

# IRISH POSTAGE STAMPS

## POSTAGE METER MACHINE

SUPPLEMENT No. 34

ÉRIE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

January, 1968

A meter postage stamp is the impression which denotes the prepayment of postage made by a franking machine which prints the required information as to the amount of postage, either directly on the envelope or postal packet, or on a gummed label which may be then affixed to the item of mail.

These machines are licensed by the Post Office for use by persons, business firms or organizations doing a considerable amount of mailing, and the amount of postage expended in each case registers on a meter for accounting purposes.

The use of meter machines in the Irish Free State did not begin until sometime in September of 1926. Iris an Phuist, No. 206, issued on June 23, 1926 contained instructions as to the use of these machines.

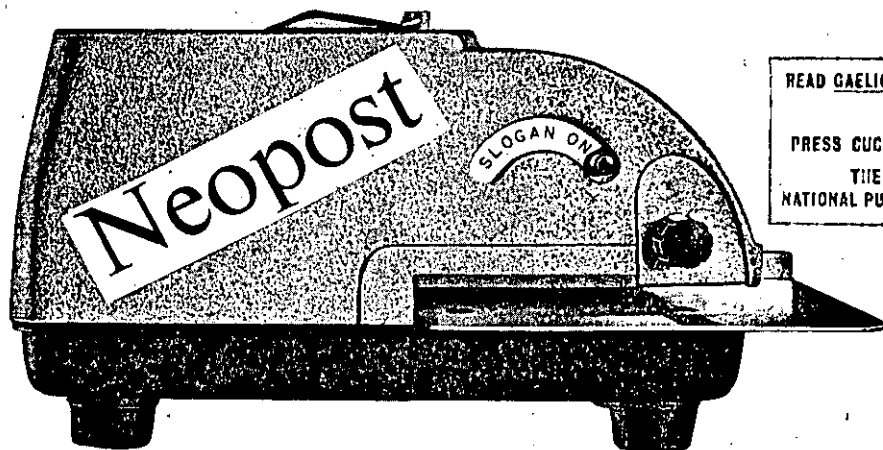
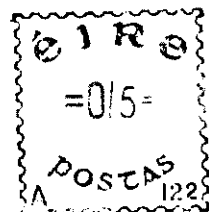
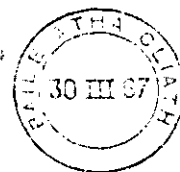
The machines in use in Ireland from each manufacturer are numbered consecutively. There was one early exception. The Neopost machine, key letter "N" was numbered at first from 1 for each separate town where used. Upon the suggestion of the Post Office, this was subsequently changed to consecutive numbering regardless of town or post office.

### SLOGAN POSTMARK

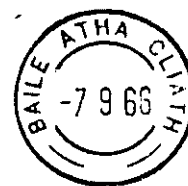
A postage meter stamp not only registers the prepayment of postage, but is also a postmark, giving the date and the post office where deposited. In addition, many of these machines also print the name of the user or some appropriate slogan. These slogans are changeable or omissible at the will of the user of the machine.

**Pitney-Bowes LTD**  
HARLOW, ESSEX

IT'S FASTER  
IT'S NEATER  
MAILED BY METER



READ GAELIC WEEKLY  
PRESS CUCHULAINN  
THE  
NATIONAL PUBLISHERS



*If undelivered please return to*  
69/71, St. Stephens Green,  
Dublin, 2

We are deeply grateful to Mr. A. A. Turner of Pitney Bowes Ltd. Dublin and Mr. P. Macaulay of Charles Chambers Ltd, Dublin (Roneo Neopost) for illustrations of machines and franks used in Ireland and their assistance.

# CHECK LIST OF THE POSTAGE METER FRANKS OF IRELAND

by John J. Walsh

## Pitney-Bowes LTD.

The corporate history of the present Pitney Bowes Ltd. is of value in this listing:- The Universal Postal Frankers Ltd. (renamed Pitney Bowes Ltd in 1960) manufactured in England a fixed value machine, known as the Midget beginning in 1926, key letter "M" This was superseded in 1950 by the Simplex.

