

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

NO. 55

EDITOR'S NOTES

Richard Stambaugh, Editor, M.S.S., writes in reply to the opinion in No. 54 regarding the cutting of meter covers.

“I am against cutting down any collectable metered cover. If a meter stamp is worth saving, it is worth saving intact. As you say, for the large majority of current mail it really does not matter. But I take that one step further and say the great percentage of current mail is not worth saving in any way shape or format. Toss it, throw it in the waste basket where it belongs. The small amount of current mail that is worth preserving should be collected intact.

The problem isn't whether to save as a cut or as a cover, but whether to save at all. If it is an especially nice strike, if it demonstrates an unusual rate or interesting variety, or has an uncommon town name or scarce destination, save it intact.

If you throw out the chaff and save the rest as full covers, you will thank yourself in 20 years time, or your grandchildren will think good thoughts of you when it is their turn to own the collection.

The only exception that I can see is for collections by meter number or by town name. Such collections will never have much value so it really does not matter how they are saved. One danger to this is that town and number collectors may be tempted to cut down the potentially valuable covers they come across in order to make them fit in their compact and tidy collections. No doubt many early rarities have been mutilated because of a decision like this. As we contemplate a 2 x 4 inch cutout of a high denomination oval meter stamp from the 1920s, let us decide not to repeat the irreversible mistake a previous owner of this once beautiful cover made.” Rick

Anyone else wish to write on this subject?

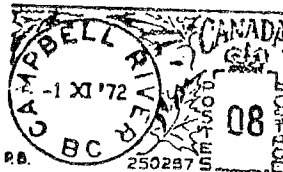
NOTE

With this Newsletter I have removed the year as we seem to be inconsistent in the number of issues. Blank space will now be filled with postmark ads. I have quite a few that offer some variation to plain text.

CURRENT METERS IN THE MAIL

The Editor recently obtained a 50 pound bag of No. 10 business envelopes. These were all dated September 1998 and were from Mutual Life, Waterloo. I thought I would tell you what I found. Most of the covers were poorly inked or obliterated with spray-on or other post office cancels. I am just reporting on the so called better material I extracted for later evaluation. The numbers found are reflective of scarcity in this business mail. Note the high number of Paragon meters.

PB - 0220213 low - 023804 high	-- 68 different covers
F - 390065 low - 390941 high	
F - 380194 low - 381570 high	
F - 327068	-- 1 cover
F - 385149 low - 385252 high	-- 4 covers
F - 330167 low - 337020 high	lg & sm SN
F - 355007 low - 359362 high	-- 25 covers SN varieties
H - 2070995 low - 2070244 high	-- 5 covers; 2 maple leaves
H 2051856 low - 2052427	-- 2 maple leaves
H 2061424 low - 2062046	-- 2 maple leaves
H 2060447 low - 2061270	-- crown and leaf
PB 200006 low - 201683 high	-- 135 covers
PB 1550280 low - 1552153 high	-- 15 covers (*) at right
PB 1600072 low - 1612757 high	-- 18 covers
PB 1500217 low - 1505094 high	-- 36 covers
PB 1451767 low - 1453456 high	-- 10 covers
FP 4000120 low - 4001161 high	-- 12 covers
FP 4050024 low - 4050113 high	-- 5 covers
P 404179 low - 404390 high	-- 4 covers
P 407091 low - 407192 high	-- 4 covers



POST OFFICES NOTICED (May have been reported before)

MCGREGOR / ON	1612757	STEPHENVILLE / NF	1611497
TABER / AB	1612051	PORT ELGIN / ON	1602214
FORT FRANCES / ON	1600082	REXTON / NB	1612237
GLOUCESTER / ON	1502360	VARENNES / PQ	1504090
SPALDING / SK	1454940	GRAND FORKS / BC	200110
FLINTON / ON	1550637	CACHE CREEK / BC	1550798
SALMON ARM / BC	1550449	ROSEMERE / PQ	2005113
CHARLIE LAKE / BC	2050210	VILLE ST-GEORGES / PQ	2007683
KIRKLAND / P.Q.	2003557	L'EPIPHANIE / QC	2006313
SAINT HUBERT / QUE.	358375	WILLIAMS LAKE / BC	0222893
GREEN VALLEY / ON	0228308	MARTENSVILLE / SASK	0226511
PARADISE / NFLD	0229617	SACRE COEUR SAGUENAY / PQ	2006121
GRAND FALLS WINDSOR / NF	0229691		

Effective April 4, 1996, a number of regulations pertaining to postage meters were enacted.

