

HON. SECRETARY  
AND TREASURER :

John C. Mann.  
19 Chartham Road,  
LONDON,  
SE25 4HN

SECRETARY'S NOTES  
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Membership. We welcome one new member to the Group with this issue :-

(222) Mr I. K. Hutchinson. 26 Southcote Rise, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 7LW

and record a number of changes of address :-

Mr D. M. V. Aspinwall now Flat 48, High Street, Dore, SHEFFIELD S17 3GU

Mr J. B. Potter Flat 12, 10 Brackley Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1RQ

Mr William R. Bird Four Village Drive, St. Louis, MO 63141, U.S.A.

and add postal codes to :-

Mr A. H. Ehreich N16 5PB Mr E. C. Ehrmann SE15 4DA

Mr D. Mackenzie N17 9AU

and finally have to record, with regret, that Mrs Smyth and Mrs Dolezal have resigned from the Group.

Members Wants and Offers. (In each case please write direct)

Mr I. K. Hutchinson (address above) is seeking information on the following machines from Cyprus, if you have impressions from and/or details of the users of RN 209, RN 231, RN or NE 250 to 255, 263 and 271 to 275 he would be glad to hear of them.

A former member, Mr D. R. Burchell, now living at 2 Royston Mains Gardens, Granton, EDINBURGH EH5 1PN has a large accumulation of GB to dispose of. GvR @ 14p per 100, GviR @ £1.05 per 1000, E2R and Emblem @ 95p per 1000, in all cases plus 22½p for postage etc.

Mr John H. Case, Science Education Centre, University of Zambia, P.O. Box 2379, Lusaka, ZAMBIA, has produced a list of all the machines he has been able to trace from the Central African Federation (Rhodesia and Nyasaland), Malawi and Zambia, both £sd and Decimal. He will be willing to send interested members a copy, particularly anyone who thinks they might be able to fill in some of the gaps. We feel he should be congratulated on his listing and hope that help will be forthcoming.

THE BUSINESS EFFICIENCY EXHIBITION 1971  
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This event, held in London in October, provided as usual an excellent opportunity to see all the makes of franking machines available in this country in operation and was also the occasion for the launching of two new models. Again, as usual, the representatives of all the stands were patient and helpful in answering what may seem to them to be silly questions from a collector, not a potential customer, and they are in business to sell!

Acral Ltd. Had the various models they distribute of the German Francotyp.

Hasler (GB) Ltd. had the various models of the Swiss Hasler machines and in addition they had on the stand a very old model (still working and fitted with a no-value specimen die) which had been in continuous use for some 45 years until recently in Switzerland.

Pitney Bowes Ltd. had the full range of their equipment, mailroom accessories as well as meters, and showed for the first time their new Model 6300, of which details on the next page.

Roneo-Neopost Ltd. also had a full range of their machines and accessories and showed for the first time their new Model 405, a less sophisticated and cheaper version of the Model 505, and aimed at the "middle" range of the market.

Singer Friden Ltd. had the full range of the American Friden machines.

NEW EQUIPMENT FROM PITNEY BOWES IN THE U.S.A.  
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In September, at the National Postal Forum, held in Washington with an attendance of more than 2000 business mailers, new automatic equipment was unveiled.

A combination scale and postage meter, which has been tested and will be available early next year, computes the postage for the parcel being weighed and automatically prints out a meter stamp for the operator. Optional extras include an electronic ZIP-to-zone converter (Parcel rates in the USA depend on the distance as well as the weight) which will automatically convert the relevant part of the ZIP code to the proper parcel post zone and also a unit which will print the weight and charges on invoices.

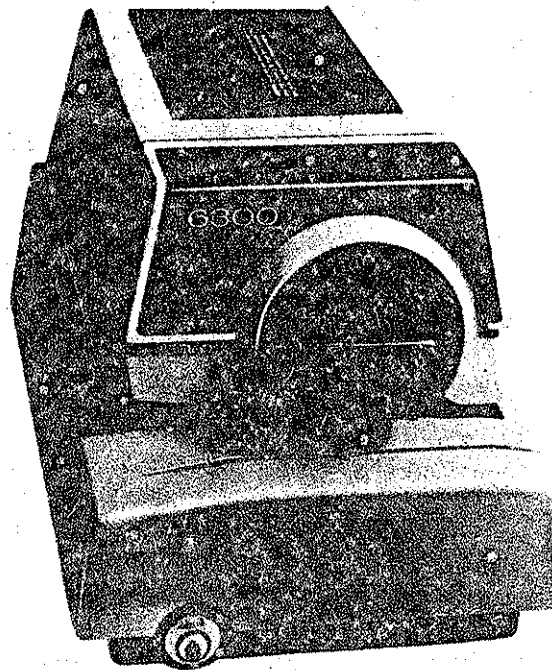
The second machine shown for the first time is a high-speed postage meter for use with high-speed computer printing units. It is connected to the computer and when the postage has been determined the Pitney Bowes unit records and prints the meter stamp on the label portion of continuous forms, printed simultaneously.

