

HON. SECRETARY AND
TREASURER :

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

SECRETARY'S NOTES
=====

Membership. We have several alterations for this issue of the Bulletin :-

New Member - (207) Mr D. J. Green 7 Huntingdon Road, CROWBOROUGH, Sussex.
Rejoined - (43) Mr W. J. Pieterse 13 Franconia Drive, Nashua, NH 03060,
U.S.A.

and changes of address :-

Mr C. H. Smith now 15240 Lotus Garden Drive, Saugus, Cal 91350, U.S.A.
Mr R. Haggett 27 Meadow Close, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, Warwickshire.

Alfred P. H. Overment died in Chicago on the 23rd of April 1969. He had been a member of the Group for many years and a student of meters, particularly those of the U.S.A., from their early days.

"SPEEDING THE MAILS"
=====

We mentioned this booklet in our last edition of the Bulletin. Written by Mr C. F. Gibbons, now Assistant Government Contracts Manager for Pitney-Bowes, it is probably one of the most complete and readily digestible booklets on the metered mail system in Great Britain.

Messrs Pitney-Bowes have very kindly offered to send a copy to any member of the Group interested.

Please write to The Advertising Department,
Pitney-Bowes Ltd.,
The Pinnacles, HARLOW, Essex.

Next Bulletin. This is expected to be in December, please let us have any notes or "highest numbers" by about the end of November please.

THE PRE-WAR METER CLUB

Random Remarks by Jason T. W. Mann.

In the pre-war years I ploughed a lone furrow as far as meter stamp collecting was concerned and did not know of the Meter Club (Secretary Chas. H. Kidman) during the period of its existence.

Checking back I find that the Club was advertised under the heading "Directory of Exchange Clubs" in all issues of the Philatelic Magazine from June 24th, 1938 to July 21st, 1939 inclusive.

It may be wondered why I should write about a club to which I did not belong, when at least one member of the present Meter Stamp Study Group was a member. My reason is that, thanks to Mr J. C. Mann, I have been able recently to study some of the publications of the Meter Club and this has provoked certain thoughts.

A main activity of the Meter Club was to prepare lists of G.B. meters. Where licences were granted on a country-wide basis (e.g. Universal Multi-Value machines), the listing was in the order licence number, place of use and user, but where licences were issued on a local basis (Neopost and Universal Midget machines) the order was town, licence number, user. Other information such as type of frank, wording of slogans (if any) etc. was also provided. The lists were based on the collections of a few members, they are not therefore complete, but are of great value to anyone studying prewar G.B. meters.

The first Bulletin of the Meter Club was dated Aug. 1938. It was in the second bulletin, dated Nov. 1938, that the first of the lists appeared, that for Universal Midget machines. This list covered the whole country. The third bulletin listed Universal Multi-Value machines, the fourth I have not seen, the fifth (Aug. 1939) covered London E Neoposts, and promised that the next bulletin would list London E.C. Neoposts, but I do not know whether this was ever published. It could well be that the war caused the cessation of the Club's activities. I personally am particularly interested in the early Pitney-Bowes machines (PB, H, P series), and suspect that these may well be listed in Bulletin No 4, the issue I have not seen. Should any member of the Group have a copy I should be most grateful if I were allowed to borrow it.

In retrospect it was clearly a very laudable object at that time to try to list all known G.B. machines. With the PB, H, U and P series the completion of a collection of impressions representing each machine was not an unattainable object. Because licensing was on a nation-wide basis, it was possible to know how many machines were licenced in each series. The longest series, the U, had reached 700. Almost all users were large firms, local authorities etc. so that the volume of mail was large, and the chance of getting impressions correspondingly greater.

The Pre-war Meter Club (Contd.)

With the N and M series, on the other hand, many of the users will have been small firms or organisations, even at that time, many will have had a mainly local mail, impressions will have been much less easily come by, and because the number of possible places of use to which separate licence numbers might be assigned ran into many thousands, there was no yardstick with which to measure completion.

We learn from the Meter Stamp Bulletin for June 1968 that there are more than 74,000 postal franking machines for conversion to decimal currency. For the Collector this is probably only half the story, and probably as many machines, commissioned since 1922, have been withdrawn as worn out or obsolete or have been withdrawn from one firm and relicensed for issue to another. Thus we have a situation in which not only is the number of machines growing daily, but also one in which licences go to smaller and smaller users. In my opinion it is impossible for any group of collectors to deal with the situation today in the way the Meter Club was attempting to deal with it 30 years ago.

