

HON. SECRETARY/TREASURER  
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EDITOR OF BULLETIN  
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SECRETARY'S NOTES

Membership. We are pleased to welcome three new members :-

- |                             |                                                       |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| (172) E. Keith Lloyd, Esq., | 68 Albert Park Road, Malvern Link,<br>Worcestershire. |
| (173) James F. A. Stuart,   | Box 283, North Vancouver, B.C.,<br>CANADA.            |
| (174) W. A. Herbert, Esq.,  | 23 Bamburgh Grove, Jarrow-on-Tyne,<br>Co. Durham.     |

Changes of address. Please make special note of the change of my own !!

- |                     |                                                                   |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| John C. Mann,       | 19 Chartham Road, South Norwood, LONDON, S.E.25.                  |
| Charles H. Smith,   | 16521 Hiawatha Street, Granada Hills,<br>California 91344, U.S.A. |
| Lt. Col. de Wailly, | 9 Rue de Villersexel, Paris 7, FRANCE.                            |
| Burleigh E. Jacobs, | 13370 West Bluemount Road, Elm Grove,<br>Wisconsin 53122, U.S.A.  |

Wants and Offers.

D. R. Burchell, Eastfield House, Portobello, Edinburgh 15, offers an accumulation of British Meters, all reigns represented, a good lot at 22/6 per 1000, plus 4/6 postage (under 12 lbs).

James F. A. Stuart (address above) wants G.B. with Shakespeare or Churchill slogans, "will buy or trade".

Next Bulletin.

This will be dated September, 1965; reports of "Highest Numbers" and other items of interest should reach the Editor before the end of August.

## THE ORIGINATORS OF THE POSTAGE METER

Readers of the frequent advertisements and other literature issued by Messrs Pitney-Bowes Ltd. will have certainly noticed the often-repeated claim that this firm was the "originator of the postage meter machine"; and those among our members who are aware that the Meter Stamp Catalogue compiled by Messrs Barfoot and Simon lists machines used in Norway in 1900 and in New Zealand from 1904, long before the establishment of the firm of Pitney-Bowes (in the United States) in 1920, may be inclined to doubt the claim, to say the least, as an exaggeration.

Mr J. T. Gilligan, the English firm's Marketing Director, puts forward the following justification :

Before the actual founding of Pitney-Bowes, Mr Pitney had submitted his idea for approval to the U.S. Post Office. What Pitney-Bowes claim is that they are the originators of the Postage Meter Machine; in other words, originators of the machine which gave postal franking by means of a Meter. This did not apply to either Norwegian or New Zealand machines since they were coin-operated and payment was not made to the Postal Authorities by means of a Postage Meter.

According to U.S. official records as extracted by Mr H. O. Meisel and published by the American Metered Postage Society, the first postage meter devised by Arthur H. Pitney was given official trial from Nov. 1903 to Mar. 1904, but this was used only for mail of an official nature and no rate of postage was shown; his first meter showing a rate of postage was given trial in May 1912. A postage meter designed by Walter Bowes was proposed in 1918 but was never put into use.

The authoritative work on the "Postage Stamps of New Zealand" published by the Royal Philatelic Society of N.Z., and summarised in the MSB nearly three years ago, confirmed that all the earlier franking machines in that country were coin-operated; the first machines working on the "meter" principle were introduced in mid-1906 - the exact date being unrecorded.

### Pitney-Bowes in the United Kingdom.

The first marketing of postal franking equipment in this country was undertaken by the Postage Meters and Machines Co., who were the branch in the U.K. of the American company of the same name - the marketing subsidiary of Pitney-Bowes.

Subsequently Universal Postal Frankers Ltd, formed in 1922 (to exploit here Ernest Moss's machines which had originated in New Zealand) marketed postal franking machine equipment. In 1929, the majority interest in Universal Postal Frankers was taken over by Pitney-Bowes and the two marketing organisations were merged with Universal Postal Frankers continuing as the operating company. In 1960, the company was re-named Pitney-Bowes Ltd. to adopt the same identity as its American parent and, at the same time, the minority shareholding was also acquired.

