

HON. SECRETARY/TREASURER

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EDITOR OF BULLETIN

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SECRETARY'S NOTES.

Two of our American members have recently changed their addresses :-  
Werner Simon is now at 690 W. Suggs Drive, Memphis, Tennessee 38117, and  
Charles H. Smith (in our recent membership list under "Other Countries",  
viz. Germany) is now at 15238 E. Dittmar Drive, Whittier, California 90603,  
U.S.A.

The extra page for the booklet "Parcel Post Meters of Great Britain",  
showing the newly-discovered type used at Brighton station in 1952, as  
mentioned in the last MSB, is included with this issue in order to save  
postage. It should be inserted between pages 17 and 18. Copies of the  
booklet are still available from me at the price of 4/-, post free.

J.C.M.

NEXT BULLETIN. The editor regrets that, as he is still under "doctor's  
orders" to "go slowly" and take things easy, this issue will again be some-  
what delayed; members kind enquiries and good wishes are gratefully ac-  
knowledged, and thanks are tendered to all those members who responded to  
our appeal for articles and notes for publication - may we hear from the  
others?.

In an attempt to catch up, our next issue will be dated December 1964  
instead of the usual November and should appear before Christmas. "Copy"  
should be in the hands of the editor not later than 21st November, but new  
"highest numbers" can be accommodated up to 1st December.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1965. Members are reminded that nominations for  
the Officers of the Group should have been in the hands of the Hon. Sec.  
by the 1st October.

### THE BUSINESS EFFICIENCY EXHIBITION.

This year's Business Efficiency Exhibition will be held at Olympia, London, from 6th to 14th October. Messrs Pitney-Bowes will be showing their new model 5500 postage meter and mailing machine, claimed to be the first hand operated desk model postage meter to stamp and seal mail. They will also exhibit the similar electric machine, model 5400, and the well-known Simplex, suitable for the smallest business house. Their range of business machines include a variety of mail-opening and folding machines, addressing machines, etc., among them the latest addition, a desk-top mail opener designed for recipients of only a light amount of mail.

### THE AUTOMAX CONTINUES.

In the account of the new "Series 5000" machines, in the March MSB, it was stated that following their introduction, production of the Automax would cease. Mr J. K. Tottrup, the Public Relations Manager of Messrs Pitney-Bowes, points out that this is not quite correct: although the Automax will no longer be sold in Great Britain, it will continue to be manufactured at the Harlow factory for marketing on the Continent and in many other countries.

The Automax was introduced in Great Britain towards the end of 1958 (official "first day" was 12 XI 58) and had thus an active "life" of little more than five years, during which period somewhat more than 8,000 machines were licensed. Against this, its predecessor the Universal (or Frankopost) Multi-value lasted nearly twenty-seven years and some 11,000 were issued. Even after discounting the war period, the differences in the period of currency and in the rate of issue per year are striking!

The Automax superseded the Multi-value in most other countries; there are however several countries which used the earlier machines extensively but from which no Automax have been reported - India, Burma, China, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, for examples - though conversely the Automax have been introduced into some countries which had not used the Universal - Bermuda, Cyprus, Malta, Philippines.

In Great Britain, the numbering of the Automax dies was entirely separate from that of the Universal's, with prefix letters A, AA, AB etc., but this practice was followed in few other countries using a system of numbering by make, Ireland (Republic) being one such. Many countries continued with the same design of die as the Universal (usually slightly redrwn) and with the "U" prefix; examples are New Zealand, Sudan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaya. "New" countries, such as the four named at the end of the preceding paragraph, adopted the prefix "P.B."

Several countries took the opportunity to introduce entirely new frank designs, which may be regarded as among the most modern and imaginative of all; these include Australia, Japan, Brazil, and perhaps the "Emblems" design of G.B. may be counted here although its introduction was a little after the introduction of the new machines and was not, of course, restricted to the Automax.

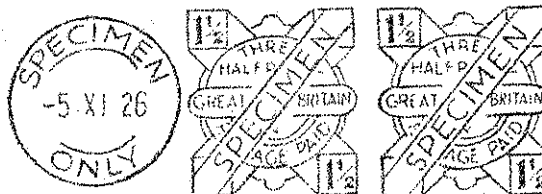
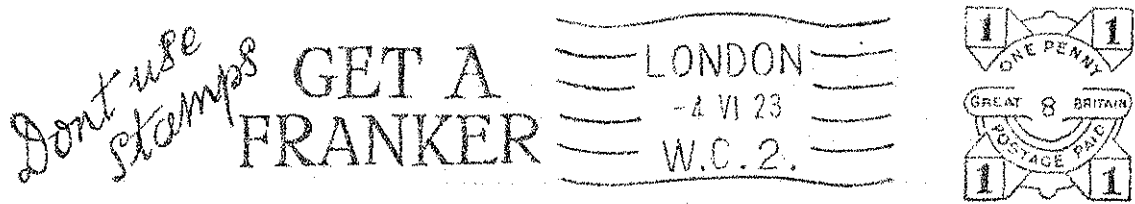
HOW TO STORE A COLLECTION.

