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SECRETARY'S NOTES.

Membership. For the first time for many months, we have no new members to list, or changes of address to record !

Publications. At long last we will, by the time this Bulletin is sent out to members, have printed the "Meter Stamps of the Indian Sub-Continent". This is the Groups latest publication and its production has only been made possible by the willing help and co-operation of many of the members, to whom thanks are due. The best way you can support the Groups policy of publishing books on meters IS TO BUY ONE FOR YOURSELF. An order form will be found enclosed.

Next Bulletin. This will be dated December 1965, and will, it is hoped, be issued before Christmas; notes and news should be sent to the present Editor before the end of November.

Do YOU wish that to be the final, farewell issue ? No names for a successor as Editor have as yet been put forward. To enable us to carry on, even provisionally, we must have more copy in a readily useable form; information contained in a letter, and examples of new and unrecorded types are always welcome, but it takes time to write them in a readable form.
PLEASE HELP !

THE BUSINESS EFFICIENCY EXHIBITION AND METERS
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We recently received a "press release" explaining the mailroom and paper-handling equipment (folding and inserting machinery) marketed by Roneo-Neopost, to be exhibited at this year's Business Efficiency Exhibition, together with their range of franking machines.

This was sent to us on behalf of Neopost by their publicity agents, and the envelope was, naturally, meter-franked. What we failed to notice at first sight was that the machine used was a Pitney-Bowes "Simplex" ! It is to be hoped that not many other recipients of the circular noticed the faux pas.

The exhibition is to take place at Olympia, London, from October 5th to 13th.

Messrs Pitney-Bowes have also sent us a press release about the mailing equipment they are to show, including a new Mailing Scale, Addresser Printer machines, etc. Their publicity was franked by their own Model 5500 meter number PB 501A.

AUTOMAX: A, PB, U.
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Mr G. R. Pearson has kindly submitted a list of countries using the Automax machines, detailing the prefix letter used. Some of them are noted on the basis of "proof" impressions, and it is possible though unlikely that the issued dies may show a change; these are marked by a * below. The position is not quite so simple as we had supposed, and by no means all of the countries in the "P.B." group are new users.

A. The only countries using the obvious letter "A" are three mentioned before, namely :

Great Britain, Ireland (Eire), Kenya-Uganda-Tanganyika.

P.B. Countries using the prefix "P.B.": are:

Bahrain, Belgium (has "P.B." and "U" together! but numbers do not follow the older "U"), Bermuda, Brazil, Chile (numbers here appear to follow the "U", Greece, Iran, Japan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands (numbers may follow the "U"), Panama, *Peru, Venezuela.

(Inclusion of Cyprus in this group in our previous notes was due to a lapse of memory).

U. Countries using "U" or its continuation "UA" following the old "Multi-Value" numbers are :

Basutoland (UA 168 presumably in the South-African series), Burma, Cyprus (see note under "P.B." above), Ghana, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Malaya, Mozambique, *New Zealand, *Nigeria, *Rhodesia-Nyasaland, South Africa, South-West Africa, Sudan, Thailand, *Trinidad & Tobago.

AUTOMAX: A, PB, U. (Contd.)

X. Exceptional numbering.

- (1) Portugal has Roman-figure "IX" corresponding to other makes.
Israel has the same Hebrew letter "aleph" as most other makes.
- (2) The following countries have numbers without prefix but appear to be numbered consecutively with the "Universals":
Ceylon, China (Taiwan), Iceland (?), *Norway.
- (3) The following countries either show no numbers in the franks, or only a "licence" or "permit" number irrespective of make:
Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Pakistan.

No doubt there are some additions to be made. There are a few countries which have used in the past, or still do use, Universal M.V. machines (apart from countries which had only one, probably on a trial basis) but from which no Automax have yet been reported, notably India, China (mainland), Costa Rica and Poland. Either political reasons or shortage of foreign currency may be responsible.

G. B. NOTES.

Neopost Tape with Holes? A large envelope sent by British Railways (Paddington, London, W.2.) at the end of last year, franked by a roughly torn-off piece of the usual "Neopost" patterned tape bearing Frankmaster NJ-276 impression, has a series of holes along the "tape", about $5\frac{1}{2}$ mm in diameter, 12mm from the top edge and spaced about 42mm apart. Are these to assist some experimental "feed" mechanism, or just the result of the office-boys playing with the punch? (The holes are similar in size, though not in spacing, to an ordinary office punch for use in filing correspondence, and what might be the "cut-out" from one of the holes is stuck near the bottom edge of the tape.)