"The meter impression die is the property of Canada Post".

"Month in letters is not approved - should be "93-01-13 or 13 I 93"

"Books, Catalogs, Addressed Admail need not show the day"

"For rural incentive mail the second character is "0".

"Addressed admail uses "BULK or EN NOMBRE"

NIXDORF TROUBLES AT THE R.P.O.'S

Canadian Stamp News, November 23, 1998, reports troubles in the R.P.O.'s and Nixdorf's. Seems like Canada Post proposes to change their commission on stamps from 17.5% to 5%. One outlet reported \$600,000 in stamp sales so this is quite a hit. "Franchises profit from volume sales and postal franchises are doing a good business." "The franchise network was never designed to create stand-alone business. It's just to bring traffic to the host business." "A supervisor said the meter issuing register was outdated and he'd have to buy a new one." "Franchise operators must pay up-front to load postage into their meter registers, but can hold off a month before paying for stamps they order."



The Editor entered a meter exhibit in the local stamp show - but failed to receive any recognition. I show it here so I won't have to write as many pages.

THE "MAILOMAT"

THE

"MAILOMAT"

AN EARLY

MECHANIZED MAILING SYSTEM

1944 - 1953

THE "MAILOMAT"

THE STORY OF THE "MAILOMAT"

An automatic coin postoffice was used at Toronto from September 21, 1938 to October 25, 1938. It was not a successful operation; however, the idea died hard. Pitney Bowes, convinced of its viability again promoted the idea in 1944 after overcoming some difficulties encountered with the form machine. It was also advertised as a replacement for scarce manpower during the war.

The Mailomat was unveiled at Station B, Ottawa, by Postmaster General William P. Mulock on Thursday, February 3, 1944. He mailed the first letter to Prime Minister W.L.M. King. Only 1,457 pieces of mail were posted February 3, mostly of a publicity or philatelic nature. Members of the House of Commons and Senate and many postmasters received a cover. Most covers bore a 3¢ or 4¢ impression. There were one or two airmail first day covers.

Pitney-Bowes posted 1,000 souvenir First Day covers bearing an advertising cachet. These are on number 10 envelopes. Each contain an advertising card within, some in French.

Up to \$1.00 could be deposited in slots and postage from 1¢ to 33¢ could be dialled. The letter was inserted and the machine stamped and posted it.

Meter number 51010 was originally used on The "Mailomat" but it jammed and was replaced on January 5, 1945, with meter 51009. From impressions in collections it appears the meters were exchanged again before the end of their use.

The Post Office was dissatisfied with the machine. One person could monopolize it with a large number of letters, maintenance was high and it cost a great deal. They also pointed out that sales through wickets were \$24,000 per month compared to \$300 through the Mailomat. The project was terminated on August 6, 1953. The total number of impressions at Ottawa were 390,498.

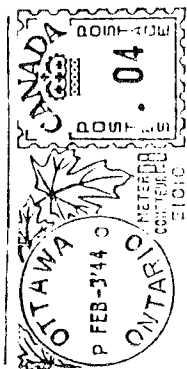
Pitney-Bowes Co. installed a Mailomat at the Canadian National Exhibition in 1947. This was the first exhibition held since 1941. The exhibition was open from Friday, August 22, 1947 until Saturday, September 8, 1947, except for two Sundays. Covers should exist for each of these days. Advertising cards bearing the slogan CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION with fancy cancels were distributed at the Pitney-Bowes booth, usually with a 1¢ imprint.

