THE

METER STAMP

BULLETIN

Journal of the Meter Stamp Study Group

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Editor and Hon. Secretary:Alfred A. Dewey, M.A., B.Sc.(Econ.),
46 Chester Drive, North Harrow, Middlesex.

MEMBERSHIP

Although subscriptions nominally run from 1st January of each year (the Group having been started in January, 1950), it is not expected that they will in fact be paid until receipt of the March Bulletin, as possible changes in the rate could not be made known before then.

However, 21 members had paid before the end of March this year, and all the rest received a clear notification with their March Bulletin. But only about half of these had paid when the June Bulletin was ready for issue. To the remaining 28 there was sent, instead of the Bulletin, a special postcard reminder, in response to which 15 have now paid up and one notified his resignation.

As it does not seem reasonable to send them any further reminders, the remaining 12 must be presumed to have resigned. They comprise six in Great Britain, four in the United States, and two in other countries. This is a disappointing set-back, for only two new members (both in the U.S.A.) have joined this year so far.

Mr. R.Axer. After completion of the "copy" for this Bulletin, we learnt with great regret from "Stamp Collecting" of the death of Mr.R.Axer, in Cape Town on July 4th. Mr. Axer was our first overseas member, having joined on the Group's inception in 1950, and was a frequent and valued contributor of information about South African

meters. He had a very comprehensive collection, and did much propaganda for the hobby at Society displays and exhibitions.

RECORD SHEETS FOR COLLECTIONS

Mr. Lloyd Parton has suggested - and we fully agree - that other members would probably find it convenient and useful to have printed standardized "record sheets" for recording which identification Nos. in a series they possess or want. Adapting office forms, he submits a sheet of 11 x 8 inches, ruled into 100 squares (10 rows of 10) with Nos. O to 9 at the head of the columns and 00 to 90 at the side of the rows, and appropriate spaces at top and bottom for the key-letter, make and other general indications. One sheet would thus suffice for recording, say, UA 100 to 199, another for UA 200 to 299, and so on, the town, model etc. which one possesses being entered in the appropriate row and column.

Although particularly suitable for consecutively numbered series such as the Universal MV, Simplex, etc., they could equally well be used for the Neopost, Midget etc., with a separate sheet for each town.

From enquiries which Mr. Lloyd Parton has made, such sheets, printed on one side and punched with two holes for loose-leaf binding, could be furnished for about 6s.6d. per hundred if at least 4,000 were printed at one time. Will members kindly let me know if they are interested, and how many they would be prepared to buy (to begin with) at the aforesaid price?

FUGITIVE INKS

Mr. D.R.Burchell gives a warning - accompanied by examples - that the ink now used for the T.I.M. Parcel-Post stamps in G.B. is liable to run when wetted, while the impression on the Japanese N.C.R. labels may disappear completely in water. Members are therefore strongly advised not to allow any of these types to come into contact with water; it is preferable not to attempt to soak them off the envelope or wrapper but simply

to cut cound.

MULTI-VALUE MACHINES' DESIGNATION

The Barfoot-Simon Catalogue goes into much more detail than did Harris's regarding the arrangement and style of figures of value in MV machines — though it is probably largely because many of the complications have arisen only since Harris wrote. To designate the various arrangements of large and small figures, position of decimal points and commas, initial stars, zeros, etc., the Catalogue has adopted a "code" scheme which seems somewhat cumbrous and not (we think) very easy to follow without experience, and also not without ambiguity. We are therefore putting forward a scheme which is both much more concise and (we hope) more readily understandable at a glance.

The idea is to show as nearly as possible the actual appearance of the figures for the lowest value capable of being printed, namely, with few exceptions, the unit or half-unit.

Any printer or typewriter can easily distinguish between "large" (0) and "small" (0) zeros; the normal "l" serves for the large "one" and for the small "one" a letter "i" can simply be used. The initial star (*) or cross (+) can be shown as such, while for the lozenge, it is suggested that the letter "z" is appropriate. The decimal points and commas of course present no difficulty.

The scheme provides for indicating "fixed" zeros without special mention, for if, say, a 5-figure machine has two fixed zeros at the right, then the lowest value is 00100 while the ordinary 5-figure machine would be indicated as 00001. Thus it is to be taken that all the zeros shown to the right of the unit figure are "fixed".

