

HON. SECRETARY AND
TREASURER :

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SECRETARY'S NOTES
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MEMBERSHIP. We are again pleased to welcome two new members with this issue of the Bulletin, they are :-

- (201) Mr E. C. Ehrmann, 2 Everthorpe Road, LONDON, S.E.15.
(202) Mr E. R. T. Parker, 29 Goodman Road, Chadwell-St-Mary, GRAYS, Essex.

There are no changes of address or additions of Postal Codes this time.

NEXT BULLETIN. This is expected to be in March 1969, but we seem to have a back-log of Notes and News from Overseas so if possible this will be brought forward to February and we will aim at five issues during the next year.

SUBSCRIPTIONS. Members are reminded that if they have not already paid for 1969 their subscription becomes due in January the 1st. Please remit as soon as possible to avoid the necessity for reminders. Should you wish to use the "National Giro" service the account number to be credited is 54 343 0006, but if transferring direct please make sure to say what the credit is for in the space on the back of the transfer form.

DECIMALISATION COVERS. We mentioned last time that we had seen advertisements for these in the philatelic press but knew no more at that time.

Since then we have heard from two members who responded to these advertisements. One of them eventually had his money returned after being told that all stocks were exhausted almost as soon as advertised. The second of our members tells us that he was actually supplied with an impression from Roneo-Neopost machine number RN-001 with "Specimen" townmark (the advertisement stated that the covers were manufacturers specimens), which to say the least seems rather expensive at the prices asked !! We hope that no other non-meter collector has acquired these in the hope that they will prove of great value in years to come.

THE TWO-TIER POST

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We quote the following, taken from the "Sunday Times" of the 20th of October 1968.

The 5d mail: sabotage by franking machine, postmen claim

Post Office workers, bitter about the way they have been blamed by the public for delays in the new two-tier letter service, yesterday accused some firms of sabotage by deliberately putting old dates on letters going through franking machines. On top of this are firms which are habitually careless about changing the dates on machines. The result, say the postmen, is to give a false picture of the 5d. post's effects.

Many firms, known to the Post Office as "meter posters", frank their letters with a mark that stands in place of a stamp since it is far quicker. The firm then pays the Post Office the equivalent of the price in stamps.

The crucial factor here is that the firm's mailing department set the date and the franking mark. In one case, investigated by the G.P.O., a customer handed in to a sorting office 2,000 letters which were franked with a date four days earlier. The people receiving the letters would automatically assume the letters had been posted on that date.

Mr Maurice Stiles, chairman of the London S.E. District, Number One branch of the Union of Post Office Workers, who represents 600 members at the Borough High Street sorting office says: "We have had a number of suspicious cases and one proven to our satisfaction. This was a firm which has been campaigning openly against two-tier. We drew our own conclusions. We have reported this case to the G.P.O. management and asked them to investigate."

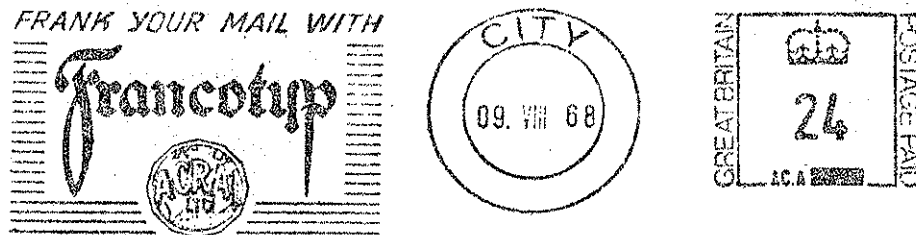
The article went on at some length about these wrong dates, but our only comment would seem to be that there have been cases in the past where wrong dates have been corrected and that surely the normal checking procedure would take care of any in the future. We have also seen some very interesting letters regarding the two-tier system from people who obviously have not realised that for many years franked mail has been segregated into first and second class, albeit under different names.

THE 1968 BUSINESS EFFICIENCY EXHIBITION
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This exhibition, held as usual at Olympia, in London in October, proved as interesting as ever and as usual we visited the stands of the various manufacturers and again, as always, found the staff on each of them helpful with our queries.

With the exception of the Model 605 machine on the Roneo-Neopost stand all machines were in the new "pence-only" design. The distributors of the "fml 88" machines did not appear to be exhibiting.

