

HON. SECRETARY AND  
TREASURER :

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

SECRETARY'S NOTES  
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Membership. Again with this issue of the Bulletin we are pleased to be able to welcome new members to the Group.

(218) Mr J. T. Whitney, B.A. 38 Hazlemere Road, Thundersley, BENFLEET,  
Essex.

(whose particular interests are the Channel Islands and anything in meter slogans or in thier townmarks connected with Christianity and Charities.)

(219) Mr R. A. Yates 4 Clarach Road, BORTH, Cardiganshire.

Members Wants and Offers. Mr Richard C. Peck, P.O. Box 85, Drummoyne, N.S.W. 2047, Australia, whose interests are Australia, early New Zealand and anything bearing on the history of the machines relative to their introduction into Australia, would like to exchange but please be as specific as possible when writing.

He himself uses a very old machine, 41-D, and if any member would like an impression he would be pleased to hear from them.

POSTAL DISPUTE IN GREAT BRITAIN  
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As our members in Great Britain will certainly know, postal services, apart from local services in a few areas, were suspended between the middle of January and the 8th March 1971. This period, of course, covered the change over to decimal currency and to meter collectors has meant several things.

Whilst for the stamp collector (and possibly even for the general public occasionally) a vast number of private postal services sprang up, licensed by the Post Office for the duration of the strike, and these nearly all seemed to have found it necessary to issue stamps but as far as we have heard none of them used a meter to record the fact that any postal charges had been paid - naturally, we would be pleased to hear of any that did.

Postal Dispute in Great Britain (Contd.)

Because services were suspended there will not be, apart from the few local covers that may have survived, any commercial first day of use covers with metered impressions on the 15th of February. Your Hon. Sec. has seen at least one cover posted in mid-February in Warwickshire and kept there until normal services were resumed but this had an adhesive. There will also of course be no last day of the old currency.

In their booklet issued to firms called "The Business Guide to Decimal Currency in the Post Office" it is noted, under the section dealing with franking machines that, "because of the problems that could arise, the Post Office does not intend to renew credit after 15th February for any machine that has not been converted". It is quite possible that some machines that had not been able to exhaust their credit may be used after the 8th of March still in the old design and recording in £sd, but we have not seen any.

We hope to note any of these possibilities if they come to light so please let us know if you see covers used during the strike or in the old design after the 15th of February.

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PROGRESS OF U.K. METER DECIMALISATION - NOV 1970

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by Denys H. Fletcher.

(written before the dispute which we discuss above)

It may be interesting to note that from my month's "income" of 439 covers, 367 items (83.6%) were decimalised. There were a number of duplications of course but the percentage remains the same even if these are eliminated - 194 machines out of 231 different meters received. It is a matter of simple arithmetic to see that, three months before decimal day, over 16% of British meters remain to be converted - and conversion has been in hand for 18 months.

This exercise was suggested to me because, when sorting out the pile that had come in the stack of PBT impressions was far higher than the rest - I counted them and found 163, or 37% of the total. The next most numerous were the decimalised J series, far behind at 56 (13%), with 12 (nearly 3%) of the impressions from this model still with the Emblems die. Then follow Frankmasters (41, 9%) with 18 (5%) not decimalised, PBA close behind at 38 (8.7%) and PBS with 25 examples (5.7%). The others are very much in the minority and the formerly preponderant N machines only had 18 representatives, of all dies, including 2 decimalised and 1 GviR. Only two impressions from makers other than the "big two" appeared - one Friden and one Hasler.

This led to a comparison of the decimalisation attained by each of the "big two" manufacturers, regardless of model. Of the whole sample Pitney-Bowes machines provided 251 examples (57%), of which 227 (90.5%) were decimal; of the £.s.d. dies still in use Automax provided most examples (15) in Emblems die and Simplex Major (4) in EiiR die. No examples from the Universal machines were included although a few of these do turn up occasionally. From Roneo-Neopost the total was 186 (42%), with 138 (74.4%) of them decimalised:

Progress of U.K. Meter Decimalisation (Contd.)

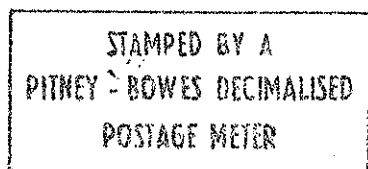
most £.s d. examples were provided by the Frankmaster machines (16 Emblems and 2 EiiR) whilst the LV Neopost machines with N prefix provided 11 Emblems, 4 EiiR and the sole GviR die

Finally, although it may be deduced from the above figures, it may be remarked that of "other makes", the Friden and Hasler, with two machines in the sample, account for only  $\frac{1}{2}\%$  of the machines in use - it would be interesting to hear if other members can produce similar figures. It may be that in other areas the balance between the "big-two" may be different.

