

METER NEWS

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Meter of the Month

My meter of the month has been sent by Robert Petts and depicts a new 'PB16' series. It is unclear at this stage what model has produced the frank.

Pitney Bowes have added two new models on their web site <http://www.pitneybowes.co.uk/>. The models are the DM160i and the DM220i and capable of processing 40 and 45 items per day respectively. The DM100i and DM150i (PB8 series) are no longer listed on the web site. Respective images of these new models are shown below:



The PB160326 frank from Robert is likely, therefore, to be from one of these new models. However, both models are aimed at the small business end of the market and the use of blue ink for a minimum sending of 500 items per day for the Royal Mail Advanced Mail service is, therefore, interesting. Unfortunately, the user of this machine is unknown.

Membership

This month we welcome Jos Wessels from the Netherlands as member number 0038. Jos is a member of the Dutch meter franking association Frankeerstempel.nl and collects meters related to ships and shipping from all countries. He is especially interested in meters showing real ships and always tries to identify the ships. Jos also collects meters from shipping companies, shipyards, maritime museums or depicting related items like navigation instruments, lighthouses etc.

Acknowledgements

My thanks this month go to Jon Aitchison, Michael Dobbs, John Fowler, Alan Godfrey, David Jones, Peter Huss, Peter Mantell, Richard Peck, Robert Petts, Peter Wood, Ray Woodward-Clarke and Jos Wessels for their reports, communications or contributions.

Latest Numbers

Below is the list of 'latest numbers' as at the end of October 2012 – with updates shown in red. Please could I have the next reports by 28th November - 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>F1002209</u>	04.10.12	Reported by AN
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Francotyp-Postalia

Optimail 25/35	<u>F04114640</u>	02.10.12	Reported by PM
Centormail 240/300	<u>FC5110572</u>	27.07.12	See MN 143
MyMail / PostagePro	<u>FM2653869</u>	27.09.12	See MN 143
Ultimail	<u>FU3117033</u>	26.09.12	Reported by MD

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>N1254465</u>	28.09.12	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	See MN 142
IS-440 (Ex IJ-40)	<u>N1390543</u>	10.02.12	See MN 137
IS-480	<u>N3023984</u>	04.10.12	Reported by PM
IS-240 / IS-280	<u>N3310903</u>	23.10.12	Reported by AG, see below
IS-5000/6000	<u>N5001397</u>	27.09.12	Reported by PM

Pitney Bowes

DM50, 55	<u>PB096516</u>	22.10.12	Reported by AN
<u>DM160i/220i</u>	<u>PB160326</u>	01.10.12	Reported by RP, see below
DM 810, 900 etc.	<u>PB527622</u>	20.04.12	See MN 139
Connect+ 1000 etc.	<u>PB551648</u>	21.09.12	Reported by PM
Connect+ 10FC etc.	<u>PB556235</u>	20.09.12	Reported by PM
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB617823</u>	26.09.12	See MN 143
DM100i, 150i etc.	<u>PB870168</u>	23.10.12	Reported by PM

Advanced Mail

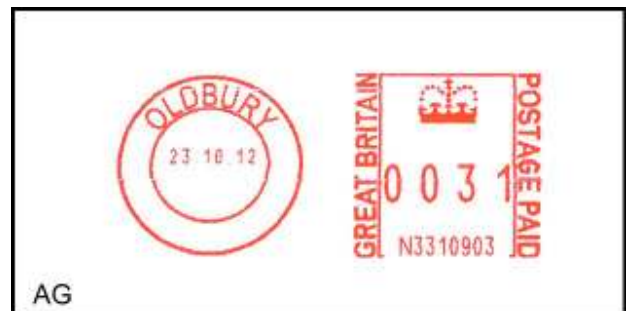
<u>AAER-YX</u>	<u>FU3117033</u>	26.09.12	Reported by MD, see above
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The lowest number recorded for the new PB16 series is PB160030 – see page 5 of this newsletter. Alan Godfrey states that the N3310903 item is the first day of use of this machine, owned by the 'Passenger Lift Company', based in Oldbury in the West Midlands - see page 3.

As indicated last month, the T and PB898 series have now been retired from the list of latest numbers as there have not been any updates on these for over a year. For the time being, however, the PB551 series has had a reprieve due to this month's report.