Some examples of the present catalogue designations and the suggested equivalents in the new scheme are as follows.

<u>Catalogue</u>	Suggested
$3\frac{1}{2}$ (st. + $2\frac{1}{2}$)	*00½
4 (0 + 1 + 2)	00oi

4(loz. + 3) z001 4(st. + 1.1 + F0) *0.10 or *0.io 4(2,2) 00,01 or 00, oi

5(st + 3 + FO) be sufficient *0010 the ides. To indicate "oval" or "angular" figures, or the various styles of Francotyp figures, the abbreviation should be placed (in brackets) after the indication of the figures as in the present scheme, thus: *001 (A), 0001 (Ov.), *0.01 (CE). Although only decimal currencies have been given as illustrations above, the system can be equally well applied to sterling or rupee currencies.

We hope it will be found generally acceptable. Subject to any comments we receive, it will be adopted in our Bulletins for the future.

INCOMPLETE FRANKING IMPRESSIONS

It has always been expressly laid down in the conditions attached to the licence for the use of a franking machine in Great Britain that "Impressions must be clear, distinct and complete" and that "Postage cannot be prepaid by means of incomplete franking impressions". However, judging from many examples we have seen, the P.O. has not often enforced this.

But it seems that stricter measures are now to be taken, for Mr. J.T.W. Mann has shown us a cover used by a London E.C.3. firm bearing a Neopost impression of which only the townmark (25 IV 55) is decipherable, the frank being merely a blur; a 5d. postage due label has been attached and a handstamp applied reading, in six lines in a rectangular frame (56 x 25 mm.), "TO PAY / POSTAGE CANNOT BE / PREPAID BY MEANS OF / INCOMPLETE FRANKING / IMPRESSIONS LIABLE TO / RATE", at left of which is "D" above "E.C." Below the "D" has been inserted in manuscript the figure 5, and before the word "RATE" the letter "L" presumably denoting "letter".

A correspondent of "Stamp Collecting" (June 17th) has reported a different handstamp

for the same purpose, reading in two lines "LIABLE TO POSTAGE SURCHARGE / IMPERFECT METER FRANKING", but unfortunately the town of origin was not mentioned. It seems rather curious that different towns should employ such different wording.

GVIR DIES IN SCOTLAND

Mr. Wm. A. Keay (Blairgowrie) has kindly sent us the following cutting from the "Scottish Sunday Express" (Glasgow) of June 26th, 1955:-

"When our bureaucrats fail to keep up with the times we chide them and say: 'Come on, boys, private enterprise would never lapse like that.'

"But sometimes it is private enterprise that lapses and the bureaucrats who lead. So let us for once give the bureaucrats a hand.

"The Queen has reigned three years. And now, quite properly, you can't buy in any post office a stamp that isn't a Queen's stamp.

"But more than half the business concerns in the country who use franking machines to stamp their mail are still using GviR dies. Indeed, the Post Office tells me that there are still quite a number of GvR dies in use. And even some Edward viii's.

"Why? It can't be the expense that stops the private enterprisers from coming up to date. For a new die costs only £2 to £3. Barely as much as one director's lunch.

"The bureaucrats suggest that perhaps the laggards have been so busy making their tax money that they haven't heard that there has been a change in the monarchy.

"Of course, the Scots, as usual, are immune from criticism. As their national pride is irked by the numeral of the EiiR dies, they — and they only — have special dispensation to buy GviR dies when they need new ones instead of Queen's ones",

(Philatelic items in the "popular" press are too often incorrect or misleading, but the above appears to be substantially correct. However, our high-value stamps and some coils still portray King George VI.)

UNIVERSAL M.V. MACHINES

Further notes derived from the records of Universal Postal Frankers Ltd., by S. D. Barfoot.

15 Errors of Engraving. Some interesting errors of engraving are known, both of town-name and of identity number.

U 170 (MV.335, GvR), a IV-bank machine, was used at Woodley, Stockport, Cheshire, until XI 47 when it was transferred to Hull, Yorkshire, and used by the Yorkshire Electricity Board as U 262 (GviR). This was replaced in 1950 or '51 by MV.516, also U 262, a III-bank model, with town-mark "Hull, YKS". Both U 262 dies show a narrow U at bottom left, due to removing the A, B or C from a UA, UB or UC die.

