

CANADIAN METER STAMP NEWSLETTER

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EDITORS' NOTES

TO CUT OR NOT TO CUT!

A perplexing problem for beginners and older collectors is always the form in which to store or mount postage meter impressions. Today, almost 55 percent of the postage revenue generated in Canada in the form of metered mail. Most of this is business mail and with the exception of dentist bills, etc. the metered covers are usually No. 10 envelopes, or even the larger metric equivalent and "flats". Credit card covers are smaller but are kraft or recycled papers and usually bear additional postage cancellations making them undesirable to collect. Government sources mail in larger kraft envelopes, say 10 in. by 14 in. or larger. Is it realistic to keep these large covers if they do not lend themselves to a philatelic display format? I think not unless they have some "valuable" marking.

So, if we are not to keep the entire envelope what portion should be retained? In my view the very minimum size should correspond to a parcel post adhesive tape of 33 mm high by a convenient length depending on the meter or presence of a slogan or corner card. This size is reasonably easy to mount and describe. However, wouldn't it be nicer to have some of your early Edward's or Victoria's stamps still tied to a cover? When someone soaked off the stamp so it would fit a rectangle in a stamp album how much was its value decreased? The answer depends on its scarcity. Run of the mill meters may as well be cut to any suitable size but rarer material should be kept entire. Do we really know at a point in time what is rare?

The important items on a cover are the stamp or indicia, the address and the addressee. Any size that incorporates these three items, together with other postal markings such as registration marks, is all that is required. I think the ideal cover for storage, mounting and exhibition is a No. 8 envelope which is 160 mm by 92 mm. The most convenient "cut" to this size is 75 mm high by the length of the cover. I also cut the No. 10 envelopes 75 mm high but to preserve the address and corner card I make a double fold so it is 160 mm long.

Let's face the facts. Collecting metered mail is a personal hobby. You decide what you want to collect and how you want to do it. Don't let others unduly influence you. However, you are only on this earth for a limited time and while you think you own the stamps in actual fact you only control them for a finite period of time. Don't ruin the enjoyment of others who will follow by trimming covers too small. Once cut your decision is irreversible. However, for 99.9 percent of the current mail it really will not matter. Please write me an opinion on the above.

(From the Net). Canada Post postal indicia announcements: On January 28, 1997, we received a letter from Canada Post regarding formatting, size, content and printing of the postal indicia for **bulk mail**.

You may have seen bulk mail with the postal indicia applied with a postage meter. Canada Post states "Phosphorescent ink, such as the ink supplied for meter machines, **is not acceptable** for use in imprinting the postal indicia to a mail piece.". From this, one can draw the conclusion that the indicia cannot be applied by a meter that uses phosphorescent ink. **HOWEVER, NOTE THAT BULK MAIL CAN STILL BE METERED WITH A BULK PLATE IF THE MAILING PIECE WEIGHS 50 GRAMS OR LESS.**

Typically, the bulk permit number and name or postal code of the office of induction (post office where mail is dropped off) have been included in the bulk postal indicia. For example:

99999999-99 or 99999999-99

FERGUS ON N1M 1N0

As of January 15, 1997, the inclusion of the town name or postal code of the office of induction is optional. That is, FERGUS ON or N1M 1N0 in the examples above is no longer required. Our preference would be to continue to show this information. However, the decision rests with our clients. In this letter, Canada Post also reconfirms that the postal indicia must measure at least 12 mm x 25 mm (1/2" x 1") and must not exceed 40 mm x 74 mm (1 1/2" x 3"). Also, characters printed within the indicia must measure at least 2 mm (3/32") and not exceed 5 mm (3/16") in height.

Last but not least, there is both a French and English version of the indicia. With the French, French "Nbre" appears on the left and "Blk" appears on the right. In the English version this is reversed. Please see the following examples:

French	English
Nbre Blk	Blk Nbre

PLEASE DON'T PANIC. THIS DOES NOT MEAN that pieces of mail to French destinations have to use the French indicia and mail to English recipients the English indicia. However, if the return address on the mailing piece is in the Province of Quebec, then the French indicia must be used. If the return address is for any other province in Canada then the English indicia must be used.

