### METER STAME

## BULLETIN

Journal of the Meter Stamp Study Group

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## EDITORIAL NOTE

It is perhaps hardly surprising that, in response to the "Personal Appeal" in the last Bulletin, only two members have offered concrete assistance in the running of the Group. Two or three have offered to do whatever they could, and several others have written regretting that, for good and sufficient reasons, they were not in a position to help, but the majority have made no comment at all — doubtless wishing to refrain from adding to my work by useless correspondence. All who have written have expressed their strong wish that the Group should continue, and I am grateful for all their appreciative remarks.

Mr. J. C. Mann has been good enough to offer to take over the duties of Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, provided that I myself continue as Editor of the Bulletin, and Mr. J.B. Potter has offered to assist with the despatching of the Bulletins. Both offers have of course been accepted, and I am sure that all the other members will wish to join me in very heartily thanking them.

Mr. Mann joined the Group in 1952, and has just relinquished the position of President of the Clapham Philatelic Society. He will, for convenience, take over as from the beginning of the new year.

Accordingly, as from 1st January 1957, all correspondence and subscriptions should be sent to him at 11 Althorp Road, London, S.W.17.

As already indicated, I myself am continuing as editor of the Bulletin, and any correspondence relating solely to this may still be addressed direct to me. In this connexion, may I mention again that it would be a great help if members submitted notes and articles so far as possible in a form in which they could be published, instead of leaving me to "write up" the information extracted from letters and specimens.

Mr. H.G. Morgan has made the useful suggestion that we might well take a leaf from the book of the old "Meter Exchange Club" and circulate notes in rough manuscript form among members interested, so that they could be finalized as far as possible before publication in the Bulletin; this would obviate a good deal of subsequent amendment and repetition in successive issues. The proposed G.B. town list is of course being done in this way. I should be glad if any members would take the initiative in regard to other subjects.

## G.B. TOWN LIST

Mr. Jennings has undertaken to start the compilation of a list with the assistance of the participants in the Exchange Scheme, and a draft list for towns beginning with A to D is being circulated. In order to give some indication of the relative quantities of machines in the various towns, contributors are being asked to insert their highest ident. Nos. in the M and N series and (if possible) two of other series. Unfortunately the growing number of machines numbered throughout the country as a whole is detracting from the value of this.

In the meantime, Mr. S.D. Barfoot has compiled a full list of those he possesses, comprising over 1,270 towns (including 110 of the 118 London districts) with about 100 alternative forms of some names. Mr. H.G. Morgan also has submitted a list based on the P.O. publication "Postal

Addresses" which contains the postal address of every place in Great Britain and (all) Ireland where there is a post office, except the London area (incidentally a most fascinating book, which is obtainable from any P.O., price ls.) It has not yet been possible to correlate these two lists, but undoubtedly there are names in the one not in the other, as well as names not in either. (Has any member examples from any of the Scottish islands?)

### G. B. NOTES

NEW DESIGN PROPOSED. In view of the forthcoming distinctive issues of adhesive stamps for Scotland, Wales etc., it has been suggested that special designs of meter stamps might also be provided, especially having regard to the Scottish objections to the use of the Royal Cipher EiiR.

The G.P.O. have however informed us that it is not proposed to authorize the use of distinctive dies for the various parts of the country; however, a change in the general design is under consideration, though no indication can yet be given as to when this will be made.

MIDGET. It has been discovered independently by

Messrs. H.E. Hammond and D.R. Burchell
that there appear to be two distinct dies with the
EiiR cipher. What may be termed "Die 1" (it was
used on the First Day Covers of this cipher) has the
lines of the design thick and the letters "E R" bold,
while "Die 2" has the lines much more finely cut,
with the letters "E R" thin and slightly further
from the outline of the oval. The figures of value
vary in each die, Mr. Hammond having shown us thick
and thin 1½d. in Die 1, and thick and small figures
in Die 2. Owing to the separate numbering in each
town and as different values on the same machine
might be in different dies, it would unfortunately

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take up too much space to publish lists of the Nos. in the respective Dies.

Mr. Hammond has shown us the first EiiR 2d value (Die 2).

The error showing the district No. in the townmark, Birmingham 11, M 209, mentioned in the Catalogue and in the last Bulletin, went out of use in August 1956, the firm having substituted a Simplex machine, SY 502.

