentioned in recent issues of the MSB, we have now completed the "run-through" of countries in our supplements to the Barfoot-Simon Catalogue.

Rather than continuing a new series of supplements, we are now starting revised and fully illustrated catalogues, incorporating all these amendments and many others that have accumulated in many countries since publication of the previous lists. These will be published in individual books, each covering a group of countries that are related geographically, politically or postally. Each book will be complete in itself and is intended to appeal, as well as to the general meter collector, to the one-country specialist who would not otherwise be very interested in a meter catalogue.

The first of these catalogues, covering India, Pakistan, Burma, and Ceylon, is almost completed and a start has been made on the second, covering the "Benelux" countries, Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg. Suggestions for further groups will be welcomed, but it must be realised that to keep the costs within reason the groups should not be too large or too small. Some countries will of course need a much longer list than others and may justify a list to themselves.

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DECIMAL DECISIONS

The long-awaited Report of the Committee of Inquiry on Decimal Currency in Great Britain (under the chairmanship of Lord Halsbury) was published in September; as members in this country will be aware, the majority (4 out of 6) of the Committee have recommended the division of the existing £1 into 100 "cents", with the lowest coin as $\frac{1}{2}$ "cent"; the other two members advocate the replacement of the £ by a unit equal to 10 shillings, divided into 100 "cents", with the smallest coin 1 "cent" (no new names are suggested.) This would have the advantage of doing without fractions and (for those who do not know their "two times" table very well!) of easier conversion from £ s d, but the serious disadvantage from the international aspect of abolishing the £ as well as the shilling and the penny.

The earliest date at which any change could be effected is sometime in February 1967.

A table appended to the fore-mentioned Report, setting out estimates of the Conversion Costs for Business Machines, gives the present number of franking machines (i.e. in 1962) in use in Great Britain as 49,700, expected to rise to 75,000 in 1967 and 81,000 in 1968. All but 3,000 of these could easily be converted to work in decimal currency.

The average cost of the conversion of those machines capable of it appears to work out at about £16, whereas the cost of replacement of the others is shown as only £10 each. These costs are very small compared with those for cash registers, adding machines and accounting machines, which together account for over half of the cost of the whole operation, approximately £110 million.

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DECIMAL DECISIONS (continued)

Meanwhile, other countries which have already decided on the change are as follows, with the dates on which the new currency is to come into effect :-

AUSTRALIA: (Australian) Dollar = 100 cents (equal to 10s. Aus. or 8s. Stg);

February 1966

NEW ZEALAND: major unit, name not yet decided, of 100 "cents" (equal to 10s. NZ or Sterling; February 1967

GHANA: Cedi = 100 pesewas (equal to 8s.4d.; 1 pesewa = 1 penny);

1st July 1965

SIERRA LEONE: Leone = 100 cents (equal to 10s. S.L. or Sterling);

January 1964.

Apart from the few remaining colonial territories, these will leave only the Irish Republic, Jamaica, and Nigeria still with £ s d currency.

All these changes should provide plenty of interest - and difficulty - for meter-stamp collectors, though representatives of the manufacturers assure us that adaptation of existing British machines is an easy and inexpensive matter.

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THE "WILKINSON" MACHINE

Mr Pearson's article in the June MSB (page 85) implied that this machine was used first to frank the letter, which then had to be posted in a separate slot. Mr J.T.W. Mann has sent us a contemporary account by Franz Reichenheim as published in the Monthly Report of the Herts. Philatelic Society, which shows that this might be somewhat misleading, and that the letter, after franking by the machine, automatically passed into the posting box, and could not be taken away by the poster.

Mr Reichenheim - a well-known philatelist of the time - wrote:-

"This (Automatic Stamping Machine) .. is similar in construction to the 'Penny in the slot' machines. It contains an opening into which a penny piece is inserted, and another opening into which the letter which is to be stamped is passed in. Through the turning of a handle the letter is drawn into the machine, stamped and dropped into a box below, which is cleared at certain intervals. No letter can be passed into the machine unless a penny is previously inserted. The pennies are collected in pipe-shaped money boxes which can only be opened with the proper key. .. There is no danger that the "frank" impressed by this machine may be forged to defraud the Post Office, as letters so stamped drop at once into the box below, into which no letters can be posted from outside. Therefore letters with similar "franks" found in ordinary letter boxes must undoubtedly be 'fakes' and will be dealt with as such." (*April 1912)

Mr Pearson agrees that this is the correct interpretation.

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G. B. NOTES

Pitney-Bowes Single-value Meters. Although apparently no new meters have been issued for a number of years, and not many continue in use, none having been reported with the "Emblems" die, we understand that at least one is now in use.

