

HON. SECRETARY/TREASURER

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EDITOR OF BULLETIN

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SECRETARY'S NOTES

Membership. We are pleased to welcome, with this issue of the Bulletin, three new members :-

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|----------------------|---|
| (177) Mrs I. Smyth | 246 Main Road, SIDCUP, Kent. |
| (178) Mrs Anne Fell | 4204 N. Bell Avenue, Chicago, Ill 60618, U.S.A. |
| (179) Ray D. Goodwin | Route 3, Box 104, Mission, Tex 78572, U.S.A. |

there are also two changes of address :-

M. J. Burrows, Esq., now, "Arnlea", 4 Edinburgh Gardens, Claydon,
IPSWICH, Suffolk.

H. K. Warrien, now, P. O. Box 3031, Vancouver 3, B.C., CANADA.

Next Bulletin. We hope that it will now be possible to revert to former arrangements, and issue five Bulletins a year - January, March, June, September and November, but members' support in forwarding regular contributions will be necessary.

The unintended blank space on page 36 of the last number came about through a miscalculation when preparing the stencils: there was no "censoring" or omission. The delay in publication was due to the heavy work involved in producing the new book "Meter Stamps of G.B. and Ireland" which is now ready; it is somewhat too soon to note the comments of reviewers, but we hope that all our members will obtain a copy and be able to recommend it to others.

Confirmation of Dates. From time to time the observant meter collector comes across an impression that has had the date set incorrectly, usually resulting in a date some years in the future, e.g. 1976 for 1966. Such "errors" are not considered important by some collectors but are of great interest to others. The main difficulty is that after the date shown there is normally no way of knowing that it was incorrect.

Confirmation of Dates (Contd.)

At the suggestion of Mr H. W. T. Dickens, we are having prepared a rubber "certifying" stamp, which can be applied to the back of a piece with such an incorrect date and certify the date that the piece was examined, by, probably, one of the Officers of the Group.

We will report in the Bulletin when the stamp is to hand, in the meantime, please do not send anything for certifying.

The Late Henry O. Meisel. As mentioned in a "stop press" note in our last Bulletin, we heard belatedly and with much regret of the death on July 5th of Henry O. Meisel, of Clintonville, Wisconsin, President of the American Metered Postage Society, and a member of our Group since early 1952.

He had been interested in meters since the earliest days, and in 1935 he had, with a few other collectors, started the American Postage Indicia Society, the first such organisation in the United States. This became dormant during the World War, but in January 1952 it was revived by Henry under the title of the American Metered Postage Society. This society gained a considerable membership, though it is fair to state, some American collectors did not wholly agree with some of its methods and policy.

The Society used to publish Bulletins "little and often", - on an average about three four-page leaflets a month. Sometimes these contained personal notes with little relevance to meters but sometimes they contained useful information which we were glad to reproduce, and we possess a complete file of these.

Latterly, Henry had run the Society unaided as "President", and as no other member apparently has been willing to take over his work, the A.M.P.S. has now become defunct; it will be much missed by its former members.

Mr Stitt Dibden. We have been sorry also to learn of the sudden death, early in October, of W. G. Stitt Dibden. He was best known as a postal historian, and although not a member of our Group, he had often written on various aspects of meter stamps and we had referred to one of these as recently as January this year.

THE BUSINESS EFFICIENCY EXHIBITION NOVELTIES FROM P-B and from R-N.

As usual, both Pitney-Bowes and Roneo-Neopost had stands at Olympia, London, in this year's "Business Efficiency Exhibition", and each had new machines of particular interest to meter-stamp collectors.

Besides showing their range of postal weighing machines, Messrs P-B showed samples of the well-tried "Simplex" machines (now in production for sixteen years) and of the more recent "Series 5000" machines - both the versions running to 10/11½ and to 99/11½, practically indistinguishable by the style of impression. The novelty was the new "heavy duty" (High Speed) Model 4255 machine intended for use with the new Model 3100 Collating-Inserting Mailing Machine as used by Barclays Bank at their "Barclaycard" Centre at Northampton; this machine produces impressions like that of the

The Business Efficiency Exhibition (Contd.)