This firm also has now entered into the fun by producing a slightly different style of the EiiR die. As described in the March 1954 Bulletin, the die used by Messrs. Roneo-Neopost Ltd. for their "First Day Covers" on machine N 62 of London W.C.l. differed slightly from all other dies, but apart from this, no variations have been detected until recently when Mr. Hammond and the Editor noticed almost simultaneously a new variety, which seems to be very slightly shorter than the old but is most easily recognizable by the more "squat" appearance of the Royal Cipher. in which the "II" is much closer to the extremities of the "E", the "E" having longer serifs at the back, while the letters of "POST PAID" are less well-formed and with larger "D" though the difference is of course beyond measurement. The new die has been found both with the latest narrow value-figures and with the previous style as used for GviR dies.

PITNEY\_BOWES (Single-value). As was the case in the GviR dies, the EiiR die of each machine seems almost to be engraved individually without attempting to fellow a master pattern. In the 2½d value of PB 2 (still in use after 34 years!) there are eight leaves (petals) at the left and nine at the right, but the same value of PB 130 has nine at each side. These are both in the narrow setting with slogans. PB 7 (1½d) has the "PB" short and "square" whereas PB 168 (1½d) has the letters tall; these are both in the wide setting without slogan.

(H.E. Hammond.)

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Consequent upon the increase in the printed-matter rate, a 2d value has been introduced on machine PB 163 (London W.8.) (wide setting) - the first of EiiR.

PITNEY-BOWES (Limited-value). There appear to be three varieties of die, (1) measuring 25 mm. wide with the "P" very narrow; (2) 26 mm. wide with the "P" very wide; (3) intermediate both in width of die and of "P". In (1) there has been noted P 21; in (2) P 40; and in (3) P 12 and 74, and PA 3, 10, 26, 33. In this last group, the figures of value differ, some having thick figures and some thin, with or without two dots under the "D". 2d values have now been noted on several EiiR dies, e.g. P 18 and PA 36.

(H.E. Hammond.)

SIMPLEX. To match the variations of EiiR die noted in the other machines, there are also two distinct dies in the Simplex, one measuring 24 mm. wide overall and the other 25 mm., the extra width being particularly noticeable in the central circle which becomes oval. The crown and cipher also differ slightly. The same basic dies appear to be used both for the original (S, SA, SB) and for the "Major" models (SX, SY), and also for the new label—issuing model (SL). We have not yet made any analysis of the Nos. occurring in the respective dies.

Two special label-("tape")-issuing machines, similar to those used by the P.O. for parcel post, have been put into use by a large department store in Dundee. Their impressions are similar to those of normal Simplex machines except that two five-pointed stars appear to the right of the town-mark and two series of eight short vertical lines to the right of the frank, and the key-letters are SL; they are printed on the usual yellow "Franko-post" tape. SL 1 which prints values by 1d units from 1d to 2/1 was purchased as long ago as 24 VI55 and

shows the original style of townmark (DUNDEE ANGUS) and frank; SL 2, printing values from  $\frac{1}{2}$ d to  $1/0\frac{1}{2}$ , was purchased on 26 III 56 and shows the new small-letter town names and wider frank. No information is available as to the first days of use. The firm has, incidentally, also a normal Simplex Major, SX 41. We are indebted to Mr. Denys Fletcher for securing this information.

UNIVERSAL M.V. In the GviR dies, the B. & S. Catalogue lists as distinct items the "Intermediate" model with long  $(2\frac{1}{2}$ mm.) and short  $(1\frac{1}{2}$ mm.) dashes in the shillings place, but in the variety of die with "U" to the left only the long dashes are listed. Mr. Hammond reports that the short dashes also occur, being found on U 262 and U 464.

UE 720 (EiiR) shows an error of town name,
"Oldbury / Worcs." instead of "Oldbury /
Birmingham". Oldbury is in fact in
Worcestershire, but the correct postal address is
Birmingham. (H.E. Hammond.)