The purpose for presenting the above information supplied by a mailing company is to show the regulations they follow so you may interpret a cover.

From the National Postal Museum, London, 1992, "Work in Progress"

Meter Marks

A FRIEND OF the Museum, Jack Peach, has continued research into the Museum's meter marks and together with Jack Goodwin has concentrated on mounting part of the H.J. Howard collection. He reports that the year 1927 has now been reached. The results of some of his researches are detailed below.

The first licences had been granted in 1922 to Pitney Bowes and Universal Postal

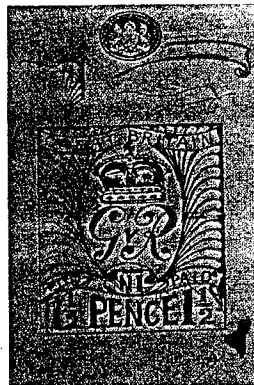
Frankers. The former aimed at the user with quantities of single rate mail. UPF, on the other hand, sold a hand-operated machine with reciprocatory action but which accommodated six frank dies readily selectable without a meter change.

Additionally, the UPF machine could include a slogan die

with attractive advertising value to the user. Printing a slogan with the Pitney Bowes machine involved a second pass after exchanging the meter for a slogan printer.

In 1923 UPF attempted to gain a share of the large user market by importing a few cancelling machines from International Postal Supply Company (USA) and fitting meters. Between 1924 and 1926 UPF developed a small three-value machine, the Midget, with rotary action. During the time that the Midget was being developed the UPF Managing Director E.H. Kinnard left to form a third company, Neopost Ltd, with his brother's company, Roneo Ltd, having the exclusive sales agency. A competitive machine to the Midget was quickly developed and sold as the Neopost. This was capable of printing several different value franks.

All machines used a similar design of frank but whilst the marks made by the two earliest were readily distinguishable that was not the case with the more recent ones. It was considered necessary to distinguish makes and models in case of complaint of irregular use. Make and Model prefix letters were added to the machine numbers in franks - M for Midget and N for Neopost. This practice continues to the present day.



HOWARD'S SKETCH suggesting the meter frank design eventually adopted.

Marks from all these early machines are well represented in the Museum collection.

Once meter franking machines began to be used in greater numbers the frank marks became associated with bills and advertising leaflets. Mr Kinnard was never happy with this public image and the Howard collection contains Neopost specimen marks from as early as September 1923 in which the King's head is the central motif. His aim was to make the meter frank look more like an adhesive stamp currently in use, simulated perforations included. Over the next two years much discussion ensued and it was made clear from the start that the King's head would not be allowed to be applied by commercial firms. In the end a design using the Royal Cypher was suggested by Mr Howard (who worked in the Secretary's office). The collection, appropriately, contains his original sketch together with progressive proofs and specimens from Neopost which culminated with the design adopted for all machines in 1927.

Research at Post Office Archives continued periodically throughout the year and a number of interesting early essays and specimens will be transferred to the Museum collection. In total, some 320 sheets have been written up with material mounted. ■

From the National Postal Museum, London, 1992, "Work in Progress"

Friend Jack Peach reports —

Over the years the Museum has acquired a considerable quantity of material relating to Meter Franking. It is at present sorted in boxes more or less as received. The objective of the tasks now being undertaken is to assess, catalogue, arrange logically and mount the items, suitable for easy reference in the future and for display.

Main sources of material are as follows.

1. A collection of franked covers etc purchased in auction in 1977. This was assembled by a Mr H.J. Howard employed in the Secretary's Office of the G.P.O. at the time meter franking machines were introduced. The collection covers the period from 1920 to 1954 but is strongest in the early material.
2. A collection of machines, instructional and advertising leaflets, parts lists, stationery and some meter frank marks mainly originating from Pitney Bowes, including some books and articles. The collection was formed by the late Mr M.J. Sheppard, one-time employee of Pitney Bowes Ltd.
3. Other machines and associated documentation acquired in recent years. Includes some early franked items donated by Professor Hartree.
4. Other franked covers acquired in recent years.
5. Proofs and Specimens taken from files housed in the Post Office Archives and replaced by photographs.

