

# Canadian Meter Stamp Newsletter

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

Metered mail has a number of advantages for specialized collectors. For example, look at the large variety of rates that I have found on my personal mail received since January 1, 1995. These rates are all below \$1.00. Can you add to this list, or identify the use.

The first group is what they call admail. The standard rate is .26<sup>8</sup>¢ for letter size in lots of 1,000 for firms having a permit. For oversize mail the standard rate for permit mail, over 1,000 pieces, is 28<sup>9</sup>¢. The other rates are where mail is sorted by computer into letter carrier walks ordered by individual addresses. These rates should all have the BULK designation. There are more rates in this series.

.20<sup>5</sup> BULK  
.21<sup>2</sup> BULK  
.26<sup>8</sup> BULK  
.27 BULK - rate probably .26<sup>8</sup> and refund for overpayment  
.28<sup>9</sup> BULK

The second group of strange rates is derived from "Incentive" mail. These rates must be obtained from Ottawa. They depend on OCR sorting and volume. The newest rates were established 17 January 1995.

.34 volume 250,000 per year  
.37<sup>5</sup>  
.38<sup>4</sup> 1A  
.39<sup>5</sup> 1A  
.41<sup>5</sup>  
.42<sup>5</sup>  
.49<sup>5</sup> 1A  
.52<sup>5</sup> 1A

The rates for 30 to 50 grams are: .58<sup>5</sup>; .62, .63<sup>5</sup>, .65, .67 and .68¢  
There are also the standard rates:

.43 1A - first class for less 30 grams  
.69 - over 30 grams and less than 50 grams, 1st class  
.88 - large envelopes, 1st class

## RETURN POSTAGE PREPAID

A RETURN POSTAGE PREPAID die was approved by the Post Office Department 10 Dec 1926. Notice of its use and approval was included in the Weekly Bulletin of 11 Dec 1926. (POD file 13-1-27)

The Postal Guide stated "In order to facilitate the handling of large mailings, approval has been given to a system whereby firms when sending out letters, enquiries, etc., to the public, may enclose an addressed reply envelope having the postage prepaid thereon by means of a postage impression. As the reply postage will have been prepaid in cash, such mailings are to be date stamped at the office posting, forwarded and delivered free of charge. The system was not to be used for the prepayment of regular postage.

Illustrated in the Canadian Postal Guide were two Type 1 indicia. The one on the left with RETURN POSTAGE PREPAID in the townmark is reasonably available. The one on the right with RETURN POSTAGE across the rate has not been seen.



New instructions were issued in 1929 and the Supplement to the Canadian Postal Guide for February 1930 deleted this second option.

In early 1947 the Province of Quebec obtained from the Post Office a RETURN POSTAGE PREPAID die containing both English and French words. This was used on MSG Type 8.1.2.

In August 1947 a bilingual die was authorized for a Pitney Bowes HX (MSG Type 7.2.4) for Alliance Nationale of Montreal.

PORT DE RETOUR PAYE was approved for use with the Postalia on 8 Jan 1958.

The text used for this postal use has been, including errors. I have omitted the usual "/" break that indicates the bottom of the die. The following "classes" are used here.

1. RETURN POSTAGE PREPAID
2. RETURN POSTAGE PREPAID - PORT DE RETOUR PAYE
3. POSTAGE PREPAID RETURN
4. PORT DE RETOUR PAYE
5. RETURN POSTAGE PORT DE RETOUR PAYE PREPAID
6. RETURN POSTAGE PAID
7. PORT PAYE - RETURN POSTAGE

Our CMSG catalogue indicates the following uses:-

Class 1

1.2.2; 1.3.2; 5.1.2; 6.1.1; 7.2.3; 7.3.6; 7.4.1; 7.6.2; 8.1.1;  
8.2.1; 8.3.6; 9.2.1; 9.3.1; 11.1.4; 11.2.3; 13.1.3; 14.1.1;  
12.3.1; 18.1.1

Class 2

7.2.4; 8.1.2

Class 3

5.1.12 inv; 7.3.7

Class 4

11.1.5; 11.2.1; 13.1.4; 14.1.2; 18.1.2

Class 5

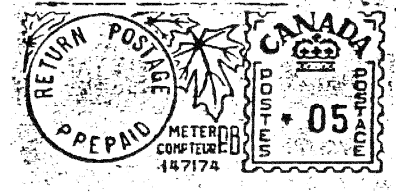
11.1.6; 11.2.2

Class 6

12

Class 7

11.1.42;



It appears to me this list must be incomplete. What can you add? The newer meters such as Hasler tend to place RETURN POSTAGE PREPAID in the postal ad rather than the town mark.

