CANADIAN METER STAMP NEWSLETTER

Editor:- Ross Irwin, 903-24 Marilyn Dr., Guelph, ON., N1H 8E9 --- E-mail - rossir@inforamp.net Associate Editor and Treasurer:- Dave Cooper, 35 South High St., Thunder Bay, ON., P7B 3K3

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EDITOR'S NOTES

The Postal History Society of Canada held its Annual Meeting at the annual show of the London Philatelic Society on April 5, 1997. Our Society, as a study group within the PHSC was asked to put in an exhibit so people could see, and hopefully be converted, the work of the study groups.

It was easier for me to put together a display than to try to obtain one from the members. What I did was make three exhibits of two frames (12 pages) each to show an example of metered mail and how it may be presented. Since I went to the trouble of doing this I thought I should use it here as a space filler and for comment by members on how it may be improved.

The PHSC is moving toward two frame exhibitions. It is not easy to fully develop a topic with this limitation. In my example I used almost everything I owned so this did not hinder me.

The material was not judged so I don't know how it would compare to other exhibits in the show.

There are a number of new items in postage meters and labels. The trend toward bulk mail is also making variety even there.

I now have a scanner - but haven't got on to it fully. Will eventually help with illustrations. Red colour is a problem.



DISPLAY

SPONSORED BY

CANADIAN METER STAMP

STUDY GROUP

Secretary-Treasurer: David Cooper, 35 South High St., Thunder Bay, ON., P7B 3K3.



POST OFFICE

POSTAGE METERS

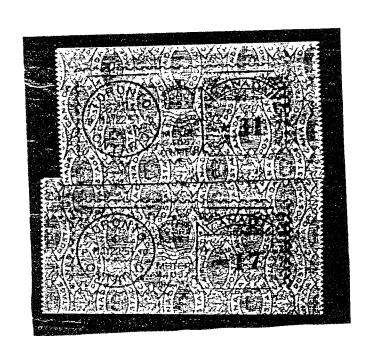
BACKGROUND

Postage meters were provided to the public counters of Toronto, Terminal A, in February 16, 1938. The Pitney Bowes Model JP machine with a Model JDP postage meter was used at the Insurance and C.O.D. wickets. The first postage meter is believed to be serial number 94046.

Post office meters are distinguished by having the letters "P" and "O" in the townmark with the city name.

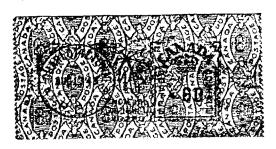
In 1942 there were 8 post office meters in Canada and 15 by 1947. In 1952 the Post Office obtained 28 used meters and 84 new meters. These were sent to 68 Post Offices listed in the Weekly Bulletin, May 4, 1952. After 1959 the use increased and by 1965 post office meters were in use in 143 staff offices and 80 postal stations.

Below is an example of the Pitney Bowes Model JDF postage meter indicia as used in post offices for parcel post. It is not apparent why two tapes were used, 31 cents and 17 cents, as the postage meter could have printed the 48 cent value.



Pitney Bowes Model RFF and RGP postage meters were used at postal wickets. These parcel post meters eliminated the use of many high value postage stamps.

Examples below show a portion of the variation in the size, location and style of the letters "P" and "O" in the townmark.









Mrs. Katherine D. Mabris

Box 27

Reach. Sask.

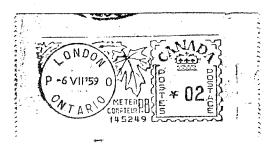
Soc. 4400

(P-9VII760)

P-9VII760

P-9VI

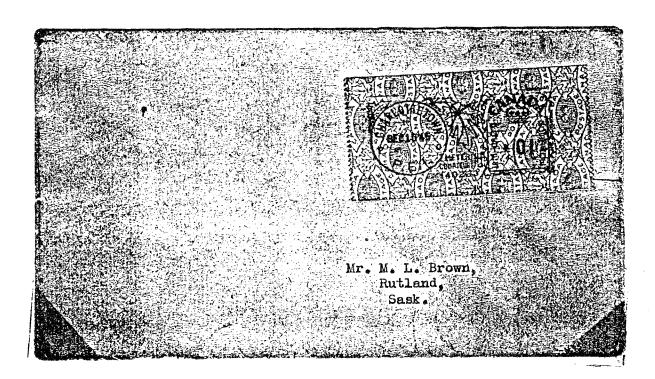
Pitney Bowes Model RFF and RGP postage meters used at postal wickets. Additional examples show the variation in the size, location and style of the letters "P" and "O" in the townmark.







