

HON. SECRETARY AND
TREASURER :

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

HON. SECRETARY AND TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1968.
=====

Members will find elsewhere with this issue of the Bulletin the usual statement of income and expenditure for the year, again as usual, it shows no drastic change. We had, during 1968, a surplus of Income over Expenditure but it will be seen that this mainly resulted from the sale of publications. Since the end of the year I am pleased to report that we have now sold the remaining copies of our "Meter Stamps of Great Britain and Ireland (Eire)" and a further credit for this will appear in 1969.

Membership seems to remain always about constant, each year we gain some new members and these are almost exactly balanced by those we lose for one reason or another. Once again I must remind members that if they know of other who might wish to join they should encourage them to do so, not only does the additional income help to produce the bulletin, but each new member is a potential source of additional information - and it is on this information that we depend.

There is little else for me to add except my thanks to those who have as usual helped with contributions for each issue and particularly to George Pearson for his help in duplicating each issue and all the publications we have had so far.

Membership. With this issue we are pleased to welcome four new members to the Group, they are :-

- | | | |
|-------|---------------------|---|
| (203) | Mr A. H. Ehreich | 113 Manor Road, LONDON, N.16. |
| (204) | Mr T. A. Stalker | "Collargreen", Craigellachie, Banffshire AB3 9ST. |
| (205) | Mr G. Cowlin | 4 Edward Road, Nuthall, NOTTINGHAM NG16 1DB. |
| (206) | Mr E. G. Longbottom | 19 Boston Gardens, LONDON, W.7. |

and overleaf we list some changes of address or the addition of Post Codes. If you have had a Post Code allocated recently and have not yet told us please do so when next writing.

SECRETARY'S NOTES (Contd.)

Dr J. F. Fick	now	P.O. Box 276, East London, SOUTH AFRICA.
Mr H. W. T. Dickens,		333 Birchfield Road East, NORTHAMPTON NN3 2SY.
Mr E. R. T. Parker,		29 Godman Road, Chadwell-St-Mary, GRAYS, Essex RM16 4SJ.

THE AMERICAN METERED POSTAGE SOCIETY.
=====

The late Henry O. Meisel ran the AMPS single-handed for many years and after his death the Society ceased to function.

Attempts have been made by Mr Howard Reeves to re-activate the AMPS but he tells us, and we report it with regret, that all efforts seem to be in vain and he has given up the task.

GREAT BRITAIN - SOME QUERIES ON DECIMAL NUMBERING.
=====

We are beginning to have reports of £sd machines that have been replaced by £p models (we use the two abbreviations of £sd for Sterling and £p for the Decimal models respectively) but with different numbers. We expected this to happen with the Pitney-Bowes machines as they have introduced an entirely new series of prefixes and suffixes for their £p models but with the other makers the position is not so clear.

NT 20 has been replaced, Mr Fletcher tells us, by NS 132. This NS prefix has not been reported before, neither has the N---F series of the Model 105, of which Mr Fletcher reports N 419F and Mr W. H. Thomas reports N 808F. In the last case Mr Thomas shows us examples from N 808F and N 139 (Swansea, Glam.) which it replaced and these show almost certainly that the same townmark has been fitted to the new machine.

Mr P. D. Wood, however, reports both NP 586 (London, S.E.23) and NR 680 (Warley, Worcs.) in both the £sd and the £p designs, in each case from the same user.

One explanation for all this may be that the manufacturers built up a stock of machines, numbered in the normal way at about the NS and N---F stage and that these are now being used to replace £sd machines withdrawn for either conversion or replacement by different models. Whether, in the case of conversions, the original machines with their original numbers will return to the original users (and the replacement machines move on to somewhere else on either a temporary or permanent basis) we do not yet know but reports of any such case would be welcomed. Reports would also be welcomed of any machines from the N---F series in £sd design. Mr M. L. Blakeston reports that NS 558 exists in the "Emblems" design.

SOME QUERIES ON DECIMAL NUMBERING (Contd.)

Because of these apparent overlaps it may not be possible for us to determine the exact point at which £sd machines ceased to be issued, but Mr A. Ehreich tells us that NT 419 is £sd and that NT 578 is £p.

