

HON. SECRETARY  
and TREASURER :  
John C. Mann,  
19 Chartham Road,  
LONDON, SE25 4HN

SECRETARY'S NOTES.  
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Membership. With this issue of the Bulletin we welcome two new members to the Group,

- (269) Mr Ken Palmer            15 Raglan Road, Frinton, Essex.  
(270) Mr R. J. Scott            17 Riddlesdown Avenue, Purley, Surrey CR2 1JH

Annual Accounts. Members will find these appended at the end of this issue.

Members "Wants and Offers". Mr C. Lambert, 20 Hawkesworth Ave, Guiseley, Leeds, LS20 8EJ has a quantity (he estimates about 500+) of GB and other meter marks on cover or strips from parcels or piece" for disposal. £4.50 plus carriage though delivery might be possible depending on the location of the purchaser.

Mr P. Gray, 3 Westminster Close, Stafford ST17 0AE, has a box of GB meters on cover or on strips totalling about 18 lbs in weight, majority 1950's but with a few back to the 1920's. Ideally he would like to exchange them for his own interests which are Telegrams or anything to do with the telegraphic service or Scandinavia except mint stamps.

In each case please write direct.

AN EARLY SUGGESTION.  
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What must be one of the earliest suggestions for what we now know as meters is mentioned in the March 1968 issue of "The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain".

Writing to Rowland Hill on the 16th July 1840 (only a few weeks after the introduction of adhesive stamps) a Mr F. Ham in Norwich ends his letter (concerning the use of official stamps amongst other things) with :-

"Will you have the kindness to favour me with your opinion of my suggestion of a self-registering stamping machine for the post office, to supersede, or be used in conjunction with the present stamps and covers?"

PITNEY BOWES MACHINES USED IN JAPAN

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We continue in this issue the listing from Page 24 in the last issue, still with the group 2-5 (GB) "Series 5000".

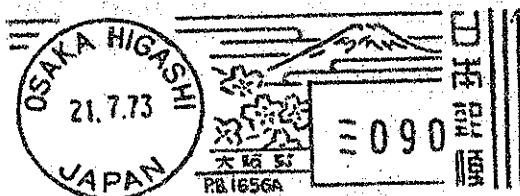
From the 1 Apr 1969 all new impressions for private use (P.B., Hasler, Francotyp, Satas etc) had to have three thick vertical bars at the right of the frank so that automatic facing and cancelling machines could recognise meter impressions and avoid cancelling them. To cater for this additional requirement some makers (Satas, Frama, etc) introduced completely new designs but others (P B., Hasler, etc) did not and merely added the lines.

There are, however, a number of small differences between the dies we have listed as 2-5-1 to 2-5-8 and Post Office machines and the new ones that follow. The principal differences are :

	<u>Old Design</u>	<u>New Design</u>
Value box	open at right	closed at right
Upper left leaf or petal of flower	"vein" slopes down to the <u>right</u>	"vein" slopes down to the <u>left</u>
Extreme right flower	attached to value box	separated from value box
Mount Fuji	23 mm long	26 mm long
Value box	18 mm long	19.5 mm long

there are other differences in the spacing and relative positions of the horizontal lines etc at the top left, the height of the value box etc.

At the time the requirement was introduced the latest number was about P.B.1410A but machines are not always fitted or sold in numerical order. Replacement dies should also have the three lines added so it is possible to find impressions below that number with the lines.



2-5-9 Three vertical lines added at the right. Date and value similar to 2-5-1 to 2-5-8. JAPAN at bottom of townmark. Private use, overall size 67mm x 23mm.

