

The Meter Stamp Society



Collector's Guide

Est. 1948

What Is a Postage Meter?

The Postage Meter has a long history around the world. The United States has a slightly different story. While the focus for this *Guide* is on the U.S.A stamps, the guidelines, suggestions, and examples shown here are universally applicable and are designed to serve collectors no matter what areas of the world they collect. This *Guide* will be revised and reprinted as necessary so any suggestions and additions are welcomed.

Quoted from a Pitney-Bowes Booklet, "The postage meter is a government-licensed mailing machine that prints postage as required, directly on the envelope (or on an adhesive tape) for any type of mail - first, second, third, or fourth class; air mail, registered mail, special delivery, or other special services. In a single operation, it prints a prepaid postage meter stamp, including dated postmark, of any value needed. Most models also seal an envelope, or moisten the gummed tape at the same time the meter is being printed.

The postage meter's stamp is non-negotiable, and requires no cancellation in most countries. It can be used only by the licensed user whose assigned meter number appears in the meter stamp itself. The meter does its own bookkeeping through sealed but visible registers, which show postage used and postage on hand, in dollars and cents."

Except for the smallest desk models, the post-

age meter is a detachable unit of a larger mailing machine. The meter contains the postage printing die and the recording mechanism. Whenever the private user needs to 'fill' the meter, he used to take it to the post office to be 'set'. Today most meters are set over the phone or the internet. Postage is paid for in advance, and need not be entirely used before the meter is reset. But if postage is allowed to run out, the meter automatically locks against further use.

Because meters print postage and collect Government revenue under official lock and seal, in the United States they can only be leased from the vendor. However they can be owned in some countries. These vendors are held responsible for the proper operation, service, location, and replacement of all of their meters in service.

The mailing machine, as distinguished from the meter, has nothing to do with the collection of postage revenue. The complete mailing machine can be quite large and can prepare the mail, insert it into the envelope, print the address and advertisement (some models in color) and finally print the postage. They were available in a wide range of hand and electrically driven models, for large and small firms, and are usually sold outright. Today they are fully digital.

OK, so what exactly are meter stamps? This is not as obvious as it sounds. They are used to



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collect postage revenue just like other stamps, but what makes them DIFFERENT from other stamps?

Some people call non-metered stamps “adhesives”, but this distinction is meaningless since meters are often printed on gummed paper. Perhaps we can say that meters are different because they can be printed directly on the envelope while other stamps are stuck down, but this ignores postal stationery stamps which certainly are printed directly on the envelope. Another distinction often made is that meters have a town/date mark while other stamps don’t. Meter stamps are usually dated for the day of use but some classes of mail are supposed to be undated, and prepaid return mail is usually undated. In early models the date was inserted by hand and were often forgotten, inserted in odd order or inverted. Some countries, like New Zealand, never had a date as part of a meter imprint.

Sanction was given for the worldwide introduction of franked mail on 30 November 1920 at the 7th Universal Postal Union Congress in Madrid: ‘ARTICLE 13. Prepayment; reply coupons; exemptions from postage. 1. Prepayment of postage on every description of article can be effected either by means of postage stamps valid in the country of origin for the correspondence of private individuals, or by means of impressions of stamping machines, officially adopted and working under the immediate control of the Administration.’ Detailed Regulation VI: ‘Impressions produced by stamping machines must include an indication of the country of origin. They must be bright red in color, whatever the value represented by them. . . The impressions of stamping machines must also be applied in that place [top right-hand corner]’. (Window envelopes were also approved at this Congress.) The UPU regulation came into force on 1 January 1922: “ARTICLE 30. Duration of the Convention. The present Convention shall come into force on the 1st of January 1922, and shall remain in operation for an indefinite period.”

The definition of a “meter stamp” has blurred in recent years. In the U.S. the USPS has extended the definition of “metered mail” to a rather bewildering array of postage devices. This will include the traditional office postage meter, and what the USPS calls “PC Postage” (see Glossary). PC Postage is considered by the USPS to be

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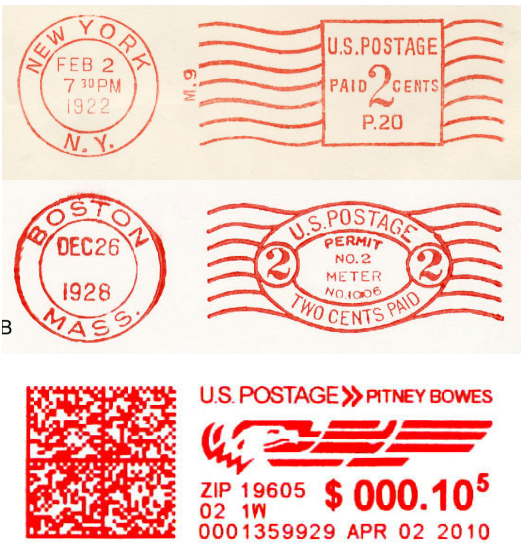
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Meter Stamp Evolution

While the collection of postage meter stamps was originally simply a problem of determining the country, maker and meter type of a particular item in hand, today the meter world is much more complex. In 1988 the U.S. Postal System (USPS) opened a Pandora's box by allowing several new types of "stamps" that could pay postage. The full story was written up in the MSSQB issue 289 Autumn, 2010. There are three types of meters, if you allow us a little freedom of expression.

Traditional Postage Meter. The postage meter stamp from the beginning was dated and generally had to be used on that date (there are a few exceptions to this). The meter stamp must show the amount of postage paid. Generally the stamp also indicates the country of origin as well as the maker of the postage meter. The postage meter itself is a machine that is capable of printing the meter stamp and keeping track of (meter) the amount of postage paid for and the amount of postage used up to that moment.

This type of postage payment device is cataloged by the International Meter Postage Stamp Catalog by Hawkins and Stambaugh and is



Early and Current Postage Meter Stamps

currently provided online at www.wiki books.org.

Personalized or Custom Postage was originally designed by the USPS in the years leading up to the first days of use in 1988. These types of postage were generally printed in sheets by one of several designated vendors (today there are three with many sub-licenseses). The sheets were then mailed to the user. The user could often provide his/her own image for the stamps although most vendors also provide a range of stock images. The stamps are generally not dated and can be used at



Personal Postage with User's Image

any time, very much like traditional postage stamps. These are often called Photo Stamps. The term "PhotoStamp" is a registered trademark of one of the vendors. There is tremendous variation in these items and catalogs like Scott Specialized tried to keep up. Scott abandoned this type of postage payment in about 2006. The only catalog for U.S. Personalized Postage is an incomplete one mounted on the web at: www.meterstampociety.com/custompostage/cataloghome.html.

Computer Vended Postage (aka Variable Denomination) is postage that is printed by an automatic vending ATM (aka automat) or on a personal computer. The denomination is variable to suit the needs of the user at the time of printing. Kiosks that vend this type of postage are usually found in U.S. Post offices but Pitney Bowes has placed its own kiosks on college or office campuses. These stamps largely have been b/w prints but lately have been in color. The USPS kiosks also have largely been b/w but now some stamps are printed on preprinted paper stock with color images.

The Pitney Bowes CPV stamps have been printed in full color by the kiosk. The stamps printed by the unit is usable at any time or place inside the U.S. or at an APO. These CVP postage items continue to be cataloged by the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps and Covers*. Karim Roder, a member of the MSS has produced three editions of his catalog, the first in German. The second and third editions are in English. The current edition *USA: Variable Denomination Stamps (1989=2015)* is available from www.Createspace.com a division of Amazon.com. ■