A better approach, and one which is more likely to bear fruit coming from the Group than from an individual, is to impress on the makers of the machines and on the GPO, the importance of preserving all records of individual machines and licences after they have no further use for them. The makers probably have record cards for individual machines giving details of issue, servicing, new dies, withdrawal etc. The GPO presumably has records of issue and termination of licences in respect of users and machines. These records must be preserved to meet the requirements of Students although access to them cannot be granted until after the lapse of a certain number of years.

In the Meter Club's Universal Midget list there are a number of examples of abnormally high numbers. Thus, under Sidcup, Kent, we find only two licence numbers given, M 1 and M 35 respectively. From experience one would expect at that time at most half a dozen Midget machines in a town of this size. The slogan on the M 35 machine is given as "Klinger for Safe Motoring". Under London S.E.1. we find against M 35 (a number within the normal range for this office) the same slogan. Clearly therefore Richard Klinger Ltd transferred the machine from London S.E.1. to Sidcup, Kent, and were allowed to continue with the same licence number because it would not cause any confusion in the new area. The firm would be saved the expense of having a new die engraved. (this practice became much commoner when the war came and many firms moved to evacuation addresses).

The use of M 72 by Woolwich Borough Council cannot be explained in this way, although the number is much higher than would be expected for Woolwich. I suspect that the licence again had an S.E.1. number, but if so the reason is uncertain.

In going through the Meter Club listing of Universal Multi-Value machines I observed that a number of machines were used at different times by apparently unrelated users. Certain machines were apparently kept by the makers as stand-in machines and were substituted for licenced machines when these were in need of service or repair, or possibly were lent out on a temporary basis when firms

The Pre-war Meter Club (Contd).

were short of machine capacity. Thus machine U 498 was recorded by members of the Club over a period of about 2 years as having been in use by 9 apparently unrelated firms with townmarks ranging from London to Leeds. For U 502 five users are listed. U 498 had an EviiiR frank, U 502 a GviR frank.

In conclusion there is much to be said for collecting the locally licenced Neopost and Midget models on a townmark basis (compare Meter Stamp Town List, K. F. Jennings, 1959), and for many years I gathered together impressions from as many machines with N 1 licence numbers as I could find. Townmarks from many obscure places came to light.

Jason T. W. Mann, May 1969.

ITALY - Post Office machines for Registered Post - additional notes.

Since we wrote on this subject in March (MSB X/68) we have had some additional information and examples from both Mr S. D. Barfoot and Mr W. Simon.

Type P.O.2, previously shown as "make unknown" is in fact the German Francotyp Model TME, also known as the "Taxograph". This is of course a machine specially designed to produce the double label and is also used in several countries other than Italy, Argentina and Portugal are two.

We illustrate a complete impression from machine number 75 and it can be seen that the label is perforated between the two halves and that the lower receipt half has the figures of value without a frame and also that in this case the number of the machine is shown above a dot on one half and below it on the other. These minor differences are probably intended to make sure that the half meant as a receipt (the one with RICEVUTA on it) is not used for postage but mistakes do occur and Mr Simon shows us an example of the receipt half of an impression from machine 102 (Type P.O.2) dated on 28 I 58 from Torino Sezione Reunite used for postage.

