The International Postage Meter Stamp Catalog

1st Edition

by Joel A. Hawkins and Richard Stambaugh

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Preface

This is a STAMP catalog, NOT a meter catalog. The listings are organized around the appearance of the stamps rather than the postage meters that printed them. For those who want more information about the machines themselves, we recommend the references listed in the bibliography and the specialized catalogs mentioned at the end of many country listings.

We do not pretend the catalog is complete. With few exceptions our research was a deductive process without assistance from postal authorities or meter manufacturers. Gaps, omissions and errors are inevitable. Coverage of issues since 2000 is especially spotty.

We apologize in advance for the inconsistencies. Some countries are described in considerable detail while others are not. This is due to our uneven knowledge of the issues of every country. Several nations have many references — specialized catalogs, expert collectors to consult — but others have no such resources. Most countries fall somewhere in between.

We want to express our gratitude to the many Meter Stamp Society members and the large number of collectors around the world who assisted in the compilation of this work. We make specific mention of the following people and organizations who made substantial contributions:

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Richard Stambaugh
Neptune, New Jersey

Joel A. Hawkins
Goodyear, Arizona

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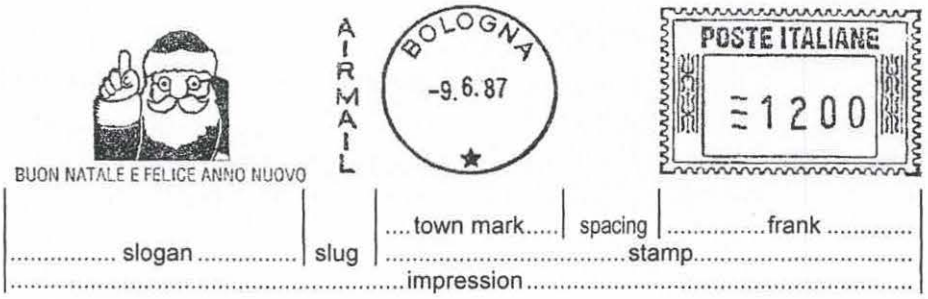
Introduction

Glossary, Abbreviations and Symbols



Term	Definition
Bank	a wheel with numbers on the rim which is rotated to impress part of the postage amount on Multi Value meters
Denomination:	the amount of postage shown by the Value Figures
Die:	the solid print head of a non-digital meter.
Digital:	a meter that uses thermal, laser or some other digital technology instead of a die to apply the Stamp
Fixed Value:	a meter with Frame and Value Figures carved out of a single die. A Fixed Value meter can print either a single denomination stamp or has a small set of different denomination stamps.
Frame:	that portion of the Frank surrounding the Value Figures
Frank:	Noun: that portion of the Meter Stamp showing the Denomination and (nearly always) the country name. Often a currency name or symbol is shown along with "POSTAGE PAID" or similar statement. Verb: to apply a postage stamp to a piece of mail
Greater Border:	a frame surrounding a large portion of the Impression such as the Stamp, Town Mark and Slogan. This is a feature found on many early Italian stamps but is otherwise quite uncommon.
Identification Number:	a meter identification number assigned by the postal authority
Impression:	the entire imprint including the Stamp (Frank, Town/Date Mark), and, if present, Serial number, Slogan, Slug, Greater Border, etc.
Indicia/Indicium:	same as Frank
Key Letter:	same as Prefix
License Number:	a number the postal authority assigns to the mailer (rather than to the meter)
Limited Value:	a meter that has one Frame die with a slot into which several Denomination dies can be rotated
Mailing Machine:	a device which processes outgoing mail. It can contain a feeding mechanism, an envelope sealer and a sorter as well as a postage meter.

Meter: for the purposes of this book, same as Postage Meter

Meter Number: an identification number assigned by the meter manufacturer

Meter Stamp: a postage stamp impressed by a Meter

Multi Value: a non-digital meter that can print any postage value within a specified range. The machine uses Banks of number wheels that are rotated to make the correct postage value appear in the Die.