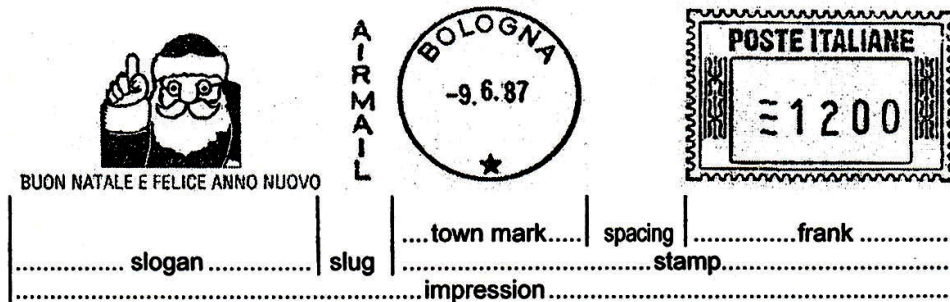


Personal Postage with A Stock Image



Recent USA Computer Vended Postage of Charlie Brown from the SSK Kiosks

Glossary, Abbreviations and Symbols for Traditional Postage Meters



<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Bank	a wheel with numbers on the rim which is rotated to impress part of the postage amount on <u>Multi Value</u> meters.
Denomination:	the amount of postage shown by the <u>Value Figures</u> .
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 <u>Stamp</u> .
Fixed Value:	a meter with <u>Frame</u> and <u>Value Figures</u> 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 <u>Frank</u> surrounding the <u>Value Figures</u> .
Frank:	Noun: that portion of the <u>Meter Stamp</u> showing the <u>Denomination</u> 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 <u>Impression</u> such as the <u>Stamp</u> , <u>Town Mark</u> and <u>Slogan</u> . This is a feature found on many early Italian stamps but is otherwise quite uncommon.
Identification Number:	meter identification number assigned by the postal authority or vendor
Impression:	the entire imprint including the <u>Stamp</u> (<u>Frank</u> , <u>Town/Date Mark</u>), and, if present, <u>Serial number</u> , <u>Slogan</u> , <u>Slug</u> , <u>Greater Border</u> , etc.
Indicia/Indicium:	same as <u>Frank</u> .
Key Letter:	same as <u>Prefix</u> .
License Number:	a number the postal authority assigns to the mailer (rather than to the meter).
Limited Value:	a meter that has one <u>Frame</u> die with a slot into which several <u>Denomination</u> 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. Some can print the contents, stuff the envelope and print postage.
Meter:	for the purposes of this book, same as <u>Postage Meter Stamp</u> Some collectors manage to find a few actual postage meter machine that printed the meter stamps. Some countries allow ownership, some do not.
Meter Number:	an identification number assigned by the meter manufacturer.
Meter Stamp:	a postage stamp impressed by a <u>Meter</u> .
Multi Value:	a non-digital meter that can print any postage value within a specified range. The machine uses <u>Banks</u> of number wheels that are rotated to make the correct postage value appear in the <u>Die</u> .
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	Imprint on bulk mail items indicating prepayment of postage based on number and weight of mail item. Permit imprints usually a square box with the words postage paid. Some permit imprints resemble postage meter stamps.
Permit Number:	same as <u>License Number</u> .
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 <u>Meter Number</u> , <u>Identification Number</u> or <u>License/Permit Number</u> .
Relief Machine:	a <u>Postage Meter</u> lent by the distributor or dealer to a customer while the customer's machine is being serviced.
Serial Number:	a counter of <u>Impressions</u> made by the <u>Meter</u> .
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 <u>Slogan</u> but the message is for postal purposes. Examples are FIRST CLASS, BULK RATE, PARCEL POST, AIRMAIL, RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED.
Spacing:	the distance between the <u>Town Mark</u> and the <u>Frank</u> . It is usually measured from the right edge of the <u>Town Mark</u> to the left edge of the <u>Frank</u> .
Setting	Distance from the center of the <u>Town Mark</u> to the center of the <u>Frank</u> and/or the <u>Value Figures</u> .
Stacked	a word or number with each letter or digit placed one above or below the other,
Stamp:	the <u>Frank</u> plus the <u>Town/Date Mark</u> .
Tape:	a <u>Meter Stamp</u> 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 <u>Meter Stamp</u> that contains the post office name where the meter is licensed and (usually) the date of mailing.
Town Mark:	same as <u>Town/Date Mark</u> .
Value Box:	a small rectangle immediately surrounding the <u>Value Figures</u> in some <u>Stamps</u> .
Value Figures:	the numbers and symbols that make up the postage value.
Vertical	a word or number reading up or down.
Abbreviations	
BIC:	circular town mark with Broken Inner Circle
DC:	Double Circle town mark
FV:	Fixed Value meter, single denomination
FV-<i>n</i>:	Fixed Value with ' <i>n</i> ' stamp dies. FV-5 indicates an FV meter that can print five different value stamps
ID number	Identification Number
L#	License number
LV-<i>n</i>:	Limited Value meter with ' <i>n</i> ' different denominations
M#	Meter number
MV:	Multi-Value meter
S#	Serial number
SC:	Single Circle town mark
TM:	Town Mark, Town/date Mark
V/F:	Value Figures (not "face value")

■

Glossary, Abbreviations and Symbols for CVP Meters

ATM	Automatenmarken (German) or Vending Machine Stamps (English), not to be confused with the US term ATM which means “automated teller machines.”
ATM Stamps	A USA term for preprinted definitive size stamps in an unfolded booklet form that can be sold by Bank ATM machines (some USPS APC machines still vend ATM stamps).
Automat (German)	Vending Machine (English), that can range from stamp vending machines to cigarette and soft-drink machines; it is a general term.
Automatic stamps	No such thing, some people use this due to confusion with “Automat” or “Automatenmarken”. There’s nothing “automatic” here.
Customized Postage	See Personalized Postage.
CVP	Computer vended postage, which applies to any postage stamp / label that is generated through a computer and generally requires an internet connection. A “Frama” stamp is NOT a CVP stamp, as these were mechanically printed using an impact printer in the machine and used pre-designed label rolls. Aka Variable Denomination postage.
Variable Denomination	VDS Variable Denomination Stamps. See CVP Computer Vended Postage.
Frama	A specific type (brand) of ATM stamp, but not every ATM stamp is a “Frama” (kind of like calling photocopies a “xerox” – that’s only true if it’s done on a Xerox copier). Originally developed in Switzerland and now defunct (except in a few countries, such as Liechtenstein).
Klüssendorf	A specific type (brand) of ATM stamp. A German manufacturer of postage vending machines.
APC	Automated Postal Center kiosk which dispenses ATM stamps usually located in US post offices. Now known as Self Service Kiosk (SSK).
SSK	Self-Service Kiosk (see APC above).
Personalized Postage	Generally stamps that have to be ordered through the internet (not printed at home) and can have custom images and text (this includes “Photo Netstamps”). Most products have value preprinted on stamp but some products allow the value to be printed at a home PC on specially designed sheets of peelable labels. See PC Postage.
Personalised Postage	Worldwide term for a wide range of alternate postage products. Spelled with an ‘s’.
Netstamps	A particular brand name of CVP stamps for which special pre-printed sheets have to be ordered and then the value printed by the end-user at home (these can be plain or also have stock images available, known as Photo Netstamps).
Internetmarke	A German type of CVP by which the user can print postage at home (either on paper, labels or envelopes and either with or without a selection of stock images or clipart).

Post & Go	UK-based machines that print thermally printed postage labels (on pre-printed label stock).
Mail & Go	Pitney Bowes trademark for its US-based kiosks that printed both thermally printed postage labels (plain) or inkjet printed full color stamps on die-cut self-adhesive labels. Mostly located at school and corporate campuses.
CPU	Contract Postal Unit, a privately owned company authorized to do certain functions of a US Post Office. In 2007-2008 most were equipped by Pitney Bowes units that print thermally printed postage label strips.
Briefmarke Individuell	A German "custom / personalized" stamp that has to be ordered via Deutsche Post's website; which will print the customer's design and mail them on sheets of 10 or 20 to the customer. Similar to USA "personalized" / "customized" stamps such as those offered by PictureItPostage (Endicia), Zazzle and "PhotoStamps" (stamps.com) .
Plusbrief Individuell	German "custom / personalized" postal stationery envelope that has to be ordered via the Deutsche Post website, which will print the customers design on envelope (various sizes are available).
PhotoStamps	A specific brand name of stamps (from stamps.com) that are ordered via the internet and printed by stamps.com using the customer-supplied image.
Zazzle Stamps	A specific brand of "photo stamp" (ie: NOT "PhotoStamp by stamps.com) ordered via the internet and printed by Zazzle and mailed to the customer.
PictureItPostage	A specific brand of "photo stamps" / custom postage that is ordered via the internet and printed by Endicia and mailed to the customer.
Dymo/Endicia	A specific brand of "internet postage"
PC Postage	As defined by the USPS DMM (Domestic Mail Manual), "PC Postage products allow customers to purchase and print postage with IBI (Information Based Indicia) or IMI (Intelligent Mail Indicia) indicia directly onto mailpieces, shipping labels, and USPS-approved customized labels (usually peel off labels designed to be used for PC Postage). USPS-approved commercial providers offer PC Postage products for customers through subscription service agreements." These indicia include all postage products other than traditional postage stamps and stand alone postage meters.
PVI	Postage validation imprint (although some people think it means "postage value indicated"). A term used by the USPS to describe a security meter-like strip (self-adhesive) generated by a postal clerk's counter meter and immediately applied to a mail piece. Many countries have picked up on this type of counter meter.
mPOS	A type of PVI postage strip issued by a postal clerk using a hand held "mobile device" that then prints a postage label. ■

Early History of Traditional Postage Meters

Soon after the introduction of adhesive stamps in 1840, suggestions were made and patents taken out in an attempt find better ways to pay postage, especially for businesses. It was recognized that a system involving the purchase, moistening and affixing of small pieces of gummed paper to mail for subsequent cancellation by the Post Office might well be replaced by some mechanical means whereby prepayment of postage might be made by the approved use of a machine to imprint the "stamp" and at the same time to keep a register of the postage used.

Carle Bushe of Paris appears to have patented the first postage meter. He took out a British patent in August 1884, covering an apparatus for impressing and registering stamps. But he may not have actually built one. An Italian inventor, Count Detalmo di Brazza, placed about four coin operated meters that placed registration marks as shown here, on mail in New York in 1897 for a few months. A Hungarian inventor, Antal Fodor, built another meter to put a registration mark on mail and placed it in front of a Paris post office in 1909 for a few months. Other postage meters were tested and used around the world.

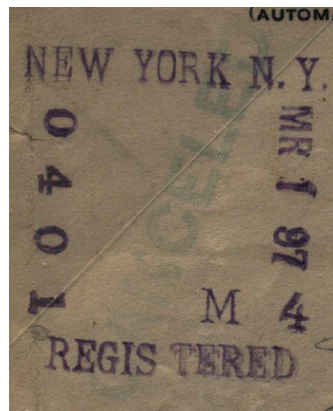
NORWAY. A machine, invented by Charles A. Kahrs, was installed in the lobby of the General Post Office, Kristiania, (Oslo), on August 24, 1900. This was a coin-feed model (used by the public for franking their own mail by insertion of the required coins). The franks produced were considered only as receipts for prepaid postage and the Postal authorities affixed adhesive stamps to the letters bearing them, usually over the meter impressions. The machine was withdrawn on September 14, 1900.

