

HON. SECRETARY and
TREASURER :

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SECRETARY'S NOTES
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Membership. We are pleased to welcome two new members to the Group with this issue of the bulletin :

- (226) Mr S. D. Hammond. 26 Dunkirk Road, Lordswood, SOUTHAMPTON, SO1 6LZ
(227) Mr E. Hayes. 59 Willow Lea, Tonbridge, Kent.

and we also have to record two changes of address :

Mr W. J. Pieterse, now Boston Post Road N, Amherst, NH 03031, U.S.A.
Mr W. H. Bogue, add Postcode, ML12 6AD

Correction. When we reviewed his Canadian catalogue recently we gave a wrong address for Mr Irwin, it should be 14 Tamarack Place, Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

WALTER SWAN
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We are very sorry to record that after a very long illness Walter Swan died in the Albany Veterans hospital on 9 October 1972.

Some time ago he disposed of his collection, and said at the time that he wanted it to go where it would be most appreciated and not end up as trash, surely this must be one of the hardest decisions facing any true collector and there was no doubt that he was one of the earliest and most faithful of meter collectors.

Over the years he had published a number of catalogues and lists, and in addition to this everyone who either met or corresponded with him agreed that he was always patient and helpful with the beginner, even in his later years when he remained cheerful although very ill.

Our sincere best wishes go to his wife Judy and the family.

FIRST THE CATALOGUE - THEN ALL THE CHANGES !!

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The new edition of our "Meter Stamps of Great Britain and Ireland" was finally published in December and all orders were posted at the same time. (In case you have not ordered yours it is 75p (or \$2.00) including postage)

We have often said in the past that the publication of any listing seems to bring out all the information we have been looking for for years or it leads to sudden changes that we had not really expected and allowed for

We are now getting the changes.

Coloured Slogans for Great Britain ?

Mr W H. Bogue shows us a copy of Roneo-Neopost Model 205 number JB 902 (Taunton, Somerset) with the slogan in Blue, it is quite clear and distinct.

This is the first time we have seen such a coloured slogan in Great Britain although they have been used on Model 205 machines in Eire for some time. This particular copy is dated 5 X 72

"Emblems" design again for Great Britain ?

We have had reports from several members of machines still in the old Emblems design but quite clearly with values in decimal currency.

NR-118	03	26 Jun 1972
N 86 ? Kingston	2½	31 Aug 1972
SZ 458	3	18 Sep 1972
SZ 459	2½	1 Aug 1972

have all been seen.

The only explanation that comes to mind is that once the period set by the Post Office during which old £sd and new £p adhesive postage stamps both remained valid, and meters in the old design were exhausting any £sd credit, ended, then there was no reason why machines in the old design could not be brought back into use, as the possibility of confusing which currency was being used had been removed. The Frankmaster above has decimal figures of value and the others have no "d".

It is interesting to note also that the machine used by Pitney Bowes for various jubilee functions also has a pre-decimal design in this case an EIR cipher, and again, this was used after 29 Feb 1972, the end of the dual currency period.

Then the Changes (Contd)

Flat Rate Charging. This is a method of charging postage where the average postage for regular bulk consignments of parcels and second class packets is assessed for a particular firm and a contract negotiated with them. This eliminates the need for individual weighing and pricing.

One such user, Shopertunities, has adopted this system and have also had one of their franking machines adapted to print either "P-F.R.C." or "2-F.R.C.", indicating Parcel or Second Class respectively. All the machine does is to issue a label and record the number of items.

Mr E. C. Ehrmann has shown us an impression from the machine, Roneo-Neopost Model 605 number TN 211 and this is in the normal decimal design but instead of value figures shows either of the two abbreviations mentioned above. The date on this particular example is shown as "-0.7.72" and it is possible that under the terms of the contract a day must not be shown.

Friden withdraw from the market. Friden rescinded their Post Office contract with effect from the 3rd July 1972. The explanation given is that the return on this part of their business, compared with other equipment, is not sufficiently attractive.

The 700 or so meters currently in use will be serviced and maintained by Singer (the parent Company) for the time being.

G. B. NOTES.

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Roneo-Neopost Model 505. Whilst reporting highest numbers several members have remarked on a sudden jump from the 4000's to the 6000's and 7000's. One explanation that comes to mind is that possibly the numbers now being used are the machine numbers. We have seen none in the 5000 group at all, and only one, 6779, of the 6000's.

