

HON. SECRETARY and
TREASURER :

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ANNIVERSARIES

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This issue of the Bulletin is our 100th number and quite by chance it comes within the same month marking the golden jubilee of the introduction of the first licenced meters in Great Britain, at such a time it is fitting for us to pause a while and look back.

The Group was formed and the bulletin edited for many years by the late Alfred Dewey and some years ago I remember him telling me that he started to collect meters more or less by accident and gradually found that they became his primary collecting interest, the same happened to myself when I concentrated my collecting interests on Great Britain, widened this from stamps alone to include postal history and found myself becoming more and more interested in meters and very soon in meters from all countries. But what of the early collectors who must have started before there was a Barfoot-Simon catalogue to refer to?, the best people to ask are Doug Barfoot and Werner Simon themselves. Doug writes,

"Collecting is in my blood I suppose, at school we collected and swapped "Fag" (Cigarette) cards, match box labels and tram tickets. Stamps followed naturally, especially as my father had a small collection of the British issues of the period (1890 - 1920 era.) Other hobbies included the breeding of caterpillars and collecting other insects.

However, by the early 1930's my philatelic interests began to diversify and airmails became a major item of collecting - first flight covers and air-mail labels (etiquettes) and then postmarks, particularly slogans.

My acquaintance with the late Mr Charles Bein about 1935 was, I believe, the start of my interest in meters. He was a dealer/collector with a very fine collection of European slogan and special postmarks and of meters of the whole world. Before his death I was fortunate in being able to purchase this latter collection, it contained many possibly unique items.

Much encouragement to meter collectors of this period was given by the late Albert H. Harris, publisher of the "Philatelic Magazine", who was a very keen collector. His editions of the "Meter Postage Stamp Catalogue" (the last in 1940) were the only publications of the kind in England for many years, and regular supplements were published in the "Philatelic Magazine".

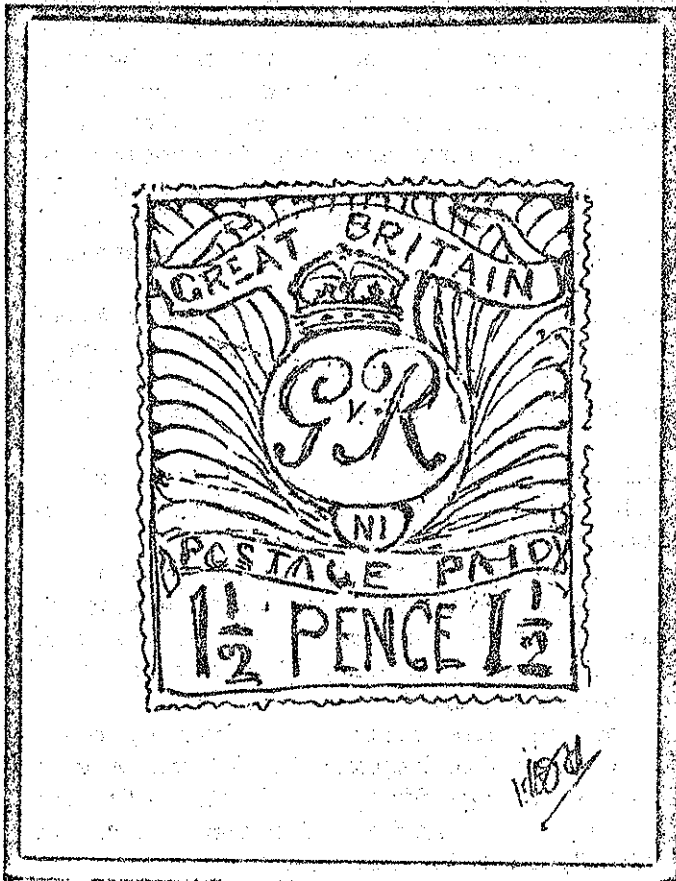
One of my cherished possessions is a copy of the 1933 edition of the "General Postage Meter Catalogue" of the Whole World (Firmen-friestempel General Katalog de Ganzen Welt) by Ruprecht Glasewald of Hamburg, autographed by Charles Bein, who collaborated in its production."

