

# CANADIAN METER STAMP NEWSLETTER

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*Please record e-mail addresses as shown in masthead*

## EDITORIAL

The Government has struck a major blow against our collecting interests with the passing of the Privacy legislation. I was the recipient of several bags of insurance company letters on a quarterly basis. There was usually nothing collectable in them but when a new meter showed up it made sorting worthwhile. Now, the company shreds all these covers. It will be harder to keep up with new items unless they show up in your personal mail.

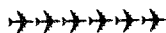
Note: First Class postage increased on January 17, 2005, to 50 cents so with tax that is 54 cents, no wonder e-mail is so inexpensive and handy.

Want to buy meter stuff? Try:- [www.worldmeterstamps.com](http://www.worldmeterstamps.com)

This issue has repeat material from other issues, for two reasons. The first is I don't get many items from members to include and the second is to dwell upon the digital postage meters that exist today to highlight any differences in appearance from a collection point of view and to add them to our CMSG catalog.

Rudolf von Fischer of Switzerland collects International Year of the Child, 1979. If you have such material e-mail him at [<fifi@mydiar.ch>](mailto:fifi@mydiar.ch)

I didn't get even one response to my request on how you store and catalog your meter collection!



## What's In the Mail Today?

I did a census of covers last March (2004) to see what was in the mail. To a great extent this will change with the company but for what it is worth here are the results. I hope you can identify with the meter group serial number. It is obvious which postage meters are in common use.

Meter type	No. of Covers	Meter type	No. of Covers
PB 500	2	FP 415	3
PB 1000000	48	FP 405	5
PB 022	39	FP 400	7
PB 155	63	FP CPPC	24
PB 110	100	FP MP	6 total FP - 45
PB 688	1	H dml	47
PB 1500000	70	H old ml	12 total Hasler - 59
PB 160	8	F at base	31
PB 140	43	F ML at base	9 total Friden - 40
PB200000	19	N at base	3 total Neopost - 3
PB 177	14		
PB 172	26		
PB 170	32 total PB - 465		
N371	3		
NE 330	9		
NE 320	6		
NE 340	9 total Neopost - 27		

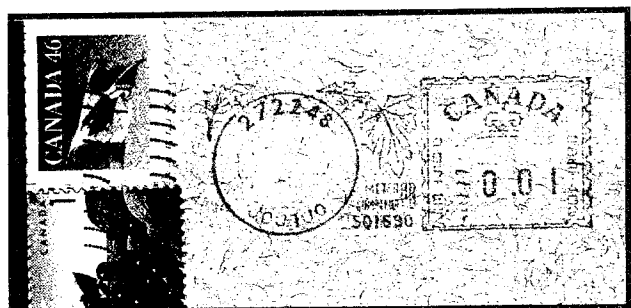
In CMSG Newsletters 10, 11 and 12 we showed illustrations of the use of "Postage" meters by the Canadian Standards Association to confirm the length of wire in spools. Since there is a Nexans wire manufacturing plant at Fergus, Ontario, and I had a contact there, I asked him to get me some examples of their meter impression as mine are in very rough shape.



I show what they use now. A very large stick-on with a bar code. So here is another collecting area gone to new technology. I have five different examples but just show one here.

Pitney Bowes postage meter 501690 with the postal code in the townmark. 272245 / J0J 1J0. The return address on the cover is St. Jean - sur Richelieu and J2X 2R7.

The J0J 1J0 postal code in the townmark is Lacolle, PQ. Brown cover.



## KNOWN POSTAL CODES IN THE TOWNMARK

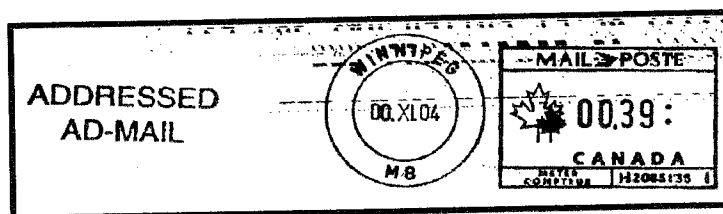
Top Section	Bottom	Meter Using	Identity of User
H3C 1S0	QC	1010148	Succ. Centre Ville, Montreal; Sun Life, Toronto
E.T.L.C.	H3C 1S0	1011945	NBCN, Montreal
ETL CV	H3C 1S0	1053351	
H4Y 1C9	blank		Dorval
blank	H4T 1A0	1052311	Financial Bank, Montreal
CMPM-MPCF	H4Y 1C9	501123	
L3R 0A0	blank	1052913	
L3R 0A1	ON	1052913	Mailing company, Royal Ct., Markham
WLPP	L4W 1T0	1006594	
blank	N2J 2X0	1004854	Manulife Financial, Waterloo
AB	T2E 0A0	1052135	Albern Coins, Calgary
C.M.P.P.	T2E 0A0	1003210	
V6B 3A0	blank	H2004771	Terminal, Georgina St
Blank	V6V 2K9	1010735	Telus, Calgary ????