Panel An area within a frank bordered by an outer frame line on two or three sides and an inner frame line on the fourth side

Permit Number: same as License Number

Postage Meter: a machine that prints a postage stamp and maintains a record of the amount of postage generated

Prefix: a character or characters (usually alphabetic) preceding a Meter Number, Identification Number or License/Permit Number

Relief Machine: a Postage Meter lent by the distributor or dealer to a customer while the customer's machine is being serviced

Serial Number: a counter of Impressions made by the Meter

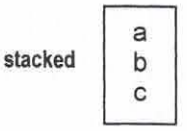
Setting: same as Spacing

Slogan: a verbal or pictorial message of a non-postal nature printed by the meter. A slogan typically promotes a product or cause supported by the mailer.

Slug: similar to a Slogan but the message is for postal purposes. Examples are FIRST CLASS, BULK RATE, PARCEL POST, AIRMAIL, RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED.

Spacing: the distance between the Town Mark and the Frank. It is usually measured from the right edge of the Town Mark to the left edge of the Frank, but with some stamps, mostly Francotyp, measurements are from the center of the date figures to the center of the Value Figures.

Stacked a word or number with each letter or digit placed one above or below the other



Stamp: the Frank plus the Town/Date Mark

Tape: a Meter Stamp impressed on an adhesive paper strip meant to be affixed to a parcel or mail-piece that cannot be fed through a postage meter

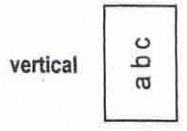
Town/Date Mark: that portion of the Meter Stamp that contains the post office name where the meter is licensed and (usually) the date of mailing

Town Mark: same as Town/Date Mark

Value Box: a small rectangle immediately surrounding the Value Figures in some Stamps

Value Figures: the numbers and symbols that make up the postage value

Vertical a word or number reading up or down



Abbreviations

	Definition
BIC:	circular town mark with Broken Inner Circle
DC:	Double Circle town mark
FV:	Fixed Value meter, single denomination
FV-*n*:	Fixed Value with '*n*' stamp dies. FV-5 indicates an FV meter that can print five different value stamps
ID number	Identification Number
L#	License number
LV-*n*:	Limited Value meter with '*n*' different denominations
M#	Meter number
MV:	Multi-Value meter
S#	Serial number
SC:	Single Circle town mark
town mark:	Town Mark, Town/date Mark
V/F:	Value Figures

Symbols

These symbols are used to depict non-numeric elements in the Value Figures:

- +: 4-point star
- ✱: 5-point asterisk with arms pointing inward
- ★: solid 5-point star, arms pointing outward (can be thick or thin, upright or with vertical arm pointing down)
- ☆: hollow 5-point star
- ✶: 5-point starburst (sometimes appears to be a dot with five smaller dots around it)
- ✸: solid 6-point star
- ✳: 6-point star with horizontal and diagonal arms
- ✳: 6-point star with vertical and diagonal arms
- ✳: 8-point starburst
- ✹: 12-point starburst
- ✠: Maltese cross
- ≋: three stacked wavy lines (sometimes called a triad)
- ◆: solid diamond (sometimes appears as a large dot)
- ◇: hollow diamond
- ●: solid circle
- ⊕: quartered solid circle (~ Phillips screw head)
- ◖◗: split solid circle (~ slotted screw head)

Keys to Using this Catalog

The Four General Types of Postage Meters

Fixed Value (**FV, FV-*n***) The stamp from a **FV** machine is printed from a die containing the entire frank including the frame and value figure as fixed elements. Some FV meters contain a small selection of dies for different denominations of stamps. Such meters are designated **FV-*n*** with '*n*' being the number of different frank dies. The earliest meters are of this type.

Limited Value (**LV-*n***) **LV-*n*** machines contain a single frame die with a slot into which a number (*n*) of different denomination dies can be brought into position. Because a denomination die is much smaller than a complete stamp die, typically LV-*n* machines have a larger range of denominations than a FV-*n* meter.

Multi Value (**MV**) **MV** machines contain a single frame die with a slot fitted with banks of number wheels. The postage is set by rotating the wheels until the correct amount appears in the face of the die. Any denomination within a range determined by the number of wheels can be printed.