Werner Simon's interests in meters go further back and he started to collect them in Berlin in about 1928. During the 1930's he regularly contributed meter news and articles to "Die Postmarke" in Germany and "Philatelic Magazine" in London. These articles catalogued the German meter types and discussed the meters of other countries.

Mr Simon decided to go west and after a few months in England he arrived in Canada in 1937. A year later he went on to the United States, where he has remained.

He continued to write articles on meters (and still does) and in 1951 he started work with Doug Barfoot on their "Meter Postage Stamp Catalogue" which was finally published in 1953 and still remains the most complete work on the subject.

There were, and still are, many other pioneers and I would not try to list them all but one or two names come to mind. The late A. G. Davis, whom Doug remembers meeting many years ago, died in the late 1950's but his vast all-the-world collection was not lost to collectors; Walter Swan is still with us even if not actively collecting, and so many others.



Another early collector was Henry J. Howard, and some at least of the papers from his collection survived. He was connected in the Post Office with the introduction of meters in the 1920's and is credited with the design of the GvR frank. An initialled sketch of a proposed design, together with a specimen impression derived from this is shown on the previous page, with our thanks to Mr D. R. Burchell of Edinburgh.

But enough of looking back, let us look forward to the next 50 years and we wonder how many bulletins !

NEW COUNTRIES TO LOOK FORWARD TO !

Earlier this year it was announced that a number of countries which had combined to form the United Arab Emirates were to establish a new United Arab Emirates Post Office. The countries concerned are Ajman, Fujeira, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Um Al Qiwain and two meter using countries, Abu Dhabi and Dubai. As it would appear that unified adhesives are to be issued from the 1st August then we expect to see eventually new inscriptions on the meters from these two countries.

We have already recorded the fact that Ceylon has become Sri Lanka but at the time of writing have not yet seen impressions with the new name, another new name we are expecting also is the former eastern portion of Pakistan, which is now Bangladesh. The only meter indication we have heard of from this other new country is from Lt. Col. de Wailly, who tells us of a special impression used in India to denote payment of a compulsory surcharge on mail in aid of refugees from Bangladesh.

FIRST PHILATELIC SOCIETY LICENCE IN AUSTRALIA.
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The St. George Philatelic Society is holding its next Georgepex exhibition on 28/29th October 1972 at the Coronation Hall, Arncliffe, N S.W.

For this event the Society has been granted a licence to use a meter (the specimen we have seen is numbered X 1345 in the new "Kangaroo and Boomerang" design with an appropriate slogan. The only other franking machine used at an exhibition in Australia was in Melbourne in 1934.

Covers at 5c (Australian) plus normal postage may be ordered from Mr R. C. Peck, St. George Philatelic Society, PO Box 22, Arncliffe, NSW 2205, Australia. If you want to order there is not too much time !!

BARFOOT-SIMON REPRINTED.
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One of our members, Mr Charles H. Smith, 15240 Lotusgarden Drive, Saugus, CA 91350, U.S.A. has produced, with the permission of the original authors, a xeroxed version of the 1953 catalogue. Each page is printed on a sheet which measures 11 x 8½ inches punched with a standard 3-ring perforation. Each set of 119 pages is \$5.00, from Mr Smith. He hopes to produce "supplements" in a matching form in the future and we will keep members informed on this.

A New Catalogue of Canada.

"CANADA METER POSTAGE CATALOGUE", by Ross W. Irvin. 28 pages, with numerous illustrations, price \$1.15 or £0.50, whichever is most convenient, available from the author at 14 Tamworth Place, Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

Professor Irvin joins with this publication the growing list of our members who have made a significant contribution to meter collecting. He has managed to produce in a convenient form a complete listing of what is to some the complicated field of Canadian meters, including all the many varieties of the parcel post machines and those used for official mail. Each type is illustrated and the numbering system allows for the eventual inclusion of additional varieties without changing the entire pattern. The prices given are of a generalised nature for the major types.

This catalogue will be a welcome addition to the library of any meter collector.

SELF SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES.

The first public coin-operated postage meters, known as "Mailomats" were introduced as long ago as 1935 and over the years some 160 production models were produced, installed in Post Office lobbies, railway stations and in such places as large department stores. There are few, if any, still left in use.