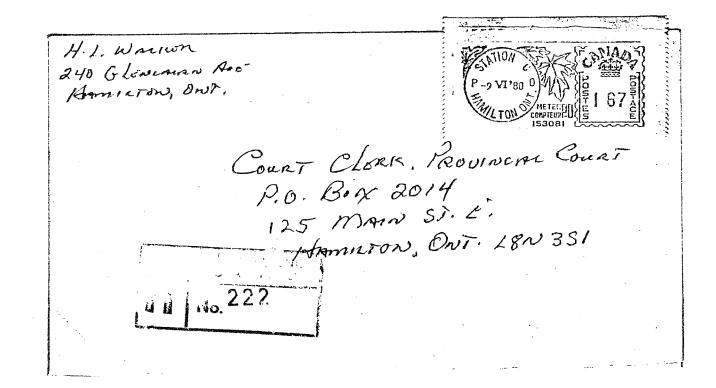




Examples showing a Postal Station in addition to the city within the townmark. A Regulation published April 11, 1961, stated that new dies were not to be engraved with the postal station or sub-division names - just the city.





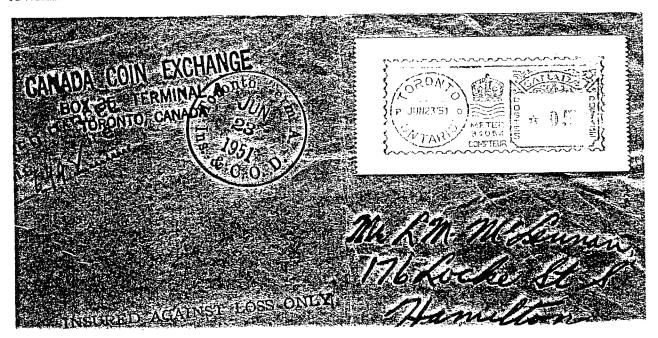


DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PRINTING & STATIONERY

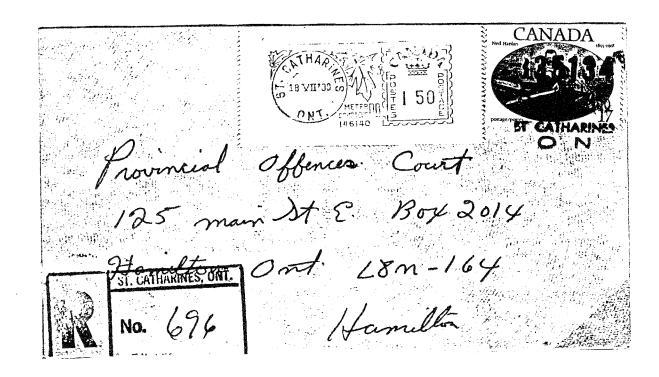
The Department of Public Printing and Stationery, Ottawa, (King's Printer) operated a postal station within their own building due to the volume of mail posted. Shown below are two parcel post tapes issued by this office. Each meter tape has in the ad space the vertical letters "DEPT. P. P. & S." The earlier, 1937, tape has in the townmark OTTAWA ONTARIO SUB. P.O. 18. The next year, 1938, the die was changed to read OTTAWA ONTARIO. These were printed by a Pitney Bowes Model JDP postage meter, serial number 94009.



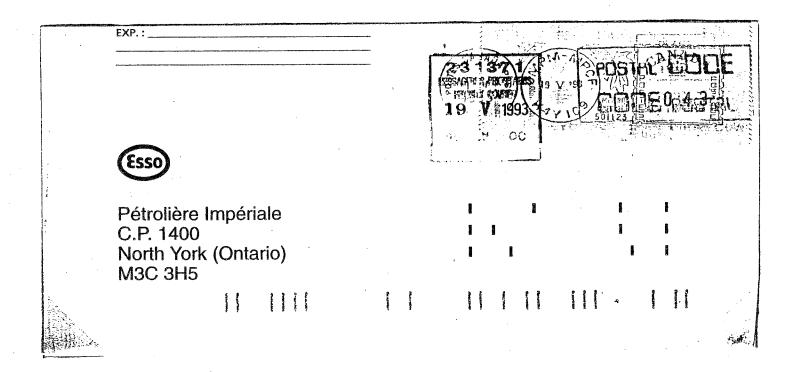
Pitney Bowes Model JDP postage meter with small letters "P" and "O" in the townmark.



The "P" and "O" were removed from the post office wicket dies in the 1980's as the dies were replaced. Post office wicket postage meters are now recognized through their use. For example, below is a cover stamped with a 17 cent stamp. It was registered at the postal wicket and the postage meter impression for the \$1.50 fee for registration was applied, with the registration stamp.



Shown below is a Pitney Bowes Model 5397 having in the townmark the letters -- CMPM - MPCF and the postal code H4Y 1C9. The letters signify Centre Messageries Prioritaires Montreal, and, Montreal Priority Courier Facility. This facility is located at 590 Albert de Niverville, Dorval Airport, Montreal. The postage meter is serial number 501123. It is dated 19 V '93.



