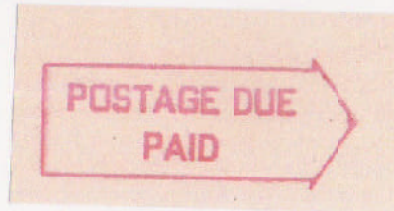


## The Experimental Postage Due Meter Dies (1941 – 1954)

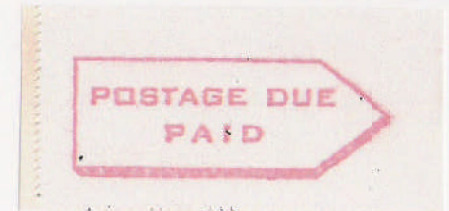
During the years of 1941 to 1954, the Post Office conducted an experimental test of different “postage due dies” in the postage meters they used for parcel post. This would save time (applying postage due stamps) and money (not printing postage due stamps). The first test was conducted in Brooklyn, New York in 1941. In the 13 years of these tests, 8 different die designs were used in 30 different cities. Two of the designs were inverted on purpose, so when the carrier read the address, the “COLLECT POSTAGE DUE” would read the same as the address and he would remember to collect the money. Below are the 8 types of the designs used.



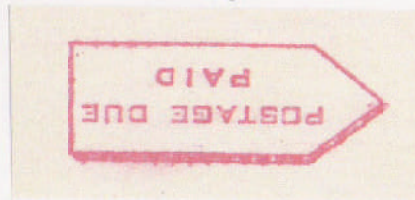
Design A



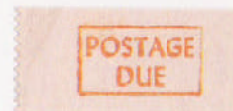
Design B



Design C

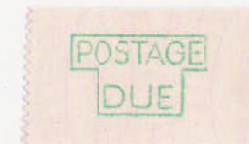


Design D

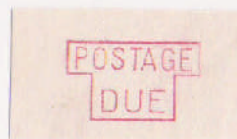


10 x 17 mm Comes in  
10 x 19 mm 3 sizes  
10 x 20 mm

Design E



Design F



Design G

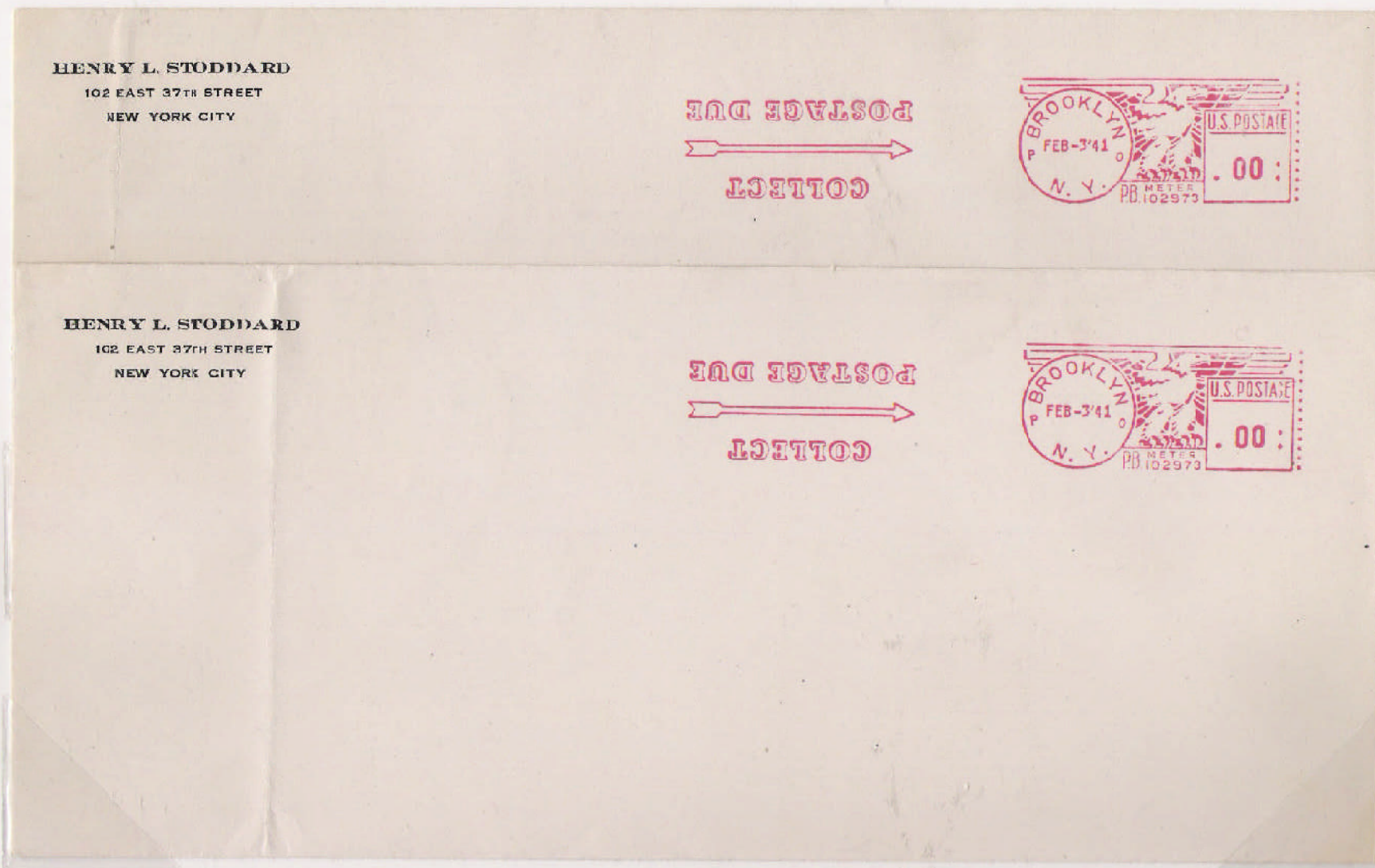


Design H

The designs above are using Walter Swan and the Meter Stamp Society, catalog designations. During World War II the tests were discontinued and in 1948 they decided to start the experiment again. They installed design B in three Post Offices, one in New York City and two in San Francisco. These tests