To Karl Uchermann goes the honor of having originated the franking system as we know it today for use by private firms. His machines were constructed by Krag Maskinfabrik, of Kristiania. The frank dies were supplied by the Postal authorities and the design is one of the most attractive ever to have been used. The Krag/Uchermann machines produced both the 5 and 10 Ore stamps, but only the 5 ore value impressions are known used on covers. The machines were first used on June 15, 1903 and the latest date of use known is January 2,

1905.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA . The forerunner of the meter machines used in the United States was the invention of Arthur H. Pitney, co-founder of Pitney-Bowes, Inc. The machine was designed and built by Eugene A. Rummler. The printing unit was contained in a rectangular box-like structure. The first company for its promotion, Pitney Postal Machine Co., was organized in 1902. The machine was first demonstrated by Mr Rummler in the Post Office Department in Washington D.C. in March 1903. From November 24, 1903 to March 1904, all official correspondence of the Third Assistance Postmaster General was handled by this machine under the supervision of a committee of the P.O. Department appointed by Postmaster General Payne. The committee reported favorably on the machine but concluded that the Postmaster General did not have the authority to adopt that style of postage. Very few impressions from this machine are known. As only official mail was franked,

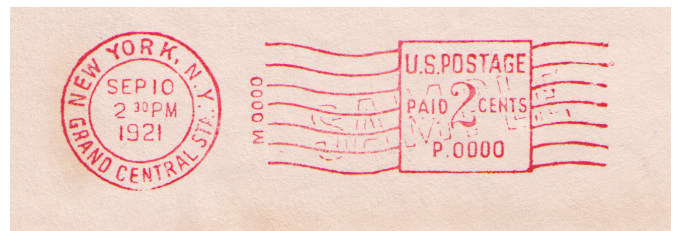
History continued on page 11



Di Brazza Imprint 1897



Norway 1903
Uchermann

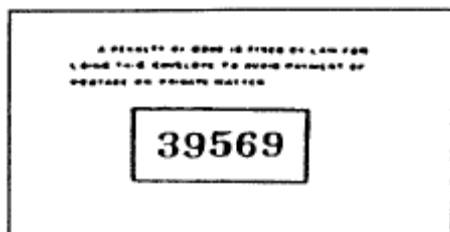


Sample of First US Postage Meter Pitney Bowes
First used August 1920.

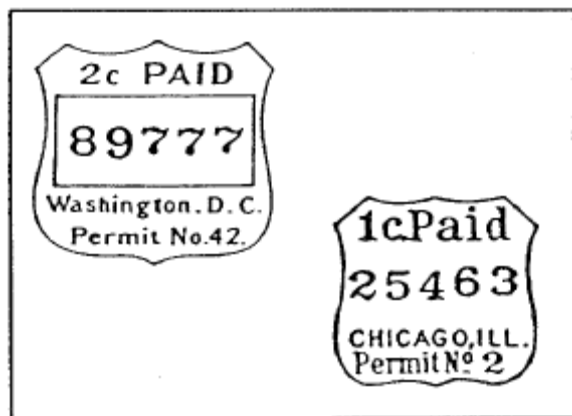
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the impressions produced bore no indication of value but only a serial number and the usual penalty clause applied to official mail (A PENALTY OF \$300 IS FIXED BY LAW FOR / USING THIS ENVELOPE TO AVOID PAYMENT OF / POSTAGE ON PRIVATE MATTER), and therefore they are not actual postage meter stamps, but merely government permits.

In May 1912, a five-day test of the first Pitney meter machine was conducted at Washington D.C. Matter which was run through this postage meter went through the mail and bore a shield shaped impression, value 1-cent or 2-cents. In September 1912, the American Postage Meter Co. of Chicago, Illinois was organized as a successor to Pitney Postal Machine Co. On January 28, 1914, further experiments were started at Chicago where at least eight (8) business houses used meter machines in conjunction with an envelope sealing machine, capable of sealing, franking, and counting approximately 250 pieces of mail per minute. Only third class mail (printed matter) was franked, with 1 cent or 2 cent values. This was permissible without further legislation as the frank was considered merely a permit, and the permit system had been in effect for third class matter since 1904. A total of over 850,000 pieces of mail were franked by the machines



Pitney Bowes 1903 Test



Pitney Bowes 1912 and 1914 Tests

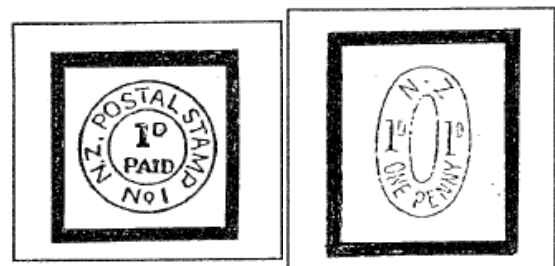
and mailed through the regular channels, but very few have survived.

It was not until September 1, 1920 that the first postage meter designed for first class mail was approved by the Post Office Department through a special act of Congress. The first mail franked by this Pitney-Bowes Postage Meter Co was posted at Stamford, Conn. on December 10, 1920, at 6:00 P.M. The remaining history of United States meters is covered in sufficient detail in other publications (See References).

NEW ZEALAND Ernest Moss of Christchurch presented a machine (Model 1) in March 1904. The first official reference to the machine is found in the report of the Postmaster General of June 21, 1904, which states that "quite recently no less than three 1d. Coin-in-the-slot stamp-vending machines have been offered to the department for trial. Only one of these has so far been sufficiently perfected to stand actual working tests. This machine, the work of a Christchurch inventor, was tried for two weeks in the portico of the Christchurch Office and for three weeks in Wellington" The insertion of discs, washers, etc, in place of coins led to the withdrawal of this machine. The Model 2 was introduced in 1905. There was only one die; the 1d. Various models continued to be used and New Zealand is credited with being the country with the longest continuous use of postage meters.

GREAT BRITAIN. As in the case of Norway Franking Machine in Oslo, an experimental unit was installed at the General Post Office, London E.C. It was the invention of F. Wilkinson of Essex and manufactured by the Automatic Stamp Selling Machines Ltd. It contained a coin-slot into which a penny was dropped after insertion of the letter to be franked in another opening. By turning a handle the letter was then franked, drawn into the box, and dropped into the box below. It was

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1904 Moss Meters in New Zealand

History continued from page 11

installed in King Edward General Post Office, London, January 25, 1912, in accordance with a notice in the P_O_Circular of January 23_ 1050 letters and cards were posted on the first day but the number soon dwindled to 20-30 per day and the machine was removed on August 31, 1912.

GERMANY. The first experiments in Germany involving postal franking machines began in 1921 and a few specimen impressions from a machine invented by Erich Komusin are known, but it was not until February 1923 that the first machines were used. They were of three types, lettered, A, B, and C, produced by Uhrenfabrik verm. L. Furtwangler Sohne A.G., Bafra A.g., and Ankerwerke A. G. respectively. Nineteen A machines were known to have been used, but only one each are known of the multi-value B and C machines. The later were on trial in Berlin for a very short period of time.

SWITZERLAND. Switzerland first authorized the use of meter franking on March 18, 1922 and its first use was at the end of March 1923 when Franco machines supplied by Franco A.G., Lucerne, and manufactured by Elster and Co., Lucerne, were put on the market. These were fixed value machines and the dies were supplied by the Government. The first Halser machine was authorized on September 15, 1923 and first used on February 1, 1924.

FRANCE. France first used meter machines in May 26, 1924 when L'Agence Havas introduced the Tiranty model, a single value machine. Like early New Zealand machines, this model printed the impression through a ribbon. Some of these machines had the value dies changed several times to keep pace with the devaluation of the franc, and the increase in

postage rates.

OTHER COUNTRIES/FIRMS Many other firms entered the field of meter machines, most of them marketing their products in the country of origin, such as Timbrographe (Belgium 1926), Sima (Societa Italiana Macchine Affrancatrice, Milan, Italy -- 1927), Sata (Societe pour l'Affranchissement et le Timbrage Automatiques, Paris, France -- 1934), A/B Frankator (Sweden -- 1934), Krag Maskin Fabrik A/S. (Oslo, Norway -- 1933), Portos (Aage Bencke, Copenhagen, Denmark -- 1941), Taxo-post (A/B Hadar Schmidt, Stockholm -- 1943), Postalia (Friestempler G.m.b. H. Frankfurt am Main, Germany -- 1939), Postitalia (S.A. Italiana Audion, Milan -- 1942), Rortex (C.R. Hawkins Ltd., Christchurch, New Zealand -- 1932), Taxotyp (Marton Kalman, Budapest, Hungary -- 1931), Safag (S.A.F.A.G., Biel, Switzerland 1928), Frama (Switzerland -- 1952).

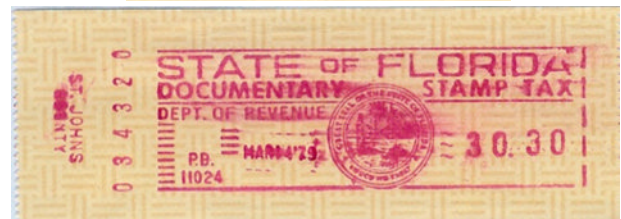
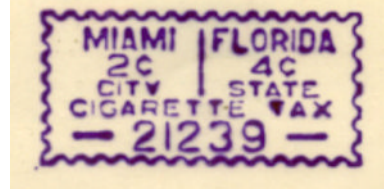
Metered Tax Stamps. A number of countries, including the U.S. and Canada, have used modifications of postage meters to collect a variety of taxes including document, real estate transfer and cigarette taxes.



Wilkinson coin operated Meter Great Britain 1912



Germany Uhrenfabrik Furtwängler 1923



Tax Meter Stamps used for a variety of Tax Collections

General Types of Postage Meters

The meters from the world as cataloged can be classified based on how the meter prints the postage indicia and if the device meters the postage used by mechanical, electronic or digital means.