Nos used: A few from P.B.1031A - 1159A and P.B.1231A - 1261A (mostly replacement dies). Some from P.B.1263A-1389A (some original and some replacements) and P.B.1407A-1480A (mostly original). Almost all from 1481A-1509A, 1511A-1659A, 2010A-2123A, 2132A-2333A, 2336A-2359A, 2624A-2840A, most of 2840A-2880A and a few later numbers including 3875A, 4832A, etc

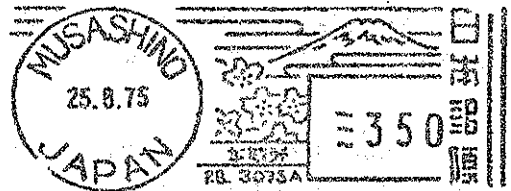
Pitney Bowes machines used in Japan (Contd)

2-5-10 Similar to 2-5-9 except no "A" suffix. Replacement dies for earlier numbers.

Nos used: A few from 2-5-3 and 2-5-4.

2-5-11 Design of die as 2-5-8 - see note on differences above - but with three vertical lines added at the right. Overall size 75mm x 23mm, the largest in the group.

Nos used: P.B.1235A only, withdrawn in 1974 or 1975.



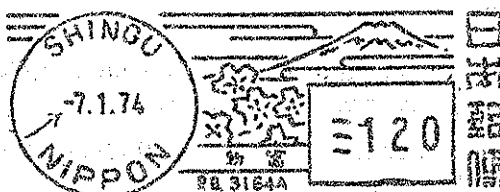
2-5-12 As before but with a new style of date figures, which are now thicker and shorter, 2.6 mm high instead of 3.0 mm. First introduced Sep or Oct 1973 in this type and later replacement figures for earlier types.

Nos used: Few from 2-5-3, 2-5-4, 2-5-7, 2-5-8, 2-5-9 (all these replacements), some from P.B.2840A-2880A, almost all from 2881A-3046A, 3074A-3097A, 3198A-3719A, 3830A, 3841A, 3853A-3999A, 4018A-4020A, 4024A, 4028A-4040A, 4042A-4050A, 4061A-4067A, 4085A, 4089A, 4091A - latest (6547A)

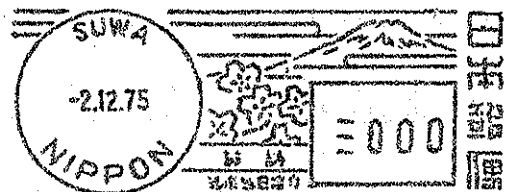
The new date figures also appeared on Post Office machines starting on the 1 Dec 1973.

2-5-13 Similar to 2-5-3 but with new style date figures, no lines at right, NIPPON in townmark. Post Office use.

Nos used: P.B.3047A-3073A, 3098A-3197A, 3720A-3852A, 4000A-4017A, 4021A-4023A, 4025A-4027A, 4041A, 4051A-4060A, 4068A-4084A, 4087A, 4088A, 4090A and a few replacements between 678 and 2623.



(2-5-13)



(2-5-14)

Pitney Bowes machines used in Japan (Contd)

After the 1 Dec 1975 the letters PB and the number and suffix were replaced by 6 Japanese characters which translate as "Valid for the Issued Day". Subsequently about 1200 machines have been installed at Post Offices but as no numbers are shown the groupings can only be arrived at by a process of deduction from Private machines.

2-5-14 Similar to 2-5-13 but with PB, number and suffix replaced by six Japanese characters.

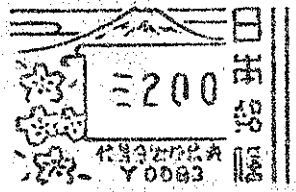
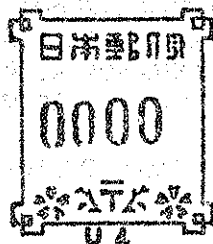
Nos used: ? about 220 from 4320?-45xxA, about 40 from 46xxA-47xxA, about 400 from 49xxA-53xxA, between 400 and 800 from 5000's and 6000's.

4. UNIVERSAL MULTI-VALUE. Manufactured by Universal Postal Frankers Ltd., London, GB (later Pitney Bowes Ltd). Main dealer in Japan Cornes & Co., Tokyo.

4-1 Universal Multi-Value Introduced in Japan on 27 Jan 1953 but used, for Private Mail, for a short while only.