A new type of Self Service Postage Meter was on trial in Austin, Texas, early last year, built by National Cash Registers. It is described in the "Meter Stamp Society Bulletin" as being about the size and shape of a cigarette machine and has a self service parcel scale and zone chart adjacent to it. The user weighs his own package and calculates the required postage. A one Dollar note is inserted in the machine and when the postage required is punched out a meter stamp of the correct value is automatically ejected and the correct change is returned. Values possible are from 0.10 to 1.00 in stages of 10c.

The design used is similar to Barfoot-Simon Type E7 and underneath the "NCR Meter 0001" is "SELF-SERVICE METER". Value and record number are in the usual deep purple, the remainder, including the date, is in grey. The paper is very pale beige, almost white.

A LOVESICK METER ?

Discussing recently adhesive stamps issued to mark World Health Day in "Gibbons Stamp Monthly" the writer quoted the Editor of "BNA Topics", who described the Canadian stamp as like a "Valentine's Day outpouring by a lovesick Pitney Bowes machine."

For the benefit of those who have not seen the stamp, its design consists mainly of the outline of a heart with groups of horizontal and vertical lines at each end, it could quite easily have been produced by a meter die !

GvIR NEOPOST LV WITH ARABIC MONTH FIGURES

by George R. Pearson.

That excellent work, the Barfoot-Simon catalogue, lists, as No. 94b in the Great Britain section, a Neopost LV machine with George VI cipher as using Arabic month figures, instead of the usual Roman figures. When the catalogue was published in 1953, only the 1d. value had been seen with a date in 1947. Since then an amendment added the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d value and the dates were extended to January 1940 to April 1953. From the Jason Mann accumulation, I am able to extend the story a little.

The earliest date I have is 28 May 1940 (expressed as 28 5 40) but I have no reason to doubt that the Arabic style was used in January as indicated above. The latest date I have is 23 April 1953 (23 4 53). The early impressions are clear but by 1941/42 the die was dirty and showing signs of wear and by 1953 it was in a very sad state. The same frank (N 269) and the same town die (of London / -E.C.2-) remained in use for the whole period that the machine used the Arabic figures.

I have examples throughout the period 1940 to 23 4 53 and every month is represented and all are in Arabic figures, from 1 to 12. The user of the machine was C. J. Hewlett & Son Ltd., Manufacturing Chemists. From at least 1949 a slogan was used : "HEWLETT'S/TEETHING JELLY/FOR BABY'S GUMS".

As to values known, I have : 1d, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Members are probably aware that if a firm used two Neopost machines, quite often they would have the same licence number and this seems to have been so with N 269 of London E.C.2. In 1948/49 at least, another machine with the same number was in use and this has a completely different die and the normal Roman month figures.

The reason for the use of the Arabic figures is not known. As every month from 1 to 12 appears, it is clearly not a matter of one or two figures perhaps being damaged and replaced by the incorrect figures. Does any member happen to have an example of use of this machine before January 1940 with Roman figures, or was the machine fitted with the Arabic figures from the start ?

I have pleasure in sending all members a copy of this error, with my compliments.



ITALY - Identifying Letters.

by Werner Simon.

Italian postage meters have frequently been difficult to identify by manufacturer and model. The introduction of key letters in the impressions clear up some of the confusion.

The following list shows the key letters known so far and their corresponding manufacturers.

- | | | |
|-----|---|---------------------------|
| A | - | Astro (S. I. Audion) |
| FP | - | Francopost (Roneo) |
| FT | - | Francotyp |
| H | - | Hasler |
| L | - | Lirma |
| M | - | Micropost (S. I. Audion) |
| P | - | Postitalia (S. I. Audion) |
| PB | - | Pitney Bowes |
| PST | - | Postalia |
| RN | - | Roneo (Model 205) |
| S | - | Sima |
| ST | - | Steiner |
| TPS | - | Teleposta |

Additional letters are added to these key letters, usually to show the particular model, whether it is specially constructed for us as a parcel post machine or whether it is electric or manual. Thus, Pitney Bowes have PBr, PB5000, PB800 (Automax); Lirma has Lma, Lmae and Lsf; Steiner have STae and STam and Sima have a large assortment, SI, SP, SPe, SEsf, SE and SM.

Whenever the last small letter is an "m" it means manual and when it is an "e" it means electric, similarly "pa" and "pe" mean parcel machines and "pam" and "pae" for manual and electric parcel machines.