Machines

Some 22 machines have been examined and a listing of the main details prepared. The earliest machine in the collection is a Universal Postal Frankers Midget Mk3 introduced in 1926; also of note is a Pitney Bowes Model FS with CV meter introduced in 1935. The most recent type acquired is a Neopost Model 7505SL.

Operational Data

The Sheppard Collection of Ephemera has been surveyed, the main items noted and separated into broad categories. It is intended to prepare a file for each type of machine to contain advertising brochures, operational and servicing instructions.

Franks

A start has been made with cataloguing the material in the 'Howard Collection' and merging into this related items from Post Office Archives. This has entailed research at the Archives which brought to light about 30 files which, due to an oversight, had not been placed in the Public Domain in the 1960s. These files provided much information which enabled the material to be placed in chronological order. Very early material from the Archives has been mounted and written up to provide a background. So far material relating to the following machines has been mounted:

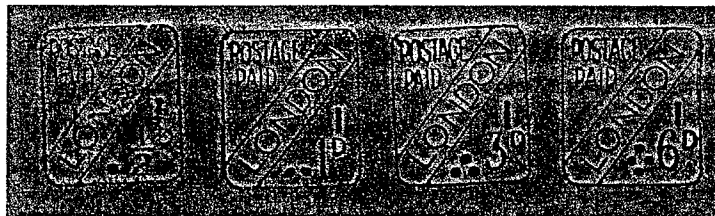
Pitney Bowes Model A
Universal HS
Universal Midget (3 value)
Universal NZ
Universal Special Midget
Neopost Fixed Value

In addition material relating to the change of frank design in 1927 has been assembled, mounted and written up for display. This includes original drawings by H.J. Howard which formed the basis of the new design. Die proofs and early specimens prepared by Neopost are also included. By the end of September over 220 display sheets had been prepared.

Early Meter Trial

A VERY IMPORTANT acquisition was made in the field of meter franks which are being studied by Jack Peach. This hitherto unknown item was offered in auction. It had been found, probably some time ago, in the Moss records in New Zealand. Moss were early manufacturers of meter frank machines who offered their products to the British Post Office before World War I. The five franks, of a 1910 design, were made by a Moss Model C machine introduced in New Zealand in 1906. The place name is London but it seems there is no record of the type either in the Moss records or in the relevant files in Post Office Archives. There was a UK trial of the Model C machine in 1909 and specimens are in the Museum collection. As Archive correspondence shows that the Model C machine was officially rejected early in 1910 it would seem that having made the new dies the Moss company decided not to take the matter further for another nine years.

Two meter machines were also added to the collection. Both were manufactured by Neopost. One was hand-operated as introduced in 1964 with 10 values (originally 2½d-1/-, corrected to 1½p - 6p). The other was electric as introduced in 1985, multi-value, the maximum being 999½. ■



METER FRANKS: proof specimen of 1910 London die for the Moss Model C machine.

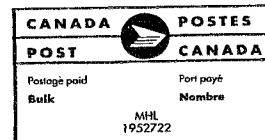
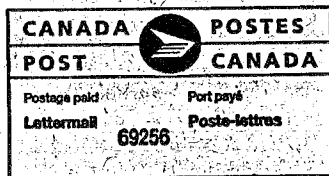
What follows is a list of townmarks which are *exceptions* to the standard town and province. I also point out that many used one or more postage meters. Many are military.