BACKGROUND

Mail-O-Mat mailing machines were introduced in the Ottawa Post Office lobby as a self serve postage machine. The correct postage was dialed into the machine, the coins were dropped and the letter inserted. The machine printed an indicia with the correct postage an dropped it into a box to be picked up and mailed. As First Day covers these are common but other dates of posting are most uncommon.

Below is a Mail-O-Mat cover mailed at the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, on Aug 26 '47. This is Pitney Bowes meter, serial 51002. The 51000 serial block was used for these post office meters.

Other serial numbers used in Canada were: - 51009, 51010.

CANADIAN POSTAGE METERS LTD.—AT POINT OF MAILING





Mr H. Weiland

99 Balmoral ave S. Hamilton Out

A Mail-O-Mat was installed in the Main Post Office at Ottawa in 1944. It remained in use to 1952. The Pitney Bowes serial number for the mailing machine and meter was 51010. Note the "P" and "O" on the townmark.





Master John Peter Gawel Junior 96 Jewett Parkway, Buffalo -14- New York. U.S.A.

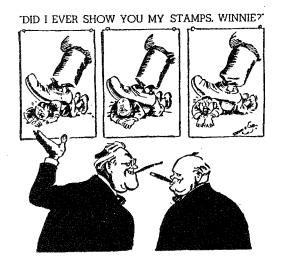


"There'll Always Be An ENGLAND"



Master John Peter Gawel Junior 96 Jewett Parkway Buffalo -14- New York. U. S. A.

Another example of the Ottawa Mail-O-Mat indicia dated JUN 30 '44. It is both a patriotic and special purpose philatelic advertising cover.





Miss Gertrude Rose Gawel 96 Jewett Parkway Buffalo -14- New York. U. S. A.

DEAD LETTER AND UNDELIVERABLE MAIL OFFICE

The Dead Letter Office, later the Undeliverable Mail Office, used what appears to be a postage meter on their reply envelopes. Appearances are deceiving - it is not a postage meter. These are old postage meters which have been made inoperable and is just a printing head and used to count the number of pieces processed. The rate is always "00". The only change to the meter is the date.

Examples from the three Dead Letter Offices in Canada are shown below.

THE DEAD LETTER OFFICE BUREAU DES REGUTS MONTREAL .



POSTES CANADA POST

MAIL OFFICE BUREAU DES CESUVA VANCOUVER - SANAUR



The enclosed Dead Letter is returned by direction of the Postmaster General for the reason thereon assigned.

RETURNED DEAD LETTER DEAD LETTER OFFICE BUREAU DES REBUTS

CTADAOT





Sheilah 176 Lorke st Hamilton "And

CANADA POST OFFICE

THE



POSTAGE PAID-IN-CASH

SYSTEM

FOR Indicia electros provided by the Post Office Department 1903 - 1915

BACKGROUND TO EXHIBIT

On February 2, 1903, the Deputy Postmaster General distributed a Circular to Postmasters which described a new system for the Prepayment of Third-class (Printed) Matter in Cash.

Each lot of mail matter must be accompanied by a Permit which is obtained from the Postmaster of the office at which it is posted. The rate of postage is one cent per two ounces, or fraction thereof.

Each article must have printed upon its wrapper or cover an impression of an official stamp which shall be furnished by the Postmaster of the office posting, mentioning the name of the office, and stating the postage was prepaid in cash.

First Electro

Introduced in February 1903. The indicia is in four sections. The top section holds the Royal Arms with "E" for Edward VII, and "R" for Rex (King). The second section is POSTAGE PAID IN CASII / At (City) Canada. The third section bears "Authorized under Permit No. (Number). Below, outside the rectangle is a warning "Anybody using this stamp without authority / will render himself liable to prosecution". Rectangle of electro is 24 mm high and 48 mm wide.

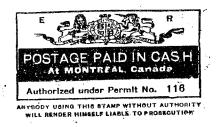
The electro contains no value of postage. The Post Office wrote "impressions has no value as postage but are an indication the postage has been prepaid at point of mailing." It is seen in black, green, brown, dark blue and red. Examples are common as cut squares but are very rare on full cover or wrapper.

Example below mailed at Montreal under Permit 116 (note small type font)

Return to

Box 2264, MONTREAL, CANADA

If Not Delivered in Five Days



First Electro

Varieties

Large font used for permit number threat too?



Electro printed with red ink, dated 1909

Second Electro

Introduced in 1912 after the deathe of King Edward VII. The indicia is slightly smaller (23mm high by 47 mm wide) than the first electro. The top section contains the Royal Cypher "G" for George V, and "R" for Rex.