(Note by Hon. Sec. - It may also depend on the "type" of mail that is examined that will determine the mix between machines which tend to be used by large mailers and those which tend to be used by small mailers, a quick check on my office mail reveals a similar split but a larger proportion of Roneo-Neopost machines).

EXPERIMENTAL PITNEY-BOWES MACHINE  
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In September last we mentioned briefly a Pitney-Bowes machine numbered P.B.L 001A and we now illustrate this thanks to Mr P. D. Wood.



We still know no more about this except that "P.B. 1001A is the identification number of a postage meter used in our own mailroom here at Harlow for a short period for a special purpose". Can anyone report other dates?

G. B. NOTES.  
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Pitney-Bowes Model C. What seems to be the last gap in machines converted to decimal currency design was filled when Mr George Pearson reported P.B. 1001A used on the 8 MAR 1971 from Croydon, Surrey.

Pitney-Bowes Series 5000. In our notes on Highest numbers in the last issue of the Bulletin we remarked that new machines numbering upwards from an A suffix had reached Q and almost closed the gap with converted machines which have been numbering backwards from Y, these having reached T. We have not seen any with suffix R but new machines are now appearing with a four-digit number. Mr D. H. Fletcher, for instance, reported PBT 1022A as long ago as the 20th of December. He suggested that the missing suffix might be reserved for the remaining conversions - Pitney-Bowes would know how many there were.

G. B. Notes (Contd).

Simplex. We do not seem to have mentioned before that machines in the sp design come in differing sizes. Mr E. S. Lapham shows us PBS 024B which has the square frame 20mm x 23mm and PBS 994X which is only 18mm x 20mm. Mr R. T. Jacques, though, notes PBS 157A as being 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm high and PBS 822D as 20mm high, so we have at least three different heights.

Roneo-Neopost Model 605 (Postalia). Mr R. T. Jacques notes differing forms of the figures of value, these number five in all now :-

1.        ww/1    (with a shilling bar)    TN 151
2.        ww.1    (with a stop)                TN 152
3.        ww'1    (with apostrophe)         TN 144
4.        wwl      (no stop or apostrophe)
5.        w0/1    (with zero and shilling bar)

A Townmark Oddity. Mr G. V. Eltringham shows us an impression from N 787 F which has a townmark reading ALDERSHOT / -HANTS- but with the Aldershot set well to the right and a blank space from about 8 o'clock to 11 o'clock in the circle. The explanation would seem to be that although the Aldershot postal area is very large the only place within it that has the name in front is Fleet, thus Fleet, Aldershot, Hants, so this machine must have originally been fitted with a townmark including Fleet but has subsequently had it taken out. The particular example he shows us is dated 13 11 70 but he mentions that he has them extending over several months.

"Highest Numbers". The Postal Dispute has reduced the number of reports as well as the number of meters to report on but thanks are due particularly to Messrs W. H. Bogue, D. H. Fletcher and G. R. Pearson.

The latest position is as follows :-

	*N 818 J		NW 863		*TN 238	
HGB	*1073	*2005	3014	4003	*5004	6006
	PBS 192 E		*PBA 369 F		PBT 629 Q	
	*PBS 464 Q				PBT 130 S	
					** PBT 1147 A	
		PBR 008 A		PBC 034 A		
	*AC.A 35	JM 930	RN 3089	G.0360		

\* indicates no advance since last time.

\*\* - See note on page 63.

We have now omitted the "fml" prefixes as we have had no advance on them for some time and we have also omitted the "tail end" suffixes for the Pitney-Bowes Model C and Model R and the Automax. In these cases, as all machines are conversions it seems that only suffixes from the beginning of the alphabet are being used.

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS  
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Again because of the recent Postal dispute, the number of reports on overseas matters has been reduced. Thanks are due to those who have been able to send us material, as usual they are identified where necessary by their initials.

ALGERIA. In MSB 90 we referred to Hasler CG 864. This should have been, of course, Havas CG 864.