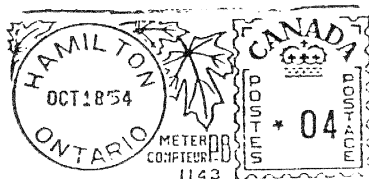
#### PITNEY-BOWES TYPE 11 4-DIGIT SERIAL NUMBERS

Pitney Bowes introduced their new series of Model RF/RT postage meters in June 1940. The earliest date of record is AUG 20'40. The serial block for this CMSG Type 11 postage meter began at 140000.

The Unemployment Insurance Commission legislation came into effect July 1, 1941. Firms were permitted to use a modified postage meter to frank the UIC premiums in the employee book. By the end of 1941 there were over 400 UIC insurance meters in use. The serial block assigned to this meter series began at 141000.

Due to some oversight in the Pitney Bowes factory, when the postage meter sales was at 140999 they continued with 141000, not realizing they had impinged on the UIC serial block, indeed there were 1624 meters placed in service before it was noticed. Material and labour was in short supply so to rectify the problem technicians examined each of the new postage meters had filed the "14" removed from the die. This is the reason for the 4-digit serial number in the Type 11 series. A very collectable item.

Pitney Bowes stated that the actual serial numbers placed in service were from 1004 to 1614. My search through old covers found a low of 1005 and then more or less complete to 1353. Above 1353 I only found 1396, 1614, 1624 and 1634. Have you a lower starting serial number or any of the missing numbers? This is a pretty short series.



At Leland's initiative I have restarted the inventory series. Note that I am doing the easy ones first. If you have items not included, or earlier or later usage, please let me know.

#### INVENTORY OF TYPE 2 POSTAGE METER USE

NUMBER	TOWNMARK		EARLIEST	LATEST	USER
501	OTTAWA	ONT.	4 VIII 26		
502	OTTAWA	ONT.	14 I 27		
503	OTTAWA	ONTARIO	12 III 27		
505	MONTREAL	QUEBEC	20 VIII 26	18 VIII 27	Northern Electric
507	MONTREAL	QUEBEC	11 III 27		
509	MONTREAL	QUEBEC	9 XII 26	12 VII 27	Henry Birks
512	MONTREAL	QUEBEC	5 I 27	1 V 27	Laporte, Martin
513	MONTREAL	QUEBEC	6 IV 27		Can Industrial Alcohol

#### INVENTORY OF TYPE 4 POSTAGE METER USE

NUMBER	TOWNMARK		EARLIEST	LATEST	USER
1021	TORONTO	ONTARIO	SEP 14'33	JAN 9'34	Bank of Commerce
1022	TORONTO	ONTARIO	FEB 23'34	AUG 14'36	Lever
1023	TORONTO	ONTARIO	NOV 16'34	FEB 1'36	Lever
1024	TORONTO	ONTARIO	SEP 11'34	NOV 6'36	Bank of Commerce
1025	TORONTO	ONTARIO	MAY 23'35	NOV 12'35	Lever

#### INVENTORY OF TYPE 10 POSTAGE METER USE

NUMBER	TOWNMARK		EARLIEST	LATEST	USER
101	TORONTO	ONTARIO	SEP 21'38	NOV 10'38	Pitney Bowes

Note: A trial date of Aug 29'38 is known.

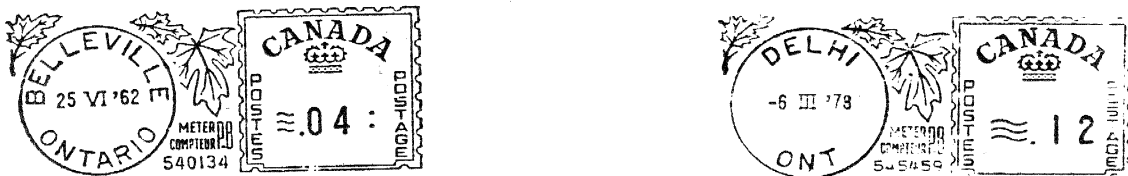
## PITNEY BOWES TYPE 20 POSTAGE METER INDICIA

The Pitney Bowes series of postage meters which produce a Type 20 indicia is the most important collecting series with respect to numbers (about 50,000) available for collectors. The use of this indicia covers several product codes and has been the basic design used by Pitney Bowes since 1960. The basic design was approved by the Post Office Department 5 September 1957, and continues in use today, almost 40 years later.