Example mailed at Ottawa by M. Davidson Co. Ltd., manufacturing furriers under Permit 2104 (note small type font)

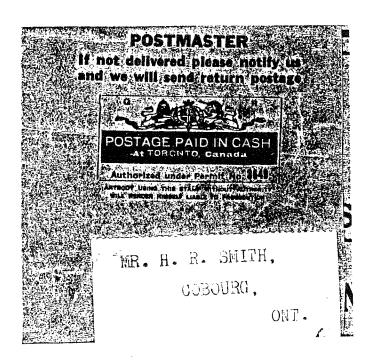


SON CO. LI mufacturing Murriers
4 RIDEAU STREET
AWA - ONT.

Second ElectroVarieties

Large type font used for Permit number.

Electro in red ink, also different type font used for Permit number.



W. A. JENKINS, MANUFACTURING CO. ONT. LONDON,



DOY USING THIS STAMP WITHOUT AUTHORIT WILL RENDER SUMBELS LIABLE TO PROSTOU

MANUFACTURERS OF

Royal Purple Stock Specific.

Royal Purple Poultry Specific. Royal Purple Lice Killer.

Royal Purple Sweat Liniment.

Royal Purple Gall Cure.

Royal Purple Disinfectant.

Royal Purple Roup Cure.

Royal Purple Worm Powders.

Royal Purple Cough Cure.

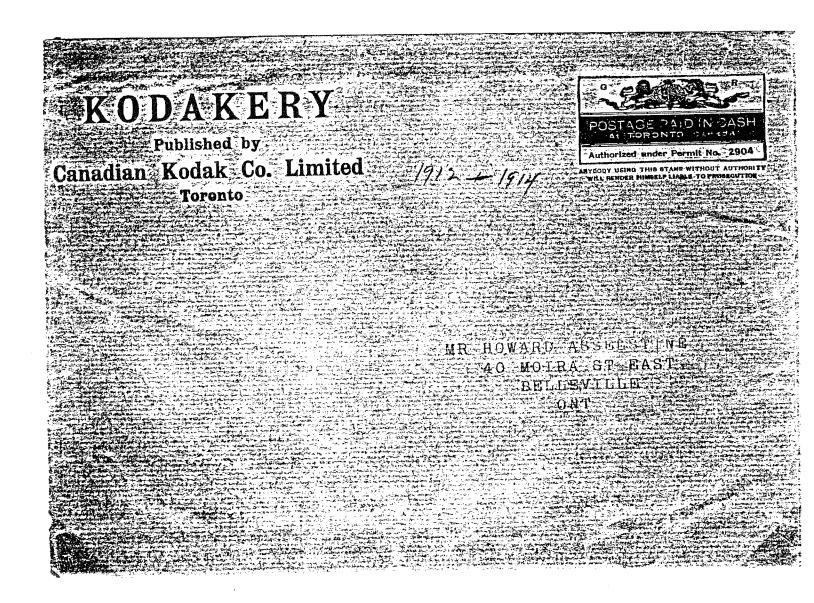
ROYAL PURPLE CALF MEAL FLY OIL Keeps Flies Away.

POSTMASTER—Owing to some of the material we send out being addressed to people who have died or moved away, we have had a ruling from the Post Office Inspector, and he states it is the duty of the Postmaster to deliver this mail matter to the addressee or if his Post Office address is known to be at some other post office, the material should be forwarded. In the event of your not knowing the party to whom this is addressed, kindly hand it to some patron of your post office who is interested in farm stock or poultry.

H.R. Smith Cobourg

Second Electro Varieties

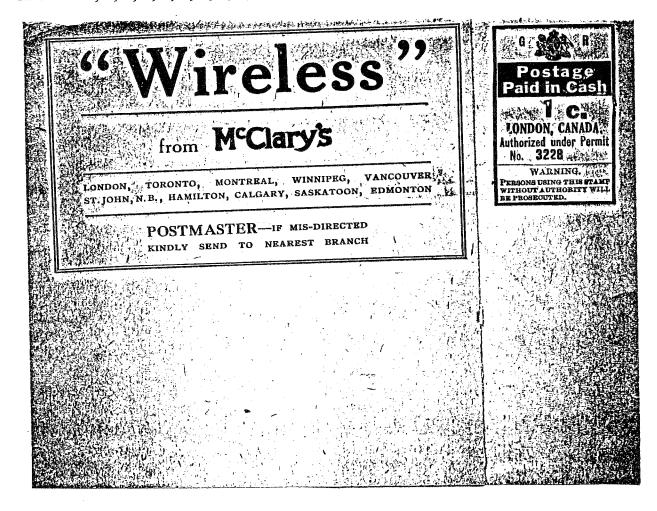
The Canadian Kodak Co. Cover was used in the period 1912 to 1914. Note the double lines above and below the POSTAGE PAID IN CASH section. This double line indicia is illustrated in the Canada Official Postal Guide.