"Highest Numbers". Thanks to a number of reports, including Messrs Bogue, Fletcher and Wood, we now have :

<u>Hasler.</u>	HGB 1118	*2010	*3029	*4003	5010	6008
<u>Francotyp.</u>	*AC.A 37				<u>Friden.</u>	G.0602
<u>Pitney Bowes.</u>	PBA 556 F			PBL 263 D		*PBC 038 A
	PBR 022 A			*PBS 834 G		*PBT 1891 F
				*PBS 228 P		
<u>Roneo-Neopost.</u>	JT 186			N 691 L		NX 320
				RN 7341		TN 272

* Indicates no advance since our last report.

POST OFFICE MARK GOLDEN JUBILEE.
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The Post Office held a luncheon in London on the 26th of October 1972 to mark the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the first franking machines in this country.

During the course of his welcoming remarks Mr Alexander Currall, Managing Director of Posts, said that there were now nearly 85,000 franking machines in use in the United Kingdom, franking something like twelve million letters every working day. This in fact amounts to about one third of the postal revenue.

In conjunction with the gathering each of the four manufacturers licenced in this country, Acral, Hasler (GB), Pitney Bowes and Roneo-Neopost, had their various models on display. Each was fitted with a specially designed slogan to mark the occasion, all in a common design but varying in size.



The machines we noted were :-

AC.A 38
HGB 1137
PBT 1076 F
PBL 952 D

and Roneo-Neopost Models 205 and 505 each numbered RN 001

Each guest received a cover franked with one or other of these machines and after addressing and collection these were delivered through normal postal channels, each cover contained a small booklet produced to mark the occasion.

Other machines on show were the Pitney Bowes Model A as used for their own anniversary celebrations earlier in the year, still with the "3" die we showed but now with the "common" slogan; an old Neopost Fixed Value model London W.10 N 116 fitted with GvR die (the W 10 is offset so this could at one time have been NW 10 or SW 10); Hasler Model F66 with usual GB design die but no number or initial letters at the bottom.

Altogether a very enjoyable occasion.

FLOURESCENT INK FOR METERS IN THE U S.A.

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As long ago as MSB 85 we noted that flourescent ink was used on meters by the Dayton Corporation but wondered why as most metered mail is faced and segregated before posting.

Pitney Bowes announced in September that they had been awarded a contract from the U.S. Postal Service to distribute special samples of a new machine detectable postage meter ink to 240,000 Pitney Bowes postage meter users.

Letters with metered impressions printed with the new ink can be detected automatically by the same Postal Services equipment which detects postage stamps and so those pieces of metered mail which have not been bundled by the mailer and enter the mail stream together with ordinary adhesive-stamped mail can be faced at the same time.

The flourescent ink will be required for all metered mail in the U.S.A. from 1 July 1973.

NEWS FROM PITNEY BOWES

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John O. Nicklis recently announced that he was relinquishing the post of Chief Executive Officer on 1 January 1973 and that Fred T. Allen will assume these responsibilities on the same date. Mr Nicklis will continue as Chairman and will serve the Company in a consulting and advisory capacity.

Mr Frederick Bowes Jr, who started with Pitney Bowes as long ago as 1930 and spent some time in London in the 1930's retired in October.

TOBACCO TAX STAMPING BY METER

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This is something with which we are not, as yet, familiar with in Great Britain but it is common in other countries. Many collectors of meters in the USA look upon these as "fiscals" and it might be of interest to quote from a Pitney Bowes announcement concerning improved machines.

"machines mechanically open cigarette cartons, imprint a tax stamp and dealer identification number on the cellophane wrapper of each pack and re-seal the cartons.

The machines can meter stamp all common packs. including the standard, filter tip, king and 100 mm, in both soft and hard packs.

The Pitney Bowes meter system is used for collection of cigarette tax in 40 states, over 100 cities and the District of Columbia".

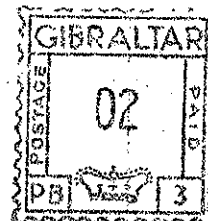
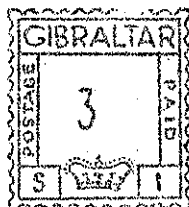
NOTES AND NEWS FROM OVERSEAS.

With thanks as usual to our members who have contributed news from so many different countries, we are still carrying some items over to the next issue of the bulletin.



CYPRUS. We show the Roneo-Neopost Model 205, numbered with an RN prefix. Mr I. K. Hutchinson tells us that the prefix NE was only used for Model 205 numbers NE 256 - NE 262 (250 - 255 and 263 have not been seen) and thereafter the RN prefix was re-introduced regardless of the model.