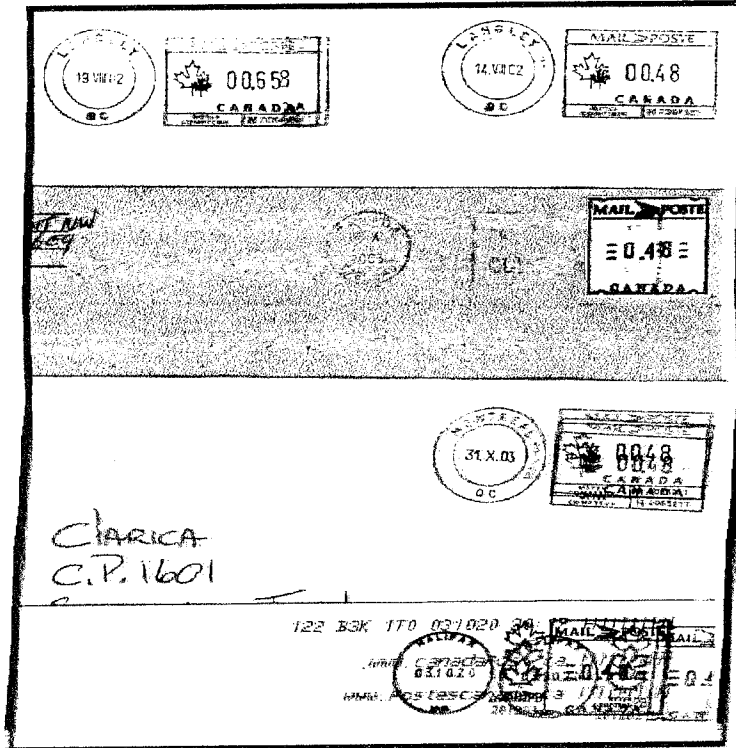
## OFFICIAL POST OFFICE PROVINCE IDENTIFICATION CODES

Official 2-letter province abbreviation and first letter of the Forward Sorting Area (FSA) of the postal codes used within that area

YK	Y	Yukon Territory	ON	L	Central Ontario
NT	X	North West Territories	ON	K	Eastern Ontario
BC	V	British Columbia	PQ	J	Western Quebec
AB	T	Alberta	PQ	H	Montreal
SK	S	Saskatchewan	PQ	G	Eastern Quebec
MB	R	Manitoba	NB	E	New Brunswick
ON	P	Northern Ontario	PE	C	Prince Edward Island
ON	N	South-western Ontario	NS	B	Nova Scotia
ON	M	Toronto	NF	A	Newfoundland and Labrador

Hasler meter with "ADDRESSED / AD-MAIL" postal directive. Postage rate 39 cents.



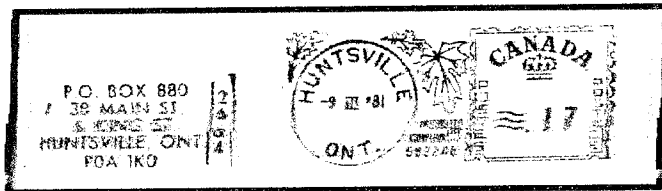


From my files I dug out two items Jack previously sent to me. From the same Hasler2060332 meter at Langley BC. Standard print dated 14.VIII.02. Note the one dated 19 VIII 02. The value is a strange 00.0658. Looks like an extra "8" and the right bar is duplicated as well as the "A" of CANADA. The proper rate for the cover was 48 cents. Has anyone an explanation for this?

Also shown is a Pitney Bowes where a secretary has cut out the rate and pasted it on the cover. Is it legal?

