

# CANADIAN METER STAMP NEWSLETTER

Editor:- Ross Irwin, 903-24 Marilyn Dr., Guelph, ON., N1H 8E9 -- <e-mail - rwirwin@freespace.net>

Associate Editor and Treasurer:- Dave Cooper, 35 South High St., Thunder Bay, ON., P7B 3K3

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## EDITORIAL 1

Just received Bob Lee's 256 page February catalogue - scarcely a meter to be found. There are lengthy lists of duplex cancels, Klussendorf, flag and other postal strikings which have a mechanical appearance. Most command a respectable buck for price, and there is an apparent demand. Why not postage meters which have a longer history and possess greater variability in appearance and interest? My conclusion is the interest and demand is lacking compared to other cancels because of the lack of a collectors priced catalogue.

Another, and probably the same factor, is dealers do not have a stock of scarce material. Scarce material is not put in auction because current prices do not reflect its true value. It's a dog chasing its tail.

It seems to me CMSG have to develop a more aggressive plan to get our catalogue onto the street soon. Our first newsletter was 1981 - is it possible to have a catalogue for our 20<sup>th</sup> birthday this fall? Most of the work is done, except pricing and elimination of very minor varieties. Can we have some input from our members?

## EDITORIAL 2

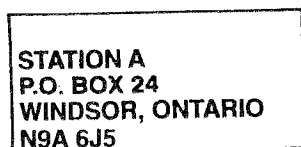
I just received a copy of the B.N.A.P.S. Slogan Study Group 110 page treatise on Canadian Postage Meter Slogan and Advertising Dies. It consists of an alphabetical list of probably 2,500 slogans, I didn't count. I just sent the author a couple of hundred 1930's-40's to add to the list. The list consists of a table with an identification number/slogan wording/design/meter type/manufacturer/town/date/colour/user.

Why mention this? Well, topical collecting and displaying is now embracing the area of postage meter slogans and ads. It is hard to define what is an ad and what is a slogan, I guess the user decides. These postmark ads include commercial products and services; however, they also include special events and worthy causes such as the Olympics in 1988 at Calgary, the Montreal World's Fair and many local events. There is no index to these ads

Pitney Bowes issues a flyer advertising their holdings of stock advertisements for customers. It is changed annually. Have you started a collection of postage meter ads/slogans?

## BULK MAIL

Some bulk mail have the postal indicia applied with a postage "meter". Canada Post now states that phosphorescent ink, such as used with postage meters, is not acceptable for use in printing the postal indicia to bulk mail. Bulk mail can still be metered with a bulk plate if the mailing weighs less than 50 grams. Typically, the bulk permit number and name or postal code of the office of induction (post office where it is dropped off) have been included in the bulk postal indicia as shown below.



As of 15 Jan 1997 the inclusion of the name or postal code of the office of induction became optional. Many firms continue to use the old style, others have adopted the new style where only the mailers number is shown. Canada Post has established that the bulk postal indicia must measure at least 12 mm x 25 mm and must not exceed 40 mm x 74 mm. Characters printed within the indicia must measure at least 2 mm and not exceed 5 mm. The use of the "Nbre Blk" and "Blk Nbre" depends on the source of mailing. If the return address on the piece is in the Province of Quebec then the French first indicia must be used. The English version must be used for any other parts of Canada.

Some comparison data I generated for a US collector to show type catalogue numbers  
**TYPE 7 PITNEY BOWES MODEL H POSTAGE METERS** rwi

P.B Model	CMSG Type	US Type	SERIAL BLOCK	CANADA	USA
HX	7.1	DE 1	82404 - 82425	METRE NO	METER NUMBER
HX	7.2	DE 2	82426 - 83029	METRE	METER
HX	7.3	DE 3	83030 - 83999	METER-COMPTEUR	PB METER
HT	7.1	DE 1	84001 - 84015	METRE NO.	METER NUMBER
HT	7.2	DE 2	84016 - 84022	METRE	METER
HT	7.3	DE 3	84023 - 84999	METER-COMPTEUR	PB METER
H?	7.3	DE 3	47001 - 47999	METER-COMPTEUR	1947
H?	7.3	DE 3	48500 - 48999	METER-COMPTEUR	1948
H?	7.3	DE 3	50000 - 50193	METER-COMPTEUR	1950

## POSTMARK ADS

Census of sample meter ads printed by Pitney Bowes which stated on the cover:-  
 "This is a sample of METER-AD" prepared for use on the mail of:

YEAR	Type 5	Type 6	Type 7	Type 8	Type 9	Type 11	Total	Ads
1932	2						2	
1933	1						1	
1934	1						1	
1935	1	2					3	
1936	2	3					7	
1937		11	1	3	1		16	
1938	1		15	6	2		24	
1939	4	3	70	9	13		99	
1940			31	5	10		46	
1941			46	9	6	13	74	
1942			15			2	17	
1943			7				7	
1944	2		4			1	7	
1945			23		1	6	30	
1946			36	2		90	128	
1947			11			34	45	

The table shows the growth in the use of postmark ads. With the beginning of US participation in the war Pitney Bowes curtailed production of new meters and the number of company ads decreased. War production and patriotic ads are not included in this table but were the principal advertising from 1942 to 1945. When production of new meters resumed in 1946 the number of ads showed a large increase. During the period covered by this census the Pitney Bowes Model H meters was the work horse until after 1947. This is an incomplete listing of ads. It is what I obtained as a lot at Hamilton several years ago. Pitney Bowes sent each ad to the company for approval of design and spelling before the die was installed in the meter. The covers in the table are the approval covers. Even if incomplete, the number of postmark ads used by meter users is large, even for this early period.

Data for the Postalia meters

SERIAL	TOWNMARK	RATE BOX	OVERALL	SETTING
400047	21	26 x 25	55	8
402946	27/18	26 x 27	61	7
403411	27/18	26 x 28	64	11
404070	27/18	26 x 27	62	10
407147	22	26 x 24	64	16
465002	27/18	26 x 27	62	10
404128	27/18	25 x 27	62	10
4000128	25/17	27 x 30	60	8
4050113	27	29 x 26	65	10
4002128	25/17	30 x 25	63	9
4050245	26	26 x 25	65	11

Effective December 18, 2000, Canada Post recognized the new territory of **NUNAVUT** with the designator symbol NU. There were 29 communities and 8,400 households and businesses. The FSA is X0A, X0B and X0C. Ross Irwin wrote an article for the PHSC, Issue 103, pp.26-27 "Meter Towns of the Canadian Territories" which lists each town and indicates if a postage meter had been used at it.

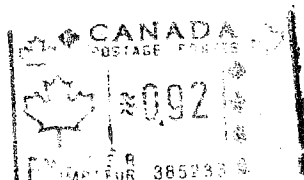
Strange item from Pitney Bowes. Corner card present and what appears to be the postmark ad but the indicia has slipped off the envelope. Postmarked 1955.



PITNEY-BOWES OF CANADA, LTD.  
1156 BAY ST.,  
TORONTO 5, ONTARIO



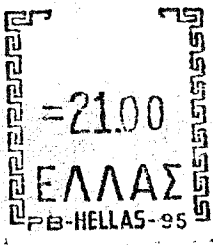




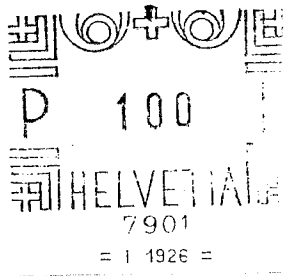
I don't know why this Friden meter is so difficult to get a properly inked copy. I think it must be related to its size. Has anyone got a really good copy?