Pitney-Bowes L.V. (Model CV). Referring to the note in the June MSB, many numbers have been reported in the "PC" series without stops between the letters, but no others like P.C. 67 with stops. See also below.

Neopost "Emblems" Dies. Mr J. T. Brown has submitted the following reply to Mr Fletcher's query:

"The rose sepals on all of my Die 3 examples are similar and are all different from either of the other Dies. They appear to me to be lines shorter than those of Die 2 rather than the dots of Die 1.

"As far as Mr Fletcher's dates go, I would refer him to MSB VII/25 (June 1962). The earliest date for Die 3 is there recorded as 12 X 59." Neopost 205. On pages 98 and 106 of the last issue, we inadvertently termed this new machine the Neopost "210". There are two models on offer, the 205/4 with maximum value $4/11\frac{1}{2}$, and the 205/9 with maximum value $9/11\frac{1}{2}$; no difference is apparent in the impressions or numbering.

Frankmaster Error. Mr J. A. Wilson has shown us a remarkable, and so far as known unique, type of error, a "Specimen" frank die (Emblems design) No. "RN-001", postally used. Unlike Pitney-Bowes, Roneo-Neopost now always uses specially-numbered dies for demonstrations either of the machines themselves or of new slogan blocks; in the case of Frankmaster machines, numbers RN-001, RN-002, etc., and in the case of the Neopost F.V. and L.V., numbers N 001, N 002, etc. are used. Before the machine is put into use, the normally-numbered die should be substituted, but here an oversight evidently occurred. The townmark (large DC) is GLASGOW, with date 22 VII 63; the correct number is not yet known.

Universal M.V. We have to thank Mr J. T. Brown also for several amendments to our booklet, but these must be held for the promised special list of Addenda to this. Have you any? - please let us know in good time.

P.O.S.B. Machines. The occurrence of the group of wavy lines at the right of the town die, referred to in the June MSB, appears to have been accidental; all subsequent impressions seen have the lines at the left only.

Highest Numbers. For the first time we have had no reports of higher numbers in the Automax and Simplex series, and little advance elsewhere except in the new "J". Thanks for reports to Messrs C. Delahoy, J. T. Brown, and G. R. Pearson. The record now stands as follows:

AG 631 J 440 NK-849 PC 100 SR 85

We wonder whether the next after PC 100 will be PC 101 or PD 1 ?

FRANKMASTER "EIR" DIE VARIETIES

In the Royal Cipher design franks of the Frankmaster machines, there do not appear to be the numerous minor variations that have been discovered, and dealt with at length, in the similar dies of the Automax and Universal M.V. machines - though it has to be observed that minute examination of the FM dies is hindered by the frequent poor impression, due to an inking fault (now rectified) in the earlier machines.

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G.B. FRANKMASTER "EiR" DIE VARIETIES (continued)

However, there are some readily noticeable variations in the form of the prefix letters "NA" and "NB"; the "NC" and "ND" dies settled down to a constant form, large and thin letters resembling the last style of the "NB".

There are three distinct styles of the letters "NA" :-

- (i) Small, with thick "N" and narrow "A" not matching the "N";
(found on Nos. 13, 14*, 60, 65, 70, 76, 98)
- (ii) Small, both letters of the same size and style,
(found on Nos. 14*, 16 to 47, 79, 82, 107, 122 to 195, etc.)
- (iii) Large, both letters of the same size and style,
(found on Nos. 111, 198, 311 to 329, 353, 356, etc.)

* NA 14 in V 55 had the first style and in X 57 had changed to the second.

Although style (i) has been found only with the numbers listed (but there may well be many more, not so far seen), styles (ii) and (iii) seem to occur irregularly throughout the series, no regularity being detectable. NA 156 with the GviR cipher has style (ii).

There are likewise three styles of the letters "NB" but these do not resemble any of the "NA".

- (i) Very small - found on NB 2 only;
- (ii) Thick - found on NB 12 to 70;
- (iii) Large, thin - found on NB 78 upwards.

But these numbers again are based on examination of a comparatively small number of examples, and irregularities may perhaps be found.

ARE "LV" AND "MV" SUFFICIENT DESIGNATIONS ?

by J. C. Mann

Comparing details of two machines recently, the thought has occurred to me that the simple designations of "LV" and "MV" are not always sufficient.

The "Stampmaster" machine in India is limited to 16 values, but these are on two value wheels, each with a separate recording mechanism. The first is a Naya Paisa unit and the second a $\frac{1}{4}$ rupee unit, each of which can accommodate 8 different values subject to a maximum of 40 units for any one value: that is, to 40 nP or 10 Rs. In India a zero value is provided to allow for changes of an incorrect date and in this case it is included in the "rupee" section.