We are indebted to the "Meter Stamp Bulletin" for news and a photograph of the new Pitney Bowes "tape-only" mailing machine. This, designed for use

NEW EQUIPMENT FROM THE USA (Contd)

with the "Touchmatic" meters issues labels of self sticking pressure sensitive tape. The tape has a paper backing and this is automatically separated and rewound on another roll as the label is ejected. The tape is a smooth white paper with a very faint underprint and has straight edges. It has almost invisible slitted perforations across the tape every  $2\frac{1}{4}$ " to assist in tearing off either short or long strips. The tape is only  $1\frac{1}{8}$ " wide.

NEW PITNEY BOWES MODEL 6300  
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Launched on the 1st October 1971, the Pitney Bowes Model 6300 is a new compact meter, electrically operated and designed for the smaller user. It will be manufactured at Harlow and also incorporates a new inking system using a specially impregnated roller providing 5000 impressions from a single inking. Values are from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $99\frac{1}{2}$  and the machine is actuated only by the insertion of the envelope. It can be operated by hand in case of failure of the electricity supply.

NLW PITNEY BOWES MODEL 6300 (Contd.)

We have only seen "specimen" impressions, which incidentally are in a new specimen design, and these are numbered PB6300, but from these it can be seen that the figures of value are in line with the date figures, as they were on the so far unexplained PBL 001A used at Harlow in May 1970. We now await reports of the machine in use.

G. B. NOTES.

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Inverted Townmarks. Mr O. M. Richards tells us of two he has seen recently. J 7825, used from Manchester on 24.XI.70 and NX-81, from Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim, on 29.VII.71, in each case the townmark circle is inverted but the date figures are correct.

Highest Numbers. Not so many reports this time, but with thanks to members who have helped, the latest position is :-

	*N 134 L	*NX 133	*TN 253
HGB 1102	*2005 *3026 *4003 *5004 *6006		
	*PBA 369 F	PBS 958 F PBS 791 Q	PBT 1748 E (i)
	PBR 014 A	*PBC 135 A	*AC.A 35
	JP 708	RN 3825	*G 0448

(i) No suffix C or D seen so far with 4-figure numbers. \* = no change.

Isle of Man. Terms have been negotiated between the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and the Tynwald, the Manx Parliament, to establish a separate Manx Post Office, probably from 5th July 1973, in the same way that separate Post Offices were established in the Channel Islands of Guernsey and Jersey at the time the Post Office became the Post Office Board. The 5th of July is the Manx national day.

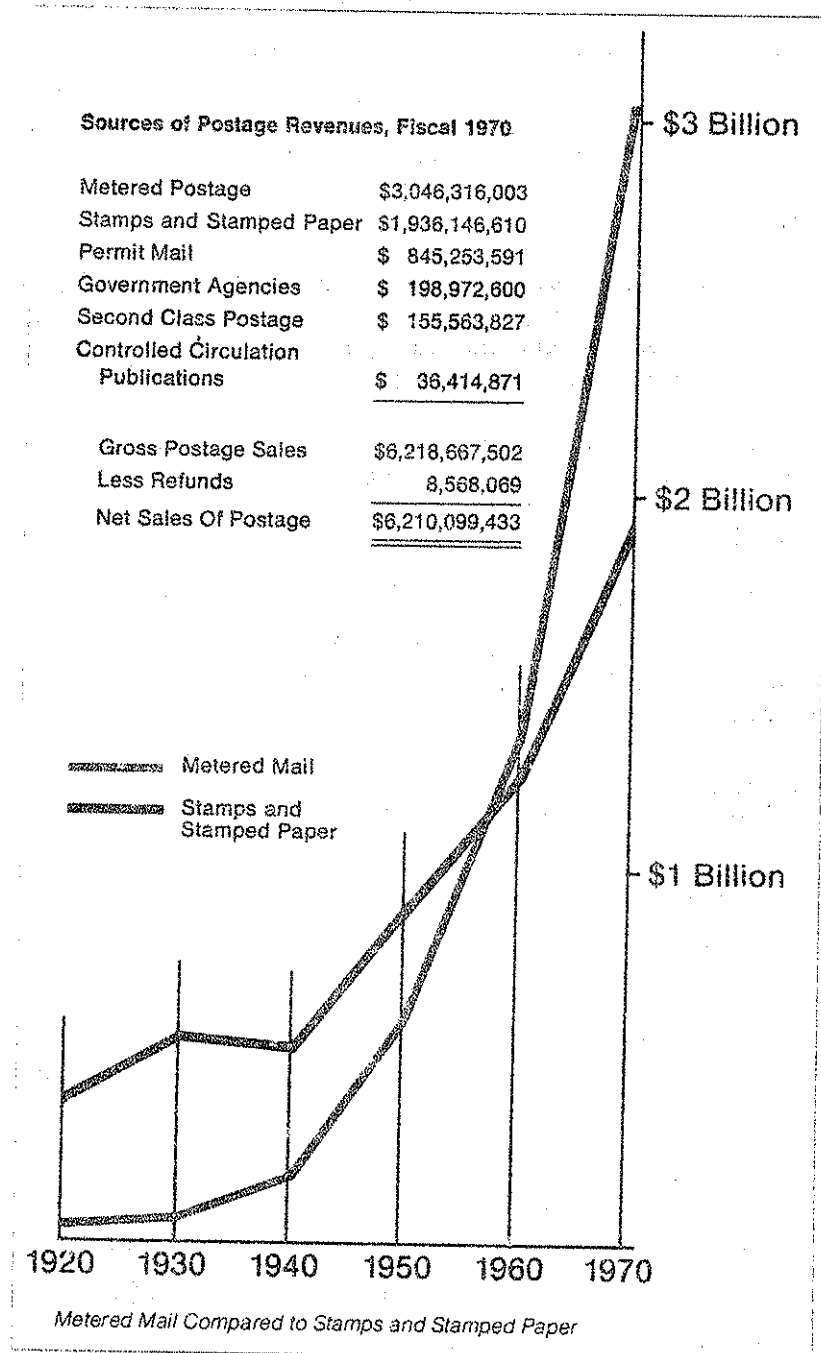
New distinctive designs for meters can be expected.