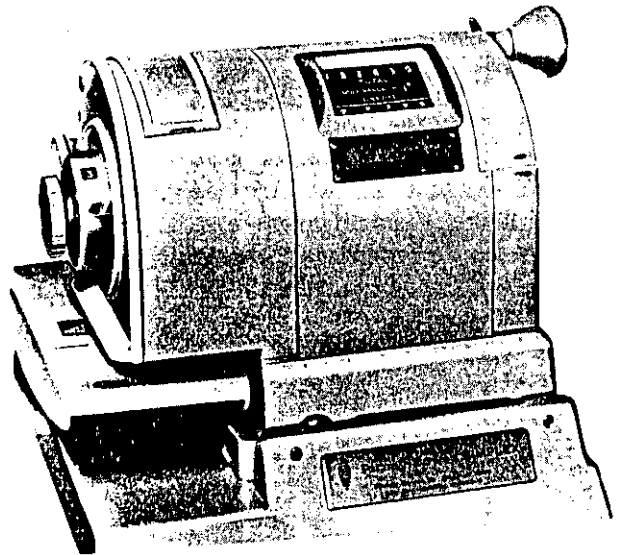
In 1929, the Pitney-Bowes Postal Meter Co. manufactured in the U.S. a "Model H" of which only one is known in Ireland (H-1), marketed by a company which merged in 1929 with the Universal Postal Frankers, Ltd. The H-1 is believed to have been used by the Irish Shell Ltd., Dublin.

In 1932, a multi-value machine, known as the Universal (or Frankopost), key letter "U" was introduced. This was superseded in 1958 by the Automax.

In 1950, the Simplex, or limited value machine, key letter "A" was introduced, replacing the "Midget".

In 1958, the Automax (Model 804), a multi-value machine, key letter "A" was introduced, replacing the Universal.

In 1964, Pitney Bowes introduced a new multi-value series, key letter "PB" (5400- hand operated and 5500- electric) replacing the Automax. The latest model is the 5610 which incorporates a detachable meter.



25-VALUE MACHINE



RONEO-NEOPOST LTD

## neopost

The other manufacturer is Roneo-Neopost (originally British Neopost Ltd) and since 1931 a subsidiary of Roneo Ltd.

The first machine used in Ireland was the Neopost model, key letter "N", introduced in 1925 as a fixed value machine and about 1930 as a limited value machine. This model was replaced by Model 105 (10 values) hand-operated, with the same key letter "N"

(continued next page)

The next machine, introduced in 1952, multi-value, electric, called the "Frankmaster" and renamed "Model 305" in 1965, with key letter "NV".

In 1963, the "Neopost Model 205", multi-value, electric, with key letter "NP" was introduced.

### TYPES OF FRANKS USED

The meter impression consists of three parts: (a) the Frank, showing the postage value and the name of the country, (b) the date-stamp, showing the town or post office and the date of posting, and (c) a slogan or return address which, of course, may be omitted.

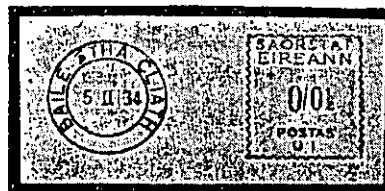
#### IRISH FREE STATE 1926 - 1938

Two types of franks were used during this period: Type I. Value in a circle, with the words of value and the name, "Saorstat Eireann". Used on the Midget "M" and Neopost "N". Type II. Value used without words of value and the name, "Saorstat Eireann". Used on the Universal "U".

Type I



Type II



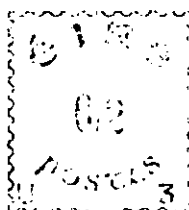
#### REPUBLIC OF IRELAND-EIRE



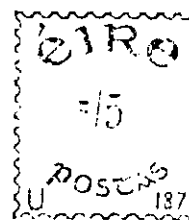
Type III a  
Gaelic "d" M,N



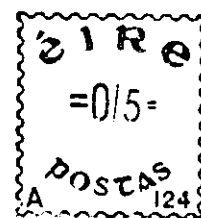
Type III b  
Roman "D" N



Type III c  
0/0 U



Type III d  
=0 U



Type III e  
=0/0= U,A,NV



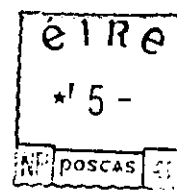
Type IV a  
Roman D S



Type IV b  
Gaelic d S



Type V  
Model U -(Three machines 204-6)



