

Hon. SECRETARY/TREASURER  
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LONDON, S.E.25.

EDITOR of BULLETIN  
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#### SECRETARY'S NOTES

##### Membership.

We have one change of address to report :-

Ernst Muhr, now, Rua Oscar Freire 465, Ap 31, Sao Paulo 5, BRAZIL.

##### Wants and Offers.

Mr S. D. Barfoot has a number of back issues of the Meter Stamp Bulletin (from the estate of a deceased member) for disposal, Nos 25 to 44, also the reproductions made by Mr Strelak that were issues with some of them. Offers to the Hon. Sec. please.

Mr Gabriel Pustel, 678 Argyle Road, Brooklyn 30, N.Y., U.S.A., wants meters from Viet-Nam, Bahrain, Iceland, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gibraltar, various parcel post and postage dues and Wilkinsons. Please write direct to Mr Pustel.

##### Publications.

Sales are going steadily of the "Meter Stamps of the Indian Sub-Continent", if you have not already ordered your copy please do so soon.

At a meeting held in London recently great progress was made with our next publication, the Hon. Editors "Simplified Catalogue of the Meter Stamps of Great Britain", which should appear during next year. It is hoped that this will be a complete priced simplified catalogue of GB (including Eire) and from what I have seen already will be well worth having.

##### Officers for 1966.

As usual, no nominations were received, or offers to take over any of the duties of the Hon. Editor. For the time being Mr Dewey feels he can carry on, with slightly altered arrangements concerning the preparation of material for the Bulletin, the other Officers will also continue as before.

##### Next Bulletin.

This will be in March 1966, copy to reach the Hon. Editor by 19th February, "highest numbers" up to 28th February.

## TOWN NAMES

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The Meter Stamp Town List, compiled by Mr K. F. Jennings on behalf of the Group with the assistance of several other members and published in mid-1957, included a total of 1,431 names of places in the territory served by the British Post Office, according to a count made by Mr Jennings.

In contrast to similar lists for the United States and Canada, compiled and published by our associates in the United States, our list did not attract much interest and has not been kept up to date, although a number of new places must have started to use meters in more recent years.

We are NOT proposing now to revise the list. Recently however we came across an unlisted place which had used a meter as long ago as 1939: Little Chart, Ashford, Kent, meter N 1. We do not know the village (?) ourselves, nor is the name of the user on record, but it seems likely that it is a case of a London firm having removed its offices to a presumably "safe" area on the outbreak of War, an occurrence accounting for a number of small village names in the list.

Incidentally, the latest count of town names in the United States, made by the U.S. Meter Stamp Society, at the end of 1964 comprised over 10,650 to which a further 120 or so were added in the first four months of 1965.

There have recently been several official amendments in town names which may affect meter townmarks.

Peterborough and Dundee have been transferred to the select list of towns not requiring the addition of the county; Peterborough was formerly "Northants" for P.O. purposes, though administratively in the County of the Soke of Peterborough which has now been annexed to Huntingdonshire; Dundee was formerly in Angus, a name which was adopted for the former Forfarshire in about 1925. Meters have been recorded earlier without the county name, in error, from both places, both Universal M.V. machines (Peterborough UB 101, Dundee UA 128).

Other changes which have affected post-office cancellations do not necessarily affect meters, though the possibility must be borne in mind. This is the unification of two local sorting offices, as a result of which the double name is shown in the postmark. One of long standing is Chesham and Amersham, Bucks., and only the double name is found in meter townmarks. A more recent one, which owing to local objections did not continue for long, is Llandudno (Caern.) and Colwyn Bay (Denbighshire), and no meter townmark with the double name has been reported. A few months ago, Wembley was united with Harrow (both Middsx.) and new postmarks have been introduced, but we have not yet seen any "Harrow & Wembley" meter townmarks. There is of course no need for a change, because there can be no ambiguity about the location of the machine.

