

HON. SECRETARY AND
TREASURER :

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

GROUP NOTES

=====

Membership.

We have no new members to record with this issue but a number of changes of address. Some of these are as a result of the addition of Postal Codes, a full list of members will be included with the Bulletin when the forms we sent out with the last issue have been returned. Some of the copies for members in the U.S.A. and Canada appear to have been delayed by a strike in the docks which delayed some surface mail.

Mr E. Keith Lloyd, now, 84 Richmond Road, Freemantle, SOUTHAMPTON SO1 3FS.

Mr T. W. Johnson, 46 Queen's Avenue, ILKESTON, Derbyshire DE7 4DL

W/C R. F. Jackson, 75 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia,
CANADA.

(after March 1968)

Mr G. M. Stelfox, 41 Knockbreda Park, BELFAST BT6 OHB

"Census" of Members. A large number of the forms we sent out with the last issue of the Bulletin have been returned (those from our overseas members are not expected for some time) and from these we are able to build up a much clearer idea of where interests lie.

Sending out the Bulletin in future. Legislation is expected during 1968 that will prohibit the use in either commercial or industrial mail of metal enclosures to aid the use of automatic sorting machines.

In the past we have always stapled the sheets of the "Bulletin" together but beginning with this issue we will discontinue the practice.

Another field which will affect us soon is the use of standardised sizes of envelopes, when our present stocks are run out we will make the necessary changes to avoid having to pay extra postage after the Autumn of 1968.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR COLLECTION ?
=====

During the past four years I have had the melancholy task of sorting out the collections of three meter collectors, always a sad occasion but one that must inevitably face someone for all of us.

In one case clear instructions had been given to the family regarding the disposal of what had been almost a life-times work and enjoyment, in another a thoughtful executor took the trouble to seek me out rather than just throw out what appeared to be worthless. What prompts me to write this is how many such collections have been thrown out in innocence?

We are a group of collectors who collect something that to many other philatelists is more or less either not understood or considered worthless, it is not a question of the money value of the collection but its value to other collectors because of the time that has been put in on research or arranging. These thoughts of course apply to all collections of "worthless" material, not only philatelic.

Can I make this plea? If you have not already done so please make sure that the other members of your family, or those that you expect to deal with your affairs, know what to do with your collection, who to contact or who to offer it to. There have been several cases we suspect where items of quite considerable interest have been lost forever through ignorance. DO IT NOW, it has to come one day, even a note in an album is better than nothing.

- jcm -

NOTES AND NEWS FROM THE INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT.
=====

There were two small errors in our notes on this subject in the last MSB, under India, Type 4.1 should have been Type 10.1 and under Pakistan, Type 18 should have been Type 19 - please alter your copies accordingly.

THE METER STAMP SOCIETY
=====

(Secretary - Wm. E. Pamperien, 1621 N. E. 5th Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301, U.S.A.) have continued in their latest Bulletin the Addenda of the USA section of the Barfoot-Simon Catalogue. They have also distributed the first installment of a "town list" for the USA - a large undertaking on which they deserve our congratulations.

Charles W. Delk, Sr. We record with regret the death of Mr Delk, who had not been a member of the Group for long but had been a meter collector in Des Moines, Iowa, for many years. His collection is being disposed of by Mr Woodrow Westholm, 1605 Thompson Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50316, U.S.A.

The Next Bulletin. will be in March 1968, notes etc. please by mid-February.

INFORMATION WANTED. We have had one answer to our query on the Eire "N" machines (from the member who posed the original question!) and this records N 561, still leaving a gap of over 100.

REVIEWS. "U.S. Metered Postage Stamp Design - a preliminary type chart."
(published by Alfred P. H. Overment, at 4016 N. Central Park Avenue, Chicago,
Illinois 60619, U.S.A., at \$1.00)

This is a three page illustrated list of the various designs that have been used in the USA since the inception of meters but excludes the experimental designs, both before the introduction of the first regular machines and those that have followed since. No mention seems to be made either of the Postage Due or Parcel Post machines but as it is intended for the beginner this should not be too important. Sizes are suggested for "cut-outs" but no mention is made of the early slogans on the backs of envelopes.