Francotyp Arrive in G.B.



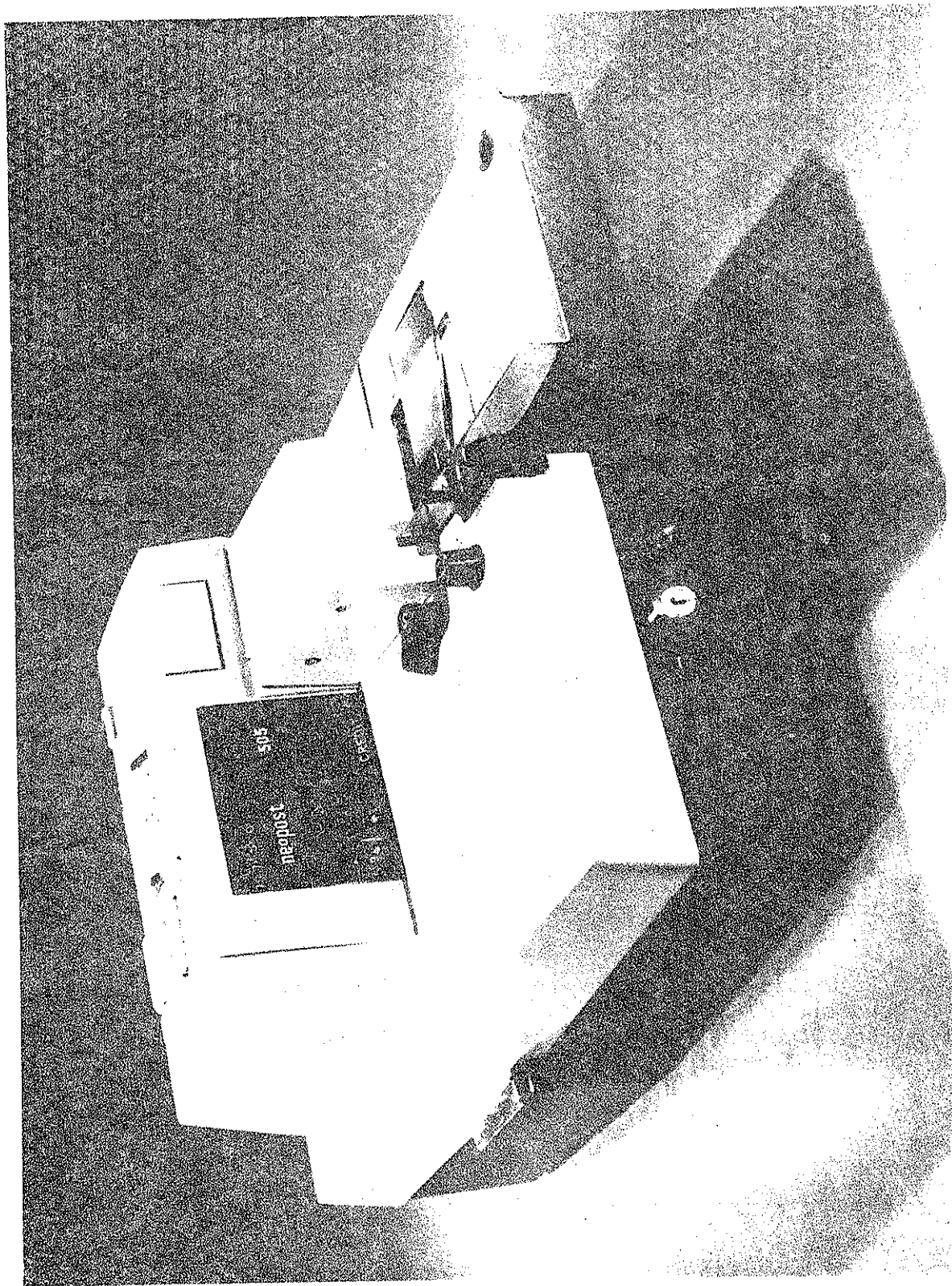
Last year we mentioned that this well-tried machine was expected and particularly since decimal machines came into use their arrival seemed almost certain.

On the stand of Messrs Acral Ltd. were several Model C machines with notices on them that they had been sold to various large users. Specimens from them were in the now usual design but with a prefix AC.A ---- (with the actual number un-engraved). At the moment we do not know if this prefix is or will be standard or when the machines will actually come into use, they have been approved by the Post Office. Note that the date on the specimen we have illustrated has a stop after the day but not after either the month or the year in the date.