## RONEO-NEOPOST LIMITED - A SHORT HISTORY

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by W. H. Appleton (Assistant Manager)

The introduction of postal franking into the United Kingdom was in great measure due to the late Mr E. H. Kinnard, brother of a former chairman of Roneo Ltd. In 1924 he formed an organisation, International Neopost Ltd., with a subsidiary, British Neopost Ltd.

The first Neopost machine was manufactured in 1925 and sold both by British Neopost and by Roneo Ltd. under an agency agreement; often these were in competition with each other. The first machine was a single-value rotary model and this was followed by a 4-value model in 1927, with a re-designed 3-value in 1928 and a 6-value machine two years later.

It was in 1930 that British Neopost was acquired by Roneo Ltd. and operated as a department. A year later, because of the special organization needed to market, license and maintain franking machines, Roneo-Neopost Ltd. was formed as a wholly-owned subsidiary, and export activities were taken over from International Neopost Ltd. Production of machines were transferred to the Roneo factory at Romford.

In 1952 the Neopost 8-value model superseded the 6-value, and three years later the multi-value hand and electric Frankmaster was introduced in order to cover fully the postages required by parcels and airmails. The Frankmaster (now designated the Model 305) continues to be sold up to the present time.

The next addition to the Neopost range of franking machines was the small multi-value Model 205. Designed from the first as a compact electric model and characterised as a breakthrough in franking, it had an immediate success on its release in 1963.

This was followed in October 1964 by the Neopost 105, a much improved and smaller version of the 8-value model, yet offering a range of ten values. The 105 traces its origin back through various stages of development to some of the earliest Neopost models. A simple and inexpensive machine, it is the key to franking - like its predecessors - for the many thousands of smaller businesses still using stamps.

Since the early sixties, a much wider range of mail-room equipment has been able to be offered by the acquisition of a number of exclusive agencies. These include the Bell & Howell Phillipsburgh Inserter (U.S.A.), the Rototype Cheque and Document Signer and Dater (Italy), the Presto-Fold Folder (Holland), the Okafold Folder/Inserter (Germany), as well as the Neopost Envelope Opener and Sealer in association with the International Coin Counting Machine Company.

G.B. NOTES

New Postal Rates. The new inland and Commonwealth rates, introduced on 17th May, mean that odd halfpence disappear from all inland rates, though the minimum rate for Commonwealth and foreign printed papers remains at 2½d. The 4½d is no longer required, and it is possible that, now the uncertainty regarding the change is ended, the useless 3½d and 4½d values on the new Neopost 205 will be replaced by, say, 5½d and 10d values. Otherwise, the only other novelty to be looked for is a 4d value on one of the very few P-B single-value meters still in use.

Neopost Number "Oddity". Following the mention of a number "N 117A" from Stockton-on-Tees in our last Bulletin, Mr J. E. Cope has shown us "N255A" from Stockport, Cheshire, and several other members have reported various numbers followed by "A" from a wide range of towns. Messrs Roneo-Neopost have kindly supplied the following explanation: these are from the new ten-value Model 105, which are being numbered on a National basis like most other series (both Neopost and Pitney-Bowes) instead of separately for each town as has been the Neopost practice for all their earlier F.V. and L.V. machines. Similarly to the P-B Model 5000 series, the numbers will run up to "N 999A", then "N 1B" to "N 999B", and so on.

Neopost Numbers. Manchester is the first place outside the London region to reach the 1000 mark, and Mr Richards reports N 1005 used 1 II 65; a copy of the same number has been shown us by a member whose name has regrettably been mislaid - apologies! With the change to the Model 105 and national numbering, it is unlikely that the numbers will show much further increase.

P-B Single-value Meters. Although some of these machines are still in use, Messrs Pitney-Bowes tell us, it was found impractical because of size to fit the latest design of die. Therefore, so long as they remain in use the old-style franks will continue in use. [This was before the latest increase in postal rates, which may well have hastened their disappearance.]