RT 2227 illustrated in our June Bulletin and apparently supersedes the old Model CV meters, giving values from $0/0\frac{1}{2}$ to $0/9\frac{1}{2}$. The machine demonstrated, with "NORTHAMPTON" townmark, was numbered "RT 2449", so that it is obvious that the numbers do not run consecutively. The Model 3144 machine is claimed to be capable of inserting as many as six enclosures, closing, sealing and meter-stamping and counting the envelopes at speeds of up to 7,500 per hour.

Another novelty from Pitney-Bowes, though non-postal, was of some interest. This is a "Simplex" machine adapted to producing tax stamps for stamping stock contracts; the die is exactly like the "Emblems" die with the words "POST PAID" omitted but the townmark appears at the right - that on the machine demonstrated having the wording "SPECIMEN / TAX STAMP". The denominations printed run from 1/- to 25/- in shilling units.

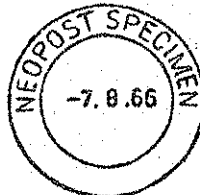
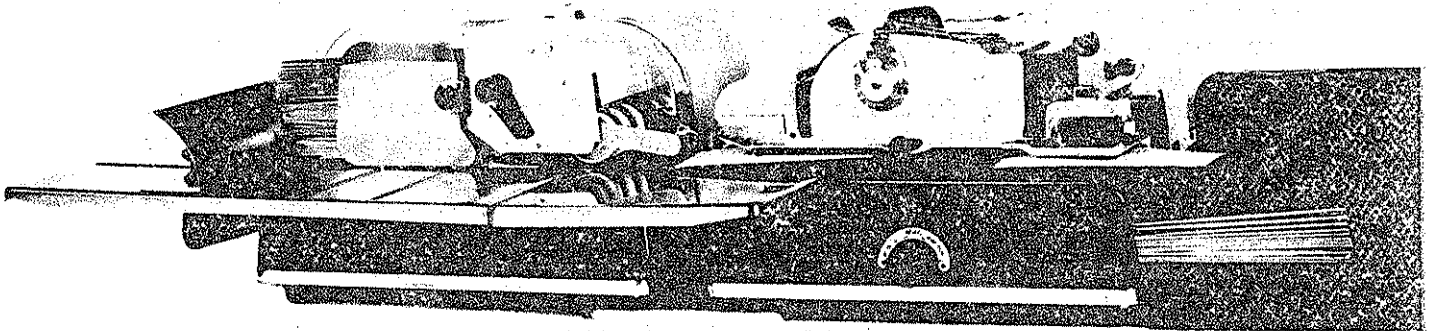
Roneo-Neopost, who made no overt reference to their recent "take-over" by Vickers Ltd., showed their now established range of franking machines, the Models 105, 205 and 305, and their National Insurance Stamping machines, and also had a surprise for collectors, the new Model 605 which was clearly a Postalia machine (of Western German make) built into a mailing machine which automatically feeds, seals, franks, stacks and counts the mail in one operation, at speeds of up to 10,000 items per hour. (The meter can also be detached and used by itself.) The frank is of the "Emblems" design, with double-circle townmark showing small date with Arabic month-figures like Postalia machines in other countries; the denomination is of the form "0/3" preceded by a group of three short wavy lines, and is capable of running from 0/1 to 0/9 only (without a $\frac{1}{2}$). The machine actually being shown was not adapted to sterling currency and was capable of printing values up to 99/9, but as this would register on the meter as 999 pence instead of 99 shillings and 9 pence, it was not allowed. The number on the die appeared as the usual Neopost "specimen" number, "RN 000", but what prefix will appear on machines in actual use, we do not yet know.

In consequence of the new postal rates the small L.V. machines Model 105 have had their range altered, and now comprise $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 7d., 8d., 9d., 10d., and 1/-. Thus the originally provided $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., $3\frac{1}{2}$ d., $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. and $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. values have been discontinued, and $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 7d., 8d. and 10d. substituted.

We might incidentally record that the National Insurance machines are all single-value machines, and provide odd values such as 31/5, 26/7, 25/7, etc. Impressions from multi-value machines would probably not be clear enough to avoid mistakes.

An illustration of the new Model 605 incorporated in the complete mailing machine is given on the next page, together with a "Specimen" impression from the Postalia meter.

The Business Efficiency Exhibition (Contd.)



G. B. NOTES
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Midget. An old example but only now brought to our attention by Mr Fletcher is "GvR" die M 38 of Edinburgh, showing the small "8" apparently inverted. As the figure is very small, there may be other dies with similar errors, not hitherto recorded.