Fixed Value (FV, FV-*n*)

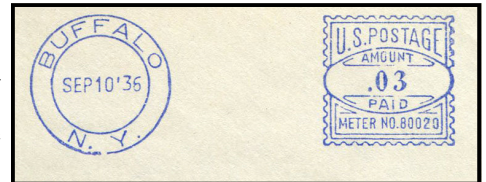
The stamp from a **FV** machine is printed from a die containing the entire frank including the frame and value figure as fixed elements. Some FV meters contain a small selection of dies for different denominations of stamps. Such meters are designated **FV-*n*** with '*n*' being the number of different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



FV One Value possible per meter

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.

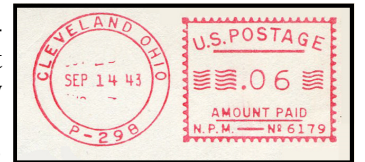


LV Six Values possible per meter

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. Some catalogs use the term Omnidenominational to indicate that the meter prints all values between zero and some maximum like 9.99.



MV Values 0.00 to 9.99 1/2

Digital (digital)

The early **Digital** postage meters maintained postage records and operated electronically but printed with a metal die as did older meters. Modern completely digital meters do not have a solid die but print the stamp with computer printer through an ink tape or more recently use ink jet or laser technology. All meters that were not fully digital were recalled as a result of the Meter Migration Mandate. In the US and Canada this was completed, after a few extensions, by 2007. Most counties now allow only fully digital postage meters.



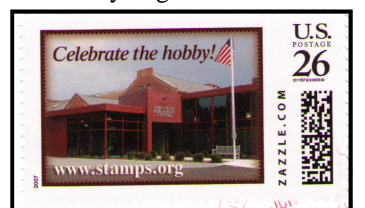
Electronic w/Mechanical Printer



Fully Digital Meter

PC Postage

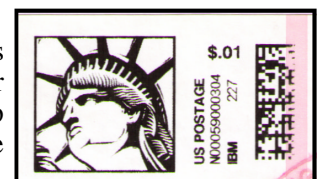
About 1988 the US Postal Service began allowing several forms of user defined postage and took PC Postage as a trademark. This program opened the way for a number of "alternate postage" items. These include postage printed at a personal computer (which in some cases has a user supplied image) as well as postage with a user supplied image that is printed by an authorized vendor and shipped to the user. The USPS originally stated in earlier versions of the DMM (Domestic Mail Manual) that all PC Postage are "meters" and not stamps. That statement is no longer found in the DMM.



PC Postage with User Image

Computer Vended Postage (CVP)

Also known as **Variable Denomination**. A subset of PC Postage. Postage is vended by a computer housed in a postal kiosk or from a personal computer or from a machine that is similar to a digital postage meter. There is some overlap with other types of postage. This type is available in the U.S. and around the world.



CVP Postage

What To Collect?

On the topic of what to collect, the possibilities are almost endless and bound only by such factors as interest, access to material, finances and innovation. The guidelines below are designed to help collectors who recently have become interested in postage meter stamps and are looking for ideas of what they might collect.

GENERAL TYPE COLLECTION: Collecting the postage meter stamps from all the different meter types or models placed into use in a given country, area, or the world. This could be limited to major types only or could include varieties of the main stamp types. Collecting U.S. meter stamps this way, for example, would correspond to the organization used in the Hawking/Stambaugh catalog (see References).

SPECIAL TYPE COLLECTION: This is collecting by type, but limiting it to one meter manufacturer or meter stamp group. Collecting this way can be done in various degrees of depth. For example, one of these could include all major and minor varieties, experimental versions, essays, proofs and specimens, errors, different colors, different denominations, and even different meter numbers.

COLLECTIONS BY GROUP: A collection could be limited to a special group of meter stamps such as: post office machines (regular and/or postage due), those dispensed by vending machine, and those used by the Military or by the Federal government.

COLLECTIONS BY TOPIC: Just about any topic or theme can be collected through meter stamp slogans. Topical collection (AKA Thematic) has become a major collection method, blending normal postage stamp subjects, envelope advertisements as well as meter stamps with slogans.

POSTAL HISTORY: Collecting postal rates and services is ideal with metered mail. In fact, some rates and services are unknown on anything but metered mail. It is also possible to collect postal directives, e.g., "FIRST CLASS MAIL", or "BOUND PRINTED MATTER - SHEET MUSIC", as well as a wide range of other directives, applied by meter.

TOWN COLLECTIONS: Collecting by meter stamp town mark is very popular. This can be done for all the towns in any country, state or province, or even all the known meter numbers used in any one town.

RELATED AREAS: Closely related to meter stamps are permit stamps, i.e., those postage stamps applied by permit printer machines. Permit stamps are as collectable and varied as meter stamps. Also popular to collect are CVP stamps (AKA as Frama stamps). These computerized vending machine stamps are produced as meter stamps but are used as normal adhesive postage stamps.

From about 1960 to the early 1990s United Parcel Service (UPS) shipping tags were produced by postage meters and these also make a good collecting area. ■

Sources

There are many sources where collectors may acquire and accumulate meter stamps and in some cases, need be limited only by one's own creativity.

The first source is our own daily mail. This has always been an excellent way of acquiring material. Convincing your neighbors to save envelopes from their mail for you is also an excellent source. Getting a local business to save envelopes for you is even better, given their volume of mail. These sources don't require a cash outlay and, for those people just starting, are a good source of modern meter stamps.

A second source is participating in the many MSS auctions (minimum of one per year). These auctions often present opportunities to acquire, at fair prices, scarce material that may otherwise be difficult to obtain in any other manner. Items offered range in price from \$1.00 to several hundred dollars. Occasionally, meter lots are offered through mail auctions, as postal history, by some

of the large mail bid companies.

A third source is a dealer who stocks meters. Admittedly, there are very few of them, but some advertise in the MSS Bulletin and members are encouraged to support them. With the increased interest in meters as postal history and the increased interest in meter slogans, dealers are becoming more aware of collector needs. Local stamp dealers also often have meters available as they get them in the course of acquiring stamp collections. And, don't overlook the dealers at the stamp shows, who often have small stocks of meters available.

A fourth source is through use of the "want ad" section of the MSS Bulletin (also posted on the MSS website) where members can advertise their collecting interests. Members are given one free ad per year.

Finally, the Meter Stamp Society Discussion Group on Yahoo Groups is a good place to meet others who may have material to swap. ■

How To Collect

There is no mandated, or even universally preferred, size format when it comes to collecting meter stamps - this is ultimately dictated by personal choice. However, the prevailing thinking on the subject today is that they should, whenever possible, be collected in their original size. That is to say, a metered cover should never be reduced to a cut or a front (except where very large envelopes make storage and mounting clumsy). - full covers are better than fronts, which, in turn, are better than 2" x 4" cuts. By "better", it is meant that the item is more valuable as a collectible artifact in terms of postal significance and salability. The postal history value of a cover should be considered before cutting it down. Special rates, special usages and important events should cause a cover to be saved intact.

Meters can be collected in many different ways and the most common are full cover, cuts, and tapes.

CUTS 2 or 3 inches by x inches: The two or three inch cut is the most practical. Cut to at least 4 inches but never cut off a company slogan or a postal directive. If the company address is at the left corner consider keeping that too. Cutting the strip was very popular in the early days. Its almost considered a crime today

by collectors seeking postal history items.

TAPES Meter stamps on tape, of course, require no trimming. They may conveniently be mounted on album pages with one wide hinge or two stamp hinges. (NEVER use cellophane tape). Many collectors mount their tapes on slips of plain paper cut to the same size as the rest of the collection for ease of filing. Again, it is best to keep the entire, especially when there are other markings or stickers (such as customs forms) on the cover. For larger envelopes and boxes try to keep as much of the postal history as possible. Older tapes could be soaked off of the envelope in cold water and dried between blotters or paper towels. More recently the glue used prevents removal.

FULL COVER This is the preferred format for collecting. By collecting in this manner, all aspects of the piece are preserved (information on user and addressee, postal handling marks, backstamps, annotations, etc). The small size covers can be mounted horizontally and the large size can be mounted vertically. Only if a large piece is damaged and is your only example, for now, should it be cut. In any case, try to salvage as much of the cover as possible. Scarce and unusual pieces or usages should never be cut. ■

Collection Organization

The answer to the question of how to organize your collection depends entirely on what you collect and why. If you collect SLOGANS you would most likely want to categorize them by topic. If you collect TOWNS you would probably find it convenient to arrange them alphabetically under each state. If you collect by meter TYPE you would want to organize them according to a logical structure such as that found in the Simon-Walsh United States Postage Meter Stamp Catalog. The Simon-Walsh (S/W) system is not the only way, nor is it necessarily the best way for your special interests. Some TYPE collectors ignore the S/W categories of Post Office and Postage Due meters and include such examples as varieties of the basic meter type. Others focus on the type of meter MACHINE and collect all meter

stamp types and varieties produced by that machine. Such collections could contain Official and Revenue meter stamps, which are design-different, as well as same-design commercial, Post Office, and Postage Due meters. Such collections could even include meter stamps from other countries as long as they are produced by the same machine.

Years ago, collecting by METER NUMBER was popular. Collectors would try to get example from every meter placed into service and would organize them in numeric sequence. In the 1920s with only a few thousand meters in existence this may have been a realistic challenge, but today, with millions of meters in use, such a collection seems very unrealistic. Collecting by number may still have some

Organize continued from page 15

meaning when focused on meter types which had only a few machines were placed into service. An amazing meter number database for early US postage meters is available for free download from the MSS website's bookstore. Today some collectors work together to determine the meter ranges for each type of postage meter and manufacturer.