were conducted in large cities with large mailers who used “business reply mail”, which when returned had to have postage due stamps applied, at a per piece rate, which was 2¢ for a post card, 4¢ for a first class reply envelope and 6¢ for an airmail reply envelope. Also sometimes they bundled the reply envelopes and put a single tape with the total amount due.



In 1941 the first test was conducted in Brooklyn, New York for four days, February 24, 25, 26 and 27, the first three days were printed in red ink and the fourth day, orange ink was used.



Above are two proof covers 21 days before the first postage due test – very rare. The only two known

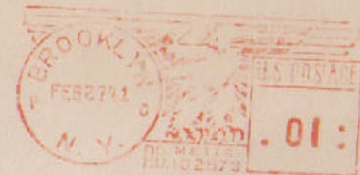


Here are the four days use  
of the original die.

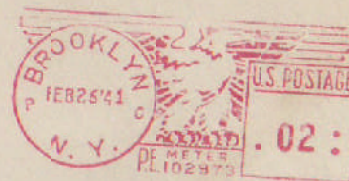
This Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> is the  
only impression known.

WM. LANGBEIN & BROS.

SUCCESSORS TO  
CHAS. LANGBEIN  
CUTLERY AND GRINDERS  
189-161 WILLOUGHBY ST.  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK



POSTAGE DUE  
COLLECT



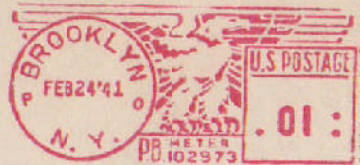
POSTAGE DUE

BROOKLYN, New York

COLLECT



POSTAGE DUE  
COLLECT



K. von KREUTER  
117-63 125<sup>th</sup> St.  
50. DRONE PARK, N.Y.

Postage  
Will Be Paid  
by  
Addressee

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and the 26<sup>th</sup>  
were printed in red ink and the  
27<sup>th</sup> in orange ink.



