

HON. SECRETARY AND  
TREASURER :

John C. Mann.  
19 Chartham Road,  
LONDON, S.E.25.

#### SECRETARY'S NOTES

Annual Statement of Accounts. This will be found attached at the end of this issue of the Bulletin, together with the Hon. Secretary's report for the past year.

Membership. Once again, mainly due to the book "Meter Stamps of Great Britain and Ireland", by Alfred Dewey, we are able to welcome new members to the Group :-

- (187) Miss G. Spence, 96 Oliver Road, Cowley, OXFORD.  
(188) Dipl.Ing. Karl Topf, Regierungsbaurat a.D., 45 Osnabruck, Vosskamp 21, FEDERAL GERMAN REPUBLIC.  
(189) County Librarian, Angus and Kincardineshire County Library, MONTROSE, Angus.

and one old member who has re-joined :-

- (143) B. T. Penzer, Esq., 89 Vicarage Lane, Water Orton, BIRMINGHAM.

we also have one change of address to record :-

Wm. Pamperien is now at :- 1621 N.E.5th Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33304, U.S.A.

Members Wants. Miss M. E. Thornton, of "Ael-y-Bryn", Cwm, RHYL, Flintshire, wants to acquire slogans with a "Christmas" connection. Please write direct.

Next Bulletin. This is expected to be in June. Notes and news, including reports of "highest numbers", to the Hon. Sec. please, by the middle of May.

THE EDITOR. We regret to say that our Hon. Editor has been confined to bed for some weeks (following three weeks in hospital during January and February), due to a condition resulting in heart weakness. He sends his apologies for the fact that he has accordingly been unable to undertake any correspondence during this period. Compilation of this issue of the MSB has naturally been hindered, but for the time being please send all notes, contributions, etc. to the Hon. Sec. so that the load can be taken from Mr Dewey.

EARLY METER COLLECTOR AND THE MANUFACTURERS.  
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Owing to reproduction from a rough draft, a paragraph was unfortunately omitted from these notes which somewhat spoilt the sense of what followed.

At the bottom of Page 56 (or the top of page 57) the following should be inserted :-

"P. M. & M. willingly supplied Mr Crouch with information about the licencee of each of their machines as issued, the date of installation, and the values of their meters, whereas U. P. F. always politely but firmly refused to give any information, for reasons which they did not disclose."

Also, in the seventh line from the bottom on page 56, the word "mixture" should have read "moisture".

A NEW MACHINE, MANUFACTURER AND DESIGN FOR GREAT BRITAIN.  
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We were surprised to see during February press reports of a new franking machine to be introduced in Great Britain, known as the "FML 88", and these notices were quickly followed by a report from M. L. Blakeston, Wareham, of a hitherto unrecorded design.

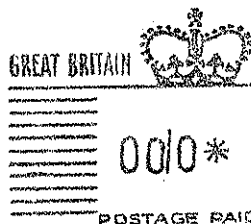
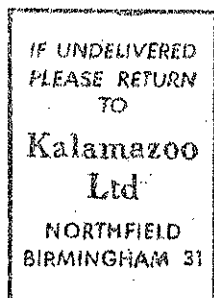
Enquiry revealed that the machine was marketed by Postage and Revenue Franking Machines Ltd., of Barnet, Herts, and literature kindly sent us by their public relations consultants shows that it is in fact the (Swiss) Hasler F 88. It is of course modified to suit sterling currency but obviously quick conversion to decimal currency in a few years time will present no problems.

As will be seen from the illustrations the design is completely new, and much simpler, for this country, than before. The fact that most of it consists of horizontal lines should mean that "stretched" impressions will not be so obvious. It was designed by William J. Whatley.

The figures of value show as 00/0\* for "nil", the range is in fact 00/0½ to 99/11½ but as with other makes a special key has to be depressed for higher values. "Tapes", of which we have not yet seen an actual sample, are described as "self-adhesive" and unperforated.