Some multi-value machines are fitted with trailing fixed zeros to accommodate inflation, currency changes, etc. In the descriptions for value figures, this catalog identifies all value places and does not differentiate between regular and fixed zeros.

Digital (**digital**) **Digital** postage meters do not have a solid die but print the stamp with ink jet or laser technology.

Value Figures

The value figures in meter stamps are nearly always a variation of Angular, Gothic or Oval fonts. Many variations exist, and we show some typical examples below.

In the listings this catalog usually does not identify the shape of value figures unless more than one shape is known for a particular stamp. In such cases we use "A" (angular) "G" (gothic), and "O" (oval) to identify the general value figure shape. As you can see from the examples, many variations exist based on size, slant and other features. Such varieties are not differentiated in this catalog, but specialized catalogs often do so.

Angular: 

Gothic: 

Oval: 

***NOTE**: For Egypt and most other Arab countries, many meter types have bi-lingual value figures, Eastern Arabic over modern Western numerals* (١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩٠ above 1234567890). *The catalog uses the abbreviated term 'Arabic over Western' to describe these numbers.*

Town Marks

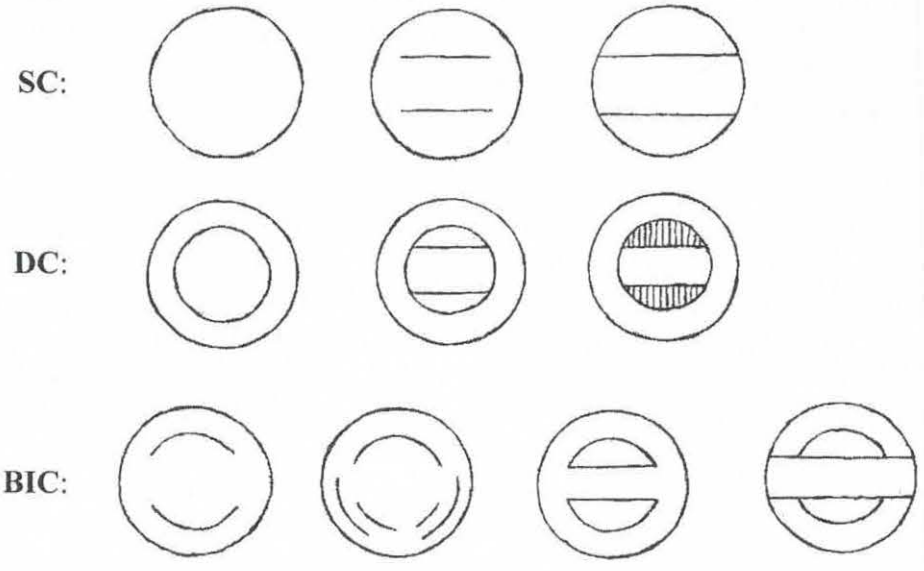
The term town mark (or town/date mark) is not entirely accurate. The implication is the town is where the mailer is located, but in fact it is the name of the post office where the meter is licensed. Although the two are usually the same, they are not always. We use "Town Mark" instead of "Post Office Mark" because of its near universal acceptance in the hobby.

Although some meter stamp types have no town mark (**nil**), most do. Basically, they are either Straight Line (**SL**) or Circular.

Circular town marks can be Single Circle (**SC**), Double Circle (**DC**) in which the post office name is between outer and inner circles, or Broken Inner Circle (**BIC**) with arcs in place of the inner circle.

Many variations of SC, DC and BIC exist, and most specialized catalogs identify them. Below are illustrated some of these variations. In the listings we indicate only if the stamp has **SL**, **SC**, **DC** or **BIC** town marks.

Examples:



Spacing

Some meter models produce stamps that appear identical to those from other models except in minor details. One such detail for many stamps is the spacing (sometimes called the setting) which is the distance between the town mark and the frank. This catalog measures spacing from the right edge of the town mark to the left edge of the frank, *with one important exception*. For early Francotyp meter types we measure from the center of the date figures to the center of the value figures. This is the most reliable way to differentiate early Francotyp A, B, C and An (D) model stamps.