The Model 505 has a similar design to the 205, but wider, and figures of value 4-bank, as 0.001 RN 265 seen used from Famagusta on 25 VIII 71



GIBRALTER. Simplex S 1 and Automax PB 3 with decimal values. (GRP)



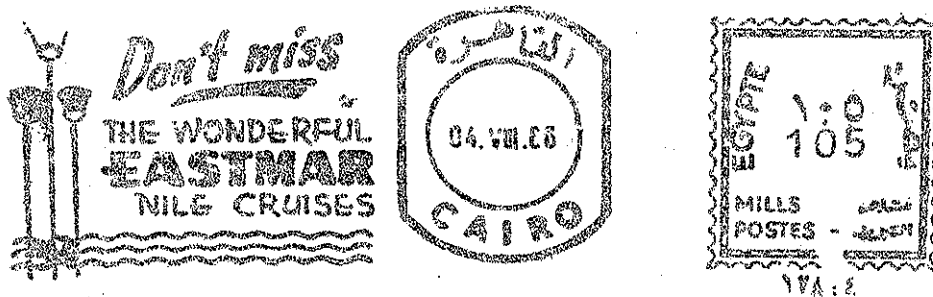
GUYANA. Roneo-Neopost Model 205 with "Postage Paid" added to the design and Crown and EiiR replaced by National Shield. (GRP)

HONG KONG. Mr Harold H. Rugg has shown us an impression from Roneo-Neopost Model 205 number N ?22 dated as long ago as 23 3 66 which shows the name in the townmark as "Victory", Hong Kong.

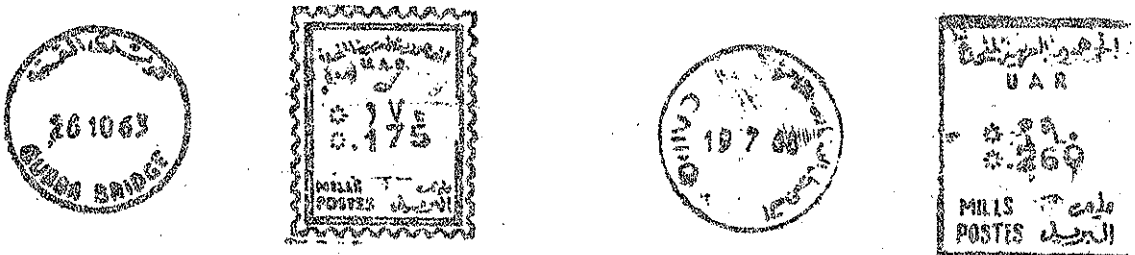
A search through the map of the area shows no such place and so we must assume that this is in fact an error for "Victoria".

Notes and News from Overseas (Contd.)

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC (EGYPT) Hasler F 88 in the design with a small and lengthly Arabic inscription at the top with no European equivalent. "MILLS/POSTES" at lower left with Arabic at bottom right. Figures of value 3-bank as *01 Arabic over European and double-circle townmark (with double lines), used from Cairo on 31 XII.63 (SDB)



Some years ago we listed, as B & S Type 23, a Francotyp inscribed "R.A.U. EGYPT" with a very distinctive straight sided townmark. That this exists with the older style design with Crown removed is shown by the one above.



Two Satas machines, one without "perforations". The latter also has the larger MILLS/POSTES we expect on "private" machines but no number underneath the frank.

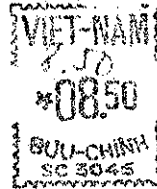
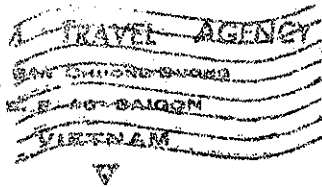
Universal MV (or Automax?) in new type with "POST" only at top left and "U.A.R." over "EGYPT" at bottom left, used from Cairo 12 X 70 (ESL and SDB)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Pitney Bowes announced in September that they are to supply 1000 meters for use at Post Office windows during the next eight months, with an option for a further 250

This further extension of the use of what we call "Post Office" machines shows how far the use of meters has spread in the Postal Service, we imagine that by now quite small offices must be using them for parcels and other items handed in rather than posted at "normal" rates.

This is quite the opposite to what has happened in Great Britain, where all Post Office (and even Railway Parcel) machines seem to have been withdrawn.

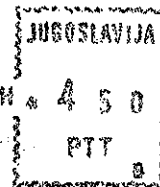
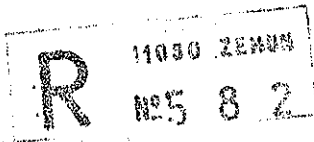
Notes and News from Overseas (Contd)



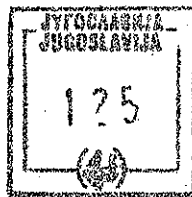
9 VI 01 SAIGON

VIET NAM (SOUTH) Satas SC 3046 has Buu-Chinh instead of the previously seen Postes at the foot. (ESL)

YUGOSLAVIA. Postal zone numbers have been introduced, as we surmised when we showed a Hasler with 11071 in the townmark. Mr Lapham now shows us a Francotyp with 11001 from Belgrade and a Postalia with 50101 from Dubrovnik. Mr Barfoot also shows us a Postalia with 61001 from Lubliana.