It has always been a matter for debate among meter collectors as to the best way to store a collection. It has quickly been found impracticable to mount a collection of any size in the same way as adhesive stamps, though some people - judging from collections acquired by the editor! - have tried, using either old discarded loose-leaf pages or plain paper, but any sizable collection soon becomes unwieldy, even for cut strips.

Mr R. Haggett has, after several years searching as he says, found a method to his satisfaction, which is sufficiently novel to be of interest to others, although some might suggest it to be too expensive or otherwise unsatisfactory. This is by use of a photographic negative album (imported from Sweden) as sold by Messrs Boots "the Chemists", with transparent leaves 25 x 30 cm., divided into pockets and intended for the storage of size 120/620 films; there are four pockets to a page and the meter strips can be filed two to a pocket. The pages cost 4d each, and loose-leaf binders 22/6d. The drawback, to our mind, is the necessity of cutting the meter stamps strictly to size, as well as the cost - more than the material is worth.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Two interesting early "specimens" submitted by Mr George Pearson;



G.B. NOTES.

Since the introduction of "tapes" into this country in 1938 it has been a post office requirement that the name of the meter user or the number of the machine and town of use shall be shown along the edge of the "tape". Collectors have always been at a loss to understand the reason for this - not customary in any other country - seeing that the details of number and town (the alternative of the user's name was infrequently used) were necessarily printed by the meter. For some time now it has been quite usual to find "tapes" printed for use with one machine actually used with another, so that the numbers do not agree, though the post office have not apparently noticed or taken action.

Lately, the post office requirement appears to have been dropped, without so far as we are aware any public notice, and we have seen anonymous "tapes" both from Pitney-Bowes and from Roneo-Neopost machines. Probably none of the new Pitney-Bowes Model 5400/5500 machines have been issued with individual "tapes". The "tapes" continue to bear the safety background patterns, and we do not know whether this remains a P.O. requirement.

Highest Numbers. The reports continue to be few but we have to thank Messrs George Pearson, John T. Brown, and M. Richards as well as those who have sent reports of the Neopost mentioned below. There is nothing new for the Automax nor for the Pitney-Bowes Model CV and the records now stand:

AH 159  
J 1185

PB 941A  
NL 770

PC 119  
SP 134

Highest Numbers; Neopost. The only member to submit a list covering the larger towns outside London is Mr John T. Brown. His highest are :  
London W.1. .. N 1687 (but Mr E. S. Lapham submits N 1777)  
Birmingham . N 801; Glasgow . N 838; Liverpool . N 680; Manchester N 928.  
Thus nowhere except London W.1 has yet reached the 1000 mark. Two other London districts have reached 500 - W.C.1, N 560 and W.C.2, N 643. All are the current "Emblems" design except Liverpool (still EiiR) which suggests that Mr Brown's source of supply from Mersyside is not so good as from other places! Can any other member do better?

Mr Brown suggests trying to bring up to date the town list compiled a few years ago by Mr Jennings and submits a partial draft covering the Neopost machines in counties and cities beginning with "B"; differing from Mr Jennings's list, he includes numbers for each type (GvR, GviR, EiiR, and Emblems) - however, the lack of interest taken in the earlier publication and the great amount of work entailed at arriving at a reasonable completeness makes us doubt whether it would be worth while. What do others think?



ITALY: The Pitney-Bowes Meters.

Mr Werner Simon justifiably expresses surprise that we have so few examples of these; he has numbers running as high as P.B.101, but following his recent removal his complete records are still packed away. However, P.B 18 and 26 have P.B and the No. to the left of the town circle, like 25 illustrated. P.B 14 has Roman month figure like 7, 8 and 12. With figures of value as :-

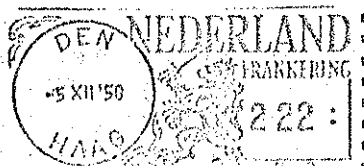
w000	he reports P.B 16 and 100 (like 7 and 12 already listed);
w00w	" " 6, 11, 43 ( " 8 );
000w	" " 14, 18, 23, 26, 27 (like 15, 25, 35);
0000	" " 17, 25, 97, 101 (like 10)

His "no number" has w00w which might be actually the same as the one already listed. No clear pattern emerges from these.