There are several other features of this machine that are new to Great Britain, amongst these are :-

A NEW MACHINE, MANUFACTURER AND DESIGN FOR GREAT BRITAIN. (Contd.)



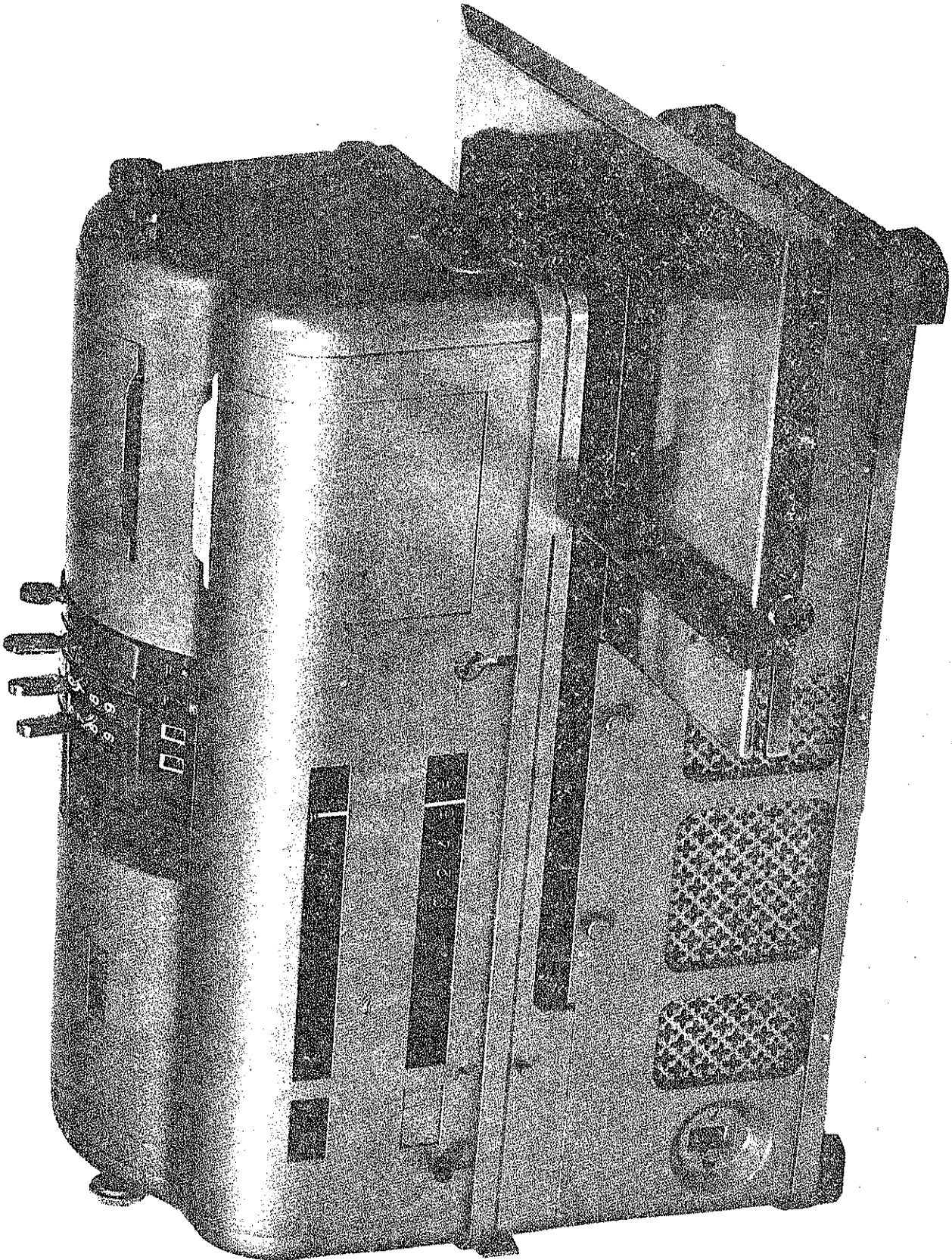
Prepayment of postage is made by inserting a security printed value card in the machine and these cards can be issued by any main Post Office. They are of two denominations, 1,000 or 10,000 units, and in Great Britain they equal £50 or £500, the units for the currency being 1/-, and one or more cards can be held in reserve until needed. There is thus no need to take the machine, or part of it, to the Post Office for re-setting. When the value of the card is exhausted it needs only to be replaced by a new one and the old one taken to the post office at which the machine is registered and new cards issued on payment.