U S.A. - METERED MAIL SAVES P.O. \$250,000,000  
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The use of metered mail, according to a report by Pitney Bowes issued in September 1971, saves the U.S. Postal Service - and consequently taxpayers (the PO runs at a loss) and users - more than \$250,000,000 a year.

There are now more than 500,000 franking machines in the U.S.A. and they printed, last year, more than three thousand million dollars in postage, nearly half of the total revenues. (A table showing the changes in these revenues is reproduced on the next page.) The saving on not having to sort, face and cancel something like 33 thousand million pieces of adhesive-stamped mail is estimated at \$149,000,000 and a further \$107,000,000 is saved by not having to print, distribute, sell and account for some 41 billion stamps. These are net savings after the cost of setting meters has been allowed for.

SAVINGS ON METERED MAIL IN THE U.S.A. (Contd)



DECIMALISATION IN EIRE  
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In our last bulletin we listed a number of impressions from various machines with pence-only values (i.e. without either a "D" or a shilling bar or dash). Since then Mr G. R. Stelfox has sent us a long list of machines used immediately after the change over on 15 Feb 1971.

Several points should be mentioned. Firstly, unlike Great Britain, Eire did not introduce a specific design for machines which had been converted to "pence-only" accounting although the most recent "petals" design has not been recorded in £sd, only pre-decimal pence-only. Some older machines were changed to this design about a month after conversion to decimal currency.

Secondly, postage rates were not increased at the time of the change over, the old 6d (printed papers - Eire still has unsealed envelopes) became on conversion 2½ and the old 9d (for sealed or what we would call first class) became on conversion 4p (actually 9.6d).

As is usual, the great majority of the impressions are from Dublin, (Baile Atha Cliath) which we have abbreviated as B.A.C.

- (1) Two machines dated 12 II 71 with values in £p
- |        |           |     |
|--------|-----------|-----|
| B.A.C. | NP 129    | 04- |
| B.A.C. | PBS 114 V | 2½  |

and thus presumably converted immediately before d-day and accounting in decimal currency in advance.

- (2) Used after d-day in £sd - we do not know if, as in Great Britain, the machines which have not been converted will be re-set once their credit is exhausted.

B.A.C.	N 182	6d + 3d	19 III 71
B.A.C.	N 797	8d + 1d	18 II 71
B.A.C.	N 846	6d + 3d	4 III 71
Bagenalstown	NP 124	*'9-	26 2 71
		and	22 3 71
B.A.C.	NP 150	*'9-	25 III 71
B.A.C.	NP 330	09-	-1 IV 71
	(this could be an error by the operator)		
Mohill	NV 264	=0/9=	18 III 71
B.A.C.	NV 306	=0/6=	17 II 71
Drogheda	NV 313	=0/9=	20 II 71
B.A.C.	PBA 048 D	9	15 II 71
B.A.C.	PBA 058 D	09	21 II 71
B.A.C.	PBA 072 D	09	-8 III 71

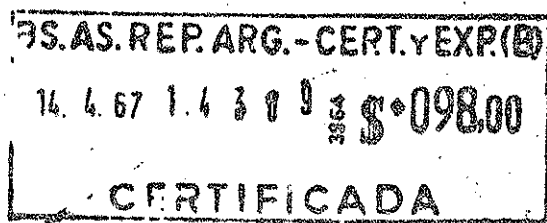


IRISH NOTES

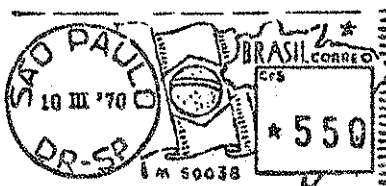
Mr W. Pieterse shows us an impression from what looks like a Hasler a manufacturer so far unrecorded in Eire. A plain perforated frame with "EIRE" at the top, "postas" at left and "Ioctha" at right and a number, 27907 at the base, there are no prefix letters. Value is "12" in large figures, 6mm high. Used at Baile-Atha-Cliath on 23.VII.71

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS.