Pitney-Bowes Single-value. The first to report the expected 4d value in this old type was Mr G. R. Pearson. This is on the machine PB 2, used ever since 1922 by the Prudential Assurance Co. Ltd., "E ii R" cipher type, narrow setting with slogan. First date seen was 15 June 1965.

Highest Numbers. Thanks again for reports from Messrs D. Fletcher, G. R. Pearson and M. Richards, we have the following position:

P.B. 512C	PC 138*	SM 116
NO-389*	J 2403*	N 986A

(* No change since the last Bulletin.)

It will be seen that the Simplex prefix letters have now reached "SM"; Mr Pearson shows us one (London S.W.1.) with number apparently "SM086"; has anyone seen any other number with initial "O" or is this an error? "SL" has of course already been used for the two special label-issuing machines, though it could perhaps be used again for the normal machines after the end of the "SM"? Why have we no further news of two of the Neopost machines?

G. B. "MIXED FRANKINGS"

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Covers may sometimes be found (though not so often nowadays as when fixed-value machines were usual) showing two different types of impression used together to make up the postage. These can arise from two wholly different causes: (1) the letter or other item of mail may have been insufficiently franked when passed through the first machine, (e.g. at printed-paper rate instead of first-class rate, or for surface mail instead of air mail) and when this was noticed, it was passed through another machine - perhaps one more convenient for dealing with a single item - to make up the deficiency; or (2) the machine, a F.V. model, may have had different types of die for different denominations, owing to a revaluation subsequent to the construction of the machine, with a newer cipher for a substituted value, and it so happened that to make up the required postage, a die of each type was needed.

The first category is purely fortuitous and may show almost any two types of frank together; it was briefly referred to in MSB VI/61. The second category is the more interesting; it is quite often found with Midget machines, and may also occur with Universal NZ, Pitney-Bowes H, and (rarely) Neopost F.V. Mr Burchell has suggested the term "Composite" to designate the first and "Compound" for the second - though we are rather doubtful whether these terms make it clear which is which.

In order to eliminate cases where the two impressions on the cover arise merely from re-use of an old envelope franked previously, it must be added that, for the first category, both meter impressions must show the same date and be used by the same firm at the same address; for the second category, where there will normally be only a single townmark, both dies must show the same machine number. Some examples in Mr Burchell's collection are:

"Composite".

PB 2 (sq.c.*) $\frac{1}{2}$ d. with P 10 (GvR) 1d., both London E.C.1., 4 Jan 1937
(Prudential Assurance Co. Ltd.)

PB 69 (GvR) $\frac{1}{2}$ d. with U 365 (GvR) 0/1, both London N.W.1., 25 Oct 1938
(Carreras, Ltd.)

PB 76 (GvR) $\frac{1}{2}$ d. with NZ 11 (GvR) $\frac{1}{2}$ d and $\frac{1}{2}$ d., both London S.W.1.
15 July 1932 (I.C.I. Ltd.)

"Compound".

M 11 (sq.c.) $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. with M 11 (GvR) $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Birmingham, 30 IX 32
(Barlows)

N 7 (sq.c.) 1d. with N 7 (GvR) $\frac{1}{2}$ d., London E. C. 4., 18 XI 33
(John Dickinson & Co. Ltd.)

PB 60 (sq.c.) 1d. with PB 60 (GvR) $\frac{1}{2}$ d., Hull, Yorks., 27 Mar 1939
(National Radiator Co. Ltd.)

There does not seem to be any purpose in attempting to record all examples of the "Composite" category, but a record of further examples of the "Compound" might be interesting. There are of course many Midgets showing GvR with GviR, GvR with EviiiR, GviR with EiiR, etc.

* The first design, with circular arcs in the centre and value figures in each corner.

G.B. "Mixed Frankings" - Editors Note.

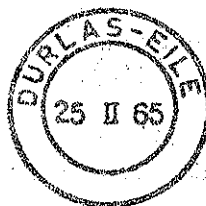
The notes on which the article on the previous page were based were sent to us several years ago by Mr D. R. Burchell. More than once they have been scheduled for publication in the MSB but at the last moment have had to be held over to accomodate more immediately topical material - apologies to Mr Burchell !