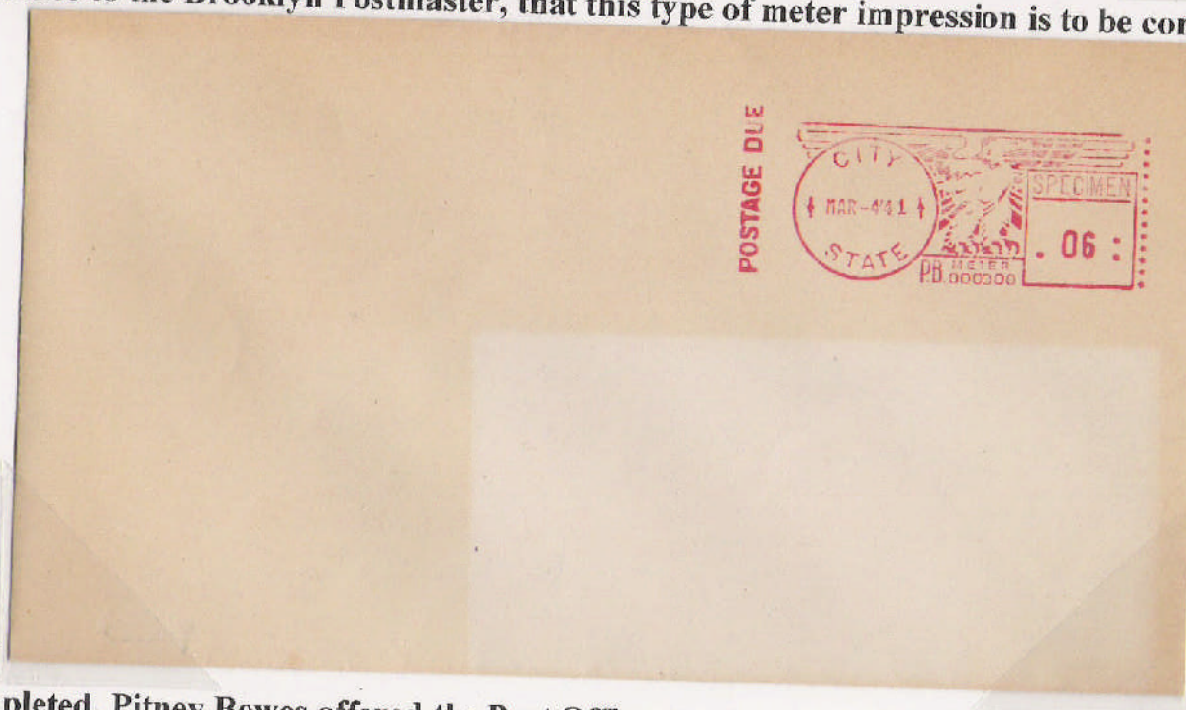
UNITED STATES POST OFFICE  
BROOKLYN, N. Y.  
Office of Superintendent of Mails

Postmaster:

The metered impression imprinted on the accompanying piece of mail matter is used by authorization from the Third Assistant Postmaster General, Washington, D. C., in connection with the experimental use at this office of a metered device for indicating the amount of postage due on mail matter. This metered impression is to be considered as a postage due stamp.

FRANK J. QUAYLE, JR.  
Postmaster.

Above is the official notice to the Brooklyn Postmaster, that this type of meter impression is to be considered a postage due stamp.



After the test was completed, Pitney Bowes offered the Post Office another type of die, the design was rejected as too small. The above is a very rare essay.