Design: Square frame with two cherry blossoms at bottom and a T mark. Date as Day-Month-Year with the month in Roman figures. Multi-Value machine with 4 banks of figures.

Nos used: U1 - U24. U21-U24 were issued first then U1 upwards.



(4-1)

(8-1)

8. PITNEY BOWES MODEL 6300. Manufactured by Pitney Bowes Ltd., London and Harlow, GB. Main dealer in Japan Yusei Kozaikai, Akosaku, Tokyo. Multi-Value machine with four banks of figures.

8-1 Super Pigeon This machine was originally known as the Model 6300 by Dodwell & Co but renamed Super Pigeon by the new dealer.

Design: Mount Fuji and cherry blossoms. Date as Day-Month-Year with month in Arabic figures.

Nos used: Y 0001 upwards.

How the Dies and Townmarks are produced.

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As a non-technical person it has always been a bit of a mystery to the writer as to how the actual frank dies and townmarks used on meters were produced. Even a casual examination of a clear impression shows how much detail can be included in a simple design and detailed study has in fact shown how little they vary these days.

Two recent articles, one by Alfred Kanzler in the Meter Stamp Society Bulletin (USA) - No 158, Summer 1977 - and the other in the staff newspaper PB news at Harlow - No 33, Nov 1977 - have given us some insight into the processes used.

Originally in the USA, the first hundred or so dies were individually hand engraved, and Alfred was the messenger who delivered the blanks for engraving to Davis & Worth of Brooklyn and later Schwerdtle Stamp Co. of Bridgeport and collected the finished dies from them.

About 1922 Pitney Bowes designed and made their own engraving machine. A drawing eight times the finished size was made and from this a wooden master. The operator traced round this whilst the cutting tool duplicated the reduced design on the blank. If a large run was required a brass master was made. A blank space was left in the design for numerals to be locked in place and changed for each die, then engraved with it, as were also the values on the earlier single fixed value models.

Townmarks had a similar frame in which the required letters and/or figures could be arranged and locked in place before engraving.

In this country masters produced in the USA were used at first but later they were produced here, usually four times the required size.

Another process used in this country was a system like coining where a copper blank was subjected to several blows in a special press, being cleaned and annealed between each one.

In more recent times, particularly with the introduction of the 5000 Series in the USA, the dies are produced in finished form by a casting process, complete with the number - we seem to remember that plastic has been tried - as also are townmarks where a large run for a particular city is required, the engraving process only being used for small quantities or replacements.

Where machines are exported or where the numbering system depends on something other than the machine number then of course the licence number has to be engraved at a much later stage, this is where we get those lovely variations, engraved in reverse, solid blocks and the like.

- jcm -

G. B. NOTES.

Poneo-Neopost Model 205. An error of spelling in the townmark is shown us by George Stelfox. This is Londondeery (eery instead of erry) on P 630.

Roneo-Neopost Model 305 (?) We still do not know any more about the machines with a PX prefix but Mr P. D. Wood shows us one, PX-34, used as early as the 30 III 77 whilst the highest number has now reached PX-40.



Roneo-Neopost Model 605. The townmark on this one, from Mr Lapham, has the Postal District at the top of the townmark instead of, as usual, at the bottom.

"Highest Numbers". We have to thank Messrs J. M. Beard, C. Delahoy, G. Stelfox, P. D. Wood, W. Bogue and others for reports which have now given us the latest position as follows :-

Hasler HGB \*1305 \*2019 \*3058 \*4025 \*5040 \*6031 7005 (i)  
HAS 1220 2019 \*3018 \*4011 \*5011 6012 \*7007 \*8003

Francotyp \*AC.A 40 Singer Model 410/420 \*G.0697  
Model 9010/9020 \*G.1099

Pitney Bowes \*PBL 1647 A \*PER 744 A \*PBT 1667 T  
\*PBR 018 G

Roneo-Neopost \*J 660 M \*W 93 C \*TN 555  
\*N 693 M \*NX 996 \*RR 11435  
2N 269 G (ii) PX-40 (iii) RR 21720

(i) First report of the 7000 group with HGB prefix, used in Winchester, so still apparently following the original areas - even though the names of the counties have changed.