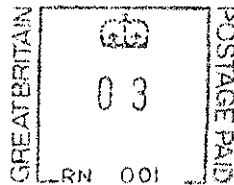
The Francotyp is the second machine to be introduced in Great Britain whose operation is controlled by the use of "value cards" purchased at the Post Office and inserted in the machine. In this case they are for either 10,000 or 100,000 pence (new-pence after decimalisation)

The literature available describes the machine as the Acral Franking Machine Model A.9000.

The New Roneo-Neopost Model 505. This is a completely new all-electric machine and has, for the first time from Roneo-Neopost, a detachable meter. The range of values is from $\frac{1}{2}$ d to $999\frac{1}{2}$ (£4. 3. $3\frac{1}{2}$ or after "D" day £9.99 $\frac{1}{2}$) and as will be seen from the specimen impression illustrated the design is the usual one but in this case is horizontal in shape rather than vertical.



THE 1968 BUSINESS EFFICIENCY EXHIBITION (Contd.)



We illustrate the whole machine on page 54 and a specimen above, this specimen was numbered RN 001, as is usual for Roneo-Neopost machines at such exhibitions but we understand that production models will be numbered from RN 100 upwards. "Tapes" are on plain white paper without security underprint. The machine can be rented or purchased outright.

Since writing the above Mr M. L. Blakeston is the first to report the use of RN 100 on 11 X 68, from London, N.W.1.

Pitney-Bowes Ltd.

This manufacturer had the full range of their equipment on exhibition, all the meters were in the new pence-only design. Also on show was their very attractive weighing machine which shows the amount of postage on parcels for all kinds of destinations.

NEWS FROM PITNEY-BOWES.
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British Machines for the U.S.A. It was announced in August (too late for our September bulletin) that Pitney-Bowes Ltd., of Harlow, Essex, had won a long term American contract worth £1,000,000 a year to supply postage meter equipment reaching a rate of 3,000 units a month by the end of 1968.

These machines are to be sold in the American domestic market and although the type of machine is not stated will presumably be of the 5000 series group. Whether it will be possible to identify impressions from these British built machines we will have to wait and see but it is certainly an interesting development. The size of the contract can be realised from the fact that an additional 70 production staff will be needed for the Harlow works.

Sentimental Reunion ! Mr W. H. Wheeler, Jnr., Chairman of Pitney-Bowes Inc., recently visited subsidiary companies in Europe. Whilst at Harlow he stopped at the Company's museum and saw again the Pitney-Bowes Model "A", the first used in this country, which he sold in 1922 to the Prudential Assurance Co. It was used until September 1967 and then "retired" and replaced by a more up-to-date model but it is still in perfect working order.

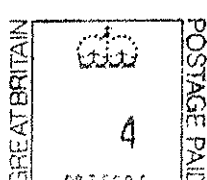
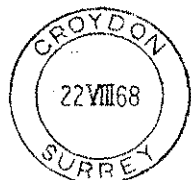
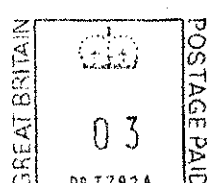
G. B. NOTES.

Acral A.9000. Further to the note on this new machine on page 53, the first one, number AC.A 1, was due to come into use at Bletchley on the 20th of November 1968.

Automax. AD 761 has very tall identification letters, at least 3 mm high, reports Mr D. H. Fletcher.

fml 88. Mr Blakeston was the first to report one of these machines in the new decimal design, fml 1079, used from Watford, Herts, on 1.X.68, value as "04".

Pitney-Bowes Series 5000. We have already mentioned variations in these, particularly in the position of the number at the bottom of the die and of the figures of value, and now illustrate some of them. P.B.T152A which has the figures of value as 04 and the number centrally spaced in relation to bottom frame line, P.B.T792A which has similar figures of value but the number above the line and P.B.T509A which has just 4 and the number above the line. Mr D. Fletcher reports the fourth possibility, figure of value as 4 with the number central to the line. From a list of numbers submitted by Mr G. R. Pearson and others reported it looks as if there are batches of single figure and double figure machines (do not forget that the "½" is not normally wanted at the moment and we are disregarding it when talking of these variations).



