

NEW MAIL MACHINE ELIMINATES STAMPS

Prints a Postage Notice on 250
Envelopes a Minute, Sav-
ing Hours of Labor.

ALREADY USED BY THE TIMES

Post Office Sets and Seals the
Stamping Device on Advance Pay-
ment—Meter Checks Operation.

A new, lightning-fast postage machine, which stamps its imprint upon 250 envelopes a minute and eliminates the glued stamp, is being tried out in this city by banks, department stores and other institutions with the aid of the Post Office Department. The promoters predict that the machine will save thousands of dollars in the labor of canceling and handling blankets of stamps and will prevent loss by theft.

Yesterday the second of the machines in this city was installed in the letter mailing department of THE NEW YORK TIMES. The first was put into operation last week by the National City Bank. Within a few days other machines will be put at work in the offices of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, the Guaranty Trust Company, the Cunard Line offices, the Review of Reviews Company and the department stores of B. Altman & Co., John-Wanamaker and James McCreery & Co.

Arthur H. Pitney of Cos Cob, Conn., has been working on the machine for about fourteen years. He obtained his last patent on June 21, 1921. Combining with the Universal Stamping Machine Company of Stamford, Conn., manufacturer of stamp cancellation machinery for the Post Office Department, he formed the Pitney-Bowes Postage Meter Company for the manufacture and rental of the new stamp printing machinery.

Congressional legislation has now authorized the use of such machinery for the elimination of stamps printed and sold at high expense and, with the aid of the Post Office Department, the company has proceeded with the installation of the machines in business houses using tens of thousands of stamps a day. The machines are not sold, but are leased to users of postage. The apparatus comprises an electrically-operated stamp printing device which cannot be run until after the operator has inserted a meter machine that is set by the Post Office authorities and then locked and double-sealed. Printed on each envelope is the name of the office and time of mailing, as in the old stamp-canceling machines, and the equivalent of a postage stamp.

Canada Postage Meter Stamps



Mechanical



Electronic

The Story. From the very first postage stamp it was known that a better way was needed to frank business mail. Experiments in New York 1897, Norway 1900, New Zealand 1904, and Chicago 1912 preceded the introduction of production postage meters in the US in 1920, Great Britain in 1922 and Canada in 1923 as a part of existing mail handling machines to facilitate preparation of business mail. Development of the postage meter proceeded from purely mechanical devices to the use of electronics and now to fully digital machines.

Digital



Background. Pitney Bowes of the US entered the Canadian market in summer of 1923, pursued by NCR in 1925 and Universal Postal Frankers of GB in 1926. Roneo Neopost of GB arrived in Newfoundland in 1928 but stayed there. PB quickly bought out Universal in Canada. In 1933 PB introduced the omni-denominational Franco meters from Europe to counter NCR who never became a strong player. NPM/Commercial Controls placed a few meters in 1943. Friden of US and France and Postalia of Germany entered the market in the 1960's. Hasler of Germany arrived in 1981. After mergers, Pitney Bowes, Francotyp-Postalia and Neopost remain today. Nixdorf provided meters for post office and contract post office use since 1990.

The Exhibit. This display exhibit presents a postal history of the postage meters used in Canada as it developed through the three phases. Magazine advertisements, equipment brochures and newspaper clippings are used to illustrate this story, but the real story tellers are the meter indicia themselves. Mechanical meters provide the golden age of meters with a great profusion of indicia designs as the equipment behind the indicia evolved. Thus the indicia of the mechanical era are grouped largely by the indicia design. The indicia used for the electronic era are grouped by manufacturer because the vendors used the design, to some extent, to distinguish themselves during this time. The digital meter indicia designs are now very similar. Special purpose, mostly governmental, meters are shown separately. Each indicium is shown with data for period of use, figure of value, values printed and other pertinent information to help distinguish stamps that might otherwise seem identical.