HIGHEST NOS. Mention of the highest Nos. found to date in the various series numbered consecutively throughout the country always seems to evoke correspondence, and is evidently of interest; we therefore propose to include this as a regular feature. In order that we may be as up to date as possible, members are invited to wait until nearer the time of preparation of the next Bulletin (say early in February) before reporting additions. Meanwhile, the highest known at the moment, as reported by W.G. Amodro, H.G. Morgan, F.L. Parton and G. Pearson, are:-

NB 169; SB 351; SY 532; UH 416. The P (PA) and PB series do not make so much progress and we have no recent reports, but the highest seen are:-

PA 36 (EiiR); PB 170 (GviR).

(As noted some time ago, PB 186 in the GviR die was an error for 168, and was corrected in the

## G.B. UNIVERSAL M.V. - EilR DIES

A number of additions to the list in the last Bulletin have been reported by Messrs. H.E. Hammond, K.F. Jennings, and H.G. Morgan. Some of these reduce, but do not quite eliminate, the undetermined gaps in the numbering.

Die 2: UF 943.

Die 3: UF 969.

Die 4: UF 997, UG 108.

Die 5: UB 633, UD 164, UG 362.

Die 6: U 620; UA 76, 528, 826; UB 43; UC 21, 122; UD 564, 773; UE 359; UG 369 - 996.

Mr. Hammond has made the remarkable discovery that UA 843 exists both in Die 2 and in Die 4, the former with townmark YALDING MAIDSTONE KENT used by Plant Protection Ltd., and the latter with townmark SWANSEA GLAM. used by I.C.I. Ltd., Metals Division. The respective dates of the copies he possesses are 29 VI 54 and 13 XII 55. Plant Protection Ltd. is a subsidiary of I.C.I. Ltd., and it is possible that the machine was transferred from one to the other, though it is not easy to understand why a new frank die should have been necessary within such a short time; Mr. Hammond suggests the possibility (not unprecedented) of there being two different machines with the same No. Can anyone report later dates for use at Yalding and earlier dates at Swansea?

There are relatively few EiiR dies with keyletter "U" alone, as many of these pre-war machines
must have gone out of use, but Mr. Hammond has
noticed that U 948 in Die 6 has the "U" centred in
the left-hand space unlike the "U" found in Dies 1
to 5 which have the "U" at left with a space where
the second letter would appear. It has been
suggested - in the B. & S. Catalogue and in previous
notes in our Bulletin - that the latter appearance,
which also occurs on the GviR dies, is due to the
removal of the "A" or "B" etc. from a die originally
engraved with "UA" or "UB" or whatever the letters

may have been. Mr. D.R. Burchell however has put forward the much more probable suggestion that the "missing" second letter is due to the master die being furnished with the "U" alone so that a second letter could be engraved on the machine dies as required; thus there is no question of the actual removal of the second letter — it was not engraved. It would then appear that the master dies for what we have designated Dies 1 to 5 included the "U" whereas the master die for Die 6 does not include any letter, the "U" or pair of letters being engraved as required along with the No. (This would incidentally enable the same master die to be employed for other types of machine.)

# THE TOWN NAMES OF GREAT BRITAIN by A. A. Dewey.

As mentioned at the end of the general article in the last Bulletin, the town-marks of this country can be classified into five standard forms according to the manner in which the name is given.

(1) Town only. There are two distinct categories under this class, (a) important towns sufficiently well-known not to need any further description, and (b) towns situated in the county of the same name. The current "Post Office Guide" lays down that the only towns properly to be included under (a) are the followings Belfast, Berwick-on-Tweed, Birmingham, Bristol, Candiff Edinburgh Glasgow Leeds Liverpool

Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Sheffield, and Southampton.

Under class (b) there are about 45 towns in Great
Britain and Northern Ireland. Meter townmarks
showing without county any town not covered by the
foregoing must strictly be regarded as "errors",
though they are fairly numerous. Examples are:
Ipswich, Reading, Sunbury-on-Thames, Warrington.
Likewise the addition of the county to any of the

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towns in this class is also strictly an error, though in the case of some earlier townmarks its inclusion may possibly be due to changed P.O. rules; Cardiff Glam. and Leeds Yorks, are two noted.