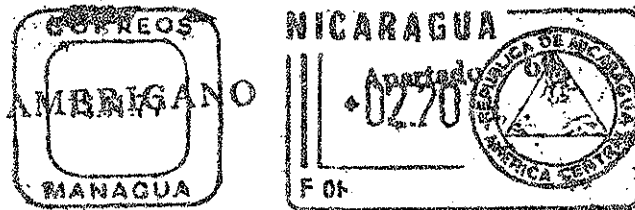
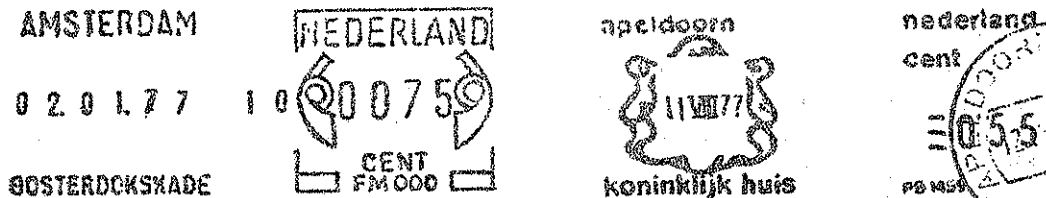
(ii) 2N xxx F has not yet been reported.

(iii) See note above.

NOTES AND NEWS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

===== Carrying on from roughly where we stopped last time. As always, we must thank our faithful reporters, for without them we would not have the news. To them we add, although it must sometimes seem ages before the news appears, please be patient with us and keep the reports coming in. Every little helps to fill in the total picture.

NETHERLANDS. A new Post Office machine is the Frama (compare with the Swiss one we showed in MSB 119 (XIV/98) and a rather nice special decorative townmark used for the Dutch Royal Household mail. Both sent to us by Jan Dekker.



NICARAGUA. Another machine with a square townmark is this one from Michel de Wailly.

PARAGUAY. From another impression of the Hasler (or ? Francotyp) we showed in MSB 119 (XIV/97) shown us by Ernst Muhr we can confirm that the figures of value are as z0001

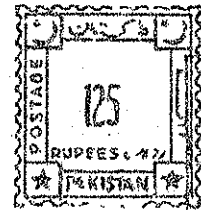
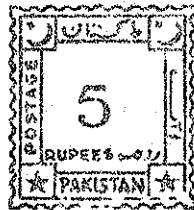
PHILIPPINES. Mr Lapham shows us one of the Automax "Hope" machines (original version) used on a "tape" with multiple "Bureau of Posts MM" in light blue and a serial number in black.

He suggests that the numbering of these machines is in two parts, the Pxxxx refers to the Post Office where they are used and the M-xxxx to the machine itself.

PAKISTAN. The "Trilingual" design, which has PAKISTAN at the top of the frank, has now appeared on the Francotyp. Mr Lapham shows us SC-478 with figures of value 3-bank as 0.01 and SC-863 with 4-bank as z0.01

SC-478 is also interesting because the townmark of the impression, 15.12.76 is sideways and although used by the "Morning News" it has G.P.O. KARACHI/FRANCOTYP - SC-478 in the townmark, i.e. the name of the maker instead of the initials of the user.

Notes and News from Other Countries (Contd - Pakistan)



In our catalogue we state that Simplex machines were fitted with a range of values from 0.01 to 0.24 in stages of 1 paisa but these two impressions show that there is a higher value version. They actually say 5 Rupees and 125 Rupees and the latter is some value !, as this value is 25 times the lower one it suggests that these are not fitted with a zero value like the earlier ones in both Pakistan and India, from whom they inherited many of their postal practices. When writing, Mr Lapham wondered if in fact the values should be 0.05 to 1.25 but they seem quite clearly to be Rupees to us.



PORTUGAL. This Krag (note the small "K" between the townmark and the frank) looks like a Post Office machine, the final zero may be fixed, the fourth digit being smaller and preceded by the decimal point.