IRISH NOTES.
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Date of First Issue. In our last Bulletin, we quoted information from the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Dublin, to the effect that Roneo-Neopost did not enter into an agreement with the Department until 1931, which seemed to imply that Neopost machines were not licensed until then. Whatever the legal position, it is known that Neopost machines were in use several years earlier. Mr E. S. Lapham sends us photo-copies of impressions from N 1 of Luimneach (Limerick) dated 12 and 13 X 28, and the Barfoot-Simon Catalogue indicated the year 1926 (without a precise date); however, we now find that an early check-list "British Postage Meter-Frank Stamps" by J. H. Daniels, published in "The Stamp Lover" of November 1927, includes six Irish machines with the note "earliest date of issue, September 17th, 1926". The numbers are N 1 of Ceatharlach (Carlow), Corcaigh (Cork), Baile Atha Cliath (Dublin) and Luimneach (Limerick), and M 8 (Ligeach = Sligo) and M 10 (Baile Atha Cliath); whether the "N" or the "M" came first, or both at the same time, we do not know, but both must have been in use by 1927.

Incidentally, the numbers seem to confirm Barfoot's note that at first the Neopost were, as in G.B., numbered from 1 upwards in each town, but the Midgets were from the first numbered independently of town.

New Design.



Irish Notes - New Design (Contd.)

We now illustrate, on the previous page, the new design showing the Arms of the four Provinces as used for the Neopost Model 205 (NP) and Model 305 (NV) respectively, Mr M. Richards reports it also on the "N" series (probably Model 105), number N 963. We have not yet seen or had any reports of this design on any of the Pitney-Bowes machines.

As can be deduced from the "zero" values, the illustrations are both taken from "Specimens" - commercially used examples are not so clear.

According to the Irish Post Office Guide, the name "Durlas-Eile" in the townmark of NV 275 ought to have the county added, "Co. Thiobrad Arann" but doubtless this would be too long to fit in (in English, the name is Thurles, Co. Tipperary). The official spelling omits the hyphen but puts an accent on the "E".

The Model 205 (NP 56) from Cork has the slogan in green.

High Numbers. Mr Richards comments on our remark that N 892 seemed a surprisingly high number, and says he has found that firms in Ireland are very "meter minded", and taking into consideration that originally the "N" series started with N 1 in each town, there must be well over 1,000 in this series alone. He says that some years ago, he attempted to list all the users of meters in Ireland; he has the help of Mr Stelfox (Belfast), and asks whether any other members would be interested in helping also.

Bilingual Townmark. Whilst going over his "M" meters recently, Mr Richards came across a bi-lingual townmark, the only one he has seen and probably the only one that exists in the Emerald Isle. This is on M 177, and reads at top "MUINEACHAN" in Irish with the English "MONAGHAN" below.

Parcel Post Meters. It came as a surprise to learn recently from the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Dublin, that both the "T.I.M." and the "Simplex" parcel label issuing machines, which were introduced in 1949 and 1953 respectively, are still in use; on the other hand, the "Setright" machines now standard in Great Britain have not been tried in the Republic. The "Simplex" meters have never been altered, and retain their original range (? 1d to 2/1), but the "T.I.M." have had their twelve values altered several times, and now run to 3/-, though Irish inland parcel rates run to 6/- and most of the present values fitted are useless.

NOVELTIES FROM OVERSEAS.

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Our information in this issue has come mostly from Messrs S. D. Barfoot (noted as SDB), E. S. Lapham (ESL), and G. R. Pearson (GRP).

ALGERIA. French "MG" type (MG 3755) is similar to the "CG" illustrated in the last MSB but has wider frank and "REPUBLIQUE ALGERIENNE" in one line (ESL)

NOVELTIES FROM OVERSEAS (Contd)

CANADA. The Friden postage meter, Model PM-4, has been approved for use by the Canadian P.O. Its impression, though similar in format to the P-B and Postalia, differs in showing only a single maple-leaf in the centre and no crown over value, with "POSTAGE/POSTES" horizontally below. (Canadian P.O. Weekly Bulletin, 31st July 1965, per SDB.)

DENMARK. Thanks to Mr Richards (Durham), we are able to illustrate an example with the slogan in contrasting colours; the bullock with serial No. above it are in blue, while the remainder (including name of user below townmark) is in the usual red.

