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SECRETARY'S NOTES.

Membership. We are including with this issue of the Bulletin an up-to-date list of the names and addresses of Members, and this includes changes of address for J. T. Brown and Wm. Pamperien.

Exchange Packets. As those members concerned will know, the exchange packet has not been operating for some time and it has proved impossible to continue with it in its present form. Mr J. T. Brown, whose new address appears with the list of members, offers to help as follows :-

He is prepared to accept lists of "wants" and "offers" and to try and marry the two together. Items can then be sent to him for sorting and despatch or in those cases where direct exchange would be easier Mr Brown can put the two members concerned in touch with each other. Such a system would naturally involve a small charge for postage, but in the end it should be much less than the costs of postage under the old scheme. If you have either wants or offers (of G.B. material) then please write direct to Mr Brown, but please **DO NOT** send any material until asked to do so.

Members Wants. Mr D. H. Fletcher, of Edinburgh, wants the following EiiR G.B. meters. Please write direct. Numbers are as the GB supplement of March 1960 (Vol. VI, No. 2)
131(N), values, $\frac{1}{2}$ d, $3\frac{1}{2}$ d, $4\frac{1}{2}$ d, $4\frac{1}{2}$ d, 5d, $5\frac{1}{2}$ d, 7d, 8d, 9d, 10d, 11d, 1/1, 1/3, 1/4, 1/6, 1/8, 1/9, 2/-, 2/6, 3/-, 5/-, 7/6, 10/-, 20/-; 131a(N), provisional, 1d from $1\frac{1}{2}$ d; 132(N), values, $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, $7\frac{1}{2}$ d, 11d, 1/-; 137a(U). Date figures small; 137(b)(U), TM BIC; 139a (U), TM BIC, Error LIVERPOOL (UE 753); 143. Dots under D of value, (P, PA or PC), $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d; 143a(P), without dots, $3\frac{1}{2}$ d, $4\frac{1}{2}$ d, $5\frac{1}{2}$ d, 9d, 1/-, 1/3, 1/6, 2/6; 144(PB), values, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d and 3d, with wide setting; 145(PB) values, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, narrow setting; 146(M), values, $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d, 3d, 1/-; 147(M) all values; 148(NZ) all values; 149a(NA), example with the GviR cipher (NA 156)

Next Bulletin. It is hoped that our next issue will be out in September; contributions should reach the Editor by the middle of August.

FORGED AND FRAUDULENT METER STAMPS

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We have mentioned before cases in the United States concerning meter impressions forged to defraud the Post Office. Another case was reported in the "New York Times" on 8 Jan 1966; thanks are due to the A.M.P.S. for reproducing this in their Bulletin, which reads :

"Three operators of a mail-order clothing business were arrested here yesterday in connection with the fraudulent misuse of a Pitney-Bowes postage meter that may have cost the Government as much as \$2-Million over a two-year period. "Everyone thought these machines were foolproof", said United States Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau. He said the case was the first in the country involving the misuse of such machines, used by many businesses for mass mailings.

The three suspects were seized in a penthouse suite at 1270 Broadway, branch office of the Pleasant Sales Corporation, a suburban Boston firm which specialises in clothing for overweight men. A postage meter and 50,000 pieces of illegally stamped mail were also seized, Mr Morgenthau said that 100,000 other pieces of mail had been taken into custody in the last two days.

The complaint charged that the Pleasant Sales Corporation had purchased \$151 worth of postage for the period between Dec. 7, 1965, and last Thursday. On a single day, last Tuesday, a spot check by postal authorities revealed that \$618 had been used on mail that bore the confiscated machine's serial number.

The defendants are Ira Ravner, 48 years old, and his 42-year-old wife, Lila, and Bernard Abelson, 46, described as a business partner of Mrs Ravner. The complaint charged the three defendants with a conspiracy to defraud or conceal the fact that the postage had not been paid for. The defendants were released in a total of \$22,500 bail and a hearing set for next Friday. If convicted, they could receive fines of \$5,000 each and a five-year prison sentence".

It would seem that in this case impressions were obtained from the machine without their being recorded on the meters - they are not impressions printed by some other means, as was the case before. We have not so far heard the outcome of the hearing. How was the trick done ?