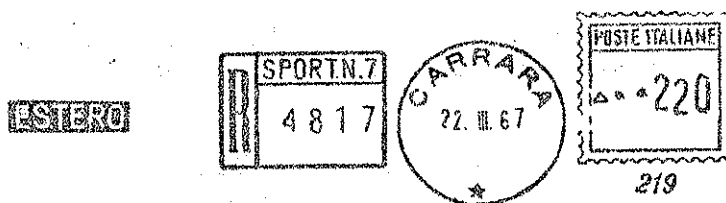
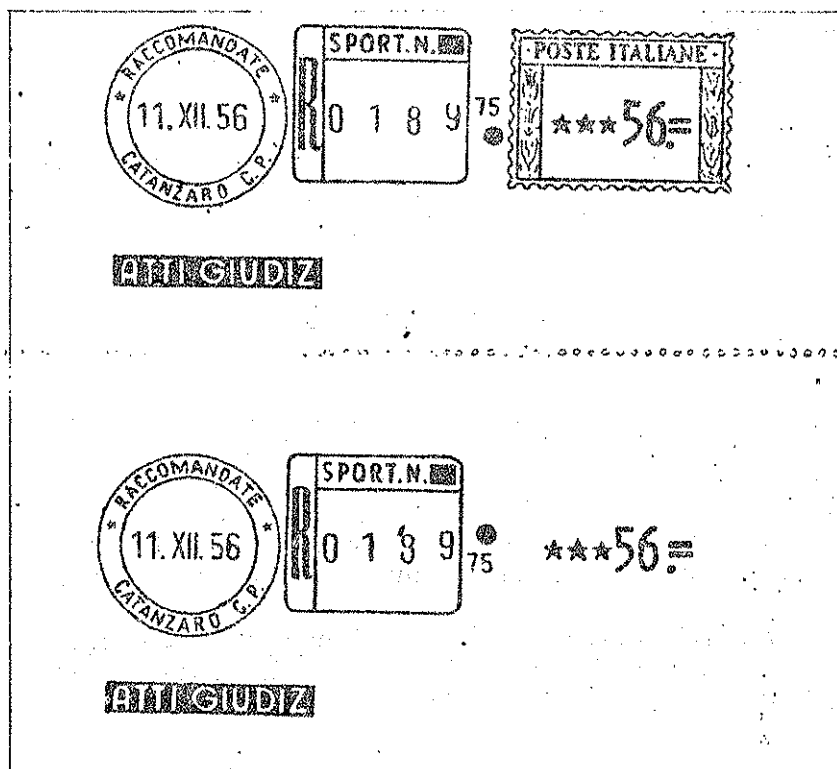
When letters already have the postage and any other fees paid on them by adhesive stamps these machines are used with a zero value purely to produce both the numbered label and the receipt. Presumably this would also happen if the charges had already been paid by a (private) meter.

Type P.O.1 also exists with a small triangle before the figures of the value, similar to the one on machine 219 illustrated, instead of the small horizontal rectangle we showed on numbers 21 and 27.

Mr Barfoot identifies the new Type P.O.3 as a Hasler and shows us the number 219 we illustrate.

Machine number 27 which we showed before also has at some time been fitted with the "ESTERO" in white letters on a solid background and it seems possible that both types of lettering could exist on any machine.

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



These endorsements are more numerous than we mentioned, those we have so far are :-

ESPRESSO	-	Express
ESTERO	-	Foreign
ASSEGNO	-	Monetary Documents
- A. R. -	-	Advice of Receipt
ATTI GIUDIZ	-	Legal Documents

and there may be others.

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

In our original article we should also have mentioned a note on some of these machines published in "The Meter Digest" some years ago by Mr J. Strelak which showed examples from 27 and 28 and also told us that the "SPORT." in the box with the number is an abbreviation for "Sportale" - window or counter position.

Both the number 75 we show and 102 mentioned above do not have a "Sport" number but have instead a solid unengraved block, presumably this is because they are used at smaller offices with only one position dealing with registered mail.

INFLATION AND METERS

One of the advantages of meters, particularly with the multi-value type, is that they can cope with all normal rates of postage and even when the value of a currency falls the required value can still be obtained. We all know of cases though where the value of a currency has fallen so low that many thousands of the unit are required for a letter and Mr E. S. Lapham tells us of an unusual cover from Brasil that shows this difficulty up well.

A large envelope, dated 18 IX '64, it has on it 40 impressions from Pitney-Bowes Model R number M 5481, each of 99.00 and in addition, on the back, is written "4,740.00, 47-99.00, 1-87.00".

We think the explanation is that of the total postage required, 8700.00, the 40 impressions of 99.00 each represented 3960.00 and the other 4740.00 was paid by means of the forty-seven 99.00 and one 87.00 impressions on a separate sheet of paper which would be kept by the Post Office.

This is not claimed as a record for the number of impressions, as many as 63 are recorded on an LV machine, (MSB VI/47), but it might be a record for an MV type.