The cards have four items printed on them. A sequential card number, the licence number of the machine and two totals - one showing the machines total when the card was inserted and another to show the total when the card was finished.

The size of slogans available is larger than with some other machines and the dies "can be moved to suit particular requirements". We have only seen one impression with a slogan so far but the effect of this will no doubt show in the near future.

The FML 88 can also be fitted with "a consecutive number device, for marking each mail piece", thus introducing Registration Numbers to Great Britain for the first time.

A NEW MACHINE, MANUFACTURER AND DESIGN FOR GREAT BRITAIN. (Contd.)



A NEW MACHINE, MANUFACTURER AND DESIGN FOR GREAT BRITAIN. (Contd.)

The numbering system used is not clear at the moment. We have seen fml 1002 (LONDON, W.C.2.), fml 4001 (DAVENTRY, NORTHANTS.), and fml 4002 (BIRMINGHAM). Possibly the numbering is to be on a regional (or agency) basis starting at 1001 for the London area and 4001 for the Midlands with the other first digits allocated to other areas. Again no doubt this will become clearer in the future.

Actual first day of use was 16 Jan 1967, but we are not sure which machine this was.

Only recently we recorded the issue of a GPO leaflet advocating the use of franking machines which gave the names of the "two approved suppliers", presumably a new edition will appear now !

It is also interesting to speculate on future developments in Great Britain now that the European Free Trade Area ("EFTA") countries have reached "free trade" between themselves. As well as this Swiss machine, the removal of tariffs from similar machines imported from Sweden, Norway and Denmark together with the impending introduction here of decimal currency in February 1971 may mean a spate of new types. Hasler have of course already introduced machines suitable for sterling currency in South Africa and New Zealand, the first already "decimal" and the second is to become so in July this year.

At the time of writing the final form of the currency for Great Britain has still to be decided, but it looks as if the majority recommendation of the Halsbury Committee for a "One Pound" unit divided into 100 "new pence" will be the one adopted. Such a "new penny" will have a value of 2.4 of the current pence, and a "half-new-penny" coin and postal value will be required at least until gradual inflation makes it unnecessary !

A NEW MACHINE FROM FRIDEN  
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The July-August bulletin of the Meter Stamp Society, USA, records the introduction by Friden of a new desk-top machine, Model 9222. It is a 3-bank machine printing from .01 to 9.99 and as in the case of the Pitney-Bowes Model DM the design of the frank is a shortened form of that used for the larger models.

Fractional rates will be provided by the use of "slugs" in the slogan area at the left of the TM circle. "Tapes" are produced by passing a pad of paper through the machine.

The numbers of this model in the USA appear to start at 200,000.

and EXPANSION INTO CANADA  
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★ INTRODUCING ★  
THE FASTEST SEMI-AUTOMATIC  
POSTAGE MACHINE AVAILABLE  
FRIDEN MODEL 410C



Mr H. K. Warren, of Vancouver, sends us impressions and advertising literature showing the introduction of the larger Friden machine, which is known as either the Model 410C or the 420, into Canada. The first day of use is not known.

We imagine that the smaller Model 9222 described on the previous page will follow in due course. Friden's "ancestors", National Postal Meters and Commercial Controls also operated in Canada but not, as far as we can recall, outside the USA and Canada. This is very much in contrast with other manufacturers who appear in many countries.