CAMPS	Serial No	Year		
VALCARTIER CAMP / P.Q.	143938	1957		
PETAWAWA CAMP / ONT.	250953	1960		
SHILO CAMP / MANITOBA	84250	1956		
RIVERS CAMP / MANITOBA	83104	1957		
CAMP BORDEN / ONT.	541673	1962		
PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS - WW II				
P.O.W. 33	48008	1943		
P.O.W. 132	48009	1943		
P.O.W. 133	48007	1943		
NAVAL POST OFFICES				
N.P.O. 617 / -	84038	1944		
N.P.O. 1113 / -	140231	1943		
N.P.O. 1117 / -	84042	1944		
N.T.O. 1117 / - -	84042	1944		
VICTORIA / F.M.O	143333	1956		
VICTORIA / H.M.C. DOCKYARD B.C.	140031	1948		
F.M.O. VICTORIA / B.C.	147101	1972		
F.M.O. HALIFAX / N.S.	156343	1972		
ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE POST OFFICES				
R.C.A.F. CENTRALIA / ONTARIO	84315	1955		
R.C.A.F. CLINTON / ONTARIO	140697	1959		
R.C.A.F. ROCKCLIFFE / ONTARIO	84629	1959		
R.C.A.F. ST. JEAN / P.Q.	543697	1963		
R.C.A.F. DAWSON CREEK / B.C.	249205			
R.C.A.F. SASKATOON / SASK.	250173	1962		
R.C.A.F. - ARC BAGOTVILLE / P.Q.	256754	1969		
R.C.A.F. STATION SUMMERSIDE / P.E.I	153822	1960		
R.C.A.F. STATION CHATHAM / N.B.	143361	1956		
R.C.A.F. STATION GREENWOOD / N.S.	151897	1960		
R.C.A.F. STATION ST.HUBERT / P.Q.	153975	1961		
R.C.A.F. STATION TRENTON / ONT.	150721	1959		
R.C.A.F. STATION BAGOTVILLE / P.Q.	543563	1962		
R.C.A.F. STATION UPLANDS / ONT.	140715	1961		
R.C.A.F. STN. / BORDEN ONT.	140796	1959		
R.C.A.F. STN / NORTH BAY ONT.	147020	1963		

R.C.A.F. STN / ST. JEAN QUEBEC	82717	1956		
R.C.A.F. STN. / UPLANDS ONT.	140715	1960		
R.C.A.F. STN. / COLD LAKE ALBERTA	143616	1962		
R.C.A.F. STN. / COLD LAKE ALTA	152693	1959		
R.C.A.F. STN. / MOOSE JAW SASK.	250143	1959		
CENTRALIA R.C.A.F. / ONTARIO.	150760	1960		
ROCKCLIFFE M.P.O. 306 / ONTARIO	84629	1961		
ROCKCLIFFE R.C.A.F. / ONTARIO	146404	1954		
ARMY AND FORCES POST OFFICES				
C.A.P.O. / 5051	153040	1961		
C.A.P.O. / 5052	152423	1960		
C.F.P.O. / 5000	1384	1972		
C.F.P.O. / 5051	775418	1974		
C.F.P.O. / 5056	1383	1972		
M.P.O. 310 BELLEVILLE / ONT.	827896	1974		
CANADIAN M.P.O. 5050	147229	1966		
CANADIAN M.P.O. 5051	151132	1967		
C.F.P.O. 5000 / BELLEVILLE ONT.	111836	1986		
CANADIAN A.P.O. / 5050	146656	1954		
CFPO / 5056	111725	1992		

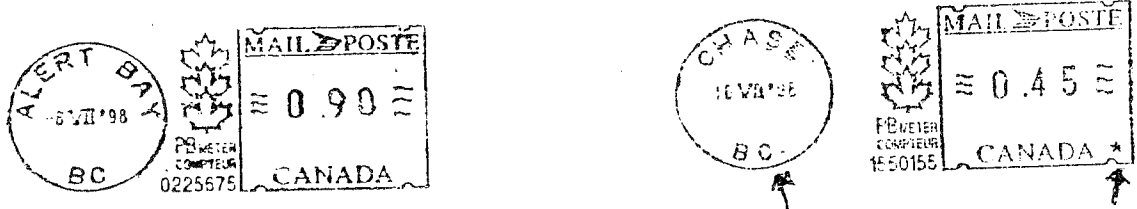
Townmarks bearing a postal code were covered in a previous issue and are not repeated.

There is a new design for postage paid-in-cash indicia. Shown below is a Lettermail from our friends at Revenue Canada and a Bulk Mail from Maclean's. The "bullet" seems to be a bit overpowering but it is something else to collect.



Pitney Bowes is now marketing the Personal Mailing System, a part of the Personal Post Office which has a weigh scale and the proper postage is removed from your computer and an image is printed. Holds from 1¢ to \$99.99. A code is "SoHo" in the TV ads which means "Small office, Home office". I don't think I have seen one to recognize yet.