1 Mechanical Era

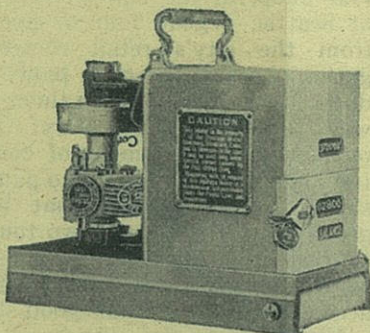
- 1.1 Shield
- 1.2 National Cash Register
- 1.3 Stamp
- 1.4 Crown
- 1.5 Maple Leaf
- 1.6 Square
- 1.7 Newfoundland

1.8 Return Postage Prepaid

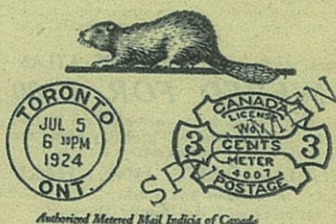
- 1.9 Excise Tax
- 2 Electronic Era
- 2.1 Pitney Bowes
- 2.2 Hasler
- 2.3 Postalia
- 2.4 Friden

3 Digital Era

- 3.1 Pitney Bowes
- 3.2 Hasler
- 3.3 Francotyp Postalia
- 3.4 Neopost Friden
- 3.5 Nixdorf Post Office
- 3.6 Pitney Bowes Kiosk Trial



OFFICIAL POSTAGE METER
used with all models of
Pitney-Bowes Mailing Machines



Authorized Metered Mail Indicia of Canada

Internationally Endorsed

THE United States of America, the Kingdom of Great Britain and the Dominion of Canada endorse and authorize the use of "Metered Mail" as an adjunct to their respective Postal Services for the economy and convenience of their mailers.

"Metered Mail" speeds delivery by the elimination of the time-consuming operations of facing and cancelling in the Post Office. It saves time and labor in the sealing and stamping of mail and for the first time renders perfect postage control not only possible but automatic.

The official "Metered Mail" indicia insures respect and attention for mail on receipt. It is a mark of progressiveness associated with national and international organizations. The privilege of using "Metered Mail" is granted only by Post Office Department License to reputable, well established institutions.

A request on your letterhead will bring you copies of letters from business houses in your own or related lines. They show the advantages and savings which you can obtain by using "Metered Mail."

The Postage Meter Company

SOLE DISTRIBUTORS OF
PITNEY-BOWES PRODUCTS

765 Pacific Street, Stamford, Conn., U. S. A.

Offices in principal American cities and foreign countries

THE WORLD'S LARGEST MANUFACTURERS OF MAILING EQUIPMENT

THE POSTAGE METER COMPANY
765 PACIFIC STREET
STAMFORD, CONN., U. S. A.



Please send "Metered Mail" information to

588

NAME..... TITLE.....
COMPANY.....
ADDRESS.....

Pitney Bowes Large Shield

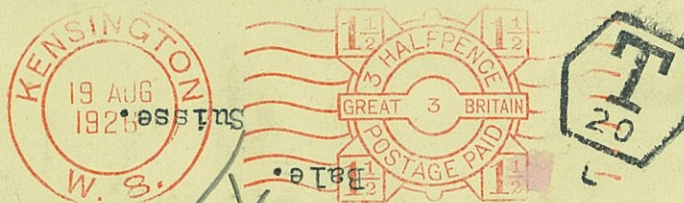


First Commercial usages for Pitney Bowes Meters

United States: 5 August, 1920
Great Britain: 23 August, 1922
Canada: 29 September, 1923

THE WEISS & KLAU CO.

462 BROADWAY NEW YORK



Messrs. Singer & Co. Ltd.,
BRIEFBAGEN 10

THE T. EATON CO. LIMITED
TORONTO CANADA



Miss I.G. Burkholder,
Box 166,
Vineland, Ont.

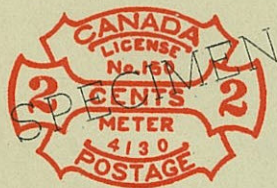
THE POSTAGE METER CO.
P. O. BOX. 15
POSTAL TERMINAL 'A'.
TORONTO, ONT.



1.1.1 Pitney Bowes Large Shield

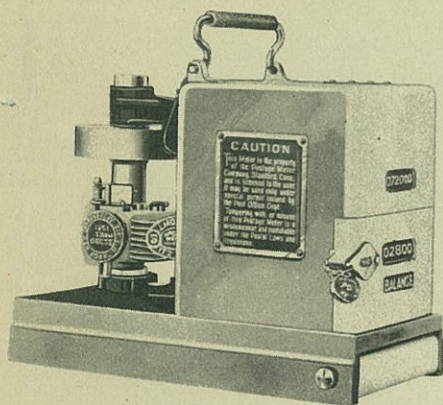


PITNEY-BOWES



The official imprint of "Metered Mail," as authorized by the Post Office Department, is the indicia shown above. The Post Office Department requires that this indicia be printed by means of approved devices having recording mechanisms set by the Postmaster and which automatically lock when impressions paid for are exhausted.