G. B. NOTES.  
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Automax. No member has reported AH 166 nor anyone either AH 86 or AH 88 with EiiR die. Surprisingly however, two members have reported new "high numbers" for this series, AH 211 from Mr M. Richards (Durham) and AH 213 from Mr P. D. Wood (Wareham). Whether these two machines have been in use for some years and have just not been seen (or reported) before we cannot say at the moment.

Our reporters have been noting which of the earlier machines show the "=" in place of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  but in at least one case, AA 90, we have had reports that conflict with each other. This may be due to possibly re-building at some time, as also may be the fact that new numbers have appeared after all this time.

Pitney-Bowes Model CV A further long list submitted by Mr Richards includes P.C. 67, 98, 99, (not 100,) 103, (not 105), 125, 127, (not 126 or 128) as having stops after both letters; but we seem to be getting inconsistent reports of some numbers and must leave a little more time to draw up a final list.

Mr Fletcher reports the following with the closer-circle townmark:  
PC 111 (CROYDON / SURREY)    PC 136 (SIDCUP / KENT)  
PC 128 (LONDON / W.6.)        PC 138 (BRISTOL)  
PC 132 (LONDON / N.W.1.)      PC 159 (SHERBURN-IN-ELMET / LEEDS)  
(to which the Hon. Sec. can add PC 161 (LONDON / S.E.1.)

His only example above PC 109 with the old wider-circle townmark is from PC 143 (BIRMINGHAM).

G. B. NOTES (Contd.)

Roneo-Neopost Model 205. Casually looking at a copy of J 5150 (TM LONDON, E.C.3.) sent us as a "highest number", we were surprised to notice that the date -7 II 67 showed the month in the form of a Roman figure, whereas all the other impressions seen from this model, both in Great Britain and in other countries, have an Arabic figure. This is so far the only "J" number above 5000 seen, and it will be interesting to discover whether it is a freak or a permanent change for the future.

MultiColoured Item. Referring to this mysterious item (see page 53 of our last Bulletin) Mr S. D. Barfoot, who had frequent access to the old U.P.F. records, says he has never heard of their proofs being taken in such a way and feels certain that these were not produced by Universal. He can only suggest that they were produced unofficially for some sort of advertisement; perhaps some unauthorised individual got hold of a set of the dies, as is known to have happened with a set of Pitney-Bowes "H" dies which have been printed in grey-black.

"Highest Numbers". We are glad to have more reports than usual, and have to thank Messrs D. Fletcher, M. Richards, T. M. Richards, P. D. Wood, J. T. Brown and M. L. Blakeston, each of whom contributed.

N 148 D  
SK 691

J 5150  
PC 168

NR 567  
P.B. 783 H

As will be seen, advances have been recorded in each of these six series; the Neopost 105 has now gone to the "D" suffix and the Neopost 305 to "NR" after omitting "NQ" (like NF, NG and NI). In our last report, the parenthesis referring to the omission of certain suffix letters related, of course, to the P.B. series and not to those marked with an asterisk.

We are omitting for the moment the new "fml" as well as the Neopost 605 and Pitney-Bowes R.T., the bases of numbering which are not yet clear. The Automax is not included either but in view of recent reports (see page 66) might have to be again in future !

IRISH NOTES.  
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Neopost "Hybrid" Type. These are not so scarce as we had imagined, and Mr M. Richards has sent a list of those he possesses, comprising N 1 from six different towns and most following numbers up to N 51, 47 machines in all (these include the one noted in our last Bulletin). Most of these are the  $\frac{1}{2}$ p and/or the 2p values; the 1p is noted only on N 18 (Baile Atha Cliath),  $\frac{1}{2}$ p on N 7 (also B.A.C.), 3p on N 3 (Port Laise) and N 23 (B.A.C.), and 6p (B.A.C.). The  $\frac{1}{2}$ p and 6p values have not previously been reported; on the other hand Mr Richards does not possess examples of the 2p., 9p and 1s/- values included in the catalogue.