Spacing of **Francotyp** stamps as measured *from the center of the date figures to the center of the value figures*:

Model "A"	-	59-62 mm	|_____|
Model "B"	-	74-75 mm	|_____|
Model "C"	-	77-79 mm	|_____|
Model "An", "D"	-	66-68 mm	|_____|

Dates

The introductory year is shown for meter types only if we have reasonable confidence that the date is accurate.

Identification Numbers

All postage meters are assigned an identity number by the manufacturer, and for many countries this number appears in their meter stamps. This manufacturer-designated number is called the Meter Number, and when it is included in the meter stamp, it is often preceded by a letter prefix identifying the manufacturer, model or distributor.

Some postal authorities assign Identification Numbers to postage meters, and this too can appear in the stamp. This is not a meter number but a locally-assigned number. Identification numbers, just like meter numbers, can have prefixes.

Other countries use a License (Permit) Numbering system, which is assigned to the mailer rather than the machine. A license number changes if the same meter is re-assigned from one mailer to another.

More often than not, countries change numbering systems over time. Some have gone from using license numbers to meter numbers, from identification numbers to using no numbers, from no numbers to meter numbers. Others have required both a license (permit) *and* a meter number, and even to requiring the mailer's name, as well as the license number, to appear in the stamp.

An additional number found on many meter stamps is an impression counter which we call a Serial Number (and others have called a Record Number). This is a simple, incremented counter of impressions and is not an identification number. Serial numbers can appear at many places on a meter stamp and in several sizes. These are identified in the next segment.

Serial Numbers

Serial Numbers, simple incremental counters of impressions made by a meter, appear in some stamps. They are most often found on stamps from early Francotyp Model A, B and C stamps and also early Hasler and Krag models. Hasler serial numbers are uniform in size, 5-digit, and appear to the right, above, below or to the left of the town mark. Francotyp serial numbers appear between the town mark and the frank, either centered or high. The centered number can be large or small.

7 6 5 5 5571

large small

Although specialized catalogs identify varieties based on the size and placement of the serial number, this catalog does not.

Colors

Most meter stamps are printed in shades of red, but blue, purple and black stamps are not uncommon. Green and orange are uncommon colors, and yellow and brown are quite rare.

Some meter models are capable of printing the slogan in a different color from the stamp. A few creative users have manipulated non-capable meters to produce multi-color stamps.

The listings in this catalog do not mention colors except in special circumstances. Curious readers can learn more about colors in the various specialized catalogs referenced.

Errors and Varieties

In the listings we tried to include all significant errors and varieties involving the frank. These include inverted frames, misspellings, and other factory-originated mistakes. For the most part we ignored such variables involving the town mark, date figures and slogan area.

Minor varieties of meter stamps are endless and are generally ignored in this catalog. These include incorrect or irrational dates, inverted or misspelled town marks or slogans, incorrect postage values, and nearly all user-originated errors. Collectors wishing to learn more about major and minor varieties should refer to a specialized catalog for the country of their interest.

Essays, Proofs and Specimens

Essays are impressions generated during the development process before a final stamp design is approved by postal authorities. In practice, essay designs that are given approval and placed into use are called pre-production proofs.

Proofs are impressions of valid stamp designs that were 'pulled' for non-postage purposes. When newly manufactured machines are ready for distribution, proofs are pulled by the manufacturer for record. These too are called pre-production proofs.

In some cases meter stamps are pulled by users as souvenirs after a machine is fielded. These are called favor proofs. Usually pre-production proofs are found on small sheets of paper or on envelopes and cards bearing the imprint of the manufacturer, sometimes with the addition of a "specimen" handstamp. Often the town mark and/or meter number is blank or unengraved, and the value figures show all zeros, all nines, 1234, etc. Favor proofs have far less value than pre-production proofs.

Specimens are impressions of issued designs that have been modified to show they are invalid for postage. This usually involves the word "SPECIMEN" or "VOID" or a phrase such as "NOT FOR POSTAL USE" being worked into the design. Specimens are typically employed for advertising and are produced by special machines used for demonstration purposes. Impressions are often on advertising cards. Specimen stamps are also commonly used by meter companies for proofing slogans.

This catalog does not list essays, proofs or specimens. In several cases we have used proofs for illustrations if suitable postally used examples were not available to us.