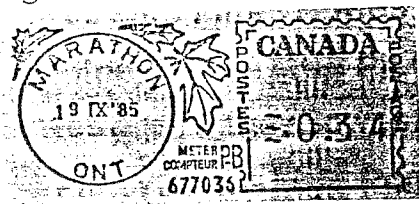
Wilf Whitehouse sent me the cuts below. They are from our temporary Type 31.1. The ALERT BAY serial is 02255675. Also shown is a new serial block for meter 1550155. Note the small star or maple leaf in the lower right corner and there is a period after the C of BC, but not between.



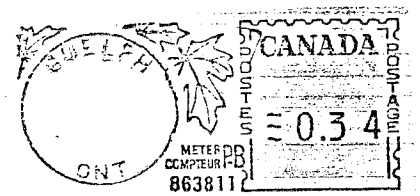
There is some new information on the RPO mailing machines but will hold it until the Post Office gets it sorted out. Suggest you hang on to any that comes your way and hope they do not fade. I notice that some meter inks seem to be soluble and disappear into the envelope. Maybe it is my aging eyes!

Bilingual slogans started in 1966.

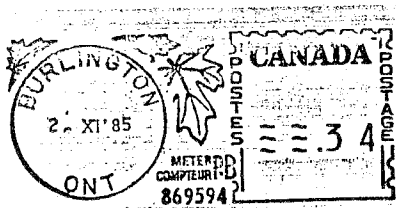
Is this gossip right? The PB Model 5717 started with 650000 but all else the same as the Model 5711, including the curved top "6". Shown below is meter 677036 with the straight "6". Also the highest seen to date is 863811 as shown.



CAMPBELL-COX LIMITED
P.O. BOX 623
GUELPH, ONTARIO
N1H 6L3



The PB Model 5740 with double triads started 1 Apr 1985 with serial block starting at 869500.



RONEO-NEOPOST

Roneo was a division of Rapid Data Systems and Equipment of Toronto. They first distributed postage meters in Canada in 1950 under the Neopost name. The meters were small, hand operated, having only 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10¢ values. These meters were marketed until 1960 and at the end of 1966 there were still about 25 of these machines in use across Canada. The last one was used in 1970. The reason for replacing these fixed value meters was they did not print the higher postage rates.

Roneo decided there was a market for small, low cost, electric meters which combined the meter and base into a single unit. The customer did not have to buy a base mailing machine. The Roneo Neopost Model 205 was introduced in England in 1963 and was submitted for test by Canada Post in December 1966. The model 205 was distributed in Canada in February 1967. The machines were assembled in England without the impression dies. There was some delay in their use, as well as for Friden, as the post office was unable to supply the proper size of gummed tape and the machines could not be modified to accept the regular tape.

The Neopost Model 105 and 205 were hand-operated "pressing iron" type machines which were put on test 15 Sep 1965.

The Roneo-Neopost indicia dies are in 3 sections - the frank, townmark and postal ad. There are separate dies for each. The dies have been engraved in Canada since 1971 and in England before.

Model 105 had to use multiple impressions to print higher postage rates but the company quit marketing it. They only used two meters -- the Model 205 and the Model 405/505 which used the same meter.

The larger datemark on the Model 205 is due to a larger spindle on the British machine. The small date meters have a smaller round axle or spindle. The indicia is made of brass. Model 2205 is an electric machine but the update is only on appearance.

BASIC TYPE DESCRIPTIONS

Model 105 Indicium is 66 x 25 overall and has a setting of 19.

Townmark (TM) is single circle 25 with 2 arcs. Province is abbreviated with a period. The province font is smaller than the town font.

Datemark (DM) is DMY, month in Roman Numerals sans serifs except for I, II, III. Numbers are 3 mm high.

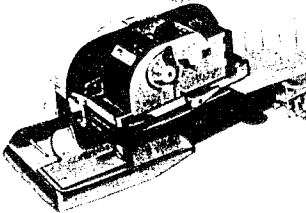
Ratemark (RM) is a rectangular box 25 x 21 with CANADA at the top. At the bottom are METER/COMPTEUR and RN and serial number. Vertically at sides are POSTES and POSTAGE. The rate is within a box 13 x 13 and surmounted by a crown. The value is 5 mm high with serified figures.