AN UNUSUAL HANDSTAMP

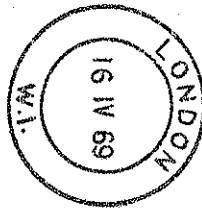
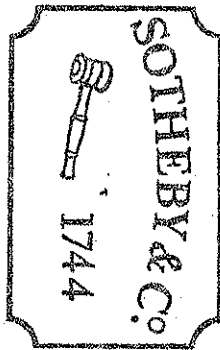
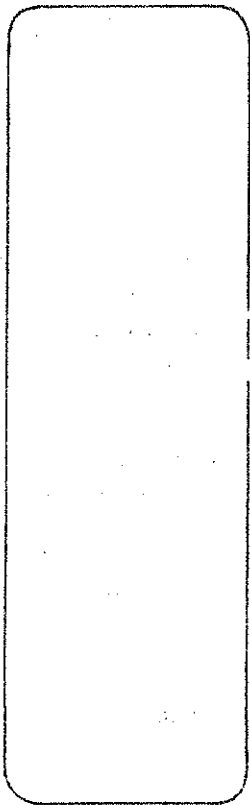
Mr George Pearson shows us the cover illustrated opposite which bears a most unusual handstamp.

Quite obviously the envelope should have been franked with "05" (5 pence) but for some unexplained reason has been franked with "305" (£1. 5. 5d at the present).

In answer to an enquiry the District Postmaster tells Mr Pearson that the use of the handstamp "is purely a local experiment to assist the licence holder and, we hope, eventually the Post Office, as it will bring to the notice of the meter machine user the necessity for correct handling of the meter machine". He goes on to say that he does not know of another office using a similar stamp.

The procedure whereby the user of a meter machine may claim on spoilt and faulty impressions remains as always.

(see also Page 100)



FRANKED THIS ITEM HAS BEEN FOR
ADJUSTMENT IN EXCESS. OF THE ACCOUNT.
PLEASE RETURN COVER TO :-
DISTRICT POSTMASTER (PB 27)
W.D.O. LONDON, WIP. 1AA.
VIA YOUR POSTMAN/POST OFFICE.

G. B. NOTES

Pitney-Bowes Model CV. Mr Lapham shows us an additional value for this in the "Emblems" design, (our Type 64) - 7d, used on PC 75 on 14 MAR 1969.

Neopost LV. This machine has now also appeared in the new "pence-only" design. Mr S. D. Barfoot shows us N 30, Tipton, Staffs, used on the 4 IV 69 with the value shown as a single "5". Mr P. D. Wood tells us he has several examples and Mr M. L. Blakeston also reports their existence.

Roneo-Neopost Model 205. We have previously placed the point of change from Arabic to Roman figures in the townmark at between J 5011 (Arabic) and J 5053 (Roman). Mr Blakeston narrows this down by reporting J 5014 upwards in Roman figures but also tells us of J 4620 with Roman figures - which may be an exception or a conversion and J 172, 647 and 988 which are almost certainly earlier machines converted. But, Mr D. H. Fletcher tells us that J 8037 has Arabic month figures. His earliest example is dated 17.6.69 but being in the old £sd design it must have been in use for some time!

Rebate Mail. Meter impressions on Rebate Mail often show either a very abbreviated date, such as the month or even the year only but sometimes have even more peculiar forms.

Mr L. Molloy-Vickers shows us an impression from TN 120 used with a large unframed "R" as slogan and showing the "date" as -0.1.-0 He actually received it on the 20th May 1969!

Highest Numbers. Advances on nearly all the current series this time and even one of the redundant ones. Thanks to reports from Messrs D. Fletcher, S. D. Barfoot, P. D. Wood, T. M. Richards plus some items from the Hon. Sec. the position now is :-

	* <u>SG 737</u>				N 661 G
		NT 857			<u>J 8037</u>
	* <u>PB 877 L</u>				* <u>RT 2456</u>
		* <u>FC 176</u>			TN 184
fml	*1090	2003	*3039	*4019	6011 *7007
		* PBS 024 B		FBA 652 C	PBT 570 H
		PBS 014 U		(PBA 001 Y)	PBT 444 Y
		(PBR 001 A)		(PBC 001 A)	
		(PBR 001 Y)		(PBC 001 Y)	
		* AC.A 15		JD 736	RN 488

For the "pence-only" Pitney-Bowes machines we show two series, the ascending and the descending suffixes.

As before we have underlined the redundant series, but it will be seen that in one case we have been able to report an advance. Those shown with an asterisk remain as reported last time, those bracketed not yet seen but expected and we still have the gaps in the fml groups.

IRISH NOTES.

Pitney-Bowes Series 5000. We suggested "block" allocations of GB series numbers for these machines, one of which was PB 831H - PB 840H. Mr E. S. Lapham shows us PB 841H used from Dublin, so perhaps this should be extended to PB 850H?