ANDORRA. P 232 has a French frank like P 234 but recently had a slogan BANCA MORE S.A. / PRINCIPAT D'ANDORRA (in Spanish:) (SDB)

ARGENTINA. More varieties due to the new currency and the fall in money values that came before. Francotyp PER 421 in the old Barfoot and Simon Type 6, fitted originally with angular figures of value has a tall rounded zero added at the right. 248, in the same design, has the "LEY 18188" reading vertically at the right and figures of value as z0001

Automax 539 has figures of value as =001 (all ESL)

BAHRAIN. We have now seen the "missing" P.B.3 which is not as we suggested, in Dubai. This is as P.B.1. with POSTAGE only at the base. (SDB)

BRAZIL. The first machines with the "N" standing for New Cruzeiro removed; Pitney-Bowes Model R, M 50010 with figures of value \*01- used -1 VII'70

Automax P.B.-M.6450 with figures of value =,0lw and P.B.-M.5751 with the figures as =0,oiw (ESL)

CANADA. Some time ago we mentioned that the Canadian Post Office was discontinuing the supply of tapes free of charge. Mr E. S. Lapham shows us Postalia 100832 impressed on a tape which has an imprint reading ROYTYPE repeated at top and bottom.

DUBAI. We have now seen P.B.2 as well as the P.B.1 we mentioned recently, so there is no doubt that the series of numbers in Dubai have nothing to do with those in Bahrain.

GABON. We cannot trace recording machines inscribed "REPUBLIQUE GABONAISE" (formerly part of French Equatorial Africa). Mr W. H. Bogue shows us SR-6136 used from PORT GENTIL on 20 9 68 with figures of value as \*001

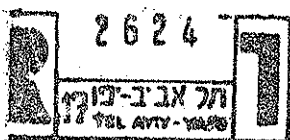
GHANA. Neopost LV with decimal values. 15p on N23 (Accra) used as long ago as 23 VII 66 (WEB)

INDIA. Mr S. D. Barfoot shows us two Neopost machines used by Post Offices, these of course being identified by their townmarks. "PARK.ST.P.O. CALCUTTA / P.O. COUNTER C-2766" and "PARK TOWN / P.O. COUNTER M-1571". (the latter is in Madras).

Notes and News from Overseas (Contd.)



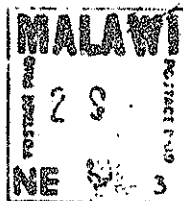
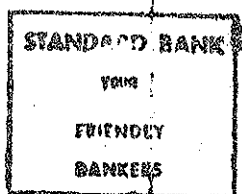
INDONESIA. Francotyp inscribed for renamed currency, "Rp" (SDB)



ISRAEL. Francotyp Co. Post Office machine (Barfoot-Simon Type P.2. in MSB 53) but fitted with a "label type" box around a four-figure registration number and used for Registered Post. The impression is on a plain white label, unperforated. (SDB)

IVORY COAST. Satas (with "COTE D'IVOIRE") SJ 960? used from Abidjan on the 26 10 70 with figures of value as \*01 (ESL)

JAMAICA. Roneo-Neopost Model 305, RN 185, with decimal value ("10") used from EWARTON/JAMAICA on 20 III 70 (ESL)

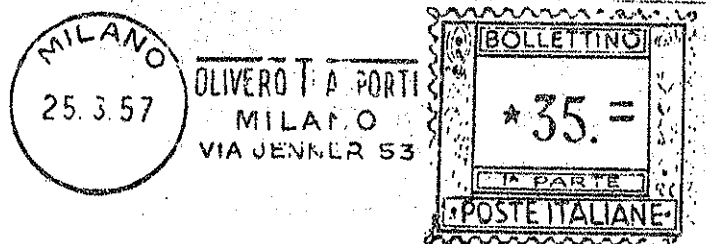
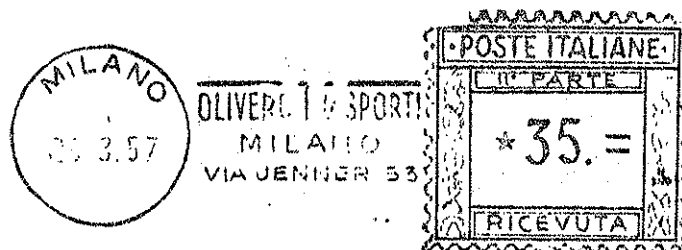


MALAWI. Roneo-Neopost Model 205. (SDB)

MOROCCO. Satas in design with Arabic above French MAROC and POSTES SO06 at bottom. The "S" prefix is new. Townmark SC with Arabic at top and "CASABLANCA Ppal" and dated -2 9 70

Notes and News from Overseas (Contd.)