Neopost 105 (L.V.) } (See under "The Business Efficiency
Neopost 605 - New Machine. } (Exhibition" on page 39 and above.

P-B Single Value Meter (Model A). Mr Barfoot reports the new value 4d. on "Eiir" die PB 125; unlike the PB 2 previously reported, this shows the wide setting.

G. B. Notes (Contd.)

P-B Model CV. Mr M. Richards reports die P 11 used from Halifax on 2 Apr 1965, with the "GviR" cipher, and from Sunderland this year, still with the "GviR" cipher. It has been noticed in the past that this model of meter frequently changes locations, the machines being loaned by Messrs Pitney-Bowes to large but occasional users.

Some two years ago, the "Emblems" dies P.C. 67 and P.C. 69 were reported as showing, unusually, stops after each of the prefix letters. Mr D. H. Fletcher now tells us that he has P.C. 66 and P.C. 98 similarly, and asks if there are any more - please let us know. Conversely, are there any numbers below 100 without the stops ?

The "Barclaycard" centre at Northampton has used the die PA 99 (EiiR die) as well as the PC 24 ("Emblems") previously reported and PC 26 (also "Emblems") since seen, but the example of PA 99 seen shows the normal date, for a later mailing.

The Model CV meters, first used in 1935, have now, it is believed, been superseded by the new model 4255 as described in the last MSB.

Simplex. Mr M. Richards reports an inverted town die (Newcastle upon Tyne) on SZ 546 (EiiR die), used 15 VII 66.

Mr D. H. Fletcher shows us an example of the old-style F. of V., with small "D" attached to the figure (in this case "4") in the new-style frame with fixed "D" below the crown, so that there appear two "Ds". Machine SS 308 (Edinburgh), used 24 V 66, with slogan at left showing name of user. A remarkable but by no means unlikely error!

Mr Richards reports also further dies with the initial zero in their numbers, namely SM 032 and 037, and SL 065. Such a zero appears now to be standard practice, and only its omission would be noteworthy.

Universal M.V. with small date. We were recently removing from the parcel wrapping on which it came, a "tape" (of the new Pitney-Bowes pattern) bearing an impression of UF 973 (South Shields / Co.Durham) when we suddenly noticed something unusual about the date figures; closer examination showed that these (10 X 66) were of the small "Simplex" stype ! An impression of a week earlier on an envelope confirmed this. The frank has "EiiR" cipher, and the townmark has the modern closer circles with smaller lettering, and is therefore probably a replacement but we have not yet located an impression from this machine in its original form; the users are Kemps Biscuits Ltd.

Our boo on the Universal M.V. Machines stated that only one machine (UB 682, Belfast) was then known with date in this style, used in Oct. 1960.

Highest Numbers. Reports from Messrs M. L. Blakeston, D. H. Fletcher and M. Richards have produced the following :