Another article, in the SPA Journal of Feb. 1966, shown us by Robert T. Needels, is of a different class altogether.

This reports that North Korean propoganda is being introduced into South Korea by using forged Postage Stamps and Meter Impressions and introducing the material into International mail channels. In addition to USA meters, impressions from Great Britain and Germany have been forged, and from the Ministry of Public Information, Seoul, we have received details of these.

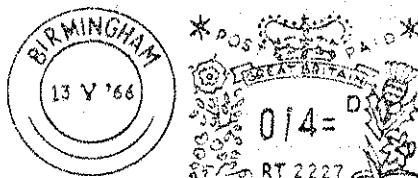
The forged GB impressions are of the "emblems" design, one being numbered "UJ 877" and the other with the number not clear. The first has a TM reading "LONDON E.C.2." but is, strangely, a BIC-A townmark, which type did not exist in the Universal MV series. The second has the (normal) DC townmark and also reads "LONDON E.C.2.". The genuine user of UJ 877 is not known.

G. B. NOTES

Decimal Currency. Just too late for mention in our last issue, it was announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer ("Minister of Finance" to our foreign members) that this country would change to decimal currency in February 1971. The £ sterling will be the basis, divided into 100 units ("cents") each of which will be halved when necessary. This was the system recommended by a majority of the Halsbury committee in 1963, but a good deal of opposition is being raised - not to decimalisation as such - but on the ground that a "half-pound" unit would be preferable, rendering unnecessary a half cent; although a "half-pound" unit has been adopted by South Africa and by Australia, the advocates of the same system in Great Britain may be unaware that in South Africa the $\frac{1}{2}$ -cent is nevertheless used, and in Australia the £ was of lower value than here.

"Rebate Mail" Slogan. Mr J. E. Cope submits an example of a slogan consisting of large "R" in square frame used with Automax AG 783; date shows month and year only. We failed to make it clear that the "most unusual slogan" on NM-407 referred to in the last MSB was unusual because it incorporated the large "R" as part of the design, with other wording of the slogan; the large "R" in box by itself is not at all uncommon and was first mentioned by us in 1962, on several machines of various makes. Incidentally, the scheme of "rebate mail" introduced in 1961 has been under investigation by the Post Office and it has been suggested that mail posted under these conditions will not be postmarked at all in future - and presumably will also not require any kind of meter franking either.

New Type. Examples of a surprising new type have been shown us by Messrs J. E. Cope, G. M. Stelfox and John Mann; it is generally similar to the Pitney-Bowes Series 5000 dies but distinctly smaller and with the townmark circle (Birmingham) much closer to the frank, with only one shillings digit and a fixed "D" like the Simplex at upper right; the number below the value is "RT 2227". From enquiries made from Messrs Pitney-Bowes (Harlow) and the users, we learn that this is an adapted U.S. machine of the well-known series "RT", used in a collating, sealing and franking machine similarly to the Model AV. It was introduced last November but appears to be used only intermittently, the values run from $\frac{1}{2}$ d to $9\frac{1}{2}$ d only, implying that the "0/" of the value is fixed as well as the "D". The only value seen so far is "0/4=D". Incidentally, the date is of the American style, with small figures and an apostrophe before the year thus: 17 XII'65 The number mentioned is probably the only one of its type.



G. B. NOTES. (Contd.)

Highest Numbers. We remarked last time that no changes had been reported, but we have since learned that Mr A. Mace had written to the Hon. Sec. with (among other things) reports of a number of new items and his letter was evidently lost in the post.

We are glad this time to have had quite a number of reports; the more the better to establish the position! Thanks to Messrs M. J. Burrows, D. Fletcher, E. S. Lapham, John Mann and George Pearson, we now have reached:

PB.777E
N 863B

PC 161
NP 3

SL 534
J 4063

As regards the Pitney-Bowes Series 5000, the item with suffix "E" reported by Mr Fletcher last time and queried, proves not to be a freak, as several others with this suffix have now been reported, but no one has reported a suffix "D", which appears to have been omitted. The only suggestion made is that it has been omitted to avoid possible confusion with "O", but this seems unlikely - it is too early for that to be considered, and both "ND" and "NO" are used without trouble. It will be noticed that the Simplex have now, in their backward progress, reached "SL" which has previously been used for the two special "tape-issuing" machines (SL 1 and SL 2), of which Mr Fletcher believes that SL 1 is still in use at Dundee (Royal Cipher die); however, it appears that low numbers in these series are now all made up to three digits with initial zeros if necessary, like the "P.B.", so that the first two of the new "SL" would be SL 001 and SL 002, and it would be interesting to find out whether these have in fact been used.