Roneo-Neopost Model 105. The range of values for the "pence-only" machines is from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 in stages of $\frac{1}{2}$.

Mr E. S. Lapham reports an additional value in the previous design, 7d, on N 269 B, used as long ago as 21 XII 66 !

G. B. NOTES (Contd.)

Guernsey and Jersey. We recently wrote to the Authorities in these two Channel Islands asking what plans they had for meter designs when each issues its own adhesive stamps next year - one at least on the 1st October 1969. The States Supervisor in Guernsey and the Greffier of the States in Jersey each tell us that this has not yet been considered by the respective Committees.

"Highest Numbers". We have what seems to be a more complicated list this time, thanks are due to Messrs M. L. Blakeston, R. T. Jacques, W. H. Thomas, S. D. Barfoot, G. V. Eltringham for reports, plus some from the Hon. Sec.

(a) Old Prefixes.

<u>SG 737</u>	* N 383 G
NT 598	<u>J 8036</u>
<u>PB 877 L</u>	* <u>RT 2456</u>
<u>PC 176</u>	TN 148
fml 1079 * 2001 * 3025 * 4012	* 6009 * 7004

(b) New "Decimal" Prefixes.

PBS 844 A	(PBA 001 A)	PBT 327 C
	(PBR 001 A)	(PBC 001 A)
(AC.A 1)	JA 855	RN 100

* No advance since last time.

The series shown in parenthesis - none actually reported yet.

We have included the "JA" series in the second group as Messrs Roneo-Neopost confirm that new pence-only machines are numbered from JA 1, otherwise Roneo-Neopost machines will retain their original numbers after conversion. the fml machines appear also to be retaining the same system of numbering for pence-only machines.

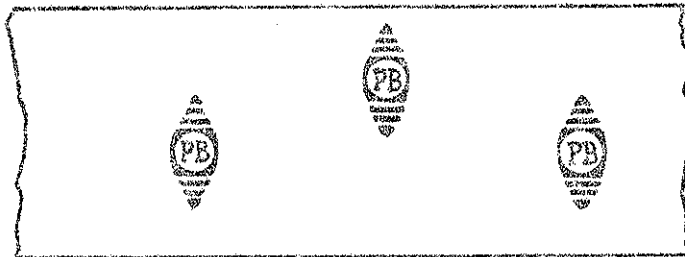
We have still not had any reports of the fml machines in the 5000, 8000 or 9000 groups.

We have underlined those groups which in fact have been superseded by new prefixes and systems, but remembering what happened with the Automax some years ago would ask members to keep a watch for advances in these series so that we can establish the highest numbers reached.

CANADA - new "tapes".

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Some years ago (MSB VIII/33) we recorded new styles of adhesive tapes in bi-lingual form, supplied free by the Canadian Post Office to meter users. Mr H. K. Warren sends us examples of a new form of tape coming into use.



The new style is on plain white paper with the PB symbol printed in an olive green shade but what is probably more important to the Canadian user is that the tape is now supplied and charged for by Pitney-Bowes. It is expected that the imprint will be discontinued in the future and that plain white tapes will be used. Whether other manufacturers will supply tapes with their own imprint on or whether the bulk of users will change over to plain tape will be interesting to see.

AUSTRALIAN LICENCE NUMBERS.

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Another example of the suspected new series of numbers comes from Mr S. D. Barfoot, who shows us Automax 82 A used from Sydney, N.S.W. Neither this or the (NE) 27 L mentioned last time fits in with the single-letter alphabetical allocation to States listed some time ago, the "A" prefixes were of course used indiscriminately and the "L" was used in N.S.W.

Mr Lapham, however, has another suggestion. He shows us 28 A used in N.S.W. and remarks that if the single-letter suffixes are compared with the old double-letter prefixes then these three machines, 28 A, 82 A and 27 L all fit in. Any more ideas ?

Going back to the old series, Mr Lapham shows us SF 1 and SY 7 both used in Queensland, as was SJ 2 (noted in another matter in MSB VIII/60) and not N.S.W. as we noted for the S- prefixes.

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS.

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We are again pleased to say that we have too many notes for inclusion in this issue of the Bulletin and some of them will have to be held over for a later issue. This might be in February instead of March so that we can have five issues in 1969. As usual we have indicated where necessary the contributors by their initials.