Serial block begins at 700000. Highest seen is 700317.

Model 205 750000 Indicia is 56 x 25 and with an ad is 93 overall. Setting is 7.
Townmark is 25 single circle, with 2 arcs.
DM -- DMY 4 mm high
RM as Model 205 except 25 x 25. Value box is 13 x 16
Value is 000, 5 mm high
Ad can be printed in a different colour, setting is 10
Serial block is from 750000. Highest seen is 752186.

Model 405/505 Indicia is 31 x 25, 68 overall with an ad. Setting is 11
TM is SC 25,
DM is 3 mm non serif except I,II,III
RM 13 x 17 mm Model 105
Value 000 4 mm high. Note, the earliest meters only printed 2 figures of value - 775006.
Ad 38 x 22 setting 17
Serial block is from 775000. Highest seen is 776107.

**REDUCE
MAIL HANDLING COSTS...**

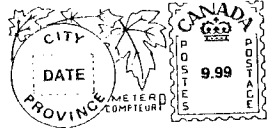


- **POSTALIA** machines for any mailing need;
- **POSTALIA** features the only self-contained postage meter;
- **POSTALIA** controls your mailing expenses, imprints from 1¢ to \$9.99;
- **POSTALIA** adds prestige to your correspondence;
- **POSTALIA** backed by a half century of experience.




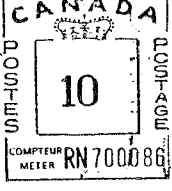
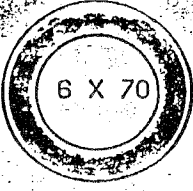
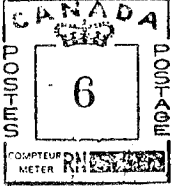
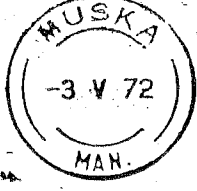
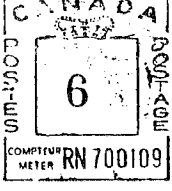
Send more information
 Call for appointment

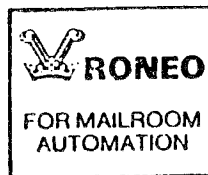
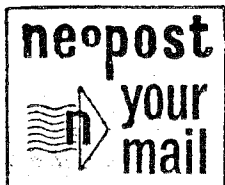
Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Telephone _____

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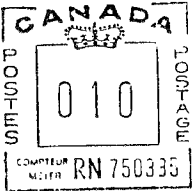



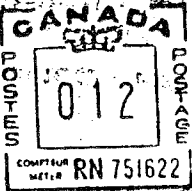

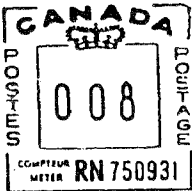




CMMSG METER CATALOG


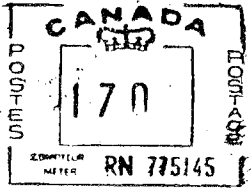

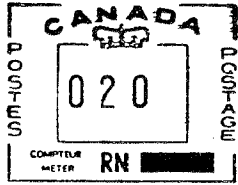



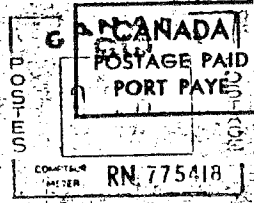
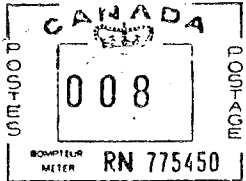
Type	Indicia	Remarks
34.1	 	Basic type
34.1.1	 	TM - BIC, 4-arcs
34.1.2	 	TM - Specimen type
34.1.3	 	TM - error, spelling MUSKA, should be MUSKWA