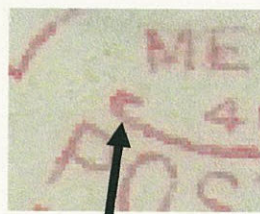
The Postage Meter



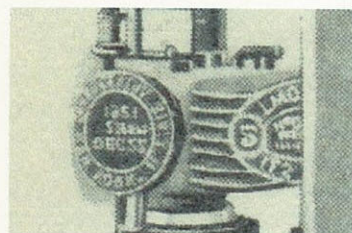
Description

Postage Meters are devices approved by the Post Office Department for the printing and recording of postage. Such devices cannot be sold outright, but are leased by the manufacturer to the mailer. The manufacturer or distributor of such devices must assume full responsibility for the location, maintenance, inspection and proper operation of all such devices placed in service. A license must be secured from the Post Office Department for the use of such devices by the mailer. The indicia must show the mailer's license number and the register number of the meter used. Postage Meters can be secured for any denominations of postage. The Postage Meter is a detachable unit operating on either Pitney-Bowes Model "A", "B" or "F" mailing machines.

Pitney Bowes Large Shield **SAMPLE**
Four machines used only for samples



Hook larger
for First
Design



Indicia and Townmark of
Model M postage meter.

Pitney Bowes First Large Shield Design
Meter number 4001 Only

First Pitney Bowes Large Shield Design

First Use: 7 August, 1923 at Pitney Bowes Offices.

First Commercial Use: 29 September 1923 at T. Eaton Company, Winnipeg.

Single Value Meter: Value: 3¢ Only

Meter Number: 4001 Only

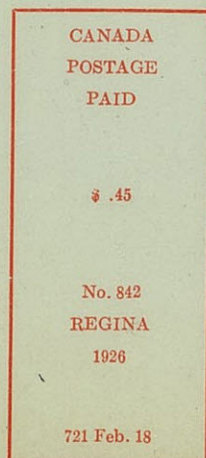
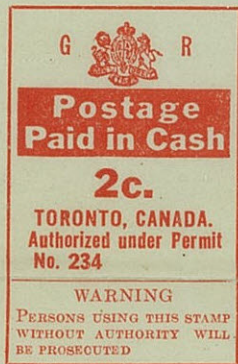
The first meter indicia were hand cut. The lines under the word "Canada" and over the word "Postage" have definite hooks. Five meters were built but only Meter 4001 was used for postage. Other units with this design were used for Samples.

Shield Design	Dates	Value Box	Town mark	Setting	Meter Number Notes
1.1.1 Pitney Bowes Large Shield	29 Sept 1923 Through 1951.	32x22mm Value: SV	DC TLD	12 mm	4001-4305
1.1.2 Universal Square	4 Jul 1926 To 18 Jul 1927 Sold to PB Feb 1927.	22x25 mm Value: MV(3) 1, 2, 3¢	DC SLD	25 mm	501, 503, 505, 509, 511, 512, 513
1.1.3 Universal Small Shield	19 May 1927 To Sept 1938.	22x25 mm Value: MV(3) 1-6¢, 10¢, 12¢, 15¢	DC SLD	25 mm	195-2076 0000 or M0000 Marketed by Pitney Bowes May 1927
1.1.4 Pitney Bowes Small Shield	16 Sep 1929 To 30 Jan 1955.	22x22 mm Value: MV(1,3, 5)	DC TLD	27 mm	40000+ 46000+ 48000+

Pitney Bowes Brochure, ca1927
First Postage Meter Model M
This unit could be installed into the model A, B or F mailing machines.

EMPREINTES DES MACHINES À TIMBRER ADOPTÉES PAR
L'ADMINISTRATION POSTALE DU DOMINION
DU CANADA

Les empreintes ci-dessous sont des spécimens de celles des machines à timbrer en usage pour l'affranchissement des objets de correspondance déposés au Canada adressés aux pays compris dans l'Union postale universelle.



1. The Mechanical Era

The Post Office provides bulletins to inform personnel of designs approved by Canada and the UPU. This bulletin, ca1924, was one of the first to show designs of the early postage meter stamps.