Adhesive Tapes and Labels

Early meter models were not capable of printing adhesive labels or tapes. Some mailers are known to have run blank adhesive tape through their machines in order to get postage for parcels.

Later, special attachments were made to feed adhesive tape through meters. Eventually some meters were designed specifically to accommodate adhesive tape as well as cards and envelopes. Some meters, for example those produced by the National Cash Register Company (USA) and Camp (France), were made specifically to service parcels and produced nothing but adhesive tape stamps.

Automats

An automat is any stamp that is vended from a public-access self-service machine and is printed at the moment of purchase. There are two kinds — those restricted to use on the date and place of purchase, and those without such restrictions. Unrestricted automats are identical in function to traditional press-printed adhesive stamps. They usually (not always) have no town/date mark, and they must be cancelled by the post office when used. Restricted-use automats are more like meter stamps, usually contain a town/date mark, and do not require cancellation.

This catalog lists only restricted-use automats, i.e. those that function like meter stamps. Unrestricted automats are fully covered in several catalogs devoted to these issues. They are commonly referred to as Frama stamps, Framas, or ATM stamps.

Revenue Stamps

Meters have been used to apply tax and validation stamps to licenses and other government-issued documents. These and other non-postal meter stamps are not covered in this catalog.

Permit Stamps and Bulk Rate Post Office Stamps

These stamps come from machines that do not meter, i.e. maintain a record of postage used. They can resemble meter stamps and are often confused with them. They are also collectable with rare examples fetching high prices in some markets. A **permit stamp** is applied by the mailer to a run of bulk mail which is then taken to the post office where it is counted and/or weighed to determine the total postage cost.

A **bulk rate post office stamp** is applied at the post office rather than by the mailer. The unstamped mail is brought to the post office where it is counted and/or weighed and then run through the stamping machine. The mailer is charged for the postage when he brings the mail to the post office.

This catalog does not list permit and bulk rate post office stamps.

Slogans and Slugs

Since at least 1922 meters have been used to imprint a small advertisement (slogan) as well as the postage stamp. Postal directives (slugs) such as FIRST CLASS, AIRMAIL, REGISTERED have also been applied by meter. With a few exceptions, this catalog does not list varieties based on the presence or use of slogans and slugs.

Values

We include approximations of market value only for those types and varieties for which we have a reasonable amount of confidence. The values are based on our estimates of scarcity and demand. Listings without values can mean either we lack information or the value is nominal.

Our estimates are what we think a reasonable price would be for a *clear impression on commercial (non-philatelic) cover* in a transaction between a dealer and a knowledgeable collector in the United States. In some cases clear impressions on full, non-philatelic cover may not exist, and we try to note such situations. Market values for non-U.S. stamps may be higher in the countries of origin.

Catalog users should be aware that values for meter stamps can vary wildly from one transaction to another depending on a lengthy list of circumstances which boil down to the eagerness of the buyer and reluctance of the seller and vice versa.

Illustrations

All illustrations are at actual size unless individually specified. Many have been graphically enhanced by elimination of extraneous markings.

Hints for Collectors

No rules exist for how to collect meter stamps except one: ***collect the way you want!*** The following suggestions, however, may increase your enjoyment.

1. Ask yourself what exactly you want to collect. Is it the entire world, the meter stamps of a single country, those from one manufacturer or meter model, or something else? Once you know the scope of your interest, decide how deeply you want to collect. You can acquire one of each Type of meter stamp as listed in this catalog, or you can go a little deeper and look for all the major varieties listed. Go deeper still and try to find every variation and different value figure configuration. And finally, if your interest takes you beyond this catalog, you can chase essays, specimens, proofs, errors, and every little variety and usage recognized in specialized catalogs or, if no such catalog exists, do your own original research.

2. What format do you want for your collection? You can collect any size from entire covers to small cut-outs or tapes. Each format has different advantages. By cutting out the stamps and soaking tapes off covers, you form a collection that is convenient in size but has been stripped of its postal history value. A collection of meter stamps on cover preserves the context of the use of the stamp but takes up much more space. Although a cover collection can be a problem to store, it is multi-dimensional and retains far more value than a collection of cuts and tapes. In practice most collectors accumulate a wide variety of formats. Although they may prefer covers, often they will find some rarities are effectively unobtainable except as cutouts because of the hasty scissors of early collectors.