Meter 51001 was used here and bore the townmark TORONTO ONTARIO. It did not have the "P.O" in the townmark.

While this form of mailing equipment never achieved favour in Canada, there were 16 in use in the United States at railway stations and hotels.

THE "MAILOMAT"

First Day Cover
Ottawa
Feb. 3 '44



Mr. K. C. Dalglisch,
Vice-President,
Canadian Postage Meters Limited,
181 King Street West,
Toronto 1, Ontario.

FIRST-DAY COVER

Commemorating the first general public operation of a "coin letter box in Ottawa, Canada, installed for official test in Postal Station B ... February 3, 1944.

This is one of a "limited edition" of 1,000 commemorative first-day envelopes, prepared especially for the installation ceremony.



* The MAILOMAT

Note:-
P.O. in townmark
to indicate use at a
post office.

THE "MAILOMAT"

A press article from the Ottawa Citizen, dated February 3, 1944, which described the unveiling of the "Mailomat". Note the article states that 1,457 pieces of mail went through the machine as First Day covers. Of these, 1,000 were special covers mailed by Pitney Bowes for publicity purposes.

THE "MAILOMAT" UNVEILED

Thursday, February 3rd, a "mailomat"—coin-operated slot machine post-office, was unveiled at Station B, Ottawa, by Postmaster General Wm. P. Mulock. As this news broke while P.S. is being printed there is only room and time for this brief mention in a late forme, to which we add the following from G. R. L. Potter, Ottawa:

"Local philatelists—those interested in meter mail, at least—were taken by surprise yesterday when a mailomat was inaugurated in the lobby of the main post office here for general service.

The meter number is 51010, and I ascertained, on inquiry today, that a total of only 1457 pieces went through the machine yesterday. As many of these were purely of a 'publicity' nature (all members of the House and Senate, for example, received circulars), and will almost certainly be destroyed, 'first-days' of this meter should be rather scarce items. I understand that the great majority of items bore three and four cent postage, but there were one of two air mails."

THE "MAILOMAT"

Advertising card available at The "Mailomat" giving directions on how to use the machine.



The "MAILOMAT"

... is a coin-operated mailbox for people who have letters to mail and no stamps. It is a "self-service postoffice" that mails your letters without need of adhesive stamps.

To mail a letter you: (1) drop money in coin slot, (2) dial correct postage denomination, (3) insert letter in letter slot. The machine does the rest; automatically takes your letter, prints postage and postmark on it and holds it for collection ... provides postage from 1c. to 33c., including Air Mail, Special Delivery, etc., with no premium for postage.

THE "MAILOMAT"

The advertising card also exists with a French text. These are quite scarce as few were used at Ottawa.



Le "MAILOMAT"

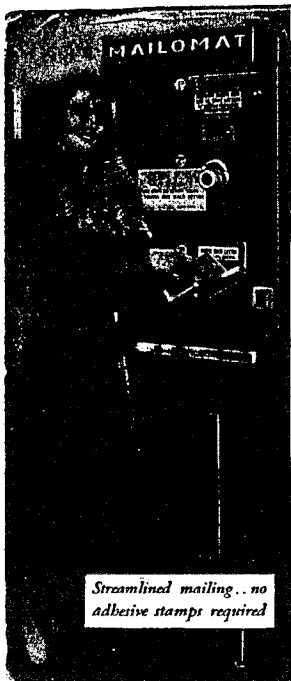
... est une boîte à lettres payante pour ceux qui ont des lettres à poster—mais qui n'ont pas de timbre. C'est une espèce de "bureau de poste automatique" qui poste vos lettres non affranchies.

Pour poster une lettre: (1) déposez votre pièce de monnaie à l'endroit désigné, (2) signalez le montant exact de l'affranchissement et (3) insérez votre lettre dans l'ouverture aménagée à cet effet. L'appareil fera le reste; il prendra automatiquement votre lettre, y imprimera le timbre et le sceau postal et la conservera jusqu'à ce qu'on l'enlève. . . L'appareil imprime des timbres de 1c. à 33c., y compris les timbres de poste aérienne, de livraison spéciale, etc., sans charge additionnelle d'affranchissement.