Roneo-Neopost Model 305. Mr Werner Simon reports this machine in the new "pence only" style.

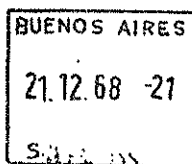
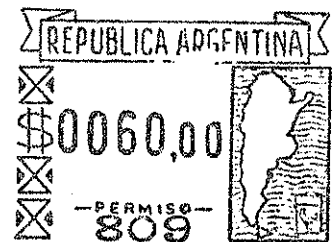
COLOURS IN CANADA

When we published an article on this subject by Mr H. K. Warren, it did not occur to us at the time that one colour which is fairly common in the USA, black, was not mentioned.

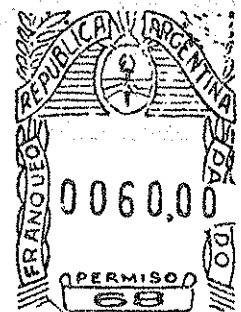
Mr E. S. Lapham writes to tell us that he was surprised but searched his own collection and was unable to find any. He has now, however, found at least one machine using this colour - 150653 - and offers this as an addition to the list, possible one at the scarce end ?

OVERSEAS NOTES

As usual, we have had reports from more than one member, where necessary they are identified by their initials.



3 9 6 3 12
AE



CERT. EXPR. AEREA

ARGENTINA. Two different sizes for the Hasler map design, depending on the number of figures of value.

Unusual rectangular townmark for Francotyp used for Registered Post.

Signs of inflation ? The Hasler, B & S Type 11, has in this instance had part of the frame cut away and an extra (? fixed) zero inserted.

(All ESL)

OVERSEAS NOTES (Contd.)

AUSTRALIA. Mr Werner Simon reports a new design for the Roneo-Neopost with the name AUSTRALIA at the top and flower borders at left and right.

BAHAMAS. Pitney-Bowes machines reported by Mr Simon.

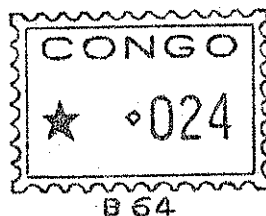
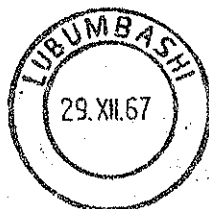
BELGIUM. Satas Model SR, numbered in H 3000 series. Mr E. S. Lapham shows us H-3010 with single-circle townmark, small (for Satas!) date figures and with figures of value as *00.01 used from BRUXELLES/BRUSSEL on 23 10 68. "BELGIQUE" over "BELGIE". Design generally as B & S Type 7.

CANADA. The National Cash Register machines used for Parcel Post have always been a complicated group and many varieties and conditions are listed in the Barfoot-Simon catalogue. Recent additions sent to us by Mr Barfoot are :-

Type P.P.1. No 734 (Winnipeg) on yellow safety paper (1964)
as P.6 but top centre line shows value as cents only, thus "11"
instead of \$0.11

Type P.P.2. Centre line only, no date or town etc. pale
yellow paper.

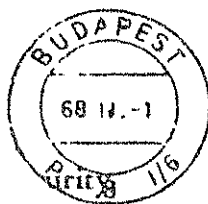
as P.25 but black impression with violet f. of v. and R. No.,
1963-6, Meter 404, 986, on pale yellow or pale greenish paper.



CONGO (KINSHASA) New definitive design for the Hasler (SDB). Mr E. S. Lapham also shows us a machine with the name shown as "Democratic Republic" etc (in French).

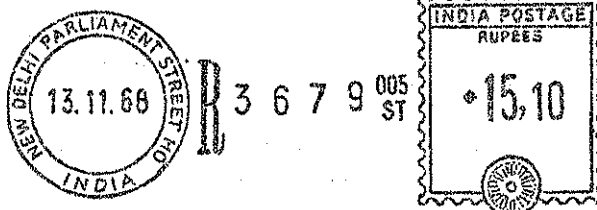
DOMINICA (British Colony) Roneo-Neopost Model 205 (WS)

PONTOS címzés - !
GYORS kézbesítés !



HUNGARY. A different design for the Postalia. (SDB)

OVERSEAS NOTES (Contd.)