Latest Number Images

Below are images of the latest numbers reported this month – with contributor’s initials shown in the bottom left of the image. This month I have reverted to full-size images for these reports, but two are shown half-length, as they do not have any slogan. The image for PB1600326 is shown on page 1 of this newsletter. FU3117033 is from Acorn Estate Agents.



Latest Number Images Continued





PM






Return Address
 46 The Vintners Temple Farm
 Southend-on-Sea
 SS2 5RZ

AN

Advanced Mail
 Second Class
 AABJ-YLBK-AKKT





PM

PCC
 County Hall
 Haverfordwest
 Pembrokeshire
 SA61 1TP





PM


 Unique Venue Hire
 Call 0800 389 8950

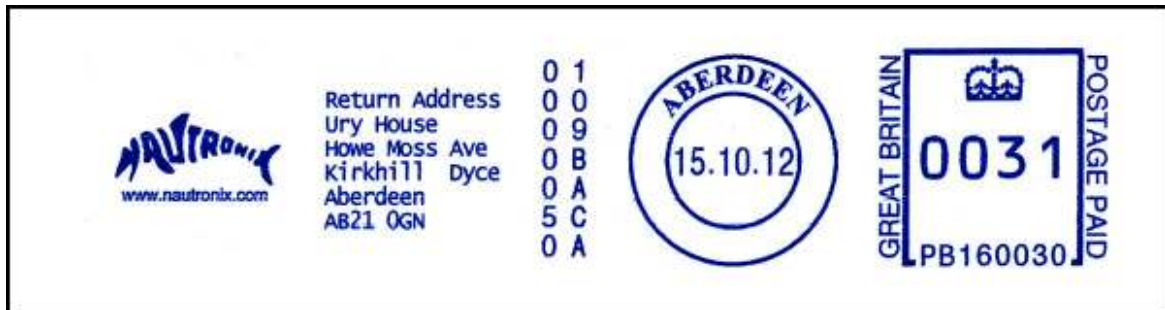




PM

Recent Interesting Items

Further to page 1 of this newsletter, your editor reports a second 'PB16' example, this time PB160030 from Nautronix PLC– a marine technology company based in Aberdeen that specialises in acoustic positioning. It is interesting to note that this frank (illustrated below) has also been applied in blue ink. We know that PB Connect+ machines produce the main part of their franks in blue as standard and that permission from Royal Mail was granted for this and also a similar situation occurs with the Neopost IS5000/6000 (N5 series) machines. With this report of the use of blue ink on a DM160i/220i, it seems likely that permission has been granted for this to happen on low-throughput machines as well. If this trend continues for all new models, we can expect to see all meter franks in the UK turning blue eventually!



Further to page MN120-6, Robert Petts reports another Frama Matrix machine where the town die reads "London / London".



Peter Huss reports the first sighting of the 'Air Mail / Par Avion' built-in message on a Neopost IS-5000/6000 machine.

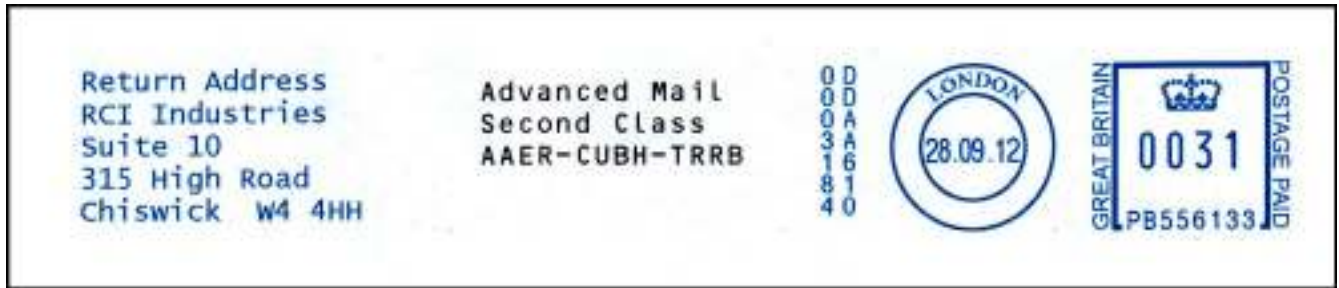


Further to page 83-5, Peter Mantell reports another (rarely seen) 'PERSONAL' mini-cachet.



Advanced Mail

Peter Mantell reports this Advanced Mail Code 'AAER-CU', which has been applied in black ink – another first. Does this infringe the Royal Mail regulations for this service, I wonder?