- (2) Town and Postal District. Normally this relates to London only, for the other towns which are divided into lettered and/ or numbered districts ignore such division in the meter townmarks (though not always in the ordinary postal cancellations). Two exceptions, mentioned as "errors" in the B. & S. Catalogue, are Birmingham 11 (machine M 209) and Glasgow C. (machine N-14). It is an anomaly that in London, all the ordinary postal cancellations show the local name of the district along with the letters and No., as for example "Hendon N.W.4." or "Greenwich S.E.10."., but the meter townmarks all show "London" instead of the local name. There are again a few "errors", notably some large department stores which showed "Kensington W.8." on their early Pitney-Bowes machines.
- (3) Town and County. It may be noted that the county shown is the geographical county and not the administrative county, with one single exception (which readers are left to guess!) Thus we have "Ely Cambs." rather than "Ely, Isle of Ely", and "Ipswich, Suffolk" not "Ipswich, East Suffolk", the three divisions of Yorkshire and of Lincolnshire likewise do not appear in the townmarks. The name of the county may be abbreviated in varying ways, and often the abbreviations do not conform to the recommendation of the "Post Office Guide."
- (4) Town and Post-Town. This should occur only when the post-town itself would be classified under (1), e.g. Bournville, Birmingham, or Denton, Manchester. Where the post-town comes under the class (b) care may be needed to distinguish it from class (3); e.g. "Belper, Derby" comes under (4) but "Buxton, Derbyshire" under (3). As in class (1), the county is sometimes omitted when it should properly be shown.

infrequently met with, and leads to some very long inscriptions, e.g. "Burton Latimer - Kettering - Northants." or "Skelmanthorpe, Huddersfield, Yorks." The resulting pressure on space sometimes gives rise to unusual abbreviations for the county, such as "Whittington Moor - Chesterfield - DYS" (for Derbyshire), and occasionally to incorrect omission, as "Wivelsfield Green, Haywards Heath" (in Sussex.)

This is

There are a number of cases of Double Names. "Double towns", two adjacent towns of equal status with a joint Head P.O., which show the names of both in the meter townmarks (as in the postal cancellations). These may be regarded as varieties of the above classes (1) or (3) according as the county is not, or is, shown. The only case of (1b) is "Lancaster & Morecambe". "Bournemouth & Poole" which in conformity with the list under (la) should include the county actually omits it for the reason that Bournemouth and Poole are in different counties; "Brighton & Hove" and "Portsmouth & Southsea" also often omit the county, but there are none where omission is strictly in accordance with the P.O. Guide.

Examples of class (3) apart from the two just mentioned are "Chesham & Amersham, Bucks." and "Rochester & Chatham, Kent". There are several found in postal cancellations which are apparently not followed in the meter townmarks, e.g. Burnley & Colne, Lancs.; Romford & Dagenham, Essex; and Richmond & Twickenham (which, like Bournemouth and Poole, are in different counties.)

In conclusion, it may be of interest to record that the shortest possible name in a townmark is AYR, and the longest recorded is WHITTINGTON MOOR - CHESTERFIELD - DERBYSHIRE.

The latest, somewhat unexpected, additions to the constantly growing list of countries using meters are BRUNEI and BASUTOLAND. The former has introduced a Neopost (LV) machine, with typical small-format design showing the State emblem as appears on the current high-value adhesives, and townmark "Kuala Belait". The latter has been reported by Prof. J.M. Watt (Johannesburg), and further details are awaited.

Though the Panama Canal Zone introduced meters some three years ago, they have only recently been brought into use in the REPUBLIC OF PANAMA. An example shown us by Mr. G. Pearson is from a Pitney-Bowes Model R machine, with typical format showing a representation of the tower of the ruined cathedral of Old Panama between town-circle and value box. This has meter No. P.B. 17, but whether they start at No.1, we don't yet know. Use of the smaller "DM" model also has been reported.

Mr. Werner Simon has mentioned the use of a French "Satas" machine in CAMBODIA, but no further details were given.

IRISH REPUBLIC PARCEL POST. A Simplex machine is in use, an example of the the label having been shown us by Mr. K.F. Jennings. Like the corresponding British machines, the frank is at the left of the townmark, and is worded "POSTAS IOCTHA" with a Harp at top, and "POST NA MBEART" below the value, all in a double rectangular frame. The townmark reads "SRAID ANNA THEAS / B. A. C.", the letters presumably representing Baile Atha Cliath, or Dublin. The copy seen has date 23 V 56 with value 1/-, and is on white "tape".