G. B. NOTES.
=====

Automax. Mr P. D. Wood tells us that AE 686 was using a townmark reading "SUNBURY ON THAEMS" (instead of THAMES) on 13.11.67

fml 88. "Tapes" from these machines do not seem to have been recorded apart from the information in our initial notes. Mr Barfoot shows us one from fml 1033. This is plain white unperforated paper 41mm wide. There is no "underprint" or any other indication of the user or the supplier, he also reports fml 1054 on a plain yellow tape similar to that used on the Universal MV machines.

The figures of value on the £p machines vary in size. On the original £sd types the figures are 4.5 to 5mm high, as they are on £p 1084 and 3037 but on 1009, 1090 and 4001 (all £p) they are 6mm high.

Roneo-Neopost Model 205. The figures of value on the £p machines vary. The usual single figure, as "1" is replaced on at least 4 machines in the JA and JC groups listed by Mr Blakeston by two figures, as "01" (It must be remembered that a $\frac{1}{2}$ will come into use after decimalisation.

Mr G. R. Pearson reports that the townmark (MIDDLETON MANCHESTER) on JA 365 was inverted on 21 X 68

Roneo-Neopost Model 105. Mr W. H. Thomas shows us examples from Neopost LV (Emblems) number SWANSEA, GLAM. N 139 which has been replaced by R-N Model 105 number N 808F. Each has the same user and apparently the townmark has been re-used on the replacement machine.

Roneo-Neopost Model 305 ("Frankmaster") The figures of value on £p machines vary. "01" is usual on the NR, NS and NT groups but NR 807, NR 892 and NR 943, at least, have them as 0 01

Roneo-Neopost Model 605 ("Postalia") We have previously reported the existence of two types of figures of value, w0/1 and ww/1. Both Mr S. D. Barfoot and Mr G. R. Pearson report a third type, as ww1 (i.e. without the "/") but still in the "Emblems" style.

Mr Pearson also reports these machines in the new £p design, with a single figure, as "4"

Pitney-Bowes Series 5000. In our last Bulletin we mentioned the varying position of the number at the bottom of the die in conjunction with the figures of value, and recorded four possible varieties, above and central to the bottom line, each with and without an "0" in the value.

Several members have written to point out that the position of the number vertically in relation to the line varies considerably, with some numbers placed $\frac{2}{3}$ above, others half-way and others completely above, with others somewhere between these. For the moment it would seem best to consider these, as we did originally, as either above or across the line.

G. B. NOTES (Contd.)

Acral Model A.9000 ("Francotyp") Mr M. L. Blakeston shows us photographs of two impressions from AC.A8, used at WINCHESTER, HANTS by IBM Ltd. At the extreme left of the slogan, which is common to both, appears either "First Class Mail" or "Second Class Mail" and this additional inscription seems to be incorporated in the machine and changeable at will. This is a facility that is not common in this country but is also noted on Page 70 where we note a new French machine.

Pitney-Bowes "Simplex". Mr M. L. Blakeston shows us a photograph of an impression from what is quite clearly PB.S135X It is in the £p design but what is strange is the "X" suffix.

Several explanations come to mind, apart from the one where a mistake has occurred in the engraving of the die. The "SX" prefix was used some years ago for what were then "Simplex Major" machines - see our GB book - and this might be an indication of one of these converted. Normally, we would not have expected to reach this suffix for some years. even allowing for the speed with which we seem to skate through some series of numbers.

For the moment we have not taken it as a new "highest number" but will wait and see what developments are reported. For the record, this particular machine is used at BOURNEMOUTH-POOLE, single figure of value, on 24 II 69

Rebate Mail. With all the publicity in recent months given to the two-tier post the Rebate Mail for large quantities of what is now second class mail seems to have been neglected.

Mr Barfoot reports that PC 31 in the Emblems design had in ^{JUN} 1965 an "R" enclosed in a box frame but in 1968 (year only) it had an "R" with no frame. Both had "HERTFORD" in the townmark.

P.B.814 H (NORTHAMPTON) had a boxed "R" with date as -0 IX 68 !!

Following on this it is interesting to see the growing use by meter users of handstamps to denote "First Class Mail", one regular correspondent of the Hon. Sec. has one with letters at least an inch high in red, presumably to identify such mail after the initial sorting which the use of meters avoids.