3. Storing and Mounting. Boxes or albums are the two most common choices. Boxes are more convenient and far cheaper but do not allow an easy way to view your collection. Albums can be amazingly expensive and almost force you to take the time to organize your collection into a logical sequence. This can take up huge chunks of time, but it leaves you with an organized and well presented collection. If you do use albums, do not — we repeat, DO NOT — use the type of photo albums that have waxy pages. Such pages make things easy to mount (since you do not need hinges or mounts), but over time the wax will destroy any paper stuck to it.

A Short History of the Early Years of Meter Franking

Not long after the introduction of adhesive stamps in 1840 it became apparent to volume mailers that a system requiring the purchase, moistening and affixing of small pieces of gummed paper to mail was too slow. Research into speeding the process gave birth to a machine which automated the application of postage, i.e. the postage meter.

Carle Busch of Paris appears to have been first to devise a postage metering system. In August 1884 he received a British patent describing an apparatus for impressing and registering stamps. The Busch invention never saw service.

Paralleling the push to streamline the stamping of business mail, other inventors looked for a method to provide around-the-clock access to postage for the general public. The first postage meter used to stamp actual mail was of this type. It was invented by the Italian, Count Detalmo di Brazza Savorgnan. A small number of his public access, self-service meters were installed in New York City in 1896 and 1897. For reasons now unknown, they were removed from service after a few months of use.

In Norway, on 24 August 1900, another coin-operated machine, invented by Charles A. Kahrs, was installed in the lobby of the main post office in Kristiania (Oslo). After obtaining a frank, the customer still had to carry his mail to the post office window where the clerk applied an adhesive stamp over the frank. The machine stamp was used thusly only as a receipt for prepayment rather than as the actual postage. The machine was removed from service after only three weeks of use.

Another Norwegian, Karl Uchermann, has the honor of inventing the first business mail automated franking system. The company Krag Maskinfabrik manufactured Uchermann's machines, and they were placed in seven post offices as well as the mail rooms of five private businesses in 1903. They are known used from June 15th of that year to at least January 2nd, 1905. Norway abandoned the use of postage meters at that time and did not employ them again until 1926.

New Zealand has the record for continual use of postage meters. A coin-in-the-slot machine invented by Ernest Moss of Christchurch was tested on public mail in March 1904. The design was flawed, and Moss quickly submitted improved versions for testing. His first "credit" machine saw service in 1906, and by 1907 fifty of these machines were in use around the country. Several other models were placed into use in the years from 1907 to 1920 when meter franking was first recognized by the Universal Postal Union. Until that time, the Moss machines were valid for local mail only. Meter franked mail addressed for foreign countries was taken to the post office where clerks would apply complimentary adhesives stamps or "PAID" hand stamps.

Moss did not have the field to himself in New Zealand. Mr. Robert Wales invented a machine similar to that of Ernest Moss, and it was trialed outside the General Post Office of Dunedin from July 1904 to February 1905. The machine was considered inferior to that of Mr. Moss and was rejected for further use.

Meanwhile, back in the United States, Arthur H. Pitney with Eugene A. Rummler, designed and built a postage meter that the Post Office Department tested in Washington D.C. in March 1903. Authorities were not impressed, and no more official testing was done until May 1912 when an improved Pitney machine was placed into limited use, again in Washington D.C. At least eight of these machines were given a wider test in 1914 in Chicago. Despite its apparent success, the post office did not sanction use of this meter.

At the urging of the U.S. Post Office Department, Walter H. Bowes, owner of a company that made high-speed canceling

machines, formed a partnership with Arthur Pitney. They merged their products into a single postage metering and mail processing machine which was given official approval by the Post Office Department in September 1920. Over the next decade several small American companies entered the postage meter market only to fail under the intense competition from Pitney Bowes.

Great Britain is the only other country to have tested a postage meter on actual mail before UPU approval in 1920. In 1912 a single public access, coin-operated meter, invented by Mr. F. Wilkinson, was installed in a post office in London. Although interest at first was quite high, it was removed from service after only seven months because of lack of use.

