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SECRETARY'S NOTES.

Membership.

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

Charles H. Smith, Germany; D. V. Tippen, Arundel, and H. K. Warren, Canada.

Full addresses can be found on the list of members of the Group that is included with this issue of the MSB, together with some changes of address.

Death of Joseph S. Strelak.

We regret to learn from Mr Henry O. Meisel, President of the American Metered Postage Society, of the death of Mr Joseph Strelak, Waukegan, Ill., in February last. Mr Strelak, a member since 1953 and a frequent correspondent of our Group, had been interested in meters for a long time and had built up a good collection of both United States and foreign material, being one of the few American collectors interested also in other countries. He combined his meter interests with printing and photo-copying, and for a time published his own meter magazine.

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE EDITOR.

As briefly mentioned in the January issue, completion of that number - including typing of the stencils - was undertaken by John Mann after I was suddenly taken ill at the beginning of that month; it was however not mentioned that, during my lengthy stay in Hospital, Mr Mann undertook the whole of the editorial work and preparation of the March Bulletin - in the case of both issues with the help of Mr George Pearson. I am sure that all other members will wish to join with me in expressing our thanks to these two gentlemen for so ably keeping the Bulletin going and avoiding a break in its regular publication.

The temporary interruption of my normal activities, combined with the need to "take things easily" for some time to come, has practically exhausted the supply of notes and articles for publication in the Bulletin, and members are urgently requested to let us have anything publishable on our subject (G.B. or other countries) so that we are not obliged ourselves to compile so much of the material or to drastically reduce the size of future Bulletins.

The next issue will be dated September 1964, for which "copy" should be sent not later than 28th August, with "highest numbers" up to 6th September.

INDEX TO LAST VOLUME.

A detailed index has been prepared for the last volume of the MSB, covering the issues from No 54 (January 1962) to No 63 (November 1963). As past experience has shown that the demand for such indexes is too small to justify duplicating them, only two copies have been prepared. Any member who wishes to refer to the index, and who will undertake its prompt return, may borrow a copy from the Hon. Secretary. Similar indexes are also available for each previous volume.

MEMBERS WANTS.

Will buy for cash any nice items from Slovakia, Croatia, Serbia, Bohemia, Danzig, the Baltic countries, Germany, Austria etc (the last two "during the war"). Will also pay 60/- for good Wilkinson covers from Jan 25 to Aug 31 1912. Henry O. Meisel, Clintonville, Wisconsin 54929, USA.

Mr Charles H. Smith, Bahnhofsweg 9, 54 Koblenz-Moselweiss, GERMANY, offers to exchange meters from many countries, particularly European, for meters from Great Britain. Please write first.

"PARCEL POST METERS OF GREAT BRITAIN".

Shortly after publishing the list of amendments and additions to this booklet we were shown by Mr E. C. Ehrmann an impression from a hitherto unrecorded machine.

Similar to the TIM machine used for Ledger Account Labels, it was a special "one-off" experimental model used at Brighton station, British Railways Southern Region. The design is similar to the LL impressions, but has a cash value in the right-hand panel, which has "PAID" at the top and "PARCEL" at the foot. The impression we have seen is dated 25 SP 52 and we understand from the makers that it was used during 1951 and 1952; there was only one machine of this type.

We will reproduce this on an extra page which will be distributed to members with a future issue of the MSB, and this can then be inserted in your copy of the booklet.

METER DESIGNER RETIRES.

Pitney-Bowes Ltd., (Harlow, Essex) recently announced the retirement of their Chief Engineer, Mr Frank Parfett, who had been with the company and its predecessors since 1922. He worked on the design and production of the early "N.Z." machines (originated by Ernest Moss of New Zealand), and himself originated in turn the "Midget" and the "Simplex" machines for small-volume mailings.

G.B. NOTES.

London Town Names. A year ago (VII/87), we referred to the few recorded townmarks which contained the local district name instead of the usual "London". Mr E. S. Lapham (Wading River, N.Y.) has kindly sent us photostat prints of two in his collection that were mentioned previously, giving the requested details of the names of the users. "VICTORIA DOCKS E.16", with Midget "GvR" die M 16 was used (7 XII 27) by J. H. Sankey & Sons Ltd., of Canning Town, E.16. (we understand they are no longer there.) The parcel label contains three impressions of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d and one of $\frac{1}{4}$ d, all B&S variety A(ii). "HARLESDEN N.W.10" was used by McVitie & Price Ltd., The Edinburgh Biscuit Works, Harlesden. Like our example of two years earlier, the date (-6 VIII 9) lacks the first digit of the year, but Mr Lapham is sure that it should have been "29". The frank is again $\frac{1}{2}$ d (NZ) 14, "circles and squares" die.