With this die, N 44 (B.A.C.) had a very small townmark, 21mm diameter, whereas with the next type of die this machine had the normal 25mm diameter townmark.

IRISH NOTES (Contd.)

"Non-Red" Dies. Mr Richards has recently come across die N 406 (Baile Atha Cliath) in very dark green used 30 IX 64 by the Dublin County Council and N 671 (Cluain Meala) in black used by the Grey Land and Sporting Press, Clonmel - two copies, used 5 VII 64 and 31 X 64. Presumably these are due to an extension, authorised or not, of the privilege now allowed to users of the Neopost Model 205 for slogans (only) in different colours.

Midget. The 5d value was catalogued as "scarce", but as this is now the normal inland postal rate (including to Great Britain) it is presumably common - insofar as Midget machines are still in use.

Parcel Post : T.I.M. Mr S. D. Barfoot has shown us a letter dated 31 July 1950 from the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Dublin, which states that these machines were brought into use in Dublin on 14.12.1949 and at Cork, Limerick and Waterford on 17.4.1950. The earlier date for Dublin given by Mr Dixon in the last MSB evidently refers to the trials, and the Department of P & T's date to the definitive introduction - whether there was any alteration in the dies, we do not know.

When first used, these machines showed the date in the English style with month abbreviated to two letters of the English (JA, FE, etc.), and (at least as regards the Dublin machine) from a number of examples shown us by Mr Dixon or reported by Mr Barfoot, this continued through Jan 1955 but, by April 1957, the month had been replaced by a Roman figure, IV 57. We have no examples of intermediate date.

Parcel Post : Simplex. All the examples hitherto seen have apparently emanated from branch post offices in Dublin and are as illustrated in the catalogue, but Mr Dixon has submitted one with townmark BAILE ATHA CLIATH presumably from the Head Office (O'Connell Street), dated 23 VII 53 which differs in several respects : (i) it has circular dots instead of stars at right, (ii) the lines in the narrow rectangle at the sides are thinner, (iii) the Roman figure at bottom left is absent, (iv) "MBEART" is accordingly lower.

The lowest value in these Simplex machines seen by Mr Dixon is 10d. and the highest, 2s/-.

NEOPOST MACHINES IN EUROPE - DENMARK.  
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Some time ago we published notes on the subject of Neopost machines in Europe and shortly afterwards received from Mr Richards (Durham) a list of the users of the 21 machines known in Denmark. We have also received a list of the values known from these machines compiled by Mr Barfoot, and we now combine these two lists opposite. It will be seen that Mr Barfoot notes where the range of values was changed, although there are some gaps to fill in. Most of the machines have at least three values recorded, the others may have been the two-value model, only one has five values.



NEOPOST MACHINES IN EUROPE - DENMARK.(Contd.)

Not Numbered	Avisportkontoret, Copenhagen	
1	A/S Grøn & Witzke, Copenhagen.	5, 10, 15 to 10, 15, 20
2	Forsikrings-Aktieselskabet Skaninavia, Copenhagen.	5, 10, 30 to 10, 15, 25
3	Heinrich Roepstorff, Copenhagen. (On this machine the original "15" die had "20" in the corners, it was later changed to one with "15", as normal.)	5, 10, 20 to 8, 10, 15
4	Th. Holm, Copenhagen.	5, 7, 10
5	A/S Jernkontoret, Copenhagen.	10, 15, 25 to 8, 10, 25
6	Kampmann & Herskind, Copenhagen.	10, 20, 30 to 10, 15, 25
7	A/S De Danske Spritfabrikker, Copenhagen.	5, 10, 20
8	C. J. Aggerbech, Horsens.	20, 25, 30 to 15, 25, 30
9A	Laur O. Petersen, Copenhagen.	5, 10, 20
9B	Sækkeleje Kompagiet A/S, Copenhagen.	7, 10, 15 to 10, 15, 25
10	Mejeriernes og Landbrugets Ulykkesforsikring, Copenhagen.	5, 10, 20, 30, 35 to 10, 15, 25, 30, 35, possibly a third change ?
11	A. C. Illum A/S, Copenhagen.	10, 20, 30 to 10, 15, 25
12A	Chr Olsen & Son, Copenhagen.(until 15.9.29)	5, 10, 30
12B	Louis Hansen & Son, Copenhagen.	5, 10, 25
13	Odense Vin Kompagni, Odense.	15, 20, +?
14	Vejle Dampmølle A/S, Vejle.	5, 7, 20 to 5, 7, 15
15	Vejle og Omegns Andels-Svinesslagteri, Vejle.	5, 10, 20 to 5, 10, 15
16	Korsør Margarinefabrik A/S, Korsør.	20 to 15 +?
17	Dansk Cement Central, Copenhagen.	7, 10, 15
18	Syge- & Begravelseskassen, Copenhagen.	15, +?

