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SECRETARY'S NOTES.

Officers for 1964. The following were the only persons nominated as Officers of the Group for 1964, and in accordance with the Constitution they are declared elected;

President;	S. D. Barfoot, B.Sc.
Hon. Secretary & Treasurer;	J. C. Mann.
Hon. Editor of Bulletin;	A. A. Dewey, M.A., B.Sc.(Econ.)
Hon. Exchange Secretary;	J. A. Wilson.
Hon. Assistant Exchange Secretary;	J. T. Brown.
Committee Member;	G. R. Pearson.

Membership. We deeply regret to record the deaths recently of two of our members, H. E. Hammond and G. E. Bolckow.

"Ted" Hammond, of Birmingham, died a few days before Christmas; he had been a member of the Group since the beginning of 1952 and, until a serious operation a year or so ago, had been an assiduous student, particularly of the Universal MV dies of Great Britain, though he had also an extensive collection of other issues.

George Bolckow, of Guisborough, Yorkshire, who died on the 26th of November, joined us in 1957. He had an extensive philatelic knowledge, particularly of postal history, and had held high office in a number of philatelic societies in the North of England.

New member. (163) Raymond W. Ward. 4048 Third Avenue,
San Diego 3, California, USA.

GROUP PUBLICATIONS.

I am pleased to report that both our recent publications, "Parcel Post Meters of Great Britain" and "The Universal Multi-Value Meter Stamps of Great Britain" have now sold enough copies to cover their costs, and will

GROUP PUBLICATIONS. (Contd.)

show a modest profit in the accounts for 1963. Work is progressing on the lists for India, Pakistan etc., and a start has been made on a listing for the Benelux countries.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

Although we are happy to say that several members again have contributed notes and replies to recent queries, we are once more running short of longer notes and articles. Further contributions will be gratefully received so that we may have a small reserve in hand.

The next Bulletin will be dated March 1964, and will contain the usual report and accounts of the working of the Group for 1963. Notes etc. for this issue should be in the Editor's hands by 29th February.

ILLNESS OF HON. EDITOR.

Most of the material in this issue of the Bulletin was prepared by the Hon. Editor before he was taken ill suddenly on Saturday the 4th of January, and as he must have absolute rest for some weeks, the work is being completed by the Hon. Secretary. Whilst hoping that he may be able to maintain the usual high standards, this has meant the omission of some regular features.

EXCHANGE PACKET RULES.

The coming into use of the new Neopost Model 205 (prefix "J" to No.) has necessitated some small additions to the Rules, and the following amendments should be made:

Appendix A, Section B, add below "Frankmaster" - "Neopost 205"

Appendix B, Points Table, insert after "P.B. Model H". - "Neopost 205 J" with value "1" point under "Emblems" and a "-" under all other columns.

These changes were approved at a meeting of the Committee in December. Although impressions from these "J" machines are at present relatively uncommon, it is to be expected that they will soon become as common as most other current types, and to give a high value initially, only to be reduced later, would be inconvenient for the working of the Packet Scheme.

DECIMAL DECISIONS - A Correction.

The date on which New Zealand is to make the change has been given officially as 11th July 1967.

Southern Rhodesia, it was announced recently by the Minister of the Treasury, is also to convert "as soon as possible".

As far as Great Britain is concerned, it looks as though the Halsbury recommendation is destined to suffer the same fate as its predecessors of 110 years ago!

GREAT BRITAIN - PARCEL POST METERS.

With a view to avoiding future confusion, Mr J. A. Wilson invites us to correct two references in his article under the above title in the MSB of March 1960 (Vol VI No 2) as follows :-

POEEJ 1: the author's name should be M. H. James, not Jones, and the Volume is 42, and not 50.

POEEJ 2: the authors' names are H. E. Whitton and R. D. Gibbon and the date October 1959.

The promised list of amendments and additions to Mr J. C. Mann's book on these machines has now been sent to those who indicated their wish to receive it. Copies of the book are still available, price 4/-, including postage, from the Hon. Sec.

MEMBERS WANTS.

Mr Henry O. Meisel would like to buy for cash, early impressions from G.B. and particularly Railway and Parcel-post meters. His address is :- Clintonville, Wisconsin 54929, U.S.A.

THE WILKINSON MACHINE STAMPS AGAIN.