P-B Models 5400 - 5500. Mr M. Richards notes that the initials "PB" are slightly larger on later machines; the lowest number he has with the larger size is "PB 556B".

Town-Name error. It is quite a long time since we had report of an error in the spelling of a town-name. Mr J. Daynes now reports N 27 of Aylesbury used on 27 X 64 with the townmark spelt "AYLEBURY" (without "S"); this had been corrected by 22 III 65. Has anyone any earlier or intervening dates?

Highest Numbers. Thanks to reports from Messrs D. Fletcher, M. Richards, G. R. Pearson, quite a lot of progress has been made; also, we can now add the Neopost 105 to the series covered. The latest reports are :-

AH 165*	P.B.266C	FC 138	SN 683
N 469A	J 2403	NO-389	

\* No change here since our last Bulletin, and probably the highest reached.)

## IRISH NOTES

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Date of First Issue. The exact date when the first franking machine in the Irish Republic (Eire) commenced operating appears not to have been recorded, but the Secretary to the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Dublin, informs us that they were authorised by a Statutory Instrument which came into effect on 1st January 1925. However, Messrs Universal Postal Frankers Ltd. (now Pitney-Bowes Ltd.) did not enter into a bond with the Department until 9th July of that year, while Roneo-Neopost entered into agreement with them on 20th August 1931 - which seems to imply that the Neopost machines were not licenced until 1931.

Highest Number ? . A cover recently received from a firm in Cork (Corcaigh) was franked by Neopost (whether the new Model 105 or the old 8-V it is impossible to decide) numbered N 892, which seems a surprisingly high number for the country.

Slogans in Contrasting Colours. See under this heading on page 69.

Simplex Value Figures. Just as in Great Britain, the Simplex machines are now being issued with the Automax-style value figures. Mr Pearson reports S 198.

AUTOMAX : A, PB, U.  
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When the Automax machines were introduced into Great Britain in 1958 to replace the twenty-five year old "Universal (Frankopost) Multi-value" model, exactly the same type of frank die was retained, only with the key-letter "A" instead of "U", numbers starting again at "1". The same principle was followed in Eire (the Republic of Ireland).

Most countries however continued numbering from (at least, it so appears) the last of the old MVs, though using a modified and slightly smaller die of similar design and still with the letter "U". Examples are New Zealand, Malaya, Thailand, Hong Kong, Sudan, South Africa.

Countries which had not previously used the MV machines - or indeed any meters at all - such as Bermuda, Cyprus, Malta, however adopted the letters "P.B." for the prefix.

There are a few countries not falling into any of these three groups; Australia (which does not number the meters according to make), and Ceylon (which follows the "U" group except that no letter appears for either make).

A curious exception has occurred in the East African Postal Union (Kenya-Uganda-Tanganyika). The earliest Automax machines used there had a frame die quite different from (smaller and simpler than) those of the old U MVs, and these were given the letter "A" but Mr Barfoot has now shown us one in this type with the letters "P.B.". This is P.B. 6, with townmark "NAIROBI", whereas he also possesses "A 6" from Mombasa. That they are different machines is confirmed by the figures of value, A 6 having figures

AUTOMAX : A, PB, U (Contd.)

as =0oi while P.B. 6 has figures as =0.oi with a stop separating the shillings and cents figures.

It would be interesting if one of our members would compile a list of countries using Automax machines - which are still in production for countries other than Great Britain - classifying them into the four groups as above, namely A, U, PB and X (exceptional numbering).

NEOPOST "RANGEMANSHIP"

At the Birmingham Business Efficiency Exhibition (17th to 22nd May), Roneo-Neopost were showing for the first time their three types of franking machines as a "range" to meet the needs of every user, from the one-man business to the most complex commercial company.

The smallest is their new "limited-value" machine, termed the Neopost 105, capable of ten different values as already described here (with rapid repeat action for other values), claimed to be the smallest and lowest-priced machine available in the U.K. at only £75.