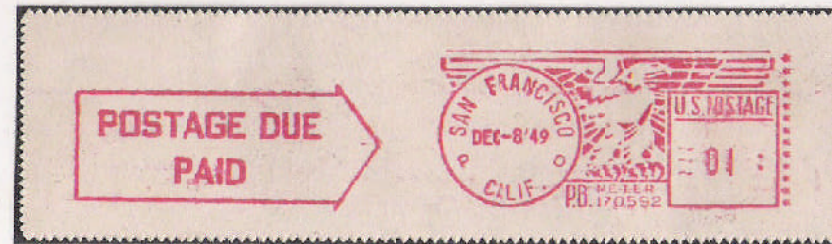
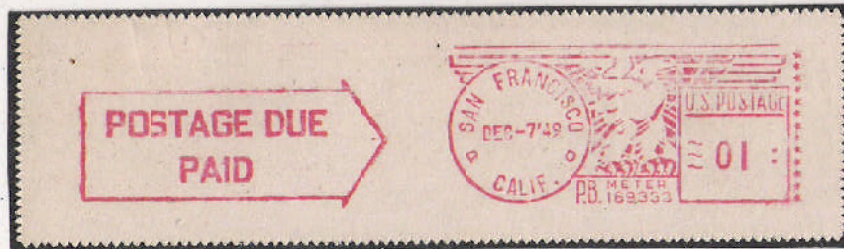


## 1948

With World War II over, the post office decided to continue the postage due experiment. They started with three meters, one in New York City, two in San Francisco.



October 1948 the post office installed meter 156057, using red ink and the above new design to be used on business reply envelopes, using the method where one stamp is used on a bundle for envelopes, very few or none are known and only sixteen proof copies are known with .00 amounts on them, This test lasted only a few months.



On December 7, 1949 meter 169333 was installed at the Rincom Annex in San Francisco and on December 8, 1949 meter 170592 was installed at the main post office in San Francisco both using red ink and using the same design as New York City, above are first day impressions. The designs were withdrawn on January 30 and January 31, 1952, respectively and were replaced with design "E".



Below are the two San Francisco meters with the new design E, first day use, meter 169333 and meter 170592 dated February 11, 1952 and February 12, 1952. The smaller design saved tape and was easier to apply on an envelope.

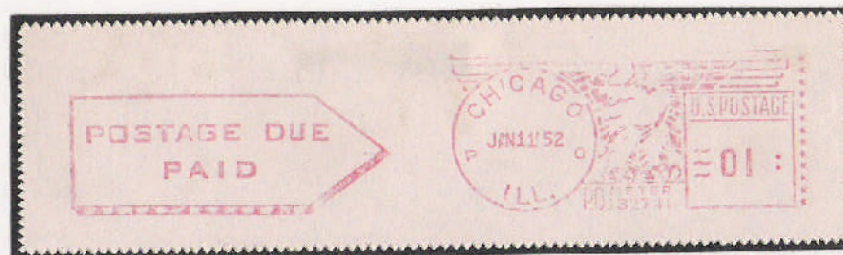


### Chicago 1951 to 1953

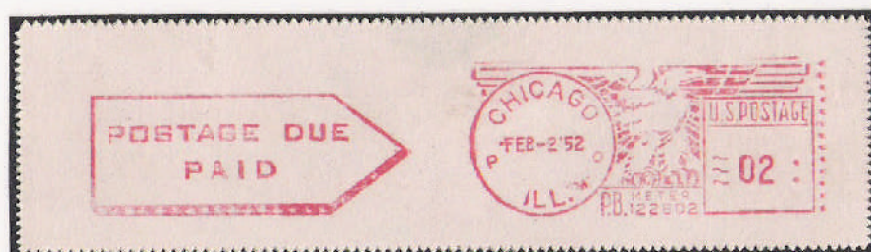
The test continued with the installation of eight meters, installed at different post offices in the Chicago, Illinois area using design "C", and one meter 183205 using design "E". Red and orange ink was used with these designs which began in October 1951 and were changed to design "E" by March 1, 1952, below are the Designs.



Chestnut Station



Fort Dearborn Station



Jefferson Station



Midwest Station





22<sup>nd</sup> Street Station



Unknown Station



Main Post Office



Unknown Station



Stock Yard Station Design "E"



Design replacement for Fort Dearborn

During the Chicago "C" design test, meter 183205 was discovered to have a new design "D", an inverted design, which was intentional and not an error, dated January 28, 1952. It is believed that meter was only in service for one day, below is a January 26, 1953 and one with a first day date.