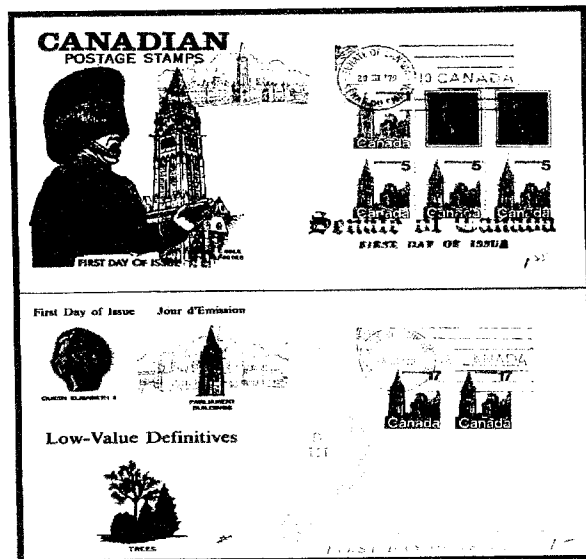
Double imprint Hasler again but the townmark has not been affected. How?

Just a double, or overlay, impression. Too big a hurry. Appear to be both 48 cents.

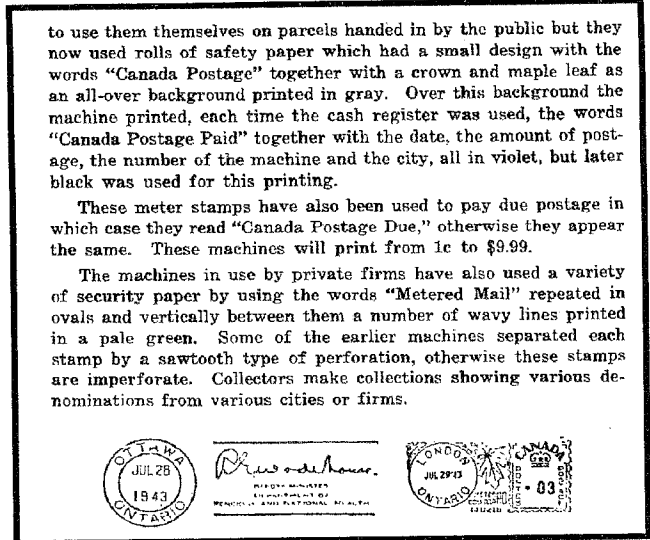
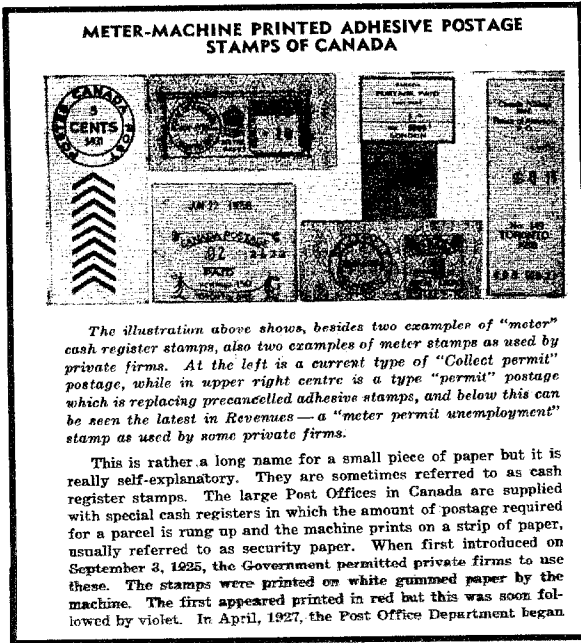


Pitney Bowes meter 582248 from Huntsville dated 1981. Anyone have an idea what the vertical number "2664" represents in the postal ad?