With our thanks as usual to those members who have sent in items and a reminder that we still have some to carry over to the next issue.



ARGENTINA. Mr W. Pieterse shows us this unusual impression of what looks like a machine specially used for Registered and Express post. We imagine BS.AS to mean Buenos Aires.



BRAZIL. Mr E. S. Lapham shows us more machines with the "N" for New Cruzeiro removed, Francotyp 11705 and Pitney Bowes Model R, M 50038, which has figures of value as \*001



CHILE. What is almost a miniature version of the usual design used for Pitney Bowes. (WHB)

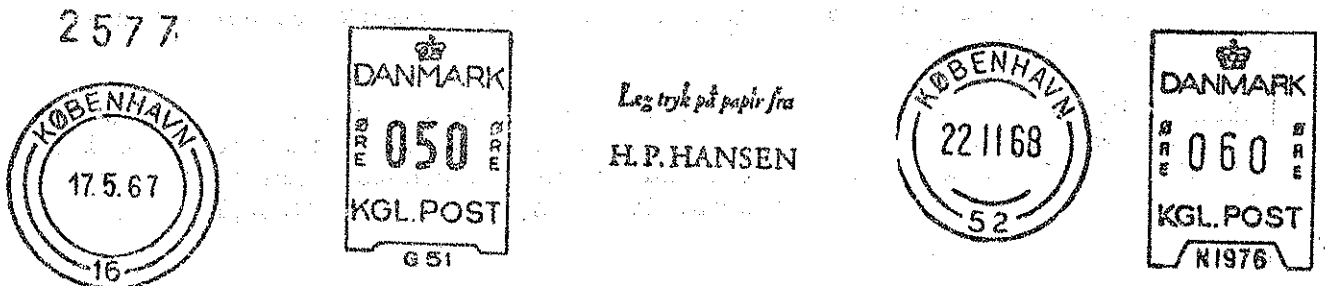


NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS (Contd)

CONGO (KINSHASA) It was announced on the 27 October 1971 that this country, formerly the Belgian Congo and described at present as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, would in future be named The Republic of Zaire. The national anthem and flag are to be changed and doubtless too the inscription on meters.

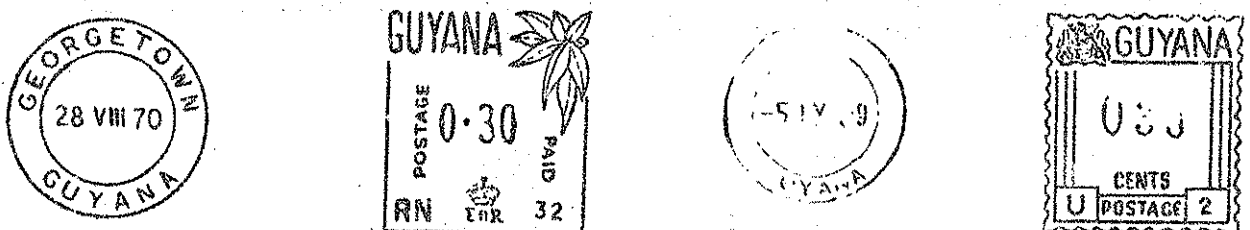
CYPRUS. Mr I. K. Hutchinson has sent us a list of all the machines he has recorded. U1 to U22, PB23 to PB25, RN201 to RN255, NE256 to NE262 RN263 to RN275, P401 and SR501 to SR505.

We have previously recorded the Automax with U prefix and the Frankmaster with RN prefix. From photographs he has sent us RN 272, 273, 274 and 275 are all Model 205, as is NE 257, all in the usual design, so it would seem that the prefix was changed after 262. The P for Postalia and the SR for Satas are new to us and we have not seen impressions from these, or from PB23-25.



DENMARK. Frama ? G 51 and Roneo Neopost Model 205, N 1976. (ESL)

GERMANY. Mr E. S. Lapham shows us an impression from what looks to be a Frama machine, if so a new maker for this country. Used by the Max Planck Institute from Starnberg 813 on -5.4.71 it has the usual large thick figures of value, 6mm high, and the cross bar on the "4" in the date is very low.



GUYANA. Roneo-Neopost Model 305 and Universal MV in new designs. (GRP & WHB)

ITALY. An Automax with identifying letters and initials, we have now seen PB 800 CC/19305 reading downwards. Presumably the Automax is known as the 800 in Italy, we still do not know what the "CC" indicates. (ESL)

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS (Contd)

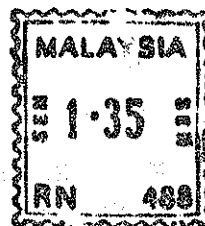
INDIA. Additional values to those listed in our Meter Stamps of the Indian Sub-Continent, shown us by Mr W. Pieterse.

