

METER NEWS

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Meter of the Month

Our Meter of the Month this time comes from your editor with this new coloured slogan from Pitney Bowes, which reads "Why not sell this advertising space and make some money!". The image depicts a Connect+ franking machine and makes spectacular use of the printer's colour capability. The full image is shown below:



A new Head Office for Pitney Bowes

On page 120-3 we illustrated three images from PB555206 with a town die of 'Harlow'. Your editor has recently noticed, after some absence, the re-appearance of this machine with a town die of 'Hertford'. The Pitney Bowes web site reveals they have moved their Head Office to Hatfield – a distance of about 6 miles from Hertford. Their new Head Office address is:

Pitney Bowes UK - Head Office
Pitney Bowes Limited
Building 5 Trident Place,
Hatfield Business Park,
Mosquito Way,
Hatfield
Hertfordshire
AL10 9UJ



Why the town should read 'Hertford' rather than 'Hatfield' is not clear at this stage. Hertford is actually a smaller town with a population 24,750 compared with Hatfield's 30,000.

Acknowledgements

My thanks this month go to Patrick Awcock, Peter Mantell, Richard Peck and Peter Wood for their reports, communications or contributions.

Latest Numbers

Below is the list of 'latest numbers' as at the end of November 2012 – with updates shown in red. Please could I have the next reports by 28th December - 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	See MN 144
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Francotyp-Postalia

Optimail 25/35	<u>F04114640</u>	02.10.12	See MN 144
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	See MN 144

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	See MN 144
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>N3024069</u>	12.11.12	Reported by AN
IS-240 / IS-280	<u>N3310903</u>	23.10.12	See MN 144
IS-5000/6000	<u>N5001397</u>	27.09.12	See MN 144

Pitney Bowes

DM50, 55	<u>PB098876</u>	29.11.12	Reported by AN
DM160i/220i	<u>PB160504</u>	29.11.12	Reported by PM
DM 810, 900 etc.	<u>PB527622</u>	20.04.12	See MN 139
Connect+ 1000 etc.	<u>PB551659</u>	01.11.12	Reported by PM
Connect+ 10FC etc.	<u>PB556280</u>	14.11.12	Reported by PM
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB617830</u>	05.10.12	Reported by AN
DM100i, 150i etc.	<u>PB870168</u>	23.10.12	See MN 144

Advanced Mail

AAER-YX	FU3117033	26.09.12	See MN 144
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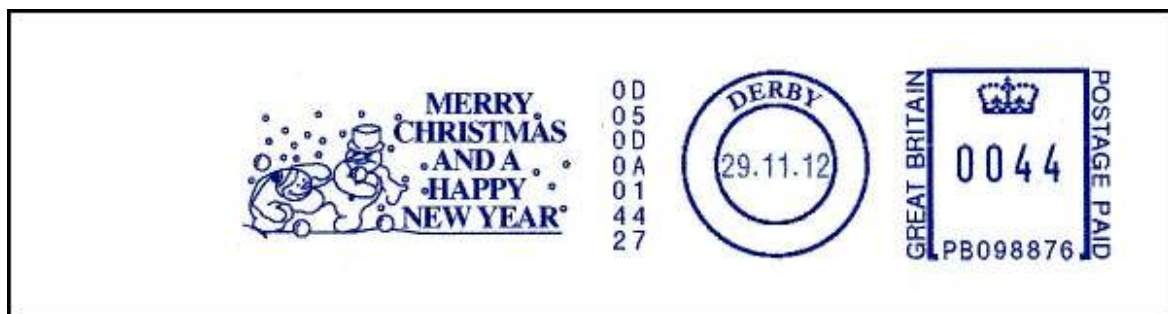
Further to page 144-2, your editor can now report an earlier example of the new PB16 series – see page 145-4.

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.