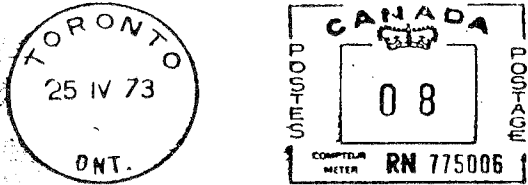
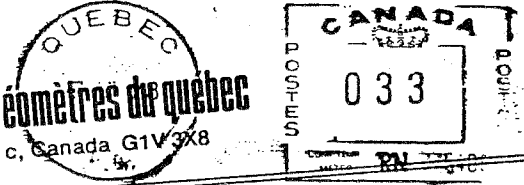
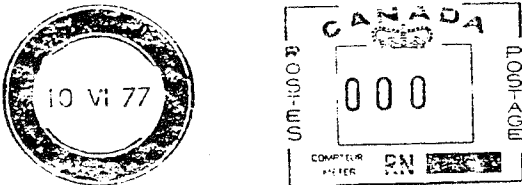
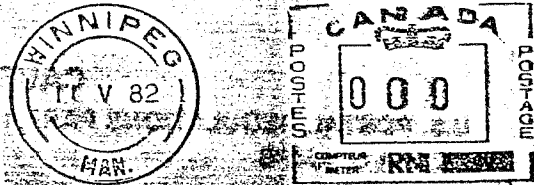
CMMSG METER CATALOG

Type	Indicia	Remarks
34.2	 	Basic type, single circle
34.2.1	 	TM - NEOPOST / SPECIMEN
34.2.2	 	TM - dbc with 2 arcs
34.2.3	 	TM - dbc with 4 arcs
34.2.4	 	TM - NEOPOST / SPECIMEN, sdc

CMSG METER CATALOG

Type	Indicia	Remarks
34.3	 	Basic type
34.3.1	 	TM - NEOPOST / SPECIMEN type
34.3.2	 	TM - single circle with 4 arcs
34.3.3	 	TM - CFPO / 5051
34.3.4	<p style="text-align: center;">30 X 73</p> 	DM - no townmark

CMSG METER CATALOG

Type	Indicia	Remarks
34.3.5		RM - 2 digits of value, dollar "0" not set to print
1 34.3.6		TM - Single circle
		Specimen
		Specimen

CANADIAN POSTAGE METERS & MACHINES CO., LTD.

TORONTO, CANADA

OFFICE OF THE
MANAGING DIRECTOR

May 12, 1937.

Col. Harold Mayne Daly,
Blackburn Bldg.,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Colonel Daly:

The envelope in which this letter was delivered to you is commemorative of the Coronation of His Majesty, King George VI. It is a souvenir which less than five hundred persons can possess because no additional copies will be run off from the only die in existence.

This fact will be of interest to you as a Philatelist or to any friend who is a Stamp Collector.

In hundreds of thousands of business firms throughout the world, the old form of postage stamp has been pensioned off in favour of Meter Postage Stamps. Their study and collection by Philatelists is steadily increasing.

The introduction to the Stanley Gibbons' Postage Stamp Catalogue, published in Great Britain for 1936, contains these significant words:

"The increasing use of automatic franking machines is rendering it harder to obtain adequate supplies of used stamps, and many modern stamps in this condition have had to be raised in price."

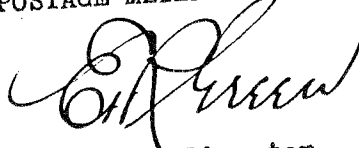
In other words, the use of the old-fashioned Post Office label is decreasing. Unchanged since 1840, it was one of the last of the early Victorian

inventions to be modernized while most of the other great inventions of the world were perfected and popularized.

We are proud to take advantage of this opportunity of commemorating in the most up-to-date postal manner, the greatest event of the current Quarter Century.

Sincerely yours,

CANADIAN POSTAGE METERS & MACHINES CO., LTD.



Managing Director.