The Pitney Bowes Model 5300 Series was designed to fill the gap between the small desk model Pitney Bowes Model DM3 with its 21¢ limit of postage, and their high speed Model R series of multi-denomination meters. The first meters in the series were desk-models with combined stamping and sealing. They utilized the new "ducking die" mechanism.

The Pitney Bowes Models 5306 and 5307 postage meters were approved by the Post Office Department on 29 September 1959. They were not placed in service until 8 February 1960. The earliest known example is dated 15 March 1960. The two meters could be used interchangeably with either the Model 5500 hand operated mailing machine, or the Model 5400 electrically operated mailing machine. When decimal postage meters were required US meters were imported as the Model 5300 and 5700 were the same.

The Model 5306 postage meter had a complete range of values from 1¢ to \$1.09½. This covered the surface and air rates at the time and also produced tapes for parcel postage. Postage ads were an optional feature which included a pad style bulk postage permit printer, and two inches of ad space. The entire unit weighed only 28 pounds of which the detachable meter weighed only 10 pounds. The Model 5306 was a high cost machine to manufacture and only a few were produced. It was replaced by a less expensive Model 5319 which was given a top value of \$10.00.

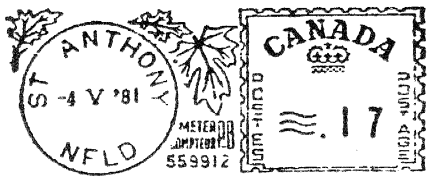


### Model 5306

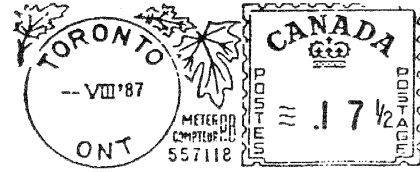
The Pitney Bowes Model 5307 was a 4-bank meter and had the capability of printing from 1¢ to \$9.99. It was used on a Model 5400, low cost, electric mailing machine. The dots at the right of the value were not active. This meter was primarily used on the Model 5403 desk model electric mailing machine. Machine bases were made in the UK for Canada after mid 1964. The Model 5307 was very popular.

### Model 5307

The Pitney Bowes Model 5319 postage meter was a lower cost replacement for the Model 5306. It was given a postage range of 1¢ to \$10.00. It was introduced in 1964. It was a very popular postage meter. On August 31, 1970 there were 15,496 Model 5319 and 5,934 Model 5307 postage meters in use.



Model 5319



Model 5321

The Pitney Bowes Model 5321 postage meter was approved 8 July 1968. It was a Model 5319 converted to a 3½-bank fractional use; that is to 9.99½. The serial block is from 557000. The highest serial seen is 557122.

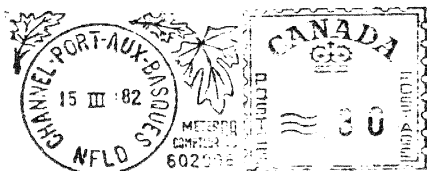
The Post Office had introduced a fractional rate effective 1 April 1964. A very few Model 5320, 2½-bank postage meters were made to serve this limited use. The value range was 00½ to 99½.

The Model 5318 postage meter was the US Model 5308, a 3-bank meter having a \$10.00 lockout.

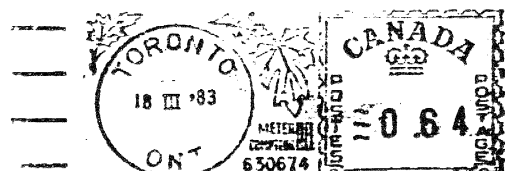
Two special purpose single rate postage meters were approved 1 June 1964. The RT-13 had the single rate =05=. The RT-14 had a single rate of =08= for airmail. The serial block assigned was 606001.

