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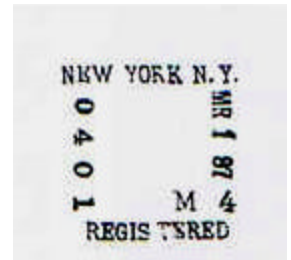
Logos

Postage Meter Basics

Everybody gets mail that has these red postage meter stamps. Virtually all of the envelopes get thrown out. These days at least some get recycled. However, these stamps (and they are postage stamps) offer an interesting area for stamp collectors. The question is what should be collected? The answer to this question is simple. Whatever you want. We include some possibilities here.

The postage meter was developed to help businesses prepare mailings in an efficient manner. The need for this was recognized more than a hundred years ago and the first commercial installation occurred in the early 1900's. However, before that time there were some experiments.

The first experiment was conducted in 1897 by Di Brazzi who placed three coin operated machines in New York post offices. The machines accepted coins and printed a meter stamp, Figure 1, on an envelope. These vending machines were removed after a few months and only two examples of the meter stamps exist today.



Similar experiments were conducted in Norway in 1900 and 1903, in New Zealand in 1904 and in the US in 1912 and 1913. The first commercial postage meter installation was accomplished in New Zealand in about 1907 and New Zealand stands as the country that has continuously used postage meters for the longest time.

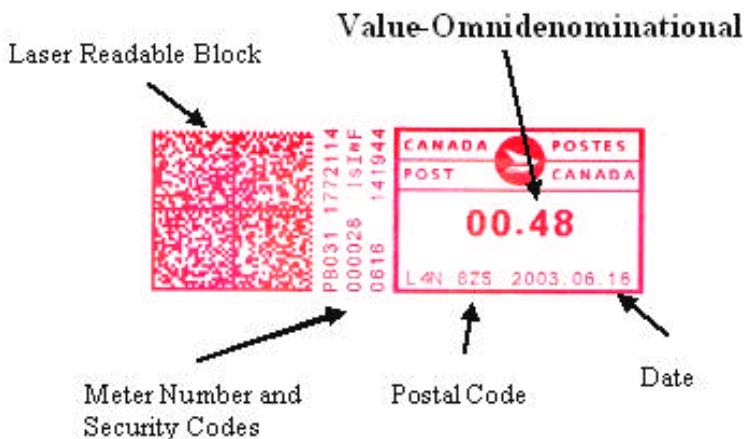
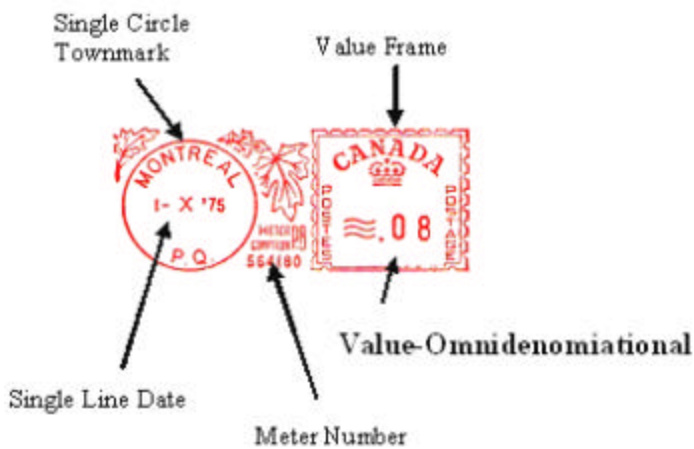
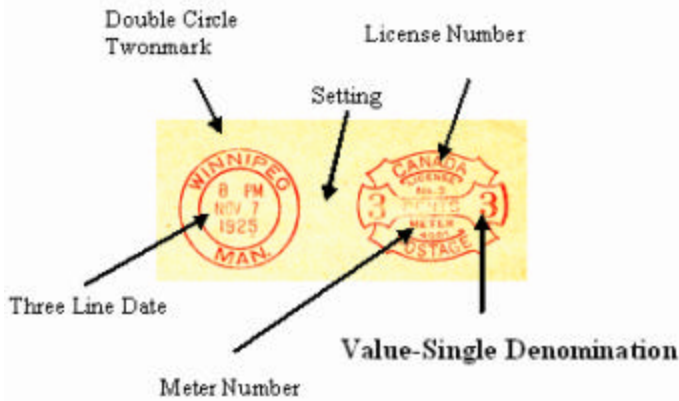
The first commercial use of a postage meter in the US occurred in Pitney Bowes offices in December 1920, Figure 2, with a square indicia design. The design was so similar to the permit design of the time that the US post office required a change in the design. In January 1922 a new oval design was introduced by Pitney Bowes, Figure 3. Very soon a number of other manufacturers began to offer postage meters as well.