THE "MAILOMAT"

"Mailomat" advertising cards. These were available at publicity booths where the "Mailomat" was demonstrated. They were run through the machine and mailed to the location written on the back of the card. Shown below are two advertising cards. The upper card was used in the United States and was mailed from California to New York.

The lower card was available at the Canadian National Exhibition in 1947.

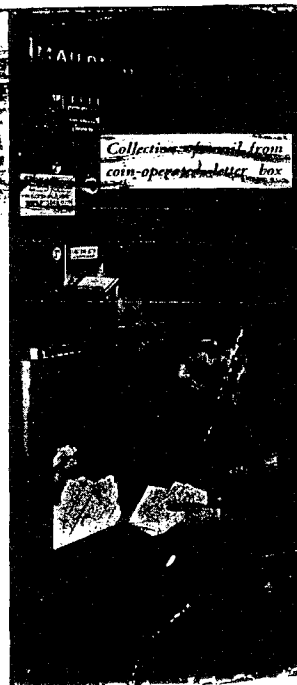


The "MAILOMAT"

... is a coin-operated U. S. mailbox for people who have letters to mail—and no stamps. It is a "self-service postoffice" that mails your letters without need of adhesive stamps.

To mail a letter you (1) drop money in coin slot (2) dial correct postage denomination (3) insert letter in letter slot. The machine does the rest; automatically takes your letter, prints postage and postmark on it, and holds it for collection . . . provides postage from 1c to 33c, including Air Mail, Special Delivery, etc., with no premium for postage. Metered mail needs less postoffice handling, often catches earlier trains and planes, starts on its way sooner.

The "Mailomat" is a pre-war invention of Pitney-Bowes Postage Meter Co., Stamford, Conn., now converted to war production; was developed in cooperation with the U. S. Post Office Dept. to facilitate public use of the mails in post office lobbies, railway terminals, etc. Manufacturing will begin when the war is won. Try this new "stampless" postal service now. Use this card to say "hello" to that boy in Service. And when using the mails these days, at home or office, remember to mail early and often . . . to help clear the track for war mail . . . and to help the Post Office help you!



The "MAILOMAT"