Two nice looking covers created by an obvious stamp collector in Ottawa

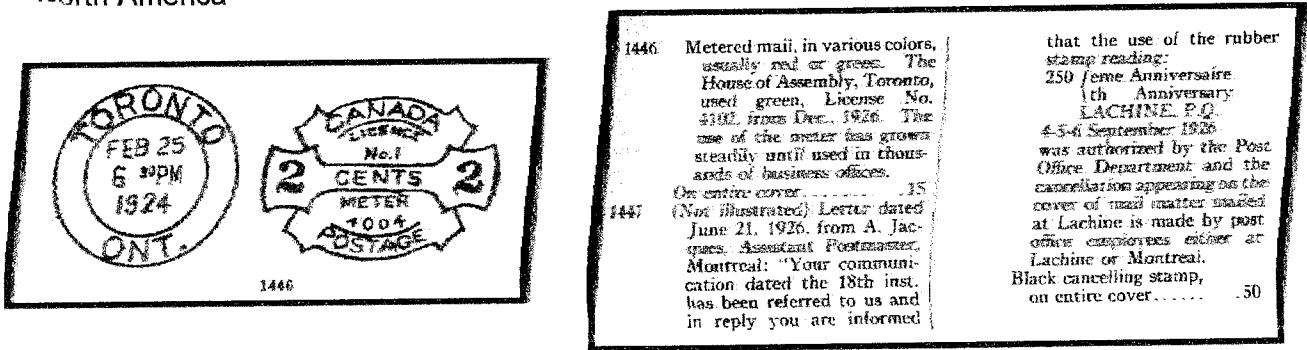




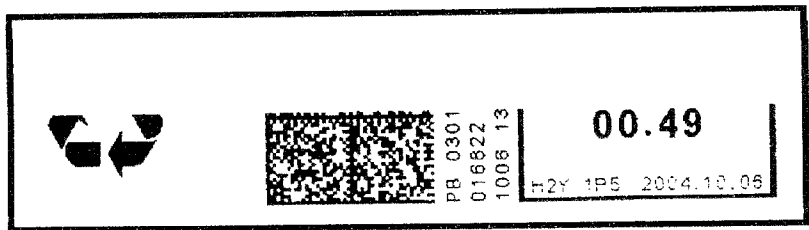


Above - The postage meter section from Dr. L. Searle Holmes Handbook of Canada and British North America. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. 15-

Below - The postage meter (p. 548-549) section from Fred Jarrat's 1929 "Stamps of British North America"



Jack Brandt sent me a cut of a meter in which the top section did not print. Anyone dealing with computerized graphics is familiar with this software problem. Unusual to see so much left off, what I have noted are just small missing line problems. Anyway, thanks Jack.



## DIGITAL POSTAGE METERS

The 132,000 postage meters in Canada generate one-third of Canada Posts postage sales. It is an important part of its business. Canada Post announced a meter upgrading and replacement program in 1992 but it was not until March 31, 1999, that the program began with the conversion of all low-speed mechanical meters.

There included at that time the following series:- Postalia low speed MS5 and high speed KF1501 ; Pitney Bowes low speed 57XX and high speed 53XX; Neopost low speed 922X and high speed 923X; Ascom Hasler low speed 133 and 143 and high speed 13XXX, 25XXX, 43XX, 54XX, 55XX, 58XX, 62XX, 75XXX, 76000X, 92XX, 93XX, 96XX, 97XX, 98XX AND 99XX. ("X" is the start of the series).

Following the lead of the USPS, and other postal authorities Canada Post instituted a Meter Replacement Program in February 2002 that involved the transition from non-digital postage meters that print indicia using letterpress technology to digital postage meters. The letterpress meters were subject to tampering and counterfeiting compared to the enhanced security with digital systems. The transition has been carried out under a four-phase plan to minimize the impact on customers and manufacturers.

First, meters not removed in 1999 which used mechanical dials to record postage spent and remaining were to be removed by December 31, 2002. These meters required resetting at a postal outlet.

These included Pitney Bowes models 649, 5306, 5319, 5321, 5397, 5714, 5717, 5740 and 6510. Neopost (Friden) models 9215, 9235, 9245, 9255, 9259, 9265, 9269, 9275 and 9279. Francotyp-Postalia models MS5 and 7000. Ascom Hasler models 133, 143, 1135, 4310, 5463, 6210, 6310, 13410, 13863 and models 1441, 16410 and 17560 which were electronic counter reset.

Canada Post no longer provided counter reset service. At the beginning of the year (2002) 24,000 old style meters were still in use but had dropped to 12,000 by September 2002.

Second, electro-mechanical meters which must be manually reset by a Canada Post employee were withdrawn by December 31, 2003. Pitney Bowes models 5384 and 5385 were affected. Did you get a last day use cover for these meters? That is, Dec 31, 2002, or, Dec. 31, 2003.