In the big Members' Auction conducted by the London and Provincial Stamp Club on 16th November, the catalogue included two lots described as "G.B. 1912 1d Slot Machine Paid - very fine entire, rare (recently advertised at 95/-)" and "a similar lot", each valued at 45/-. The two covers were virtually identical, each being addressed in manuscript to a Mr W. G. Johnson at Felixstowe, sealed without enclosure, and postmarked, in black, LONDON E.C. -172- 3.45PM/JA 31/ 12, the first fetched 47/6 and the second 50/-.

Some seven years ago, we attempted to compile a list, with dates and addressees' names, of all the examples in the hands of our members, but the response was not very good, and it has since become evident from displays and exhibitions that there must be quite a lot in the collections of non-meter-collectors.

Though it is evident that no more than two or three of the L & P members were interested in these lots (postal bids were admitted), these prices would seem to be a fair guide to current values; who advertised one "recently at 95/-", we do not know, nor - what is more significant - whether a sale was made at that price!

References. When referring to notes and earlier articles published in the Bulletins, will correspondents kindly conform to the standard method of references by quoting the volume number and page of the item in question and not the whole number of the Bulletin. This paragraph is for example "VIII/3" and not "No 64, Page 3", thank you.

SETTING THE FIRST POSTAGE METER IN GREAT BRITAIN.



The illustration above, showing the Assistant Postmaster, London, E.C.1., setting the first Postage Meter (a Pitney-Bowes single value) on 5th September, 1922, is reproduced from an advertising leaflet (undated, but probably not long after 1922) published by Postage Meters and Machines Co., Imperial Buildings, 56 Kingsway, W.C.2 (subsequently incorporated in Universal Postal Frankers Ltd., now Pitney-Bowes Ltd.) Although the faces would be clearly recognisable in the original, we do not know the names of any of those present.

The leaflet gives much detail about the machines - which, it states, are "in nowise similar to the many devices upon the market for affixing ordinary postage stamps"! - and their advantages. They are said to be a "to a great extent" modification of the 'Universal' Postmarking and Cancellation Machines manufactured by us and in use in the Post Offices of many different countries".

G. B. NOTES.

Frankmaster Error. Mr G. M. Stelfox also reports that he has a postally used example of the "specimen" die RN-001 used from Glasgow on 20 VIII 63, two days earlier than Mr Wilson's copy, and he also has a cover from the same user (Canadian Pacific S. S. Co.) with NB-159 dated 16 X 63. He suggests that, as this was obviously not a new machine, the users had borrowed the "specimen" machine for a few days while their machine was being repaired or adjusted. The die NB-159 like the RN-001 is in the "Emblems" design. Messrs Roneo-Neopost do not admit the possibility of the postal use of a "specimen" die, but presumably their Scottish office did not advise the Head Office.

Frankmaster: Unusual Townmark Variety. Machine NC 980 is used by the Institute of Company Accountants, Edgbaston, Birmingham, with EiiR frank die. From its first use in December 1958 or earlier, the townmark read EDGBASTON/BIRMINGHAM. This is of course incorrect, since Edgbaston is a suburb of the City of Birmingham, and the correct townmark should be simply "Birmingham". However, the error continued in use until December 1962 or later, after which "EDGBASTON" was removed, leaving a blank space at the top with "BIRMINGHAM" at the bottom. The earliest date seen for this unusual variety is 27 II 63; it is still in use.

(S.D.B.)

FRANKMASTER "EiiR" DIE VARIETIES.

With reference to our notes in the last MSB, Mr John T. Brown has studied these and can distinguish several further varieties. Our (ii) he splits into three, and he adds a new variety which we have not noticed.

His six varieties are :-

- A. (same as our "(i)") Thick "N", narrow "A"; figures the same height as the letters, $3\frac{1}{4}$ mm. (Nos. 13, 63, 70, 78)
- B. Letters of same style and size, 3mm., figures larger, $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm. (Nos. numerous.)
- C. Letters of same style and size ($2\frac{1}{2}$ - 3mm) and figures of same size. (Nos. 120, 125 etc to 394 and 685.)
- D. Thick "N" (3 mm) and thin "A" ($2\frac{1}{2}$ mm); figures 3 mm. (Nos. 161, 166, 224)
- E. Letters of same size and style, figures also same size, large and thick, $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm. (Nos. 198, 311, etc., etc., to 656, and 963 to 986) (Mr Brown adds that the letters on 963 to 986 appear wider than on the lower numbers)
- F. Letters of same style and size, figures also same size (3 mm) (Found on No. 442 only)

As we remarked before, minute examination is hindered by the poorness of some of the impressions, but we shall be glad to receive comments from other readers; but it is too much to expect that any regular pattern of the varieties will be found!