P.B.617F	PC 161*	SK 186
N 548C	NP 259	J 4612

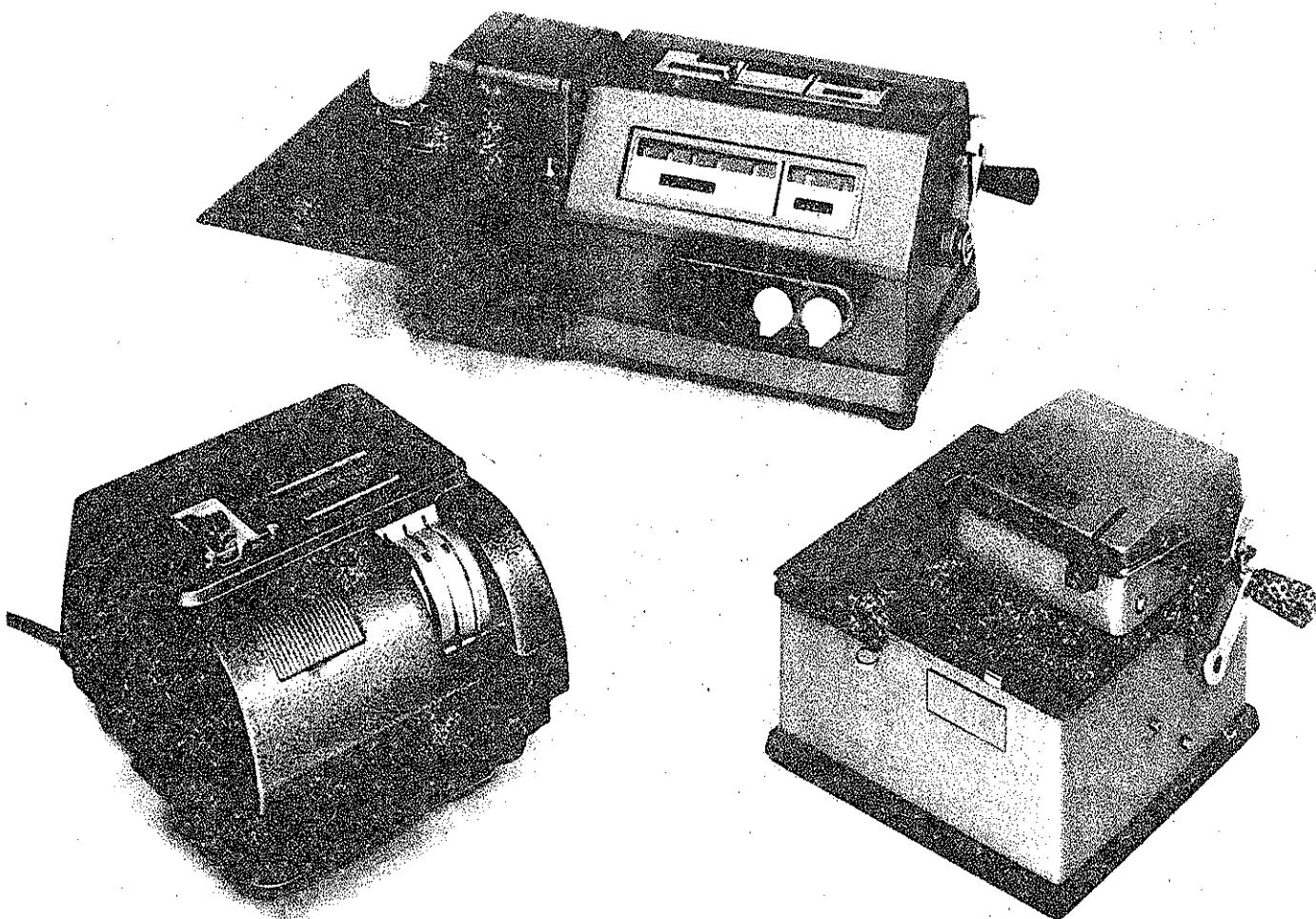
* again no change here; this model has probably been discontinued, as mentioned above.

None of the new P.B. series with suffix "D" have been reported.

THE NEOPOST RANGE OF MACHINES

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For comparison with the new Model 605, we give illustrations of the three earlier models of Neopost meters - the Model 105 (10-value L.V.), Model 205 (smaller electric M.V.), and Model 305 (hand or electric M.V., originally termed the "Frankmaster"). It is interesting to note that the arrangement of the levers or knobs for setting the denomination differ on all three and again on the new Model 605, - horizontally sliding lever on the "105", vertically sliding levers on the "205", rotatable knobs on the "305", and rotary levers on the "605".



"PERMIT" MARKINGS.

The use of unofficially printed markings instead of meter stamps or post-office impressions to denote prepayment of postage on bulk mailings was foreshadowed in our June MSB. The first we saw came on a despatch from Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd. and consisted of a single-lined rectangle containing the inscription in four lines, "POSTAGE / PAID / LONDON I.S. / Serial 5" printed in black; there was no date but it was received on 16th September. A slightly later one coming from "Readers Digest" publications is similar but the third and fourth lines read "HARROW & WEMBLEY / SERIAL 1". Both items came by "Letter Post", i.e., first-class mail, and the marks were evidently printed along with the other inscription of return address on the envelopes. We do not yet know whether "Serial No." refers to the user or to the mailing.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS DEPARTMENT MACHINES

Since 1927 the Post Office Savings Bank and connected Departments have been using Pitney-Bowes Mailing Machines for franking and despatching official correspondence with depositors and savers. These machines print a double-circle townmark with two-line date in the centre, exactly like that used with Pitney-Bowes single-value and Model CV meters, which serves also as a frank by virtue of including the word "PAID" between the circles at the bottom.