Next comes the now well-established "Neopost 205" in two versions, electrically operated and capable of any value from  $\frac{1}{2}$ d to  $4/11\frac{1}{2}$  or  $9/11\frac{1}{2}$  respectively.

Largest is the Frankmaster, now renamed the "Neopost 305", with built-in label device and sealing attachment, and in four versions extending to values as high as  $99/11\frac{1}{2}$ .

Neopost too, covers in its activities many forms of mail-handling, including folding, sealing, opening, inserting and card-counting equipment.



"LETTRES SANS TIMBRES"

The accompanying illustration, on an envelope (unaddressed) in the possession of the Hon. Editor, is believed to be a "specimen" from the Universal N.Z. machine submitted for use in France. Actually the cover bears four identical impressions of the same 10c frank. No British-made machines have ever been used in France.

## POSTAL ZONE NUMBERS

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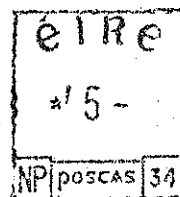
Referring to the notes on the German and Swiss systems in our last two Bulletins, Mr Barfoot says that the "missing" German number 11 in the old system was intended for Sudatenland, and 4 to 9 probably for Pomerania, Silesia, etc.; No 18 was for the Saar but never appeared in meter townmarks.

Eastern Germany ("DDR") has recently adopted a system similar to the now current West-German one, and Austria is expected to do so.

Reversing the original ruling of the United States P.O. Department, the five-figure "ZIP" codes are henceforward to be shown in the townmarks.

## SLOGANS IN CONTRASTING COLOURS

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As indicated in the "Stop Press" to our previous note on this subject (page 52, March MSB), there has been a surprising development: a member, Mr M. Richards (Durham) has shown us one from Ireland (Eire), produced of course by a British-made machine, the Neopost Model 205 ! This is illustrated above, the intricate letter "R" being in black with the townmark and frank as usual in red.

The Manager of the Neopost Dublin office confirms that this is in order, the use of coloured slogans having been approved by the Irish Post Office; they have already been adopted by several firms, and he sends us a proof from another machine from Cork (Corcaigh) with green slogan and the new "Arms" type of frank.

The Neopost Model 205 appears to be the only British-made machine capable of coloured slogans, being the only machine which prints the design from top to bottom instead of from left to right; having regard to the changed policy of the British G.P.O. on stamp issues, it might be expected that we should see coloured slogans here also before long. However, Messrs Roneo-Neopost inform us that they do not intend to exploit this possibility in view of the ease with which the wrong ink could be put on the wrong roller and the trouble caused thereby. (But why should British office-boys be more careless or stupid than those of Ireland or Denmark, we wonder ?)

Mr Richards has reported as many as fifteen more from Denmark, all from Hasler machines, in blue, black or green, used in a wide range of towns. It has not so far been mentioned that these machines have the five-figure record number immediately above the slogan and in the same

## SLOGANS IN CONTRASTING COLOURS (Contd)

colour, close to and left of the townmark circle, and Mr Pearson reports machine B 7000 as having the record number alone in black, without a slogan.

Meanwhile, Mr Thorsten Ingeloff (Sweden) reports three more from that country, all in blue from Stockholm, one with an amusing design which he describes as "woman in nightdress and with rolling-pin, waiting at door and words 'Salve kvick'" (Lic. 9237).

Mr Ingeloff adds "As to the scarce use of the bi-coloured slogans, the reason for the Taxo-post is that the dying of two separate colour-rollers means quite an additional care and work for the office boy/operator, and a tendency of overlapping and smearing obnoxious to the manager. Consequently, hardly used by the more important firms (although) price additions for these machines are insignificant !

"Any bi-coloured Haslers used in Sweden so far not seen by me.

"The official permission to use two colours, red and optional, is general".