The C.A.M.P. machines appear to be lettered in each town rather than numbered. Mr G. R. Pearson shows us examples from BEOGRAD, SPLIT, ZAGREB and ZEMUN. The letters in the corner of the frank and in the townmark seem to go A, B, C, D, etc, the one seen from Zagreb in D, B has been seen from three places and A from Split. All these have postal zone numbers in the townmark and also in the Registration Labels which these machines can produce but which are not always used.



This Roneo-Neopost Model 205, not previously reported, has a number at the bottom of the townmark which does not seem to fit in with the postal zone numbers. (GRP)

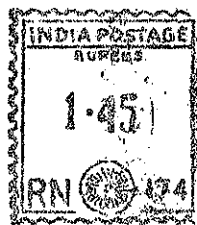
Notes and News from Overseas (Contd)

ZAMBIA. We do not seem to have mentioned the Automax before. Mr Barfoot shows us U 20, used 15 III 71



ZAIRE (Formerly CONGO - KINSHASA) Francotyp with the new name for this country. (GRP)

"REFUGEE RELIEF" from INDIA
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We mentioned recently that meters existed in India to pay the surcharge on mail which had been imposed there to help pay for the relief of refugees from Bangladesh, the former East Pakistan, during the recent war.

Several members have now shown us examples of this and we illustrate one above.

It looks as if it is an additional fixed value machine which has to be applied at a separate operation and above the value of 5ps appears what may be a number as E.585 It is interesting to note that the impression also includes the words INDIA POSTAGE. None of the impressions have been very clear.

There have not been many cases of meters being used for the collection of charity surcharges, we can call to mind some in Greece and various South American countries, but these have usually taken the form of a separate part of the design which includes the additional value.

H E L P !

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Mr W. H. Bogue, who has been co-ordinating our efforts at recording all the machines used in Great Britain, seeks reports of the following Universal MV machines, anything, even if it is only one, will be a help.

Reports wanted of any die used with the following :-

U prefix. 69, 207, 250, 274, 332, 370, 379, 397, 430, 433, 436, 440, 448, 483, 492, 494, 510-1, 517, 530, 557, 560, 581, 587, 589-90, 596, 602-3, 612-3, 615, 618, 623, 633, 637, 640, 643-6, 652, 654, 667, 673, 679-80, 687, 689, 691, 696, 700, 705, 708, 710, 713-5, 718, 720-1, 723, 725, 729, 731-2, 735, 739-41, 745-6, 748-9, 752, 754-9, 765-6, 769-71, 778-9, 782, 789-90, 792, 794, 796, 799, 800, 802-4, 807, 810-1, 818, 821, 823-4, 829, 832, 834, 836, 848-9, 851-2, 855-6, 859-60, 865, 968-70, 872-4, 878-9, 881, 888, 891-4, 897-8, 904, 906, 910, 915, 920, 924, 926, 928, 931, 935-6, 941, 945, 955-6, 958, 967, 970, 976-8, 983-5, 987, 989-90, 994-5.

Reports wanted of GvR dies only :-

U prefix. 166, 199, 273, 338, 339, 340, 343, 351, 354, 360, 383, 385, 391, 402-5, 409-11, 413 and above.

Reports wanted of EviiiR dies only :-

U prefix. 339-40, 343, 351, 360, 425, 443-4, 453, 461-9, 472, 474-5, 499, 502 and above.

Reports wanted of GviR dies only :-

U prefix. 443, 444, 558, 579, 608, 650, 659, 662-3, 675-6, 683, 722, 728, 738, 761, 786, 793, 812, 814, 846, 857, 861, 877, 887, 899, 905, 911, 913, 938, 947, 957, 965, 971, 979-81, 986, 993.

Mr Bogue's address is "Woodward", Biggar, Lanarkshire, ML12 6AD

and H E L P again

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Our member in Brazil, Mr Ernst Muhr, Caixa Postal 9526, 01000, Sao Paulo, BRAZIL,

writes to tell us that he has lost most of his collection of Brazil prior to 1964.

He will gladly exchange more recent material for anything, of any quality, that members can let him have.

This edition of the bulletin, due to circumstances that were out of our control, has appeared three weeks late, we apologise to members for this, the next edition will be in March 1973.