Local Publicity Slogans. We have mentioned in the past several cases of the use on meters of slogans with the same or very similar designs to those used on cancelling machines for local publicity purposes. Mr Barfoot shows us several recent examples :-

NK-115	DUNDEE, ANGUS	"Dundee for Development, Tay Road Bridge".
N 111 C	LONDONDERRY	"Londonderry for your new factory, apply Town Clerk".
P.B.125 K	CHESTER	"Visit Tatton Park", etc.
N 53	TORQUAY, DEVON.	"Devon's Golden Playground, etc."
P.B.549 C	BELFAST	"Northern Ireland Holidays" etc.

There must be many more of these but one thing we have noticed is that most of the meter users concerned are in fact the Local Authorities who have probably initiated the publicity campaign.

G. B. NOTES. (Contd.)

"Highest Numbers". Once again we have a complicated list, with footnotes, but make no apologies for this as the present position with GB meters in the stage between £sd and £p currency continues to be interesting.

Our thanks are due to many reports from Messrs D. H. Fletcher, R. T. Jacques, A. Ehreich, P. D. Wood, M. Blakeston, S. D. Barfoot and G. R. Pearson and also odd notes from several other members which brought numbers in indirectly.

(a) Old prefixes used for £sd machines or continuing unchanged.

SG 737 * N 383 G

NT 640 J 8036

P.B.877 L RT 2456

FC 176 TN 159

fml 1090 *2001 3039 4019 *6009 7007

* No reports of any advance since last time. The series we have underlined are those which have been replaced by new prefixes and suffixes included below, but please continue to check. We still have the three gaps in the fml series, 5000 8000 and 9000 groups.

(b) New prefixes.

** PBS 024 B PBA 628 A PBT 784 C

(PBR 001A) (PBC 001A)

AC.A8 JC 456 RN 143

** See also the note on Page 66 of this issue of the Bulletin regarding number PBS 135X

We have had advances on all groups now with the exception of those two in brackets, for these we have had no reports so far.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - REPLY PAID METERED MAIL.
=====

In our last Bulletin we discussed new instructions regarding the preparation of the address side of reply paid mail prepaid by meter and queried the treatment of such mail regarding cancellation.

Mr Barfoot tells us that although he has not seen very many examples (for that matter neither have we seen many Business Reply Envelopes used in this country), they are cancelled, as in Canada.

ITALY - The Post Office Machines used for Registered Post.

Post Office machines used exclusively for Registered Mail appeared in Italy for the first time in the 1950's, after the Barfoot-Simon Catalogue was published and apart from a listing in the January 1959 MSB (V/94) they do not seem to have been mentioned very much. Like all Italian machines they seem to come in a bewildering variety but recently Mr E. S. Lapham sent us an entirely new type.

To recap, Type P.O.1. Hasler F88, as numbers 21 and 27 illustrated,

Type P.O.2. Make unknown, as number 98 illustrated.

Type P.O.3. (The new type, again Hasler but model uncertain). This has a small die with inner square and perforated frame, "POSTE ITALIANE" at the top in a box but no foliage at the sides. Townmark central and box with "R" and number at left. Overall width from left of box to right of die 68 mm. Figures of value as ***001 Single circle townmark with ROMA EUR at top and a single star at the bottom, dated 10.5.66 The number of the machine, which appears under the die, is 203. The impression (which is unfortunately not clear enough to illustrate) is printed on a brown label 100 x 55 mm, the inscriptions on this label include, at the right "(HASLER)".