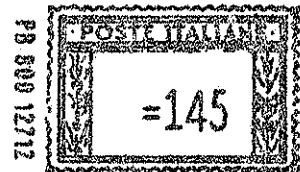
There are also other letters, such as "CC" (Conti di Credito - Credit Account) and OR (we do not know the meaning of this). The nett result of all this is that we can now identify the manufacturer by the initial key letters, probably the model by the other letters which follow and by comparison we may now be able to identify earlier impressions.

The introduction of Postal Zone numbers also added "Num.C.A.P." to many impressions unless the postal zone number appears in the townmark circle with the town name.

ITALY - Identifying Letters (Contd.)



NUM. C.A.P. 10100



As examples of this, we show Novara with a zone number and Torino with the "NUM.C.A.P." instead. (ESL and SDB)

BRAZIL - "Special Operations"



Sr. Ernst Muhr sends us the impression above and tells us the story of this as follows :

For some years now the Post Office has found itself unable to compete with licenced operators (for Bank pouches etc.) in the big cities so they have now decided to join them and have set up a competing service.

The inscription in the townmark can be interpreted as :-

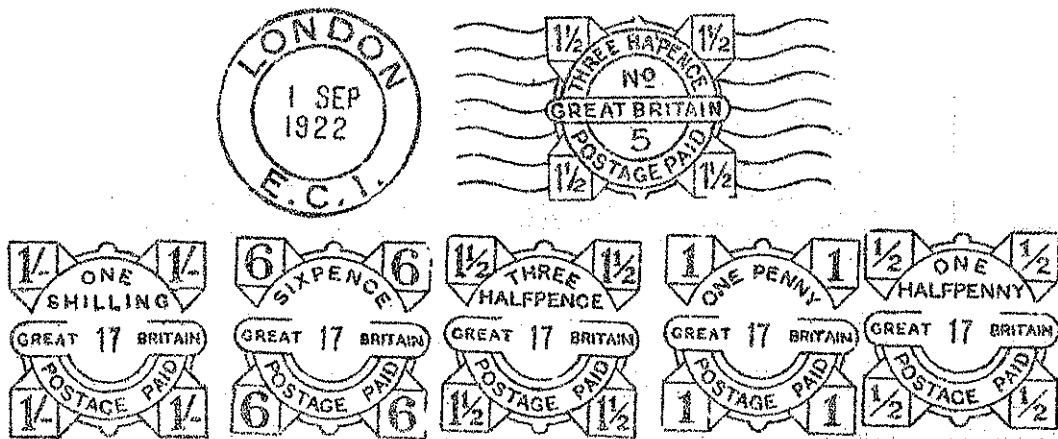
- ECT : Empressa Brasileira de Correios e Telegrafos
- DR-GB : Diretoria Regional - Guanabara
- OE : Operacoes Especiais
- SEED : ???

Pago por Contrato : Paid by Contract.

The impression illustrated also has a slogan, which is unfortunately not clear enough to reproduce, reading

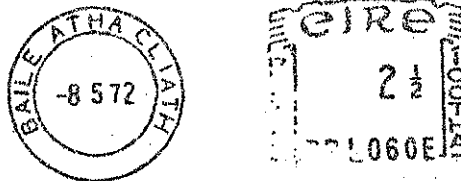
EARLY G. B. "SPECIMENS"

Mr George Pearson shows us these two fine early specimens, appropriate in this jubilee year.



The Pitney Bowes No 5 is interesting, dated a few days before the first machine was used, in the wording of the value, "THREE HA'PENNY", which could be described as a phonetic spelling of the term used for Three Half Pence. The second, a New Zealand machine No 17, is the one recorded in Barfoot-Simon as "Specimens known but not seen used" and probably shows the complete range of values available.

IRISH NOTES.