A little "pricey" for this collector but still cheaper than a priced or specialised catalogue of USA meters.

"The Basic Type Meter Stamp Catalog", compiled by Walter Swan and can be obtained from him at P.O. Box 786, Corinth, N.Y.12822, U.S.A., price \$3.00 per copy, post paid.

This is the fourth edition (in itself a record!) of Mr Swan's excellent listing of all the basic types of USA meters and is contained in more than 40 pages with no fewer than 130 illustrations. It is the only up-to-date U.S.A. catalogue with prices (as high as \$750.00 for the Pitney Postal Machine Co. 1903-4 experimentals) and like the earlier editions is well recommended to the collector of this country's meters.

THE BUSINESS EFFICIENCY EXHIBITION.

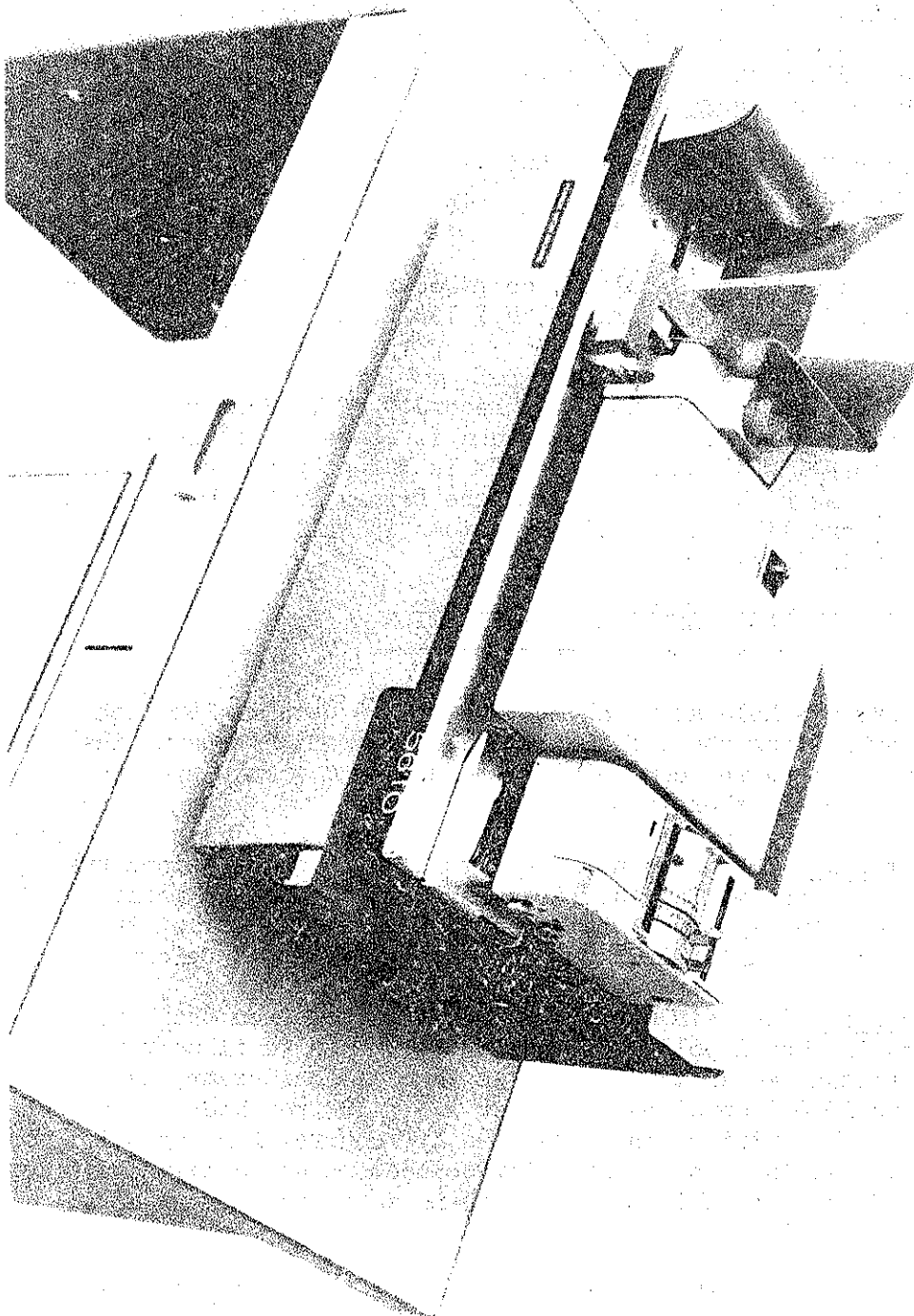
This annual event was held as usual at Olympia and both the British manufacturers were exhibiting their full range of equipment, as usual the reception at both the stands was courteous and helpful and thanks are due to the respective staffs for these notes.