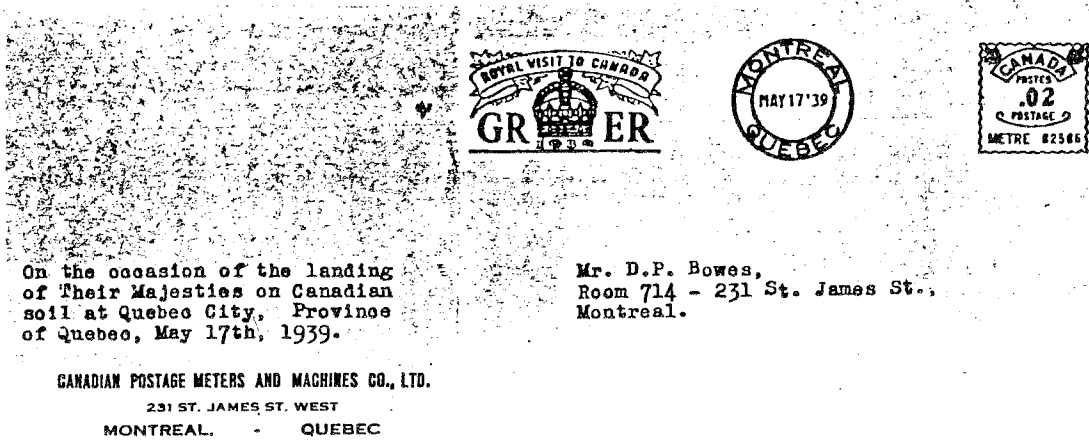


Mr. B. F. Griggs,
Guelph Carpet & Worsted Spinning Mills Ltd.,
Guelph, Ont.

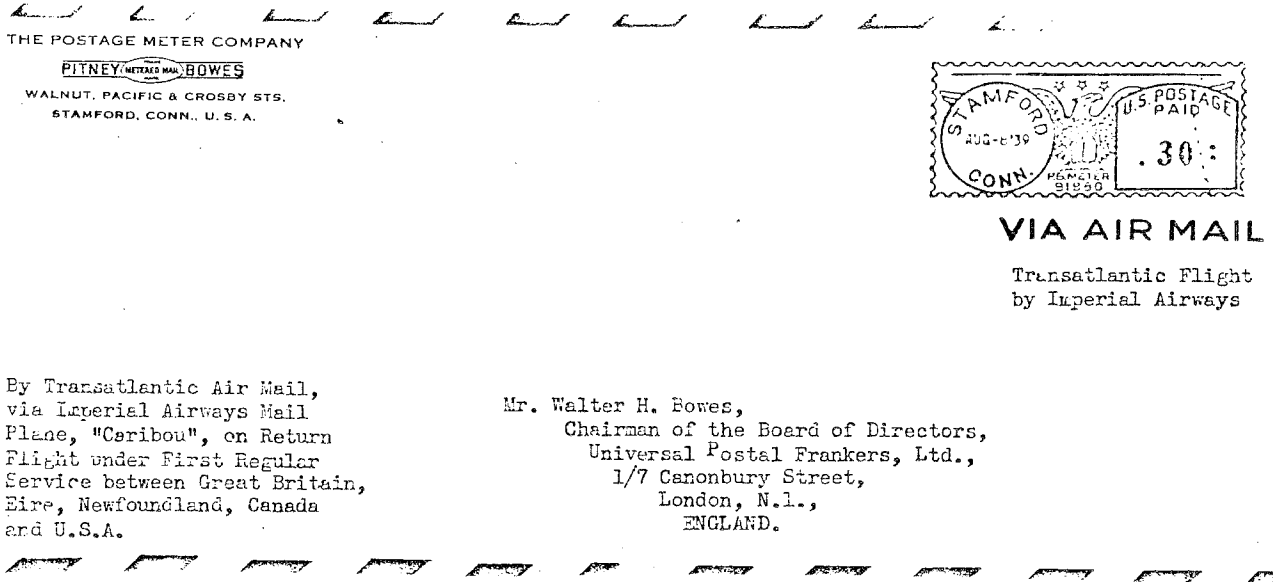
PERSONAL

CANADIAN POSTAGE METERS & MACHINES CO., LTD.
TORONTO, CANADA

Example Pitney Bowes souvenir cover from Royal Visit of 1939.



Transatlantic flight cover via Newfoundland, 1939



EXPO '67 slogan on Commercial Controls meter 40082, dated MAY 1, 1967

