

METER NEWS

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Meter of the Month

Peter Mantell kindly supplies our Meter of the Month this time round. This demonstration frank, with the serial 'MMC 40485' is previously unrecorded and the cover it comes from is shown in full below. Compare this with the cover shown on page 110-8.



In 1982, the 'Mail & Mechanisation' Company (hence the prefix 'MMC') was established in the UK to sell Model E3/E4 machines, produced by the Swiss Company 'Frama'. However, during 1983 the name 'Mail & Mechanisation' was changed to 'Scriptomatic'.

Further to page 135-9, Ray Woodward-Clarke reports an MMC frank dated over a year earlier (see below) and Ray also has a record of one that is dated 6.VIII.82.



Acknowledgements

My thanks this month go to Peter Mantell, Rick Stambaugh and Ray Woodward-Clarke for their reports, communications or contributions.

Latest Numbers

Below is the list of 'latest numbers' as at the end of August 2012 – with updates shown in red. Please could I have the next reports by 28th September - thanks.

In the list below, the part of the serial number that directly relates to the model is underlined.

Frama (UK)

Matrix F2, F4, F6	<u>F1001954</u>	31.05.12	See MN 140
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Francotyp-Postalia

Optimail	<u>T402913</u>	02.06.11	See MN 129
Optimail 25/35	<u>F04114355</u>	20.06.12	See MN 140
Centormail 240/300	<u>FC5110555</u>	21.02.12	See MN 140
MyMail / PostagePro	<u>FM2653490</u>	20.06.12	Reported by PM
Ultimail	<u>FU3116825</u>	29.05.12	See MN 140

Neopost

IS-330	<u>N1052182</u>	01.06.12	See MN 140
IS-350	<u>N1180773</u>	26.06.12	See MN 140
IJ-65	<u>N1208331</u>	27.03.12	See MN 138
Various upgraded	<u>N1240619</u>	16.02.12	See MN 141
IJ-80/90/110	<u>N1254456</u>	23.03.12	Reported by PM
IS-460 (Ex IJ-50)	<u>N1373581</u>	30.11.11	See MN 138
IS-420 (Ex IJ-30)	<u>N1385377</u>	24.05.12	Reported by PM
IS-440 (Ex IJ-40)	<u>N1390543</u>	10.02.12	See MN 137
IS-480	<u>N3023419</u>	02.08.12	Reported by PM
IS-240 / IS-280	<u>N3309158</u>	29.06.12	See MN 141
IS-5000/6000	<u>N5001363</u>	28.06.12	Reported by PM

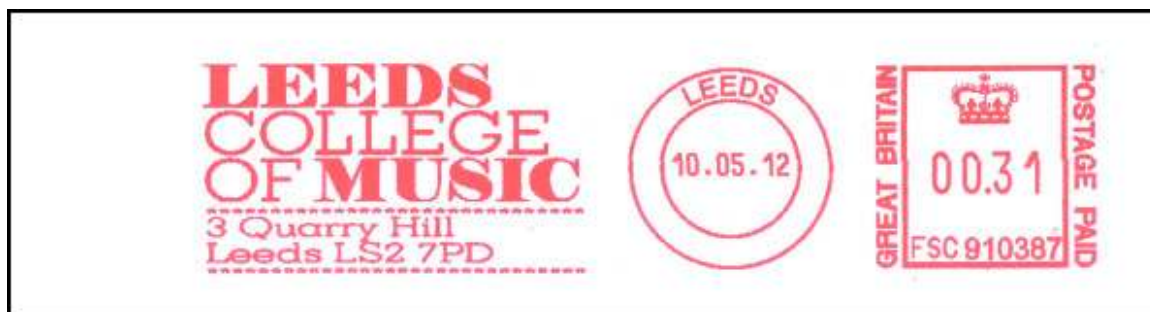
Pitney Bowes

DM50, 55	<u>PB093849</u>	17.08.12	Reported by PM
DM 810, 900 etc.	<u>PB527622</u>	20.04.12	See MN 139
Connect+ 1000 etc.	<u>PB551419</u>	14.09.11	See MN 131
Connect+ 10FC etc.	<u>PB556081</u>	28.06.12	See MN 141
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB617560</u>	08.06.12	Reported by PM
DM100i, 150i etc.	<u>PB868217</u>	28.08.12	Reported by AN
Unknown	<u>PB898932</u>	09.08.11	See MN 134