Messrs Roneo-Neopost Ltd. There was nothing actually new on the stand but it was interesting to me to see for the first time the "Postalia" machine, the Model 605, and to actually try it out. One small change is that the demonstration model is now numbered TN 001 instead of RN 001 as before.

Messrs Pitney-Bowes Ltd. The main new item for P-B (apart from their new copying machine) was the Model 5610 Mailing Machine, which we illustrate. This new automatic postage meter mailing-sealing machine can stamp, seal, count and stack up to 10,000 envelopes of up to 12" x 10" per hour and has a new self-contained ink cartridge and a "seal-only" control for pay slips and other internal documents. As far as meter-collectors are concerned there will be no difference as this mailing machine takes the normal Model 5335 or 5345 detachable meter.

Also on show and seen for the first time by me was the Model 4255 meter incorporated with the heavy-duty mailing machine. The actual meter fitted was RT 2466. We wonder whilst writing this whether the Model CV meter is now obsolete.

THE BUSINESS EFFICIENCY EXHIBITION (Contd.)



THE BUSINESS EFFICIENCY EXHIBITION (Contd.)

It was interesting to find that amongst the literature enclosed in the envelopes filled, sealed and franked on the stand by the Model 3100 mailing machine and meter RT 2466 was a leaflet describing the Model 5341 detachable meter. This is, of course, a decimal version of the 5000 series meters, and as the leaflet explains "prints postage in increments of .01 from 00.01 up to 99.99 inclusive in your national denomination."

The illustration of an impression shows P.B.501A with a normal 3d value impression but apart from this illustration there is no mention of Sterling currency at all. The Printer's imprint on this leaflet is "LOM-2-65" and the address of the manufacturer includes "England" so it seems likely that a quantity of old leaflets designed for overseas was being used up and that this was not one of the first moves towards decimalisation, which is still some three years away!

Messrs Franking Machines Ltd. We saw no signs of these machines, the ones with the "fml" prefix.

POSTING BOXES FOR METERED MAIL.
=====

We mentioned in the last MSB that the regulations concerning metered mail had now been eased slightly. Mr D. Fletcher tells us that the Frederick Street B.O., Edinburgh 2, now has an external box set in the wall marked "METER POST", but no collection times.

ARE FRANCO TYP COMING TO GREAT BRITAIN ?
=====

We have heard rumours recently that Francotyp machines had been / were about to be sanctioned in Great Britain. Enquiry of the Post Office at the end of October brought the reply that they had not been approved (till then?)

G. B. NOTES.
=====

FML 88 (Hasler) Whilst reporting a new "highest number" Mr P. D. Wood has noticed that the number (in this case fml 1037) has been moved from underneath the "Postage Paid" to a position below the series of horizontal lines immediately to the right of the townmark circle. Whether this change is to be permanent and if so at what point it occurred in each of the regional groups of numbers we cannot say at the present. Numbers fml 1027 and 1028 have the number under postage paid. Would members kindly add the position of the number when reporting new machines. An impression from fml 1001 on the 7.IX.67 had the number in the new position.