It is a long time since we had a mention of the, presumably now obsolete, Neopost 8-value machines, but Mr Lapham from the U.S.A. reports a number more than 150 in excess of the previous highest found in the London W.l., namely N 1828.

IRISH NOTES
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Numbering Oddity. Further to the note on the subject in our last MSB (p.6), Mr Stelfox reports N 017 (Port Lairge).

IRISH NUMBERING SYSTEM
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It is generally recognised that the Neopost (L.V.) machines in what was then the Irish Free State were originally numbered on the same system as in Great Britain, from 1 upwards in each town, but this later gave place to a "national" system with numbering independently of town. An interesting detail to be established is at what point the change-over occurred.

Mr G. M. Stelfox, who has made a particular study of Irish meter stamps, considers that the following are the highest numbers reached in the "town" system:

IRISH NUMBERING SYSTEM (Contd.)

Baile Atha Cliath (Dublin)	11	Gaillimh (Galway)	1
Ceatharlach (Carlow)	1	Inis Corthaidh (Enniscorthy)	1
Corcaigh (Cork)	7	Luimneach (Limerick)	2
Cuil An TSudaire (Portarlington)	1	Mointeach Milic (Mountmellick)	1
Durlas Eile (Thurles)	1	Port Laoise (Maryborough)	3
Dun Dealgan (Dundalk)	1		

Two other possibilities for "town" numbering are Beal Atha an Fheadra (Ballina) and Port Lairge (Waterford), but if so, some of their machines retained their numbers in the national list - which happened also in Cork and Dublin.

Of course, some degree of guesswork is involved, but Mr Stelfox thinks that the change-over from "town" to "national" numbering took place in stages: first, a start was made in "national" numbering from N 12 (the number following the highest then reached in any "town" series), and then the lower numbers which had been repeated were allocated new numbers to remove the duplication.

For example, W. & R. Jacobs & Co., Ltd., originally used "N 1" of Dublin, but later they had "N 83" whereas Ballina retained its "N 1"; the firms originally using N 2 and N 6 in Dublin later had N 58 and N 52 respectively. On the other hand, N 11 was, in later issues, used by the Leitrim County Council, Cara Droma Ruisg (Carrick on Shannon), so that this must be a new "national" number.

A detailed list of "Irish Free State Meter Postage Stamps" compiled by A. H. Harris and Dr Stafford Johnson (F.R.P.S.,L.), published in the "Philatelic Magazine" of August 7th, 1936, in part confirms the above, in that the highest number for any town agrees with those given above except for Luimneach, where N 4 is included, and for Baile Atha Cliath, where they run to N 28 (with a few gaps) and then N 44. It is however perhaps a little strange that all of the "national" numbers known to Harris and Dr Stafford Johnson were in Dublin. As the name of the user of "N 4" in Luimneach was not recorded, this cannot be further investigated.

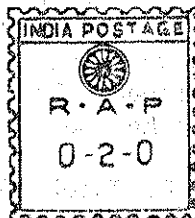
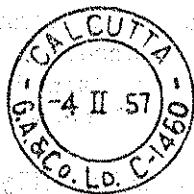
The "Philatelic Magazine" list includes the other makes then in use. For reasons unknown, the Midget machines were from the start numbered in a "national" series, unlike Great Britain, and the list runs as far as M 88 (with of course a few missing). Three numbers, M 14, M 29 and M 45, each had two different users, presumably successively (all were in Dublin), and there were recorded six cases of one user having two machines, namely, M 37 - M 46; M 14 - M 58; M 59 - M 71; M 18 - M 72; M 17 - M 78; M 25 - M 87; possibly these were replacements by a newer machine, or maybe, the user required two.

The only other machines in the list are U 1 and U 2, and H 1.