Third Electro

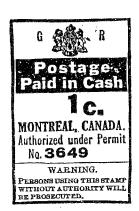
A Post Office Bulletin of September 22, 1915, informed Postmasters that new electros would be introduced to replace those on hand. This electro is shown in the Canada Official Postal Guide for 1916. This third type was in vertical format, the size as 50 mm high and 30 mm wide. The electro was agin in four sections. The top section had the Royal Cypher "G" and "R" with a modified more compact Royal Arms. The second section, in white letters on a coloured background with "Postage / Paid in Cash." The third section contains the postage value, ie - 1c, the denomination, a small "c" and a period. Below is the city and CANADA / Authorized under Perimit / No. ______. The fourth section contains a WARNING/Persons using this stamp/without authority will/be prosecuted."

It is found in black, red, blue and green ink. Use extended as late as 1932. Values known: -1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26 and 28 cents.

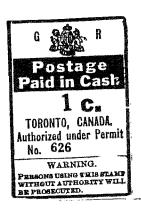


Third Electro Varieties

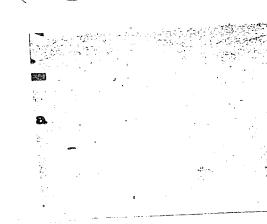
VARIATIONS IN THE 1c DENOMINATION

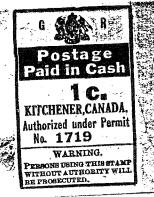














To the Householder,

City of London.



LONDON, CANADA. Authorized under Permit No. 536 WARNING.

WARNING.
PERSONS USING THIS STAMP
WITHOUT AUTHORITY WILL
BE PROSECUTED.

\$300,000 PATRIOTIC CAMPAIGN

February 19th, 20th and 21st

Chairman of the Campaign Committee, SIR GEORGE C. GIBBONS.

President Red Cross Society, LADY BECK. President London Patriotic Association,

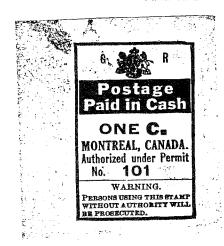
Treasurer Campaign Committee, President London Patriotic A. A. D. McLEAN. W. M. GARTSHORE.

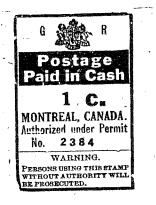
Campaign Headquarters: Bank of Commerce Building.



Third Electro Varieties

VARIATIONS IN THE 1c DENOMINATION





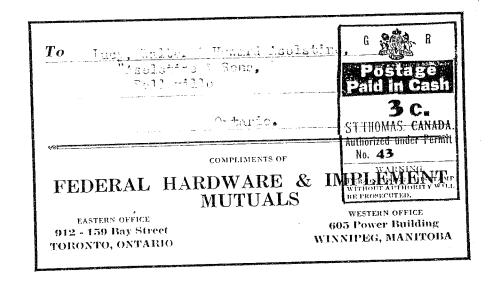






Third Electro Varieties

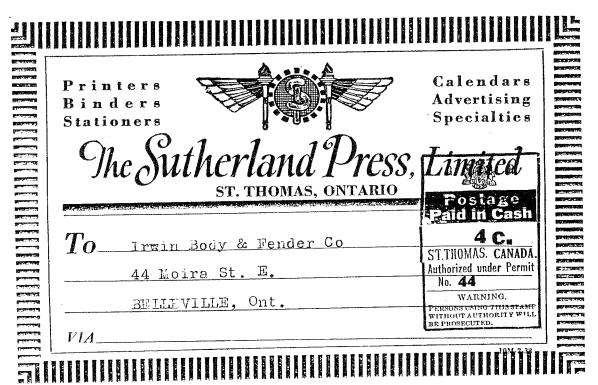
Rate 2c., Permit 259

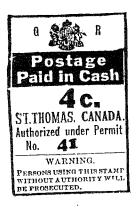


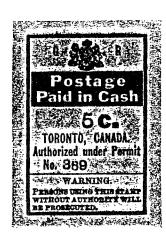


Third Electro Varieties

Rates - 4c. and 5c.









Third Electro Varieties

Rates - 6c - Simpson's Mail Order Catalogue --- Note cut square spelled "SIX c."



Authorized under Pero logue, is not Delivered within Thirty Days ple ing reason for non-delivery THE SIMPSON MRS C COOPER ATTERCLIFFE STA ONT 192

See the Bargain on Pages 145 OTMC

POSTAGE DUE



REGISTERS

&

METERS

BACKGROUND TO EXHIBIT

Postage due was collected on rated, or short paid, mail. The amounts collected were noted as a receipt, that is, a postage due stamp applied to the letter or parcel. Postage due stamps were unsatisfactory for the large amounts needed for returned catalogues and other business mail. When a mechanical method of collecting postage due in larger amounts became available the post office adopted it.