We still have not seen any machines within the 5000, 8000 or 9000 groups, areas likely to be covered by these seem to be (not in any particular order) Wales, Northern Ireland and the the "south-west". 2001 is in Edinburgh and 6001 in Huddersfield.

Roneo-Neopost Model 105. We mentioned last time that N 147 D has a townmark without arcs, Mr O. M. Richards also reports N 117 A and N 101 B. At the same time he shows us an impression from N 41? D (Belfast) which has one very thick arc extending right round from approx. 2 o'clock to 10 o'clock.

G. B. NOTES (Contd.)

"Highest Numbers". Thanks to reports from Messrs D. Fletcher, M. L. Blakeston, R. T. Jacques, P. D. Wood, O. M. Richards, E. Keith Lloyd plus the Hon. Sec., we now have the following position :

SH 155	N 478 E
NT 39	J 6337
P.B.065 L	* RT 2452
PC 175	TN 137

fml 1052, 2001, 3015, 4003, 6001, 7002,

* No advance since last time. It looks as if the prefixes "SI" and "NS" have not been used.

"Incorrectly Posted". Mr D. Fletcher shows us a photograph of a handstamp which reads :-

INCORRECTLY POSTED IN A BUNDLE OF LATE
POSTED METER-FRANKED PRINTED PAPERS
AND SO LIABLE TO DELAY.

This was used at Peterborough, an earlier one in the Hon. Sec's collection used at Southampton in 1960 reads :-

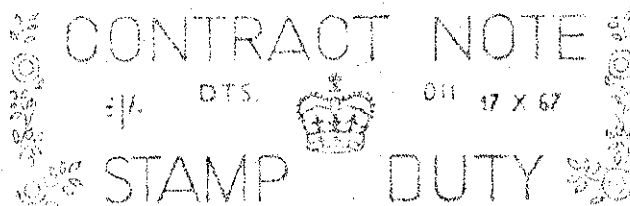
IRREGULARLY INCLUDED BY POSTER
IN A BUNDLE OF LATE POSTED
METER-FRANKED PRINTED PAPERS.

These, of course, are peculiar to metered mail and similar stamps with variations in the wording are probably held at most sorting offices. Whether the receiptants of the delayed mail appreciate the reason for delay remains a matter of conjecture.

Pitney-Bowes new London Office, was opened early in September at "P-B House", 51-53 Hatton Garden, and replaces the old premises at Tottenham Court Road.

NEW PITNEY-BOWES MACHINE FOR FISCAL USE.
=====

At the beginning of October the first Pitney-Bowes machine designed to imprint the tax stamps on broker's contract notes was installed at the London offices of A. Miller & Co., the City Stockbrokers.



Producing an impression as illustrated in values from 1/- to 25/- (users may process documents through the machine twice thereby giving a range of up to £2. 10. od. in steps of 1/-) the Model DTS-4 (Document Tax Stamping) would

NEW PITNEY-BOWES MACHINE FOR FISCAL USE (Contd.)

seem to be another variant of the well-tried "Simplex" machine. It will be remembered that like this new machine the experimental Simplex machines that were used for Parcel Post some years ago had the value at the left and the date at the right but in this case the distance between the two is greater.

An amendment to the 1911 Finance Act was necessary before the machine could be introduced to replace the adhesive Tax Stamps and payment for these purposes has to be made to the Inland Revenue.

The only other fiscal use which comes to mind in Great Britain is the well known Roneo-Neopost machine used for franking National Insurance ("Social Security") cards but in this case all the machines are of the Fixed-Value type.

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS.
=====

AUSTRALIA. We have already noted the Universal MV "Flag" design with figures of value either 0.01 or =0.01 Mr E. S. Lapham shows us three frame types all with 0.01, these are (a) the large flag with three horizontal lines at the top right, (b) small flag with "POSTAGE PAID" at top right with Arabic month figures in the date and (c) similar to (b) but Roman month figures.