Could I suggest for such a machine the designation "2LV(8)" ?

Again, the new Pitney-Bowes (USA) Model 5308 is a 3-bank M.V. machine but the first digit goes to 10 and not the usual and assumed 9. Just to describe this as "3 bank" would be misleading; besides, there is no wheel with fractions. Perhaps it would be best always to use the designations and to follow with the range, thus:

Model 5300 - $2\frac{1}{2}$ bank	.00 $\frac{1}{2}$	to	.99 $\frac{1}{2}$
Model 5308 - 3 bank	0.01	to	10.99
Model 5302 - $3\frac{1}{2}$ bank	0.00 $\frac{1}{2}$	to	9.99 $\frac{1}{2}$
Model 5303 - 4 bank	00.01	to	99.99

The " $\frac{1}{2}$ " bank may contain other fractions, such as $\frac{1}{4}$, etc., and is replaced by a : when not needed.

I N D I A : HYDERABAD STATE METER

So far as we are aware, the only one of what used to be known to stamp-collectors as the "Indian Native States" - later, more tactfully termed the "Princely States" but now all abolished from the political map since India became a Republic - which used meter franking machines was Hyderabad (Deccan), the largest of those States. Barfoot & Simon's Catalogue lists only one there, a Universal Multi-value introduced in 1939 for use within the State by the Government; examples from it are said to be extremely rare (How many of our members possess a copy? - not the writer!) Little is on record about this, but pre-issue "Specimens" had the value, two 'anna' and one 'pies' digits, in the characteristic German angular style with initial five-pointed "star", whereas when put into use these were changed to the standard "Universal" oval style with initial zero.

Hyderabad postage stamps went out of use on 31st March 1950, and use of the meter presumably ceased at the same time, but it does not appear to have been noted hitherto that it was subsequently converted to the normal Indian "Wheel of Asoka" type of frank and transferred to some firm in the same city of Hyderabad; the machine number (U 1) was retained, although there was already a machine of this number elsewhere in India. The townmark, of the normal Indian DC style, now reads "HYDERABAD" at top, and, separated by star ornaments at each side, the licensee's name and number, "SABA H - 3". There is also a slogan in wavy rectangular frame reading "IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN / TO / 171, CHAPEL ROAD / NEAR GUNFOUNDRY, / HYDERABAD - INDIA." The full name of the user is not indicated. Our copy is dated 23 IV 54. Incidentally, the licence number H - 3 seems to imply the existence also of H -1 and H - 2 ; we wonder whether they were in fact used.

The other "U 1" in India, introduced (according to B. & S.) in 1948 with the "GviR" frank, was the only machine with the angular figures of value, and examples are said to be rare. This was subsequently changed to the "Wheel of Asoka" frank, retaining the angular value figures, and our copy dated -4 XI 54 has the normal DC townmark reading "BOMBAY G.P.O." at top and "CTR CO. B-236" at bottom. The name on the back of the envelope reads Eastern Electric & Engineering Co., Fort, Bombay, which does not explain the "CTR CO." in the townmark.

- A.A. Dewey.

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SOUTH AFRICA :

DECIMAL CURRENCY METERS

by George R. Pearson

Since the publication of my notes in the MSB for June 1961 (VII/82) and June 1962 (VII/28), there have been many more machines converted to decimal currency and, of course, new machines have been brought into use. These notes bring the position up to date, and should be read in conjunction with the information previously published.

SOUTH AFRICA: DECIMAL CURRENCY METERS (contd.)

Universal Midget

I know of three machines in decimal currency with the crown, "Union of" and "Unie van" removed from the frank - Nos. M 19, M 157 and M 172 (M 200 previously reported is now doubted). I have been told of a machine in decimal currency with "Union of" etc. not removed, but I have not seen a copy and do not know the number of the machine.

Hasler F.88.

Both four-bank and five-bank machines have been converted, the latter with value as $*0.02\frac{1}{2}$

Neopost L.V. Springbok Design

The only additional value is $\frac{1}{2}c$ in the plain-type figures. The seriffed value figures appear to be the new standard type, as all impressions that I have from at least NB 94 have this style. I have two other meters with this style, N 795 and NA 242, which are presumably machines converted after the introduction of this style of figures.

Francotyp

A further large-capacity (5-bank) machine, No. F 303, has now appeared (making three in all) and these have wide franks, but another machine, No. F 743 with large capacity has an ordinary frank.