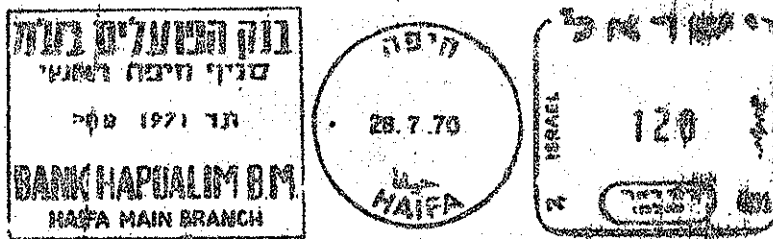
Pitney Bowes Model 6300. Mr O. M. Richards was the first to report an example of this new machine from Eire, in the now usual Pitney Bowes design and also, presumably, numbered like other series in the same sequence as machines in Great Britain.

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS.

We continue this month from the "I's" where we stopped last time. As is usual we are grateful for reports from many members, indicated where necessary by their initials.

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS (Contd.)

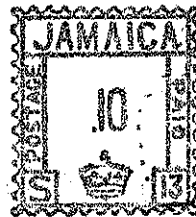
ISRAEL. Frama? Usual design with two Hebrew characters (similar to "n n") at the lower left corner and "2" at lower right. Large thick figures of value as 00.01 and used from YAAROV ? in March 1970 (ESL) - See also below, Ed.



There are two sizes of die for the Postalia. The original machines had a frame 26mm x 30mm but now we have one 32mm x 30mm.

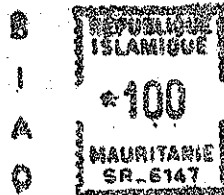
We illustrated Francotyp Cc number 39 used for Registered Post. A more recent machine, number 41, has a slightly smaller frame, thinner figures and a much smaller "Stag" at the bottom.

Werner Simon reports in "Stamps" that "meters used by government offices can now be identified by the letter "M" (for Memshala, meaning Government) in front of the usual machine model key-letter. We thus have MF on Francotyp and MH on Hasler machines. Frama machines use the letters MM although it is not yet clear why Frama is identified by the key-letter M.



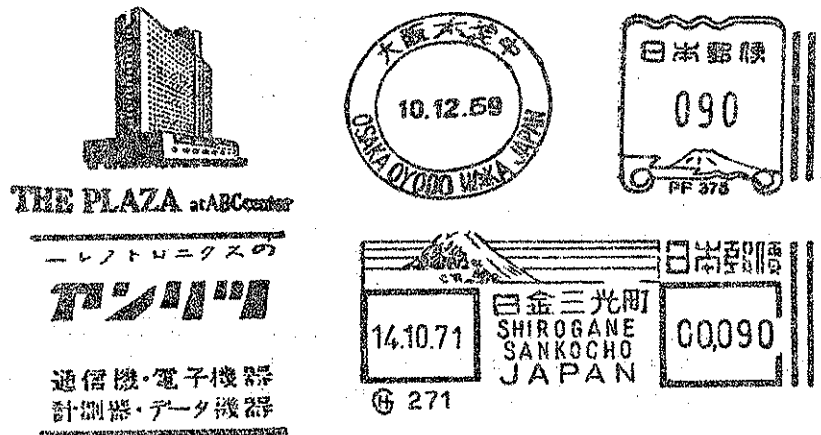
JAMAICA. Simplex with decimal values. (ESL)

Pitney Bowes Series 5000 in decimal currency, value as w0.01 (SDB)



MAURITANIA. Satas, Model R. (MdeW)

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS (Contd.)



JAPAN. More variants on established designs from Mr E. S. Lapham. The Postalia has a smaller die, 3 figures of value and vertical lines (to avoid slipping?) at the right.

The Hasler has 5 figures of value and straight lines at the side of the mountain.

LIBYA (LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC). Automax in design with L.A.R. at bottom (SDB)

MACAO. M de Wailly and Werner Simon report P.B.I. from this country, the first we have had. No other details except figures of value, =0.01

MALAGASY REPUBLIC. Satas SJ with name as "REPOBLIKA MALAGASY" (ESL)

MALAYSIA. Universal MV with currency shown as "Sen", U 65 used from P.PINANG on -9 II 72 and U 281 from Kuala Lumpur on -4 V 71

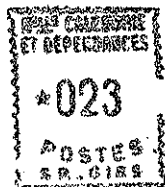
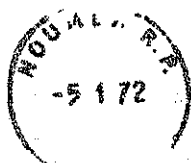
MONACO. Mr E. S. Lapham shows us a copy of P 6257, in the usual "French" type design. Used on 30 Dec 1970 it is the first time he has seen the "P" machine used from the Principality.