Canadian town list: [www.draves.com/mss/cantown/cantown.htm](http://www.draves.com/mss/cantown/cantown.htm)

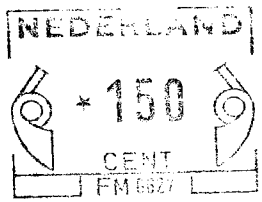
MY CANADA OVERSEAS COLLECTION TO DATE

CANADA   

CANADA   

CANADIAN EMBASSY  
AMBASSADE  
REAT-WEST LIFE  
TTAWA BPO CANADA




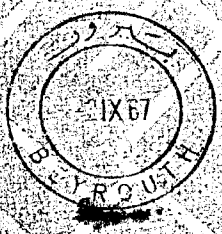



CANADIAN EMBASSY  
AMBASSADE DU CANADA  
VIA G. S. DE ROSSI, 27  
00161 ROME-ITALY







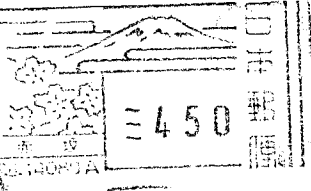
AMBASSADE DU CANADA  162, RUE CLEMENCEAU





 Ambassade du Canada  
Embassy of Canada  
3-38, Akasaka 7-chome  
Minato-ku, Tokyo 107





# New Remote Readers arrive!

By Sally Enright

"How fast can you get it there and how reliable is the service?" In a world where customers are technologically savvy and expanding their horizons globally, it's not surprising they want quick and dependable service, particularly when sending international or U.S. mail.

Canada Post is responding with another new initiative to turn our vision, including rationalizing the operating network, into action. This fall, CPC will be upgrading its Multi-Line Optical Character Readers (MLOCs) by adding Remote Computer Readers. The new Readers can "read" hand-written addresses, artistic fonts and black barcodes, further reducing the need for manual coding. This means faster mail processing and an improvement in customer service.

Current technology in the plants can read only machine-printed addresses and hand-written postal codes placed in dotted boxes. Addresses that can't be read are rejected and sent to Video Encoding Systems (VES) for manual coding. The rejected mail is then re-processed through the MLOC.

Now, some 37 per cent of mail processed by MLOCs requires manual coding and re-feeding. It is estimated the new Remote Computer Readers will eliminate 62 per cent of VES coding and save up to \$16 million a year in processing costs.

"There has been a lot of progress in the area of mail processing and we are simply taking advantage of the latest technology," says Joe Ulvr, project director. "It is a good project for the corporation, not only from a technical standpoint, but from the financial side as well. And it is one way we are delivering on the principles of the corporate vision."

The implementation of the Remote Computer Readers will have a huge impact on the processing of international and U.S. mail. Outgoing international mail, which accounts for the largest volume of hand-written mail, will benefit from the improved read rate. The mail can now be processed mechanically and sorted to the destination country. Ulvr adds, "The new Remote Computer Readers can also read U.S. zip codes and apply Postnet barcodes, which means we can now pre-sort mail going to the U.S."

Although this upgrade in technology may result in a reduction of full-time equivalent positions, it is expected that any reduction will be effectively handled through attrition.

It is also expected that the reduction in Video Encoding volumes will free up as many as six MLOCs. Three of these can then be dedicated to processing U.S. and international mail in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal.

The first Remote Computer Reader will be installed this September in Vancouver, with plans to install a minimum of 20 more by December and the remainder by May 2001.

"Keeping pace with technology will help us to rationalize our network and improve our service," sums up Ulvr. "The new Remote Computer Readers represent just one way we're building toward future development." ■

## Now our machines can even read...

CPC 4 state barcodes printed by Canada Post on redirection mail. These yellow barcode stickers designate redirected mail as the highest priority, and can be processed with a 98 per cent acceptance rate by the RCR.

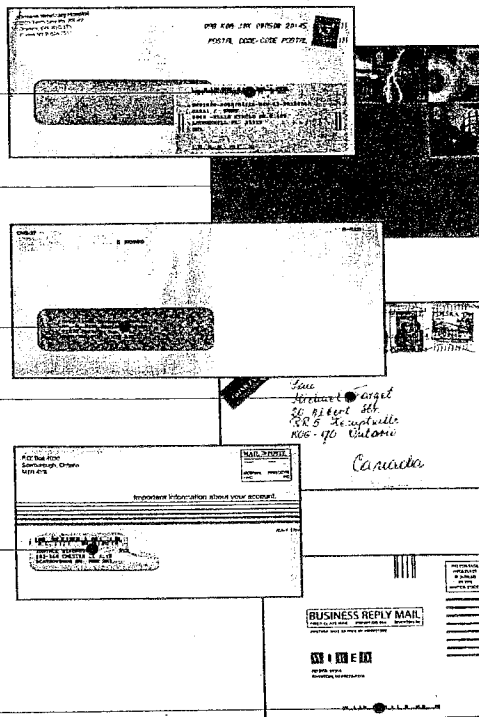
Addresses written on dark-coloured backgrounds.

Addresses printed on patterned backgrounds (such as cheques).

Hand-written addresses (script).

Postnet barcodes are printed by the USPS to identify mail bound for Canada. By finding this barcode, the Remote Reader prevents redirected mail and return-to-sender mail from erroneously being sent back to the original destination address in the U.S.

CPC 4 state barcodes printed by customers. These barcodes, developed by Canada Post, can also be seen on the envelopes used to mail CPC employees' pay stubs.



Adhesive label for Lettermail. Probably generated on a computer, which would be a slow process and not very cost effective.

P.O. Box 2142  
 Station Terminal  
 349 Georgia St. W.  
 Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3T8

BULK RATE  
 U.S. POSTAGE

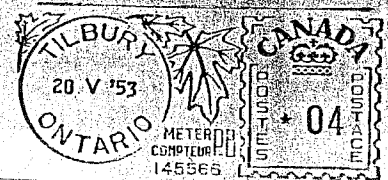


Remember when .....

**HUDSON MOTORS OF CANADA, LIMITED**



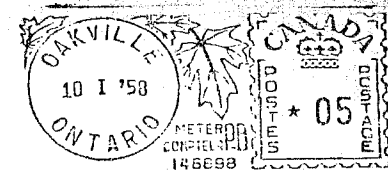
**HUDSON**  
*Most DURABLE car  
 your money can buy!*



*Ford Motor Company of Canada*  
 LIMITED

AT POINT OF MAILING

516-01



Now here's a website for you Webmaster's Picks: Postage Meters - "Best sites for postage meters". Be careful typing it.

[wysiwyg://19/http://stfranciscare.com/picks/Postage\\_Meters.htm](http://19/http://stfranciscare.com/picks/Postage_Meters.htm)

Some of Leland Brown's "Meter News and Notes" from Popular Stamps in the 1940's on this and the next page. Using this for high class filler material.

**"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 broadens while P.S. is being printed there is only room and time for this brief mention in a late form, to which we add the following from G. R. L. Porter, 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 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 airmails."