Advanced Mail

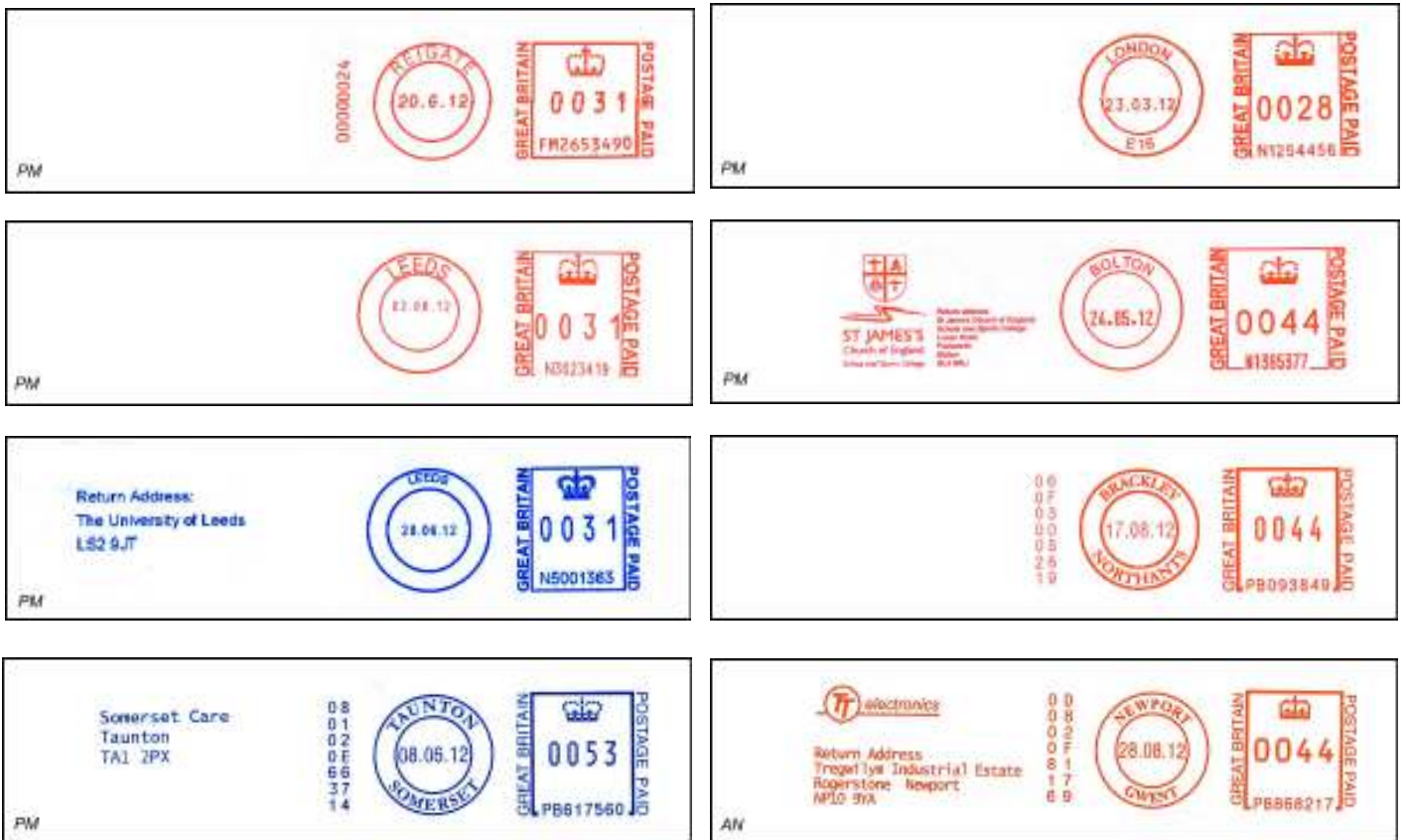
AAEK-CA	<u>FU3116534</u>	03.05.12	See MN 139
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Peter Mantell reports an increase in the Dead Series 'FSC9' (Mailmax) with FSC910387. This is the first 'FSC91' that has been seen, the previous highest number being FSC909640.



Latest Numbers – Images

Below are images of the latest numbers reported this month, reduced in size to 60%.



Recent Interesting Items

Ray Woodward-Clarke reports this frank from an IS 5000/6000 machine used on live mail with the words 'NEOPOST SPECIMEN' in the town die. The user of this machine is the Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospital, Dudley Road, Birmingham.