MOROCCO. C.A.M.P. machine PR 001, usual style of design inscribed MAROC under Arabic name. Used from Rabat 09 XI 71 (ESL)

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES. The Francotyp machines have in the past had what we have called "indented" frames. Recently in the Netherlands a newer version has appeared where the width of the frame is the same all the way down and there is no indentation. The Antilles version has now followed and Mr Lapham shows us two from Curacao, one 3-bank and one 4-bank figures of value.

NEW ZEALAND. Roneo-Neopost Model 505. Prefix R. Design similar to previous Neopost, square frame with zig-zag pattern at left and right. Townmark BIC and figures of value as 0.01 R007 seen from Wellington on 31 III 71 (SDB)

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS (Contd.)



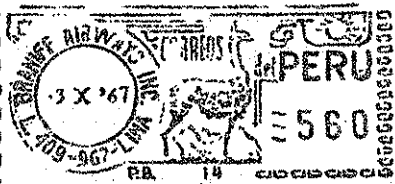
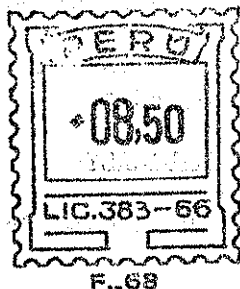
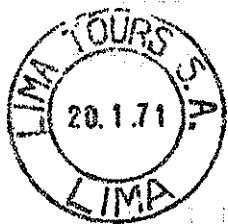
NEW CALEDONIA. We cannot trace having recorded machines from this territory, this Satas comes from Michel de Wailly, we have seen impressions from at least November 1970.

NORWAY. We have previously recorded a Krag, number 15002, which had a smaller townmark set close to the frank and no registration number. This was 4-bank, and now we have a similar machine, 8143, but 3-bank, as 001 (ESL)

PAKISTAN. The "Trilingual" variety of the Roneo-Neopost Model 305 also comes as a 4-bank, with figures of value as 00.01

Two Model 305's in our Type 14.1 used at Post Offices do not have licence numbers, one from "LAHORE NIGHT P.O." and one from "GULBERG S.O./LAHORE", each has a double circle townmark.

The Roneo-Neopost Model 205 was used as long ago as 29 10 65. Mr Barfoot shows us SC.356 and the date is confirmed by Post Office backstamps both in Pakistan and in London.



PERU. We reported previously a licence number of L.200-59 and queried the significance of the "59". Mr Lapham offers the suggestion that this might refer to the year in which the machine was first licenced or relicenced. He shows us the three above, if his theory is correct then 967 must refer to Sep 1967. Another similar one is Hasler with "LIC.356-65"

Machine M 06 described in MSB 94 is hardly a provisional as we have seen it used as early as 8 XI 67 (SDB)

The Francotyp is a machine we have not mentioned in recent years whilst we have been busy recording the series of changes that have been taking place on others.

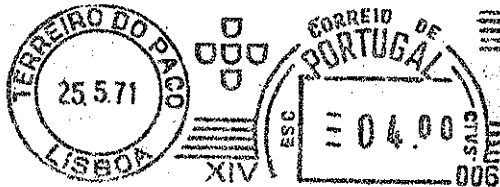
These too, however, have now acquired the name of the user in the Townmark, Mr Barfoot shows us F 31 thus.

PHILIPPINES. As a matter of record we should mention the Pitney Bowes (GB) Series 5000 numbered PB 488 D referred to in an article on Australia.

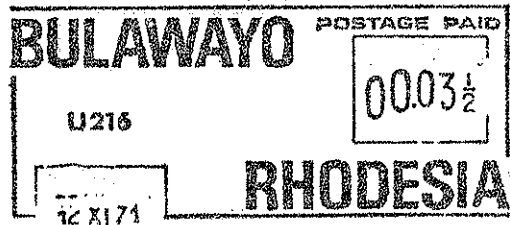
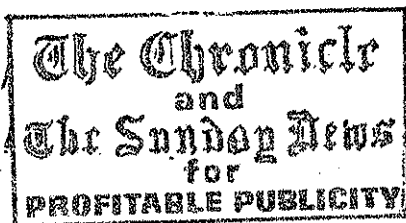
NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS (Contd)

POLAND. Mr Barfoot tells us that Satas 6906 is a Post Office machine and that machines from the 11000 group also exist.