**METER NEWS AND NOTES**

By M. L. Brown, Rutland, Sask.

One type of Canadian meter, listed as type 2 by the Harris Meter Catalogue is especially scarce. These machines were distributed by Universal Postal Frankers of London, England, and were apparently used during the latter part of 1926 and until August 1927. The design is very plain being a standing rectangle with "CANADA" at the top, "1, 2, or 3 CENTS" in the center and the machine number at the bottom. Only six machine numbers were used as far as I know and they are—

- 503 1c Ottawa, Ontario.
- 505 1, 2 and 3c Montreal, Quebec.
- 507 2c Montreal, Quebec.
- 509 2c Montreal, Quebec.
- 512 2c Montreal, Quebec.
- 513 1c Montreal, Quebec.

All copies seen are in red. Meter numbers 512 and 513 have a slightly larger townmark than the others.

If you are thinking about starting a meter collection but are wondering how to go about it perhaps a few suggestions might be offered here. In the first place I believe meters should be kept on full covers or at least 2 inch strips the length of the envelope so as to show the corner card since it is often useful to know the user's name and address.

Canadian collections may be formed in several ways as follows:

(1) General collection which would include all meter numbers, colors, slogans and in the earlier issues various values. This kind of collection if anywhere near complete would run into thousands of items whereas the others mentioned here would be much smaller in number but still difficult to complete.

(2) Type collection—containing around 15 major types as well as many sub-types, colors and values regardless of meter numbers and slogans.

(3) Town collection—consisting of over 265 towns with more new ones appearing frequently.

(4) Slogan collection—Non commercials make a fine collection and may include patriotic, commemorative and public events. Then there are numerous commercial slogans.

And however you collect I suggest you keep all meter numbers as some other collector may need what is useless to you.

Slogans in use recently are "Books, Films, Records, Use Your Public Library" from New Westminster, B.C. on 143364; "Cream improves a desert" from Vancouver

on 144284; "Incomparable Niagara" from Niagara Falls on 144301; "Toronto Board of Education Centennial 1950" on 140029. And speaking of Centennials recalls other celebrations that slogans have been used for. They include birthdays of Hamilton, Vancouver, Halifax, Winnipeg and the latest "Visit Amherst July 31-August 6, 1949 Diamond Jubilee and Old Home Week" on 47110 from Amherst, Nova Scotia. And on 143674 from Regina is "British Trade Week Observance in Saskatchewan Sept. 26-Oct 1"; "Play Safe Use Your Parks" from Vancouver on 83805.

**METER NEWS AND NOTES**

By M. L. Brown, Rutland, Sask.

The list of Canadian towns in which meters have been used keeps growing. The most interesting addition is one from Victoria which reads "Victoria H.M.C. Dockyard, B.C." and is found on meter 140031. Another variation is Saint Catharines, Ont., in place of the usual St. Catharines. Other new towns reported are:—Goderick, Ont.; Milton, Ont.; Carleton Place, Ont.; North Bay, Ont.; Hanover, Ont.; Malton, Ont.; Bedford, Que., and Montmagny, Que.

Most of the meter slogans received lately belong to the commercial class. A few exceptions are "Mail Your Christmas Donation to the Hospital For Sick Children" from Waterloo, Ont. on meter 140132; "Save Waste Paper "It Pays" on meter 84349 from Toronto, Ont.; "Feed Hungry Minds—Hungry Bodies—Give to the Canadian Appeal to Children" from Regina, Sask., on meter 140589; "Ship and Share—Milk—Cream—Poultry — Eggs" on 140574 from Regina, Sask.; "Free Enterprise Means Good Living Keep It Alive" on 140287 from Montreal, Que.; and "Keep Fuel Ahead" from Winnipeg, Man. on 84995.

Two different slogans on meter 140495 from Waterloo, Ont. are reported by A. M. Provick, Hazelcliffe, Sask. They are "Prevent Forest Fires—the Carling Conservation Club" showing a stand of trees and a lighted match; and a striking illustration of a pheasant with the words "Feed Them In Snowy Weather—the Carling Conservation Club".

**METER NEWS AND NOTES**

By M. L. Brown, Rutland, Sask.

Interest in meters appears to be growing and well it may, since many of the earlier Canadian types and numbers are very hard to find. Among the rarest types are those with numbers 503, 505, 509, and 513 which are catalogued by Harris as Type 2 and Type 5 numbered from 1021-25. Also scarce is Harris Type 10 with meter 101 which was used experimentally at the Toronto post office in 1938. The midget type although not rare is obsolete and the first type is fast going out as only a very few are seen in use now.

Recently I have received letters from several readers with meter news. From E. L. Piggott of Chester, N.S. comes a slogan used at Kentville, N.S. reading "15th Annual Apple Blossom Festival 1947" on meter 1148. A similar postal slogan was also used for the occasion. Wilfred S. Richards, Dinsmore, Sask. sends a holiday slogan of interest "Take Only The Limit—Or Less"—The Carling Conservation Club" and picturing a fish leaping from the water used on meter 140495 from Waterloo, Ont. A number of other non-commercial slogans come from D. MacDonald, 227 Brock St., Kingston, Ont. They are "Ontario British Flood Relief Campaign May 1st to 15th, 1947" from House of Assembly, Toronto on meter 54087 and also from House of assembly on meter 54091 is "Prevent Forest Fires Save Your Forest" showing a raging fire. On meter 84541 from Hamilton is "The Good Driver is a Careful Driver".

Other interesting slogans to report are "For Goodness Sake Keep Apples Cool" from Kelowna, B.C.; "Safeguard Your Health" on meter 140167 from Toronto; "Health for all Canadians "Health Week" February 2nd to 8th" on meter 83608 from Toronto; "for your 1947 Vacation Alberta Canada" on 54047 from Edmonton, Alta.; "Time to think of Hail Insurance" from Regina, Sask. on meter 140367; "For the bride elect The Wedding Book is a perfect gift" on meter 1140 from Toronto; and from the

Red Cross at Regina on meter 140857 is a picture of a red cross in a circle and the words "Swimming and Water Safety".

Many of the smaller towns and cities are now appearing on meters. Those coming to hand recently are Rock Island, P.Q., Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask., Yorkton, Sask., Swift Current, Sask., Medicine Hat, Alta., Mount Forest, Ont., Milverton, Ont., Tillsonburgh, Ont.



## METER SLOGANS

by Althea Harvey

4 Park Ave., Windsor, Conn., U.S.A.

There was a fine representation of meter frames at the S.P.A. convention in August at Detroit. First prize went to Frances Poffenger for a colorful collection of Christmas greetings slogans. There were topical groupings of maps, patriotics and telephone slogans. A commemorative slogan was used at the convention on meter 106592.

Ed. Goodale, C.P.S. president sent several metered envelopes all with printed patriotic cachets in the lower left hand corner.

We welcome some new readers of this column. Mr. Waldemar Gutzman of Pembroke, Ont., who recently became interested in meter slogans plans to save covers from both the United States and Canada, and G. Bottyan, of Kenora, Ont., who likes all slogans.

Those of you who appreciate a check list will be pleased to see A. W. Bendig's contribution to September 10 issue of Linn's Weekly Stamp News on Canadian patriotics. He has listed 49 different patriotic slogans and 15 which have to do with Victory Bonds. As he is a Popular Stamps reader, he would like to hear from others interested in patriotics. His address is 311 Mt. Royal Boulevard, Etna, Pa.