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS (Contd.)

ABU DHABI. Mr Barfoot reports Automax's P.B.1 and 7 from this new meter using country, each has value as =001 with "FILS/POSTAGE/P.B.-" Used in November 1967 with slogan at the left. These are not in series with those in Bahrain as is the Dubai P.B.3 recorded some time ago.

(We would warn some of our American members that the spelling of the names of some of these Persian Gulf countries varies in American Atlas's to those we have used here.)



AUSTRALIA. The first machine we have seen with the Postal Zone number in the townmark. (ESL) Mr Barfoot also shows us NE 40 P used from "Melbourne, Vic 3000".

Automax VV 8 (Alice Springs, N.T.) has no "=" before the value. This is in the original Automax design with the map broken above the name of the country. Another Automax oddity is Y 64 from Fremantle, W.A., which on the -5 IV 68 had a single-circle townmark. (ESL and SDB)

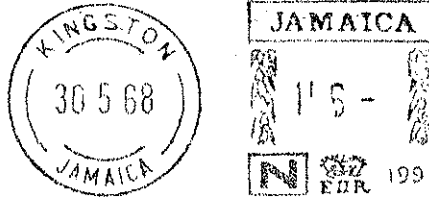
Mr Barfoot shows us an NCR label, just figures and words, from Footscray, Vic. on MAR 15 68 which is printed in orange yellow, this is a change from the usual violet or magenta.

BERMUDA. Pitney-Bowes Series 5000, design as for Jamaica except for the name. Machine number P.B.1004 with townmark Hamilton, Bermuda, used on -4 X 67, value as w1/6= Again as with Jamaica the number is shown between the townmark and the frank die.

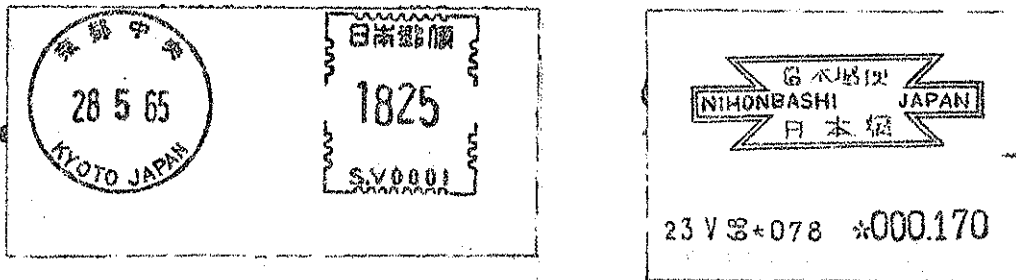
CANADA. Some Friden machines in the large design now have a single-circle townmark, similar to the smaller version shown under USA some time ago. Mr Lapham shows us F Meter 300082 from Toronto, Ontario.

CEYLON. In our book of the meters of the sub-continent we illustrated Univ. MV's with two varieties of frame under Type 7. These were with a round "O" on Nos 58 to 75 and an oval "O" on Nos 76 to 80 - when seen side by side the difference is quite pronounced. Mr Barfoot now reports No 74 with an oval "O" in Type 7.1.1. Whether this means that some exchanging of frames has taken place we cannot say.

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS (Contd.)



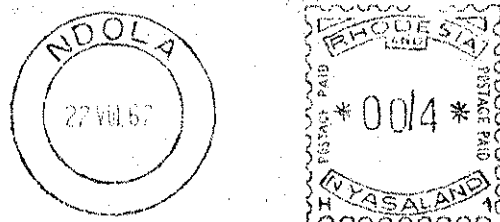
JAMAICA. Roneo-Neopost Model 205. (SDB)



JAPAN. Satas with SV prefix and in a different design to SG 0023 recorded in MSB 73, either one of the two prefixes may indicate a Post Office machine.