RHODESIA & NYASALAND. The Universal M.V. machines U 10 (Bulawayo) and U 11 (Salisbury), both used by the Standard Bank of South Africa Itd., each show the month in letters and are probably the same machines as U 332 and U 333 of Southern Rhodesia.

A specimen impression from a Frank-Master machine for use in the Federation has been shown us by Messrs. Roneo-Neopost Ltd. The design is similar to that of Great Britain but with the country-name in a longer scroll almost surrounding the central oval; the ident. No. is RN 174 (why, we do not know.)

The B. & S. Catalogue NYASALAND DISCOVERY. records only one machine in this territory, a Universal M.V., No. U 1, introduced in 1951. Mr. Werner Simon, writing in "Stamps" (New York) of 5th May last, however reports the discovery that a Neopost machine also was used from December 1952. The frank, of normal Neopost format, shows the emblem of the Protectorate, a leopard standing on a rock, with a crown above and surrounded by an oval frame above which is "NYASALAND"; "N (value) 1" is below. The townmark Impressions from both is "BLANTYRE / NYASALAND". of the machines must be rare, as the dies were replaced by the standard "Federation of Rhodesia & Nyasaland" designs in July 1954.

U.S.S.R. POST-WAR TYPE. Owing, no doubt, to the small amount of commercial

mail reaching this country from the Soviet Union, no post-war meter stamps of that country have so far been chronicled. Mr. Jason T.W. Mann has however kindly sent us an example on a registered cover from the Library of the Academy of Sciences, Leningrad, to London. Oddly enough, this is printed in blue-violet instead of red as prescribed by U.P.U. regulations which would at the same time conform to the "national colour" of the U.S.S.R.

The frank is a double-lined octagon (upright) rectangle 27 x 34 mm. with the corners bevelled off), containing the figures of value (170) in a square with "K" at each side, "CC CP" and the Soviet Star at the top and "POCHTA SSSR" (in Cyrillic letters) at the foot. The townmark has the date (-4 10 56) in a "box" with "CC CP" and Star again above and "LENINGRAD 164" (in Cyrillic

letters) below. The name and address of the user are set out as a slogan between townmark and frank, with a 4-figure record No. above.

Although generally resembling an impression from a "Francotyp C" machine such as was used before the War, the setting is much wider (86 mm. between centres of date and value as against 79 mm.) and the figures all differ slightly. Probably it is a Russian version of the German machine.

# METERS IN BRAZIL

# 1. The Universal NZ and Midget Machines by Eng. Ernst Muhr (continued.

In the following classification, each type is listed by a combination of townmark and frank. Townmark types are designated by capital letters and Roman numerals, frank types by lower-case letters and Arabic numerals. It should be borne in mind that both machines are of the "fixed-value" type, so that one machine may have franks of different types at the same time.

## Classification of Townmarks

#### A - Wavy Lines:-

A-I Town name at bottom;

A-II User's name at top and town name at bottom;

A-III Town name at top and State at bottom.

B - Single Circle (23-25 mm. diameter.):

B-I With town name only;

B-II With St. Andrew's Cross and dots at bottom, and arcs at sides:

B-III With five-pointed star at bottom.

<u>C - Double Circle</u> (23-25 and 16-17 mm. diam.):-

C-I With town name (and State) only;

C-II With user's name at bottom;

C-III With star and two arrows at bottom;

C-IV With two branches and knot at bottom;

C-V Broken inner circle;

C-VI With arc at bottom.

D - Ovals-

D-I With user's name.

62) Classification of Franks a - Lozenge type ("Southern Cross" in centre):a-1 Value in Reis or Milreis:a-11 Lozenge 13 mm. diagonally:a-lll Starred ring enclosed by double circle; . 11 " single a-112 a-12 Lozenge 15½ mm. diagonally:a-121 Ident.No. contained within lozenge: a-1211 Ident. No. seriffed; 11 sans-serif. a-1212 a-122 Ident.No. extending outside lozenge. a-2 Value in Cruzeiros (Cr\$.):a-21 Value sans-serif:a-211 Ident. No. contained within lozenge:-Ident. No. seriffed; a-2111 sans-serif. a-2112 a-212 Ident. No. extending outside lozenge. a-22 Value seriffed. a-23 Lozenge 13 mm. diagonally. b - Globe type (Seal of the Republic):-

b-l Value in Reis. b-2 Value in Cruzeiros (Cr\$.):b-21 Value sans-serif, 3 mm. high; Ident. No. vertical; b-22 b-23 Value sans-serif, 2 mm. high; b-24 Value seriffed.