Third phase, involves the retirement of remote-set postage meters using letter-press technology and a Fourth phase which involves the retirement of the third phase postage meters having a time-out feature which disables the meter if not reset within a specified period. These postage meters are to be retired as of December 31, 2006.

These included Pitney Bowes models 6511, 6911, 6991, A911, B711, B911, E111, E710, E716, E717 and E719. Neopost models SM26, 9515, 9545 and 9555. Francotyp-Postalia models 8000 and MI. Ascom-Hasler models Smile, and remote set 1441, 16410 and 17560. Manufacturers are not to replace these later meters and all must be out of service by December 31, 2006. And all replacement meters must be IBI-compliant.

Current models that can be used after December 31, 2006, include the Pitney Bowes "DM" models, the Neopost "IJ" models, Francotyp Jetmail and T-1000 models.

Postage meters contain electronic postage, purchased from Canada Post, and stored in the "meters" memory. Users key in the amount of postage desired and the meter imprints the amount on an envelope, label or tape. A few meters are stand-alone units but most are designed to be used with a *mailing machine*. When additional scales etc are added to the system it becomes a *mailing system* of which the meter is the heart.

A digital meter prints a stamp that is software controlled, as opposed to the noisy "impact printing" technology used in old meters having an engraved mechanical stamp and town dies. *(Unfortunately this is the heart of our hobby disappearing via technology)*

This new Digital technology permits a number of features and benefits

- five-bank meter decimal capability, when required
- automatic date advance
- postage accounting - can track mail to departments for billing
- security to restrict access via PIN numbers and passwords
- printing reports
- low postage warning
- user-definable text (post office ads)
- remote resetting to eliminate customer travel time and corporate retail effort to fill meters
- built-in rating for selected Lettermail and Letter-Post services
- a greater number of product options that can be indicated on the mail piece by a meter
- use of a digital bar code indicia to support introduction of these options and to provide more security for the mail piece.
- other so-called benefits include silent printing , no more messy liquid ink, clear and crisp printing at all times, capability to print on thicker envelopes, proven and reliable Hewlett Packard inkjet printing technology.

The U.S. Postal Service initiated IBIP (Information Based Indicia Program) standards for reducing mail fraud, increasing levels of metered mail and making delivery more efficient to users. These standards provide greater revenue security through digitally signed bar code in the printed indicia. Each indicia indicates the postage has been paid, and is unique to the mail piece. Even many of our newer postage meters print "Invalid Postage" if a "0.00" is coded in. The digital signature verifies the integrity of the information in the bar code, which is automatically scanned for faster mail processing. IBIP also makes it easier for postage meter vendors to track and audit postage meter use. The Canadian postal code in the indicia is a key entry point.

The CMSG catalog for current digital postage meters, listed as Types 45, 46 and 47, are found later in this issue.





## **FRANCOTYP-POSTALIA DIGITAL METER SERIES**

There appear to be two series that can be identified. No line under Canada Post

FP0004000001 with value 5 mm from T-1000 Conquest

FP0004150001 with value 4 mm; postal code in two sections

My serial number range for these series are -

FP0004150039 - FP0004150193

FP0004001286 - FP0004008978

These serial blocks are unusual since they appear to be concurrent. Any comments?

Francotype-Postalia now markets four basic digital models.

The 8500 series includes 8510 (60); 8512 (60), 8513 (85), 8515 (120); JetMail Concorde (117); "M" series M2000 (75), M3000 (100), M5000 (200); and the T1000 (20).

How do we identify them?

## **NEOPOST DIGITAL METER SERIES**

NE 01 03200001 value 3 mm, setting 8, overall 66

NE 013300001 value 4.5 mm, setting 6, overall 66

NE 01 03400001 value 3 mm, setting 10, overall 67

NE 014 3300001 value 5 mm, overall 77, setting 10

My serial number range for these models are:-

NE01 03200009 - NE01 03203699

NE01 03300011 - NE01 03301549

NE01 03400322 - NE01 03401683

NE 014 3301691 - NE014 3301710

I wonder if the new "014" is a continuation of the previous "033". Anyone have a high and low for these two series?

Neopost now market its digital "IJ" and "SM" series. These include IJ25 (20), IJ35 (60), IJ45 (90), IJ65 (80), IJ75 (180), IJ105 (217) and SM22 (40), SM26 (40), SM58 (40), SM75 (170), SM78 (100), SM85 (200), SM94 (220), and SM95 (240).