Further to the report on page 143-5 regarding the Advanced Mail Code being allocated to a user rather than a particular business location, Peter Mantell is now able to identify the user in question. The user is Irwin Mitchell (solicitors) and Peter is able to report a further example of the same 'AAAE-ZY' code being used at their Sheffield office on another machine, PB555901. This appears to be a second machine in use at this office as this has also been recorded on 30.03.12, i.e. before the PB555466 example shown last month.



PB Connect+ Coloured Slogans

Dave Baker reports this Connect+ frank using pale green ink.

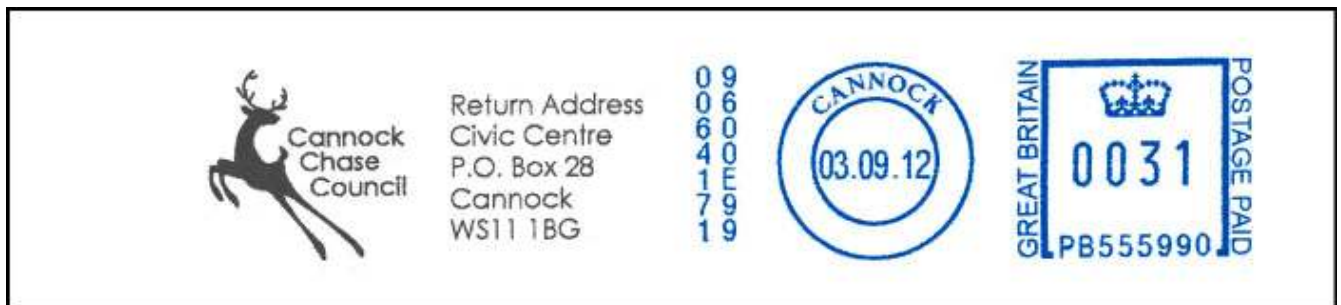
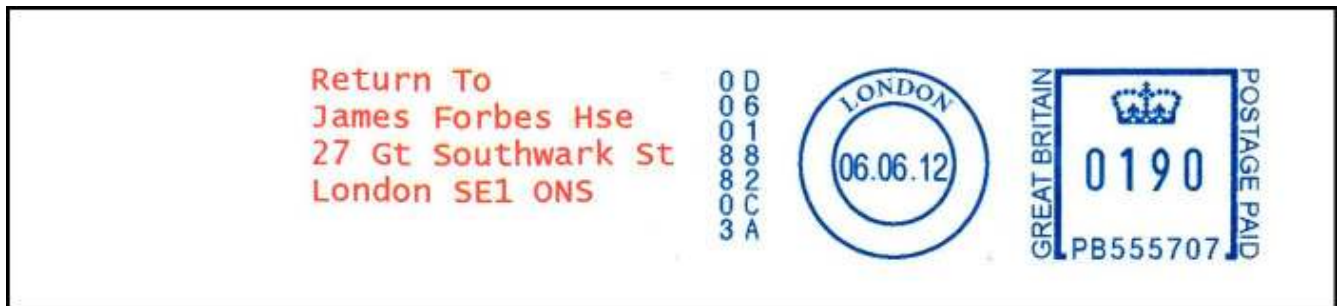


Next, Peter Mantell reports this attractive 'Reduce Carbon Footprint' slogan that would fit nicely into any 'sign of the times' thematic collection. Unfortunately, the user is not known.



PB Connect+ Coloured Slogans continued

Below are five further examples of coloured slogans from Connect+ machines – all are kindly supplied by Peter Mantell. The 'British Judo' example is particularly attractive, I think.