INDIA. Francotyp for Registered Post. The townmark of this shows that the initials "P.S." on the Satas we have previously listed stands in fact for "Parliament Street" and not "Philatelic Service" as we somewhat cheekily suggested! (ESL)

ITALY. We have often mentioned in the past the difficulties encountered when trying to identify the make of Italian machines. However, an improvement may be in sight because in recent years machines show letters for the make (and even model!). Mr E. S. Lapham shows us (a) Pitney-Bowes Model R with PER 23 vertically between the townmark and the die, (b) Pitney-Bowes Model R with PB at the top left, R at the top right, 142 at bottom left and CC at bottom right of the townmark circle, (c) Hasler with number H 24666, (d) Francotyp with FTee45419 and (e) Sima with SI 11199 between the townmark and the die. We do not know what the "CC" on the Pitney-Bowes and the "ee" on the Francotyp mean.



JAPAN. Some time ago (MSB IX/85) we reported a slightly different design for the Hasler. This, as H 1091, had wavy lines to the right of the mountain instead of straight lines as we showed on H 338 (MSB VIII/47). Mr E. S. Lapham now shows us this H 1329 which is a 5-bank instead of a 4-bank but seems to have reverted to the straight lines.

KUWAIT. Mr Werner Simon reports the Hasler, numbered H.1.

MALAYSIA. Both the Roneo-Neopost Model 305 "Frankmaster" and the Pitney-Bowes Automax come in two types.

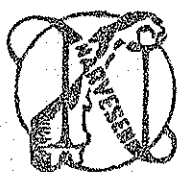
Mr S. D. Barfoot shows us RN 518 which has the name extending all the way across the top of the frame whereas RN 602 has the lettering shorter and an extension of the inner frame line at each side. (A similar difference also exists in Singapore - see the article in our last Bulletin.)

OVERSEAS NOTES (Contd.) - Malaysia.

With the Automax, P.B.1 has the number placed above POSTAGE at the foot of the die, whereas P.B.41 has the number below POSTAGE. These two also show the differences in appearance we recorded for the Automax with the name as MALAYA as long ago as MSB's 66 and 67. P.B.1 has the smaller, flatter lettering similar in appearance to the Frankmaster whilst P.B.41 has the larger, Universal style.

Another unusual feature with P.B.41 is that the townmark has, as well as KUALA LUMPUR, "SELANGOR" at the bottom of the circle.

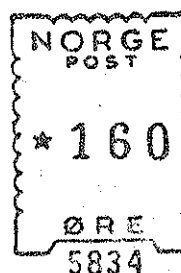
MOZAMBIQUE. Universal MV in the usual design but with a solid block 12 mm x 3 mm instead of a number at the bottom of the circular die, presumably a Post Office machine. Used from LORENCO MARQUES on -6 III 68 (SDB)



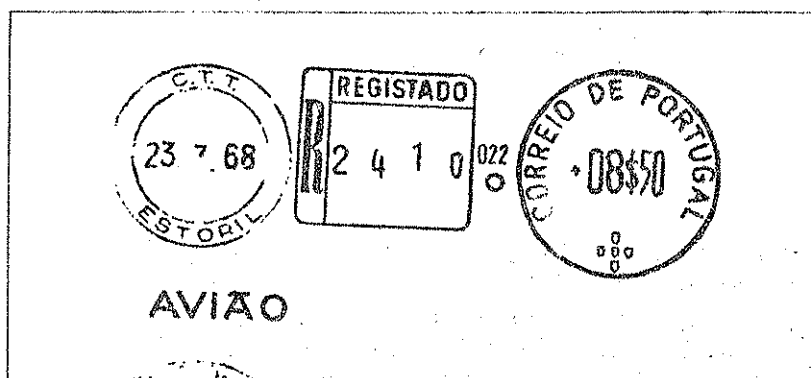
DISTRIBUTION
SUBSCRIPTION



07099



NORWAY. Mr E. S. Lapnam shows us this impression from Krag 5836 in which the figures of the Registration Number are sans-serif instead of the usual serif.



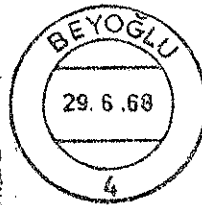
PORTUGAL. We illustrate the Francotyp used for Registered Post previously recorded. All the examples seen by Mr S. D. Barfoot have "AVIAO" but presumably this can be altered to other inscriptions.