ITALY. Mr Barfoot shows us more impressions from the machines used for Parcel Post and Registered Post and as usual each one seems to be different in some way from those we have shown and described before.



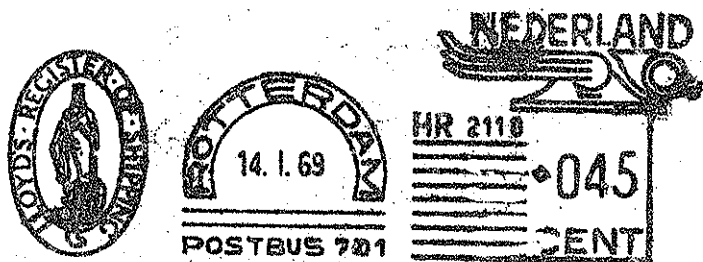
127

A complete two-part impression from a Sima machine used by a private firm for Parcels and actually impressed on a complicated form of despatch note, advice note and receipt of posting. The number, 127, only seems to appear on the "BOLLETTINO 1A PARTE" section of the impression and not on the "RICEVUTA 11A PARTE" section.

An impression from Francotyp TME number 111 has the number between the die and the registration box, without any dot as in 75 we illustrated and also underneath the die. The impression is on an envelope, not a label, and it would seem that the receipt has been held in place whilst the impression was taken. Because this was placed a little too high the endorsement slug (ESTERO) for the top (Postage) half of the impression has been covered but the one for the lower (receipt) half has printed on the cover. The effect, probably unintentional, is that the ESTERO shows 63mm below the bottom edge of the town-mark and right alongside the address!!

We also show, on the next page, a complete two-part impression from Hasler 225 on a cover, half of which should have been on the receipt. In addition to this, Mr E. S. Lapham shows us Hasler Type P.O.3 number 200. This has a small rectangle before the figures, instead of a triangle.

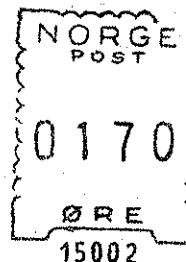
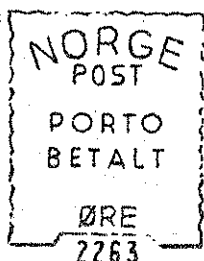
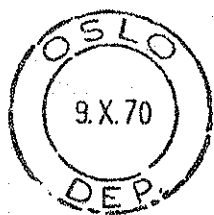
Notes and News from Overseas (Contd.)



NETHERLANDS. This Hasler impression has the number in larger letters than before and there are now two lines underneath the townmark with an address below. (SDB)

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES. Pitney-Bowes (USA) Series 5000. Usual USA style design with a group of 6 stars over the number P.B.0001 and value shown as w0.01 Used from SAN NICOLAS / ARUBA on 11.12.68 (SDB)

NIGERIA. Another Roneo-Neopost Model 305 with a solid ring instead of a townmark is RN 366, used in Lagos. (SDB)



NORWAY. Hasler 2263, Porto Betalt with "ØRE" instead of "P.P."

Krag 15002 seems to show differences from previous machines. The town mark is smaller and nearer the frank, the date is expressed as 29 10-70 rather than 29.10.70 and there is no registration number. (ESL)



Notes and news from overseas (Contd.)

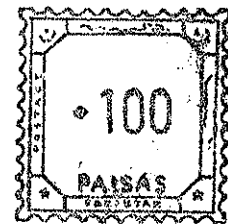
PAKISTAN. Additional varieties from Nr Barfoot. The numbers used are from our book of the Indian Sub-Continent.

Roneo-Neopost Model 305, Type 14.1 New sub-type with figures of value 4-bank, as 00.01

*Paracha*  
*Textiles*

Spinning, Weaving & Finishing.

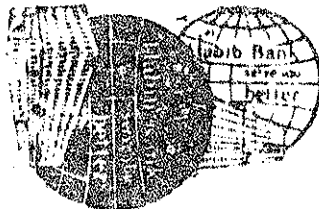
P.O.S. NO. 324.  
KARACHI 25.



Francotyp, design similar to 17.4 but corner squares now cut off by diagonal lines.