Pitney Bowes tested the Remote Meter Resetting System (RMRS) in 1977 and marketed it in the USA in 1979. It was introduced to selected cities in Canada in August 1980. General distribution was delayed due to the unavailability of WATTS lines; however, national distribution was complete by March 1981. First day covers are dated 2 IX '80.

The original RMRS system used two postage meters. Model 5384, a 3-bank meter, had a setting capacity of \$200. The initial serial number started at 600001. The serial block exceeds 607613.



Model 5384



Model 5385

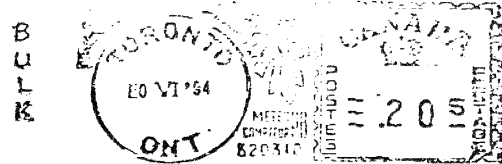
The second postage meter, a 4-bank non-decimal meter, Model 5385, had a resetting capacity of \$2,000. The initial serial number was 630001. This serial block now exceeds 631564.

These meters are one part of a complete mailing system which weighs, computes the appropriate postage, meters, seals and stacks the envelopes. Instead of taking the postage meter to the post office for resetting the meter operator, using a touch tone telephone, calls a data centre on the WATTS line. The postage meter serial number as well as the current ascending and descending dial readings are transmitted using the telephone buttons. The bank operator responds with a random number code. The code is used to set five red numbers and five white numbers which are located on the postage meter. These are punched using a special key. A knob is turned to dial the amount of postage to be purchased - either \$200, or \$2,000 or multiples of lesser amounts, depending on the meter.

Pitney Bowes Product Code 5397 is a non-decimal, non-fractional postage meter having a top value of \$99.99. The serial block assigned to this meter was from 500000 to 509999. The highest serial seen is 501550.



Model 5397



Model 0649

Pitney Bowes Product Code 0649 was a 3½-bank decimal postage meter with a top value of \$9.99 for decimal use in mailing houses. The serial block assigned to this meter was 520000 to 520999. The highest serial number seen is 520334.

#### BASIC TYPE 20 INDICIA

The indicia is 22 mm by 55 mm overall. It has a postmark ad setting of 15mm and with the postmark ad the overall length is 101 mm. The townmark is single circle 20 mm in diameter. Early postage meters have the province abbreviated with a period following. The datemark is similar to the Model R series, single line with DMY, the month is in Roman numerals with serifs. Tapes are used with this series.

Maple leaves are at the top left and right of the townmark. In the centre, below a maple leaf are the words METER/COMPTEUR at left of PB and a six-digit serial number below between the townmark and frank. Imitation perforations, 8, on top and sides; CANADA above and Crown below with POSTES and POSTAGE vertically at the

sides.

The serial numerals have two forms. The original form used a wide "5", and open "4", a round top "3" and curved tail "9". Newer serial numbers were restyled with a narrow "5", a closed "4" and a flat top "3". The first open "4" starts with meter 542780.

The form of the rate is the only distinguishing major variety in the Type 20 series. A "triad" is the term that describes the 3 horizontal lines "=" placed before the rate value.

Type 20.1 uses a form with a short triad, a period and two figures of value, A colon with dots 2 mm apart follows the value. For fractional rates the colon is replaced by " $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The colon was non functional on some Model 5306 postage meters. Meter serial numbers using this form begin at 540000 and 557000. The triad does not print when values exceed \$1.00.

Type 20.2 uses a form with a long triad, a period and two figures of value. (Models 5319, 5384) Meter serial numbers using this form begin at 542500 and goes to about 582000, and 600000. When values are over \$1.00 a one-half triad is shown. At \$10.00 the balance of the triad disappears. Note, the same serial number exists in both Type 20.1 and Type 20.2 where a postage meter has been reconditioned. Types 20.1 and 20.2 are mixed in the range 542500 to 549263. In 1968 about 220 postage meters were reconditioned. The indicia was converted from Type 20.1 to Type 20.2. Example numbers where both types exist are 544575, 544786 and 544478.

Type 20.3 (Model 5397, 5385) uses a form with a short triad, a dollar value, a period and two figures of value. Meter serial numbers using this form begin at 500000 and 630000.

Type 20.4 (Model 0649) uses a form with a short triad, a period and two figures of value followed by a short triad. For decimal rates the last triad is replaced with a small superscript numeral. Meter serial numbers using this form begin at 520000.