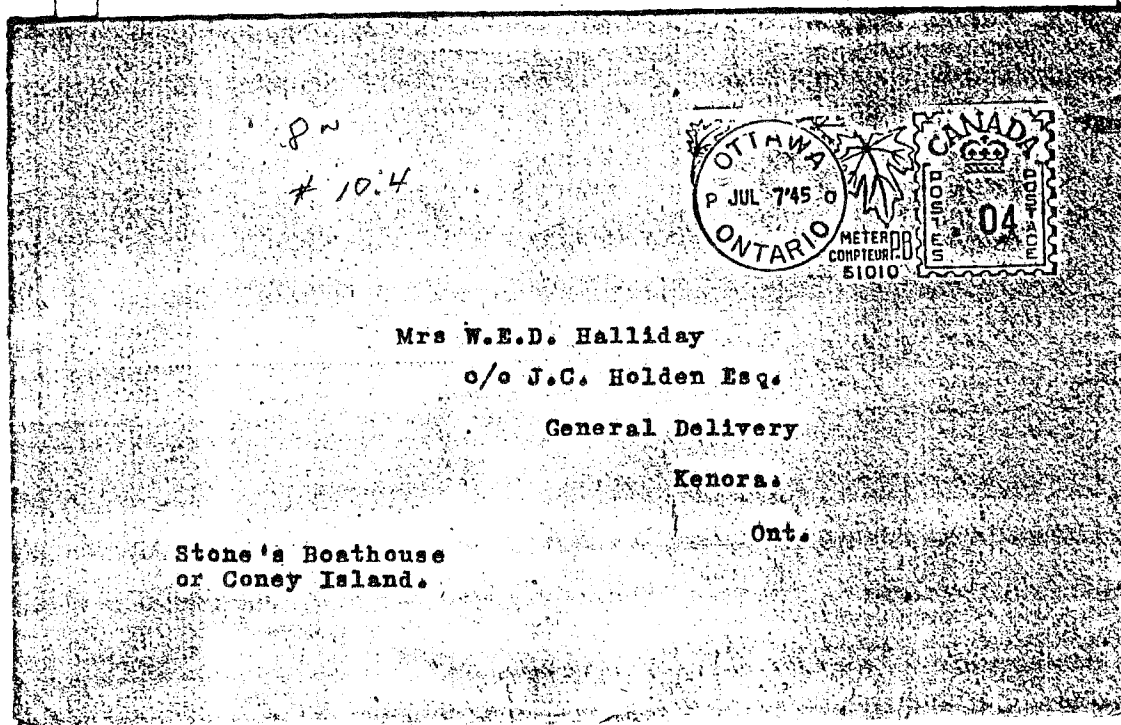
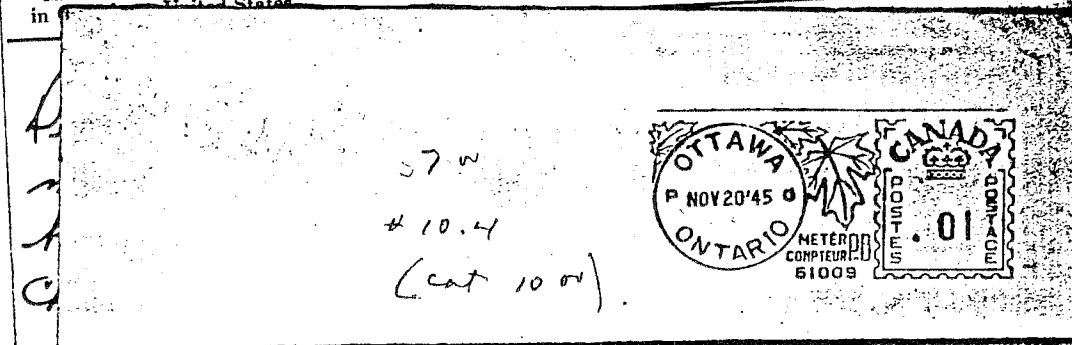
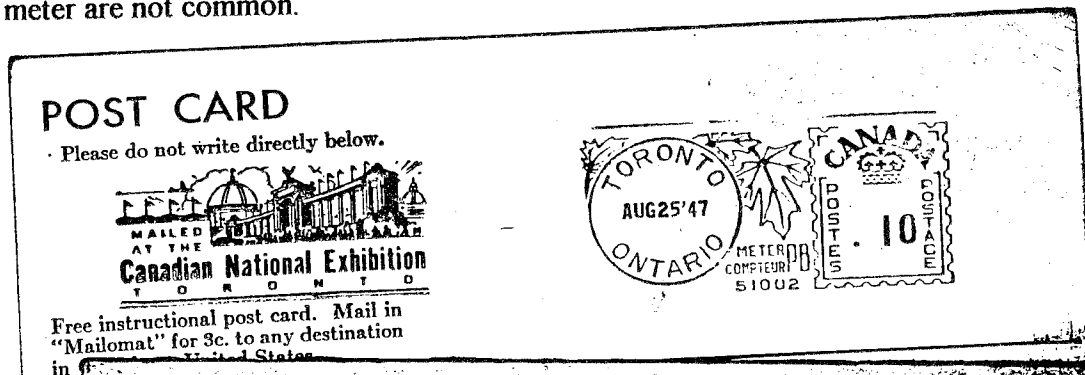
... is a coin-operated mail box for people who have letters to mail and no stamps. It is a "self-service post-office" that mails your letters without need of adhesive stamps.

To mail a letter you (1) drop money in coin slot, (2) dial correct postage denomination, (3) insert letter in letter slot. The machine does the rest; automatically takes your letter, prints postage and postmark on it and holds it for collection . . . provides postage from 1c to 33c, including Air Mail, Special Delivery, etc., with no premium for postage

Try the new "stampless" postal service now. Use this card to say "hello" to that boy or girl on Service. And when using the mails these days, at home or office, remember to mail early and often . . . to help clear the track for war mail . . . and to help the Post Office help you!