Return postage meter covers are rather popular with collectors as they are not common. When they are found, they are generally of the 3c value which is the regular postage rate, therefore 1c and 2c covers of this type are quite rare.

As the war effort is taking supplies of metals and materials used in meter dies, it is quite possible there will be fewer new slogans than formerly.

Mr. H. E. Guertin of 4345 Harvard Avenue, Montreal, is compiling a list of all war slogans since 1939 used in Canada and he would like to hear from other collectors who care to trade.

A. B. McNeil, of Victoria, B.C., sends in two metered covers. One shows .01 paid in indicia of meter 54051 and no town circle. He explains

that this cover was used in mailing advertising matter and while the meter is owned by a company in Victoria, the cover was actually mailed from Royal Oaks, a suburb. It is not necessary to use date or town circle on third class mail, but frequently the rural postmaster backstamps such mail. The second cover, showing .01 paid on meter 4114, has a town circle with date in it. As this letter was returned to the sender as addressee was unknown, a one cent postage due stamp was affixed.

## METER SLOGANS

by Althea Harvey

4 Park Ave., Windsor, Conn., U.S.A.

Meters not only save time for business concerns, but they simplify the work for the postoffice clerk in at least three of the large cities in Canada. Werner Simon tells me the first ones were installed before Christmas of 1937 and I have one bearing the date of Sept. 10, '37. It is meter number 94009 and in the town circle is "Ottawa, Ontario Sub. P. O. 18" and to the left of the indicia is "Dept. P. P. & S." which A. B. McNeill of Victoria informs me is the abbreviated form for Dept. of Public Printing and Stationery. In Toronto there are three meters numbered 94039, 94040, and 94046. Montreal has two 94047 and 94007 which carries "V . . . — for victory" slogan. Ottawa uses meter 94067. The letters P. O. are found within the town circle. Mr. Simon furnishes the information that these P. O. meters replaced the NCR registers formerly used. The advantages of a post office meter are many, for a lever is pushed and out comes a tape with the proper amount of postage imprinted thereon, all moistened ready to affix to the package. It means quicker service to the mailer also.

If the collector is looking for varieties, try and find a tape or cover bearing the meter number 94000

which is the only number in this series to have a dot in front of the amount of postage paid. All others have a star.

Mr. A. B. McNeill has made a collection of high value items in the 94000 series and has 125 different values totalling nearly \$200. Statistics show that the total postage revenue for the year ending March 1941 was around 44 million dollars with roughly 10 million used for machine postage. Permits are kin to meters and yet they are different. A pretty one was sent to me recently. It originated in Montreal and the slogan reads, "Use Gas for Home, Shop, Factory. It Never Fails."

Keith Denis, a Popular Stamps reader from Port Arthur, Ontario, writes asking a few questions which I shall attempt to answer. Postage

## METER NEWS & NOTES

By M. L. Brown, Rutland, Sask.

Several new series of numbers are making their appearance on Canadian meters. Using the same design as the 140000 type is the new group of numbers from 1000 up while those numbered 47000 up are similar to the old 84000 type.

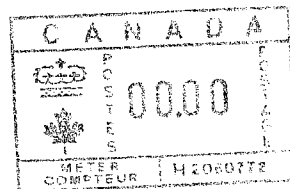
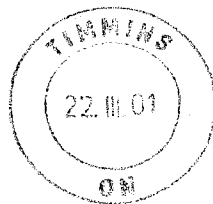
A number of Government departments at Ottawa have been using meters with amount of postage reading .00 cents. Now for the first time one has come in from Fredericton, N.B. on meter 140860 used by a government office there with the same reading. And also on meter 140860 is a Return Postage Prepaid with the registration rate of four-tenths cents which is a new value in prepaids to me. The highest I had seen before was the ordinary four cent rate.

And speaking of Return Postage Prepaids I have just noticed one reading "Postage Prepaid" at the top and "Return" at the bottom of the circle on meter 83277. Has anyone seen others with this wording?

The Pitney-Bowes Postage Meter Co. prepared two slogans for use in the United States advertising the Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition. These should be of interest in anyone's collection.

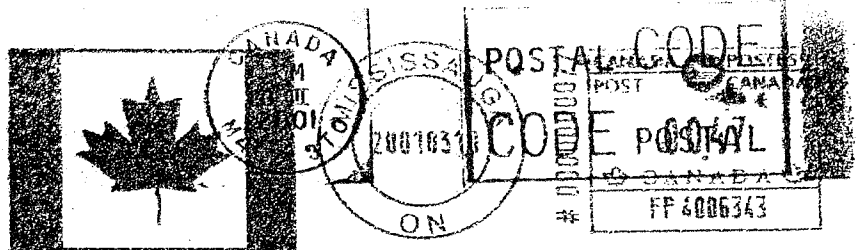
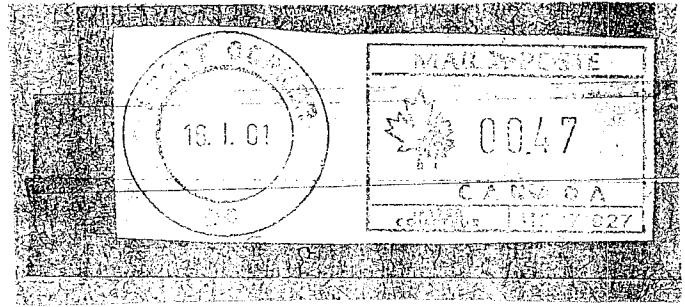
Here are a few more interesting items. On meter 82587 are found these two spellings of the same Ontario city, Peterboro and Peterborough. A number of Hamilton concerns last year used slogans to commemorate their centennial. They

read "July 1st-7th 1946 Hamilton Centennial" and are found in two styles. Another slogan of special interest is this one "Alexander Graham Bell Centennial 1847-1947" with a picture of the inventor and used from several cities. On meter 140287 is a boxed slogan "Produce Sell Prosper" and on 54077 is a picture of a Pool elevator and the words "Farmers! This Is Your Elevator Use It."



Error rate  
or  
on purpose?

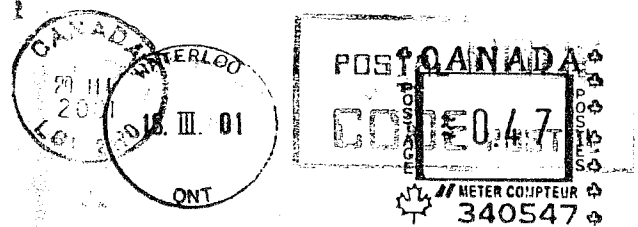
Is scotch taping a meter impression legal?



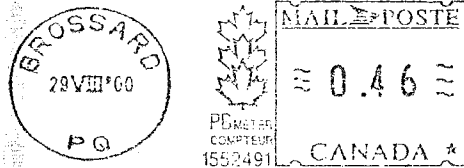
Large patriotic flag postal ad.

DICAL UNDERWRITING.

