Pitney Bowes Story

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A short history on Pitney Bowes and the metered mail story. Mr Pitney lived in Chicago working in a wallpaper store, doing mailing of advertisements and sticking stamps on envelopes so they could be mailed. Mr Pitney felt it was a waste of time to sit and do that job – so he began to develop a machine and that was in 1902. Mr Pitney developed a meter that the post office accepted.

Mr Bowes in Stamford who was the owner of Universal Stamp Machine which is the machine that cancels the stamps, also had the same idea but not until about 1919, but the meter he developed, the Post Office would not approve.

The Post Office liked the idea of a meter because it would save the clerks time, so they had Mr Pitney and Mr Bowes get in touch with each other and they formed the company now known as Pitney Bowes.

On the following pages are some samples of the different kinds of meters that have been used since the first meter made an impression on Nov 10, 1920

THE POSTAGE METER CO.
STAMFORD, CONN., U. S. A.

Mr. George F. Smith, Mgr.,
Borne, Borey & Co.,
437 Chestnut St.,

THE FIRST METER
THE METERS FROM 1920 TO 1929 WERE SINGLE DEMONINATION, MEANING THEY COULD ONLY PRINT ONE VALUE, AND THE GOVERNMENT WANTED THE COLOR TO BE THE SAME AS THE STAMPS SOLD IN THE REGULAR ISSUE AS SHOWN.

THE SECOND ISSUE
THE THIRD ISSUE

(THIS IS A COPY AS THE ENVELOPE WAS TO LARGE)

THE FOURTH ISSUE
"IN OLD CHICAGO"

SEASON'S GREETINGS

NEW JERSEY BELL TELEPHONE CO.
214 EAST STATE STREET
TRENTON, N. J.

Find LOCAL DEALERS EASILY
SEE THE CLASSIFIED DIRECTORY

THE SIXTH ISSUE
THE SEVENTH ISSUE
(THE FLYING EAGLE)
THE TERM "MAILOMAT" IS COPYRIGHTED BY THE PITNEY BOWES POSTAGE METER COMPANY WHICH PRODUCED THESE MACHINES. THEY WERE A COMBINATION SELF-SERVICE, COIN-OPERATED POSTAGE METER AND A US MAIL BOX, AND WERE INSTALLED IN THE LOBBIES OF THE LARGER POST OFFICES AND ALSO IN SOME OF THE LARGER DEPARTMENT STORES, HOTELS AND RAILROAD STATIONS.

MAILOMAT FIRST DAY COVER

May 17, 1939

Commemorating the first general public operation of the MAILOMAT, a coin letter box installed for official test in the General Post Office, New York City.
Mr. H. Kroyer
35 Edgewood Avenue
Greenwich, Conn.

THE FIRST FOUR EXPERIMENTAL MAILOMATS WERE INSTALLED AT THE STAMFORD POST OFFICE (ALL FIRST DAY).
WHEN A PRESIDENT LEAVES OFFICE HE HAS THE PRIVILEGE OF "FREE MAIL". PITNEY BOWES OFFERS THE FORMER PRESIDENT A FREE MACHINE AND METER WITH HIS SIGNATURE SO THAT HE MAY "FRANK" THE MAIL AND NOT HAVE TO SIGN EVERY LETTER HE SEND OUT. HERE ARE TWO SAMPLES.
A FEW OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES THAT WE MAKE METERS FOR.
SOME OTHER MANUFACTURES OF POSTAGE METERS

POSTALA

1964 - Featuring

U.S. POSTAGE

METER 80001 P.O.
NEW YORK, N.Y.

IBM