No further information has come to light regarding the Chingford or Peckham items.

Pitney-Bowes Models 5400/5500. Mr D. Fletcher has been informed by the makers that the intention is to number these meters from "P.B. 501A" to "P.B.999A", then "P.B.001B" to "P.B.999B" and so on. The letter suffix is in order to provide greater capacity than would a fourth numerical digit, and not - as with the new motor car registration Nos.- to indicate the first year of registration!

As mentioned in the account in the last MSB, it should be possible to distinguish between impressions from the 3-bank meter (designated "Model 5335" and running to 10/11 $\frac{1}{2}$) and those from the 4-bank meter ("Model 5345" running to 99/11 $\frac{1}{2}$), but as the differences are so small and indefinite, we do not think it necessary to do so; do members agree? We should explain that the designations "Model 5400" and "Model 5500" refer respectively to the electric and hand-operated bases with which the actual meters have to be used, and from which they are detachable.

Shakespeare Slogan. Messrs Pitney-Bowes have designed and are offering to all users of their machines a Shakespearean quater-centenary slogan block, it was available for use from 21st April. According to an article by Mr E. C. Ehrmann in "Stamp Collecting" recently it was the original intention to number the dies used on both demonstration and licenced machines at the various Pitney-Bowes offices from 1 to 14, but due to a mis-understanding they were all numbered "1" to the right of Shakespeare's head. The block used with "UH 729" is larger than that used with the Model 5400/5500 machines.

Simplex Label-issuing machines. As reported some years ago, two special label-issuing machines (actually "tapes") were purchased in 1955-56 by a large department store in Dundee and numbered SL 1 and SL 2, both with normal "EiIR" dies; SL 1 was in 1d units, from 1d to 2/1, and SL 2 in $\frac{1}{2}$ d units, from $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1/0 $\frac{1}{2}$. Mr Denys Fletcher has now learnt that SL 2 has been scrapped, but SL 1 is still (April) in use with the original die, but he has yet to see a postally-used example from either machine (apart from the "SL 2" used for mailing our Bulletin some time ago.)

G.B. NOTES (Contd.)

Highest Numbers. Several noteworthy developments have come about since the last MSB. The Automax has been superseded by the Pitney-Bowes "Series 5000" model, though we have probably not yet found the former's highest number. The same firm's Simplex has apparently by-passed "SQ" and jumped (backwards as usual) to "SP" - though we are wondering whether this is perhaps a special series comparable with the "SL" or "SV", as we have had no "SR" beyond SR 642 so that a new regular prefix would seem to be premature. The Neopost Model 205 has now passed the 1000 mark, still with "J" prefix, instead of recommencing at 1 with "JA" as anticipated, but no addition has been reported to the Frankmaster (now prefix "NL"), although we have no reason to think that it has been superseded.

We believe that the Neopost L.V. models are still in production also, and have not been dropped in favour of the M.V. machines, but we have not had any reports of high numbers for several years. Will members kindly notify us of the highest number in London W.1. (we had N 1669) and in any other towns to reach 1000, also in Birmingham (beyond 687), Glasgow (663), Liverpool (523), Manchester (775).

The first of the new PB Series 5000 used by other than the makers was reported by Mr Pearson. Reports of the following are also due to Messrs J. C. Mann, F. Lloyd Parton and G. R. Pearson.

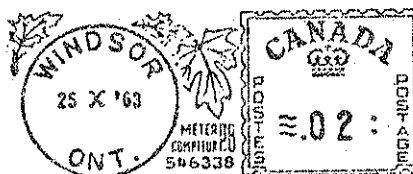
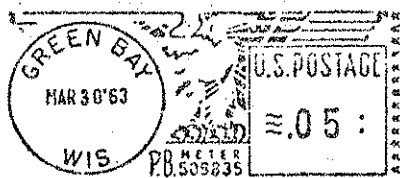
AH 159
PB 696A

PC 119
NL 491

SP 85
J 1164

THE PITNEY-BOWES "SERIES 5000" METERS

These desk-model machines were introduced into the United States in early January 1960, and into Canada in or before March of the same year*, but have not been found in any other country until Dr J. Fick showed us one from South Africa used at the end of last year.



THE PITNEY-BOWES "SERIES 5000" METERS (Contd.)