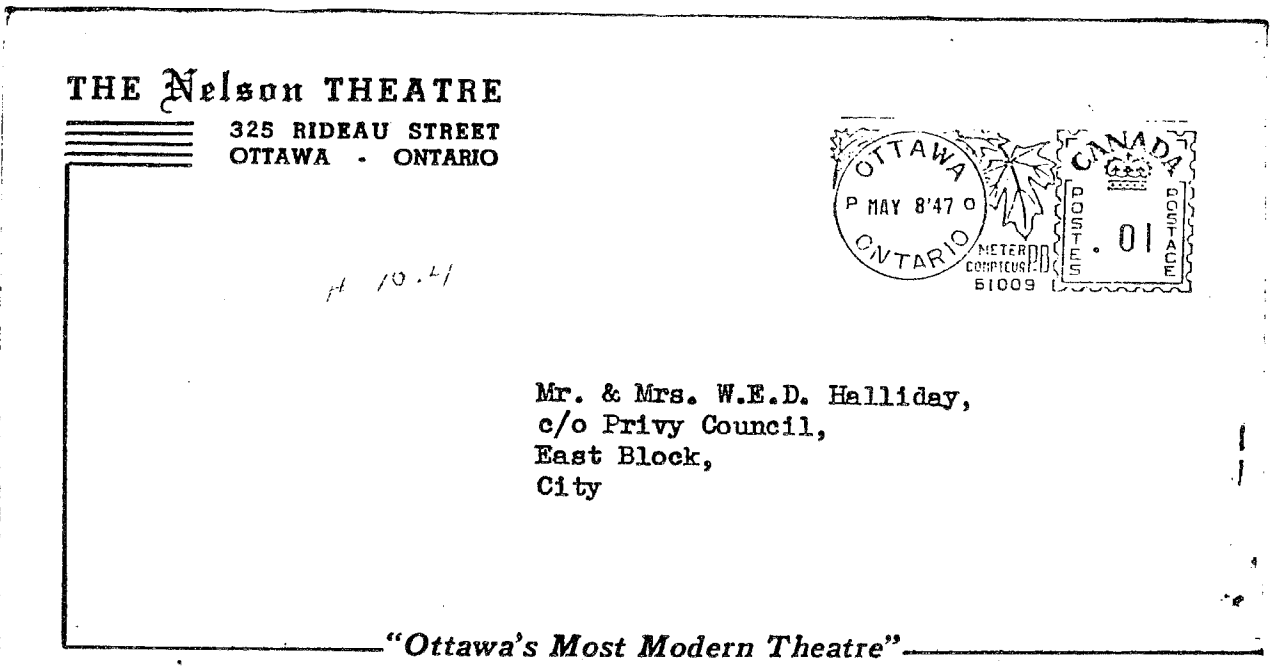
THE "MAILOMAT"

Examples of the three Pitney-Bowes "Mailomat" meter indicia used in Canada.
Meter 51002 used at the Pitney-Bowes booth at the Canadian National Exhibition in 1947.
Meter 51009 used as a replacement meter at the Ottawa Post Office from 1945.
Meter 51010 used as the original postage meter at the Ottawa Post Office in 1944. Non-philatelic examples of this postage meter are not common.



THE "MAILOMAT"

The "Mailomat" with postage meter 51009 as used at Ottawa after the original postage meter 51010 jammed. This townmark also contains the post office indicator "P.O". Note the value is 1¢ to pay the drop letter rate within Ottawa.



THE "MAILMAT"

Examples of the Pitney-Bowes "Mailomat" indicia used at their Canadian National Exhibition display booth.

Note the postal ad reads MAILED AT THE CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION TORONTO. The illustration is the Princess Gate entrance to the exhibition grounds.

Illustrated here are three rates of postage: 1¢ drop rate, 3¢ general rate, and 7¢ airmail rate. The airmail rate is rare.