Incidentally, only one member has ventured to put forward a more concise term: Hr Heiner Dürst (Switzerland) suggests "multi-coloured meters", but we are afraid this will not do. "Multi" implies "many" whereas only two colours are involved, and even "bi-coloured" seems to suggest that the whole impression is in two colours (like some of the "freak" United States impressions reported some years ago.) We must therefore keep to our original description.

## NEW ZEALAND

A few years ago, we published an extensive summary of the chapter on Franking Machines in the comprehensive work "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" published by the Royal Philatelic Society of N.Z. A supplementary volume, with addenda, has now been published, and we are indebted to Mr George Pearson for a copy of the relevant section.

The most important discovery is of a hitherto unknown type from the "Wales" machine. Three copies have been seen, we are told, and it appears that a new die was fitted during the last period of use of the machine, between October 1904 and February 1905. It is an elongated upright oval, worded between the lines "NEW ZEALAND" at top and "ONE PENNY" below, with "PAID" vertically upwards in the centre.

Some further information has become available about the post-office machines for franking parcels. As a result of trials, machines have been installed at several large offices. The first "National" machine was installed at Wellington Parcels Branch on Dec. 11, 1959; these record values up to £1. 19. 11½d. A "Setright" was on trial at the same office from Aug. 16 to Sep. 2, 1960, recording amounts up to 19s.11d. only; so far as reported, no more of this make have been accepted.

Owing to the wide use now made of franking machines by Government Departments, it has been decided to discontinue issuing Official stamps, the present set was to be withdrawn from sale at the close of business on March 31st, 1965. (N.Z. P.O. Philatelic Bulletin, quoted by "Stamp Collecting", March 12, 1965.)



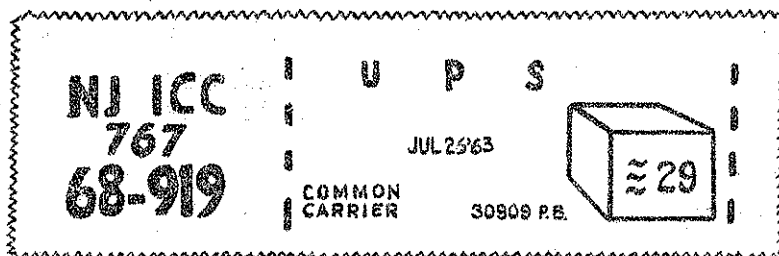
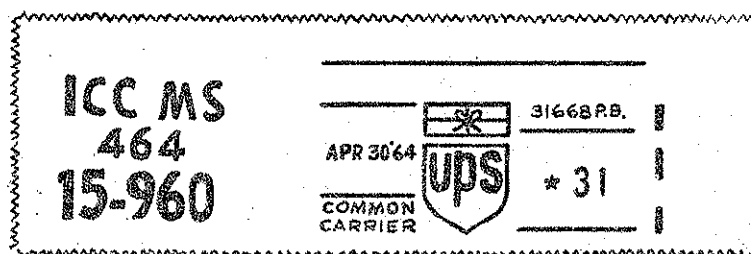
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - UNITED PARCEL SERVICE.

Employees of the United States Post Office have recently been alerted to prevent parcels intended for delivery by United Parcel Service being accepted in normal parcel mails. Through mis-understanding consignees sometimes hand back parcels for "return to sender" to the wrong channel. The Post Office notice states that such articles can only be accepted when they have been re-wrapped and Post Office postage has been paid.

In common with many other countries the United States does not give a monopoly of Parcel Post to its Post Office and as in Great Britain (the Railways and some provincial bus companies), Belgium (Railways) and also Australia (Railways in at least one State) meters are used to denote the postage paid.

United Parcel Service was formed in Seattle, Washington, in 1907 and now operates what is known as a "common carrier" service in the whole or part of some 29 states and wherever it is authorised to operate the Company provides a full service, i.e. picking up and delivering at any point. The service is used a great deal by the large department stores.

UPS started using Pitney-Bowes machines, some of them rebuilt models, in 1960 and many users have two machines, one for USPO and one for UPS, printing on tapes issued by the same base mechanism.