Mr E. S. Lapham sends us photo copies of two machines which had not been included in our article - P.B 11 (also included in Mr Simon's list) and P.B 32 which appears to be unique in showing only three figures of value (680) without wavy lines before or after, though possibly they have failed to print in this copy.

Mr Simon mentions that P.B 16 has slogan "Ministero delle Poste / e delle Telecomunicazioni / Ispezione centrale / "Escopost", thus apparently having official usage.

No other member has reported any, which seems to confirm their scarcity - at least on this side of the Atlantic.



Mr Lapham sends also copies of proofs or essays for the Netherlands and for Japan. The former is somewhat like the Belgian design but has the Netherlands Lion, smaller and facing left; the town name is DEN / HAAG and not the usual Dutch style s'GRAVENHAGE. Below the value in small lettering is P.B. METER 2.

Though not strictly within the scope of our article, the Japanese Essay is of interest in that it is much wider than that of any other country and has seven figures of value, as 11100<sup>00</sup>, though it is possible that the last two or all four of the zeros may be "fixed" in the die.

THE SWISS "POSTAL STATIONERY" METERS.

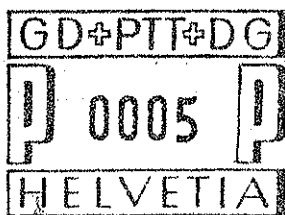
by Heiner Dürst.

In many countries it is, or was, possible to have private envelopes, cards, wrappers etc. impressed with postage to avoid the work of affixing adhesive postage stamps before posting. Prior to the introduction of meters this practice was quite often used by big firms.

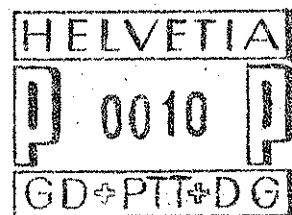
In Switzerland this facility was withdrawn by the Postal Authorities on 19th March 1930, "because, due to the introduction of meters there seems to be no necessity to maintain it". But not later than 23rd July of the same year - due to many representations by the public - the Post Office had to reintroduce the service of stamping private envelopes, but decided to carry out the franking not by means of the old printing dies but with a meter.



Type 1.



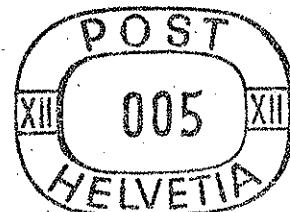
Type 2.



Type 3.



Type 4.



Type 5.

A special design of die was used for this purpose (type 1) with "HELVETIA" at the top and "O.P.D.- D.G.P." at the bottom. The abbreviations stand for "Ober-Post-Direktion" in German and "Direction Generale des Postes" in French or "Direzione Generale delle Poste" in Italian. At each side of the value was "P.P." standing for "port paye" or postage paid. The printing of values was limited to the postal values of 5, 10, 20, 30, 40 and 60 centimes. At first a 4 bank machine was used, known only in 0010, 0020 and 0030. These are rare.

Shortly afterwards the machine was changed to one with 3 bank figures of value and of this all values except the 060 are known. I also have in my collection an "irregular" value of 025 centimes.

In March 1939 the die was redesigned (as type 2) with "GD-PTT-DG" at the top and "HELVETIA" at the bottom. The abbreviations in this case stand for "General Direktion - Posts, Telegraphs, Telephones - Direction Generale".

At first 3 bank, it was altered to 4 bank in 1942. In each type all six values are known but the 060 is very rare (not more than 250 were printed - ordered by myself.)

In 1945 the restriction on values was removed so that any value could be obtained although the minimum order had to be for at least 250 of any one value. This practically limits the orders to the rates for printed papers, cards and letters (5, 10 and 20 centimes) and other values are rarely wanted.

In 1954 the inscriptions at the top and bottom were reversed (type 3), so that the abbreviations were at the bottom and "HELVETIA" at the top. In this type I have only seen 0005, 0010 and 0020 cts.

A completely new oval design was introduced in 1960 with "POST" at the top and "HELVETIA" at the bottom (type 4). On each side is the Roman numeral "XII". (I - XI are the numbers of the eleven Postal Districts and XII is a special number for these machines). Figures of value are 4 bank and the most common values are 0005, 0010 and 0020. I myself ordered 250 of the 0015 and these are thus rather scarce.

Finally, for 20 days only in 1960 the normal machine was replaced by a 3 bank model (type 5) whilst repairs were carried out. Purely by chance I ordered 250 of the 005 value. The 020 is also known to me but no other, both are very rare.

This then is the story of a rather neglected type; they are well worth collecting, and watching in the future.