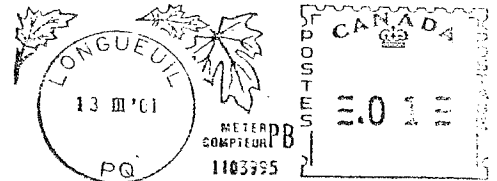
Neopost "N" on Friden type meter



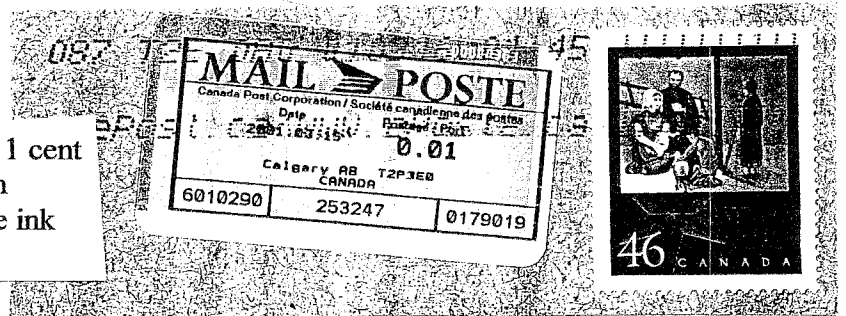
1650 AVENUE PANAMA  
BUREAU 500  
BROSSARD, QC  
J4W 3C6

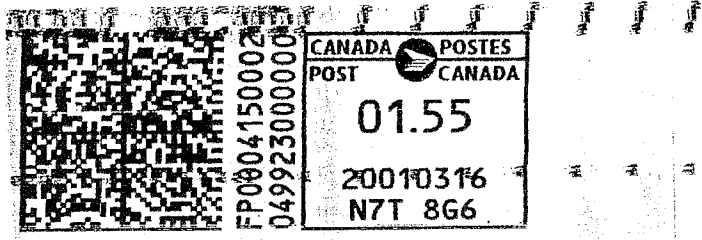


Metered at Brossard, PQ,  
note date is 29 VIII'00.  
Note added rate at  
Longueuil, PQ, dated  
13 III'01. Was this lost in  
the office mail?

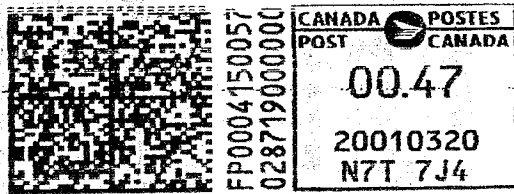
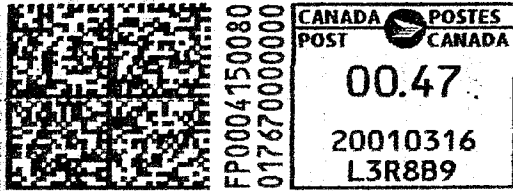


Long time since we were able to get 1 cent Nixdorf type impressions. Sort of an unusual use, guess I will save it. The ink seems to be more stable now.

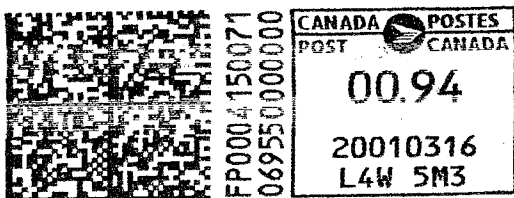
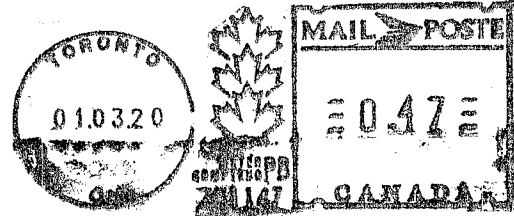
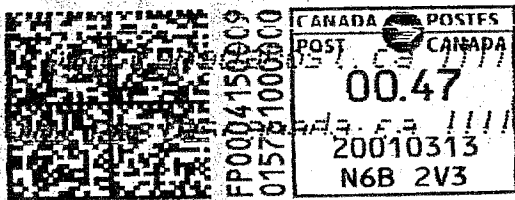




Some Friden Postalia meters. Don't have a model yet, nor description.



178 N5Y 1B0 010313 19:29 |||||



Over-inking seems to be a problem with poor maintenance.

## Postal Mechanisation

The 25p Springtime stamp has been causing problems in sorting offices through being read as second class and streamed accordingly. Consequently, quality of service targets were not being achieved.

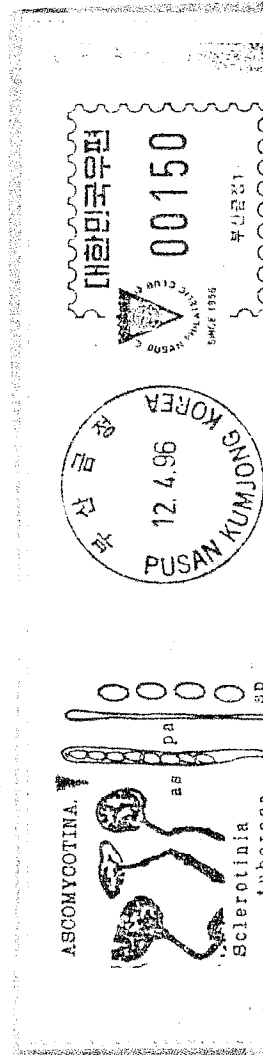
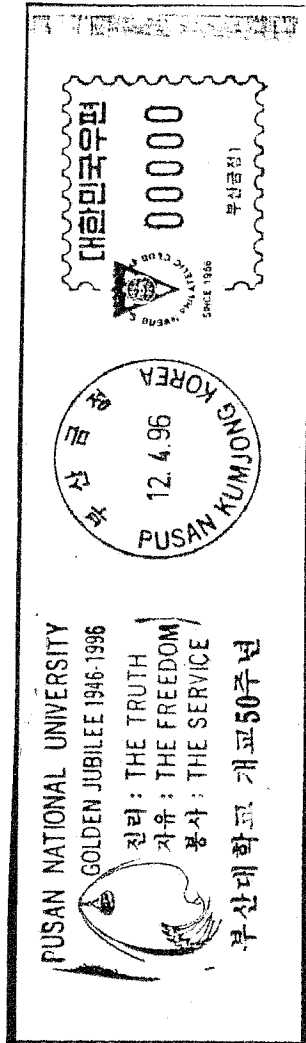
It was suggested to me that this was caused by the stamps being fixed to envelopes in such a way that the word Springtime is upright at the top instead of being sideways at the left. The broad phosphor band at the bottom was read as a second class single band, with the narrow band at the top not read at all.

This idea was challenged by a mechanisation expert who argued that a phosphor band read horizontally would be identified as first class. Trials some years ago showed that a second class single phosphor band stamp could be tilted until the point was reached where it would be read as a first class item.

What he thought was that, unless the machinery has changed with the Springtime 25p stamp being affixed in the correct way the narrow phosphor band was not being detected, with only the single broad band at the right being picked up, thus being read as second class only.

It goes so show that you should never accept the first explanation you are given without checking. The number of times I have been caught out on that one.

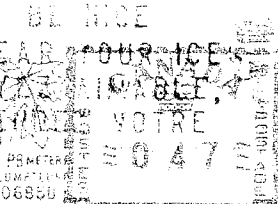
STAMP MAGAZINE • AUGUST



Recent Pitney Bowes ad seen on several meters.