C.A.M.P., new Post Office machine printing on label 58mm x 27mm which has a blank impressed "F" at the bottom centre (? a code for the operator)

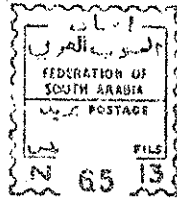


Roneo-Neopost Model 205 (WHB)

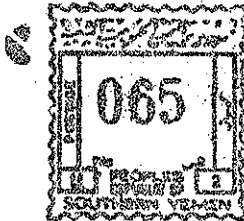
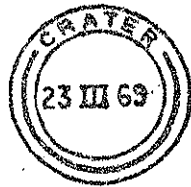
PERU. What may be a provisional Post Office machine is M.06 with "LIMA" at the top of a DC townmark, number at bottom and "normal" die with "CENTAVOS" at bottom. No extra inscription below the die. Value as 200.01 and used on 3.1.69 (SDB)

SOUTH AFRICA. It would seem that on the Safag machines (prefix "A") the  $\frac{1}{2}$  is replaced when not used by a ":". Mr Barfoot shows us A.11 with value as R02 $\frac{1}{2}$  and A.87 as R0.01:

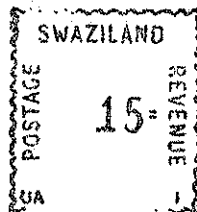
Notes and news from overseas (Contd.)



SOUTH ARABIA, FEDERATION OF. We illustrate the Neopost. (WHB)



SOUTHERN YEMEN, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF. This new name replaces the Federation of South Arabia, which itself had replaced Aden. Universal U2 shown. (SDB)



SWAZILAND. Automax, illustrated. (SDB)

SWITZERLAND. Mr Barfoot shows us Hasler 7440 with date shown as 3.-9.68 and says this is the first he has seen with Arabic month figures in the date.

ZAMBIA. The "0" at the left of the Neopost indicates "Nil" Kwacha, the upper unit of currency.

STOP - PRESS  
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We speculated on an earlier page whether meters would be used in Great Britain after the change-over to decimal currency in the old design and so still recording in the old currency.

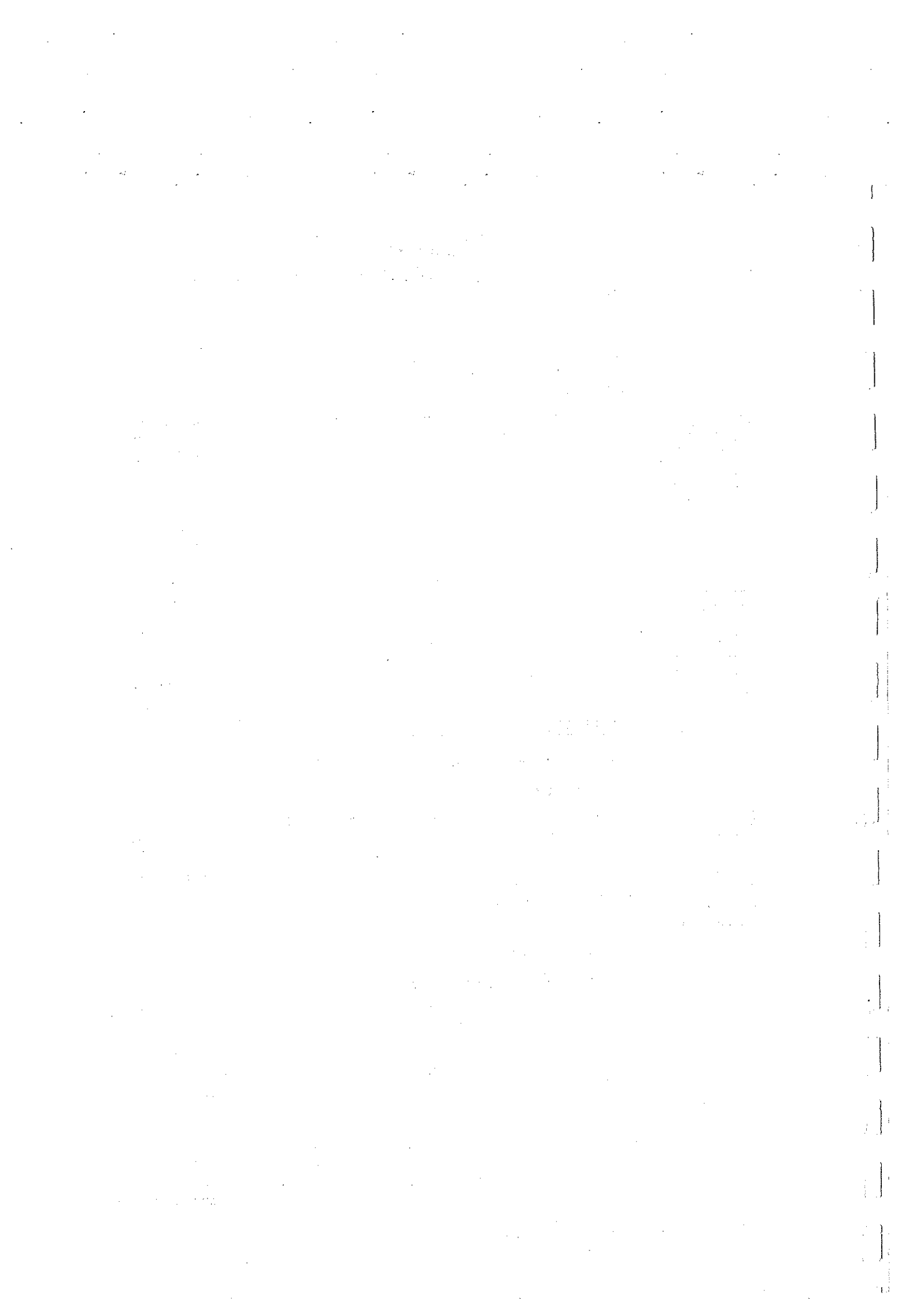
One has come to hand, Roneo-Neopost Frankmaster NR-102, used on the 17th of March from London, W.L. with a value of =0/6= (equal exactly to 2½p, the new increased second class rate)