As some traditional philatelists focus on a single Scott-listed stamp and try to collect all

varieties, errors, and uses associated with it, some meter stamp collectors do the same with an individual meter type. One could organize the collection into sections such as (a) COLOR, which would contain an example of every color ink used on a meter, (b) VALUE, containing all values the machine could produce, (c) TOWN MARK VARIETIES, (d) ERRORS, and (e) odd and unusual USES. No doubt there are many other categories imaginative collectors will create. ■

How to House A Collection

There are generally two ways to house a collection: in boxes (to include any kind of container) and in albums. Boxing covers is cheap and can be efficient as long as the covers are kept in some kind of logical order (by type, by number, or by whatever method you collect) and are not jammed in tightly. It is also simple to insert new acquisitions in their proper order. The trouble with boxing is that it is not easy to peruse your collection or show it off without manhandling the covers and, being unmounted, it is, of course, not exhibitable. If you have no intention of exhibiting and are careful when you go through your meters, boxing is a completely satisfactory way to house a collection. One word of caution: cardboard boxes contain acid in the cardboard, so for long-term storage, line the boxes with neutral paper.

Mounting a collection in albums makes it easier to review and show others. It also helps preserve the covers since, once mounted, they do not have to be touched to be seen. Additionally, a small write-up can easily accompany each cover on the page. Drawbacks include the inconvenience of inserting new acquisitions in their proper place and the high relative cost. Mounting in albums is more expensive than using boxes, both in money and in time.

There is a wide variety of choices for mounting covers ranging from almost free to very expensive. Collections can be mounted cheaply in common three-ring binders using stamp hinges and notebook paper, or expensively in leather binders, with slip covers, and double-sided pocketed pages for protection.

Adding to the expense is the fact that no stamp album publisher makes a pages for covers over 7 or 8 inches wide. Since most meters are found on standard business size envelopes (#10), conventional album pages are usually too small for horizontal mounting. Mounting vertically will allow you to use the cheaper standard size pages, but

this can be ultimately more expensive since there is room for only one cover per page. A few page publishers make plain unpocketed pages large enough to hold two or three business size covers per side, but to use these pages one is still faced with the problem of how to mount the covers. Hinges and photo corners are available for this but have drawbacks. Only one manufacturer currently makes binders and pocketed pages designed to hold covers up to nine and even eleven inches wide, but a single album of this size with room for 240 covers is very expensive.

As a technical data note regarding album pages, a Chicago firm published the results of a study of 64 different brands/types and found that MOST contain acid and will harm anything mounted on them, over time. Current technology requires archival paper, i.e. paper that provides resistance to the effects of natural aging, to be acid free with a minimum pH of 7.0. The pH is a measure of the acid/alkaline content of an item. A pH of 7.0 is neutral, below 7.0, the item is acidic and higher than 7.0, it is alkaline. Since this is a logarithmic scale, an item with pH of 5.0 is ten times more acidic than one with pH of 6.0. Of the 64 pages tested, 47 were acidic and only 17 were acid free. What is exceptionally disappointing is that some of the worse papers are marketed by philatelic supply houses with the most prestigious names (and highest prices). The point is that collectors should be aware of the long-term effects of paper and various adhesives and that some mounting techniques and methods should be avoided. It is also pointed out that the material in the windows of "TRANSO" envelopes will stain anything they touch and gum and tape on the backs of certain envelopes can also stain other envelopes they come in contact with. -- don't store these in contact with other covers. Postage Validation Imprinter (PVI) postage meters are very light-sensitive so store them in a cool dark place or they will fade. This is also probably true with Intermec and Canadian Nixdorf postage meters. ■

US Variable Denomination Stamps - FAQs

What are variable denomination stamps (VDS)?

They are stamps printed and dispensed from public vending machines (eg self-service kiosks in post offices), or with the use of personal computers. They can be used anywhere and anytime, just like traditional postage stamps.

The public generated issues are called computer vended postage (CVP), Automat stamps or ATM stamps (German for 'Automaten-marken'),

The personal computer printed postage issues are referred to as Internet Postage stamps.

What do variable denomination stamps look like?

The major types of US variable denomination stamps are depicted in following pages. All VDS issues since 1999 have in common that they show a 2D-barcode, which indicates postage payment, eases mail sorting and prevents postage fraud.

Where can you purchase variable denomination stamps?

(a) Computer vended postage stamps:

They can be purchased from self-service (In the U.S. APC/SSK) kiosks in larger post offices. In the US, more than 2,600 self-service kiosks are operating. The location of these kiosks can be found on the USPS website:

<https://tools.usps.com/go/POLocatorAction!input.action>

Additionally, some one hundred mail & go™ postal kiosks manufactured by Pitney Bowes are operating on university campuses, military facilities and in corporations.

(b) Internet postage stamps:

To print stamps on a personal computer, one has to first register with one of the three PC postage providers in the US (Stamp.com, Endicia or Pitney Bowes) online (or their affiliates). Next, specially designated sheets or label rolls

are purchased from the PC postage provider. Upon receipt of sheets or label rolls and purchasing postage online, consumers can print real postage stamps on sheets or label rolls using a personal computer and an inkjet, laser or thermal printer.

Is it possible to obtain variable denomination stamps from the USPS Stamp Fulfillment Center ("The Cave")?

Unfortunately, neither the USPS nor any PC postage provider offers variable denomination stamps to collectors. In addition, almost no information about new issues/changes in the paper/imprint/etc. is released by these companies making it very difficult and challenging to collect VDS!

Are US variable denomination stamps listed in catalogs?

Yes, the 'Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers', 93rd Edition (2015), by Charles Snee and James E. Kloetzel lists most major types.

For collectors who are interested in a more detailed listing of major/minor types and information about these issues, the handbook 'USA: Variable Denomination Stamps (1989-2015)' by Karim Roder, a member of the MSS, is recommended:

<https://www.createspace.com/5554174>

Where else can I find information about older and future variable denomination stamp issues?

A membership in the MSS is highly recommended to learn more about these issues. It is really easy and cheap to join the MSS and you can learn a wealth of information about variable denomination stamps, meter postage and customized postage as well as other modern types of postage from the US and the rest of the world. ■

Variable continued on page 16

What continued from page 2

a meter, not a "Stamp". This includes several varieties of postage indicia that may or may not include an image provided by the vendor or an image provided by the user. Most of these postage payment methods are handled by vendors in the U.S. (See page 4).

Many countries now have some form of Personalised (as the rest of the world spells it) postage that can be ordered from the central post office. Virtually all countries that provide Personalised stamps handle sales and printing through the country post office. A partial list of countries that provide at least one form of Personalised postage is maintained at <http://meterstampsociety.com/WorldPersPost.html>.

Some allow a user supplied image inside the stamp and some allow the image on a tab next to a stamp. At this writing only the U.S. allows

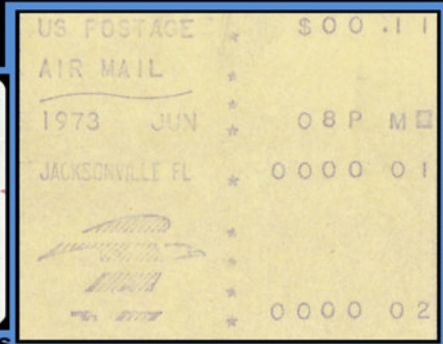
third party vendors to sell products directly to the user. Many countries now have websites that allow a postal patron to pay the postage for a letter or package over the internet and print the label from a computer printer.

These postage payment methods as used outside the U.S. generally are not considered "meter stamps" by the postal administrations. They are considered "stamps" just like their other items.

Several catalogs have been prepared just for U.S. "meter stamps" based on the definition that the authors choose. Collectors around the world have enthusiastically embraced Computer Vended Postage (CVP), most of which are vended by machines outside each country's post offices. U.S. CVP and Personalized stamps were listed by Scott until about 2006. After 2006 only U.S. CVP stamps are listed by Scott. ■

Classification of US VDS

1. Dated VDS without 2D-code



Meter postage from self-service kiosks

2. Undated VDS without 2D-code



Autopost



Postage indicia printed onto postcards



Postage imprinted on Postal Buddy cards



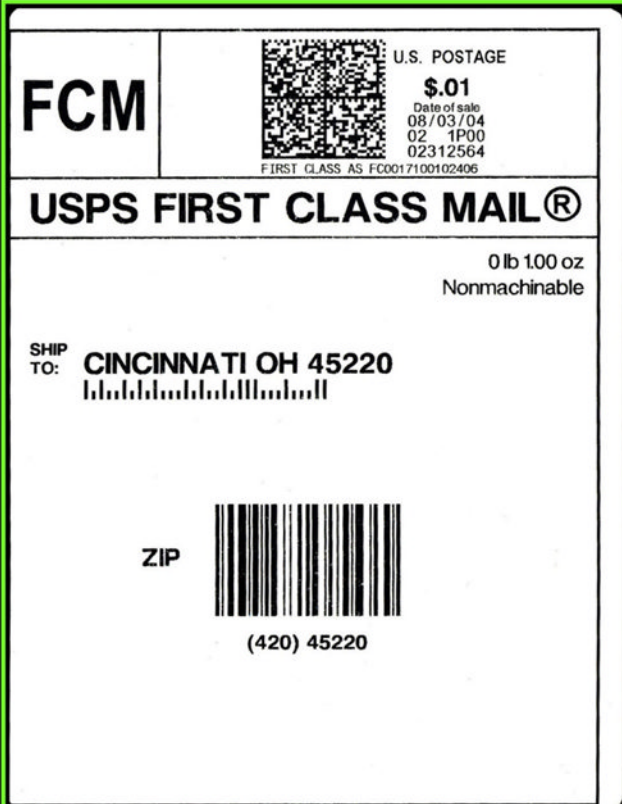
Representative PMC postage

3. Dated VDS with 2D-code

Representative self-service kiosk postage
*Imprint 'APC', 'SSK' or 'FOREVER': 3.7;
imprint 'IBM': 3.9*