Incidentally, the list appears to show a confusion of names; in two places, the equivalent of "Port Lairge" is given as "Maryborough", but according to the Irish P.O. Guide, it should be "Waterford", Maryborough being Port Laoise or Laoichise (the spelling varies). No Neoposts are mentioned for Waterford, but N 1, N 2 and N 3 are attributed to "Port Lairge - Maryborough"; which should these be ?

INDIA - A "pre-decimal" STAMPMASTER
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Dr J. T. W. Mann surprised us recently when he showed us a cover which had an impression from what was obviously a "Stampmaster" machine, but this had the letters "R-A-P" over the value "0-2-0". Coupled with the fact that the date was -4 II 57, it would seem that this machine must have been a pre-decimal experimental model. The users were Gillanders Arbuthnott, who at the time were the Agents for Stampmaster machines and it would be quite probable that they would be chosen to use an experimental type. We have written for further details and await a reply.



The principle of operation for a machine in a currency such as the old Rupees, Annas and Pies must have been interesting, unless in fact the three figures of value recorded independently of each other and there was a fixed selection of values, as there is with the decimal model.

.... and some queries.

Dr Mann has also raised some interesting queries regarding India which we might be able to sort out before producing the addenda to our "Meter Stamps of the Indian Sub-Continent" and they are repeated here in case any of our members have the answers.

Considering the Universal NZ, there is the anomaly of a higher licence number than the machine number. Our illustration for type 2 shows machine number 24 with licence C-28. There had only been four machines (the old Moss Model D) previously licenced; three of these have been recorded as in the Calcutta district and in the way that "experiments" are often confined to one postal district it would be reasonable to assume that the fourth machine was also located there, so that this could be an explanation for the difference of four in the numbers. It would also mean, though, that machines had not been introduced in any other district at that time. Dr Mann, however, has machine No 6 with licence C-11 and this could mean one of three things. Either (a) there were in fact five Moss machines, (b) one of the Moss machines was moved and re-licenced as C-5 or (c) one of the Universal NZ's was moved and re-licenced, but if the last it must have happened very quickly.

INDIA - Some Queries (Contd.)

Regarding the dates of issue of meters, Dr Mann remarks that the last of the NZ machines was probably issued during 1924 or 1925 and there was then a gap with no new machines until the Neopost in 1928. This gap, in the early days of meters was not so unusual but what does seem remarkable is that after 1928 no new machines were licenced until after partition, the Universal MV in 1948.

Does this mean (a) that Neopost were granted a monopoly by the Indian Post Office or (b) that Universal Postal Frankers - or any other maker - did not try and produce a MV machine suited to the peculiarities of the local currency; but if this was the case, what about the "Midget"?

There are also two other dates we would like to establish: these are the last date that a Universal NZ was in use - the latest we have is from machine Number 6, used on 4 VII 44, - and the earliest date of use of any make with a solid block instead of a number at the bottom right-hand corner of the die. In this case the earliest we have seen is 8 III 59 (the machine in this case being a Universal MV) - the Stampmaster of course was not fitted with numbers from the beginning.

"EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT" METERS (LUXEMBOURG)
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The meters used by the seat of the European Parliament at Luxembourg city, with their four-language slogans, have been briefly referred to before in the MSB, but a more complete account has been published in the February 1966 issue of the journal "UN-E", from which we have summarised the following. The author is Hr Hans Paikert, and the journal is the official publication of the Study Group United Nations / United Europe, with headquarters in Western Germany, published bimonthly in Hamburg.

The European Parliament - not to be confused with the Council of Europe (which likewise meets in Strasbourg but includes also representatives of Great Britain) - is the governing body of the European Economic Community, the European Coal and Steel Community, and the European Atomic Energy Authority, and consists of 142 members drawn from the national parliaments of the six countries, 36 each from France, German Federal Republic and Italy, 14 each from Belgium and the Netherlands, and 6 from Luxembourg. Although most of its sittings take place in Strasbourg, its official seat is at Luxembourg.

It developed from the General Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community, formed in 1951, which had introduced Hasler meter No.132 with the normal plain octagonal design of Luxembourg without any slogan from 24 III 53. This, like all the other machines referred to, has figures of value in the form *OOio, preceded by "fr." and followed by "c." The townmark is a double circle worded simply "LUXEMBOURG".

"EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT" METERS (Contd.)

The Parliament was formed in 1957 and from 7 VIII 58 the secretariat introduced Meter No.150 (single-circle townmark) with the four-line slogan "ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE EUROPEENNE / EUROPAISCHES PARLAMENT / ASSEMBLEA PARLAMENTARE EUROPEA / EUROPEES PARLEMENT". From X 58 the same slogan was introduced on meter No.132.

Though the Parliament had laid down no official sequence for the languages, it was customary to give them in the order German, French, Italian, Dutch, and this slogan did not conform; the correct order was introduced in new slogans for both machines as from 25 XI 59. It was apparently only later that it was observed that the wording in the four languages was not quite equivalent, and from 13 V 62 a further change was made, again on both machines. The new slogan reads: "EUROPAISCHES PARLAMENT / PARLEMENT EUROPEEN / PARLAMENT EUROPEO / EUROPEES PARLEMENT".

Since 20 IV 65, the Parliament has used a new machine, No.165, with a changed style of slogan, the German and French inscriptions appearing above, and the Italian and Dutch below, a device something like a rainbow (it may not be that). This new machine, with double-circle townmark, differs in having "Fr." with capital "F" at left of value.

NEOPOST MACHINES IN EUROPE

Since the War, Neopost franking machines have, so far as we are aware, been used only in Belgium and the Netherlands among European countries, and we have not seen any impressions from either of these for a number of years. Probably this is because these older F.V. and L.V. machines printing only six (or fewer) denominations were not really suited to decimal currencies and frequently changing postal rates.

We now learn from Messrs Roneo-Neopost that their new machines, the multi-value "Model 205", have now been sanctioned for use in Austria and in Yugoslavia, and we have been shown "specimen" impressions.

Before the War, the older Neopost machines were used in small numbers in quite a number of European countries, and a tabulation of the details as given in the Barfoot & Simon Catalogue brings out several points of interest, calling for enquiry.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Licence Numbers</u>
Denmark	1926	F.V.2, 3 or 5	A 1 - A 16
Sweden	1926	F.V., 1	301 - 304
"	1930	F.V., 3	N 305, 351 - 360
"	1930	F.V., 6	1001 only
Finland	1927	F.V., ?	201 - 208
Belgium	1930	L.V., 6	D 101 -
Iceland	1931	L.V., 6	- ? -
Latvia	1931	L.V., 6	(2 machines only)
Netherlands	1931	L.V., 6	N 250 - 270
"	1945	do	N 271 -
Lithuania	1934	L.V., 6	N 1 - N 6 ?

NEOPOST MACHINES IN EUROPE (Contd.)

It will be noticed that these countries fall into one or other of three geographical groups:

- The Low Countries (Belgium, Netherlands);
- The Nordic Countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden);
- The Baltic States (Latvia, Lithuania);

but each of the groups lacks one of its recognised members, respectively, Luxembourg, Norway, Estonia. Only in the case of Norway can any explanation be suggested. Roneo-Neopost are the English agents for Krag cancelling machines, and Krag make their own franking machines in Norway.

The next point of interest is in regard to Sweden. The Barfoot & Simon Catalogue gives the date of introduction of the F.V.3 and F.V.6 as 1930 for both models. This seems unlikely as the L.V. machines were introduced in Great Britain as well as in Belgium in that year, and even the existence of "F.V.6" machines is queried in the catalogue list of Great Britain.

A series of articles in the "Svensk Filatelisk Tidskrift" by Ing. Thorsten Ingeloff, republished as a booklet in 1945, on the subject of Swedish and Norwegian Franking Machines ("Nordiska Frankostämpel") gives the date of official approval of Neopost three-value machines as July 1928 and six-value machines as Nov 1930 (F.V. and L.V. machines are not mentioned separately), and the date of actual introduction of the three-value machines 13 March 1929, with values 5, 15 and 25 Öre. The article does not make further mention of the six-value machines; may we suggest that the solitary example of this type, M.No. 1001, was in fact a trial L.V. machine? If it had been a F.V. machine, like the N 305 and 351 to 360, why should a special group of numbers, 1001-1050, have been allocated for them? As Barfoot & Simon indicate that examples of No. 1001 are "very rare", which is borne out by Mr Ingeloff's omission to refer to it, the point may only be decided by examination of the maker's or the importer's records.