The Postalia now comes with what may be described as a "simplified" design. The arms are at the top and the name, now "POLSKA" only at the bottom. Licence number at bottom of townmark circle only and figures of value 4-bank as 0001 followed by "GR" Wr-Wa-77 from Warsaw on 21.4.71 (SDB)

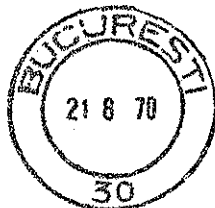


PORTUGAL. A further development of the Pitney Bowes (GB) Series 5000. This now has "XIV" instead of "PB" as a prefix. (ESL and W. Simon.)



RHODESIA. Rectangular Universal MV. (GRP)

Additional values for the Roneo-Neopost 105 are 5c, 7½c, 10c. (SDB)



3777



ROUMANIA. Francotyp C with POSTA before ROMANA instead of R.P. and LEI only at the bottom. We have previously shown a similar Model A (ESL)

SOUTH AFRICA. Additional values for the Roneo-Neopost Model 105 are the 2c and 4½c, the first sans-serif and the second with serifs.

Roneo-Neopost Model 505. NE 001 used from Port Elizabeth, 15 I 71.

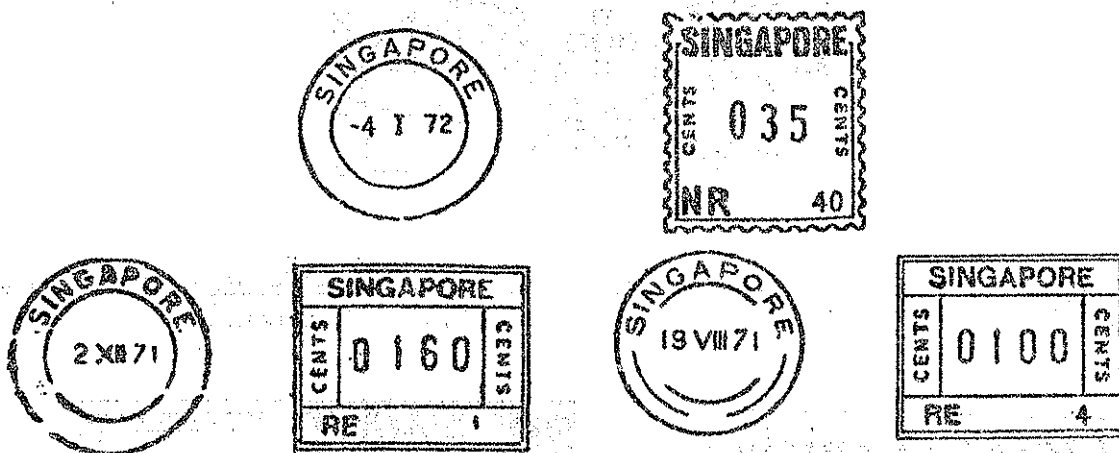
Neopost L.V. NA 469 had the date only, no townmark at all, on 5 XI 70 (SDB)

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS (Contd.)

SENEGAL. The only reference we can trace of the Satas Model R is in an addenda to the Barfoot-Simon catalogue as long ago as MSB 58.

More recent examples are SR 7193 used from Dakar on -5 11 70 showing the figures of value as *001 and SR-2194, also Dakar, on -5 10 71 with the figures shown as *00.01 (both without a following "F") (ESL)

Havas P. Usual French style design inscribed "REPUBLIQUE / DU SENEGAL" at the top, single circle townmark, P 13756 with figures of value as *001 used from Kadlack on -8 1 71 (MdeW)



SINGAPORE. Roneo-Neopost Model 305 with prefix letters reversed and figures of value 001 RN 439 has figures of value as 00.01 and each of these is additional to those listed in MSB 87.

Roneo-Neopost Model 505, the first reported from Singapore, with two forms of townmark.