The Barfoot & Simon meter stamp catalogue says that "although these machines are fitted with counters they are not meter machines" and so does not list them; strictly, this may be correct, but they are nevertheless of meter interest and often included in meter-stamp collections.

Just how many of the "counting machines" there are, or have been, it is hardly possible to determine, but we have recorded seven different town names, as follows :-

LONDON N.7	with PAID -D
LONDON W.14	with PAID A ^D (or) B ^D (or) D ^D (or) DO
ACTON W.3	with PAID B ₀ ^D (or) B ^D (or) Bd
HARROGATE YORKS.	with PAID S ^D (or) SB
(or) HARROGATE YORKSHIRE	with PAID S.B.
LYTHAM S ^I ANNES	with PAID P.B.
MANCHESTER	with PAID B ^D
RICHMOND & TWICKENHAM	with PAID C ^D

Some of these have varieties such as stops after LONDON (notably W.14, - the Headquarters, and original type) and/or after PAID, and we have a record of as many as eighteen variations in all, but it is not to be supposed that there have been as many different machines.

The removal of the headquarters from London W.14 to Glasgow at the beginning of July has now brought about a new variety: the circles are closer together with apparently smaller lettering between, as on the more

Post Office Savings Department Machines (Contd.)

recent P-B meters; the name now reads GLASGOW S.W.3 with PAID at the bottom not followed by any code letters.

These town/Paid dies may be used alone, with a group of wavy lines at left (Lytham St. Annes only), or with a slogan at left, introduced in June, 1940.

The book* "Slogan Postmarks of Great Britain" by C. R. H. Parsons and G. R. Pearson lists (and illustrates) eleven main types of these slogans with three varieties of size of one and six of another. The first Supplement to this book, published in early 1964, stated that the slogan "KEEP ON SAVING/THROUGH/THE POST OFFICE" as introduced in 1957 was withdrawn at all offices on 21st May, 1963, the result of a change in the issue of Savings Certificates. The same type has however been reintroduced and we have seen it used with LONDON N.7 and the new GLASGOW S.W.3 townmarks.

Can any member tell us the date of re-introduction, and the offices from which it is now used ?

* Published by the British Postmark Society, August 1962.

Incidentally, the Savings Certificate Division, recently removed from London N.7 to Durham City, is apparently using on its mail an ordinary "Universal" cancelling machine, the town die reading "DURHAM" at top with "S.C.D." at bottom of the circle, the usual vertical "OFFICIAL PAID" slug appearing in the centre of the wavy lines at the right.

IRISH NOTES
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Simplex Numbering. In regard to the report by Mr M. Richards of the die numbered "SA 779", the only comment we have received is the suggestion that it is a case of a machine transferred from Great Britain and, possibly by mistake, allowed to retain its British number. John Mann says that he does not possess a copy of this number in G.B., neither does the collection of the late Mr Lloyd Parton although the latter has SA 776 and SA 780.

NEOPOST MACHINES IN EUROPE
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Belgium. Two typing errors occurred in the notes on page 33 of the last MSB. The townmark (d) for D 107 should read "DC" instead of "SC". The TM "BIC" for D 112 should read "IXELLES - ELSENE" and not "EXELLES - "

Iceland. We omitted to note that in addition to the Nos. 5 and 10 mentioned in the first note on this subject (IX/21), Mr Werner Simon has reported No.8 (proof only, with TM Reykjavik) and No.11, used at Akureyri.

FORGED METER IMPRESSIONS

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We mentioned briefly in the June MSB the use of forged postage stamps and meter impressions in connection with the distribution of propaganda emanating from north Korea and despatched to addresses in south Korea.

A more detailed examination of the booklet "Forgery and Counterfeiting" kindly sent us by the (Government of) The Republic of Korea reveals several more facts of great interest to philatelists in general and to meter collectors in particular. It should be made clear from the beginning that "no effort has been made to ensure that spelling etc. are correct" and "if there had been a serious intent to ensure the receipt of the material by specific individuals in this country (i.e. Korea) it does not seem that the counterfeiters would have been so careless about mailing details".

It would seem that the object of the operation is not primarily to diffuse northern propaganda in the south but more to cause delay to mail and expense and trouble to the postal services in the south. Journals and newspapers from all parts of the world, including Great Britain and ranging from "The Times" to the Bulletins of the British Interplanetary Society and the British Coal Utilisation Research Association (but not - perhaps significantly - philatelic publications) have been reproduced but with the inner pages replaced with propaganda material.