Upper Image:

First Pitney Bowes Large Shield

Middle Rows:

Six Permit Designs

Lower Image:

First NCR Meter Design

An Early Post Office Notice
(Approximate Translation)

“PRINTS OF FRANKING
MACHINES ADOPTED BY
THE POSTAL ADMINI-
STRATION OF THE DO-
MINION OF CANADA”

“The prints below are speci-
mens of franking machines
used for stamping of corre-
spondence from Canada ad-
dresses and accepted by the
Universal Postal Union”

**1.1.1 Pitney
Bowes Large
Shield**

Model M Postage Meter

The Model M was designed to operate with three existing mailing machines: Models A, B and F.

This example: License number text upside down.



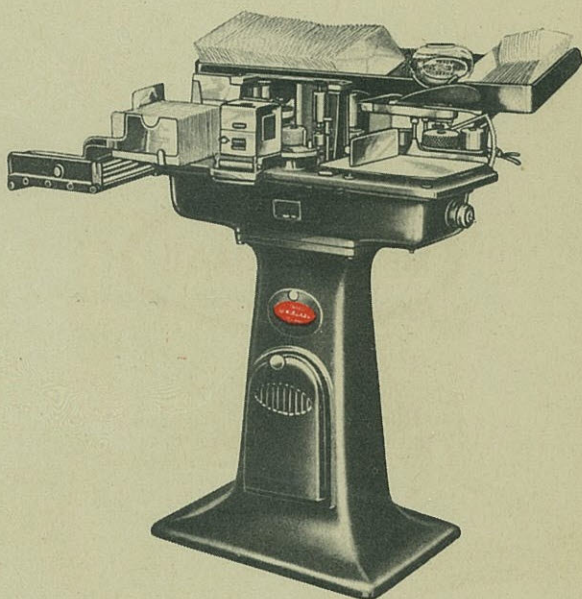
IF NOT DELIVERED IN 5 DAYS
RETURN TO OFFICE OF MAILING



MAILING MACHINES EQUIPMENT

Model "A"

Pitney-Bowes Mailing Machine



Description

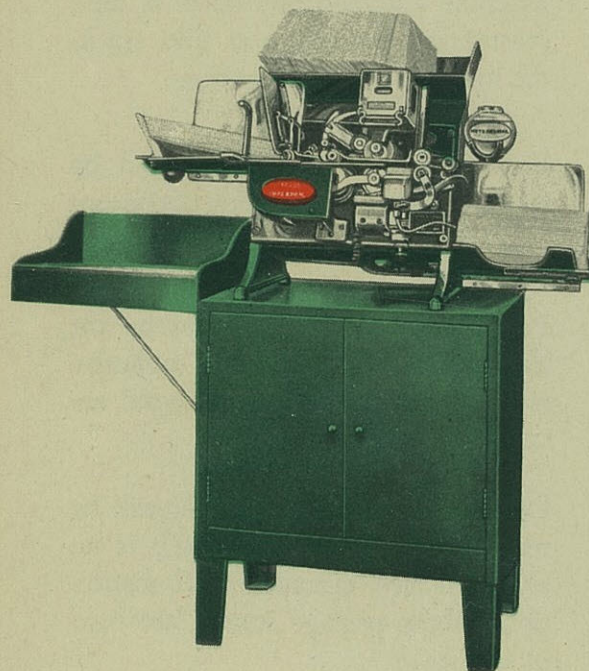
The Model "A" adaptable to Postage Meters for "Metered Mail" as well as special counting and printing attachments. Electrically driven—semi-automatic feed—imprints and seals letters at the rate of 250-300 per minute.

Occupies floor space 38" x 42". A steel cabinet is furnished for the storage of Postage Meters and supplies. Prints envelopes as large as 12" x 14" and $\frac{3}{8}$ " thick. Will seal envelopes as high as $5\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Pitney-Bowes Model "A" machines are built of the same workmanship and material as the "Universal" Postmarking and Cancelling machines, which have stood the heavy duty work of the Post Offices of Canada and many foreign countries and manufactured by this company for the past twenty years. The Model "A" is a high speed machine, quiet running, smooth and easy to operate.

Model "B"

Pitney-Bowes Mailing Machine



Description

The Model "B" adaptable to Postage Meters of any denominations of postage and printing attachments. Automatically feeds, separates, seals, prints and stacks in one operation.

Speed—150 pieces of mail per minute.

Floor space—with shelf raised 16" x 40". (With shelf lowered 16" x 25".)