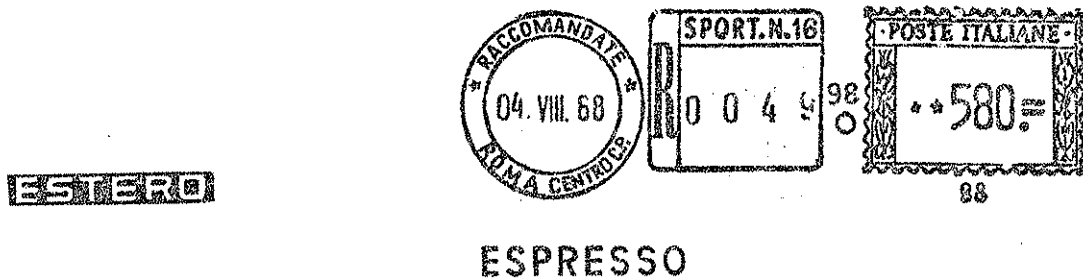
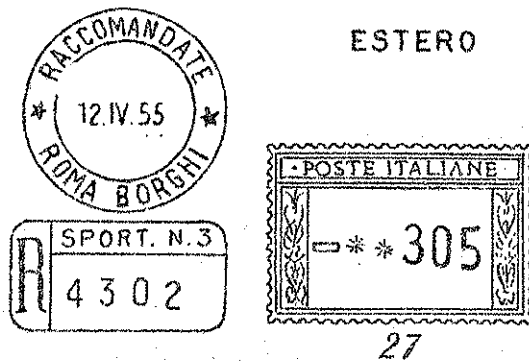
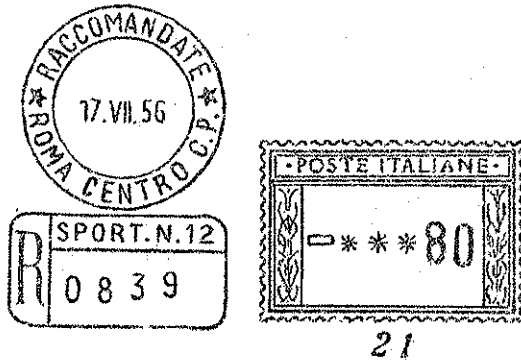
Examples from all types seen on letters addressed to countries outside Italy have the word "ESTERO" incorporated in the impression, on P.O.1 this is above the die (see number 27) in ordinary lettering but on P.O.2 it is in relief lettering below the townmark (an example of the inscription only is shown alongside number 98).

Inland examples sometimes have "ESPRESSO" in the same place so it seems likely that the word is not only optional but interchangeable. We do not know what happens when an overseas (ESTERO) express (ESPRESSO) letter is handed in.

We also have what appears to be a receipt half of an impression from machine number 27, printed on a label the back of which has spaces for such things as the sender, addresses, etc. This, dated 11.VII.59 is generally the same as the number 27 illustrated but the word ESTERO is in relief lettering and vertically at the left is the word "RICEVUTA" in ordinary letters of the same size.

Apart from Post Office machines, we have an impression from what may be either a Lirma or a Postalia model, generally similar to Barfoot-Simon illustration, dated 31 8 60 with, in place of slogan at the left of townmark, a large "R" 29 mm high followed by a five-digit number in figures 4 mm high. This has a slogan (CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI FIRENZE) underneath the townmark and the die so appears to be for private use. Used from FIRENCE / FERROVIA.

ITALY - Post Office Machines for Registered Post (Contd.)



FRANCE - A New Machine from S.E.C.A.P.

Thanks to M M. Michel, we have details of a new machine using the prefix "NC" which is not, as we suggested recently, a continuation of the "NA" prefix.

This is to be known as the "Stella" and comes in four versions, each of which is electrically operated.

- 1) The Stella Standard.
- 2) The Stella 1D which has additionally facilities for the automatic issue of gummed labels, the length of which can be varied at will (to accommodate the parts of the slogan that are included or left out at will) to either 80, 137 or 157 mm. The roll of gummed paper is 65 metres long, nearly a 1000 of the smaller size.
- 3) The Stella 2A which has facilities for automatic wetting.
- 4) The Stella Super which has both the facilities for the issue of gummed labels and those for automatic wetting, presumably of the label also if this is being used.

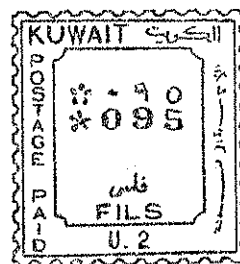
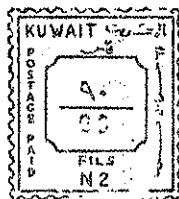
We do not expect to be able to tell which model any particular impression comes from except by a process of deduction.

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS.

Again we have to thank several members for reports which we have included, where necessary we have indicated them by their initials.

BRAZIL. Still more varieties of the figures of value on Automax. Mr Barfoot shows us P.B.M 5950 with value as =00,87 (the first zero is slightly larger than the second) and P.B.M 6202 with value as =0,87 followed by a solid upright rectangle ! The first of these also appears to have no circles for the town-mark, both have currency prefixes of NCr~~z~~

JAPAN. When we recorded SV0001 last time we should have said in the same design as SG 0023, please correct your last Bulletin.



KUWAIT. We illustrate the Roneo-Neopost Model 105? and Universal MV (SDB)

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS (Contd.)