An example of the use is shown in the following data for Terminal A, Toronto.

May 1-30, 1928 - \$1,168.00 in due stamps and \$909.39 in meter labels. Nov 18, 21,1953 - \$ 120.00 in due stamps and \$261.97 in meter labels.

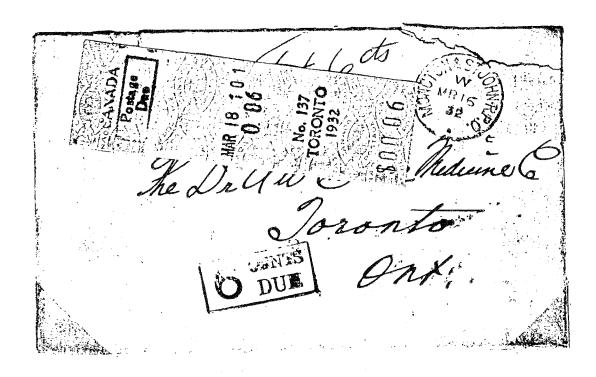
Meter tapes saved labour and were principally used in the city core.

BACKGROUND

On September 3, 1925, the Post Office Department issued the first Permit (Register) 100 for Postage-Paid-in-Cash. Labels recorded the amount of postage paid. The register was made by the National Cash Register Co., Dayton, OH. The model 1100 register issued a tape 28 mm wide and 85 mm long.

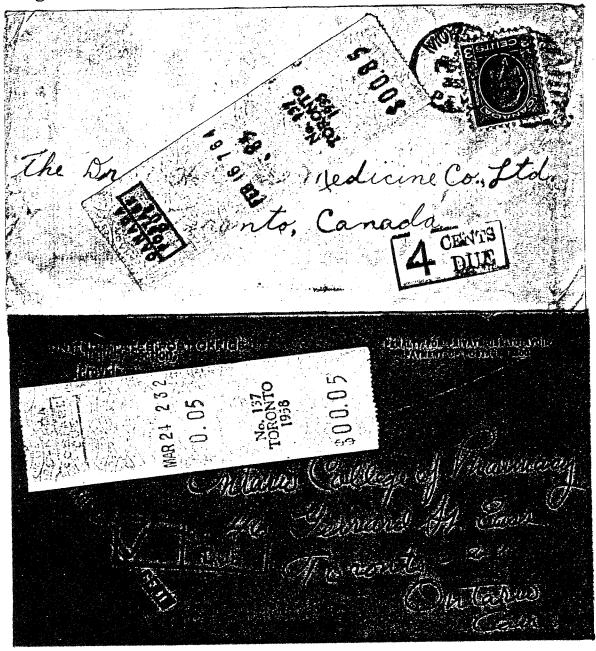
Register 137 was placed in Toronto, Terminal A, on May 1, 1928 exclusivley for placing a label on rated mail for postage due. Impressions were in red to distinguish them from the regular violet impressions. Note the rectangle bearing POSTAGE DUE has font letters in lower case. The register was rebuilt in 1934 and the font letters were in upper case. This register continued in use into the late 1950's.

Below is a Type 1 impression printed using violet ink in error, used in 1932 and 1933. The postage due is 6 cents as no postage stamp was used.



Register 137 labels used after the register was rebuilt in 1934. The major change is the use of upper case letters in POSTAGE DUE.

Register 137 showing 85 cents due but only a 4 cent rubber stamp. The reason is one register label was used for a bundle of rated mail to the same address.



Very late use of Register 137, dated March 24, 1958, showing 5 cents postage due.

Selection of Postage Due Register Labels showing dates of use and colours of ink.

Upper row:-

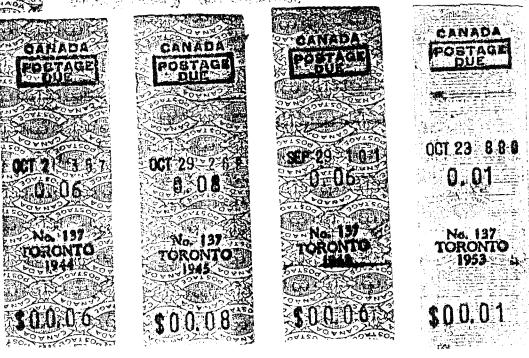
1933; 1934; 1936; 1937; 1942

Lower row:-

1944; 1945; 1949; 1953

Note the difference in the background design of the safety tape supplied.





In 1931 the National Cash Register Co., Dayton, OH. introduced an improved postage register, Model 1924(3-1). The label format was 46 mm high by 54 mm wide. Postage due register 729 was used at Winnipeg, Man. From before 1942 to the 1970's. This register tape is very uncommon.

Shown below is an example of NCR Register 729 with CANADA POSTAGE DUE in the indicia and the words "Amount to be Collected". The "573" is the transaction number.