## **ASCOM HASLER (Neopost)**

Hasler still markets models 1201 (40), 1501 (60), 2201AS (120), 2201BS (80), PostLink (10), PowerPost (216), WJ20 (20), WJ60 (60), WJ90 (90), WJ135 (135), and WJ180 (180).

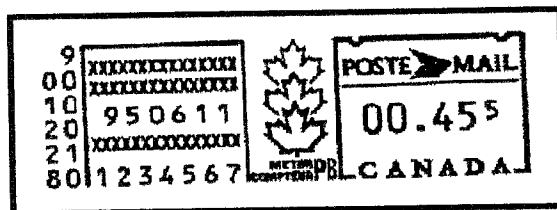
Please help with this survey to determine when digital covers were first used in Canada.

What is your earliest date of use for each of these meter types? See below.

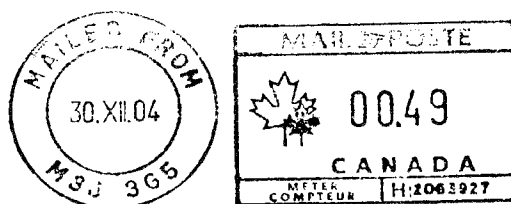
Send me, or e-mail at my masthead address, any changes for next issue.

Meter Serial Number	Earliest Known Date on Cover
FP 0004150009	2000-06-12
FP 0004006816	2001-12-11
PB 0301700409	2002-06-26
PB 0311721109	2003-08-19
PB 0311772335	2003-03-07
PB 0301801022	2004-08-25
NE 01 03000011	2001-12-05
NE 01 03200578	2002-08-29
NE 01 03300312	2003-04-23
NE 01 03400216	2003-02-27
NE 014 3300175	2003-10-28

MSS Quarterly Bulletin No. 266 contains two pages from a Pitney Bowes brochure which illustrates international indicia. That for Canada is shown below.



Wilf Whitehouse sent in the Hasler 2063927 meter. The townmark reads:-  
MAILED FROM // M3J 3G5



Shown below is an early (June 23, 1924) letter from Robert Hill of the Postage Meter Company to the Deputy postmaster General ensuring the 1924 Canada postal Guide provided that meters could be used for 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mail as well as 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Mail.



# THE POSTAGE METER COMPANY

A CORPORATION

HOME OFFICE  
STAMFORD, CONN.  
PHONE STAMFORD 11

SOLE DISTRIBUTORS OF  
THE PITNEY-BOWES POSTAGE METER

ROBERT HILL, CANADIAN AGENT  
186 QUEEN ST., P.O. BOX 603  
PHONE QUEEN 8444

OTTAWA, CANADA June 23, 1924

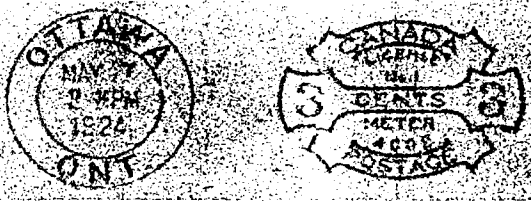
*Handwritten notes:*  
L. J. Gaboury  
Deputy Postmaster General  
Post Office Department  
Ottawa, Canada

L. J. Gaboury, Esq.,  
Deputy Postmaster General,  
Post Office Department,  
Ottawa, Canada.

Sir:

Section 89 of the Canada Official Postal Guide 1924 contains under the heading of Third Class matter the following description of the metered mail authorized by the Canadian Post Office:-