BRAZILIAN CURRENCY DEPRECIATION

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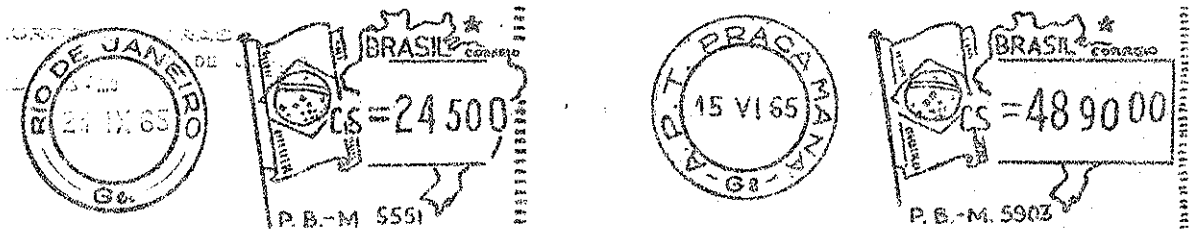
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Further to our note in the June MSB, Mr Muhr writes :-

"Re 'No Centavos': the matter is getting confused and confused. I tried to make up a preliminary list, but things go too far, so I'll have to wait until I get around to the lot. Apart from centavos being eliminated, lots of machines have recently been changed to fixed centavos, and they will go on like this for years. In Francotyp alone the following exist (apart from the old ones with no or one fixed zero centavo):

z01,00 ; z01 ; z001,00 ; z.001,00 ; z001 ; 0.000,10 ; 0.001 ; 001,00 ;  
00001,00 (this must be a converted Sales Tax meter) ; 0.001,00 ;

and all of them in thick, thin and probably at different settings from date."



We illustrate two different forms of altered Automax dies, one (P.B.-M 5551) with a single fixed zero added thus, =00100, breaking the eastern coastline of the map, and the other (P.B.-M 5903) with two fixed zeros thus, =001000, and an extension of the rectangle surrounding the value which thus obliterates almost the whole of the eastern coastline.

The earliest Automax which we have showed the value as =0010 (e.g., P.B.-M 5525 or =00010 (P.B.-M 5597) - though it is not always possible to say which of the final zeros are in fact fixed, and the last mentioned could be =00100.

(Note to new members: the foregoing are conventional representations of the lowest value the machine is capable of printing, o and i (as distinct from 0 and 1) being smaller digits; all zeros following (to the right of) the 1 or i are fixed. z is used to denote a small lozenge which takes the place of an initial zero.)

However, the confusion has been cut short. In the "Financial Times" of November 15th, we read that "The Brazilian Government has introduced a major exchange reform which includes the devaluation of the cruzeiro and the introduction of a new 'heavy' cruzeiro worth 1,000 of the existing units on January 1 next year."

The devaluation brings the official exchange for the "old" cruzeiro down from 1,820 to the U.S. Dollar (5,096 to £1) to 2,200 to the Dollar (6,160 to £1). When the cruzeiro was first introduced in place of the milreis in October 1942, the rate was Cr\$ 18.50 to U.S. \$1 or about 72.75 to £1. Thus it has now lost 99% of its original value; let us hope that its successor does not suffer the same fate !

## FRANKING MACHINES IN ITALY

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Arising out of our suggestion in the March MSB, our Hon. Secretary wrote - though not in Italian - to the Ministry of Posts in Rome, and he received from that Department a complete list of the manufacturers of franking machines used in Italy, together with the names and addresses of the concessionaires (agents) for that country; in the case of Italian firms, these are the same as the manufacturers.

Summarising, there are five Italian firms, all located in Milan :-

Soc. Sima

Soc. Lirma (concessionaires also for Freistempler Ges., Germany)

Ditta Fratelli Rossini

Ditta Osvaldo Primavera

Soc. Italiana Audion (concessionaires also for Francotyp, Germany)

and seven foreign firms :-

Pitney-Bowes (Stamford, Conn., U.S.A.)

Pitney-Bowes (London, England)

Freistempler Gesellschaft (Frankfurt / Main) (makers of Postalia machines)

Satas (Paris)

Francotyp (Berlin)

Roneo (London) [ sic - not Roneo-Neopost ]

Hasler (Bern)

all of which have concessionaires in Milan except Hasler (in Rome).

The "Postitalia" and "Micropost" machines, stated in the Barfoot & Simon Catalogue to be "indistinguishable from Francotyp C", are not mentioned, but it appears from the catalogue illustration of Type B.5.C that Soc. Italiana Audion are the concessionaires for the Postitalia - probably also its manufacture - as well as for the Francotyp. As Osvaldo Primavera is indicated as being only "in course of authorisation", we may deduce that the Micropost machines are produced by Fratelli Rossini.

Of the foreign makes, those made by Pitney-Bowes (U.S.A.), Francotyp, and Hasler are well known; the machines made by Pitney-Bowes (G.B.) (Universal MV or Automax ?) and by Roneo (Neopost Model 305 or 205 ?) should likewise be easily recognisable, but we have not so far found any, and the same applies to Satas. The Postalia are not so clearly identifiable, but we have some probably of that make.