Several basic designs of PB machines have been seen, two of which are illustrated; an earlier one consisted mainly of a rectangle of horizontal lines. Within each design the various sub-types of Figures of Value etc occur. The colours of impressions (as on most USA meters) varies, red and blue seem the most common. The "slogan" consists of groups of letters and numbers, which show the State, usually abbreviated into two letters, the

USA - UNITED PARCEL SERVICE (Contd.)

Parcel Post unit number from the Post Office Directory, the first digit of the Zip Code number, the UPS district number and lastly the senders account number. Tapes are either plain or with "metered mail" underprint.

Postalia and NCR meters are also in use. The Postalia design is in general the same as that of the P-B, but there are minor differences in the Figures of Value, etc. The NCR design is in their usual "cash register" label format. The P-B and Postalia machines are rented and the NCR can be purchased outright.

An unusual feature of UPS operations (to us in GB at least) is that the driver checks the meter readings and accounts are rendered weekly, the machines do not have to be taken to the local office for re-setting.

UPS are planning to extend their operations throughout the United States, so more developments in these machines may be expected. Our Associates the Meter Stamp Society, in the USA, have published a detailed listing of the varieties and types in their "Meter Stamp Society Bulletin" recently, and acknowledgements are due to them for much of this information.

- J. C. Mann.

USA - INCREASED DOMESTIC POSTAGE RATES - SINGLE DENOMINATION 2<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>c METERS.

Postmasters at offices where modified Commercial Controls Corp. (Friden, Inc.) and Pitney-Bowes, Inc. Postage Meters are temporarily licenced for use to print 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>c single denomination postage were reminded that effective January 1, 1965, this rate increased to 2<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>c.

Since the ascending and descending registers of these particular meters record in single units only, each unit representing 2<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>c (\$0.02875) in postage, utmost care must be exercised in setting and recording transactions to assure correct accountability. The descending registers must always be set for the number of 2<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>c UNITS (not postage) purchased. For example, the meter postage is computed as follows :-

Number of UNITS purchased	X	Cost of Single UNIT chargeable	=	Meter postage
1000	X	2 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> c or \$0.02875	=	\$ 28.75
5000	X	2 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> c or \$0.02875	=	\$143.75

NOVELTIES FROM OVERSEAS  
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Note: to save space, members furnishing our information are denoted below by their initials, thus - SDB (Mr Barfoot), GRP (Mr Pearson), MdW (Lt.Col. de Wailly, Paris), MSSB (Meter Stamp Society Bulletin, United States).

ALGERIA. New Republican design illustrated, Havas model CG. (SDB)

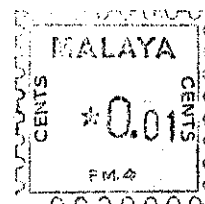
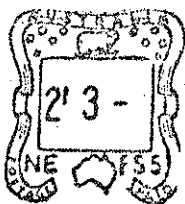
ANDORRA. An unexpected country for meter usage; of the French type, frank has at top "PRINCIPAUTE / D'ANDORRE", with circular townmark inscribed "ANDORRE-LA-VIEILLE". Number "P.00232" apparently in the French series. 3 Figs of Value. (MdW)

NOVELTIES FROM OVERSEAS (Contd.)

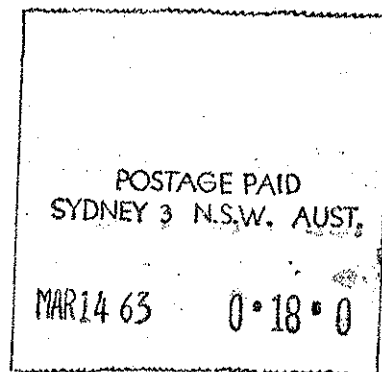
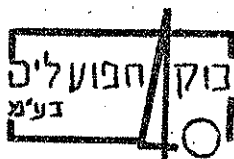
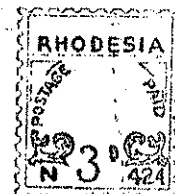
AUSTRALIA. Neopost Model 205, previously reported, now illustrated; note the identification number - two letters at left, two letters and figures at right. (SDB)