We have mentioned the Hasler with an XIII prefix and illustrated XIII 001 which has a narrow setting between townmark and frank. XIII 065 used from CTT/VILA REAL has a much wider setting and a slogan between the two parts of the impression. (MdeW)

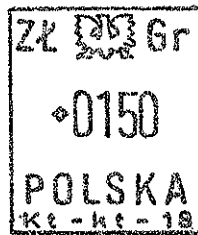
RWANDA. Mr Lapham shows us a Frama. Design generally the same as the Hasler we have already shown but smaller and with a "3" underneath the frank. Value as 001 and used from Kigali on 26 III 77.

POLAND. There seems to have been almost an explosion of new designs and most of these are from Werner Simon. It is surprising in fact how some of them still have a close resemblance to some used in the 1930's (see the Francotyp which in its wording, particularly the "S" looks almost Art Nouveau!) whilst others are very "modern" in looks.



Poland (Contd)

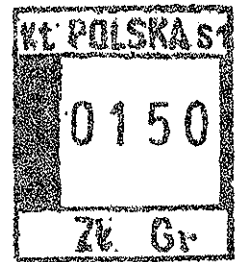
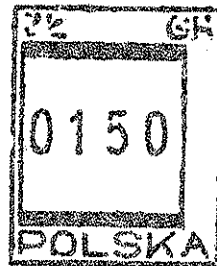
Francotyp



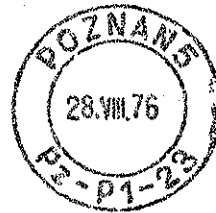
PANSTWOWY  
ZAKŁAD UBEZPIECZEN  
DYREKJA WOJEWODZKA  
UBEZPIECZA CIEBIE  
I TWOJE MIENIE



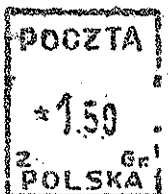
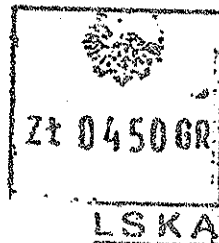
Krag



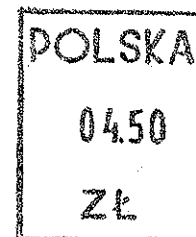
Hasler



Postalia and  
Satas SR



? Make



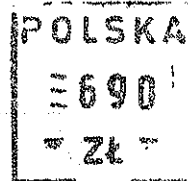
Notes and News from Other Countries (Contd - Poland)

Nearly all the originals have slogans, which we have omitted in some cases, and nearly all are bad impressions !

Another version of the Satas SR has no frame, just the words POCZTA and POLSKA above and below the value and another Krag has POLSKA at the top and extending across the full width of the frank. Francotyp WrWal21 has a plain rectangular frame with POLSKA at the top and Eagle at the bottom.

Finally we have a Polish version of the Post Office machine for Registered Post we noted under Hungary recently. SC townmark, boxed R, vertical register number, plain frame with (? fixed) 4.50 at top. Again, printed in black and unfortunately too poor an impression to reproduce here.

**COPEXIM**  
ul. Zurawia 4. tel. 21-64-11  
**00-950 WARSZAWA**  
Skrytka pocztowa 257



Michel de Wailly shows us the Pitney Bowes Model 6300, already mentioned.

ST. LUCIA. Automax P.B.8 has figures of value =00.01 instead of the =0.01 on the earlier ones recorded. (ESL)

SAUDI ARABIA. The Pitney Bowes (GB) Series 5000 in an inset townmark design with KSA and value as w0.01 Note the Arabic year as "96", another one we have seen has "97". (MdeW and WHB)