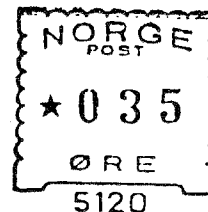
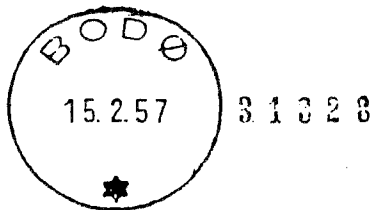
International  
Year of  
Volunteers



# METER MARK MAGIC

## The Case for Collecting Meter Marks

P S S F Marsden



Postal historians study all aspects of the postal service, in particular, postal markings, routes, rates and the methods of handling the post. Philatelists study stamps, cancellations and pre-stamp and stampless mail. It has puzzled me why it is that both philatelists and postal historians, with a few exceptions, seem to shun the study of metered mail. Perhaps it is because the importance of metered mail in the postal systems of the World is not appreciated or the nature of the information which a collection of meter marks can furnish not understood. The purpose of this article is to show how meter marks can add a new dimension to any postal history or philatelic collection which cannot be achieved in another way.

### Definition of a Meter Mark

'Meter franking machines are machines which print impressions or stamps of various values direct on to envelopes, wrappers, labels, etc and record the amount expended by means of meters' (Ref 1). There are three types of meter franking machines:

1. Used by private firms, or government departments under licence from the postal authorities.
2. Used by post offices for franking mail handed in by the public or for the collection of postage due.
3. Coin-fed machines established in post offices and used by the public for franking their own mail by the insertion of the required coins.

Meter marks are the impressions produced by meter franking machines. A typical meter mark is illustrated (Fig 1). The essential elements are (a) the town/date mark and (b) the value stamp. These features differentiate meter marks from franks which are not produced by meter franking machines. There are other variable features of meter marks. These are (c) text which can be found in various locations; to the left of the town/date mark, between the value stamp and the town/date mark or below the value stamp. Sometimes the text is altogether absent. Lastly, with many earlier meter marks, a record number which is often found between the town/date mark and the value stamp

above or below any text found in this position or to the left of the town/date mark or absent.

The UPU regulations require that the meter mark be printed in red but there is considerable variation in both shade and colour. When meter marks are used for special purposes, they are found in other colours, e.g. green, blue or black. Some meter marks are found with the town/date mark and value stamp in red but the other text in a different colour.

### The Place of Meter Marks in the Postal Service

Readers may not be aware of the importance of metered mail to postal administrations: for the fiscal year ending 30 June 1951, \$636,000,000 was paid on metered mail in the United States of America, representing 41 per cent of the total value of all postage.

More recently, I have obtained information on the relative importance of metered mail in Denmark and Sweden.

#### Denmark

Year	Sale of Postage Stamps (Millions DKr)	Sale of Postage Metered (Millions DKr)	Metered Postage as percentage of total
1945-6	70	7	9.1
1955-6	128	38	22.9
1965-6	292	148	33.6
1975-6	525	462	46.8

Source - *Post- og Telegrafmuseet*, Kobenhavn, 1990.

This table illustrates the steady growth of metered mail in Denmark since the end of the Second World War.

#### Sweden

Year	Sale of Postage Stamps (Millions SKr)	Sale of Postage Metered (Millions SKr)	Metered Postage as percentage of total
1925	49.4	-	-
1930	53.5	2.9	5.1
1935	52.2	7.1	12.0
1940	58.1	11.0	15.9
1945	90.5	19.7	17.9
1950	114.5	31.6	21.6
1955	158.0	56.6	26.4
1960	208.6	83.0	28.5
1965	315.3	142.6	31.1
1970	413.7	257.7	38.4
1975	671.2	439.4	39.6
1980	785.0	782.1	49.9
1985	1244.8	1295.1	51.0

Source - *Sveriges officiella statistik Postverket*, through The Postmuseum, Stockholm.

The breakdown of revenue from all sources for Sweden in 1985 was:

Source of Revenue, (1985)	Millions of SKr	Percent of Total
Postage Stamps	1244.8	20.9
Metered Mail	1295.1	21.7
Port Paye	1762.6	29.5
Bulk Printed Matter	1662.3	27.9

Top: Fig 1 A typical meter mark

Right: Table showing importance of metered mail in Denmark and Sweden

with the value of postage sold through meters equalling or exceeding the sale of postage stamps, including postage stamps sold to the philatelic market, can anyone doubt that meter mail forms a large part of World postal traffic.

## A Brief History of the Introduction of Meter Marks

Historically, it is important to consider the use of meter franking machines by firms and individuals as officially recognised by the various postal administrations. Before this there were experimental trials in which the public may have been involved but which were mounted by the postal administrations of Australia, New Zealand, Norway, the USA and Great Britain. These trials were designed to test the reliability of machines, their security and their acceptability to the public.

The first franking machines were installed in Norway. A machine invented by Chr A Kahrs was placed in the lobby of the General Post Office at Kristiania (Oslo, as the city later became) on 24 August 1900. This was a coin-fed machine which printed a frank on a letter and was regarded as a receipt for postage paid being subsequently covered by a stamp affixed by post office staff (*Ref 1*). The first machine which could be regarded as the forerunner of the present-day franking machines was designed by Karl Uchermann and constructed by Krag Maskinfabrik of Kristiania. The dies for the frank were supplied by the postal authorities and produced fixed value impressions of 5 and 10 öre. Five öre impressions in green are known but are extremely rare; proofs of the 10 öre are known in green also but appear never to have been used on commercial mail. The machines were first used on 15 June 1903 and the latest date is 2 January 1905. Seven machines were used in post offices in Kristiania each identified by a code letter.

Machines were officially introduced in New Zealand in 1905 and in the United States in 1920. The adoption of meter franking machines by other postal administrations followed rapidly in the 1920s and 1930s until by 1968 most World postal administrations had officially adopted the system.

Table Showing the Earlier Postal Administrations to Adopt Meter Franking Machines

1903 Norway
1905 New Zealand
1920 United States of America
1922 Egypt, Great Britain, India
1923 Canada, Germany, Switzerland
1924 Austria, France, Uruguay
1925 Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Leichtenstein, Netherlands
1926 Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Finland, Irish Free State, Luxembourg, Saar, Sweden, South Africa
1927 Australia, Ceylon, Federated Malay States, Italy, Peru, Poland, Straits Settlements
1928 Hungary, Latvia, Monaco, Thailand
1929 Belgian Congo, Estonia, Iceland, Mexico, Netherlands Indies, Palestine, Newfoundland, Philippines, Rumania, Southern Rhodesia
1930 Algeria, Chile, Yugoslavia, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago

Source—*The Meter Stamp Bulletin*, 1969

This table shows that meter marks are not found in the 'classic' period of philately, they are well entrenched in the 'middle issues' period, however. Meter marks can be found which are 60 years old, which if they were motor vehicles or furniture would rate as 'vintage' or 'antique'. There should be no doubt, in the reader's mind, that meter marks have an important niche in postal history.

## Meter Marks are Interesting

It seems that the International Philatelic Federation has been trying to get the philatelic community to take an interest in postmarks as a part of postal history. Since meter marks include a town/date mark according to the requirements of the postal administration, meter marks have their claim to be studied on this basis too.