#### BILINGUAL TOWNMARKS.

Referring to our note in the last MSB on a townmark from Italy reading BOLZANO / BOZEN, Mr Werner Simon writes:

"Bilingual townmarks from Italy are not surprising because as you know, Bolzano is located in the former Austrian Tyrol where today German is still a second language. You find townmarks from Meran / Merano also. The regular cancellations from there are also bilingual. You may remember the earlier occurrence of an Italian meter with two languages, see B&S Nos.17a and 47."

(These are former Yugoslav meters fitted with "POSTE ITALIANE" franks during the Italian occupation of Slovenia, the townmarks reading "Lubliana / Ljubljana". - Editor.)



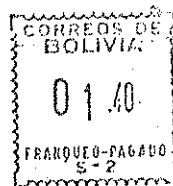
NOVELTIES FROM OVERSEAS.

AUSTRALIA. The Neopost 205 has been introduced here, according to Mr W. J. Webster, writing in the "Australian Stamp Monthly" of June 1964. The frank resembles that of the Frankmaster (ram at top, map at bottom) but with wider box for value. Date (Arabic figure for month) and value are as in G.B. With the change to decimal currency, this will have a short life.

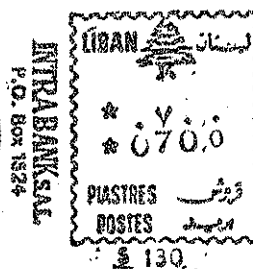
From the same source we learn that the latest Simplex machines have 1d units, franking from 0 to 2/- or from 1d to 2/1.

BOLIVIA. The first meter reported in the new currency, shown us by Mr E. S. Lapham, a "Satas" with typical date figures.

BANCO CENTRAL  
DE  
BOLIVIA  
Dept. BANCARIO



VISIT  
LEBANON  
THE TOURISTIC  
PARADISE

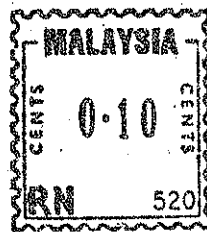
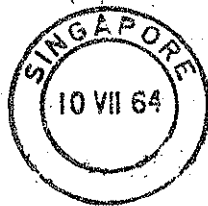


LEBANON. Meters are now in use. Mr J. C. Mann has shown us the one illustrated here (? Postalia), and Mr Werner Simon also reports P 101 (Postalia), P.B.104, S 001 (large die) and S 110 (small die).

MALAYA. Referring to our note on page 28 of the June M.S.B., various members have reported that Automax dies U.313 (Penang), U.316 and U.321 (both Singapore) all have the large Universal-style lettering, but U.396 has the smaller, Frankmaster-style lettering like U.398.

NOVELTIES FROM OVERSEAS (Contd.)

MALAYSIA. The first from this new country shown us by Capt. G. K. Gillberry, - a Frankmaster similar to that of Malaya but with an inner frame line added. Numbering apparently continued from the Malayan series.



NORTHERN RHODESIA. Mr J. C. Mann has shown us a copy of the N 140 mentioned in our last, confirming that the name reads "NORTHERN RHODESIA" (in two lines) and "POSTAGE PAID", with the Royal Cipher removed, values seen are 1/- and 3<sup>d</sup>. This will be very short lived.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA. Mr E. S. Lapham reports that he has N 162 (Salisbury) with "RHODESIA NYASALAND" die on 12 XI 63, and the same altered to "SOUTHERN RHODESIA" with crown and cipher deleted, as N 424 already reported, on 30 XII 63. He further points out that the earlier die has "POSTAGE POSTAGE" and the later "POSTAGE PAID".

SWITZERLAND. At the beginning of the present year, Switzerland introduced a system of postal region or zone numbers to facilitate sorting the mail, apparently on the German rather than the U.S. plan. According to the "Board of Trade Journal", Geneva has the number 1201, Berne 3005, Basel 4001, Zürich 8008. Like the earlier German numbers, these are being inserted before the name in the townmarks, and Mr Simon has shown us an example (Hasler 6934) with TM "1200 GENEVE 21 / SECHERON"; as we understand is now usual, the letter "M" appears in the lower segment instead of the meter number.

UGANDA. The Frankmaster type of the Postal Union of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika with the name of the individual territory substituted for the triple name has already been reported for Kenya and for Tanganyika; we now have Uganda - N 679, used from Kampala, Uganda. It will be noted that the new types for all three territories are numbered in the 600s and presumably in the same series. It will be interesting to see whether Zanzibar is brought in, now that it is united with Tanganyika; the few used examples from Zanzibar seen so far are merely inscribed "ZANZIBAR" at the top.