These have then been sent, with forged postage stamps or meter impressions, with ordinary international mail, thus making it necessary to examine all the mail from many countries.

The forged postage stamps noted are from France and the USA, The meter stamps, with the differences we have noted, are :-

Great Britain: "Emblems" type Universal MV, numbered "UJ 877", with TM BIC-A, "LONDON E.C.2.", date not clear. Value as "1/8"

"Emblems" type Automax, number not clear, TM DC, "LONDON E.C.2.", only "62" of the date visible. Value "0/1½."

We have a record of having seen UJ 877 in the "EiiR" design, the TM and user not known.*

U.S.A.: Several impressions are illustrated, all of the Pitney-Bowes RT/RF etc type (B & S type H 1) but in no case is it possible to discern the number.

All impressions, however, have the date incorrect, as the month has Arabic figures, as 30 9 63, a form which we have not seen from the USA before, where it has always been shown as "SEP 30 '63"

* Mr Tottrup, of Messrs Pitney-Bowes Ltd., informs us that the user of this machine was The Times Publishing Company, London, E.C.4. Thus not only is the townmark of the wrong type, it shows the wrong district number.

Forged Meter Impressions (Contd.)

Germany: The only impression clearly shown is of B & S type 33 (with "DEUTSCHE / BUNDESPOST" at top of frank), value as z010, TM DC-A (double circle with inner bars.) Date shows "22. 1 64" (stop after day but not after month, but the month is very indistinct.) TM is worded, in the old style, (22c) KOLN 1 There is no registration number.

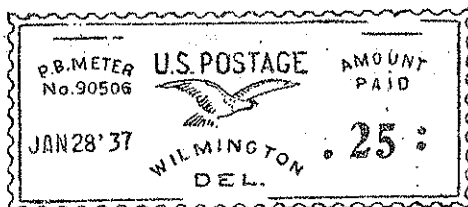
One example quoted in the book will illustrate the kind of "deliberate mistake"? made with this material.

A wrapper containing a counterfeit copy of the Austrian publication "OESTERREICHISCHE WASSERWIRTSCHAFT" had a return address of "3928 Los Angeles, Cal., U.S.A.", was franked with two forged thirty-cent and two forged half-cent stamps and postmarked "Torrington, Connecticut" !!

POSTAL CODE NUMBERS IN EUROPE

The postal code / departemental numbers in France have been mentioned in our two previous issues, and the location of the districts with numbers 91 to 95 was queried. A map in the special supplement on France published in "The Times" (London) of June 30th has solved our problem; these are all new districts created out of the former departement of Seine-et-Oise surrounding the City of Paris whose original number of 78 has now been allotted to Yvelines; the others are Essonne (91), Haut de Seine (92), Seine St. Denis (93), Val de Marne (94) and Val d'Oise (95).

UNITED STATES: THE "FLYING EAGLE" TYPE



As mentioned in our review in the last MSB, practically half of the American Book "An Introduction to the Hobby of Collecting the Postage Meter Stamps" by Mr R. H. Harsh is devoted to a detailed study of the so-called "Flying Eagle" type, evidently Mr Harsh's favourite type. These were the earliest Pitney-Bowes multi-value meters and bore numbers from 90001 up.

Of the nearly 800 meters in this type, Mr Harsh has located all but 55 and lists those known in order of number with the towns and also by towns with the numbers known therefrom.

It is just possible that some of our members, inside or outside the U.S., will be able to locate some of the missing numbers, and we therefore list these: reports will be welcomed and will be passed on to Mr Harsh.

United States - The "Flying Eagle" Type (Contd.)

No 90001 was used for two trial dies in slightly different types and 90002-009 are not known; the first of the "regular" type being 90010. All subsequent numbers have been located up to 90796 e x c e p t the following: (we omit the "90" of each for brevity)

013, 052, 056, 063, 076, 083, 160, 178, 195, 209, 215, 224,
260, 289, 311, 328, 330, 358, 396, 401, 413, 416, 424, 443,
449, 465, 467, 486, 493, 498, 530, 553, 575, 586, 617, 619,
646, 659, 664, 669, 676, 687, 706, 708, 726, 733, 735, 740,
744, 752, 774, 780, 782, 783, 786, 797 and above.