We illustrate the types of each of the three countries. It will be noticed that while all have similar very small date figures, the arrangement of the date differs in each; U.S.A., month in letters; Canada, Roman month-figure; South Africa, Arabic month-figure, with stops after day and month. The recently introduced British meters, although nominally the same models, have distinctly larger date-figures (after the Canadian style) as well as larger (and of course non-decimal) value figures, and would not ordinarily be recognised by collectors as the same model as the American built machines.

The central design of the South-African frank may not reproduce very clearly but appears to represent the head of a springbok with a background of tall jungle. The inclusion of the province name is an innovation for this country.

*It is strange that although the Americans are so enthusiastic over "First Day Covers" of adhesive stamps, they seem to make no attempt to ascertain the precise day of issue of a new meter type !

CANADA: NEW STYLE PITNEY-BOWES TAPE.

Our notes here a few years ago on the P-B "Model R" machines of Canada and the varieties of their impressions remarked that, although the franks - like all adhesive stamps - were inscribed in both English and French, the background of the "tapes" showed "CANADA POSTAGE" in English only. Especially in some of the yellow shades, the details of the design are not easy to distinguish, and perhaps the omission was not noticed - or Messrs P-B thought that the general public would not notice!

However, that change has now been made, though stocks of the old pattern are still being used up. The new design is very similar to the old, but shows

CANADA	POSTES
POSTAGE	CANADA

 in alternate rows in curved tablets

forming ovals each containing a crown. It is quite easily distinguished from the original because, firstly, the crowns are now on a plain instead of a lined ground, and, secondly, the French name CANADA is concave upwards whereas the English (both old and new) is concave downwards. Thus, finding one CANADA concave upwards is sufficient to identify it.

The earliest dates we have found are in April 1963.

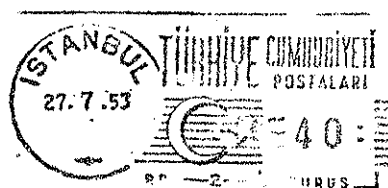
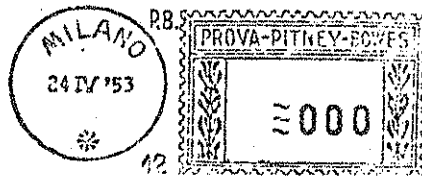
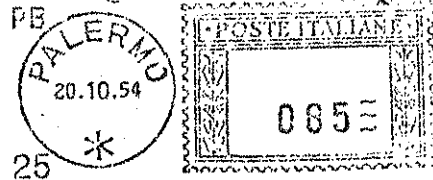
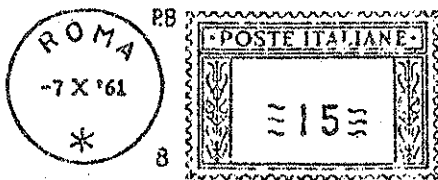
BILINGUAL TOWNMARKS.

It is not unexpected to meet with meter townmarks showing the name in two languages from countries which have two official languages, such as Belgium (BRUXELLES/BRUSSEL), South Africa (CAPE TOWN/KAAPSTAD), Finland (HELSINKI/HELSINGFORS), but one from Italy is more surprising. However, we have recently seen one reading "BOLZANO/BOZEN" which is in the still disputed Tyrol or Venezia Tridentina; the name of the user, between TM and frank is in Italian "ENTE PROVINCIALE PER IL TURISMO BOLZANO/BOZEN" with the German equivalent (all in one word!) extending below TM and frank "LANDESFREMDEVENVERKEHRSAM". The machine is one of the unidentifiable Italian makes with a small frank and value figures (*15), and the date seen is -3 I 63.

ITALY - THE PITNEY-BOWES METERS. by A. A. Dewey.

Italy is one of the very few European countries that have used meters of the Pitney-Bowes "Model R" series so familiar in the United States (where they are made) and Canada. The other countries are Belgium, Spain, and - an "essay" only, not known used - Turkey, but it would seem that Italy has more of the machines than the other three countries together.

Numbers (with "PB" prefix and therefore presumably applicable to this series alone) range up to 35, but Mr George Pearson and myself between us possess only eight different, including one without number and one (PB 12) with the frank inscribed "PROVA - PITNEY-BOWES" instead of the normal ".POSTE ITALIANE."



These few examples show notable variations in several respects. Most have "P.B." above and the number below in the (very restricted) space between town-circle and frank, but P.B 25 has them to the left of the circle, these and P.B 35 being larger than the lower numbers. It is of course impossible to determine the correct number of the impression not showing this.

ITALY - THE PITNEY-BOWES METERS (Contd.)

The "no number" and Nos 7, 8 and 12 have Roman figure for the month with American-style apostrophe before the year, whereas higher numbers all have Arabic month-figures with stops after day and month.