In Washington, D. C., on December 7, 1951 a meter 186999 was placed into service with the design "E" measuring 10 x 17 millimeters using orange ink, to be used on business reply envelopes and was there till at least January 11, 1952, below is a first day of use and the January 11, 1952.



The New York City Main post office started using meter 187001, design "E" in October 1951, using purple ink, to be used on business reply envelopes.



In Dallas, Texas, the post office started using design "E", in March 1952 using red and green ink, also some state names were spelled TEXAS and some were TEX., also some had P. O. and some had POST OFFICE, as below.





Saint Louis, Missouri, used two "E" designs during the test period and three "E" designs were used in San Francisco, California.



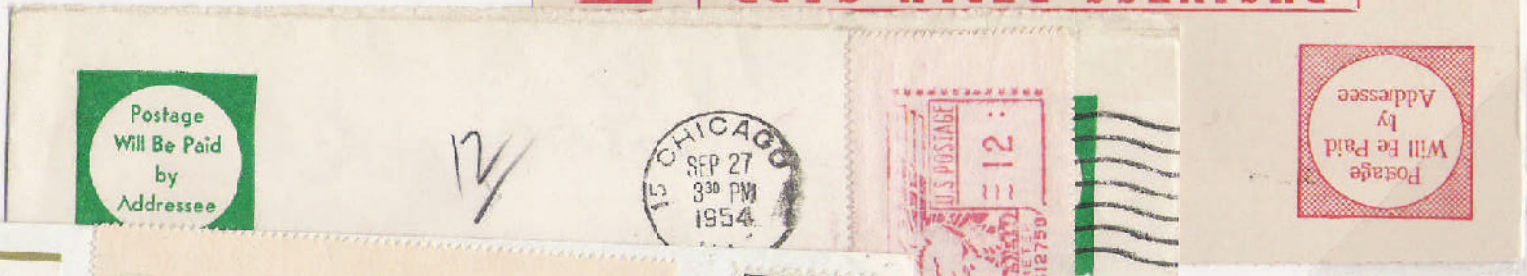
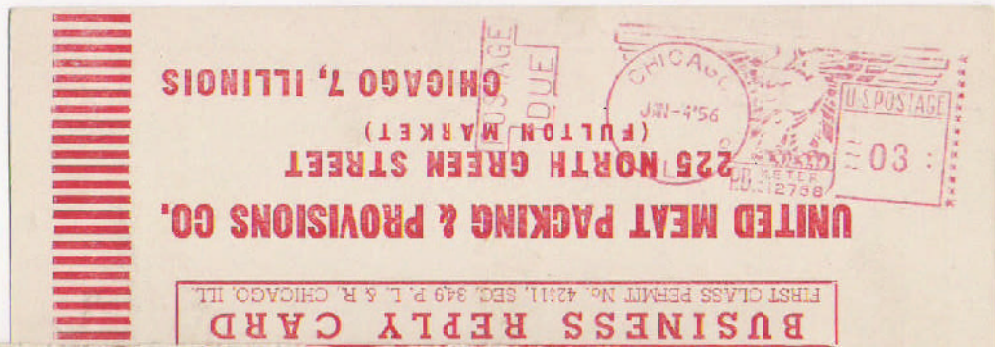
Baltimore, Maryland used two "F" designs on December 1 and 3, 1952 for about 90 days and then discontinued. At the same time Philadelphia, Pennsylvania had a design "F" and continued to use till July 2, 1953 at which time the regular design was installed. The "O" in postage is quite large and round.