Power— $\frac{1}{8}$ H.P. motor, horizontal belt drive.

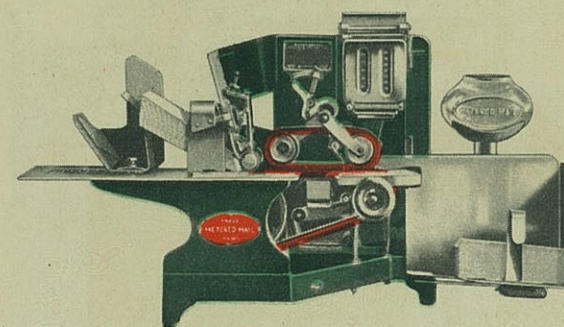
Adaptable to commercial envelopes of a maximum of 12" long and $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick, and flaps not over $2\frac{1}{4}$ " deep.

Letter tray— $16\frac{3}{4}$ " long.

This model represents the highest skill in mechanical design, workmanship and material. It is simple in operation, requires no intricate adjustments, no skilled operator and is always ready for work by simply turning on the electric switch.

Model "F"

Pitney-Bowes Mailing Machine



Description

The Model "F" adaptable to Postage Meters for "Metered Mail" and special counting and printing attachments. Electrically driven—automatic feed—imprints and seals letters simultaneously at the rate of 125 per minute. Occupies counter or desk space 34" x 16", or may be conveniently used on a Pitney-Bowes Ideal Mail Table or special steel cabinet.

Handles all standard sizes of commercial envelopes.

The Model "F" Pitney-Bowes Mailing Machine represents the greatest achievement of its kind in the mailing machine field. It offers an automatic machine at a low price which imprints and seals in one operation, without sacrificing quality, workmanship or material.

RETURN TO
GOOD YEAR
TIRE & RUBBER CO.
OF CANADA LIMITED
AT POINT OF MAILING



1.1.1 Pitney Bowes Large Shield

Second Large Shield Design

Indicia machine cut without the "hooks".

Single Value Meter.

Values Known: 1-5¢, 12¢ and 13¢

Meter Numbers: 4002-4305

Used from 29 September 1923 until 1951.

Worked with mailing machine models A, B and F.

This impression dated on 15th day of Canadian commercial postage meter use.

After 1927 the license number and time in the townmark became optional.

THE T. EATON CO. LIMITED
TORONTO CANADA



54 LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
WINNIPEG



Double Circle
Townmark

Setting

License Number

Three Line Date

Meter Number

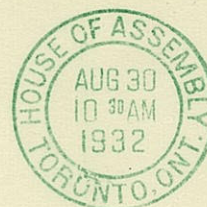
Value-Single Denomination

13 cent meter was used infrequently.



ONTARIO

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND FORESTS
LAND TAX BRANCH



RETURN IN TEN DAYS TO
BOX 3138
WINNIPEG — MAN.



1.1.1 Pitney Bowes Large Shield

Proofs Second Large Shield Design
Indicia machine cut without the “hooks”.
Single Value Meter.

Values Known: 1-5¢, 12¢ and 13¢
Meter Numbers: 4002-4305

Used from 29 September 1923 until 1951.
These Proofs appear printed at different locations on different dates. Most probably prepared at one PB office at the same time. Note that the 3 cent Proof is dated almost 3 months before meters were officially used in Canada.

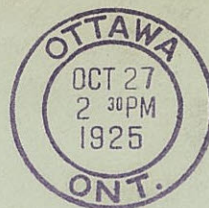
RETURN IN TEN DAYS TO
BOX 3138
WINNIPEG — MAN.



THE T. EATON CO. LIMITED
MAIL ORDER
TORONTO CANADA



Proof dated 3 months before first official postage meter use in Canada.





IF NOT DELIVERED IN 5 DAYS
RETURN TO OFFICE OF MAILING



1.1.1 Pitney Bowes Large Shield

Variations

Permit Number Inverted

The indicia were assembled by Pitney Bowes technicians so errors like this were not common.

AFTER THREE DAYS RETURN TO

CANADIAN GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
LIMITED

AT OFFICE WHERE POST MARKED

C.G.E. 760.



Date Inverted

The date slugs were inserted by the user.
Inverted dates are found occasionally.

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

INTERNAL AUDIT DEPARTMENT, DISBURSEMENTS SECTION
SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA
P.O. BOX 2610. MONTREAL



4126

Sputtering

The equipment was sophisticated for its time but envelope handling occasionally slipped, as in this instance.