Two other points which arise are the final numbers of the Belgian machines, and the numbers of the Icelandic machines (where the meters appear to be numbered irrespective of make). The only one we have from Belgium is D 101, used by the Roneo agents in Brussels, and our only examples from Iceland are Nos. 5 and 10. Can any member add to these?

A very detailed list of all the machines in the Netherlands, compiled by Ing. E. J. Enschede in 1946, with supplements up to 1952, shows that the pre-war Neopost machines (N 250 - N 270) were mostly provided with the six denominations 2, 5, 6, 10, 12½, 15 cent., while the post-war machines (N 271 - N 321) mostly had the two top values replaced by 15 and 20 cent., though some also had 25 ct. in place of one of the lower values. Some of the machines had other variations.

POSTAL CODE NUMBERS IN EUROPE

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Austria. - Although the code numbers are not so far being used in townmarks, Mr Lapham has sent us photo-copies of two items, a Francotyp and an Automax, with what appears to be the numbers prefixed to the return addresses in the "slogans": A 1010 Vienna, Austria (in English) and A 1031 Wien.

France. - Mr Lapham has sent also copies of two interesting pairs from the same meters, the earlier without and the later with the Departmental number. CG 2352, used by U.T.A., towards the end of 1964 had townmark "Le Bourget (Seine)", whereas early in 1966 the same machine has townmark "-93- Le Bourget Aeroport (Seine St.Denis)". G 1655, used by Air France, in 11.65 had townmark "=Orly Aerogare (Seine)=" and early in 1966 this has changed to "94 - Orly Aero-gare". These two examples confirm that numbers 93 and 94 are both formed from the Department of Seine.

Great Britain. - Shortly after we wrote in the last MSB, the G.P.O. announced an extension of the numbering system in this country, but as these are to relate to delivery areas (in greater detail than any of the foreign systems) it is unlikely that they will appear in meter townmarks.

NOVELTIES FROM OVERSEAS

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(Most of the following items have been reported by Mr E. S. Lapham.)

AUSTRALIA. The new decimal currency Neopost L.V. machines have superseded the Kangaroo die with a design similar to the Frankmaster but smaller (value in centre with ram at top and map at bottom.)

BELGIUM. The "P" series as in France has been introduced here: plain design of French style, "BELGIQUE / BELGIE" at top and No. (as P 2168) at bottom; star and four F. of V., the last two smaller and probably in one piece (fixed 0=) on small adhesive labels.

HONG KONG. An "N.C.R." machine used apparently almost ten years ago is in a design not previously reported: the figures (code no., value, and serial no.) appear across a large "perforated" rectangle inscribed "HONG (crown) KONG" and "POSTAGE PAID" above, users name (not legible), and Chinese characters below, with "N.C.R." and "1" in boxes in the lower corners; the date is outside the frame at top. Copy seen is attached to a post card, and not clear enough to reproduce here.

ITALY. A much higher number than the P.B. 101 has been sent us by Mr Lapham: this is P.B. (above) and 142 (below) with value as 0000 (see MSB VIII/34). Arabic month figures in date, city ROMA.

KENYA UGANDA TANZANIA. The old Universal M.V.'s dies have been changed to show the new name: TANZANIA above UGANDA-KENYA at top, the foilage (omitted from later types) remaining. U 65 (?) seen, Nairobi, with value figs as Ooi

NORWAY. Like the Italian Hasler mentioned in the last MSB, here both Hasler and Francotyp dies have used the equivalent of "POST PAID" viz. "PORTO BETALT P.P." in three lines in place of the value and "ØRE"; the M.Nos. are respectively 2180 and 3260. Presumably these meters are fitted simply with counting mechanisms instead of value meters; compare the early British Pitney-Bowes meters used by the Post Office Savings Bank.

RUMANIA. The new spelling of the country's name as shown on the frank is "R.P. ROMINA" and not as shown in our last Bulletin through a typing error.

THE METER STAMP STUDY GROUP

Members as at 1st June 1966

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