Mr Mann has written to each of the concessionaires, and as yet has had replies only from Hasler (direct from Bern) and from S.M.I. - Societa Meccanografica Italiana, who appear on the Ministry's list as concessionaires for Roneo but are also manufacturers of the "Frankopost" machines.

S.M.I. have replied courteously and fully, with "specimens", and make the suggestion that the different makes are distinguishable by the ornaments in the side panels of the franks. Unfortunately, this is easily disproved, because we quickly picked out three examples, one undoubtedly from a Hasler machine, another almost certainly from a Francotyp, and a third from an unknown make certainly neither - yet they have identical ornaments !

We are awaiting further replies with great interest, and hope to be able to report further in due course.

G.B. NOTES  
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Holes in Tape. Messrs Roneo-Neopost inform us that the holes in "Neopost" tape which we remarked upon in the last MSB are merely intended as a warning to the operator that the roll is nearly exhausted. As that was the only occasion on which we have seen them, the device seems to be effective!

Highest Numbers. Thanks to reports from G. M. Stelfox, of Belfast; and M. J. Burrows, of Stowmarket, in addition to our own mail, we are able to report advances on all types except one. The latest position is :-

P.B.675C	PC 138*	SM 159
NO-431	J 3073	N 99 B

(\* No change since the last Bulletin)

INLAND REVENUE ORDER FOR PITNEY-BOWES  
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We learn from Messrs Pitney-Bowes that they have recently received an order from the Inland Revenue Department for three of their "Model 3144 Collating-Inserting-Sealing Machines" totalling in value £14,550.

These machines not merely collate and insert up to four pieces of mail into envelopes, but also close, seal and count pieces up to 7,500 envelopes per hour.

May we expect that in future the familiar "Official Paid" and Crown frank used by the Inland Revenue will be superseded by a metered device?

WITHOUT NUMBER: A CURIOUS FACT  
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It must be well known to all collectors interested in countries outside Great Britain, that whereas most countries include an "identification number" in their meter impressions (either a machine number or a licence number), there is a small number of countries - notably Germany and Italy - which do not usually show any such number and rely instead on the slogan to identify the user.

What does not seem to have been remarked upon hitherto is the curious fact (coincidence?) that these countries form a contiguous belt across central Europe, practically from north to south. Starting from the U.S.S.R., we have Latvia, Lithuania, the former "Free City" of Danzig, Germany (now both Eastern and Western), Czechoslovakia, Austria, Yugoslavia, and Italy. Poland and Hungary are odd exceptions to this "block",; we wonder why?

AUTOMAX: A, PB, U.  
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In our list in the last Bulletin, the asterisks against New Zealand, Nigeria, Rhodesia-Nyasaland and Trinidad & Tobago, indicating that these were recorded on the basis of "proof" impressions, should be deleted; we have now seen used examples. The asterisks remain against only Peru and Norway, and no new countries have so far been added.

An example from Nigeria will be found illustrated elsewhere in this number; note that although Nigeria is now a Republic, the crown still appears.

NOVELTIES FROM OVERSEAS  
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Information is credited to S. D. Barfoot (SDB), G. R. Pearson (GRP) and the Editor personally (AAD). The illustrations referred to appear on the last page.

ARGENTINA. New design for Francotyp illustrated; taken from a thin airmail letter, the denomination presumably means 36.50 pesos (the present rate is about \$500 to £1). (AAD)

AUSTRALIA. In the Neopost "Kangaroo and Map" design, unusual value of 1/8 used with 2d and 5d; the frank has key-letter "N" in square frame at left with "XN/5" colourless on solid rectangle at right, from Perth, W.A. (SDB)

FRANCE. The Postalia machines have now been authorised for use in France, and are to be marketed under the name "Posthavas" by Societe des Machines Havas, Paris. The numbering will be T 1001 upwards for 4-digit values, and T 3001 upward for 3-digit values. See illustration. (Information from Postalia, Frankfurt am Main, per JCM)

In the "PR" series for parcel post, new style of F. of V. shows the "1" spaced from the centimes, without "F", and insertion of the hour between TM and frank. (Machine PR 471, Paris 202) (SDB) (Illustrated).