The machines mentioned above are not the only postage automation devices to appear in the years before 1920. In Britain, at least three inventors submitted coin-operated machines to the Post Office for testing: David Lewis in 1899, Charles Ross in 1907, and E.E. Eyles in 1909. None of their machines were ever used on actual mail.

In Australia public trials of self-service postage meters took place as early as 1903. A machine invented by a Mr. W. Hollingworth was used on a trial basis in Brisbane for a few weeks of that year. No example of the Hollingworth stamp survives today, and we do not know what it looked like. In 1908, machines invented by R.J. Price and H.A. Beswicke were live-tested in Melbourne over two periods lasting a few days. The trials were not successful. The only known copies of the Price/Beswicke stamps existing today are proofs in Australian postal archives.

During the 1920s, after the UPU approval of postage meters, large and successful meter companies were founded in Europe. Among them are Universal Postal Frankers and Neopost (England), Francotyp and Komusina/Postalia (Germany), Hasler (Switzerland), Havas (France), and Sima (Italy). Since then about a hundred other companies have entered the postage meter market with varying success. Appendix B contains a list of all meter manufacturing companies known to the authors.

Cuba

The first meter appeared in 1938. All stamps show "CUBA" in the frank. The stamps are grouped according to political era of first use:

A- during Batista regime, up to 1959
B- during Castro regime, since 1959

***NOTE**: Due to the U.S. embargo on trade with Cuba, our coverage of Group B stamps, those issued during the Castro regime, is probably incomplete.*

GROUP A

Stamps first issued during pre-Castro era, up to 1959

A1 1938, Pitney Bowes "H" (LV-10) Square frank with simulated-perforation outer frame line. "CORREOS DE LA/ REPUBLICA DE CUBA" at top. The oval around the value figures does not touch the outer frame line. M# with "C" prefix..... $1

A. "PERMISO No." at bottom
B. "METRO No." at bottom

Values: .02 .03 .04 .05 .06 .08 .09 .10 .20

A2 1938, Pitney Bowes "H" (LV-10) As type A1B but oval around value figures merges with outer frame line at the sides. M# with "C" prefix. TM: DC.....$1

Values: .01 .02 .03 .04 .05 .06 .08 .09 .10 .20

A3 1946, Pitney Bowes "R" (MV) Horizontal design with simulated perforation border fully enclosing the TM and frank. Inscribed "CORREOS DE LA/ REPUBLICA DE CUBA/ PAGADO/ CENTAVOS" at top right. "METRO No." and M# at bottom center. M# with "C" prefix. Numbers C-175 up.....$25

V/F: ≋00

A4 Pitney Bowes "R" (MV) Frank without outer frame line with arms of country (cap, fasces and key) between TM and frank "REPUBLICA DE CUBA" at top and "FRANQUED PAGADO" above value box. "CORREOS" at bottom center. M# with "PBC" prefix below value box. TM: SC.

V/F: ≋00 : .....25¢
≋00 .....$2

NOTE: Postal stationery (postal cards and possibly envelopes) were sold pre-stamped with this type of stamp.

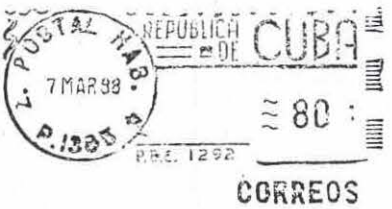
A5 1950, Pitney Bowes "DM" (LV-21) Similar to type B1, but much narrower. "CORREOS" above value figures. M# with "PBC" prefix. TM: SC.....25¢
Values: 01 - 21

GROUP B

Stamps first issued since U.S. embargo of Cuba began with ascension of Castro as head of government, since 1959. **NOTE**: Stamps of Group A continued to be used after 1959.