Neopost L.V., Type 10.1 0.35, 3.00  
Type 10.2 0.60

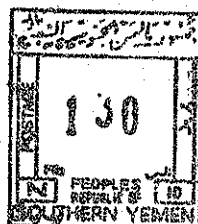
IRAN. In one of our original addenda's to the Barfoot-Simon catalogue we listed and illustrated a Hasler, as Type P2. This had a perforated border, Persian script and IRAN at top left and Crown at top right. Figures of value (Persian over European) as 00.01 and unengraved rectangle at foot. "Townmark" consisting of wavy lines over date (European), town and date (Persian). It was described as a Post Office machine.

Mr E. S. Lapham has now shown us an impression from what looks like a "private" machine in the same design. The overall design is the same but this has, instead of the unengraved rectangle a licence number as H.00065.B and also, reading vertically downwards to the left of the die "17461" (? is this the machine number). The wavy lines over the townmark are now replaced by a slogan for the user (Iran Air).

KOREA (SOUTH) We have now seen a copy of the Francotyp, which was briefly reported some time ago. The layout resembles that of the Pitney Bowes Series 5000 but instead of the two children and fan at the centre there is a view of a pagoda. Value, in large figures, is shown as 0,293 on 24.4.71



MALAYSIA. Mr W. H. Bogue shows us this impression from Roneo-Neopost Model 305 with currency shown as "SEN" instead of "CENTS".



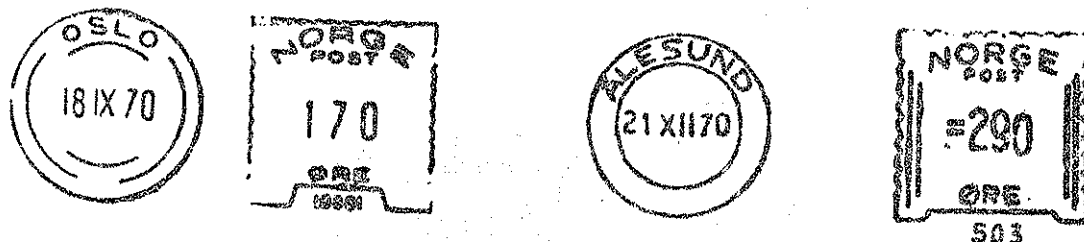
SOUTHERN YEMEN. Roneo-Neopost Model 305. (WHB)

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS (Contd.)

MALTA. Decimal currency will be adopted on 16 May 1972, with a Pound of 100 cents and 1,000 mills.

A registered cover dated in 1969 with an impression from Automax PB 24 shown us by Mr S. D. Barfoot has a rubber stamp for the Registered "Label" reading "Valetta/P.B." with a manuscript "24" and after "No" also a manuscript "98" in the same handwriting. It looks as if this is a hand-stamp used by the licensee and not the Post Office. A similar cover from PB 23 has a similar handstamp but in this case the "23" has been separately rubber stamped in the space

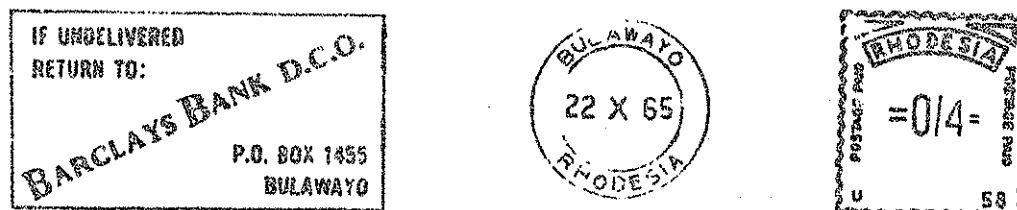
MOZAMBIQUE. Satas, in usual design, numbered 96 with single-circle town-mark, used from Lourenco Marques on -3 VII 70 (SDB)



NORWAY. Roneo-Neopost Model 205 (W. Pieterse) and the Automax, which we do not seem to have illustrated before.

RHODESIA. The rectangular Universal MV RG 3 (see MSB 89) has now appeared in decimal form, value as  $03\frac{1}{2}$  and with the small "s" and "d" removed. Mr S. D. Barfoot wonders whether the "RG" stands for Rhodesian Government and this seems quite likely. The impression he shows us is on an official cover (OHMS and thus usually post free inland) addressed to South Africa so this machine may be used to "validate" international mail in the same way that a Universal MV with "London F.S." was used in G.B.

Additional decimal values for the Neopost L.V. - 2c, 5c.  
and for the Model 105 - 1c,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ c.



Finally, a previously unrecorded definitive "Rhodesia" die for the Automax in £sd

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS (Contd)

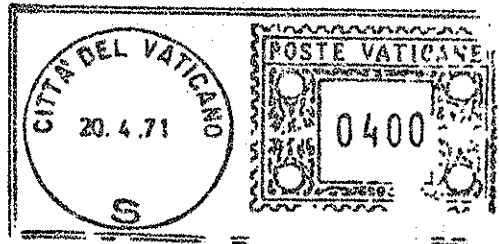
DELEGACION DE HACIENDA  
VALENCIA  
EN SUS DECLARACIONES INDIQUE  
SIEMPRE EL NUMERO DE SU  
CARNET DE IDENTIDAD