The postage meter itself is seldom the entire piece of equipment that is sold by the postage meter suppliers. The meter prints the stamp on the envelope and keeps track of how much postage remains and how much postage has been used.

The meter is usually attached to a mailing machine that is designed to facilitate mail preparation. The simpler units stamp and seal one envelope at a time. More complex units can print a billing statement, fold it, stuff it into an envelope, stamp and seal it and do that 10,000 times an hour. In the early days the meter had to be taken to the post office where the clerk would accept money and set the meter. Today the addition of postage to a meter is automated and generally accomplished over the phone.

Parts of a Postage Meter Stamp



Margins: The space between the design and the edges of a metered-tape and/or between a design and the edges of an envelope, or edges of a cut. While it is best to save the entire cover, a cut that is smaller than 2"x4" is very undesirable.

Figure of Value: The various denominations (to the right in most designs) complying within a proper classification of postal rates, as set over the years on mail matter of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes.

Indicia: The entire postage meter stamp impression (with added or deleted portions thereof) that composes the invalidated payment of postage.

Country of Issue: Usually found at the right in any design.

Townmark: Usually found at the left in most designs. Usually contains the town name, state, date and sometimes time of mailing.

Slogan: Meter slogans are messages found to the left of many postage meter stamps. They are used to promote public service projects, worthwhile charity or other drives or for illustration or advertising of the manufacturer's product.

Time of Mailing: The date, hour, and year of mailing, may or may not be shown within the postmark circle proper, or at the left of design.

Postal Slugs: These postal inscription slugs, when used on bulk or catalog mailings, may be found in various styles of lettering. They are found in several positions as part of a design but may be deleted from a design for the most part, when not in use.

Printing Inks: The standard colors of ink used for printing postage meter stamps are: Red, Blue, Purple, Green, Black, Orange, and Lilac.

Meter Number: All postage meters are assigned a meter number by the manufacturer that the Post Office can use to trace the user. The indicia contains the meter number somewhere in the design. Initials of the manufacturer of the meter are usually included with the meter number. Early on, there appears to have been an attempt by meter manufacturers to avoid overlapping number ranges with competitors. If that was the case, this soon became impractical. When there were few meters in operation collectors attempted to collect an example of each meter number that existed.

Saving Time

These little ideas are picked up over the years from many people on organizing various functions of collecting to save time and so that you don't have to re-learn the same thing over and over again.

The Watermarks of Brazil

The watermarks of Brazil. The stamps of Brazil are very interesting and, for the most part, they are inexpensive. Not many people, however, collect Brazil and the major reason for this are the 16 similar watermarks found on Brazilian stamps. The way to solve this problem is get out your scissors and wack away at an old Scott's catalog. Cut out the pictures of the watermarks including the descriptions below the pictures. Spread these cutouts evenly on a sheet of paper and tape them down. You now have a tool to deal with these watermarks. If you are not sure how to differentiate between some of the watermarks, then look for a cheap stamp that is only found with that watermark. Put it in your watermark tray face down and drip on some fluid. Now take a pencil and very carefully pencil in the watermark. Remove the stamp from the tray and let it dry. Now tape this stamp down next to the appropriate picture. Use a millimeter gauge and whatever else you need and compare the confusing watermarks. Chances are you will see the differences. When you do, write them down on your paper so you don't have to figure them out each time. Collect Brazil-it is a neat country. You will eventually get to really love the watermarks.

The Martyrs Issue of China

The Martyrs Issue of China and Scott type A57. These two issues can be confusing to someone who doesn't specialize in China. Again, it is time to cut up an old Scott catalog. Cut out the picture of the watermark found on these issues. Then cut out the pictures of the secret marks. Lastly, cut out the picture of type A57 with the list of types attached. Make a flow chart for sorting these issues. A flow chart is simply a set of lines that show a decision process. As an example, we will do the Martyrs Issue. At the top of your chart you write "Martyrs Issue". You then draw downward a short vertical line. At the end of this line you place a horizontal line to the left and to the right. This is a decision point. On the line to the left you write watermarked and on the right you write unwatermarked. At this point you watermark your stamps. Those with watermarks go to the left where you put another short downward vertical line that leads to the numbers 402-20.

This tells you that watermarked stamps are identified as Scott number 402-20. Back to the decision point. To the right went the unwatermarked stamps, and at the end of the line you place another short vertical downward line to another decision point. The decision point is on whether or not these stamps have secret marks (check the glued on chart from the catalog). Those who have secret marks go to the right and are 421-439. Those that have no secret mark go downward for another decision point. This one on width. Draw your flow chart out with pencil at first. Go through it until you are sure your flow chart works, then copy it onto a piece of paper with ink. From now on when you get one of these stamps, you don't have to relearn everything again.