The figures of value also vary. Representing the group of three wavy lines as used in the U.S. to take the place of a "nil" dollar figure by "w", P.B 7 and 12 have the value as w000; P.B 8 as w00w; P.B 15, 25 and 35 have 000w; and P.B 10 has 0000; while the only "no number" has the value 150w which might be actually as P.B 8 or P.B 15 in values below 100 lire. Possibly the final "w" is changeable for " $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

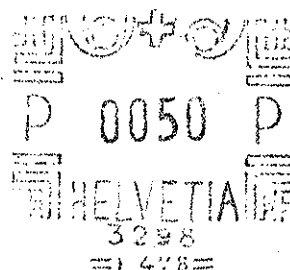
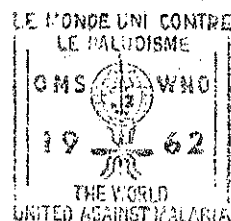
There are even variations in the star ornaments at the bottom of the town circles. P.B 7, 8 and 10 (all ROMA) have large six-rayed stars, as have P.B 25 (PALERMO) and P.B 35 (SIENA), but the "no number" and P.B 15 (both TORINO) have smaller eight-rayed stars, and P.B 12 (MILANO) has a star with eight curved rays.

If any member has examples from any other Italian machines of this type, or from European countries not mentioned, I shall be glad to have details.

(Thanks are due to Mr G. R. Pearson for the loan of the examples illustrated here)

ANTI-MALARIA CAMPAIGN SLOGANS.

During the "Anti-Malaria year" (1962/63), the World Health Organisation used special slogans, showing the emblem of the campaign and an appropriate inscription in the franking machines at the seat of the Organisation and at each of the Regional Offices.



Dr Detlef Schmidt gives, in the journal "UN-E" (Hamburg), the following list.

<u>Country.</u>	<u>Townmark.</u>	<u>Machine No.</u>
Switzerland	Geneve 10/Nations Unies	3298
Congo (ex French)	Brazzaville	SD 3162
Denmark	København 29	D 1331
India	New Delhi P.O./WHO SEARO 615	U -
Philippines	Manila	PB 189130
U.A.R. (Egypt)	Alexandria	-
United States	Washington/D.C.	PB 392433
" "	New York/N.Y.	PB 545462

NOVELTIES FROM OVERSEAS.

AUSTRALIA. A recent instalment of the comprehensive check-list of Australian meters, compiled by Mr W. J. Webster and published in "The Australian Stamp Monthly", mentions an interesting little variety. We quote: "The Post Office in Oxford Street (Sydney, N.S.W.) changed to a site round the corner in Crown Street and was obliged to change its name. The P.M.G. Dept. have confirmed that they paid for the change of post-town die on the machines that had to change as a result." The precise date of the move is not mentioned by Mr Webster, but was sometime before Nov. 1960; the only machine so far noted is G 76, a Universal MV. As apparently usual in Sydney, the city name does not appear in the townmarks.

INDIA. With reference to the exceptionally high licence number mentioned on page 20 of the last issue, the date should have been given as 10 III 62. Licence No. B-1870 has since been seen.

JAPAN. As might have been discernable from our illustration, the apparently mis-spelt name in the townmark of the Automax machine P.B. 1003 reads "NIHOMBASHI" whereas the spelling in the printed return address on the same envelope (and in the "N.C.R." labels) is "NIHOMBASHI".

MALAYA. As in a number of other countries - but not in all - the Automax machines use the same frame design as the Universal Multi-Value and are numbered in the same sequence, still keeping the "U" prefix, though easily recognisable by the new figures of value preceded by =. However, the only two we have seen from Malaya show differences. U 306 (Kuala Lumpur) has large lettering, like the Universals, while U 398 (Singapore) has smaller and flatter letters more like the RN "Frankmasters". Will members please let us have details of any other Automax from Malaya which they have?

SOUTHERN RHODESIA. The first die we have seen for the re-created Southern Rhodesia, shown us by Mr G. R. Pearson, is a Neopost L.V. of the former Federation, N 424 (Salisbury) adapted by substitution of "SOUTHERN RHODESIA" (in two lines) for "RHODESIA NYASALAND" at the top, and complete removal of the crown and Royal Cipher; this feature is curious, because the country is still a British Colony. Values are 3D and 1/-. Dr J. Fick (South Africa) reports also N 1 (Bulawayo), similarly altered and - presumably with "NORTHERN RHODESIA" at top - N 140 (Lusaka). Northern Rhodesia is soon to become the Republic of Zambia.

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