10V1170 N°3323-VALENCIA

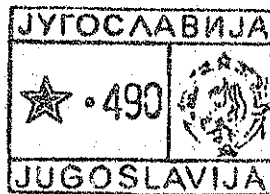
SPAIN. Havas Model M. (ESL)

SWEDEN. The Francotyp Cc in the "Crown and Posthorn" design is numbered in a series starting at 30001 (SDB)



VATICAN CITY. Postalia, used as early as -9 12 69 (SDB and ESL)

SAVEZNO IZVRŠNO VEĆE  
BEOGRAD 25



YUGOSLAVIA. The Hasler with a "dropped townmark" now has a number (? Postal Zone) at the bottom of the townmark. (ESL)

We continue this issue of the Bulletin with an addenda and corrigenda for our listing of East Africa, future additions will of course be included with overseas notes and news. We have prepared a number of sets of the pages (including this page) printed separately and these will be available as a booklet in the new year - details in the next issue. We follow that with the second part of the article on numbering in Australia.

METER STAMPS OF THE EAST AFRICAN POSTAL AREA  
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Since publishing our lists in recent issues of the Bulletin we have received additions and corrections from W. Pieterse, E. S. Lapham and J. D. Barfoot. These are summarised below.

New Listing

- 196? Neopost L V. Inscribed "TANGANYIKA" only at the top  
(N 311, Dar Es Salaam.)  
9-2-1-1 Values seen : 50, 100.

New Sub-Types

- 2-2-1-3 Figures of value 5mm high. Values known : 5, 15.  
3-3-2-5 Figures of value 3-bank, oval, as \*01 (U 19)  
6-3-1-3 Figures of value 4-bank, oval, as 00.oi (with stops) (U 2)  
6-3-1-4 Figures of value 4-bank, oval, as 00oi (without stop)  
11-2-1-2 Figures of value 5mm high. Values seen : 15, 30, 100.  
11-3-2-1 As 11-3-1-3 but numbers unengraved.  
11-4-2-1 As 11-4-1-1 but no lines above and below number.

Amendments and additions.

- |         |   |                    |   |
|---------|---|--------------------|---|
| 1-2-4-1 | add 5c, 15c, 40c, 50c.                      | 4-5-1-1            | Date 1962.  |
| 2-2-1-1 | Remove "c" from values.<br>add 1.25, 1/-.   | 5-5-5-1            | add 40c.  |
| 2-2-1-2 | Remove "c" from values.                     | 6-3-1-1            | add (U 1)   |
| 2-2-3-1 | add 15c, 1.25                               | 11-2-1-1           | add Figures of value small,<br>4mm high.<br>Values seen : 15, 30, 40,<br>50, 100. |
| 3-3-1-1 | add (U 18 only)                             |                    |   |
| 3-3-1-2 | add (U 19 - U 22)                           |                    |   |
| 4-2-1-1 | Date 1962, Values known :<br>15c, 30c, 1.00 | <u>Correction.</u> |   |
| 4-4-1-1 | Date 1961.                                  |                    | The illustration marked (3-3-2-3)<br>should be (3-3-2-4)                          |

We did not mention in our listing an essay for a Neopost F.V. machine numbered N 1 at the top and dated 13 X 28, value 5c, which is shown in the Barfoot-Simon catalogue. A 20c also exists.

Another fact which is of interest is that according to Mr S. D. Barfoot no machines with the original inscription were used in Uganda, all were in Kenya.

THE LICENSING OF FRANKING MACHINES IN AUSTRALIA (Contd)

In July 1970 there occurred an event of great significance, for Roneo-Vickers commenced their own agency for Roneo-Neopost machines, taking the agency in all states except W.A. away from Control Systems Australasia Ltd. (formed for the purpose in 1948). Control Systems will, however, maintain all existing stocks of Roneo-Neopost sold by them and may relicence any second-hand machines. In W.A., where the agency has been held since the 1930's by Lamson Paragon Ltd., no changes have occurred. Thus, for the 505 machines three main sub-types may occur.

The first machines (B 020-022, 59-74, 82, 133-134) have a plain "B" prefix, whilst those sold by Roneo-Vickers bear "VB" (VB 108-116, 124 etc.) One machine sold by Lamson Paragon has an "LB" prefix and is LB 104. Control Systems (after July 1970) have no further stocks of 505's and have decided to take on the agency of an entirely different machine, the German Postalia. In some cases confusion may arise between the new machine number, e.g. B65 from N.S.W. and the old licence number B65, which is still current in Tasmania (it is a Universal Multi-value) but none occur together in the same state.

Roneo-Neopost 305. This machine is basically an updated version of the former "Frankmaster" introduced into Australia in 1958. This originally had a "box" type die but it was superseded by one bearing a representation of a "Ram" and a map of Australia. In 1969 the "State Floral Emblems" design was used. The earliest machine numbers for these "Floral" 305's had the prefix "FME" in full but this was later shortened to "F". As second-hand machines have been relicenced the numbers themselves appear haphazardly (and gaps are likely in any case as not all 305 machines were sent to Australia). The lowest number seen is FME 1107, while from F 4628 appear to be new machines.