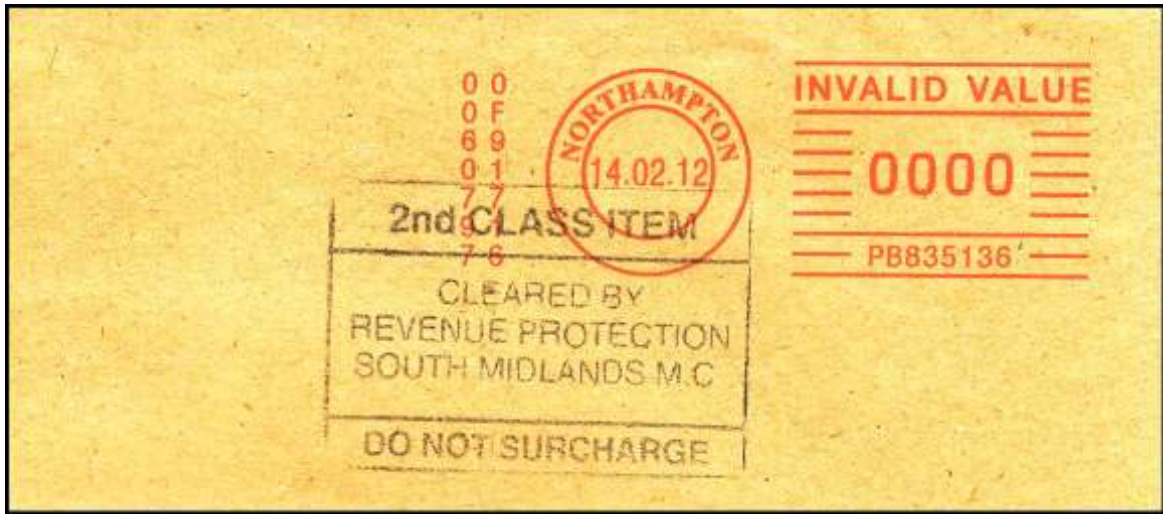


Peter Mantell has found this frank with the word 'RECEIVED' between the Return Address details and the security block. The text has presumably been entered manually by the user, but the reason behind this is unclear.



Recent Interesting Items

Peter Mantell has found two Pitney Bowes 'Invalid Value' dies on live mail. The first was spotted by Royal Mail but the second one appears to have escaped detection.



Peter Mantell reports this rarely seen pre-loaded message 'IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS ENCLOSED' on an IS-480 machine. Note that its inclusion pushes the customer slogan to the far left. It is not known whether the user has any control over the positioning of the slogan.

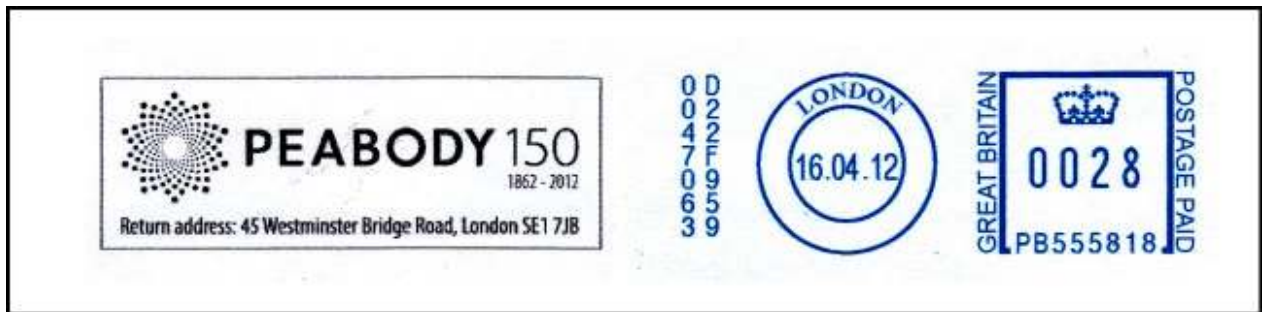


Peter Mantell has found this Item No. 1 from machine PB089226.



PB Connect+ Coloured Slogans

This month we have three new coloured franks from PB Connect+ machines, all supplied by Peter Mantell. Note that PB555446, with the user shown here as 'Accolade Wines', was previously shown on page 134-7 but the user details were in black and without this very attractive 'Ginger Joe' advert. This frank was also illustrated on page 132-5 where the user was 'Constellation Europe'. Closer examination shows that both companies actually have the same address and postcode. This appears to be another case of two companies sharing a franking machine in order to take advantage of the significant discounts offered by Royal Mail for bulk posting of meter mail.