An unusual item is F 595 which has SUID-AFRIKA hyphenated; this is the only one among several dozen that has this inscription - has any other member any other machines? These South African Francotyp machines have their own style of value figures, but F 271 has the conventional style.

A smaller frame die measuring 24 x 27 mm as against the normal 24 x 31 mm is fitted on F 160, and the Afrikaans for PAID is spelled "BETAALT".

Automax

My lowest number with "R" is UA 3 and it would seem therefore that possibly only UA 1 and UA 2 exist without "R", but UA 1 has not yet been seen. UA 3 has value as $RO.01\frac{1}{2}$ but UA 8 (my next number) has $R=.02\frac{1}{2}$, the "R" on UA 3 being in the same thicker type as on the later Universal MV machines. Can anyone help fill the gap between UA 3 and UA 8?

Post Office Machines

I have another example of the new P.O. type mentioned last time. This is from Leeusig and has PGDZ instead of PGAS as on the Capetown copy - the meaning of these letters remains a mystery.

"REPUBLIC" DESIGNS

These are now in use for several makes; those seen are as follows (the Simplex has already been recorded).

Neopost L.V.

Similar to "Union" design but names and springbok replaced by "REPUBLIEK VAN / SUID AFRIKA" and "REPUBLIC OF / SOUTH AFRICA" in four horizontal lines. NB 152 and NB 197 seen; also NB 186 with the first word spelled "REPUBLICK" in error. All have seriffed figures of value.

Francotyp

Large design similar to before but with "Republic" inscriptions. I have two examples only, F 731 which has standard Francotyp value figures and F 775 which has the South African style.

SOUTH AFRICA: DECIMAL CURRENCY METERS (contd.)

Frankmaster

First seen in January 1963.

Similar to Union design but with Republic inscriptions, top and bottom, with number above lower inscription. I have only R 154 and R 158 so far.

Automax

Same design as Simplex illustrated last time. Both four and five bank machines, with wider frank on the 5-bank. Values as R0.02 $\frac{1}{2}$ and R00.02 $\frac{1}{2}$. Earliest number seen is UA 138.

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SWITZERLAND: " +GF+ "

Mr Heiner Dürst has supplied the answers to two questions which we posed under the above heading in the last MSB (page 100.)

Roman figures below the machine number under the frank, and the following arabic figures, as for example "II 156", denote the address of the user. The Roman figure is the number of the postal district (I = Geneva, II = Lausanne, III = Berne, etc.); the Arabic figure is numbered throughout the country. These figures are often used by banks (and also by other firms) which do not want to put their full name and address on the envelope. The "M" in place of the number in the townmark was introduced about two years ago in all new townmarks, whether on new or old machines.

The symbol " +GF+ " is the abbreviation of the well-known name of Georg Fischer Steelworks; their main works are in Schaffhausen but they have a branch office and works in Brugg / Aargau.

Thus the "M" has no special significance, and is in fact now normal, and the +GF+ is in effect merely a trade mark, and has no meaning such as "Gouvernement fédérale" which we had imagined for it!

Many thanks, Mr Dürst.

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Some Notes on Meters used by

BRAZILIAN AGENCIES ABROAD

by E. Muhr (Rio de Janeiro)

The author, having at various times had access to used envelopes addressed to the Itamarati - the Brazilian Foreign Office -, found a number of meters owned or used by Brazilian embassies and other agencies abroad. The matter of meters being used on foreign soil, i.e., extraterritorially, had been brought up by Mr Mann as long ago as June 1957 (MSB IV/90); one should however keep in mind that actual mailing is done at a post office, which is not abroad.

As there is a mutual postage exemption between Pan-American countries, no Brazilian Embassy in Latin America possesses a meter. The machine used by the Brazilian Embassy in London is UA 698, as previously given; the Brazilian Government Trade Bureau in Regent Street (they serve good coffee there - absolutely free of charge) has UA 668, also a II-bank model. The Embassy in Paris has N 3569, with BRESIL (no accent on É) vertically at left. The B.G.T.B. makes use of SC 0173, with OFFICE DU BRESIL / MINISTERE DU TRAVAIL / DE L'INDUSTRIE ET DU COMMERCE / 28, RUE LA BOÉTIE at top left. The Embassy in Bonn has a IV-bank Francotyp Gc, with a map of Brazil and
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BRAZILIAN AGENCIES ABROAD (contd.)