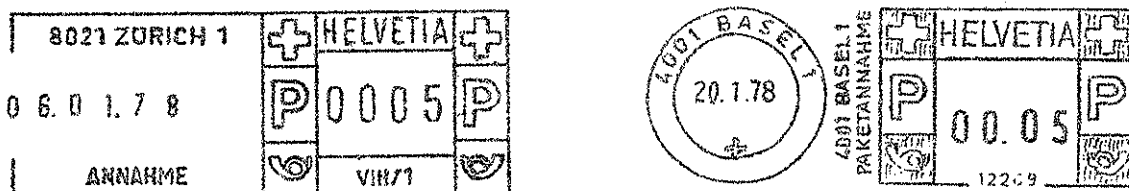


(although not actually news on machines in use we were interested to see in a recent "PB News" that when the Saudi-Arabian Director General of Posts and Telegraphs visited Harlow recently he was presented with a framed and mounted plaque of the meter frank design as a memento of the visit)

Notes and News from Other Countries (Contd)

SWEDEN. Pitney Bowes (GB) Series 5000 number P.B.15270 has a townmark inscribed POSTVERKET LÄNEMASKIN, ? relief machine. (ESL)

SWITZERLAND. The Swiss PTT introduced a system of "telephone gifts" early this year under which you can send a friend a "gift" of 20 Fr or more to help pay his telephone account. To announce this the giver receives a post paid card, complete with picture of flowers, printed with the meter-style design we recorded in MSB 110 (XIII/84) which has PTT at the bottom. Just to make it all more complicated the card comes in three different language versions. (Heiner Durst and "Stamp Collecting")



A further development of the Frama Parcel Post machine is the addition of horizontal lines above and below the town-name (compare with the one we showed in MSB 119 (XIV/98). Another Frama at FRIBOURG 1 numbered II/I does not have the Annahme in the townmark. Both are printed in magenta through a ribbon, the one at Zurich was originally in red.

Yet another new Parcel Post machine is the Adrema Pitney Bowes with a suitable inscription between the townmark and the frank. This latter one is also in red. (Heiner Durst)

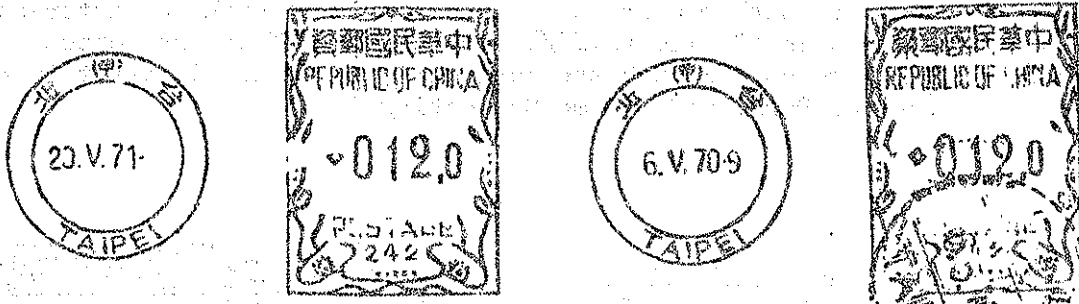
TURKEY. Pitney Bowes Model 6300, the unusual "tomb" shape around the date is also found on P.B.A 146 but P.B.A 67 does not have it, and also has much smaller lettering in the townmark. (W. Simon, ESL and MdeW)



SYRIA. Our only report for this country is of an essay for a Universal in 1949. This French NA 23386 (? numbered in the makers machine number series) comes from Michel de Wailly, who also shows us NA 23387.