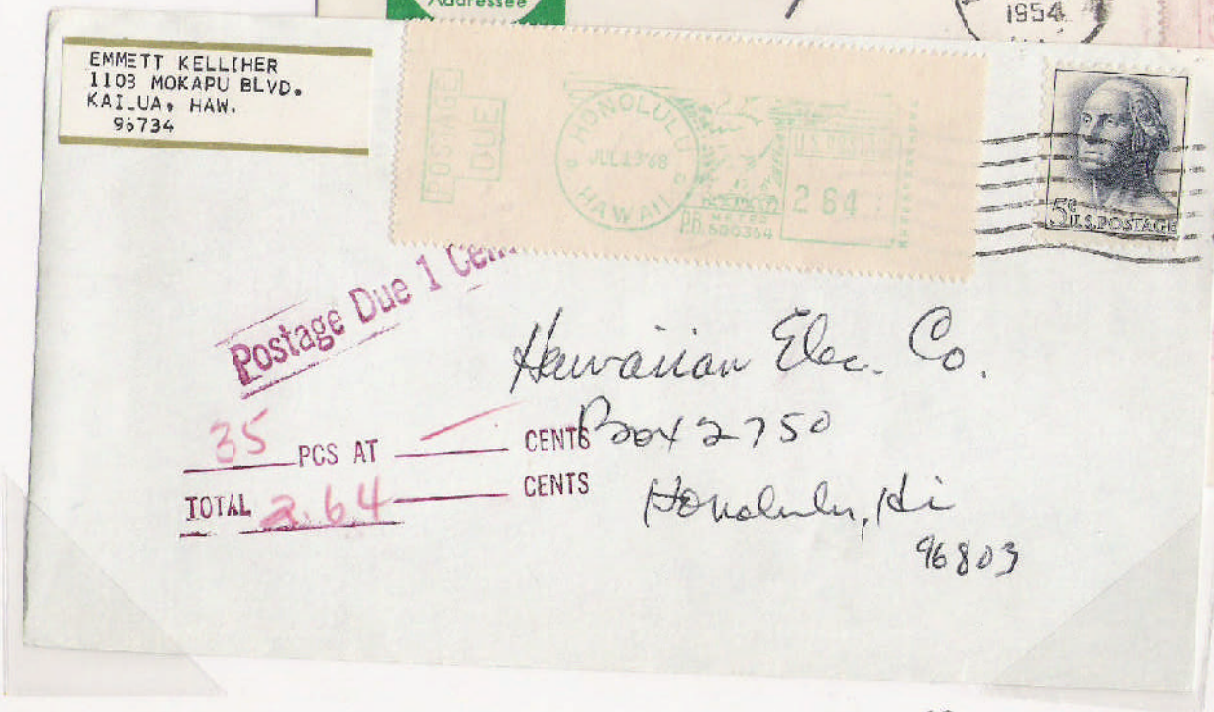


Companies using "Business Reply Mail" when returned had postage due applied at a per piece rate.

Post card with .03¢



3 reply envelopes .12¢



Bundled amount for \$2.64



The test ended in July 1954 when the post office must have decided that it was a good idea to use the meters for postage dues along with the other duties the meters had to serve, and ordered fifty more meters for different post offices around the country using the new design "G" which was similar to the "F" design but the "O" in the postage was oblong and the lettering was smaller. In October 1953, 500 design "G" slogans was ordered, and were the type that snapped in the meter

and could be turned on or off with a flip of your finger. Below are some of the "G" designs. The carriers still had trouble identifying the postage dues in red, so the post office decided to change all meter colors to green



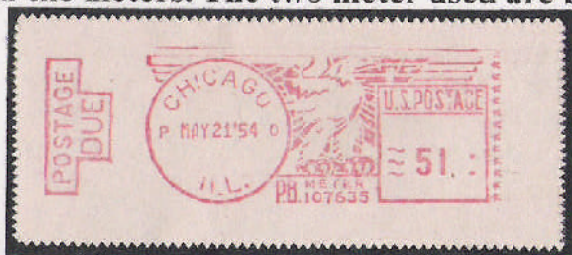
The Minneapolis, Minn. Post master made sure the carriers saw the postage dues by marking the edge of the postage meter tape with colored ink, red, green and some also with black.





### Design "H"

This design was used in Chicago, Illinois from February, 1954 to June 1954 on two meters, 107635 and 312683, were used in the time/date slot on the meter and was almost permanent, you could not snap on and off like the previous designs used in the meters. The two meter used are below and the designs were not seen after June 1954.



Below are rare proofs, of design "C", "E" and "F", dated before actual use.