After the split of agencies Roneo-Vickers 305 machines have the prefix "VF" (and are in the 5950 series), Control Systems are using their own system of "C/S" prefix and numbers, in the 3000's, but these are not the original machine numbers but machine licence numbers devised by Control Systems themselves. Of those seen so far C/S 3001 comes from Victoria and C/S 3605-3607 from N.S.W.

Roneo-Neopost 205. This machine was introduced to Australia in 1964 and has proved very popular. The first type of die used was an altered version of the "Ram" die used on the 305's but from 1969 the "State Floral Emblem" design was introduced.

A DRESS BY  
*Trevola*

LOOK FOR THIS LABEL  
BEFORE YOU CROSS



THE LICENCING OF FRANKING MACHINES IN AUSTRALIA (Contd)

The only prefix letter used until 1969 for machine numbers is "E", and although many relicenced machines have appeared (the lowest number being E 48), machine numbers from about E2300 appear to be new machines. Groups of new machines appear to be E2300-2333 (with gaps), 2376, 3704-3853, 4158-4257, 5005, 5014-5213 (all with gaps) which can be explained by the fact that Tasmania and Western Australia are still using the old licence number series and thus disguising what the actual machine numbers are. All 205 machines with machine numbers have the "Floral" die except two (E567 and E1878, both in N.S.W.) which have their machine numbers engraved onto the space in the old "Ram" die. Since July 1970 Control Systems have sold 205's but they are in a series of C/S numbers starting from 2000 (N.S.W.), 2400 (Vic.) and from 2800 (S.A.). Only one machine so far appears out of order, C/S 5036 from S.A., which is apparently a mistake for machine number E5036 (since E5030 and 5033 exist in S.A.). Roneo-Vickers are selling new 205's but with machine numbers in the 6100 series upwards, most bearing the prefix VE, however, the decision to use the additional prefix letter "V" was not made until 6120, and so E6103, 6108-6119 exist from N.S.W. VE 6107 from Qld. was licenced apparently after the decision to use VE. In addition to all this all the old £-s-d machines converted to decimal currency usually have the value figures as 0.00 but a few retain the initial \* of the value.

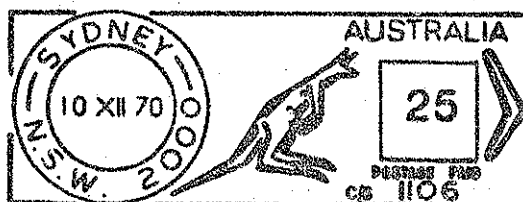
Roneo-Neopost 105. Introduced into Australia in mid 1965, some few of these machines had £-s-d values, which are rare. Standard values were in 10 steps between 1d and 2/1d (to facilitate conversion to 1c-25c). The first die used was similar to the "Ram" die used for the 205 and 305 machines, but when the decision was made in 1969 to introduce machine numbers in Victoria, a new die (the "State Floral Emblems" we have already mentioned) was designed, with a space large enough to take this number. The first use of this die, however, in Victoria, bore the prefix letters RNX and was on machines from RNX 1692 upwards. Later, it was simply an X, in all states.



However, in N.S.W., which was at the time still in the 10D-99D series, the first machine with "State Emblems" die was 85D. Similarly in Qld. several machines from about 28U onwards have this die, while in W.A. it occurs on YV9. For Tas. it was ZS6 and in S.A. it was WG5. The earliest types of these dies also bore the inscription "POST PAID" instead of "POSTAGE PAID" and when the P.O. in Victoria objected it is said that all dies were changed before use.

## THE LICENCING OF FRANKING MACHINES IN AUSTRALIA (Contd)

Thus, in all states except N.S.W., where the use is indiscriminate (and one exception, X2147 in Qld. but possibly supplied from N.S.W.) the correct inscription is "POSTAGE PAID". In Queensland the P.O. actually forced some users to change (e.g. 28U) and so examples of the first die are rare. The machine numbers appear to begin in groups for new machines at RNX 1692-1867, 2031-2228, 2288-2398 and 3381-3383 before the split, and the earliest re-licenced number is X166. Almost all bear the "State Emblems" die although one (X804 from S.A.) is known with the "N" prefix erased from the left of the old "Ram" die and replaced by an "X", with the 804 on the right!



Control Systems 105 machines start in a C/S series from 1000 (Qld.), 1100 (N.S.W.) 1500 (Vic.) and presumably 1900 (S.A.). In addition, they all bear a completely new die, which we might call "Kangeroo and Boomerang" (from its central motifs). It is to be noted that the die also incorporates the post-town or cancellation die. Roneo-Vickers machines, however, continue to use the older "State Emblems" design and have machine numbers in the 3000 series. Several Xs were licenced before the decision to use VX (e.g. 3015, 3017, 3020 - all from Vic. and Qld. and 3024 in N.S.W.). Additionally, these 10 value "limited value" machines have been particularly affected by two postage rate changes, from 4c to 5c basic rate late in 1967 and 5c to 6c in October 1970.