Representative mail&go Postal Kiosk postage



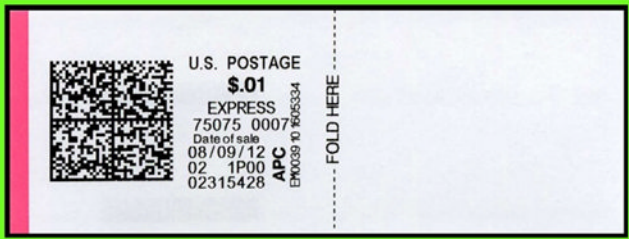
Representative self-service kiosk postage



APC postage from IBM kiosk



APC postage from NCR kiosk



FOLD HERE

4. Undated VDS with 2D-code



Representative SnapStamps



Representative Neopostage



Sold in sheets of 4 or 10 stamps



Representative NetStamps



Inscription 'stamps.com'



Imprint 'PITNEY BOWES'



Representative pbSmartPostage



Avery Stamp



Stamp Expressions

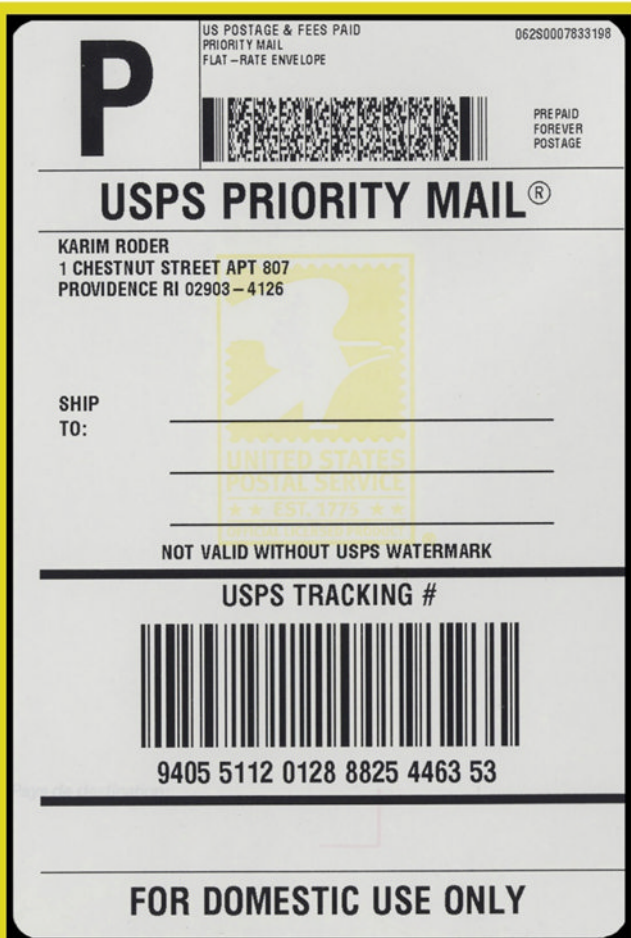
Representative stamps from Endicia



Inscription 'endicia.com'



Representative postage label for Forever Priority Packaging



Watermarked prepaid postage labels with PDF417 or 'postage paid' indicium affixed on Forever Packaging

U.S. Postage Alternatives

The invention of the Postage Meter provided the first major alternative to the use of postage stamps. Then after about 1989 when the USPS invented the concept of PC Postage things got very complex. We have attempted to provide a guide here for the many postage alternatives that have been available. Most of the alternatives were short lived but stamps produced by them are very collectable. It should be noted that the USPS registered the term PC Postage as its trademark. However, we have the choice of naming and categorizing as we please.

Essentially this list is of three categories, Traditional Postage Stamps, Traditional Postage Meters, and PC-Postage (including the experiments leading up to PC-Postage). Due to the many forms of PC Postage the list below certainly does not seem quite that simple. This outline shows a few examples of each type of PC Postage available. These were sold by a number of authorized vendors.

A. Unmetered: Traditional postage stamps, fixed denomination postage produced before it is sold. Definitives, commemoratives, semi-postals, airmail, tax, postage dues. Used anytime after sale. Sold by USPS over the counter, through vendors, by mail or from vending machines.

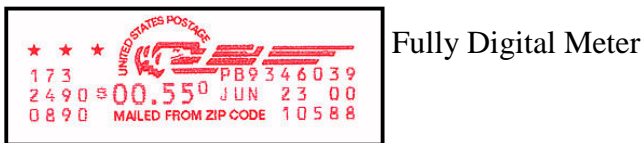
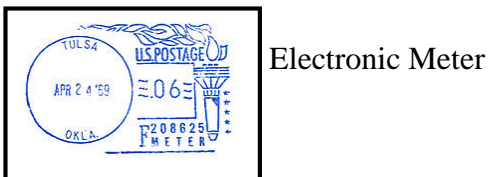
B. Metered: postage generated/produced and controlled by a mechanism (mechanically or algorithmically) matching that postage to the credit available. Credit used to be added when the meter was taken to the local post office. Later telephone connections handled credit. In the digital age the internet is used.

B1. Generated by rented postage meters, used on the date of sale

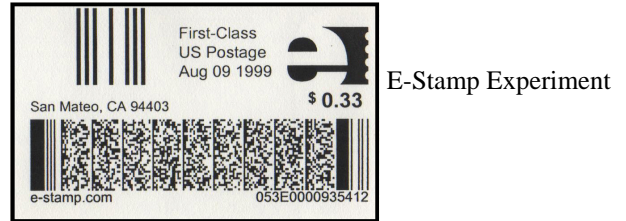
B. Metered: postage generated/produced is controlled by a mechanism (mechanically or algorithmically) matching that postage to the credit available.

B1. Generated by rented postage meters, used date of sale

B1a. Stand-alone units
Traditional Postage Meters
(mechanical, electronic, digital)

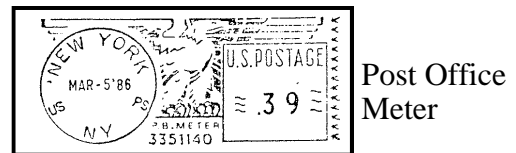


- B1b. Units attached to a personal computer (special printer or vault)
- E-Stamps 1998-2000
- Neopost PC Stamp/Simply Postage
- PCmail1998-2000
- NeopostSimply Postage/
- SimplyPostage PROmail 2000-2003
- PB ClickStamp Plus 1999
- Stamp Expressions



B2. Post Office Counter Units, used date of sale

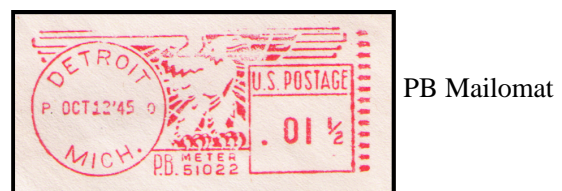
B2a. Traditional Postage Meters, used at the post office desk



B2b. PVI Meters. Used date of sale



mPOS (point of sale) handheld units



B3. Generated by vending machines
 B3a. Stamps valid only on date vended

Vending Experiments

- Di Brazza 1898
- NCR Austin 1971
- PPMF 1973
- Pi Elec. Zipster Plus 1992
- ASM 1992
- PB NPM Postcard 1993

Vending

- PB Mailomat 1936-1970

B3b. Stamps valid on any date

Vending Experiments

- Autopost 1989
- Postal Buddy 1990-93
- PMC Coils 1992-2002
- APC 1999-2004
- Neopost Kiosk Test 2000-2002
- IBM(Schaumburg) 2008-2009

Vending

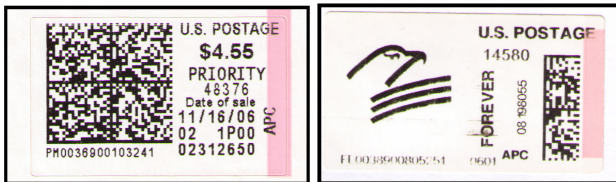
- APC 2004 SSK 2014
- PB Mail&go Kiosk 2005



B3b. APC Parcel Shipping Label



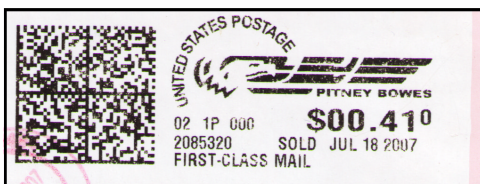
B3b. IBM (Schaumburg) Experiment Stamps



B3b. Early APC Stamps (thermal printing)



B3b. SSK Stamps (Thermal on Preprinted color stock)



B3b PB Mail&Go Stamps
 Thermal B/W and Inkjet Color



B4a. USPS Click-N-Ship
 Online Postage

B4. Generated online

B4a. Stamps valid only on date generated
 Stamps.com 1998

- Neopost Postage Plus/SimplyPostage
- EZmail 1999-2000

- PB ClickStamp Online 1999-2004
- PB Shipstream Manager 2010-2012

- PB iSend/pbSmartPostage 2012

- Endicia Internet Postage 2001

- USPS Click-N-Ship 2002

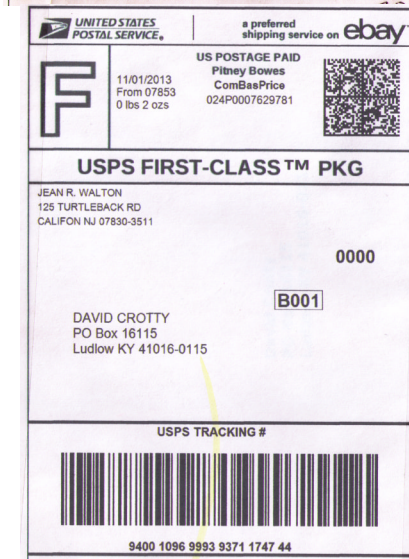
- eBay/Paypal shipping assistants



B4a. Endicia Postage



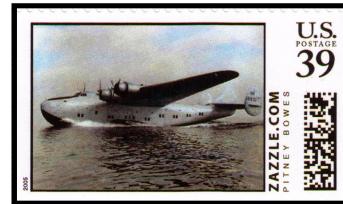
B4b. Dymo Postage
W/o user image.