#### SERIAL BLOCKS

500000 -	highest seen is 501550 -	Type 20.3
520000 - 520999	highest seen is 520334 -	Type 20.4
540002 - 542499		- Type 20.1
542500 - 557118	highest seen is 581434 -	Mixed Type 20.1 and 20.2
550001 -		
557001 -	highest seen is 557122 -	Type 20.1
600001 -	highest seen is 607613 -	Type 20.2
630001 -	highest seen is 631564 -	Type 20.3



Examples of mixed types are:-

544390 : 544402 ≡ 544405 : 544411 : 544414 ≡ 544420 :  
544431 : 544435 ≡ 544436 ≡ 544440 : 544441 :

Postal ads with vertical postage notices are BLK RATE and THIRD-CLASS

# Out of postage? Talk. Don't walk.

We Get You There Fast!

Mr. N. Taylor  
49 Eastwind Drive  
Toronto, Ontario  
M2N 2P3

## Reset your postage meter by phone!

With Pitney Bowes new Remote Meter Resetting System, the Post Office is only a phone call away. One toll-free\* call allows you to reset your postage meter in just 90 seconds, without ever leaving your office. Which means never being without postage. No more worries about missing important mailing deadlines. Fewer trips to the

post office. And no more waiting in line to have the meter reset. The RMRS System more than pays for itself in the costly man-hours it saves you. Whether you mail a few letters a day, or a few hundred, find out how the RMRS System can put the Post Office at your fingertips.

\*A small charge is made for each transaction.


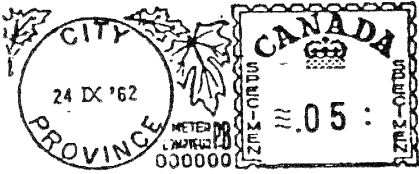
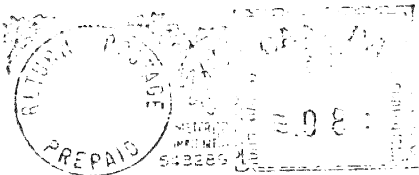
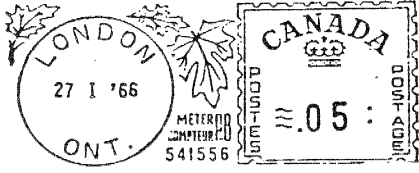
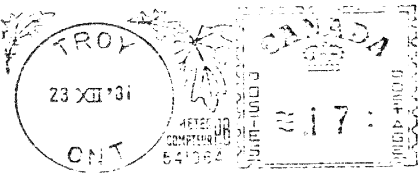
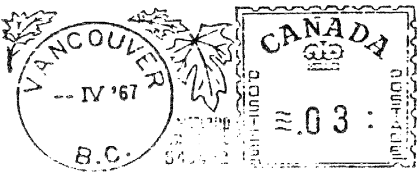
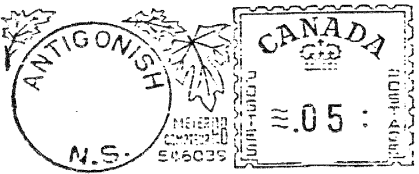
Call us for a demonstration.  
Toll free 1-800-268-7801  
(in B.C. 112-800-268-7801)

**Pitney Bowes**


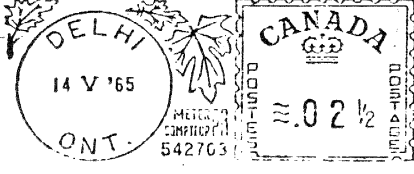
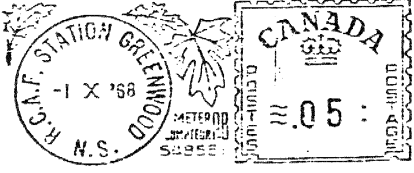
Pitney Bowes of Canada Ltd., 150 Ferrand Drive, Don Mills, Ont. M3C 3B5, over 50 offices across Canada.  
RMRS is a Registered Trademark. Postage Meters • Mailing Systems • Copiers • Facsimile Systems • Collators • Addressers/printers • Counters and Imprinters.