On about half the machines provision was made to include the next rate upwards but some had to double frank, e.g. 03 + 03, until either converted or replaced by other machines. There have been several distinctly engraved value series (apart from the first, and standard set of 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 07, 10, 15, 20 and 25), notably the inclusion of 09 and 13 in 1968 and the current standard series is 04, 05, 06, 07, 09, 10, 13, 15, 20 and 25. Those machines sold by Lamson Paragon in W.A. are different, as are several machines with special individual values. From October 1970 several machines in S.A. and W.A. have "6" only instead of "06".

Roneo-Neopost 8 value machines. The first type of machine sold by Control Systems after 1948 (and some few by Lamson Paragon before that) were 6-value Roneo-Neoposts and these had a "box" die identical with the original Roneo-Neopost machines (see also below). However, about 1950 a die incorporating a "Kangaroo" and map of Australia was used and when an improved version of



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of the machine, with 8 values, was marketed after 1954 it also used this die. Although superseded in production with the 105 (10-value) in 1965, many old 8-value machines were converted to decimal currency, as well as three 6-value machines in N.S.W. (licence numbers 37, E46 and JQ2) although there is no difference in the design. Like the 105's, there were many series of values although the standard set after decimal conversion seems to have been 03, 04, 05, 07, 10, 15, 20 and 25.

With the introduction of machine numbers in mid-1969 the opportunity was also taken of introducing the "State Emblems" die and most early numbers in Vic. bore the prefix RNE (e.g. RNE 82). This was later shortened to N (in all states except N.S.W.) where it became R (e.g. N12 from Vic. and R366 from N.S.W., N6318 from Qld.) The appearance of both large and small numbers is explained by the fact that these machines were first marketed in Great Britain in 1930 and bore numbers beginning at RNE1, and when they reached RNE9999 sometime in the 1960's the numbers reverted to 1, but as RNE1A (In fact, two machines in Victoria carry this suffix, RNE 418A and 442A). In S.A. several old "Kangaroo" dies were cleverly used up, as could be done because they originally had the "N" at the left, so we get N20, N91, N316 and N373 - note all small numbers. They should not be confused with the original licence numbers, which were all used up and replaced many years ago. A further variety is "Kangaroo" die N-R50 from N.S.W., explainable as having its usual "N" at left with small R50 in the space at right.

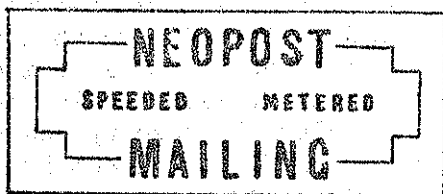
It may already have been noticed that the original "Kangaroo" machines bore their values at the bottom whereas the first type of "State Emblems" dies required them to be printed in the centre. Several dies were altered before use to change the position of the value back to the bottom and so have their "POSTAGE PAID" and machine number high, e.g. N20 from S.A., N12 from Vic. and R296 from N.S.W.



All this occurred before the split in 1970!. Since then no firm appears to have re-licenced an 8-value machine although when this happens several possibly different combinations may occur. It should be noted that Roneo Vickers are not confined to selling new machines and can re-licence any machine traded to them, which will presumably have a "V" prefix. Control Systems may use numbers in the C/S 1000 series - the same as their 105 machines, and possibly with the "Kangaroo and Boomerang" die.

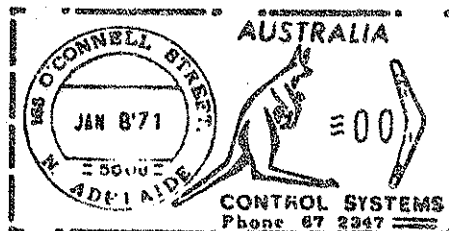
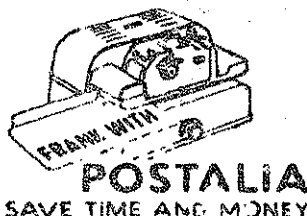
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Original Neopost Machines. Of the first type introduced in 1928, just over 100 of these machines were converted to decimal currency - many at their owners expense. All machines sold now are second hand, and appear in the old licence number series, the latest being 99G in N.S.W. (just made it!). Although some of the earliest 6-value Roneo-Neoposts also had the same die none of these were converted, so all machines with the old die are now 1, 2 or 3 value "limited value" types. Like their bigger brothers, these machines have been hard hit by postage rate increases, although at the time of writing there are still some 40 odd operating, all in N.S.W., as this is where they are sold from.



It is interesting to note that in May 1968 the original agent for these machines, the Postal Stamping Machine Co., amalgamated with Typewriter and Accounting Control Co., the supplier of Satas machines. No machine has been sold since the decision to use machine numbers, but there is no reason why the original die should not be used, for example, the writer's machine is number 2292, which could fit equally well into the space occupied at present by the licence number, viz. 41-D.

New Postalia Machines. Will be marketed in the eastern states by Control Systems, and a die from a demonstration machine is shown.



Several models will be available, from the manual roll-on type to sophisticated high-speed electric models, and will probably bear C/S numbers in either the 3000s or 5000s. None had been licenced at the time of writing.

What does the future hold in store ??

Richard G. Peck.