Except for some of the earlier fixed value machines, meter franking machines produce a single impression showing the amount of postage paid, evidence which can be retained by keeping the cover intact complete with all the postal markings and stickers which relate to its duty. In the case of stamped mail there is the temptation to remove high value or attractive adhesive stamps and thus destroy the story which the cover can tell. This is an important reason for taking an interest in meter marks.

Meter marks are as interesting as postmarks and post paid marks of the past, they are the modern equivalent of these earlier markings. The meter mark has a story of its own to tell. Many meter marks include the name and address of the user of the meter franking machine, as well as a slogan or illustration pertinent to the businesses of the user. The meter marks originating from any place can yield information about the business activities carried out there. They have an added importance for the 'home town' collector or for the thematic collector of today.

## The Advantages of Collecting Meter Marks

There are no charity or unnecessary issues of meter marks. The style of meter marks may change with time or as necessary to reflect changes in postal administration, e.g. the Aland Islands in 1982. Occasionally a user of a meter franking machine may introduce a new slogan, perhaps to commemorate an important event in the user's history. Such new slogans do not affect the postal administration's approved form of the meter mark.

There can be no controversy over mint status since the impression of a meter mark is the use of postage and once printed is of used condition. UPU regulations stipulate that meter marks are not to be cancelled. The appearance of a postmark on a meter marked cover indicates that it has been redirected or received into the post later than indicated.

Meter marks are used exclusively on commercial mail, sometimes they are used with the postal administration for the collection of postage due or for franking parcels and all manner of other items passing over the post office counter.

Meter marks can be used on all items passing through the postal system and to prepay the charges for all services provided by the post office. Thus the whole range of postal rates are represented in the field of metered mail.

To the same extent as stamped items, meter marks clothe the skeleton of the postal service with the real flesh of commercial

requirements, but more accurately, because there is little temptation to generate philatelic items.

The advent of a new form of thematic collecting, the 'home town' collection, has meant that meter marked covers find a happy niche in a collection of this kind. A 'home town' collection consists of philatelic items which originate from or are sent to a selected town and enables the collector to present a rounded and complete picture of the place. Acceptable material consists of postcards, letters, photographs and covers which, taken together, paint such a picture.

## An Example for the 'Home Town' Collector

This illustrative case concerns Vagur, a small town in the Farøe Islands. This town is situated on the southernmost island of the group, Suduroy, at the head and on the north shore of Vagsfjordur. The post office at Vagur was established in 1903 and today is a *postekspedition*. That is the information about Vagur which the collector can glean from publications on the Farøe Islands.

There have been at least five different meter marks used on the Farøe Islands from at least three banks and an ice plant at Vagur. The earliest bank to use a meter was Foroya Banki which used a Pitney-Bowes machine from 1974 to 1981 and probably later. The 1974 meter mark was of the older style with the country name shown as 'DANMARK'. With the change of status of the islands in 1976, later meter marks show the country of origin as 'FØROYAR'. The second bank is a branch of Sjøvinnubankin, or 'Sailors' Bank' which used a Satas machine from at least December 1981 but changed to a Haslar machine before December 1985. Before December 1983 a third bank, Suduroyar Sparikassi or the Suduroy Savings Bank, used a Haslar 5000 series machine. The ice plant is run by a company called Polarfrost and produces ice of 'ocean quality', according to the firm's meter mark slogan, so presumably they freeze salt sea water for use in the holds of Farøese trawlers. This firm used a Pitney-Bowes machine from at least August 1985 and probably earlier. This particular machine had an earlier registered user who started using a 'new' machine of the same make in 1979.

This knowledge gives a more interesting picture of Vagur than could be obtained from stamped covers since modern business houses tend to mechanise their administrative activities and there would be few commercial stamped covers.

## The Registered Letter

Many postal administrations allow business houses to register their own mail before it is accepted into the postal system. The cover illustrated (*Fig 2*) is from the Netherlands and originated from H Albert de Bary & Co, bankers of Rotterdam. The cover carries a meter mark applied by a Francotyp meter franking machine, licence No FR22363 for the combined registration fee and postage as current on 5 November 1982 of 5g.50. Both the handstamp 'AANGETEKEND/RECOMMANDE' in blue and the registration label, custom printed for this firm, were applied in the firm's post room. A similar cover where postage and registration fee had been prepaid using stamps would perhaps have carried a 5g. and 50c. stamps, presenting a tempting opportunity for the removal of the high value.

## Parcel Post

In the Scandinavian countries parcels are accompanied by a card which is initially attached to the parcel, and which carries all relevant information, and the stamps pre-paying the postage. The parcel card illustrated (Fig 3) concerns a parcel from Bodö to Valnes inserted in the inland mail on 22 December 1943, and requiring payment from the recipient for the goods it contained on delivery. The parcel weighed 0.2kgm and the postage and COD fee of 1k.65 was prepaid by means of a meter mark applied by a Francotyp CB meter franking machine, licence No 154 used by the sender, Otto Koch, of Bodö. The sum to be collected on delivery is shown as 11k.26 and the fact that this was a COD parcel is evidenced by the triangular orange mark which shows as black in the illustration and the word 'Postoppkrav' preceding the sum to be collected.

The usual fate of parcel cards is that when their useful purpose has been fulfilled, they are returned to the post office, the stamps are torn off and go into kiloware, which is then sold in lots to stamp dealers. Thus stamped parcel cards are difficult to acquire in their entire state. Those with meter marks survive because they have no value to the philatelist.

## Express, Registered, Airmail Letter

The item illustrated (Fig 4) is a registered letter from Helsinki, Finland to the United Kingdom upon which an express fee and airmail postage has been paid. The total rate for this duty of 14m.70 was prepaid by a meter mark applied by a Pitney-Bowes meter franking machine, licence No 234367 used by Postipankki, the Finnish postgiro bank, who used envelopes preprinted with 'PAR AVION' and applied the 'EXPRES/PIKA-EXPRESS', three language red label (French, Finnish and Swedish) and the registration label.

## Registered Cash-on-Delivery Packet

This item (Fig 5) originated from Eurocard Norge A/s, Oslo on 17 September 1981 and was sent to Horten in Norway, south of Oslo. The fact that this was a registered cash-on-delivery item is evidenced by red letter 'R' in the rectangular box followed by the registration number '054795' and the orange triangular label with the word 'POSTOPPKRAV' meaning postal COD service below it. The sum to be collected on delivery is shown as 150k. The post office charge a special fee for registration and for carrying out the cash-on-delivery service, since it is the postman who collects this money and the post office that has to account for it. The postage, registration and COD fees of 14k.30 were prepaid by a meter mark applied by a Krag meter franking machine, licence No 25924 used by Eurocard Norge A/s.

## Conclusion

The Author hopes that readers will now appreciate the importance which metered mail should have in the realm of philately and postal history and from the cases illustrated above, that the title of Meter Mark Magic is no idle boast.

## Reference

S D Barfoot and Werner Simon, *The Meter Postage Stamp Catalogue*, Universal Postal Frankers Ltd, London, 1953.