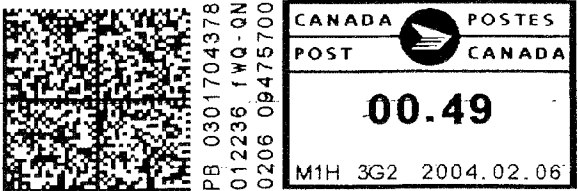
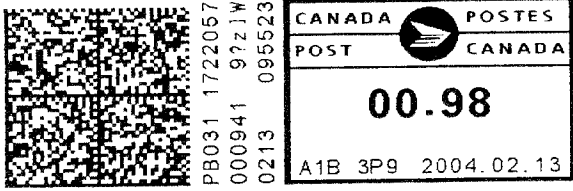
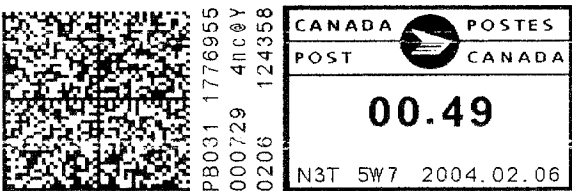
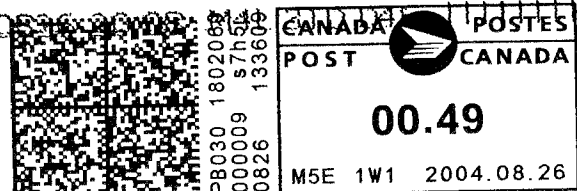
" 89. The Department has approved the use in Canada of a machine that will print on mail matter the words "Canada Postage", the amount of postage prepaid and the date stamp. The printing will be in red and will be in the upper right hand corner where postage stamps are usually placed, thus:



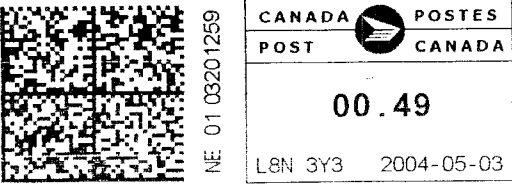
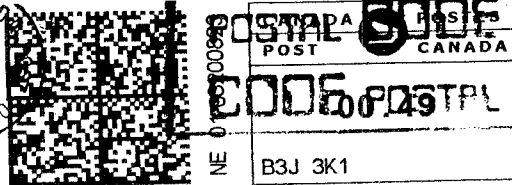
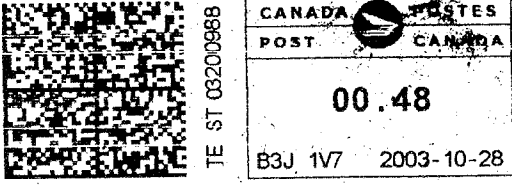
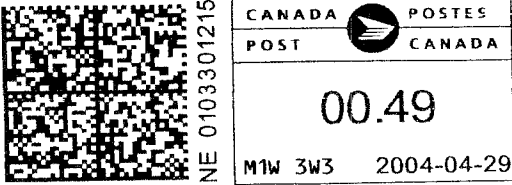
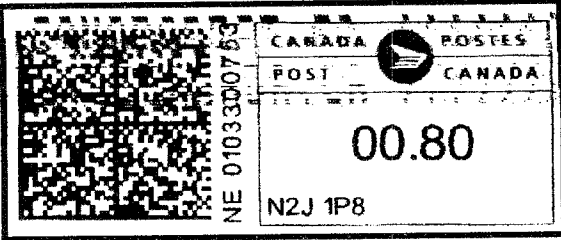
As the postage on such mail matter will have been prepaid in cash, the letters, postcards, circulars etc. are to be forwarded and delivered free of charge.

I beg to point out that the above is not fully descriptive of the underlying principles of metered mail and this section being placed under the heading of Third Class matter has given the impression to the public that it applies to circulars etc. I would therefore respectfully suggest that in the coming 1925 issue that the following


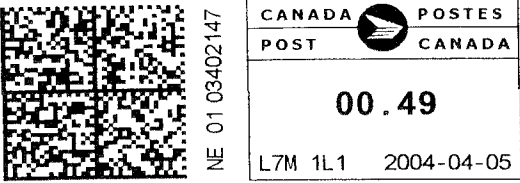
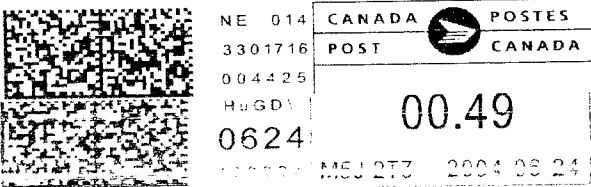
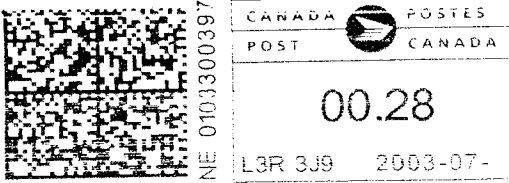
# CMMSG METER CATALOG