BRAZIL. We mentioned in the last MSB that we had seen the first of the "New Cruzeiro" meters, Automax number P.B.-M.5604, with F. of V. as NCRS =0,01=

Since then Mr E. Muhr of Sao Paulo has written with further lists of new machines he has already seen and these include :-

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS (Contd.) - Brazil.

1204	NE\$	*,oi	1539	Cr\$	00i
1367	NCR\$	0.oi	1548	NE\$	00.oi
1525	NE\$	*0,oi	10002	NCR\$	0.01
5807	NCR\$	=,oi--		N	
	(or possibly	=,ooi-)	11112	Cr\$	0.01
6455	NE\$	=0.oi=		N	
5640	NE\$	=0,oi	11678	Cr\$	00.01
50026	NCR\$	*,oi-			
		and 5514	Cr\$	*0i=	

Of these, 1539, 1548 and 11678 at least have had the fixed zero removed and 5514 (which is a Post Office machine) seems to have been adapted by the Postmaster himself. For many years it produced values such as *0io, *1oo, *5oo, 10oo, 50oo etc and the last but one has now been made to show as *0i= although strictly speaking it should be *0oi !!

Perhaps we should re-cap. The "old" Cruzeiro had the centavo fraction abolished from the 2 Dec 1964 and was then replaced by a new Cruzeiro on the 28th of Feb 1967. Thus the currency changed from Cr\$ 1 000 (which was previously shown, before the abolition of the centavo, as 1 000,oo, to NCR\$ 1,00 (presumably we now have centavos again.)

Mr Muhr remarks that the majority of machines are still fitted with the zeros necessary for the old centavos and Cruzeiros, even though most of them have the centavos represented by fixed zeros, thus, in his words, "the usual hodge-podge will no doubt come up for the next twenty-five years".

With regard to a previous comment concerning the P-B Model R machines, he states that we were probably referring to a 3½ bank machine, the value could have been either *005 or *0050, either of which would be interpreted as Cr\$5, but either *050 or *0500 both meant Cr\$ 50, or, now, ~~NE\$~~ 0.05 - as he puts it, "if ever there was a free country this is it." It would certainly seem to a casual observer that each user of a meter must make his own arrangements with his local post office as to what each type of impression means on any particular day, how a post office at the other end of the country can be expected to check the rates shown or even supposed to be shown baffles us. Even as we type this news has come that the "new" Cruzeiro has been in its turn de-valued.

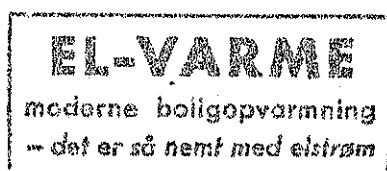
It might be worth noting that the first machine in the list above, 1204, was one originally supplied pre-war, when the currency was Reis, comprising 1000 milreis, and still has its original angular figures, but what with the changes since then probably very little of the original frame remains. The other Universal MV's in the list all have Oval figures.

BELGIUM. Not all the Post Office machines are numbered in the 2000 series with "P" prefix regardless of make. Mr E. S. Lapham shows us SATAS P 103 used from "ZAVENTEM" on 17 3 64, "BELGIE" at the top, F. of V. as *00.oi

We illustrated the Pitney-Bowes Series 5000 in the last MSB with the added "ribbons" around the townmark. The Model R has been similarly decorated for some years.

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS (Contd.)

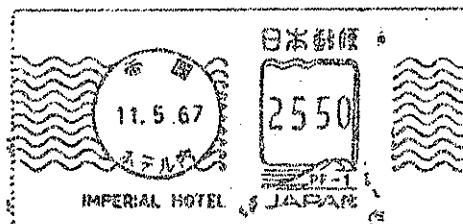
CHILE. Automax, number P.B.91 seen used 15 VII 67, usual style of perforated frame design, figures of value as =0.01



DENMARK. We now illustrate the Pitney-Bowes Series 5000 thanks to Mr. O.M. Richards. He has also shown us an interesting impression from B 587 which has a green slogan with all the wording in English.