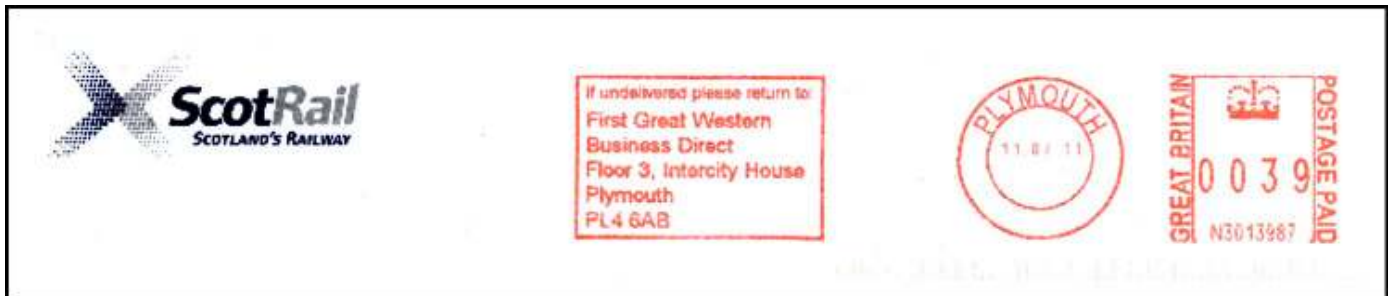


A long journey – by rail?

Peter Mantell relates the story of a remarkable journey made by machine N3013987, owned by First Great Western, one of 18 currently operating train franchises in the UK. The background to this story is that, for the last few years, this machine has been used in the company's Plymouth office, dealing with customer complaints and refunds for the different divisions of the First Group – including ScotRail and First Capital Connect, see below.



Normally the slogan used was a non-attributable 'PO BOX 131', so that it could be commonly used for the different divisions. In 2011, however, a new slogan with the First Great Western company's details was made for that aspect of the business but, on one occasion at least, this slogan was used in error on ScotRail mail:



Anyway, to return to the story, in January / February 2012, this machine was replaced by N5001154 (illustrated on page 143-4) but it has now suddenly re-appeared in ScotRail's home town of Fort William - a distance of some 440 miles as the crow flies from Plymouth!



This is some journey and must surely be a record distance for a re-location of a franking machine by any business.

Meter Thematics from the Past

Scout thematics are always popular with philatelists around the world and Dave Baker reports these two nice Scottish 'International Scout Camp' examples from 1980. Both have been produced on Neopost machines - the first has been franked by a Model 105 (serial N685M) with a Glasgow townmark and the second by a Model 205 (serial JP 283) from Edinburgh.



Dave Baker also reports this rather nice elephant thematic from 1959 on a Design E meter frank. In fact there are two elephants in the slogan - one in the logo for 'Jumbo Tarpaulins' and the other in the logo for 'Elephant Canvas Shelters'.

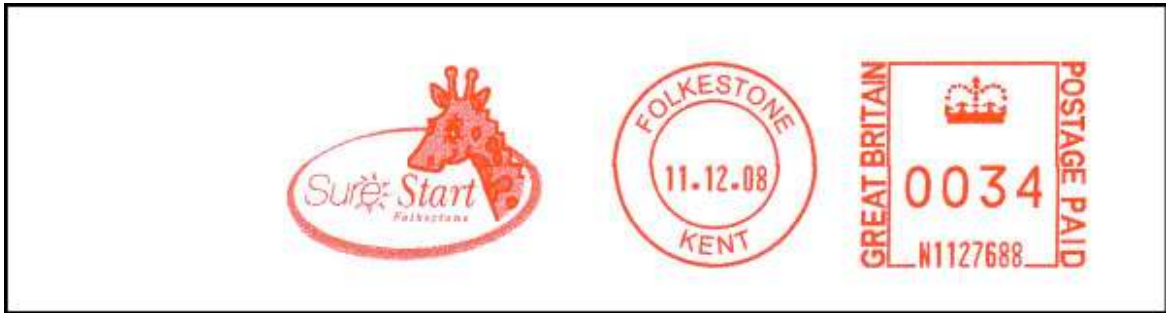


Finally, Dave has found this rather attractive sea horse thematic from a Pitney Bowes Model 5333 (serial P.B.T185T) in 1976.



Meter Thematics

Peter Wood has found this attractive giraffe image from the Sure Start children's centre in Folkestone.



Peter Mantell sends this interesting school emblem from [Fleetwood High School](#), Lancashire, comprising three elements. The element on the left depicts an old-fashioned sailing boat. The element on the right shows the seaside pavilion called the 'Fleetwood Mount'. The element in the centre is possibly a representation of the cast iron 'Cherub Fountain' (without the cherub!), located in Euston Park, Fleetwood and built in the 19th century.



Further to the introduction on page 1 of this newsletter, part of Jos Wessels collection of ships and shipping is shown on his web page: http://home.online.nl/jos.wessels/FMS/ship_fms.htm. Jos has kindly allowed me to illustrate these two franks depicted on his web site.



This Viking boat receives my 'Meter of the Month' award – quite superb!