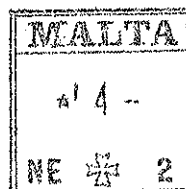
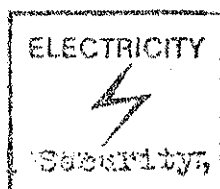
Also a further variety of the NCR. Note that this now has the year vertically. The impression is on thin white paper. (Both ESL)

MALAWI. More types with the "Crowing Cock" emblem at the bottom. Roneo-Neopost Frankmaster, Automax (U 10 in the same series as the Universal) and Universal MV, U 8 and U 12 with DC townmark and U 16 with BIC townmark. The latter two types have "Postage Paid" in very small letters at each side, only $\frac{1}{2}$ mm high and these would be invisible on anything other than a very good impression ! (SDB)



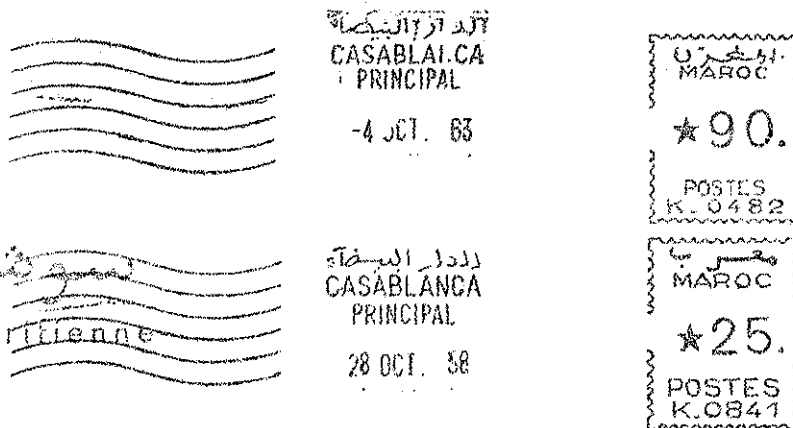
RHODESIA AND NYASALAND. Have we ever recorded the Hasler ? (SDB and JCM)

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS (Contd.)



MALTA. We have made several references to the Automax machines in use here and have stated that they were numbered from P.B.1 upwards, commencing in 1963. Mr S. D. Barfoot sends us the following revised listing :-

- Type 1. 1962 Universal MV, P.B.1 only, F. of V. as 0/0½
- Type 2. 1963 Automax, P.B.2 upwards, F. of V. as =0/1= (otherwise as type 1.)
- Type 3. 1964 Simplex. Illustration seen of U 22, in type 1 but smaller with a seriffed "D" in F. of V.
Proof seen of U 19 with sans-serif "D".
- Type 4. 1968? Roneo-Neopost Model 205, as illustrated above.



البريد المغربي
CASABLANCA
PRINCIPAL

-4 OCT. 63

U. A. I.
MAROC

★ 90.

POSTES
K. 0482

البريد المغربي
CASABLANCA
PRINCIPAL

28 OCT. 58

U. A. I.
MAROC

★ 25.

POSTES
K. 0841

MAROCOCO. We illustrate two variations in the Arabic name at the top on "K" machines, the same variations also appear on "MG" machines but we cannot say which one came first. (SDB)

MAURITIUS. Have we ever recorded the Automax ? (SDB)

SIERRA LEONE. Frankmaster RN 73 seen used on 10 XI 67 has a solid unengraved townmark. (SDB)

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS (Contd.)

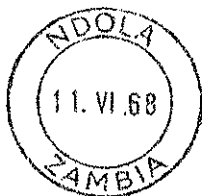


SOUTH AFRICA. The townmark on N 889 seems to be of an individual type not seen elsewhere. (SDB)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. A recent note in the Postal Manual supplement of 12 Sep 1968 gives instructions on preparing the address side of reply mail prepaid by meter stamps.

Unlike Canada, where special townmarks were introduced many years ago, we have not heard of any from the USA and it occurs to us that this is one of the few ways of having a genuine "unused" meter impression, if the used ones are cancelled - can anyone tell us ?

"Meters and Collectors" of Sep/Oct reports the use of fluorescent ink at Dayton, Ohio, on P.B.175041 by the Dayton Corporation and adds that under an ultra-violet lamp it appears as approximately the same colour as the normal USA air-mail stamp. This Company manufactures fluorescent inks for use in the printing trade and because of the lack of solid areas in the meter stamp design we do not think that the use of such ink is intended to activate segregating machines - there is no real need for this anyway as most countries have metered mail faced and segregated before it is handed in for sorting.



ZAMBIA. We illustrate the Francotyp Co, shown us by Mr E. C. Ehrmann and by Mr Barfoot.

The latter also reports the Roneo-Neopost Model 105, N 603, possible in a series of numbers starting at 600, the old Neopost machines seem to have been numbered in the former Federal series.