Circle Reply Card No. 236

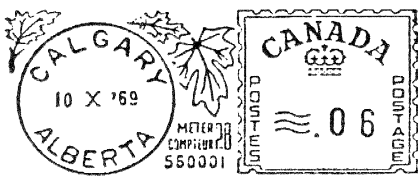

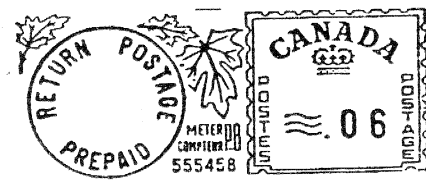
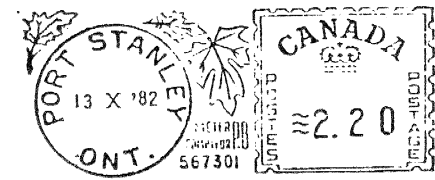
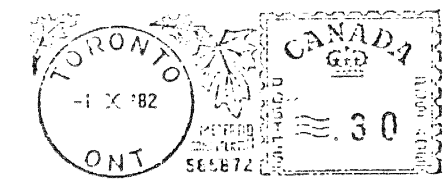
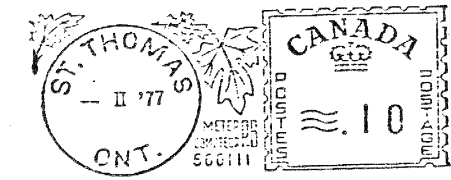
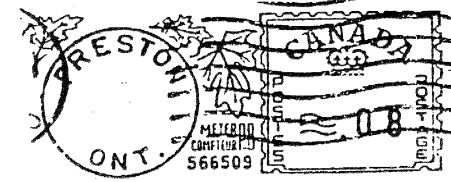
# CMSG METER CATALOG

Type	Indicia	Remarks
20.1		Basic type
20.1.1		CITY PROVINCE SPECIMEN
20.1.2		RETURN POSTAGE PREPAID
20.1.3		Province abbr, with dot
20.1.4		Province abbr, no dot
20.1.5		DATEMARK: No day
20.1.6		DATEMARK: Blank

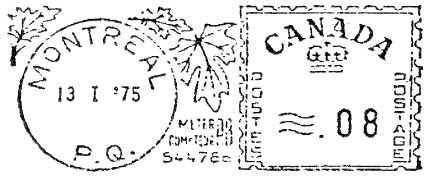
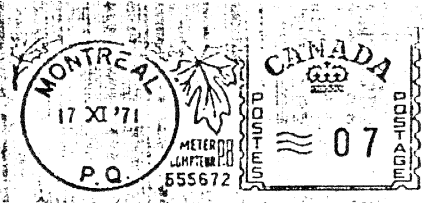

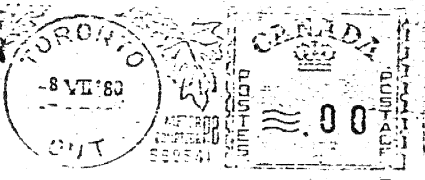
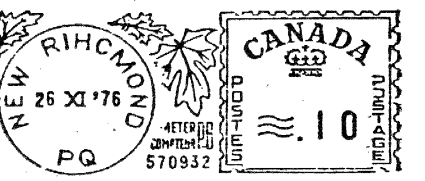
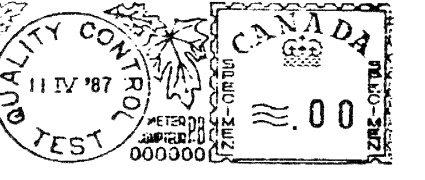

# CMSG METER CATALOG

Type	Indicia	Remarks
20.1.7		Serial: Open 4
20.1.8		Fractional rate
		Military use

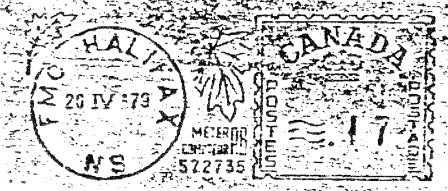
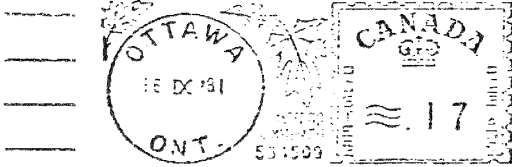
# CMSG METER CATALOG