POST CARD
Please do not write directly below.



MAILED AT THE
Canadian National Exhibition
TORONTO

Free instructional post card. Mail in "Mailomat" for 3c. to any destination in Canada or United States.



This Space for Address Only

POST CARD
Please do not write directly below.



MAILED AT THE
Canadian National Exhibition
TORONTO

Free instructional post card. Mail in "Mailomat" for 3c. to any destination in Canada or United States.



This Space for Address Only

POST CARD
Please do not write directly below.



MAILED AT THE
Canadian National Exhibition
TORONTO

**BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**



Sample of Mailomat in use in Toronto at the "Exhibition. The only other machine in at Ottawa.

H.C.

This Space for Address Only

*Mr. Christensen
7c. W. W. W. Co. Ltd.
Hastings St.
Vancouver
B.C.*

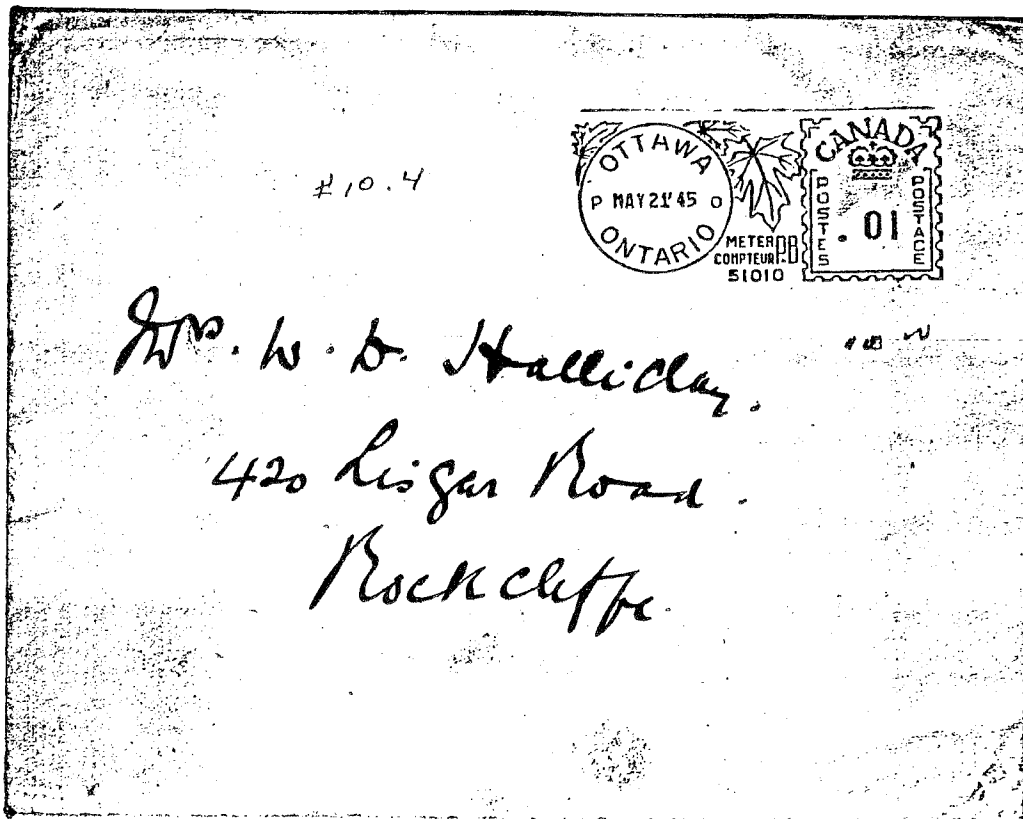
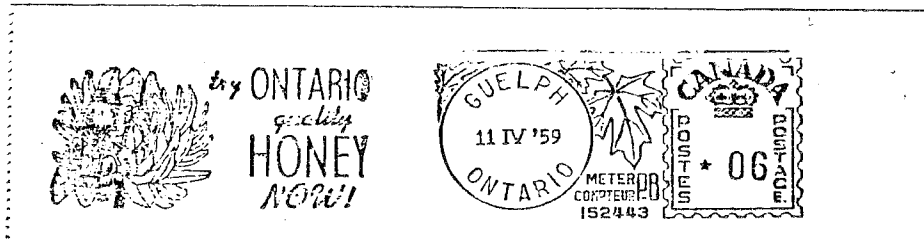
THE "MAILOMAT"

INDICIA DESIGN

Shown below is a tape indica from a Pitney-Bowes Model R postage meter. This is compared to the indicia as used on The "Mailomat" post office.