However; In preparing this list the Hon. Sec. has examined again his own material and notes a cover from number 12 (without either "A" or "B"), dated -7 IV. 31 from the user recorded above for 12B, values 5 and 10 øre !

Members are asked to examine again their own material and see if they can fill in any of the gaps above.

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS.

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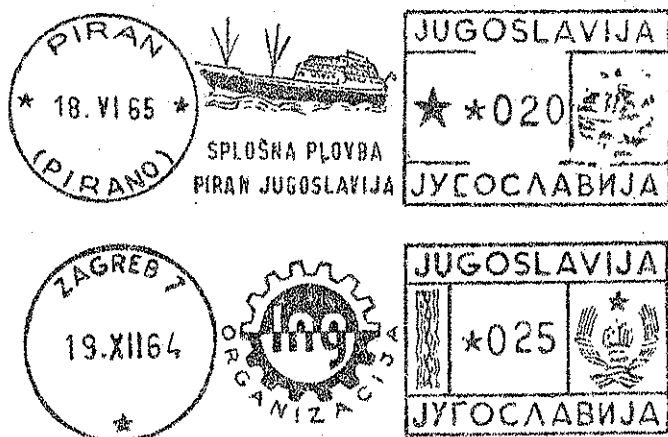
BASUTOLAND (now LESOTHO) Roneo-Neopost 305 ("Frankmaster"). Plain rectangular design with name at top, figures of value as 0.00 $\frac{1}{2}$  at the centre above Crown, "POSTAGE" at left and "REVENUE" at right. Number NB 5 seen used at "ROMA" on 23 II 66. This may be numbered in a combined series for the three Southern African territories of Basutoland, Beahuana-land Protectorate and Swaziland and of course the name of the country will almost certainly be changed soon. (SDB)

BRAZIL. The Pitney-Bowes Model R has now appeared with the figures of value as \*001 instead of the usual \*0010 Machine number M 5495 used on 24 VI '66 (SDB)

CANADA. The Postalia dies have normally had the number preceded by a "P", but at least two of the early machines have the name "Postalia" underneath the number. Mr Barfoot shows us 100103.

CHILE. Hasler F 88, used as long ago as 23.10.63 Plain design with "perforated" frame, "CORREOS DE CHILE" in two lines at top, figures of value as 00.01 preceded by "E" and the number (H 2) below the frame. Machines that are inscribed "CORREO AERO" instead may also exist. (SDB)

GIBRALTAR. Automax seen. Usual design numbered PB 3. Figures of value as =0/7= with the second "=" smaller than the first. Date 17 XI 64 (SDB)

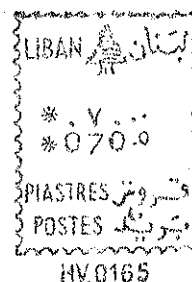
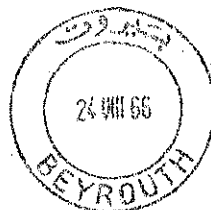


JUGOSLAVIA. We commented some time ago on the change-over of the device at the right of the frank die from a coat of arms to a "PTT" symbol. Mr S. D. Barfoot shows us the two examples illustrated (? both Lirma) in which it will be seen that one has the arms partly defaced or cut away, the other has a vertical border design at the left instead of the usual large star.