B1 Pitney Bowes "DM" (LV-21). Small design as Type A5. With rope ornament across top and upper left. Inscribed "REPUBLICA DE/ CUBA" above value figures. "CORREOS" below TM. M# with "P.B.METRO" prefix. TM: SC.....*$10*
Values: 01 - 21

B2 Pitney Bowes "R" (MV). Frank with "REPUBLICA/DE CUBA" at top. With empty space between TM and value figures. "CORREOS" at bottom below value figures. TM: SC....*$10*



B3 Postalia "D2" (MV). Simple upright rectangle with coat of arms and "CUBA/ CORREOS" at top, "FRANQUEO PAGADO" at bottom. One seen with date only without TM.....*$10*
V/F: 0.00

NOTE: Values for Group B stamps are tentative. Due to the United States trade embargo, almost no metered mail has filtered its way to us, but these stamps may be common in other countries.

International Postage Meter Stamp Catalog/Cuba

The first meter appeared in 1938. All stamps show “CUBA” in the frank. The stamps are grouped according to political era of first use:
A - during the Republic, from 20 May 1902 to 1 January 1959
B - during Castro regime, since 1959

GROUP A: Stamps first issued during pre-Castro era, up to 1959

A1. Pitney Bowes “H” (LV-10), 1938.

Square frank with simulated-perforation outer frame line.
“CORREOS DE LA/ REPUBLICA DE CUBA” at top.
The oval around the value figures does not touch the outer frame line.
M# with “C” prefix.
A. “PERMISO No.” at bottom
B. “METRO No.” at bottom
Values: .02, .03, .04, .05, .06, .08, .09, .10, .20

A2. Pitney Bowes “H” (LV-10), 1938.

As type A1B but oval around value figures merges with outer frame line at the sides.
M# with “C” prefix.
TM: DC
Values: .01, .02, .03, .04, .05, .06, .08, .09, .10, .20, .50

A3. Pitney Bowes "R" (MV), 1946. [$25]

Horizontal design with simulated perforation border fully enclosing the TM and frank.
Inscribed "CORREOS DE LA/ REPUBLICA DE CUBA/ PAGADO/ CENTAVOS" at top right.
"METRO No." and M# at bottom center.
M# with "C" prefix, numbers C-175 and up.
V/F: ≈ 00

A4. Pitney Bowes "R" (MV).

Frank without outer frame line.
With arms of country (cap, fasces and key) between TM and frank.
"REPUBLICA DE CUBA" at top and "FRANQUED PAGADO" above value box.
"CORREOS" at bottom center.
M# with "PBC" prefix below value box.
TM: SC
V/F: ≈ 00 **:** ≈ 00

NOTE: Postal stationery (postal cards and possibly envelopes) were sold pre-stamped with this type of stamp.

A5. Pitney Bowes "DM" (LV-21), 1950.

Similar to type B1, but much narrower.
"CORREOS" above value figures.
M# with "PBC" prefix.
TM: SC

Values: 01 - 21

GROUP B: Stamps first issued since U.S. embargo of Cuba began with ascension of Castro as head of government, since 1959

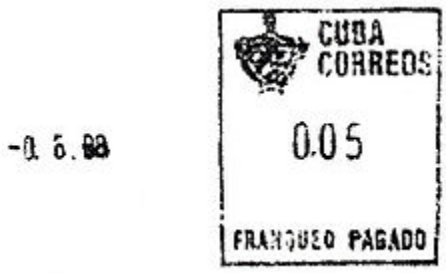
NOTE: Stamps of Group A continued to be used after 1959.

B1. Pitney Bowes "DM" (LV-21). [Probably scarce, value unknown]

Small design as Type A5. With rope ornament across top and upper left.
Inscribed "REPUBLICA DE/ CUBA" above value figures.
"CORREOS" below TM.
M# with "P.B.METRO" prefix.
TM: SC
Values: 01 through 21

B2. Pitney Bowes "R" (MV). [Probably scarce, value unknown]

Frank with "REPUBLICA/DE CUBA" at top.
With empty space between TM and value figures.
"CORREOS" at bottom below value figures.
TM: SC
V/F: ≋ 00 **:**



B3. Postalia "D2" (MV). [Probably scarce, value unknown]

Simple upright rectangle with coat of arms and "CUBA/ CORREOS" at top, "FRANQUEO PAGADO" at bottom.
One seen, date only without TM.
V/F: 0.00