Interesting Items from the Past

Peter Mantell has recently acquired this Friden frank, serial G.0194, dated 28th April 1970. The information on the reverse of the cover states that it is one of 100 such covers specially franked at the inauguration ceremony in London to commemorate the introduction of Friden franking machines in the UK.

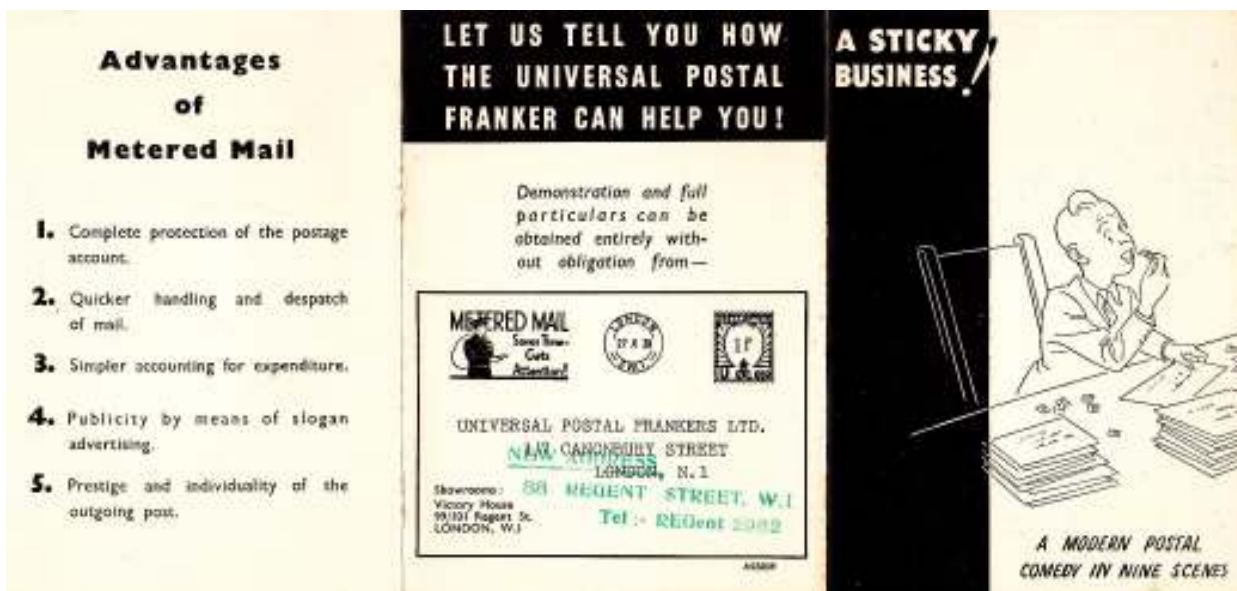


Interesting Items from the Past Continued

Further to the SECAP specimens shown on page 139-9, Peter Mantell has recently acquired a different example - this time from machine ASA50385.



Ray Woodward-Clarke sends a scan of this 1938 tri-folded brochure from Universal Postal Frankers Ltd. showing a Multi-Value machine, advertising the advantages of metered mail. Note the handstamp in green ink - applied to announce the Company's new address of 88 Regent Street, London W1, over their old address of 1/7 Canonbury Street, London N1.



Meter Thematics

Peter Mantell kindly supplies all of the thematic meters this month, starting with this 'transport and maps' thematic from a company called I. J. McGill Ltd. in Bristol. It goes quite nicely with the 'transport & maps' thematic shown on page 137-9.



This attractive 'elephant' design comes from Whiteheads Ltd. of Halifax, who, according to their web site, describe themselves as 'Quality Tea Blenders & Coffee Roasters'.



This tourism thematic comes from the popular [Tank Museum](#) in Dorset. Although the image is rather small, there can't be too many franks that illustrate a tank in the slogan!



This Roman Chariot comes from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.



Meter Thematics Continued

Here is an attractive 'owl' design being used by a company called Barnet Lock & Security.



This design will be very familiar to many of you. According to their web site, there are now 90 [Little Chef](#) roadside restaurants across the county.



My Meter Thematic of the Month is a joint award for these two similar but different 'menagerie' images. Note that the duck faces the other way in the more recent frank, together with other minor changes. The franks come from a company called [Raystede](#) based in East Sussex that rescues more than 1500 animals a year. The 'Ginger Joe' item on page 142-5 was a close runner-up for the award this month.