N.C.R. for parcel post illustrated; nothing but words and figures !  
(Also SDB)

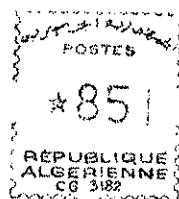
BOLIVIA. Postalia with new currency, "peso boliviano" (1000 former bolivianos), indicated as "¢b" preceding four f. of v. in usual Postalia style.  
(SDB)



LANDSRANKI ÍSLANDS  
AUSTURBÆJARÚTIBÚ



== 28 VII 64 == ALGER-R.P ==



NOVELTIES FROM OVERSEAS (Contd.)

BRAZIL. By a Federal law signed on Dec. 2, 1964, the centavo fraction of the cruzeiro was abolished, Mr Ernst Muhr tells us; but, he adds, this does not mean that all meters will be changed immediately, and the change will probably take several years to complete. In the meantime, they have the "craziest combinations", about which he will tell us when he has got them sorted out.

CHILE. New type (probably Francotyp) for registered mail; plain rect. frank, "CORREOS DE / CHILE" at top, "PORTE PAGADO" at bottom; to left, in one line, - date - hour - tall "R", serial no., and "C.T." above number (presumably machine no.), all above town name also in one line. C.T.9, C.T.14, and C.T.23 seen, all SANTIAGO. (SDB)

FRANCE. The "P" series (not previously mentioned here, ? make) is known with 2, 3 or 4 figures of value. (Mdw)

ICELAND. Postalia illustrated. On date 14.8.63 this had four figs. of value with star before and after; same machine (No.503) on date 11.6.64 has right hand star replaced by ( ? fixed) 0. (SDB)

ISRAEL. Satas (?) illustrated; no.396 from unusual town of ZEFAT. (SDB)

MALAYA. Satas illustrated - whether this is for ordinary usage or for parcel post, we do not know. (GRP)

NEW ZEALAND. Automax, changed type of die: U 621 is like the Universal MV, but U 675 has double parallel lines at sides of value like Simplex. Lowest number for Automax is probably U 616. (SDB)

PORTUGAL. GRP reports Hasler machine with usual circular design, and prefix "XI" to number (XI-007 seen). The B & S catalogue records prefix "I" as having been allocated to Hasler F88 machines, though none had appeared when the Catalogue was published; however, we have "I - 018" in design similar to the Universal MV, used 19.1.62 (value as 00%io). (Editor)

RHODESIA. Neopost design of the former Federation, with crown and cipher removed and blank over "RHODESIA" alone in top panel. N 424 (Salisbury) with values 3D and 1/- (GRP)

UNITED STATES. Certain of the Pitney-Bowes Series 5000 meters have been made to print values in  $\frac{1}{8}$  steps to provide for "bulk rate" postage; model 5310 can print all values from  $.00\frac{1}{8}$  to  $1.09\frac{7}{8}$  and model 5317 prints all from  $.00\frac{1}{8}$  to  $9.99\frac{7}{8}$ . The only current postal rate involving fractions (other than the  $1\frac{1}{4}$  cent minimum for non-profit organisations) is the  $2\frac{1}{8}$  cent for the minimum regular bulk rate, and this is due to go up to 3 cents next year (having been increased by  $\frac{1}{8}$  cent a year since 1963), so that all the odd rates will then be eliminated. However, it will still be possible to identify prints from these special machines even when no fractions are printed, because the dots : at the right are much more widely spaced than those of other models of this line.

Having presumably reached 599,999, the numbering of the P-B series 5000 meters has jumped to the 800,000 series, while the Model DM has now started on the 700,000 series. (MSSB)

ENCLOSURES

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Canadian strip with the compliments of Mr H. K. Warren, Vancouver.