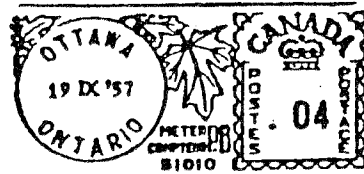
The principal difference in design is the "star", which is a substitute for the dollar value, has been replaced by a "dot". The significance of this is Pitney-Bowes used a "star" for the dollar rate wheel in Canada but used a "dot" for the rate wheel in the United States. In other words this is a U.S. machine where they failed to change the dollar value.

Also, the serial block used for the Model R meter runs from 140000 to about 163000. The "Mailomat" serial numbers used in Canada were 51002, 51009 and 51010. These are from the U.S. serial blocks.

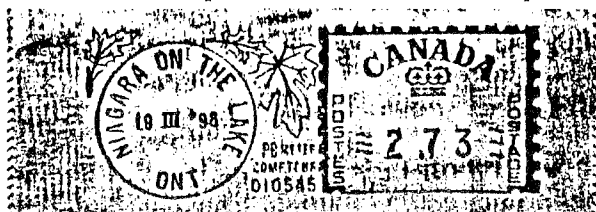


THE "MAILOMAT"

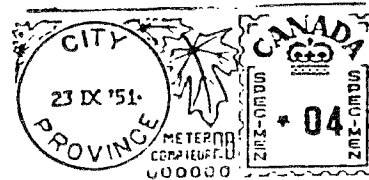
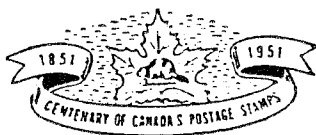
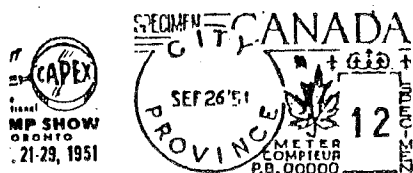
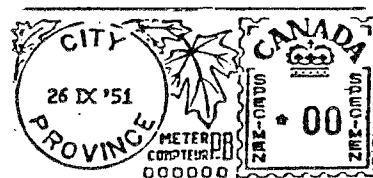
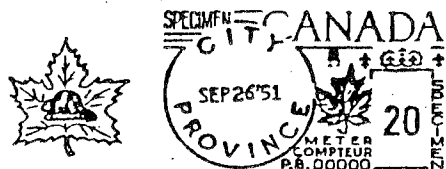
The XIVth Congress of the Universal Postal Union was held at Ottawa from August 14, 1957, to October 4, 1957. Over 350 delegates attended the Congress. Pitney Bowes set up a Mailomat display for the Congress and used the same machine that had been taken out of service in 1953. Meter 51010. The indicia did not include the letters "P.O." in the townmark. A copy of this scarce indicia I shown here. Most known dates are for the month of September.



This serial number infers a new type of meter. Such is not the case. The meter number should read (1)010545. The "1" did not print; however, it looks quite real.



Special issues used by Pitney Bowes at their booth at the Canadian International Philatelic Exhibition (CAPEX) held at Toronto, September 21 - 29, 1951.



FIRST DAY COVER
Mailed from the
**CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL
 PHILATELIC EXHIBITION**



K. C. Dalglisch
 -President & General Manager
 Pitney-Bowes of Canada, Ltd.
 King Street, West
 Toronto 1, Ontario.

P I T N E Y B O W E S O F C A N A D A , L T D .

Compliments of



P I T N E Y .

55-14