(To be continued.)

## CATALOGUE SUPPLEMENT

A detailed supplement to the G.B. list appears to be greatly overdue; the following list is again due to Mr. S.D. Barfoot. Justifiably, we think, it goes into greater detail than the supplements of other countries, and will require two or three issues of the Bulletin to complete.

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Type A2 (Universal NZ).
 After /8/ insert:
      xi.22. TM 6 wavy lines, 45 mm. long, black.
       M. in letters in D.M.Yr. Slogan nil.
      1\frac{1}{2}d. (Date known, 8.NOV.22)
     /9/ Date should be x.22 (known used 30 00T 22)
 C. /10/ Known used 9 JAN 23.
Note below /10/: No.8 also used by U.P.F. Ltd.,
 21.0CT.1922 (1½d.)
Type A3.A (Universal NZ).
/11/ Date should be ii.23, not 29.i.23. (VR)
/12/ Date should be x.23.
/14/ Existence doubtful.
/16/ Date should be 25. viii. 24. 4\frac{1}{2}d also London
       E.C.1, 17; London W.C.1, 5; 5\frac{1}{2}d doubtful.
       Also ld.
       Also ld, 6d.
Type A3.B (Universal HS).
 (These machines have separate TMs for each value.)
/23b/ Also \frac{1}{2}d (X1, with complete lines above and
        below M. No.)
Type A3.C (Universal TV or SM).
 Note should read: Two machines manufactured
  one only used ....
Type A5.B (Universal HS).
/33a/ M.No. small, sans-serif. 12d (Watford,
        A. Wander & Co., iv.27) (VR)
Type Bl (Universal NZ).
/35a/ Relief machine, X prefix. ld, 1\frac{1}{2}d.
/A35/ TM. BIC. 1d, 2d, 2\frac{1}{2}d, 3d, 6d, 1/-.
Type B2.A (Universal Midget).
/37/ Add (d) Wednesbury, Staffs., M 1, 1\frac{1}{2}d
                          (i.30, R.die.)
/38/ Date of (ii) should be 1931-35.
   (The dies of \frac{37}{38} appear to be the same
     as Neopost A2 dies.)
/39/8d now known used.
Type B2.C (Universal HS).
/43/ Also known used 22 v 30.
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Type B3.(I) (Neopost).

/44/ 2½d also London E.C.2, N 19; S.W.1, N 99. /45d/ Error, St. Heliers for St. Helier, in "Jersey (St. Heliers) / Channel Islands"; N 1, 12d.

/45e/ Error, Kingswood /Bristol, N 49 numbered in Bristol series; lad.

/46a/ 1940. Provisional, ld from lad with space between 1 and D. (Elmswell, Bury St. Edmunds / Suffolk, N 1)

Date should be 1929. Add 6d (one known, London E.C.1, N 101) (VR)

Add 4d, 4dd (one known, Kingham / Oxford, N 1) Note below /49/, "Type B" should read "Type Bl". /50/ Add 2/= (Oxford, N 92).

Type B3 (II) and (III) (Neopost).  $\sqrt{51}$  Value should be ld, not  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Note below /54/, at end "Type A2" should be "B2".

Type B4 (Universal P.B.).  $\frac{1}{56c}$  Improvised die (1933), M.No. blank.  $l_{\frac{1}{2}}^{\frac{1}{2}}$ d. (Northwich/Cheshire, later replaced by PB 53)

Add PB 94 (Edinburgh). /61/ /63/ ld PB 67 is probably due to a worn die.

Type B5 (Pitney-Bowes Model H). /64/ 43d also H 28.

/64d/ Also H 46.

Type B6 (Universal M.V.). 773a/ Variety, TM with breaks in both outer and inner circles (U 174, London E.C.2.)

Type Cl (Universal Midget).

TM. DC (R) or BIC. /79a/ Error, District No. shown in TM. Garston /

Liverpool 19, M 1. ½d. Type C4 (Universal M.V.).

TM. BIC (U 489, London W.1.) /89/ Delete 455.