MV.221, U 104, Coventry, Warwickshire, used by Courtaulds Ltd., appears to have had an error of die U 184 from 1947 to 1950. The correct user of U 184 is not reported.

MV.400 was loaned to Geo. Brettle & Co. Ltd., London E.C.1 on 14 VI 35 as U 204, but was replaced by MV.401 on 16 VII 35, credit being transferred from MV.400. It was used until 12 VIII 52. MV.400 was sold to Johnson & Phillips Ltd., London S.E.7 on 27 VI 35 as U 203, being withdrawn on 26 II 53. There is no way by which U 204 (MV.400) can be distinguished from U 204 (MV.401) except by date.

Machines MV.208 and MV.233 have had some peculiar interchanges during their use. The following table best indicates these:-

MV.208a-

U 93 (GviR) Portsmouth & Southsea; Portsmouth City Council, 1 III 41 until stolen 1 X 46 and replaced by MV.2887

14 III 47

MV.233:-

U 110 (GvR) Specimen II 34 U 93 (GvR) Manchester; Turner & Newall Ltd.,

V 34 to XII 40

U 110 (GviR) Manchester; Turner & Newall Ltd.,
'41 to 18 II 48

(replaced by MV.4512).

U 110 (GviR) Worcester; Grays, 21 VI 48

AUSTRALIA THE SECOND COUNTRY TO USE METERS:

AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY

In its comprehensive account of the early history of meter franking, the Barfoot-Simon Catalogue records that Norway was the first country to give public trial to a franking machine, in August 1900, being followed by New Zealand in March 1904.

As a result of research by the Australian Posts and Telegraphs Department, instigated by interested collectors there, it has now been discovered that Australia preceded New Zealand by almost a year, and that a number of trials took place there during the next five years.

The first machine, invented by Mr. W. Holling-worth, was tried outside the G.P.O., Brisbane, in April-June 1903; it was a "penny-in-the-slot" type like the Norwegian and N.Z. machines, but no impressions therefrom appear to have survived. Further machines, from different inventors, were given public trial for short periods in Hobart (Nov. 1904 - April 1905), Melbourne (Nov. 1904), Brisbane (Dec. 1905 - Jan. 1906), Hobart (Oct. 1906), Melbourne (May and Dec. 1908), and Melbourne (June - July 1908), this last being one of the N.Z. "Moss" machines. A later "Moss" machine (model D) was tested in the G.P.O. Melbourne, in November 1920, this being a five-value machine.

However, the Posts and Telegraphs Act did not then permit the use of franking machines, and it was not until 1926 that the machines were sanctioned for general usage.

The full story, with illustrations, is given in the Australian P.M.G.'s "Fhilatelic Bulletins" dated October and December, 1954, and we are indebted to Mr. J.T. Dallimore for copies. We hope to give a fuller account in a subsequent Bulletin.

AUSTRALIA: REMARKABLE "UNIV.M.V." VARIETY

Mr. J.T. Dallimore has shown us an extraordinary variety consisting of a Universal M.V.
impression with the frame of the frank entirely
absent; besides the normal double-circle townmark ((MELBOURNE - VIC.) only the
figures of value (0/3 in our copy) appear. The
machine, used by Bennie Teare Ltd., is believed
to be No.715, and Mr. Dallimore says that it was
used thus for several days in April 1955.

Several similar varieties are catalogued for Germany and Austria, used immediately after the end of the "ar, when the old German frank die was removed for political reasons, but we cannot recollect any elsewhere.

THE N.Z. "MOSS" MACHINES

Reference was made in the March Bulletin to India's first meter stamp being produced by the Moss "Model D" machine introduced in New Zealand in 1910, which machine was also used experimentally in Egypt in 1922. As mentioned on the previous page, it has been found that the same model was also tried in Australia in 1920, probably with the same style of frank though no impressions are now known.

Essays of a rectangular design similar to those used in India and Egypt exist for South Africa (inscribed "CAPETOWN / KAAPSTAD") and for Great Britain, having apparently been demonstrated to the G.P.O., London, in 1920 and 1922, though not adopted. Illustrations and further details of these are given in an article by our member Mr. H.J. Howard in "The British Philatelist" of October 1951. (This can be

lent to any member in the U.K. for 3d. postage).