Type	Indicia	Remarks
45.1	 <p>PB 0301704378 012236 1WQ-QN 0206 09475700</p>	<p>Basic type - Square 2-D bar code at left; Canada Post 3-segment box at right having 4 figures of value at centre, the postal code of the issuing office and the date of origination at the base. Between the boxes the meter serial, code, date of posting and number of uses. Serial block:- PB 0301700001 Space between PB and serial number. Value 4 mm. Setting 12 mm.</p>
45.1.1	 <p>PB031 172057 000941 9Z2JW 0213 095523</p>	<p>As 45.1 except the serial number block is PB031 1720001. 73 overall, setting 12, matrix 23 Postal code - xxx xxx Date - xxxx.xx.xx</p>
45.1.2	 <p>PB031 1776955 000729 41C@Y 0206 124358</p>	<p>As 45.1 except the serial number block is PB031 1770001</p>
45.2	 <p>PB030 1802088 000009 s7h52 0826 133609</p>	<p>Similar to 45.1 except the serial number block is PB030 1800001. Value 4 mm. 73 overall, setting 10, The Canada Post indicia is redesigned using larger and bolder type font and the lower line below POST and CANADA omitted. Circle is 9 mm.</p>

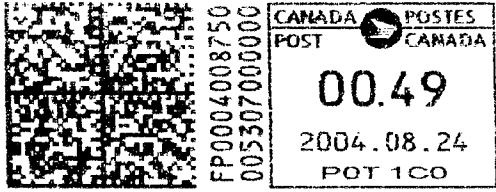
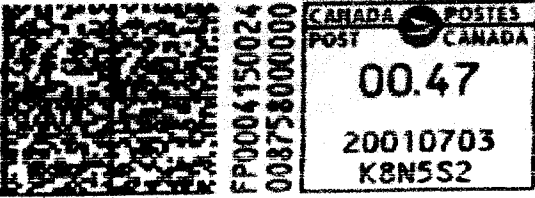
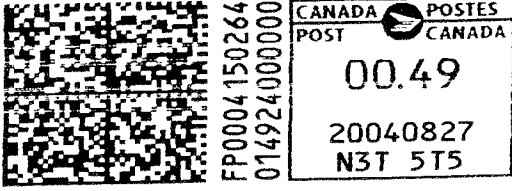
# CMMSG METER CATALOG

Type	Indicia	Remarks
46.1		<p>Basic type - Square 2-D bar code at left; Canada Post 3-segment box at right having 4 figures of value at centre, the postal code of the issuing office and the date of origination at the base. <b>Between the boxes the meter serial.</b></p> <p>Serial block:- NE 0103200001 Space between NE and serial number. Small font for rate.</p>
46.1.1		<p>As 46.1 except the date is omitted in the rate box. Value 3 mm high. Overall 67. Postal code - xxx xxx</p>
46.1.2		<p>As 46.1 except the serial number reads TE ST 03200001</p>
46.2		<p>Similar to 46.1 except the serial number block is NE 0103300001. Rate font is 4 mm. Date - xxxx-xx-xx</p>
46.2.1		<p>As 46.2 except the date is omitted in the rate box</p>

# CMMSG METER CATALOG

Type	Indicia	Remarks
46.2.2		As 46.2 except the postal code is omitted in the rate box
46.3		As 46.2 except the serial block is NE 01 034000001. Value is 3 mm high.
46.4		Square matrix box at left. Rate box as 46.2 with value 5 mm high. Setting 15. In the space between the two segments - NE 014 / 3300001 / counter / code / large date / number.
	<p style="text-align: center;">Addressed Admail</p>	

# CMSG METER CATALOG

Type	Indicia	Remarks
47.1		<p>Basic type - Square 2-D bar code at left; Canada Post 3-segment box at right having 4 figures of value at centre, the date of origination above the postal code of the issuing office at the base. Between the boxes the meter serial, and the number of uses.</p> <p>Serial block:- FP0004000001. Value 4 mm. Setting 10 mm. No line under POST and CANADA</p> <p>Postal code small font T-1000</p>
47.1.1		<p>As 47.1 except the serial number block is FP0004150001. Value 5 mm. Date - xxx.xx.xx. Postal code not broken.</p>
47.1.2		<p>As 47.1.1 except the postal code is broken in 2 pieces.</p>