MAY -6 1968

CANADA POSTAGE DUE

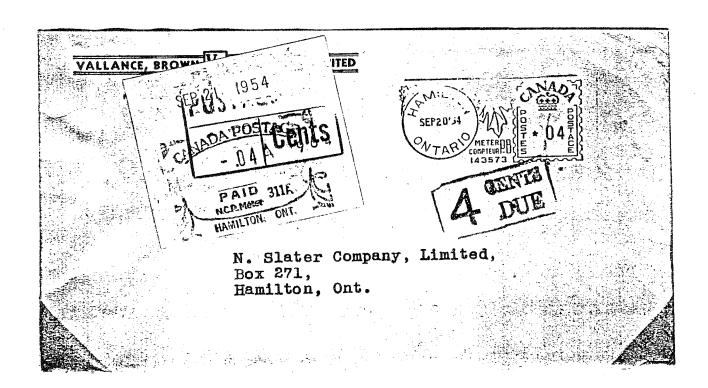
- 17 A 573

Amount to be Collected

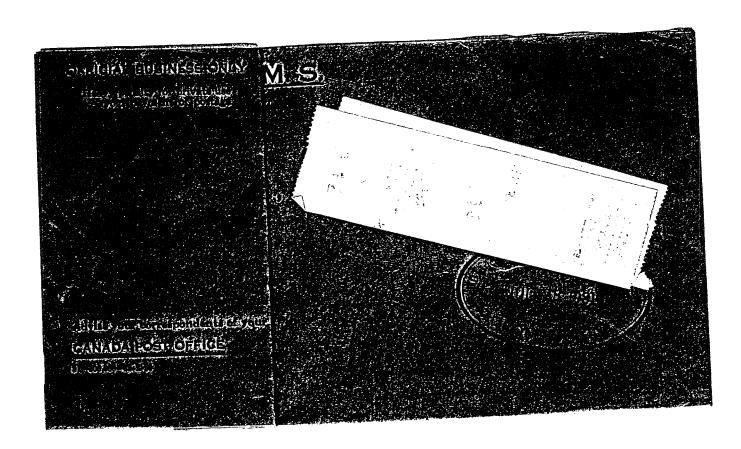
N.C.R. Meter 729

WINNIPEG. MAN.

The Hamilton Post Office also used an NCR postage register for postage due; however, NCR meter 311A did not have the words POSTAGE DUE in the indicia. Below is NCR meter 311A with a handstamp showing POSTAGE DUE. This use is rather common.



NCR Type 1 Postage Due register 137, dated March 31, 1934. The "433" number adjacent to the month and day is a transaction counter. The rate appears at the centre and at the bottom. Question:- Why has Canada Post Office applied a double (one on top of the other) Postage Due label to their own cover? The stamp is District Superintendent Postal Service, O.S.S. Looks like a fake as the rubber stamp is 1931 and the meter is 1934. Maybe they were in some wet condition? Interesting.

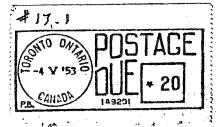


BACKGROUND

The Postmaster at Toronto Terminal A requested a postage meter for the City Delivery Building for postage due taken out by parcel post drivers. Previously labels from the cash register in the Letter Carrier Division (see previous page) had been used for large amounts of postage due and stamps for small amounts. The request was approved December 3, 1952, and on February 3, 1953, Pitney Bowes installed a mailing machine with a Model RF-14T postage meter for short paid mail. It was assigned meter number 149201 with the international name TORONTO ONTARIO CANADA in the townmark.

Shown here is an indicia from a test meter dated 6 II '53 and an early use indicia dated 4 V '53.





On April 28, 1958, meter 149201 was the only postage due meter in use in Canada. Pitney Bowes wished to use the 149200 block for additional law meters and asked the Post Office to change the postage due serial block to 149900 to 149999 which provided space for 10 meters. The change was approved April 29, 1958 and in June a new die was inserted in Toronto meter 149201 having the new serial number 14990.

Shown here is a late use of meter 149990 as well as an example that shows the indicia were not automatically cut apart by the meter but rather by the operator. The value \$9.00 appears to be the maximum printed by the meter.





Additional postage due meters were placed in city post offices but were found to have limited use and many were reconverted to parcel post service.

Postage Due meter 149991 has the International townmark TORONTO ONTARIO CANADA. This was formerly parcel post meter 143083. It was used in the City Delivery Building, Terminal A, Toronto.