Incidentally, no member has yet reported possessing any of the first Indian type. Will any member who has one kindly let the Editor have full details of M.No., value and postmark?

U.N. AGENCIES - NEW TYPE

Mr. H.A. Rydings has submitted a new item for the list of U.N. Specialized Agencies, which is at the same time a new type for the Catalogue.

It is used by the African Regional Office of the World Health Organization at Brazzaville, French Equatorial Africa. The frank is of the usual French type, with "A.E.F." in large letters at the top instead of "REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE"; the machine is Satas Model D, four figures of value (as *024F), M.No. SD 3162.

The slogan (above date and town-name in one line) reads "ORGANISATION MONDIALE / DE LA SANTE / BUREAU REGIONAL POUR / L'AFRIQUE / BRAZZAVILLE A.E. F. / BOITE POSTALE 6" with the U.N. Emblem at the left.

BELGIAN CONGO & EGYPT

Two articles in French-language journals, one on "Les Affranchissements Mecaniques au Congo Belge" by Jacques Rosenberg, in "La Liaison Marcophile" (Gand), May/June 1955, and the other on "Los A.M. d'Egypte" by Gabriel Boulad, in "L'Orient Philatelique" (Cairo), Jan. 1953, have recently been sent to us by courtesy of Lt. Col. L. Herlant and Mr. R. Axer respectively.

They can be lent to any interested member against 3d. in stamps for postage, etc.

FRANCE: TWO EXPERIMENTAL TYPES

Translated from an article by M. Michel (Nice).

The existence of two now machines in use at Paris VIII and Paris XVII was reported in November 1954, and our investigations have elicited the following data.

Paris VIII (Rue La Boetie): Machine bearing the identification "H 000" emanating from the firm

"Nationale Caisse Enregistreuse" of Paris who also manufactured the machine used at Paris 118 since 1952. Impression on imperforate label. Maximum franking value, 9999f. Usually in French meter impressions there is no date-stamp, the indications figuring in a horizontal line, but in this case there is a stamp similar to those used for the cancellation of stamps but with date and time in one horizontal line.

At the moment, the machine has been withdrawn for examination by the technical services of the P.T.T. We do not know whether it will be put into use again, and if so, whether or not it will be modified.

Paris XVII (Av. Wagram): Machine bearing the identification "N 000" emanating from the "Societe d'Etude et de Construction d'Appareils de Precision" (S.E.C.A.P.) of Paris, concessionary for the machines of series "N" and "NG".

Impression on mauve label perforated horizontally. Like the preceding impression there is a circular date-stamp showing the date and time in one horizontal line, at 5 mm. from The latter shows differences from the frank. that of the machine "H". There is a star at the left of the value, which would appear to give the possibility of a higher franking value, but this star must be fixed because it is not at the same level as the figures; the maximum franking value thus remains 9999f. Another difference is that the figures of hundreds and thousands begin with a zero instead of a star. One of the members of the A.C.E.M.A. (The French meter-stamp society) possesses another impression from this machine, dated 2 Sept., on which the date is properly in place exactly at the level of the letter "N" of the frank; the figure of value also is exactly between the star and the letter F. (An example illustrated in the original article apparently showed the date and figure of value out of line. - Translator).

In an article in "La Philatelie Française",

M. Rifflart supposes that the impression of the machine "N" is made in two operations, the date and hour as well as the value being printed after the frames. This appears surprising; it is however the only way of explaining the overlapping of the date and time on the name of the office (in the one example seen). Perhaps one day we shall have details as to this, if the machine is adopted by the P.T.T. Administration. At the moment, there is, like the machine H 000, only the one prototype.

We have not been able, either from the P.T.T. Administration or from the manufacturers, to obtain the dates of usage of these machines. For the "N", a Parisian correspondent has learnt that it remained in use for about six weeks; the two dates which we know, 2 Sept. and 26 Oct., would thus be close to the extreme dates.

UNITED NATIONS TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Some time ago, we listed the meters used by the United Nations Headquarters and by the Specialized Agencies in various countries. Nothing new has come to light until the present year, when the U.N. and the F.A.O. have introduced slogans to commemorate their tenth anniversaries.