B5. Personalized postage (postage containing design element chosen by patron), Valid any date.

B5a. PC Postage Providers:

- Pitney Bowes Expressions SE
- Stamps.com PhotoStamps 2004
- Endicia PictureItPostage 2005
- Zazzle.com ZazzleStamps 2005



B5a. Zazzle Personal (Custom)
Postage w/ User Image

B5b. PC Postage Affiliates:

- Xpress It Postage 2006
- PremierPostage LLC 2006
- Fujifilm: YourStamps 2007
- And many more

- B4b. Stamps valid on any date
- SnapStamps 2000-2001
- NetStamps 2002
- InstaPostage/Dymo Postage 2005
- Avery Stamps 2009
- pbSmartPostage 2011
- Dymo Postage
- USPS Priority Mail Forever Packaging 2011
- Designs-on-Demand NetStamps 2012

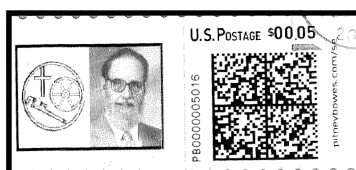


B5b Affiliate "Your Postage"
Postage w/ User Image

B5c. Postcards

PhotoCard 2009

An affiliate vendor sends photo post cards either by eMail or Post Office. If by Post office prints an image of a PC Postage stamp on the post card.



B4b. PbSmartPostage
With user image.

Postage Meter Stamp Identifier

<u>Text in the Stamp</u>	<u>See:</u>
ABU DHABI	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
ACORES.....	AZORES
ADEN.....	YEMEN
A.E.F.	FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA
AFARS & ISSAS.....	DJIBOUTI
AFRIQUE EQUATORIALE FRANCAISE	FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA
AFRIQUE OCCIE FRANCAISE	FRENCH WEST AFRICA
ALGERIE or ALGERIENNE	ALGERIA
AMSTERDAM / TE BETALEN	NETHERLANDS
ANDORRE.....	ANDORRA
A R E	EGYPT
B H	BELIZE
BASUTOLAND.....	LESOTHO
BECHUANALAND	BOTSWANA
BELGIQUE BELGIE or BELGIE BELGIQUE	BELGIUM
BIAFRA	NIGERIA
BÖHMEN UND MÄHREN	CZECHOSLOVAKIA
BOPHUTHATSWANA.....	SOUTH AFRICA
BR. SOLOMON IS.	SOLOMON ISLANDS
BR. VIRGIN IS.	BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS
BRASIL.....	BRAZIL
BRITISH GUIANA.....	GUYANA
BRITISH HONDURAS	BELIZE
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.....	SOLOMON ISLANDS
BS.AS.REP.ARG.	ARGENTINA
BURMA.....	MYANMAR
CCCPUNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS (also ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA)	
C F A	REUNION
CABO VERDE	CAPE VERDE
CAMBODGE.....	CAMBODIA
CAMEROUN.....	CAMEROON
CAYMAN W.I.	CAYMAN ISLANDS
CESKA REPUBLICA.....	CZECH REPUBLIC
CESKOSLOVENSKO	CZECHOSLOVAKIA
CEYLON	SRI LANKA
Chra./Aut. No. 1	NORWAY
CISKEI.....	SOUTH AFRICA
COMORES.....	COMOROS ISLANDS
CONGO/ BELGE / BELGISCH.....	CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
CONGO (alone).....	CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
CONGO, REPUBIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE	CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
CONGO, REPUBLIQUE DU	CONGO, PEOPLES REPUBLIC
CONGO, REPUBLIQUE PPAIRE/ REP POP	CONGO, PEOPLES REPUBLIC
CORREIOS DO ESTADO DA INDIA	PORTUGUESE INDIA
COTE D'IVOIRE.....	IVORY COAST
COTE DU SOMALI.....	DJIBOUTI
COTE FRANCAISE DES SOMALIS	DJIBOUTI
CURACAO	NETHERLANDS ANTILLES
DAHOMAY.....	BENIN
DAI NIPPON TEIKOKU YUBIN	INDONESIA
D'ANDORRE.....	ANDORRA
DANMARK	DENMARK
DEUTSCHE BUNDESPOST.....	GERMANY
DEUTSCHE POST.....	GERMANY
DEUTSCHE REICHPOST	GERMANY
DEUTSCHES BUNDESPOST/ SAARLAND.....	GERMANY

DEUTSCHES REICH.....	GERMANY
DEUTSCHES REICH or REICHPOST with Austrian town mark	AUSTRIA
DEUTSCHLAND	GERMANY
DUBAI	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
EESTI	ESTONIA
EGYPTE.....	EGYPT
EIRE <i>or</i> EIREANN.....	IRELAND
EMPIRE CENTRAFRICAINE	CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
ESPAÑA.....	SPAIN
ESPANOLA	SPAIN
ESTADO DA INDIA	PORTUGUESE INDIA
FEDERATED MALAY STATES	MALAYSIA
FØROYAR.....	FAROE ISLANDS
FRANQUIA	PORTUGAL
FUNCHAL.....	MADEIRA ISLANDS
GABONAISE	GABON
GEBÜHR BEZAHLT	GERMANY
GENERAL-GOUVERNEMENT	POLAND
GOLD COAST	GHANA
GRØNLAND.....	GREENLAND
GUINE-BISSAU.....	GUINEA BISSAU
GUINEA ECUA	EQUATORIAL GUINEA
GUINEE	GUINEA
HARARE	ZIMBABWE
HAUTE VOLTA.....	BURKINA FASO
HELLAS.....	GREECE
HELVETIA.....	SWITZERLAND
HRVATSKA	CROATIA
HYDERABAD	INDIA
INDOCHINE.....	FRENCH INDOCHINA
ISLAND	ICELAND
ITALIANE.....	ITALY
JAMAHIRIYA	LIBYA
JAMAICA with GRAND CAYMAN W.I. in the town mark.....	CAYMAN ISLANDS
JUGOSLAVIJA <i>or</i> JUGOSLLAVIA	YUGOSLAVIA
K S A	SAUDI ARABIA
KATANGA	CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
KENYA UGANDA	EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
KENYA UGANDA TANGANYIKA	EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
KENYA UGANDA TANZANIA	EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
KGL. POST... ØRE PORTO.....	DENMARK
KIBRIS	CYPRUS
L A R	LIBYA
LAO	LAOS
LATVIJA <i>or</i> LATVIJAS	LATVIA
LIBAN	LEBANON
LIETUVA <i>or</i> LIETUVOS.....	LITHUANIA
LUXEMBURG	LUXEMBOURG
MACAU	MACAO
MAGYAR POSTA.....	HUNGARY
MAGYARORSZAG	HUNGARY
MAKEDONIJA	MACEDONIA
MALAGASY.....	MADAGASCAR
MALAYA	MALAYSIA
MALGACHE.....	MADAGASCAR
MAROC	MOROCCO
MAURITANIE	MAURITANIA
MOCAMBIQUE	MOZAMBIQUE
NATIONES UNIES	UNITED NATIONS
NED-INDIE <i>or</i> ned.indie	INDONESIA

NEDERELANDSE ANTILLEN	NETHERLANDS ANTILLES
NEDERLAND	NETHERLANDS
NEDERLANDS-NIEUW-GUINEA	INDONESIA
NEW HEBRIDES	VANUATU
NIPPON	JAPAN
Nlle CALEDONIE	NEW CALEDONIA
NOREG <i>or</i> NORGE	NORWAY
NORTH BORNEO	MALAYSIA
NORTHERN RHODESIA	ZAMBIA
NYASALAND	MALAWI
N Z	NEW ZEALAND
OFFENTLIG SAK	NORWAY
OSLO	NORWAY
ÖSTERREICH	AUSTRIA
P. I. POSTAGE	PHILIPPINES
PAKKEPOST/ PORTO BETALT	NORWAY
PAKKETPOS/ PARCEL POST	SOUTH AFRICA
PILIPINAS	PHILIPPINES
POCZTA	POLAND
POLSKA	POLAND
POLYNESIE FRANCAISE	FRENCH POLYNESIA
POST NA MBEART	IRELAND
POSTAS IOCTHA	IRELAND
POSTES FRANCAIS with Algerian town mark	ALGERIA
PRINCIPAUTE D'ANDORRE <i>or</i> PTE D'ANDORRE	ANDORRA
R A E	EGYPT
R A U	EGYPT
R D C	CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
REFUGEE/ RELIEF	INDIA
REPUBLICA DOMINICA	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
REPUBLICA PORTUGUESA/ CORREIO DE ANGOLA	ANGOLA
REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE	CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO	CONGO, PEOPLES REPUBLIC
REPUBLIQUE DU CONGO	CONGO, PEOPLES REPUBLIC
REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE	FRANCE
REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE ALGER <i>or</i> ALGERIE	ALGERIA
REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE C F A	REUNION
REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE POSTES with Algerian town mark	ALGERIA
REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE with ANDORRE LA VIEILLE in the town mark	ANDORRA
REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE with MAYOTTE in the town mark	MAYOTTE
RHODESIA	ZIMBABWE
ROMANA	ROMANIA
R M	MOLDOVA
R M I	MARSHALL ISLANDS
R.O. del U.	URUGUAY
R O P	PALAU
RWANDAISE	RWANDA
S.A.D.C.	SINGAPORE
S. MARINO	SAN MARINO
SAAR	GERMANY
SAARGEBIET	GERMANY
SAARLAND	GERMANY
SABAH MALAYSIA	MALAYSIA
ST. CHRISTOPHER NEVIS ANGUILLA	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS
ST. KITTS NEVIS ANGUILLA	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS
SALISBURY	ZIMBABWE
SAMOA	WESTERN SAMOA
SAORSTAT EIREANN	IRELAND
SARAWAK	MALAYSIA
SERBIEN	SERBIA

