Classic Meter Stamps

Modern Meter Stamps

What Do We Collect?

And

Topical Slogans

Computer Meter Stamps
The First Postage Meters

Early Postage Meter Experiments

Di Brazzi Coin Operated
New York 1897
Kahrs
Oslo Norway 1900
Uchermann-Krag
Norway Post Offices 1903
Moss Coin Operated
New Zealand 1904
Pitney Bowes
Washington 1912
Pitney Bowes
Chicago 1913

Early Production Postage Meters

United States—Pitney Bowes 1920
First US production postage meter mailed from Pitney Bowes offices 10 December 1920. The first outside use is 5 August 1921. Due to resemblance to existing permit designs this design was discontinued and last known use is dated 15 April 1922.

Moss 1907
New Zealand is the first country to operate postage meters continuously from about 1906.

United States—Pitney Bowes 1922
The US oval design replaced the square design as early as 19 January 1922.

Great Britain — Pitney Bowes 1922
The first GB meter design was similar to this example.

Canada — Pitney Bowes 1923
The first Canadian meter design was similar to this example. The lines below “Canada” and above “Postage” sometimes were more curved in the original hand cut indicia.
Other Early U.S. Postage Meter Companies

Mail-O-Meter, 11 October 1922

International Postal Supply Company, 5 June 1925

Whitlock Metered Mail Company, 4 September 1929

Continental Postage Meter Corporation, 1 February 1930

United States Postage Meter Company, December 1931

National Cash Register Company, 19 January 1931

Multipost Company, 4 March 1933

After the success of Pitney Bowes, other companies applied to the US Post Office for permission using similar designs. The NCR cash register tape was the only variant design at that time. Note: Mach Postograph Company also put two meters in service in 1925 but examples are very rare and expensive.
Methods of Printing Postage Value

Single Value Meters
Single value meters could print only one postage value. To change the postage value the meter was removed from the mailing machine and replaced with another meter. Each of the impressions shown represent a different postage meter.

Multi Value Meters
Multi Value Meters could print several values. The “Double Rate” type had the entire indicia for each rate on a wheel. The “Single Rate” type had a single indicia with a hole through which the value stamp could print.

Omni Value Meters
Omni Value Meters can print decimal values (and sometimes fractions) over a range of values from zero to .99 or 9.99. All modern postage meters worldwide are of this type.
The First Topical Slogans

In the U.S. the early meters were not designed to print an advertising slogan. Thus, meters had to be modified and were first used on an experimental basis in the late 1920's. Three oval Pitney Bowes meters were modified to accommodate a slogan. Three commercial users participated in the test: The Postage Meter Co. (Stamford), Shell Petroleum Corp. (St. Louis), and Curtis Publishing Co. (Philadelphia). These three covers represent the first advertising slogan use in the U.S.
The Second Generation Topical Slogans

The multi-denominational postage meters that replaced the single-denominational ovals were the first to have the slogan printing option as a standard feature. Shown here are several of the earliest slogans placed into commercial use.
Modern Topical Slogans
Philately and Stamp Shows

SEPAD
NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

SEPT. 27, to OCT. 1, 1939
Hotel Philadelphian
39th and Chestnut Streets
PHILADELPHIA

1939 NATIONAL
STAMP EXHIBITION
SEPT-27 to OCT-1
PHILADELPHIA

SEAPAD

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION
1914 - 1939
MICHIGAN STAMP CLUB

DETROIT
MAR 24
1939
MICH.

U.S. POSTAGE
.03
PAID

U.S. POSTAGE
.03
PAID

INTERPEX-1962
INTERNATIONAL STAMP SHOW
March 30-31, April 1

METER SLOGAN
ASSOCIATES
NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR COLLECTORS OF
METERED
MAIL

BUY U.S.
BONDS

CITY
STATE
SPECIMEN
00:

1847 - 1947
CENTENNIAL
COMMEMORATION
PHILADELPHIA

U.S. POSTAGE
.01:

PENNSYLVANIA
METER 5931

NEW YORK
MAR 30'62
N.Y.

U.S. POSTAGE
.04

Modern Topical Slogans
Space, Satellites and Rockets

Topical slogans have become one of the most popular specialties in meter philately today. A collection build around one theme can be a significant challenge. Here is one example.
Modern Digital Meters

Meter Migration Mandate: all postage meters must be fully digital by late 2006 in Canada and late 2008 in the U.S.
Photostamps and Computer Postage Stamps

Photostamps and Computer Postage Stamps, are they meters or stamps? There is some controversy here. We collect them anyway.
Back of Book Specialty Areas
Post Office Meters and Automated Vending Postage

Classic Post Office Meters

Post Office Experimental Meters

Matsushita Vending Stamps

Autopost Experimental Vending Stamps

Current Post Office PVI Meters

Frama Vending Stamps

Klussendorf Vending Stamps

APC Vending Stamps

Compared with the Automat stamps of other parts of the world, the APC tends to produce a very poor quality stamp.
The MSS Bulletin is published Quarterly.
The bulletin has a history back to 1948. Today it is a 25-50
page journal packed with information. It comes to your mail-
box every quarter. Back issues all available at the APRL
Library.

Meter Stamp Catalogs
1. United States Postage Meter Stamp Catalog.
   Joel Hawkins, Richard Stambaugh, 1994 Updated in the MSSB.
2. International Postage Meter Stamp Catalog.
3. Canadian Meter Postage Stamp Catalog.
   Ross Irwin, 2004 CMSG (Canadian Meter Study Group)

Meter Stamp Society Website.
1. Galleries of important and interesting Meter Samples
   Classical and Modern, Meters and Slogans.
2. MSS Bulletin Indexes complete back to 1948.
3. Bibliography of important works and where to find them.
5. Web Links to current meter related Websites.
6. Current News
7. An Information Packed Website.

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Washington 2006 Show
Booth 2651