APPROVED FOR EXPORT ON
BEHALF OF THE FOREIGN
EXCHANGE CONTROL BOARD.

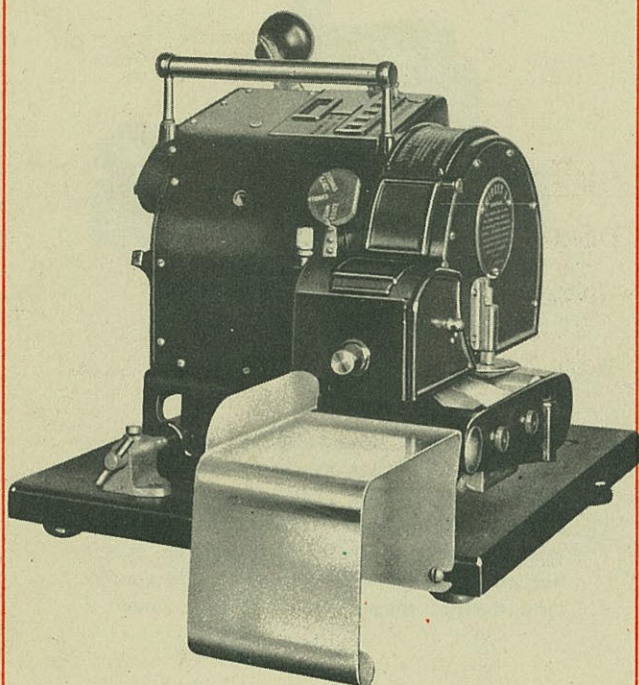
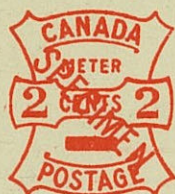
R. Terry

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

1.1.2 The Universal Midget Square



Midget Postage Meter Machine



Description

Midget Postage Meter, for concerns having moderate mail; meter and machine complete in one unit; three denominations of dies, any combinations or repetitions of which may be used on one piece of mail; sealing and stamping in one operation; provides for the printing of advertisements on envelopes simultaneously with the postmarking when desired.



Universal Midget Square Indicia

Universal Postal Frankers, GB.
Universal Midget No. 3.

Square Design

TM: DC

Introduced: 4 July 1926

Values: 1, 2, and 3¢

Meter Numbers: 501-513.

The Universal Midget printed a square design that was too similar to some permit designs. Post Office objected. Pitney Bowes bought rights in February 1927 and began replacement of Square design on 19 May 1927 to Small Shield design.



All units converted by 18 July 1927. Machines were used with new indicia until 1938.

Pitney Bowes Brochure ca1927.
Shows Universal Midget model
and Small Shield design used to
replace the Square Design.

1.1.3 Universal Small Shield

February 1927 Pitney Bowes purchased the Universal Postal Frankers meters.

Small Shield design first known use: 19 May, 1927.

All Square indicia replaced by 19 July, 1928. Meters used until 1938.

Varieties: English "Meter" or French "Metre"
Meter Numbers: "0000" or "M0000".
Townmark: DC or BIC

Value: MV(3) or MV(5)

Meter Numbers: MV(3): 197-930. MV(5): 2007, 2008, 2009, 2076.

Known Values: 1-6¢, 10¢, 12¢ and 15¢.

English "Meter".

Meter number M0000.