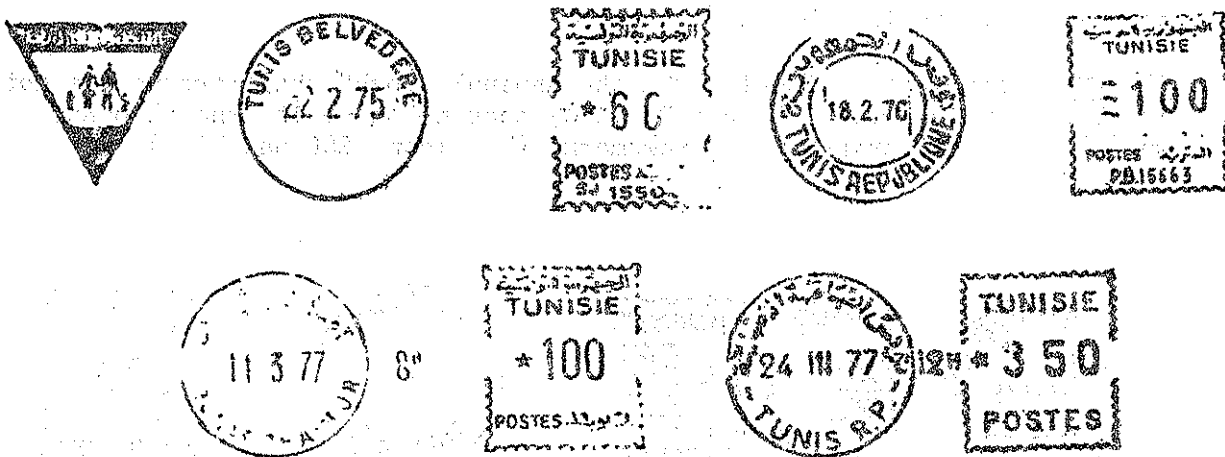
Notes and News from Other Countries (Contd - Syria)

But whilst despairing of anything from this country Mr Lapham did show us one used by Syria, a USA Desk Model used in New York for the mission to the United Nations.



TAIWAN (FORMOSA). This Hasler, 242, is apparently a Post Office machine and was originally fitted with an "hour figure" after the date, but this is now omitted leaving the date itself set to the left. (ESL)

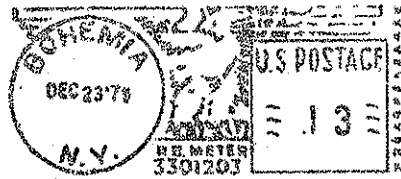
TUNISIA. Michel de Wailly shows us these new types. the SJ has been noted before but the Pitney Bowes is the first in this country. Th un-numbered machine, a Satas Model SP, with time between townmark and frank, is for Post Office use, as is the C.A.M.P., also a new make for Tunisia.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. The United States Postal Service amended some of the regulations in its Postal Service Manual from the 24th March 1977, to allow the use of townmarks on meters which, instead of showing the town and the state merely show "Mailed from Zip Code / -----".

Notes and News from Other Countries (Contd - USA)

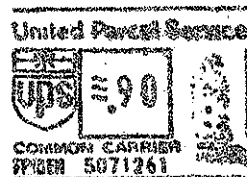
A new instructional slogan has appeared reading "Presorted First Class", both as a normal horizontal slogan and as a small vertical "slug".  
(Both of these reprinted from the Meter Stamp Society Bulletin)



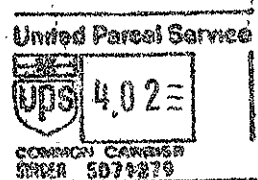
We have mentioned the introduction of seven-digit numbers with slightly larger figures and a smaller PB. Mr Lapham shows us this one (Simon/Walsh Type HC 8, wavy lines at right under GE of postage and capable of values w.01<sup>1</sup> to 9.99<sup>2</sup> - the last figure represents tenths of a cent and is underlined when used) in a new 3300000 series to supplement the 800000 and 900000 series.

The Meter Stamp Society Bulletin reported that UPS meters are also being fitted with the new larger numerals and a new 4000000 series is being introduced for them.

**M O**  
**6-65-100**



**M O**  
**6-65-100**



Talking of United Parcel Services, these two, one FRIDEN w.01 and the other SINGER w.01w are both used by the same firm.

Notes and News from Other Countries (Contd - USA)

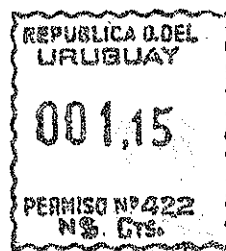
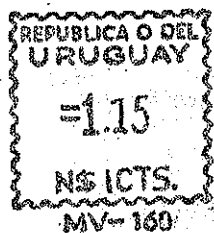
Singer as a name on these may be short lived as we learn that Singer have sold the postal machine (including meters) part of the business machine division to a group of investors who now, as Friden Mailing Equipment, call themselves the "FME Corporation". They intend "to go for broke in an effort to add electronic technology to what is now essentially a mechanical set of machines".