IRAN. Impression from Satas machine illustrated; note the date and hour in Persian numerals. (SDB)

JAPAN. New design (NCR machines?) with inscription in frame above date and value, illustrated; KOBE PORT JAPAN also seen. Are these Post Office machines? (SDB)

MALAWI. We now have a Universal multi-value with the new die, similar to the Neopost illustrated in the last MSB except that the "Crowing Cock" emblem is much reduced in size and takes the place of the value at the foot between letter "U" and number 16. TM "BLANTYRE MALAWI" with the inner arcs adjacent to the names only.

MALAYSIA. Automax impression, usual type with number "P.B.1." at foot, used from Singapore which has of course now seceded from the Federation; has it been changed? The example seen was used 1 VIII 64.

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES. Impression from old Francotyp machine, No 2, with new frank, similar to old style but much larger (36 x 31 mm) inscribed "NEDERLANDSE ANTILLEN"; townmark likewise larger, 55 mm wide, "CURACAO WILLEMSTAD". (SDB)

NOVELTIES FROM OVERSEAS (Contd.)

NIGERIA. Automax design (very similar to Universal MV) now illustrated; see note on page 88.

RHODESIA. The first definitive die seen, inscribed "RHODESIA" without the "SOUTHERN" or Royal Cipher, is a Roneo-Neopost Model 305 (Frankmaster) in the usual style (Name in a horseshoe), RN 493. (SDB)

SIERRA LEONE. New design for decimal currency (100 cents = 1 Leone = 10s.) illustrated, Neopost Model 305 again; the elaborate coat of arms at foot must be very troublesome to engrave! (AAD)

SOMALIA. We illustrated in the last MSB the first meter stamp we had seen from this country - one of the Italian makes which we are hoping will be sorted out before long. (GRP)

SOUTH AFRICA. Old Universal MV adapted for decimal currency, U 264, has a distinctly different type of frame, with "SUID AFRIKA" in two words, "U" very wide, and "R" in front of value as  $.02\frac{1}{2}$  Used from Pretoria. (SDB)

Two varieties of N.C.R. parcel post "tickets" illustrated; both are in violet on new cream paper instead of white as formerly. (SDB)

Three different sizes of the "Francotyp" dies having "REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA" at top and "REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA" at bottom, easily distinguished shown us by SDB, all with values as  $0.00\frac{1}{2}$ : (a) 25 x 32 mm for F 898 - 902; (b) 25 x 35 mm for F 790; (c) 26 x 29 mm for F 935 and F 1011.

New and neat frame design for Neopost L.V. (presumably Model 105) illustrated, only these seen so far. (NB 603) (AAD)

SPAIN. For many years, Spain relied solely on German Francotyp and Swiss Hasler meters, later supplemented by German Postalia. Lately American Pitney-Bowes, French Satas have appeared, now also Swiss Safag and Italian Lirma (?), the latter differs in having square frame with much narrower borders around a larger square central space containing the F. of V. (\*0.01 oval) with Italian style TM. On earlier types, the foilage at each side has appeared to be an olive branch, but on this, the branch at the right appears to be oak, with clear acorns. The Safag has the usual frame, but TM in BIC-B style and Swiss-style F. of V. (00,01) (GRP, AAD)

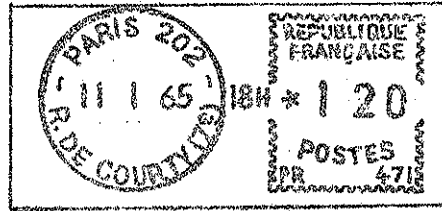
The earlier Satas had small frank and hour between TM (SC) and frank but now SDB submits one with the standard type of frank, but usual TM (SC) with Arabic M.F. and value as \*06.00; could this possibly be a Neopost Model 205?

VATICAN CITY. Mr E. S. Lapham has shown us impressions from two machines used by journal "L'Osservatore Romano", in design similar to B. & S. type 2. One probably Sima, has F. of V. \*20.= and the other has smaller frank breaking top and right of outer border with smaller F. of V. as \*130 and "VIA AEREA" in border below, probably Lirma. Dates are respectively 14.2.64 and 17.11.62

ZAMBIA. We have previously reported the Neopost L.V. for this country; we are now shown the Simplex with "perforated" border and flying eagle at top (S 20, NDOLA). (SDB)

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Finally, may all the Officers and others concerned with the production of the Bulletin wish all members a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



UNE NOUVEAUTÉ  
POSTHAVAS  
AUTOMATIQUE