Some of the machines were for post office use, and show "P.O." before the number instead of "No."; those known are: ("90" omitted here also)
016, 059, 060, 061, 062, 649, 796.

Some, again, were for use on "Registered" mail and in accordance with the then-current regulations, show neither town or date; these are:

011, 050*, 053, 086, 102, 123*, 287*, 366, 435*, 523, 524, 657,
739, 743.

* - these numbers are known also with town.

Although the great majority are known only from one town, three Nos. are reported each used from four towns (namely, 016, 024, 117), and as many as twenty are reported each from three towns.

Some of the meters printed values from $.00\frac{1}{2}$ to $9.99\frac{1}{2}$, with a possible $\frac{1}{2}$ cent, while others printed only integral cents from 0 01 to 99 99 (no stop between), but this is of course not a feature of the die itself and Mr Harsh merely mentions it without any detailed listing of the two varieties.

Reference: Barfoot & Simon Cat. Design FA, Types F2 to F4.

NOVELTIES FROM OVERSEAS
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BELGIUM. Mr Barfoot says that Postage Due machines like that reported on page 34 are known used at Antwerp 1, Brussels 1, Ghent 1, and Liege 1. (Hasler F88 models).

BRITISH SOLOMAN ISLANDS. According to a newsletter from New Zealand shown us by Mr Barfoot, even this remote colony is using a meter! The Western Pacific High Commission at Honiara has an Automax, with frame of the usual "Colonial" type inscribed "BRITISH / SOLOMAN ISLANDS" in two lines at top and a large crown at bottom between "PB" and "1" in small boxes. The example shown has denomination as =/-0/10 and is dated 17 II 66, but the B.S.I.P. has changed to decimal currency like Australia, so that this meter has probably now been changed.

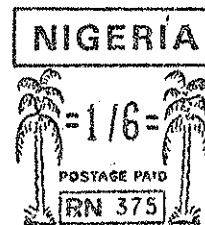
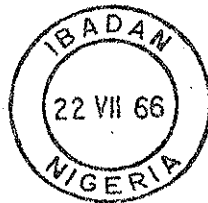
ECUADOR. Mr Barfoot remarks that, although we have recorded Francotyp and Hasler meters here, we have apparently not so far mentioned the Pitney-Bowes Model R, used since 1951 though omitted from the B & S Catalogue. Of the usual format of its make, this shows a Condor (eagle) in the centre; the town circles are worded "REPUBLICA DEL ECUADOR" at top with town at foot, and there are four f. of v. with the usual initial group of wavy lines.

Novelties From Overseas (Contd.)

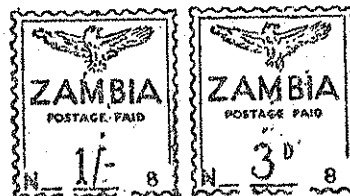
HONG KONG. The NCR machine mentioned here in June and September appears to have replaced the simpler style of die chronicled some years ago. That older type was printed in violet on yellow paper, and Mr Barfoot has examples used up to FEB 10 1953, while the newer type is in red on yellow and he has copies used from SEP 3 1953.

NEW ZEALAND. The newsletter from N.Z. referred to under British Solomon Is. mentions also a prototype coin-in-slot franking machine, designed and manufactured locally (but not further named), which was installed in the lobby of the Christchurch Chief P.O. on 13 April 1964 but withdrawn on 25 October 1965 following an increase in the inland letter rate from 3d to 4d. The frank resembled that of the Universal M.V. (B. & S. Cat. type 19) but was inscribed "NEW ZEALAND / POST OFFICE" at top and "POSTAGE" below the value "3D", with "G.P.O. CH." in the bottom panel. There was no townmark, and it was cancelled like an adhesive stamp.

We have had no further information about the "A" machine mentioned here in 1963 (VII/65 and 78), but denominations of 3D., 1/-, 1/3, 1/6, 1/9 and 2/- have now been seen, all from meter No. "A 19" and without townmark. It is still not possible to decide whether they are F.V. of L.V. dies.



NIGERIA. The new Neopost 305 design is now shown; we have also the Neopost 205 in similar but slightly smaller design with No. "NE 23" in the bottom panel, the townmark having the usual Arabic month figure.



ZAMBIA. To the 3d and 1/- values in the Neopost L.V. machines (type now illustrated), Mr Barfoot adds 1d and 5d (meter N 439, presumably numbered in the former Federal series.)