The U.N. slogan, seen so far only with M.Nos. PB-3- and PB-4-, has a modified form of the globe and olive branches emblem at left with double-lined figures "10" above and "TENTH ANNIVERSARY 24 OCTOBER 1945-1955" at right in four lines.

The F.A.O. slogan, used with its Francotyp AN machine at Rome, Italy, has the F.A.O. emplem in a circle between townmark and frank with "10TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR" above and "1945-1955" below; in two straight lines extending below townmark and frank appears the full name and address "FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS / VIALE DELLE TERME DI CARACALLA, ROME". Whether this slogan is used in other languages on mail to non-English-speaking countries, we do not yet know.

Both slogans were introduced during May, if not earlier.

U.S.A. "SECTION" NUMBERS

With reference to previous notes regarding recent changes in these indications, two further meters have used the short-lived "39 CFR 34.66", - No.1125 (1½c.) in the oval design and No.5652 (2c.) in the small square design with value at each side (International Postal Supply Co.), but both emanate from the American Metered Postage Society, Clintonville, Wis., and so cannot be regarded as bona-fide commercial usage.

Mr. Alfred P.H. Overment (Chicago) has shown us meter CC-51082 with the indication "NONPROFIT ORG." vertically at left of the town circle, used by the University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

TWO U.S. PIONEERS PASS AWAY

The deaths of two pioneers in the production of franking machines in the United States have been reported by the American Metered Postage Society recently.

Luther L. Mack died in April 1954 in his 74th year. After working on cancelling machines, he conceived the idea of a postage meter and eventually developed the Mack Postage Meter, officially approved in May 1922, but only four of these machines were put into service. Mack then organized the Continental Postage Meters Corporation, which as a result of financial difficulties was reorganized as the U.S. Postal Meter Corporation. The single-denomination meters manufactured by these firms were all developments of the original Mack machine. Finally, in 1944, the U.S. Postal Meter Corporation was taken over by Commercial Controls Corporation.

Eugene A. Rummler, who worked with A.H. Pitney in Chicago at the beginning of the century and for many years thereafter in the development of the Pitney postage meter, died in February 1955.

NEW ISSUES AND DISCOVERIES

In this month's Catalogue Supplement, the listing of Panama Canal Zone is derived from Bulletins of the American Metered Postage Society; Austria and Belgium are mainly due to Mr. S.D. Barfoot, and Peru to the Editor's collection. Values are designated in accordance with the new system proposed in the article on page 83.

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Type 3C. /A8/ W TC F.of V. OOl
      AUSTRIA.
 (A, figs. as Francotyp B).
 /All/W O F.of V. OOl (G). TM. DC-A.
      Type 6D (Post-War Provisional.)
        Also TM. SC.
 /A25/ W O F.of V. OOl (A,CE). SC, BIC, DC-A.
         Also TM. BIC.
     Type A6
             As type 6 but top & bottom of inner
frame also removed. Francotyp AN.
/A29/ Med. TC F.of V. z001 (G). SC. (Graz 1).
      Type 12B Francotyp AN.
      Med. O F.of V. *001 (A). SC, BIC.
/55/
         Also TM. BIC.
/A55/ As /55/ but F.of V. Oval. BIC-B.
      Type 12C Francotyp B.
/56/
        Also TM.
                    BIC. DC.
/58/
         Also TM.
                    DC-A.
     Type 12D
                Francotyp C.
/62/
        Also TM.
                   BIC-B, SC-A.
/A62/ W
               F.of V. 001 (Ov.)
          TC
                                   SC.
/B62/ W
          0
                       001 (A,CA).
                                   SC. DC-A
/65/ Delete the "A" before "G".
/A68/
             F.of V. *Ooi (Ov., Czech type).
      W
          TC
      SC-A.
/70/
         Also TM.
                    DC-A.
                Francotyp Cc
     Type 12E
                               /72/
         Also TM.
                    SC.
                                     Also TM.
               Postalia.
     Type 16
/76/ and /77/,
             Also TM. BIC-B.
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Post Office Machines. Type P.O.3. Design as Germany P.O.1. but inscribed OSTERREICH at top and GROSCHEN at bottom. Francotyp A.