(If they start using FME for licence numbers and go to Australia we will have another numbering system there !)

United Parcel Services are now also using a version of the Post Office machine we showed in MSB 111 (XIII/94). Actually a computerised model made by the Electronics Communication subsidiary of National Cash Registers it similarly prints in purple one line consisting of date, a number and value, as 03/22/77 I \$02.52 with another number (actually a 4-figure record number) above and within the pre-printed red area code and "sheet this number" etc.

URUGUAY. Mr Lapham shows us two more machines with the new currency "Ns", they are Universal MV-70 with small Simplex style date figures and an unnumbered and unengraved Permiso No Hasler. This latter is not the machine we showed in MSB 107 (XIII/34) as it has only MONTEVIDEO in the townmark, the "Ns" and "Cts" appear at the bottom below Permiso No and the solid block.

Yet more new ones are the Automax and a 5-bank value Hasler which also seems to have all the wording set to the left of the frank.



  
SACRA CONGREGATIO PRO  
GENTIUM EVANGELIZATIONE  
SEU DE PROPAGANDA FIDE



VATICAN. The new Francotyp Model 10 000 from Michel de Wailly.

(With our next issue we will finish off the alphabet with Yugoslavia and then start again at "A")

HON. SECRETARY AND TREASURERS REPORT FOR 1977  
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The usual annual summary of income and expenditure appears overleaf and we will not bore members with all those complaints from Treasurers about rising costs, we have said it all before, but would merely point out that our subscription was increased at the beginning of 1978 and the "deficit" should be covered for that year. Membership remains steady and a good number of members renewed their subscriptions for 1978 in 1977.

One way of reviewing the year is to look back over the four issues of the Bulletin and in doing so we can note a very slight increase in the number of pages, but more important, we have been able to publish more lists and articles this year than before, more "meat" in fact.

Notably, George Pearson's lists of South West Africa and decimal issues from South Africa, the beginning of Kenishi Yamamoto's list of Pitney Bowes machines in Japan and articles on Canada from Ross Irwin.

On books we were able to review Richard Peck's Volume 1 of the history of the meter in Australia, again a notable addition to the growing literature on the (our !) subject.

For GB - not much to report apart from the mysterious PX prefix.

So, all in all a good year, and as always too thanks to our faithful contributors for their notes and to George Pearson for his production of the Bulletin itself.

- jcm -

THE METER STAMP STUDY GROUP

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 Dec 1977

<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
(1976)		
(56.50)	Subscriptions for the current year	50.75
( 6.92)	Subscriptions from previous years	- -
(12.32)	Subscriptions received in advance	49.50
		<u>100.25</u>
(75.74)		
( 3.00)	Donations	7.75
( 6.71)	Sales of publications	15.34
		<u>123.34</u>
(85.45)		
(12.32)	Deduct Advance Subscriptions	49.50
		<u>73.84</u>
(73.13)		
(11.00)	Add subscriptions received last year	12.32
		<u>86.16</u>
(84.13)	Adjusted Income for the year	
		<u><u>86.16</u></u>
	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
(83.32)	Production and despatch of Bulletins	94.48
( 3.87)	Stationery	2.50
(11.05½)	Postage, nett after stamps received	13.27
		<u>110.25</u>
(98.24½)		
		<u><u>110.25</u></u>
(14.11½)	Excess of Expenditure over Income	24.09
		<u><u>24.09</u></u>
	<u>BALANCE IN HAND</u>	
	Balance in Hand at 1st January 1977	47.13
	Deduct advance subscriptions	12.32
		<u>34.81</u>
	Deduct excess of expenditure	24.09
		<u>10.72</u>
	Add subscriptions received in advance	49.50
		<u>60.22</u>
	Balance in Hand at 31st December 1977	<u><u>£60.22</u></u>