RHODESIA. New value on the Roneo-Neopost LV (design with "Southern" removed) - 7d - used with 1/- for Air Mail to GB. (SDB)

OVERSEAS NOTES (Contd.)



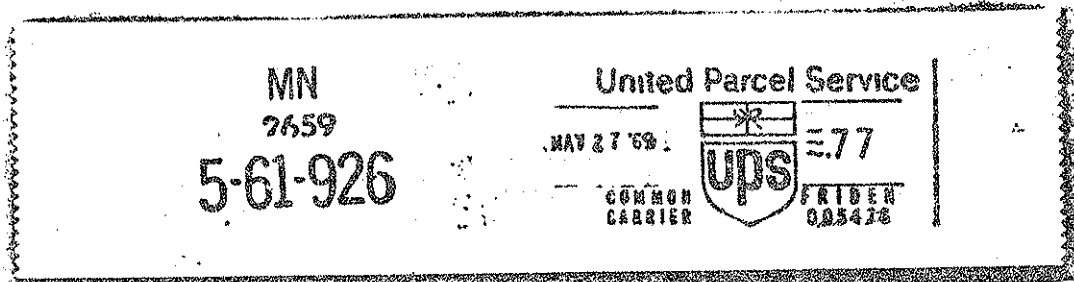
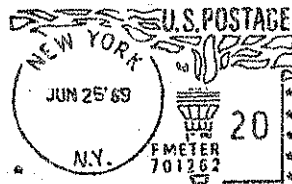
SÜMERBANK
BÜTÜN KEŞİDELERİNDE
BOL ŞANS DİLER



TURKEY. In our listing of Turkish machines some years ago under Pitney-Bowes Model R it was recorded that "it is uncertain whether this was put into use".

Mr E. S. Lapham now shows us a photograph of a postally used copy, which shows the star at the left of the crescent instead of to the right as in the essay. The townmark (BEYOĞLU) shows the licence number 43 (or 48) at the bottom and the impression is dated 20.12.67

He also shows us the Postalia with slogan at the left, DC-A townmark and figures of value 0001; the proof of the Pitney-Bowes Desk Model, both of which we illustrate and a Satas in a similar design to the Postalia but with the star and crescent at the top right of the die. This last has a townmark which is similar to the Postalia, large date figures and figures of value as *001. Used from Istanbul on 2 6 65



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Mr Lapham sends us these two Friden impressions, the first is the new Model 9200, showing the torch between the townmark and the value and the second is the larger Model 410 or 420 used by the United Parcel Services.

OVERSEAS NOTES (Contd.) - United States of America.

The list of blocks of numbers for the various Friden machines we gave in the last Bulletin was not quite correct and should read :-

<u>Series</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>User</u>
001---	9222	U.P.S.
005---	410, 420	U.P.S.
010---	410, 420	U.S.A.
030---	9222	U.S.A. (Post Office)
200---	9222	U.S.A.
300---	410, 420	Canada
320---	9222	Canada
700---	9200	U.S.A.

VENEZUELA. The numbers shown on some impressions from Postalia machines appear to be the machine number rather than the licence numbers - Mr S. D. Barfoot reports 61741 in larger, seriffed figures.

In connection with the "Franked in Excess" handstamp described on page 92 we thought it appropriate to describe the method of repayment. We quote from "Speeding the Mails".

Section N - Refund Payments.

1 - Impressions made in Error.

Repayment in respect of franking machine impressions made in error may be obtained, provided the impressions are fully legible and that the entire envelope, wrapper, telegraph form etc. is surrendered. On receipt of such evidence, the Head Postmaster will authorise 95% of the face value of any such claim unless the total exceeds his Local Limit.

In the event of a claim exceeding this limit, it will be referred to the Regional Director with a Report saying :-

- (a) Whether the Licence normally complies satisfactorily with the terms of his licence.
- (b) If the Licencee has made previous claims for spoiled impressions.
- (c) Whether the relevant machine is capable of making impressions of the particular value claimed.

Applications for such repayment must be made in writing by the Licencee or a responsible member of the firm, within three months of the date of making such a wrong impression.

When a Licencee has more than one machine, all such cases of refund may be noted on one Record Card, provided that a permanent cross-reference is made in red ink on the Record Cards of all other machines used by the Licencee.

All envelopes, wrappers, etc. which have been submitted as evidence of impressions made in error, will be kept for three months after payment of the refund and then disposed of as confidential waste.