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS (Contd.)

**B.N.C.I.(A)**

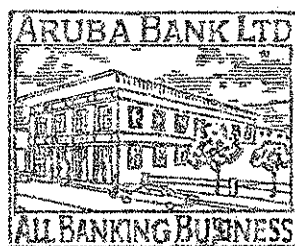
Rue ALLENBY  
Beirut



LEBANON. Havas, number HV 0165, note unusual "V" in VIII of date, and the way that the final zero and the Arabic "stop" are raised.

MEXICO. Post Office machines now have "CORREOS" at the top of the townmark circle although some still have what seems an unnecessary "Permiso Number" at the bottom after the "MAQ.M" number. Recent impressions from Monterey have been in black. (SDB and GRP)

MALAYSIA. The Frankmaster has already been reported, but Mr G. R. Pearson points out that the prefix letters seem to vary. NR 5 is used in Kuching, Sarawak, whereas RN 574 has been seen from Prai, Perak.



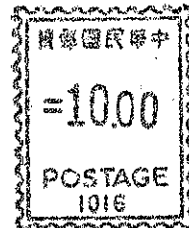
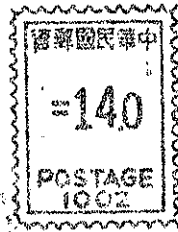
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES. Francotyp Cc, very narrow setting and much smaller frank die. (SDB)

NEW ZEALAND. Neopost 205, similar to the Neopost LV. J 46 seen, figures of value as 2'0- (GRP)

PHILIPPINES. Pitney-Bowes Model R ? with a modified design of die. Three large stars at the right and a line over the figures of value. Machine number 189223 (Manilla) seen used 16.7.66 (SDB)

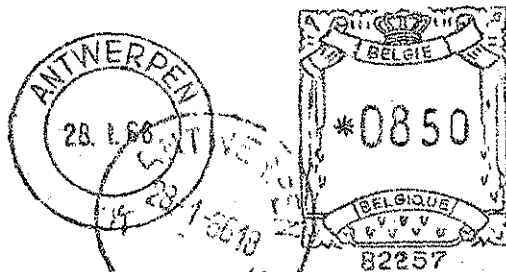
SOUTH ARABIA (FEDERATION OF) - Neopost LV seen, small design, a square inside "perforated" frame inscribed in upper half, in Arabic and English, FEDERATION OF / SOUTH ARABIA and in lower half in Arabic and English POSTAGE / FILS. Value seen "65" (GRP)

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS (Contd.)



TAIWAN (FORMOSA) Some time ago we recorded Automax number 1002 and we now illustrate this together with an impression from 1016. It will be seen that this later machine has a wider frank with what is possibly a fixed zero at the right, the wording of the townmark is different as well. Note the bird (Geese?) ornaments at the sides. (SDB)

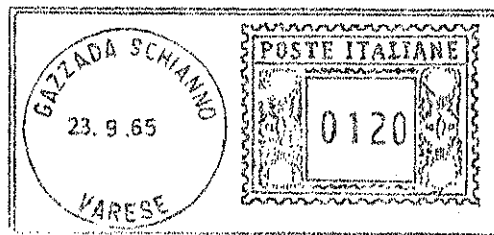
TCHAD. SP-3004 shown us by SDB, Post Office machine with the usual style of tape with corrugations, used from FORT LAMY on 17 2 66, presumably there are at least three others.