Type VI  
NP



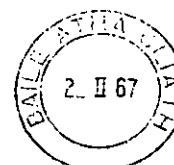
Type VII a  
5D - N



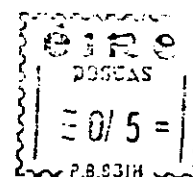
Type VII b  
\*0- NP



Type VII c  
=0/0= NV



Type VIII P B  
Detachable Machine No.

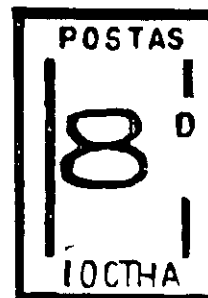


# PARCEL STAMPS

by F.E. Dixon

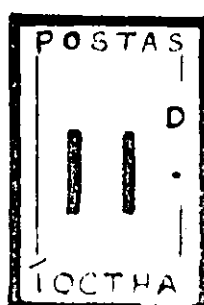
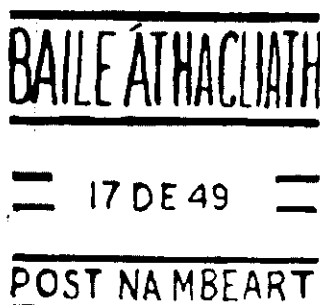
There are somewhat similar machines made exclusively for use by the public for parcel post, and installed on post office counters.

The system was not immediately adopted in Ireland and it was not until 23rd August, 1948 that the G. P.O. Dublin brought the first design into use. The labels were printed on rolls 28-29 mm wide, and with a zig-zag roulette or gauge 9 for separation and were of type (a). The machines were of the T.I.M. type, supplied by Ticket-Issuing Machines Ltd.



Type (a)

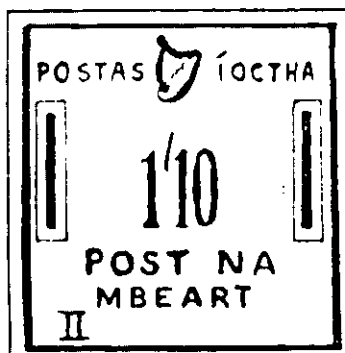
The machine was withdrawn in December and no substitute appeared until the following December, when type (b) appeared. This was characterized by a taller harp in a narrower box and various changes in the proportions of the lettering. Paper and roulette were as before. Early in 1950 a similar machine was installed at College Green, Dublin, and soon afterwards others were sent to the principal provincial towns.



Type (b)

was introduced, using type (c), firstly at St. Andrew's Street, Dublin (successor to the College Green Office, and later elsewhere. The same rolls were used as before, but the rouletting was (and is) neater, sharper and with gauge 17. My illustration is from South Anne Street: note the "II" at lower left, indicating the second machine in the office.

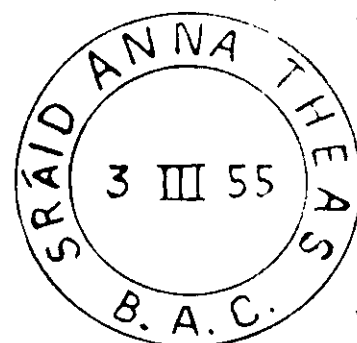
About the beginning of 1953, a new machine (Frankopost Simplex)



Type (c)

About the end of 1966 the Plessey type of machine was obtained, with provision for all values up to 19s 11d. (Type d)

It would be tedious to list all the possible values one could try to collect. In 1948 the minimum rate was 8d - it is now 1/3 and the last increase (28th March 1960)



Type (d)

caught the office unprepared. At the G.P.O. Dublin, from then until the end of October, the new rates were made up with postage stamps supplementing the labels - which meant reintroducing the cancelling. Elsewhere rates were sometimes made up with two labels of lower values. The new dies came into use on 1st February, 1961, and at the same time a change of ink occurred, the colour now being orange instead of red.

The illustrations of types a, b, and c above are double actual size. Type d is actual size.