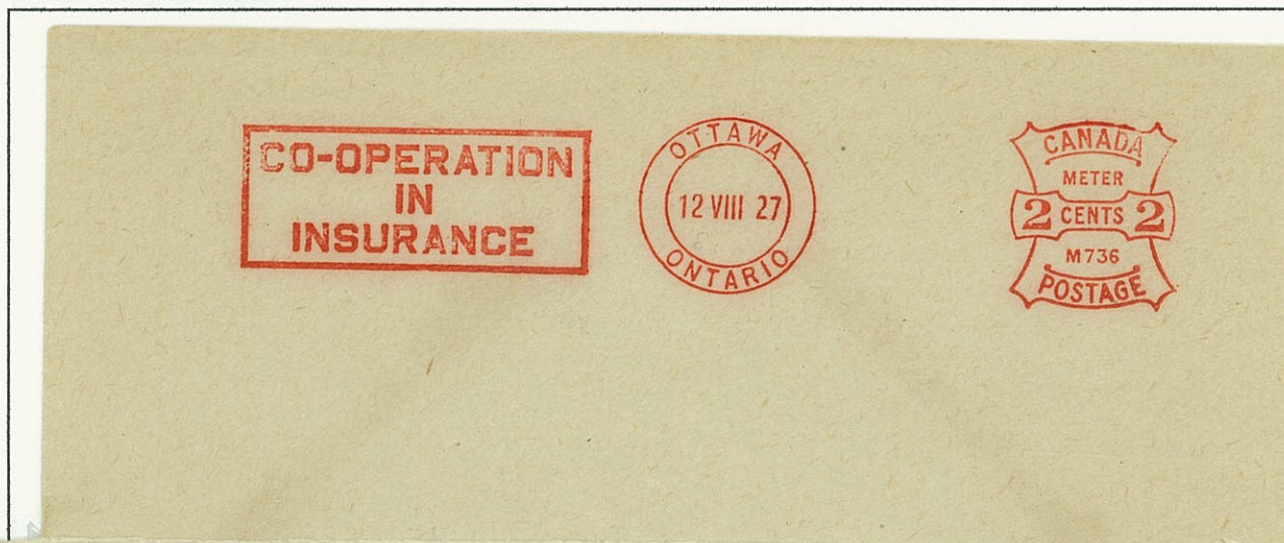


Great Britain die capable of printing one value.

"Double Rate Indicia"

The Indicia showing the rate twice were printed by a die that could print that value only. The "MV" meter could print three or five values if it had three or five separate dies installed, selectable by the operator.

Double Circle Townmark.



Broken Inner Circle Townmark.

1.1.3 Universal Small Shield



English "Meter".
Meter number 0000.

THE POSTAGE METER COMPANY
336 JACKSON BUILDING
OTTAWA, CAN.

THE
MIDGET POSTAGE METER
PRINTS YOUR OWN
ADVERTISEMENT IN
THIS SPACE IF DESIRED



Aikenhead's

Aikenhead Hardware Limited
17-19-21 TEMPERANCE STREET
TORONTO 2



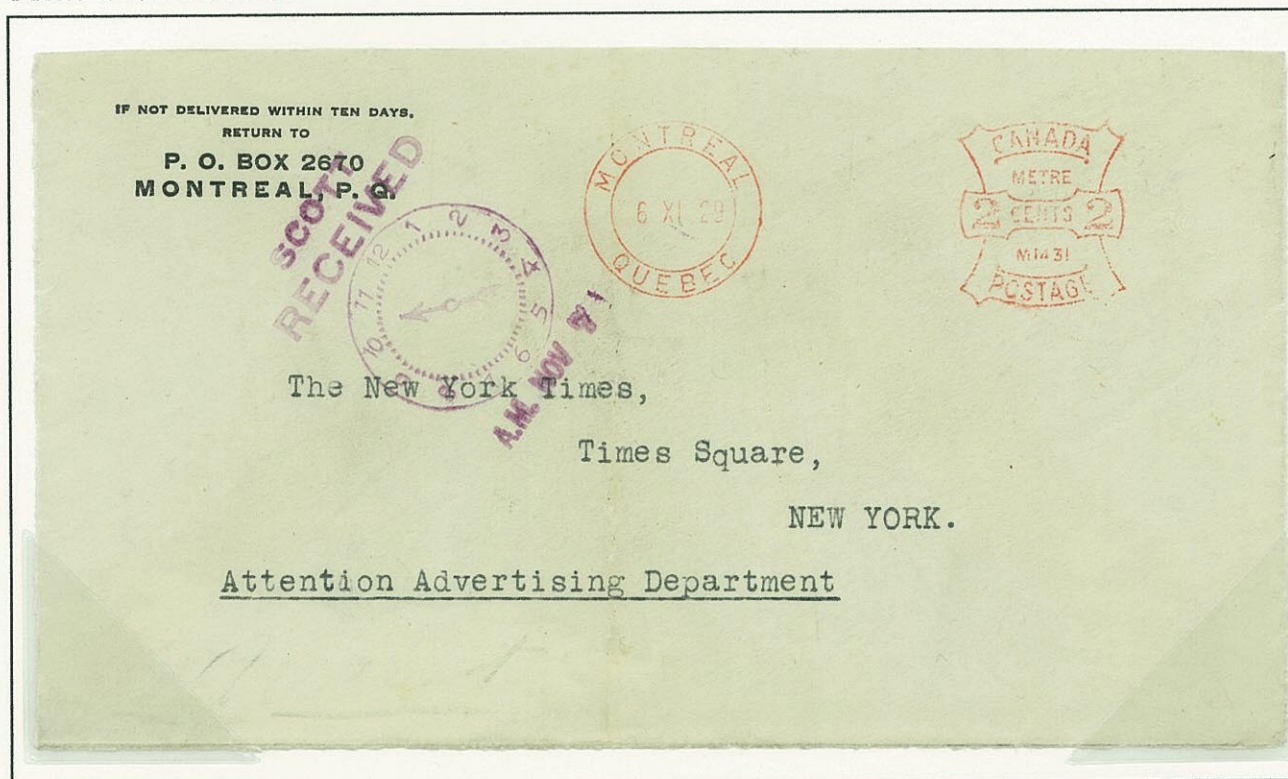
Double Circle Townmark.