In the "NB" series, we agree with Mr Brown's comments that the differences here are less obvious but there certainly are differences in the figures as well as in the letters. In type (ii), we gave the highest found as NB 70, but Mr Brown adds 90 and 91, while in type (iii) we now have as the lowest 46 and 48, and Mr Brown has 50.

The different types of townmark and of date-figures (there appear to be at least three of each) would also make an interesting study; would any member care to let us have a note on these?

Pitney-Bowes L.V. (Model CV). Mr Jason T. W. Mann reports that, as well as P.C. 67 with stops after the letters, already mentioned, he has P.C.69 (Birmingham) in the same style (no others have yet been reported).

Following PC 100, he has PC 104, without stops, in which the "4" but not the other numerals and letters is larger than normal, and PC 107 with all letters and numerals in the same larger style and with stop after "C" though not after "P". It will be interesting to note the variations in other dies around this region!

Pitney-Bowes New Machine. Another member reports a "tape" bearing impression, in the "Emblems" design, of what appears to be a new model, used by Pitney-Bowes Ltd. from their new "home" at Harlow, Essex, dated 22-11-63 with the number PB 501A below the die. Presumably this is a trial of the new model 5300 already in use for a year or so in the United States and Canada. Further details are awaited.

U.S.A. NOTES.

Friden Meters. In our brief note on the antecedents of the Friden company, the year in which the National Postal Meter Co. acquired the Whitlock firm should have been given as 1933, not 1930. Mr H. O. Meisel tells us that the N.P.M. firm was started by a group of people in Los Angeles who purchased the assets of the old Whitlock on which to base their operations, in 1933. Writing at the beginning of November, Mr Meisel said that Friden meters were still not on the market.

Introduction of "ZIP" numbers. Mr H. O. Meisel remarks that Mr Mann was not quite correct in stating, in the September MSB, that the second digit of the new code number represents the State: in fact, a state may be divided into more than one part. For instance, Wisconsin is represented by "4" for the North part and "3" for the South part. Also, though the last two digits represent the former local zone number in some cases, in other cases they are entirely new. In the example "44310" for Akron, Ohio, this is the ZIP code for the zone Akron 10, and not for the whole of the City as seemed to be implied.

Postal Forgery of Meter Impressions. We quote from "Western Stamp Collector" and "Meters and Collectors" - An Associated Press despatch from Minneapolis, Minn., tells of the arrest there by Postal Agents of the operator of a mailing service who is charged with having a "do-it-yourself" postage meter. Francis O. Olson, according to AP, is charged with forgery and counterfeiting of a postal marking. Postal Agents charge that he made an engraved printing plate of a first class meter imprint which he used in a printing press to place markings indicating payment of postage on letters mailed by his organisation.

Postal Agents believe this is the first case of forgery of a postage meter marking to defraud the Postal Service. Olson's firm, according to AP, handled mailings of Minneapolis City tax statements and made monthly mailings for various firms, including Sears, Roebuck & Co.

GREAT BRITAIN : CATALOGUE SUPPLEMENTS.

The Barfoot & Simon "Meter Postage Stamp Catalogue" was published in mid-1953, just as the "EiiR" designs were being introduced, and it lists comprehensively the meter stamps of G. B. up to the end of the "GviR" types, though quite a number of additions back to the first "squares and circles" designs were reported in the supplements in the MSB for December 1956 and March 1957. When the "EiiR" design was superseded by the current "Emblems" designs, the various types and varieties in the former were summarised in a special supplement issued with the MSB of March 1960.

It seems time now to make a start with listing the "Emblems" types, but no lists of the denominations found in the F.V. and L.V. machines have yet been compiled; will all members please help by reporting any they possess not included in the draft list below?

No attempt is being made to record the values found with each of the minor variations of the frame (unless any of our members would like to undertake the job) or of the various types of value figures.

Emblems Design.