BELGIUM. Modified design of frank die for Hasler F 88, in which the two ribbons containing "BELGIE" at the top and "BELGIQUE" at the bottom do not splay out so much as the ones illustrated in the B & S Catalogue. (SDB)

**FIGER**

STABILIMENTO IN GAZZADA SCH  
TEL. 46 135 - 46 148 (VARESE)



ITALY. Another design. ?Postalia. Note unusual "foilage" at side. (SDB)

HON. SECRETARY & TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1966.  
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The Annual Statement of Income and Expenditure is printed overleaf, and from this it will be seen that financially the Group remained more or less "static" during the year. There is in fact a small deficit, but this was caused purely by the purchase of a heavy-duty stapling machine which will be used for books, both the "Meter Stamps of GB & Ireland" published during the year and others in future. It would not be fair to charge this to the cost of one book alone.

Our subscription income remained about the same, as did the membership, but for 1967 we have enrolled a number of newcomers and this part of our income will certainly increase. Naturally, the more members we have, and the subscription income that comes with them, the more we can afford to spend on the Bulletin, either larger or more frequent issues or the inclusion of more illustrations.

In connection with the Bulletin there is one point I wish to stress. The quality of the issues depends on the contributions we receive, the more reports we have, either in answer to queries raised or in the form of notes then the more we have to put in. One member, however, who deserves the thanks of us all is George Pearson, who does the actual duplicating process (and often corrects the Hon. Sec's stencils!). It is a demanding task and one which I feel all will agree that he carries out very well.

It will be seen that our expenditure on Bulletins is more this year than the year before, mainly due to more illustrations and the ever-rising costs of postage, up by a third to our overseas members during the year in question (and by a half for surface letters!). The income from the sale of publications takes into account the production costs of the GB & Eire book, the fact that we covered the total cost in just a few months is very encouraging, all sales in 1967 will benefit the Group considerably and it would seem that we can expect about the same amount of income from this source as last year, unless there is a sudden demand for back issues of the Bulletin, in which case it will be even higher.

We have not been able to make much progress either with the exchange packet of GB material or the boxes of foreign covers, there are a number of problems in connection with the running of an exchange packet of meter stamps, but we hope to be able to solve these as soon as possible.

One final note, we now have the rubber stamp to "certify" dates on meter impressions that have "future" dates in error. If any member wishes to have such a piece certified, please send to the Hon. Sec. with return postage and after examination it will be marked on the reverse and returned as soon as possible.

THE METER STAMP STUDY GROUP

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31st DECEMBER 1966.

(1965)	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	£ s d
(17 11 6)	Subscriptions	16 12 3
- - -	Subscriptions from previous years	10 0
8 3 11	Advance Subscriptions	<u>21 2 0</u>
(25 15 5)		38 4 3
1 2 0	Donations	2 15 0
1 3	Sales of "Introductory Booklet"	1 3
1 0	" " Back Numbers of Bulletin	6 17 0
2 4 7	" " "Parcel Post Meters of GB"	9 0
- - -	Profit on "Meter Stamps of GB & Ireland"	<u>5 6</u>
(29 4 3)		48 12 0
8 3 11	Deduct advance subscriptions	<u>21 2 0</u>
(21 0 4)		27 10 0
8 6 2	Add subscriptions received previously	<u>8 3 11</u>
(29 6 6)		<u>35 13 11</u>
	 <u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
(19 14 3)	Production and despatch of Bulletins	23 11 0
(14 10)	Stationary	4 2 6
(4 1 6)	Postage (Nett after stamps received)	7 3 2
- - -	Misc. (stapler)	<u>5 17 0</u>
(24 10 7)		<u>40 13 8</u>
( - - - )	Excess of Expenditure over Income	4 19 9
( 4 15 11 )	(Excess of Income over Expenditure)	- - -
	 <u>BALANCE IN HAND</u>	
	Balance in Hand at 31st December 1965	47 7 11
	Deduct Advance Subscriptions	<u>8 3 11</u>
		39 4 0
	Deduct excess of Expenditure	<u>4 19 9</u>
		34 4 3
	Add subscriptions in advance	<u>21 2 0</u>
	Balance in Hand at 31st December 1966	£ <u>55 6 3</u>

(Signed)

Examined and found correct (Signed)

John C. Mann.

G. R. Pearson.