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94)
/P.O.7/ N O F.of V. *OOl (A). TM.
                                         SC.
     BELGIAN CONGO
     Type 4 Satas.
 /AlO/ W O F.of V. *00.io TM. one line,
Roman month-figure. (N 151).
     Type 5 Francotyp.
      M.No. not in rectangles, larger figures.
     VN O F.of V. zO.Ol (Ov. new type). SC.
      M.No. not in rectangle at right.
     VN O F. of V. z0.01 (Ov., thin figs.) SC.
      VN O F.of V, zOO.Ol (Ov.) DC-A.
           (possibly z00.10 ?)
     BELGIUM
     Type 1 (Various makes)
/1/
        Add 30c.
        For "0.65" substitute Of.65; add 7fr.,
     9fr.
/3/
        Add 25c.
       Add 3f25 (R), 6f30 (VR), 6f50, 7fr.,
     9fr.
/5/
        Add 40c., 1f20, 3f50, 4fr., 5f75, 6fr.
     (all R)
     Type 2 (Neopost.)
/6/
       Add 2f00, 2.00 (D 132 only, R)
     Add lf00
     Type 4 (Francotyp.)
/A22/ - O F. of V. OOoi (Ov.) No TM.
/A24/ WOF.of V. *oi (Ov.) TM.SC. (F 150,
     VR)
     Type 5 (Francotyp.)
/34a/ Variety, M.No. "F. No.189".
/A39/ O F.of V. OOl (G). No TM. /45/ Also with no TM.
/A45/ VN O F. of V. z00.01 (G).
                                  TM.SC.
     (F 403).
     Type 5E As 5D but inscr. BELGIE /
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BELGIQUE.

/B45/ VN O F. of V. z001 (G). TM.SC.

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Type 6 (Hasler)
/A47
         - O F. of V. OOL (Ov.) NO TM. (B 605)
/49/
         has TM lowered.
/50/
         B 613 has date only, in normal position;
    B 715, 716 have date only, in position of R.No.:
    B 1103 has TM. BIC-B.
/57/
         has TM. lowered. B 895 has date only.
/58/
         B 1129 has date only
    Type 8 (Universal)
         No TM (U 120). /63a/ Also U 144.
/62a/
/464/
         N O F. of V. OOoi (Ov.) TM. DC.
                   000oi (Ov.) TM. SC or nil.
            0 "
/B64/
         Ŋ
                    00oi (Ov.) TM. DC.
000oi (Ov.) TM. DC or nil
/A66/
         и о
         N O "
/B66/
    Type 9 (Francotyp.)
         Variety, M.No. in frame (F 153, 158)
/68/
         TM also SC.
/69/
        - TC F.of V. O.Ol (G). TM nil (F 253)
/70/
        VN O F.of V. zO.OJ (G). TM. SC.
        VN 0 " z00.01 (Ov.) TM. SC.
/71/
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Post Office Machines

/P 3/ Add 40c. (POlO) /P8/ Add 80c.

PANAMA CANAL ZONE

Type 1. Design showing ship passing through the Canal, between town-circle and value-box, with "CANAL ZONE POSTAGE" at upper right. Pitney-Bowes Model R. First day of use, 6 August 1953.

/1/ F.of V. wOl: (? or wOO½) (w = 3 wavy lines.) Month in letters, as AUG-6'53.

/2/ Ditto but Roman-figure month, as -6VIII'53.

Type 2. Design similar to type 1 but narrower.

Pitney-Bowes Model DM. First day, 6 March 1954.

/3/ F.of V. Ol Month in letters, as MAR-6'54.

PERU

Type 4A. As /9/ but slogan instead of TM.
/9a/ (LIC.26 C.P.-09)
As /10/ but inner frame-lines continued as in
/11/, no slogan or TM.

/10a/ (LIC.58 C.P.-32).

Type 4C. Universal MV. with M.No. at base as in type 2A and LIC. and No. at sides as in type 4.

/Al3/ N O F.of V. *001 (CB). TM. BIO (1952 or earlier; U 5: LIC.31 seen)

Post Office Machines

Type P.1. Hasler. As type 2C but "CORREOS LIMA" in place of "CENTAVOS", and no M. No. or P.No. No TM.

/P.1/ F.of V. z00,oi
Ditto but P.O. Branch name below frank (e.

g. "SUC. BOZA") /P.la/ F.of V. z00,oi

Thurston's, 39 Longley Road, Harrow, Middlesex.
Telephone: HARrow 5324.