SERPOST	PERU
SERVICO POSTAL MILITAR	PORTUGAL
SIAM	THAILAND
SLOVENIJA	SLOVENIA
SLOVENSKO	SLOVAKIA
SOUTH ARABIA, FEDERATION OF	YEMEN
SOUTH WEST AFRICA <i>or</i> SOUTHWEST AFRICA	NAMIBIA
SOUTHERN RHODESIA	ZIMBABWE
SOUTHERN YEMEN, PEOPLES REPUBLIC	YEMEN
SPEED POST/ RUPEES	INDIA
SPLAJ	LIBYA
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS	MALAYSIA
SUIDAFRIKA <i>or</i> SUID AFRIKA	SOUTH AFRICA
SUIDWESAFRIKA <i>or</i> SUIDWES AFRIKA	NAMIBIA
SVERIGE	SWEDEN
SYRIAN AR	SYRIA
SYRIENNE	SYRIA
TANGANYIKA	EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
TANZANIA UGANDA KENYA	EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
TAXE PERCUE / CHENGDU	CHINA, PEOPLES REPUBLIC (mainland)
TCHAD	CHAD
TE' BETALEN/ PORT	NETHERLANDS
TER FRs AFARS ET ISSAS	DJIBOUTI
TOGOLAISE	TOGO
TRANSKEI	SOUTH AFRICA
TUNISIE	TUNISIA
TURK POSTALARI	TURKEY
TURKIYE	TURKEY
U A E	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
U A R	EGYPT
U.S. POSTAGE	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
VATICANE	VATICAN CITY
VENDA	SOUTH AFRICA
VEREINTE NATIONEN	UNITED NATIONS
VIRGIN ISLANDS (BRITISH)	BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS
VOLTA	BURKINA FASO
VOLTAIQUE	BURKINA FASO
WINDHOEK	NAMIBIA
YKPIHI	UKRAINE
ZAIRE	CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
ZENTRALER KURIERDIENST	GERMANY
Frank without country name. With "ALGER" in town mark	ALGERIA
Frank without country name. With "БЪЛГАРИЯ" in town mark	BULGARIA
Frank without country name. With "СОФИЯ" in town mark	BULGARIA
Frank without country name. With "TCHAD" at bottom of town mark	CHAD
Frank without country name. With Congolese town (e.g. "LUBUMBASHI") in town mark	CONGO, D.R.
Frank without country name. With crown	GREAT BRITAIN
Frank without country name. With "DJAKARTA" in town mark	INDONESIA
Frank without country name. With "ПОЧТА" KAZAKHSTAN, MOLDOVA, RUSSIA, or UKRAINE	UKRAINE
Frank without country name. With flying "ptt" symbol at bottom	MACEDONIA
Frank without country name. With date above "Franqueadora Nacional" at top	MEXICO
Frank without country name. With "CASA-POSTES" in town mark	MOROCCO
Frank without country name. With "K" in box at lower right	MYANMAR
Frank without country name. With "NAMIBIA" in town mark	NAMIBIA
Frank without country name. With "BUCHURESTI" in town mark	ROMANIA
Frank without country name. With "R.S.M." in town mark	SAN MARINO
Frank without country name. With "SINGAPORE" in town mark	SINGAPORE
Frank without country name. With solid panel at top of frank, "ptt" logo at bottom	SLOVENIA

Frank without country name. With "TANZANIA" in town mark.....	TANZANIA
Frank without country name. With "WESTERN SAMOA" in town mark.....	WESTERN SAMOA
Frank without country name. With "LJUBLJANA" in town mark	YUGOSLAVIA
Frank without Western country name, with Arabic script only	EGYPT
Frank without Western country name, with Burmese script only.....	MYANMAR
Horizontal lines with value figures, no country name.....	BERMUDA, CHINA (mainland), CZECHOSLO- VAKIA
Meter no. N27, "POSTAGE" and "REVENUE" vertical at sides, blank panel at top.....	GREAT BRITAIN
Octagonal frank without inscription, "TAPTY" in town mark.....	ESTONIA
Oval frame, blank at top, "Rpf" at bottom, RIGA in the town mark	LATVIA
Shield shape containing "Washington, D.C." or "CHICAGO, ILL"	UNITED STATES
Unengraved frank appearing solid around the value figures. TM reads "HALFWAY HOUSE"	SOUTH AFRICA
Upright rectangle with wavy border and diagonal panel containing town name.....	NEW ZEALAND
Frameless text on cash register style tape, inscribed "КИЕВ", often with "КАЦКА".....	UKRAINE
БЕЛАРУС	BELARUS
НРБ	BULGARIA
БЪЛГАРИЯ	BULGARIA
ПЛАТЕНО	BULGARIA
ΕΛΛΑΣ	GREECE
КАЗАНЬ	RUSSIA
РОССИА, РОССИИ or РОССИЯ	RUSSIA
Рф	RUSSIA
РЯЭЗАН	RUSSIA
ROSSIJA	RUSSIA
СРБИЈА.....	SERBIA
УКРАЇНИ, УКРАЇНА or УРАЇНИ	UKRAINE
ایران	IRAN
יִשְׂרָאֵל	ISRAEL
政 郵 華 中	CHINA (Taiwan)
政 郵 國 民 華 中	CHINA (Taiwan)
政 郵 東 華	CHINA (mainland)
政 郵 民 人	CHINA (mainland)
政 郵 民 人 國 中	CHINA (mainland)
中 國 人 民 郵 政	CHINA (mainland)
中 國 郵 政	CHINA (mainland)
國 內 郵 已 付	CHINA (mainland)
郵 覽 已 付	CHINA (mainland)
日 本 郵 便	JAPAN
대 한 민 국 우 편 가	KOREA

NOTE: Frameless designs with value figures and town mark only are known from several countries. Often these reflect inappropriate use of decertified meters or are receipts rather than stamps. Only those with confirmed legitimate use are listed in the catalogs. ■

References

1. The *Meter Stamp Society Quarterly Bulletin* (MSSQB). The Bulletin is provided as part of the MSS membership and arrives quarterly at your mailbox. It is also available by web-delivery to your email address. Members can choose to obtain the mailed edition or the web edition. The mailed edition includes free access to the web edition.
2. The *Meter Stamp Society Literature CD Disk*. Contains every issue of the Bulletin from the beginning in 1948 plus other publications. It also has an article index from all MSSQB issues. The price is \$50 postpaid worldwide.
3. The MSS website, www.meterstampsociety.com, is a repository of a lot of information. The site has a bibliography and a library of free and for purchase materials. The MSSQB article index is also on this website.
4. The *International Postage Meter Stamp Catalog*, Hawkins/Stambaugh, 2005. This was the first publication since 1952 to include virtually all postage meter stamps used worldwide. This catalog is now on the web as a wikibook: http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/International_Postage_Meter_Stamp_Catalog. This catalog is dedicated to traditional postage meter stamps that are normally dated for use that day.
5. Other catalogs have been prepared for Computer Vended Postage (CVP) for the US and other countries, customized PC Postage stamps. The most recent such catalog available early 2015: Karim Roder, USA: *Variable Denomination Stamps (1988-2015)*, www.Createspace.com/5554174, about \$70.
6. A number of specialized catalogs have been published for individual countries and for individual topics. The MSS website contains a bibliography of all known catalogs and other works related to postage meters. Most of the works listed in the bibliography are kept by the APS American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) and other libraries mentioned on the MSS website Bibliography page. Some catalogs are listed below.
7. **U.S. Computer Vended Postage**
USA: Variable Denomination Stamps (1989-2015) 2nd Edition. Now 500 pages, all color images.
New December 2015.
Karim Roder
www.CreateSpace.com, about \$73
8. **U.S. Customized Postage**
United States Customized Postage
Charlie Gore, Otto Bergman, Joann Lenz
www.meterstampsociety.com/custompostage/cataloghome.html .Free
9. **U.S. Postage Meter Stamp Catalog**
Joel Hawkins and Richard Stambaugh (1994) Out of print but found on eBay occasionally. An on-line edition is in the works.
10. **Worldwide Traditional Postage Meters**
The International Postage Meter Stamp Catalog
Joel Hawkins and Richard Stambaugh
en.wikibooks.org/wiki/International_Postage_Meter_Stamp_Catalog , Free
11. **UK CVP and ATM Catalogue**
UK Wincor Nixdorf Hyteck ATM Book
John McCallum <https://sites.google.com/site/atminformer/wincor-and-hytech-book>, Free
12. **MICHEL-ATM-Specialised Whole World 2013/2014**
<http://www.schaubek.de/MICHEL-catalogues-Germany>, €64.00
13. **U.S. CVP and Personalized Stamps**
Scott Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps and Covers
Years 1998 to 2007 listed CVP and Personalized stamps. Subsequently Scott lists only CVP stamps.
14. **Variable** the CVP journal of Ateeme, covering worldwide CVP stamps.
<http://www.ateeme.net/angles/aatmintro.htm>

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