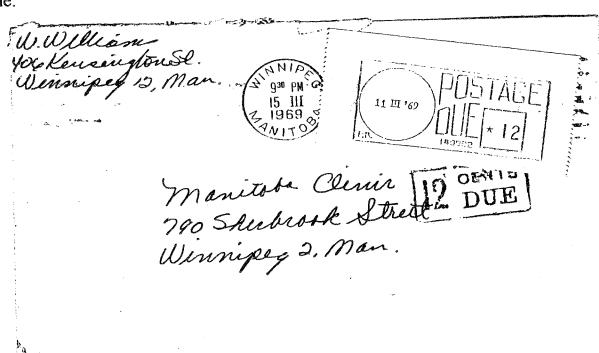
Shown below are two labels, one dated 19 X '65 and a late use 14 XI '77.





Postage Due meter 149992 has no townmark, just the datemark. This meter was used at the Winnipeg City Delivery unit from December 1960. It was formerly parcel post meter 143519.

Shown below is a 149992 label indicating the 6 cent rate was unpaid and 12 cents was due.



Postage Due meter **149993** bears the townmark WINNIPEG MAN. It was formerly parcel post meter 153520 at Postal Station B, Toronto, and was converted to Postage Due in December 1961. No example is available.

Postage Due meter **149994** has no townmark, just a datemark. It was used at Toronto, Postal Station F. It had a very short life and was reconverted to parcel post use. No example is available.

Postage Due meter 149995 bears the townmark VANCOUVER B.C. and a datemark. This postage due meter was used in the Letter Carrier Depot, Main Post Office, Vancouver, BC. It was previously meter 140264 and was converted to postage due use in March 1961.



Postage Due meter 14996 has no townmark, just a datemark. This meter was used in the City Delivery Room (Parcel Department), Vancouver Post Office. It was formerly parcel post meter 151393.

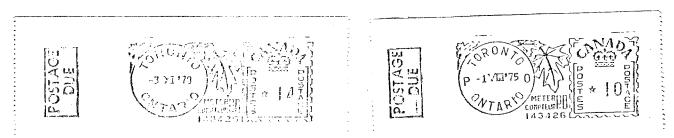


Postage Due meter **149997** bears the townmark WINNIPEG MAN. It was in use in 1977. No example is available.

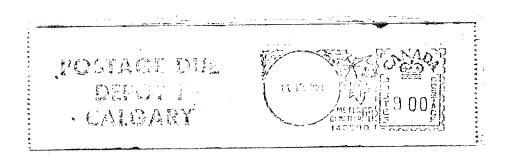
In December 1961 one postage due meter was supplied to the Montreal A.M.F. for overseas mail. No example has been seen, nor is the serial number known.

The Post Office decided on October 13, 1961, to adopt the U.S. system for postage due meters. Instead of a special indicia which had limited use in most offices the word POSTAGE DUE was added to the ad plate in a vertical format. The vertical format used less space and tape length. Postage meters at Postal Stations could use the meter for parcel post and by using the ad the meter could also be used for postage due.

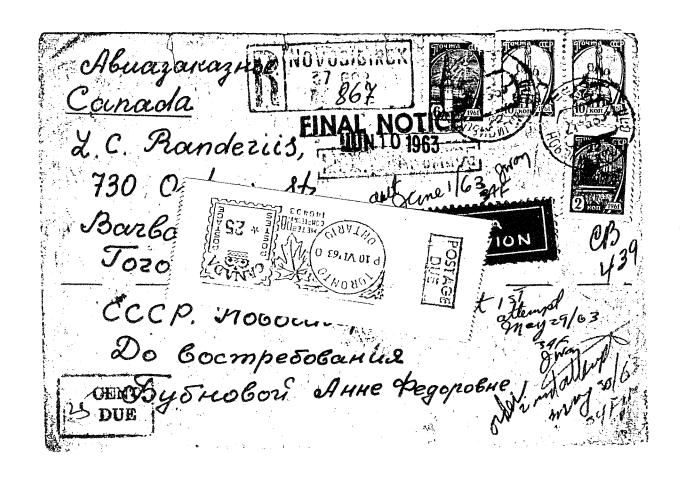
Example of a Pitney Bowes Model R postage meter, serial 143426, having the POSTAGE DUE ad in vertical format. It was used at Toronto, Postal Terminal B, at Queen and Spadina Streets. The meter is dated 1 VIII '75. Note the letters "P" and "O" in the townmark indicating the meter was used at the public counter.



Another example of the same Pitney Bowes Model R postage meter 143426 having the POSTAGE DUE ad in vertical format. This meter is dated 3 XI '78. It was also used at Toronto, Postal Station B at Queen and Spadina Streets. The letters "P" and "O" have been removed from the townmark.



Pitney Bowes Model R meter with POSTAGE DUE ad plate. Serial number 148403. Date of use 10 VI '63. Note "P" and "O" in townmark. Cover mailed from the USSR to Toronto. The short paid mail label was applied in the USSR.



Roneo Neopost also supplied a few postage meters for post office use. Shown here is Neopost Model 505 with the serial number RN 775374. The townmark reads POSTAGE DUE / TORONTO ONT. The datemark is omitted.