<u>Prefix Letter</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Denominations Seen</u>
PB	Pitney-Bowes single value	(believed to exist, but not seen)
M	Midget (F.V.)	(none seen)
NZ	Universal N.Z. (F.V.)	(none seen)
N	Neopost (L.V.)	2d., 2½d., 3d., 3½d., 4d., 4½d., 5d., 6d., 5½d., 7½d., 9d., 1/-.
P, PA, PC	Pitney-Bowes CV (L.V.)	2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 4½d., 6d.
S, SA, SB	Simplex Minor (des. "A")	? (½d. to 6½d.)
SL	Simplex Label-Issuing	(none seen)
SX, SY, SZ, SW, SU, ST	Simplex Major (design "A")	(½d. to 1/0½)
ST, SS, SR	Simplex Major (design "B")	(½d. to 1/0½)
U, UA, UB, ...UK	Universal Frankopost M.V.	(Original model 0/0½ to 99/11½)
	ditto	(Intermed. Model = 0/0½ to 9/11½)
	ditto	(Junior Model ½D to 11½D) (= 0/0½ to 99/11½) (without or with small = in place of "½" penny)
A, AA, AB. ...AG	Automax (M.V.)	(= 0/0½ to 99/11½)
NA, NB, NC ...NK	Roneo-Neopost Frankmaster (M.V.)	(= 0/0½ to 99/11½)
J	Roneo-Neopost Model 205	(* 0/0½ to 9/11½)

GREAT BRITAIN: CATALOGUE SUPPLEMENTS. (Contd.)

Note: Simplex design "A" - small pence "D" attached to F. of V.
" " "B" - large "D" attached to frame below crown.

(denominations shown in parenthesis, for M.V. machines, are those fitted to the machines, not necessarily those used.)

L.V. or M.V. by S. D. Barfoot.

At a recent meeting of the Group, a heated discussion took place on the question of the Universal Simplex and the P.B. Desk Model: are they to be considered as "Limited-Value" or "Multi-Value" machines? They have hitherto usually been classed as LV, but the Simplex Major can give 25 different values, from $\frac{1}{2}d$ to $1/0\frac{1}{2}$ or $1c$ to $25c$ etc., and the DM 22 values, whereas the Universal Multi-Value Junior model has only 23 values (from $\frac{1}{2}d$ to $11\frac{1}{2}d$)

However, if an LV machine, as originally defined, is one on which all the values are on a separate and distinct segments, operated by a single bank of keys or a single dial, then both Simplex and Desk Model are definitely L.V. machines. In my opinion this is borne out by the range of values available on the DM, which are as follows :-

- (a) =00, =01, =02, etc., to =21
- (b) =00, =01, = $1\frac{1}{2}$, =02, etc., to =20
- (c) =00, =01, =02, = $2\frac{1}{2}$, =03, etc., to =20

In contrast, the Universal MV Junior has two keys, one giving the odd $\frac{1}{2}d$ value or nil, the other the $1d$ to $11d$ values, thus producing any multiple of the unit $\frac{1}{2}d$ up to the limit, as do the other Universal MV models and other multi-value machines.

Perhaps there is some justification for terming the Simplex as "MV.1" machines, i.e. with one bank of keys, but I prefer to consider them as L.V.

Incidentally, the =00 value on the Desk Model appears to have been fitted to allow use on internal Departmental mail as a free frank. This applied equally to the PB Model R. No examples have been seen of the =00 value on United States DM machines, but several are known from Canadian R.C.A.F. stations.

The crucial distinction between L.V. and M.V. machines, may, in other words, be expressed that the values in the L.V. machines are each a single and distinct unit, whereas in M.V. machines they are all built up of two or more independently operated digits - with the understanding that in British currency, the "10" and "11" pence figures each count as separate duodecimal units, and the " $\frac{3}{4}$ ", " $\frac{1}{2}$ ", etc. likewise each count as a unit. It is not, as some people seem to have supposed, a question of either the number or the range of values possible.

It should be mentioned again that in American usage, "multi-value" becomes "omni-value" or "omni-denominational", and "limited-value" is "multi-denominational".