FRANCE. Mr Lapham shows us two "C" models with unusually narrow setting, perhaps for use on newspaper wrappers: C.1723 used as long ago as 1955 with value as *3000, date having Roman fig. month; and C 4230 with value as *100 (1 new franc) used 26.6.65 (Arabic fig. for month). The latter has the town-name =PARIS-45= at level of top of frank, but date lower as normal. S.E.C.A.P. machine on tape, with town and date (25 6 65) below frank as usual, "relief" machine with prefix "NW" and number curiously spaced as "4 46 5" shown us (SDB)

GERMANY (FED. REP. and BERLIN). The "Adrema-Pitney-Bowes" machines, foreshadowed here several years ago, are now in use; although officially approved from 1st Feb. 1965, the earliest date known, used by the company at Frankfurt am Main (NO 14), is 16.12.64. Its frank, although similar to the Frankotyp and Postalia, is much squarer and has characteristic P-B value figures preceded by three short wavy lines. For use in West Berlin "BERLIN" is vertically downwards at right of figures. ("Die Sammler-Lupe" per SDB)

KENYA-UGANDA-TANGANYIKA. Neopost Model 205 design now illustrated; key letters "NE" as in Australia, Rhodesia, etc. Perhaps "Neopost Electric" ?

LEBANON. Besides the Postalia illustrated in the MSB of Sept. 1964 (VIII/37), Hasler and Satas also are in use; similar designs but Hasler (H 167 below frank) has DC townmark with date as 18.XI.64 and Satas (S 001 very small) has SC townmark with Arabic month figure and hour between tmk and frank, and smaller, squarer frank. (SDB and GRP)

MALAWI. Neopost design (probably old 6- or 8-value) now illustrated; the No. has not been seen with pre-Independence frank.

MOROCCO. French "H" series (make ?) in use; H-037 has town-name in Arabic (one line) above "CASABLANCA/PRINCIPAL" (two lines) at left above date, and slogan centrally. (ESL)

PERU. P-B Model 5000 machines in use, design of frank of usual Model R format, showing Llama in centre above "P.B.PERM.N^o 40" (date 10.7.64 seen)

RHODESIA. Neopost Model 205 in use; small square frank with large "imitation perfs" containing "RHODESIA" at top ("SOUTHERN" apparently removed), number "NE 5" at bottom. Tmk "SALISBURY" (10 3 65) (ESL)

SINGAPORE. We illustrate impressions from two Universal M.V. machines as introduced some years ago; they differ appreciably in the size of lettering, besides one having initial star and the other zero in value.

SOUTH AFRICA. Neopost Model 205 "J 28" previously illustrated had the tmk "DURBAN" with broken inner circle and intermediate arcs; we now show "J 76" with tmk "JOHANNESBURG" in unbroken double circle ("Frankmaster" pattern).

Illustrations referred to in "Novelties from Overseas".

6943 U186
 PARCEL POST [SIC]
 PAID *001
 SINGAPORE
 23 VII 62

0295 U189
 PARCEL POST [SIC]
 PAID 0001
 SINGAPORE
 14 VII 62

SWISS-SOUTH AFRICAN
 RE-INSURANCE CO.
 LIMITED
 P.O. BOX 7048
 JOHANNESBURG

JOHANNESBURG
 12 3 65

REPUBLIK VAN
 SUID-AFRIKA
 POSSELD BETAAL
 0.12 1/2
 POSTAGE PAID
 REPUBLIC OF
 SOUTH AFRICA

MOGADISCIO
 27.4.64
 SOMALIA
 BANCA
 NAZIONALE
 SOMALA
 DIREZIONE GENERALE
 MOGADISCIO
 C.P. 11

POSTE SOMALE
 *02.80
 SH. SO.

INSURE
 WITH
 KENYA NATIONAL

NAIROBI
 26 3 65
 KENYA

KENYA-UGANDA
 TANGANYIKA
 1.30
 SH & CTS
 POSTAGE PAID

LIMBE
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MALAWI
 N 6^d 369

MALAWI
 N 6^d 369



30396

HOLSTEBRO
 3.4.64

LUNGAARDS
 EKSPORTSLAGTERI 1/5

DANMARK
 *35
 KGL. POST
 8 423