FRENCH POLYNESIA. We have previously recorded the Satas SP in the usual French style design, SR 2085 also exists, a Post Office machine, but there are minor differences. SP 3002 has the word "FRANCAISE" longer than "POLYNESIE" whereas SR 2085 has the second word longer. Both have townmarks reading "PAPEETE R.P./ILE TAHITI".

JAPAN. A rather attractive design for Postalia, on a white "tape" (ESL).



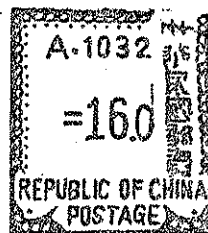
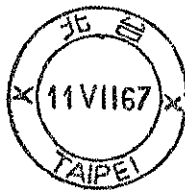
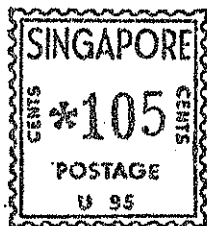
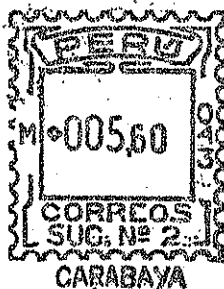
NEW ZEALAND. Further examples of machines adapted for decimal currency are arriving quite quickly. In addition to the Universal MV mentioned in the last Bulletin we have since seen the "New Rotex" (in the design illustrated before but with the substitution of "CENTS" below "POSTAGE" instead of the word "PENNY") and the Roneo-Neopost Model 305 ("Frankmaster") in the usual design but with figures of value as 0.01= Mr J. W. Avery also sends us examples of the Regent (with "Z" prefix) with "CENTS" above the value figure; the Roneo-Neopost L.V. with the value as "2½c" and the Sentinel ("H" prefix) with a large "C" instead of "D" to the right of the value figure.

A letter from the Editor of "The Kiwi" (the official organ of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain) tells us that all the Moss Model D, E and F machines and the Stampmaster machines are being withdrawn. The Moss Model D and E have had no prefix to their numbers and the Model F (noted in the Barfoot-Simon Catalogue as "R" or Rare!) had an "F" prefix. We wonder whether many, or even any of the Model F actually remain in use or whether the change in currency has led to a withdrawal of the authorisation for their continued use. The Stampmaster (which used an "M" prefix) was introduced as recently as February 1954 and has two separate meters, one from ½d to 6d in ½d units and one recording the shilling values in units of 1/-. This arrangement could prove difficult to adapt.

Other machines seen in decimal form by The Kiwi are the Ace ("A" prefix) and the Rotex("H"). The Ace machine is still a bit of a mystery to us as we do not know who the manufacturers are (the frame design is very similar to the "New Rotex") or whether in fact it is an LV or a FV machine. This would also seem to be the first time we have actually recorded the name!

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS (continued)

PAKISTAN. Mr. E.G. Oehme reports the Frankmaster in Type 13 without the perforations around the frame.



PERU. The Hasler machine M-043 has the "M" and the "043" incorporated in the frank frame die as well as in the base of the townmark. Note that this machine, contrary to M-048 reported in the last MSB, still has wording underneath "CORREOS". (ESL).

SINGAPORE. U 95 now has the new name at the top, as will be seen "POSTAGE" has also been added (were the old machines also valid for fiscal use and has this facility been withdrawn now that Singapore is no longer part of Malaysia?) and the "Cents" and "U 95" are now smaller.

TAIWAN (FORMOSA) A much more elaborate design for the Automax, note the addition of an "A" prefix to the number.

WEIGH
ACCURATELY
WITH A PB
SCALE



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. We now illustrate the mystery Pitney-Bowes machine mentioned last time, no more details are known but correspondents in the USA suggest that examples are not common.

An impression seen recently from a Friden machine (of the original type) had a slug reading "BLK.RT." vertically between the townmark circle and the torch in the design. No date was shown.