Automax U 376 has several differences from others shown before. The name at the top is in much smaller letters, "CENTS" closer to sides of frame and the U 376 is over "POSTAGE" at the bottom. (SDB, ESL and MdeW)



SPAIN. Pitney Bowes Model R, which shows several differences when compared with the one shown in MSB 93. The number appears below "CORREOS" instead of at the left and there is a curved accent over the "N" of ESPAÑA, this accent is straight on 5377. (SDB)

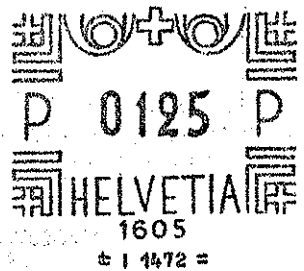
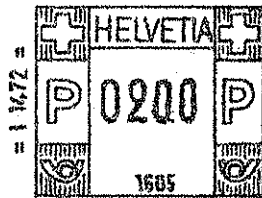
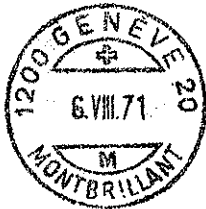
SWAZILAND. Roneo-Neopost Model 205 inscribed simply SWAZILAND. J 279 (which is presumably numbered in the South Africa series) from MBABANE on 28 VI 71 (SDB)

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS (Contd.)

SWITZERLAND. Arabic month figures on Hasler machines have been mentioned. Mr Barfoot now lists :-

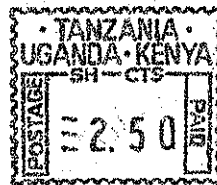
7440, value as 001
 8531, value as 0001½
 ?3737, value as 00001

all have "M" and a postal zone in the townmark, Safag 892 with value as 001 also has Arabic month figures.



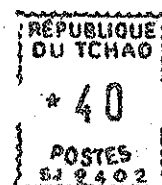
Mr Lapham shows us these two examples of Hasler 1605, before and after change to new design. It will be seen that the machine retains its older-style townmark with horizontal bars, and also that the number =I 1472= has been moved to the left of the die, as noted some time ago by Mr Pearson.

TAIWAN. (FORMOSA) The Hasler machine, number 201, used by the Director General of Posts has been mentioned and illustrated in two designs, each with figures of value as 000.io Mr Barfoot now reports an impression dated in Oct 1971 and this shows the figures as z00.io



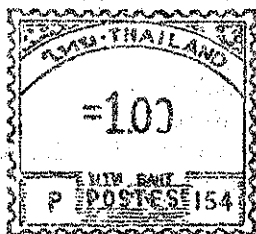
TANZANIA-UGANDA-KENYA. Pitney Bowes (GB) Series 5000, this will be type 11-10-1-1 in our listing of East Africa.

Type 11-5-1-1, add extra value, 50



TCHAD. Satas Model R, the one above from Mr Lapham, and SR 2109, also used from Fort Lamy, from M de Wailly, also Satas SJ 9402.

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS (Contd.)



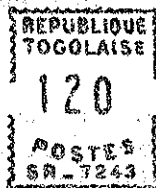
THAILAND. Automax with "P" prefix, the only previous reference to this type recorded a prefix of "U". P 166 also seen.

Pitney Bowes (GB) Series 5000, same design but smaller frank, also "P".

INTERNATIONALE

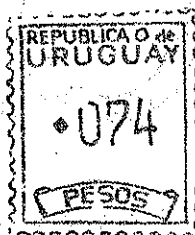


BANQUE
DE
L'AFRIQUE
B.I.A.O.



TOGO. The inscription on this Satas, from M de Wailly, varies from the "REPUBLIQUE DU TOGO" we have recorded on the P machine.

TUNISIA. Mr Lapham shows us P 14744 in the now usual design with an Arabic inscription over TUNISIE, a new model for this country. Figures of value are as *001 and this one was used from Tunis on 16 12 70



URUGUAY. Automax, which we have not shown before. (ESL)

Francotyp. Similar in design to B & S Type 2 but now with PESOS at the bottom instead of CENTISIMOS and the number in the townmark and not under the frank.

VENEZUELA. Pitney Bowes (USA) Series 5000, design similar to the Model R and figures of value as w0.01 LIC 187.P.B. used from Caracas on 24.3.71 (ESL)

Once again, lack of space has prevented us from listing all the news we have from members, we will start again next time from United Arab Republic and after Zambia will begin again at "A".