Type	Indicia	Remarks
20.2		Basic type
20.2.1		CITY PROVINCE SPECIMEN
20.2.2		RETURN POSTAGE PREPAID
20.2.3		Province abbr, with dot
20.2.4		Province abbr, no dot
20.2.5		DATEMARK: No day
20.2.6		DATEMARK: Blank

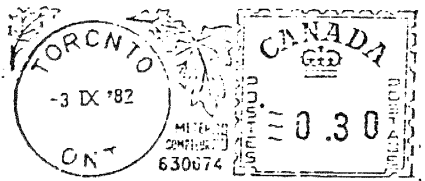
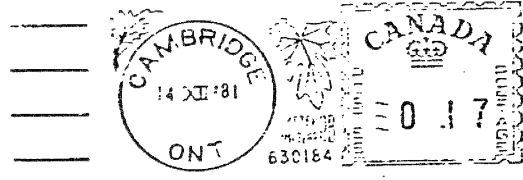
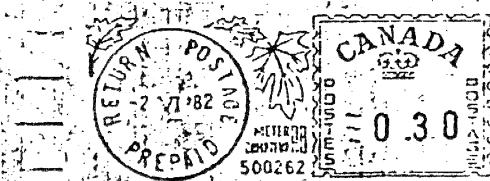
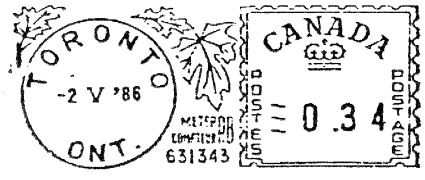
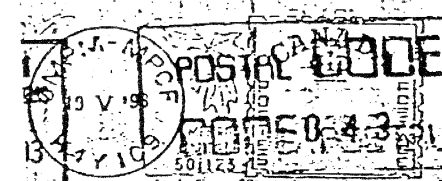
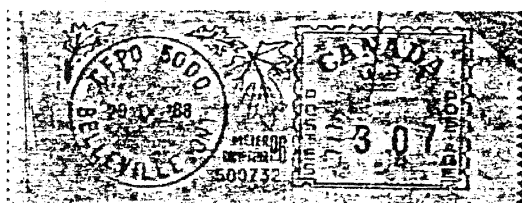
# CMSG METER CATALOG

Type	Indicia	Remarks
20.2.7		Serial: Open 4
20.2.8		No dot before value
20.2.9		Sub-post office
20.2.10		POSTAGE DUE use
20.2.11		ERROR: Town name
20.2.12		QUALITY CONTROL TEST - SPECIMEN
20.2.13		

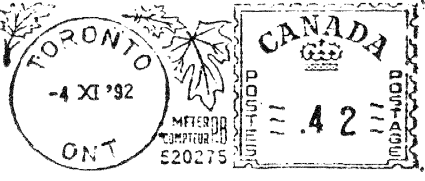
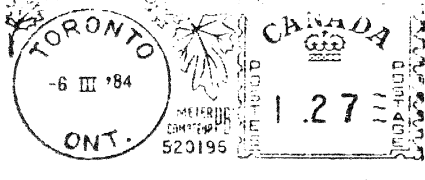
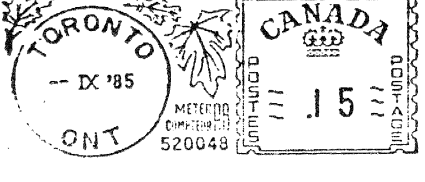

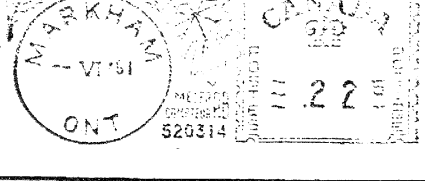
# CMSG METER CATALOG

Type	Indicia	Remarks
20.2.14		
		

# MSG METER CATALOG

Type	Indicia	Remarks
20.3		Basic type
20.3.1		3 bars at left
20.3.2		RETURN POSTAGE PREPAID
20.3.3		Province abbr, with dot
20.3.4		Postal code in Townmark
20.3.5		Military use

# CMSG METER CATALOG

Type	Indicia	Remarks
20.4		Basic type
20.4.1		Province abbr, with dot
20.4.2		DATEMARK: No day
20.4.3		DATEMARK: 0 for day
20.4.4		Decimal rate