Broken Inner Circle Townmark.

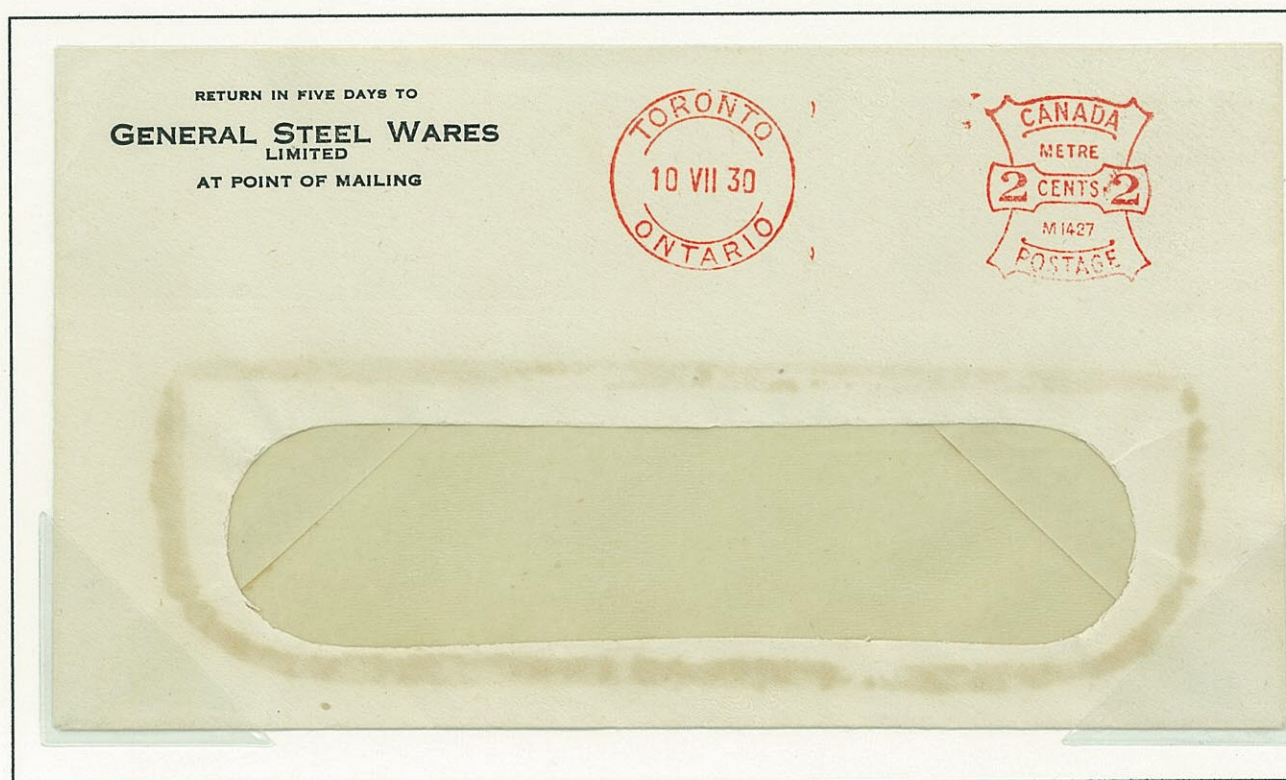
1.1.3 Universal Small Shield



French "Metre".
Meter number M0000.



Double Circle Townmark



Broken Inner Circle Townmark