Editor/

CHINESE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

To the Catalogue Supplement list which we published in the June 1963 Bulletin, Wing/Cdr Paget, of the China Philatelic Society (of G.B.) has kindly sent us the following additions in his collection :-

Type 10. Universal Multi-value. (Top inscription means "Chinese People's Postal Service".)
SHANGHAI: As illustrated.
TIENSHUI: Full inscription as for Shanghai, but in small characters and Goose retained. Machine number (-) = 1; value suffix H.
LIUCHOW: As for Tienshui; Machine No. (-) = 1; value suffix H.
KUNMING: Inscription spaced as for Shanghai but space at right filled by solid five-pointed star. Machine No. (≡) = 2. Value suffix H.
NANKING: Inscription spaced as for Shanghai but one wing of the goose remains at top right. Machine No. (☆) = 6. Value suffix J.
KWEIYANG: Inscription "People's Postal Service" only, i.e., two right-hand characters omitted, but goose retained. Machine No. (-) = 1. Value suffix J.

Type 12. Hasler F88 (not illustrated)

Mr Paget writes: "Up to January 1951, my specimens are as illustrated by Morgan (his type 18), but all later copies (latest 12.12.51) have the Arabic "6" changed to Chinese (☆) and the initial "S" is replaced by a symbol √ thus

SOUTH AFRICA : DECIMAL CURRENCY METERS

Referring to the notes by George R. Pearson in the November MSB on the above, Dr J. Fick (South Africa) has submitted the following comments and additions.

Universal Midget. (Crown etc. removed) M 200 is in existence, having value 1^c as if the "d" has had the downstroke removed (other machines have the value as "1c" Other machines (additional to those noted) are M 7, M 168, M 315, M 391, M 395. The machine with the frame unaltered is M 80.

Neopost L.V. Springbok Design.

Seriffed figures of value are infrequent on "N" and "NA" dies, but have been noted on NB 38, 86, 87, 91, 92 as well as all above NB 94 as stated by Mr Pearson. The highest number seen is NB 176.

Francotyp.

Large-capacity (5 bank) machines with wide franks are F 50, 116, 184, 267, 303, 304, 324, 450, 491, 494, and with ordinary franks F 571, 598 and 743. F 595 is the only one with SUID-AFRIKA hyphenated, and F 271 the only one with the "conventional" style of figures (both as found by Mr Pearson). The highest number seen is F 779. Another variety is F 313 with the townmark inverted.

Automax.

UA 1 has the "R" but UA 2 is without "R", both having = before the figures. (Dr Fick has no other Ncs. below UA 10.) Highest No. UA 136.

SOUTH AFRICA: DECIMAL CURRENCY METERS. (Contd.)
Post Office Machines.

Also: Delwerswood with letters PGAB.

"REPUBLIC" DESIGNS.

Simplex.

S 113* the only "S" with Republic design; SA 172 to 281 also seen.

Neopost L.V.

N 253*, NB 45*, NB 152 - 274 seen; NB 186 the only one with the misspelling "REPUBLICK".

* - These must be replacements of damaged dies.

Francotyp.

Only F 731 seen with the standard figures, all others (up to F 917) have the South-African style.

Frankmaster.

R 149 to R 210 seen.

Automax.

UA 137 the lowest and UA 196 the highest seen.

METERS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN PROTECTORATES

To the list given on page 99 of the September MSB, Mr Werner Simon adds:

BASUTOLAND: S 737 (Maseru)

SWAZILAND: S 792 (at Bremersdorp in 1961, at Manzini in 1962)

S 864 (Manzini)

Perhaps these had all been withdrawn before Mr Crozet contacted the local Postmasters.

We still have no news of Bechuanaland.

NOVELTIES FROM OVERSEAS

U.A.R. (Egypt). Automax machine? Similar to Univ. MV die but small and lengthly Arabic inscription at top with no European equivalent. MILLS/POSTES at lower left with Arabic (?equivalent) at right. 4 F. of V. *001, Arabic over European. TM (DC) ALEXANDRIA (English and Arabic), with M.No. in Arabic 11547 below. Date seen 28 I 63.

SPAIN. Postalia - J. C. Mann has been told by the manufacturers that the location of the machine number is being altered; in the past, it had been shown either at the base of the townmark or at the bottom right hand corner of the slogan, but in future all licence numbers will appear to the right below the townmark circle.

NYASALAND. Although the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland formally was wound up on 31st December, 1963, Nyasaland assumed control of its own postal system and issue of its own stamps on 1st November. In its meter stamps, it anticipated even that date; we have an aerogram franked with Universal M.V. "U 73" showing the names in the top tablet "RHODESIA AND" deleted, as early as 16 IX 63. The town is ZOMBA, and the user The Ministry of Natural Resources and Surveys.