MEXICO. Hasler No. 6943, used by the British Embassy (MEXICO DF) has a die similar to B & S Type 4 but square double-lined frame 30 x 30 mm (SDB)

MONACO. M M. Michel reports the first "Postalia" machine, T 3781, presumably numbered in the French series.

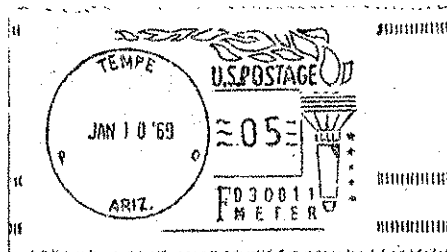
SOUTH AFRICA. Francotyp number F 549 (Cape Town) has been converted from a 4-bank to a 5-bank. On 25.5.68 it had figures of value as $0.02\frac{1}{2}$ but by the 28.8.68 this had been changed to $00.02\frac{1}{2}$. The user and the townmark are the same in each case.

Francotyp number F 1470 has a much thicker type of value figure than the normal, the "1" being without the usual serif at the foot.

A recent NCR label resembles the Japanese item illustrated at MSB X/60, with the year of the date reading vertically - this year part of the machine must be limited value ? - again on white paper, this time 60 x 40mm and with the value shown as *000.10 Used from Durban on 1 XII 68 These NCR labels are also used on Express Letters and may also be used on Registered Letters.
(All SDB)

SWITZERLAND. Two impressions from machine number 4016 (used on small labels by the Swiss Post Office and cancelled with a handstamp on 11.VII.60) are generally as B & S Type 2 without townmark but show differences in the actual position of the figures in relation to the frame. The first, with value as 0015 has the first "0" over the "L" of "Helvetia" but the second has this "0" over the middle of the "H" and the "E", leaving a gap at the right. Has any member any explanations ? (SDB)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



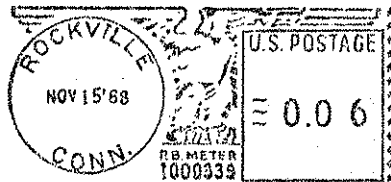
Friden Post Office machines have been introduced at many Post Offices recently. The design, as illustrated, is similar to the smaller version we illustrated some time ago but in these cases show a series of vertical dashes in three lines at the right. These are almost certainly connected with the feed mechanism as were such marks on the "SL" machines in Great Britain.

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS (Contd.) - U.S.A.

National Cash Register. Mr Barfoot shows us an impression from "NCR METER 2412" which is in magenta on a "dirty-white" label, a colour and paper new to us.

Pitney-Bowes Series 5000 machine number 523264 had a slogan on OCT 31'68 which read "Peace and Prosperity Through World Trade" but above this, possibly to avoid any political repercussions, was "Adv. by Mailer" in small letters.

The new Pitney-Bowes "Touchmatic" machine.



Some time ago we illustrated an impression from Pitney-Bowes machine No. 720302 which differed in several respects from the normal. We now illustrate an impression from machine number 1000339 which is similar and thanks to the bulletin of the Meter Stamp Society (U.S.A.) we now know that these are from an entirely new machine, the Model 5702 or "Touchmatic".

Electrically operated, with its own motor, this can print postage values up to 9.99, holding up to \$9,999 in postage but can be set for as little as \$20. Following the modern trend its normal operation is by the pushing of a series of buttons.

Nine of these are arranged in three rows in the same way as the latest telephones and underneath these, like an adding machine, is a long "0" bar, at the left a "Trip" bar and a "R" key, with also a "C" key and a "\$" key. To set the value required the keys are pressed in order of the value from the right, thus to print 0006 all that is necessary is to press the "6" key, the others normally being at zero. To print 1.06 it would be necessary to press the "6", then the zero and then the "1". The value the machine is set to print is shown in a small window. As a safety device the \$ key has to be pressed for Dollar values and this can be easily removed to make the machine inoperative.

The "R" key is for "Repeats", the "C" for "Clearing" and the "Trip" is to activate the machine and print the impression. The printing dies are made from Buna-N rubber and the throw-away ink impregnated roller is expected to give some 4000 impressions.

The main difference in the design, apart from the size of the box around the value, is the fact that P.B.METER is now all on one line leaving more space for the seven digits of the number.