THE METER STAMP STUDY GROUP

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DEC 1970

(1969)	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	
(25 0 11)	Subscriptions for the current year	13 0 0
( - 10 0)	Subscriptions from previous years	- - -
(14 18 0)	Subscriptions received in advance	2 10 0
		<hr/>
(40 8 11)		15 10 0
( - 8 4)	Donations	- 4 0
( 3 15 0)	Sales of publications	1 19 4
		<hr/>
(44 12 3)		17 13 4
(14 18 0)	Deduct advance subscriptions	2 10 0
		<hr/>
(29 14 3)		15 3 4
( 5 16 0)	Add subscriptions received last year	14 18 0
		<hr/>
(35 10 3)	Adjusted Income for the year	30 1 4
		<hr/> <hr/>
	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
(32 6 3)	Production and despatch of Bulletins	28 17 7
( 4 6 9)	Stationery	1 4 0
( 4 12 2)	Postages - Nett after stamps received	3 2 11
		<hr/>
(41 5 2)		33 4 6
		<hr/> <hr/>
( 5 14 11)	Excess of Expenditure over Income	3 3 2
		<hr/> <hr/>
	<u>BALANCE IN HAND</u>	
	Balance in hand at 1 January 1970	50 0 8
	Deduct advance subscriptions	14 18 0
		<hr/>
		35 2 8
	Deduct Excess of Income over Expenditure	3 3 2
		<hr/>
		31 19 6
	Add subscriptions received in advance	2 10 0
		<hr/>
	Balance in hand at 31 December 1970	£ 34 9 6
		<hr/> <hr/>

(Signed) J. C. Mann, Feb 1971.



POSTAGE PAID INDICATOR SERIALS.

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In 1966 the Post Office introduced the use of Postage Paid Indicator Serials, of which examples are reproduced below. Several hundreds have now been allocated throughout the United Kingdom.



The British Postmark Society has been developing records of these serials with a view to producing both a definitive list and a reference collection of all serials issued, and the possible future issue of some form of catalogue. This work, originally commenced by Dr. Beardwood of Walsall, is now being carried out by Mr. Geoff Longbottom.

Collecting information about P.P.I's presents some unique problems as, for example, there is no central list of issued serials or source of names of those to whom they have been allocated. Additionally, dates of posting are not incorporated.

The help along the following lines of any member of the Meter Stamp Study Group would be greatly appreciated by Geoff Longbottom :-

If you collect Postage Paid Indicator Serials, he would particularly like to hear from you and would be glad to exchange surplus examples he holds for any you may have that are still required for the reference collection.

If those members who do not collect these serials but receive copies in their private or business correspondence, or find examples in material they are sorting for meters, would retain them (preferably the whole envelope or wrapper) and send them to him periodically, he will gladly acknowledge all items received and refund the postage cost involved.

Mr. Longbottom's address is :-

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MEMORANDUM  
TO: [Name]  
FROM: [Name]  
SUBJECT: [Subject]

[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible due to low contrast and scan quality. It appears to be a multi-paragraph memorandum or report.]