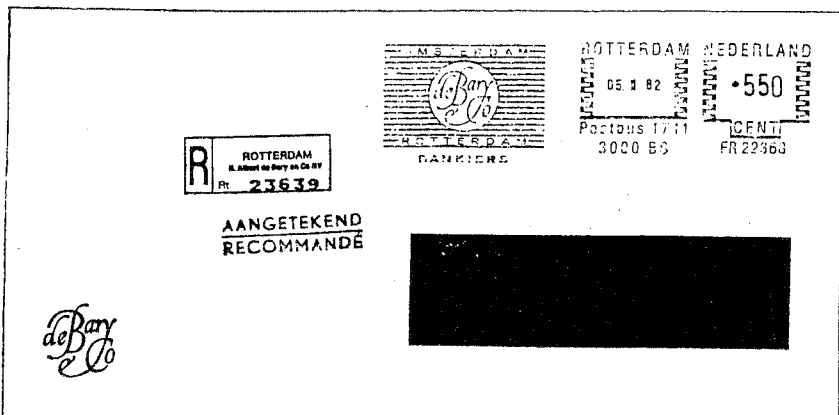


Fig 2 Registered item from H Albert de Bary & Co, a Dutch bank

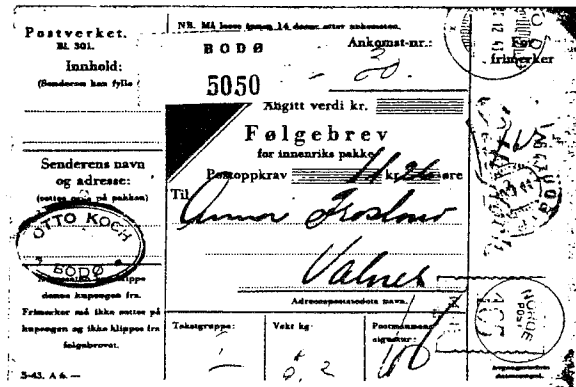
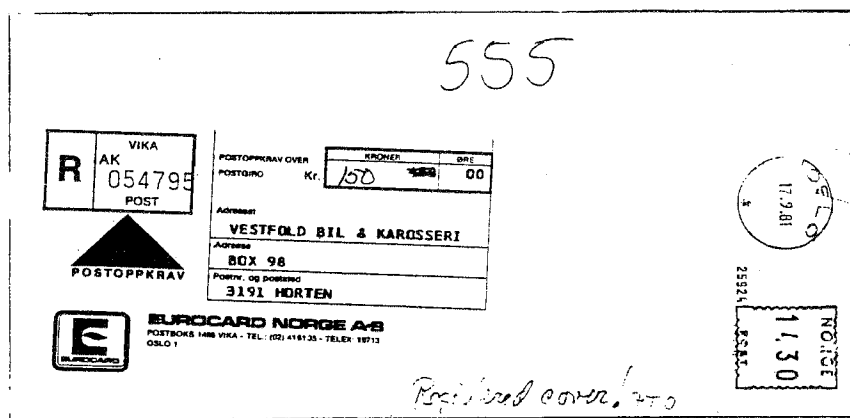


Fig 3 Norwegian parcel card



Fig 4 Registered item with Express fee and airmail paid by meter

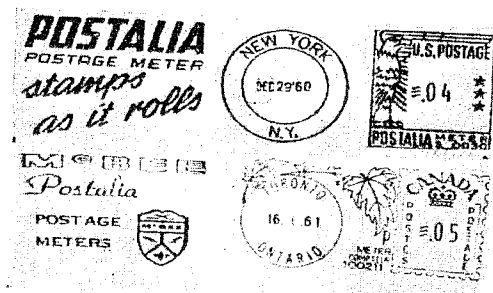
Fig 5 Registered cash-on-delivery item from Norway



# Meter News from Great Britain and the United States

by ALLAN HAUCK

For a number of years Universal Postal Frankers Limited, of London, have been a subsidiary of Pitney-Bowes Inc., of Stamford, Connecticut. On 1st October, 1960, they changed their name to Pitney-Bowes Ltd. At the recent Business Machines Show in London specimen meter impressions reflected this change in name.



30th June, 1960. The use of these meters has been authorized only in New York City and Westchester County. This meter was actually used for the first time on 9th October, 1960, by its distributors, the Postalia Division of the Tele-Norm Corp. of New York City. The meter may be applied directly to the envelope or package (the machine is small enough that it can be held in the hand and rolled across the envelope or package to be metered), or it may be used with a tape printing accessory. The name "Postalia" appears quite prominently in the design of the meter itself (Fig. 1). The Postalia meter, made in West Germany, has thus become the first foreign-made meter machine to be licensed for use in the United States. If the initial limited testing in the New York area proves satisfactory, it is presumed that the meter will be approved for general use throughout the United States. This means that companies such as Pitney-Bowes will now be experiencing for the first time foreign competition in their own domestic market.

During 1960 the United States also experienced a significant development in the meter field. For the first time in the history of the United States Post Office a foreign meter manufacturer was authorized to sell meter machines in the United States. Approval of the new Postalia meters was announced on

A West German "Postalia" meter is also being marketed in Canada (Fig. 2) by the McBee Company Ltd., of Toronto, Ontario. The Canadian design conforms more closely to the traditional Canadian meter design than does the U.S. Postalia meter in comparison with other American meters.

July 10th 1953

## STAMP COLLECTING

### :: THE METER STAMP STUDY GROUP ::



An Edward VIII Meter stamp

This Group was started in January, 1950, with the object of bringing together those people interested in the collection and study of meter postage stamps (or "meter marks" as they are often popularly termed), enabling them to make known to one another their knowledge and discoveries in this little explored field, and also to get into touch with one another for the exchange of material.

It is the only society in this country catering solely or mainly for meter-stamp collectors. It takes the place of the "Meter Club" founded in 1938, which, after a war-time suspension, had finally to close down at the end of 1946. Although intended primarily for collectors in the United Kingdom, the Group has now a large proportion of members overseas—in the United States, several European countries, South and East Africa, South America, and Australia.

The Group issues to members a quarterly Bulletin, containing articles and notes on all aspects of meter stamps of all countries—though naturally most attention is devoted to Great Britain. The information is supplied by correspondents all over the world.

**Library.**—Members are entitled to borrow from the Group's "Library" a variety of books and magazine articles, published in Great Britain and elsewhere, dealing with meter stamps. The only charge is the postage both ways. Most in demand is "The Meter Postage Stamp Catalogue" by the late A. H. Harris, "listing, illustrating, classifying and pricing impressions from automatic postal franking machines of the whole world"; the third and last edition was dated 1940 and it is now difficult to obtain. (An entirely new whole-world catalogue to supersede that of Harris is under active preparation by one of the Group's members.) There are also the up-to-date "Classification of United States Postage Meter Prints", illustrating all the numerous types used in that country; "The Development of the Postage Meter Machines of the United States, 1898-1920"; and others.

A circulating Exchange Packet on the usual philatelic lines proved impracticable for meter stamps, but members are entitled to have inserted, free of charge, in the Bulletin short announcements of their wants and offers, inviting others interested to get into direct touch with them.

Any person interested in the collection and study of meter postage stamps, whether a "specialist" or not, is welcome to join the Group for details of which they should apply to the Hon. Secretary: A. A. Dewey, M.A., B.Sc.(Econ.), 46 Chester Drive, North Harrow, Harrow, Middlesex.

**Note.**—Secretaries of other specialist societies and study groups are invited to contribute similar notes on their organisation for publication as circumstances permit.