BRASILIEN / das Land / der / Gegenwart (= Brazil, Land of the Present) at centre - a change from the usual slogan "Land of the Future". The Rome Embassy has what must be a III-bank Lirma, with AMBASCIATA / DEL / BRASILE / ROMA / Visitate BRASILIA, la nuova Capital, which, just to be mean, I shall not translate, except for those who lend me their Brazil Types 1 and 2 for inspection! The B.G.T.B. in Amsterdam has FR 5837 with * DRINK GOOD BRAZILIAN / COFFEE AND MATE / * TRY BRAZILIAN PRODUCTS / BRAZILIAANS HANDELSBUREAU at left, Mr Dewey no doubt opposing the motion. The B.G.T.B. in Lisbon has a Francotyp Cc, with Brazilian flag and NO INTERCAMBIO COM / O MUNDO / O BRASIL / ESTA / PRESENTE (= Brazil is present at world trade.)

A meter used by the Legation at Prague does not tell whether it belongs to it or to the Post Office; PB No.285 at the B.G.T.B. in Mexico might be one or the other. The same goes for U 77 on the Embassy's letterhead (or envelope-head) in Bangkok. And there is some measure of reciprocity - the German Embassy in Rio has Postalia M 10323.

No list would, of course, be complete without Brazilian agencies in the United States, of which one fears at times that there are more than in Brazil. PB 119407 was used by the B.G.T.B. in New York; PB 201659 by the Brazilian Mission to the U.N., same place; PB 327463 by the Consulate, again same town; PB 380677, also at B.G.T.B. in N.Y.C., has slogan BRAZIL'S COFFEES / FOR / EVERY BLEND; and, finally, PB 446928 belongs to the Brazilian Delegation to the O.A.S., this time in Washington.

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NOVELTIES FROM OVERSEAS

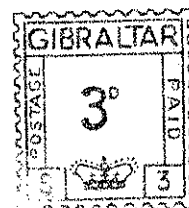
CONGO (REPUBLIC):BRAZZAVILLE. J.C. Mann reports impressions from machine U.4, with various dates in early 1963, with the whole of the townmark circle, including the date figures, inverted.

FRANCE. Havas Model G, while retaining the one-line style of date and town, has now Arabic instead of Roman figure for month, and larger figures for day and year with stops between, thus: 15.7.63 = PARIS-22 = Seen both with 3 F.of V. (*01) and with 4 F.of V. (*001)

Havas Model M, No. MG 5802, has date and town (28VI63 STRASBOURG R.P.) level with top of frank, and slogan (BOITE POSTALE 118-119) below town. The numbers in this "MG" series have now surpassed 9999 and continue above 10,000 (MG 10492 the highest so far seen.)

GIBRALTAR. We now illustrate the Simplex type, the only make so far seen.

We have S 3 and S 4.



NOVELTIES FROM OVERSEAS (contd.)

KENYA-UGANDA-TANGANYIKA. Referring to the note on the new Simplex type in the last MSB (p. 106), we have now found an example from the same machine (S 59) with large crown at the bottom; date with crown is 27 III 63 and without crown 12 VII 63. As one of our covers is franked with 50c and 80c, and the other with with 100c and 30c, it may be assumed that this machine runs to 125 cents only, presumably in 5c-steps.

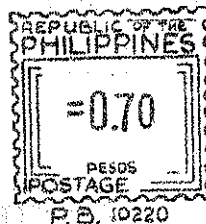
We also have examples of the Frankmaster described by Mr Simon, having only "KENYA" (in bold letters) at top and "POST PAID" in place of the Royal Cipher. These are N 660 and N 668, both having townmark "NAIROBI / KENYA".

MONACO. A SECAP machine is now in use. Design similar to France, with town MONTE-CARLO below frank and user's initials upwards at left
B.B.(F) LTD. 4 f.of v.

MOZAMBIQUE. J. C. Mann has shown us a green impression (dirty, oily ink!) of Automax "UCTT" (Lourenço Marques) dated 15 VII 63. Value as =01.00

NORWAY. Post-office machine: Hasler F88, as B&S type 11 but without R.No. Townmark inscribed "OSLO-DEP" at top and "UNDERPOSTKONTOR" at bottom.
M.No. 2144, four f.of v. (*090)

PHILIPPINES. The Automax design is now illustrated.



SIERRA LEONE. We now illustrate the Simplex design. Machine S 4 is used by Fourah Bay College, with slogan
SUPPORT THE
ENDOWMENT FUND
FOURAH BAY COLLEGE
SIERRA LEONE .



Re decimal currency
see page 109.

U.S.A. New Pitney-Bowes machine: a fourth model, 5308, has been added to the "5300" range of meters. The impressions are generally similar to previous models but this is a three-bank machine printing from 0.01 to 10.99, the first digit running to 10 instead of the usual 9; the wavy lines that replace the dollar figures are wider. (From "The Meter Stamp Society Bulletin" (U.S.A.), July/August 1963.)

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