D-PCPS UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 2-3 Houston TSDA

Park Inn, 500 North Sam Houston Parkway EAST (Beltway 8), Houston, TX 77060. Fri. 11-6, Sat. 9-4.

Nov 10-11 MID-CITIES STAMP EXPO

Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 Main Street, Grapevine, TX (just northwest of DFW Airport). Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4.

Nov 14 DPCPS Regular Meeting

7:30PM The trading begins at 7:00 and stamp swap & trade will follow the meeting. Club Albums will also be available. There will NOT be a 2nd meeting in Nov due to the Holidays.

Dec 7-8 Dallas TSDA

Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho Road, Richardson, TX 75080-4551. Fri. 11-6, Sat. 9-4.

Stamp & Tongs

APS GOLD AWARD

Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society Newsletter

Rick Houghland, Editor

Stamp & Tongs is published monthly. Material in this newsletter may be reproduced in other philatelic publications if the sources are acknowledged.

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Membership is \$12 available to anyone of good character interested in philately. Membership applications at: www.dpcps2010.webs.com

The Admiral Stamps of Canada: (Part 1) The Formats

by Randall W. Van Someren



Stamps from Post Office Sheets of 100.

carmine were issued imperforate. Single stamps from post office sheets of 100 stamps are found perforated all around, with one or two straight edges, and imperforate.

2. Coil (Roll) Stamps.

Coil stamps exist with three different perforation measurements as shown above:

- Left stamp: perf. 8 horizontally.
- Middle stamp: perf. 12 horizontally.
- Right stamp: perf. 8 vertically.

3. Coil Stamps in Sheet Format.

On several different occasions, stamps printed with the intention of making them into coil stamps were issued instead as sheets of 100 stamps. There are 2 types of coil stamps in sheet format:

- Stamps issued in post office sheets of 100, perforated 8 vertically. These stamps are normally collected in vertical pairs because single stamps would be indistinguishable from regular coil stamps. See the vertical pair of stamps, pictured above at left.
- Stamps issued in post office sheets of 100, perforated 12 X 8. Coil stamps were printed in sheets of 400 and then cut into strips to be made into rolls. At two different times, stamps that had been perforated 8 vertically and were waiting to be cut into strips for coils, were instead perforated 12 horizontally and issued as post office sheets of 100. See right stamp pictured above.



Coil Stamps.



Coil Stamps in Sheet Format.

The Admirals were issued in several different formats.

1. Post Office Sheets of 100 Stamps.

All denominations of the Admirals were issued in post office sheets of 100 stamps. These post office sheets were printed in larger sheets of 200 or 400 and then cut into smaller post office sheets of 100. In 1924, post office sheets of the 1¢ yellow, 2¢ green, and 3¢

4. Booklet Panes.

Booklet panes exist as either a pane of 4 stamps or a pane of 6 stamps. One of each is shown in the above picture. Single stamps from booklet panes are found with one or two straight edges.



Booklet Panes.

Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., Rod Gabel presiding, 16 Members present

Secretary's report – reading of minutes from Oct 10th meeting was waived.

Program VP's report – tonight's program will be the Quarterly Auction. Nov 14th is an open forum for members to share some of their favorite acquisitions/items.

Editor's report – Rick Houghland was recognized for the outstanding job he is doing with the newsletter. Photos were taken for a new directory next February.

Announcements

- The holiday dinner will be December 12th starting at 6 pm. The menu is poached salmon or prime rib. Members \$10 / guests \$25. Let Dr. Boehning know if you are coming. The deadline for reservations is the first meeting in November. So far there are 22 reservations of the 30 needed.

- Rod passed around the recent APS article by Alex Haimann in which he praised the Mid-Cities and DPCPS clubs.

New Business

- A draft of an advertisement for the American Philatelist was passed around to invite area collectors to visit and join our club.

- Another postcard mailing will occur next week, plus 50 extra cards will be available for area stamp shows.

- 2013 DPCPS dues can be paid to Geoff Owens.

Trivia / Show & Tell

- Jack Urish and Rod Gabel posed some trivia questions and awarded prizes

Door Prizes

- The drawing was won by Robert Johnson.

Program

- Tom Cunningham conducted the Quarterly Auction.

One and a Half Cent Afrikaner Bull

Type 1 - R of Republic above S of Suid. lettering of description thin.

type 2 - R of Republic in between S and U of Suid. lettering of description thicker.