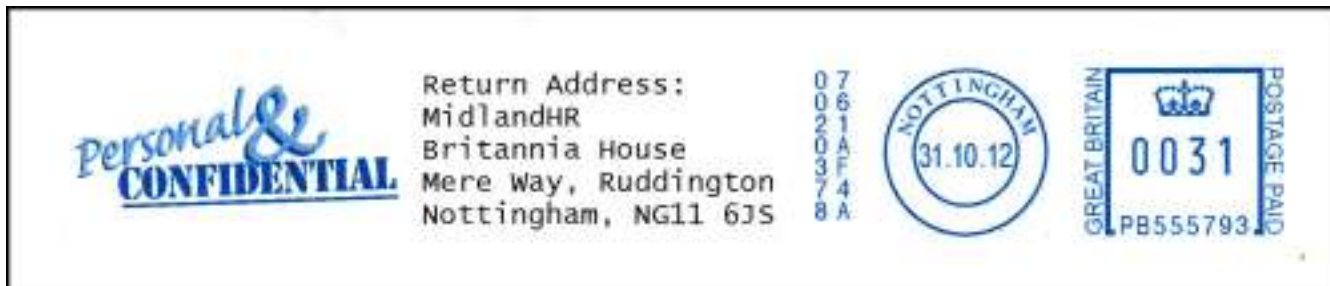
The highest number, PB098876 illustrated above, is also interesting for other reasons and the complete image is shown below. Not only does it bear the first (and only one so far) reported Christmas slogan for 2012, but the frank has been applied blue ink which is unusual for an entry-level machine.



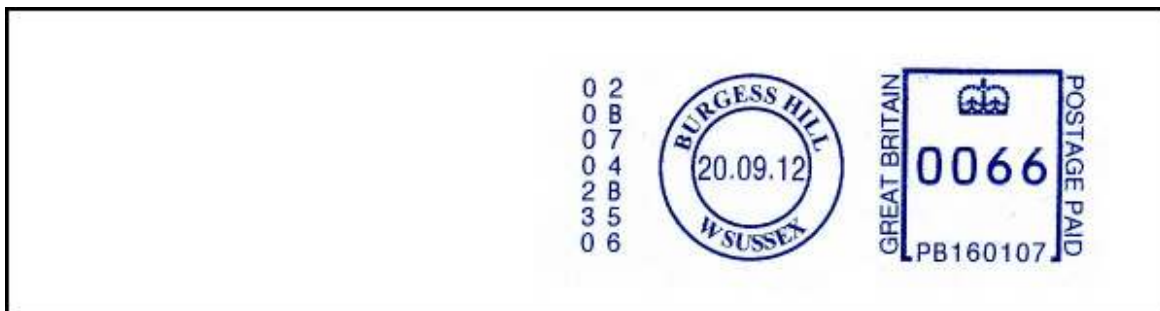
Is it possible that 'blue' has now become the default standard colour for all new machines produced by Pitney Bowes? That is probably not the case as your editor reports PB098155 in red ink dated the previous week on 21.11.12. Also, as this series gets ever closer to PB099999, we are eagerly waiting to learn what will happen after the series reaches that point.

Recent Interesting Items

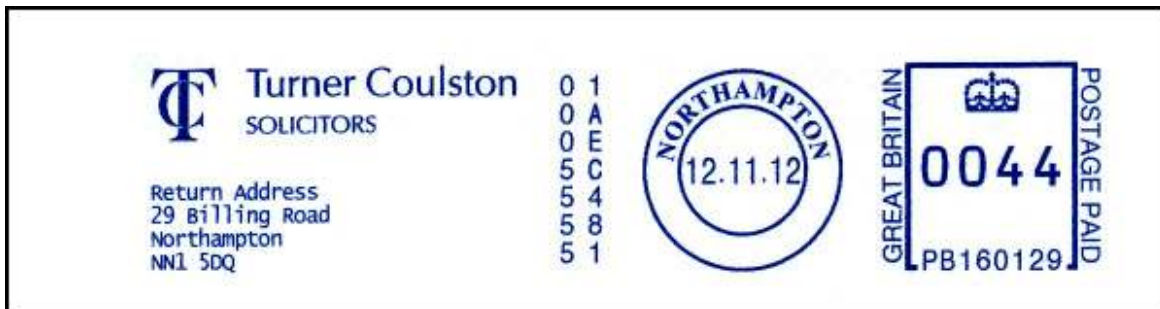
Peter Mantell reports this “Personal & Confidential” slogan on a Pitney Bowes Connect+ machine. It is not known at this stage whether this is a new style ‘built-in’ slogan that is available with all such machines or whether it was specially imported. Further reports of the use of this slogan on other Connect+ machines would, therefore, be welcome.



Further to pages 144-1, 144-2 and 144-5, your editor is now able to report an earlier example of the new PB16 series – dated 20.09.12. The user is Sutton Wilson, Burgess Hill as shown in the second image below.

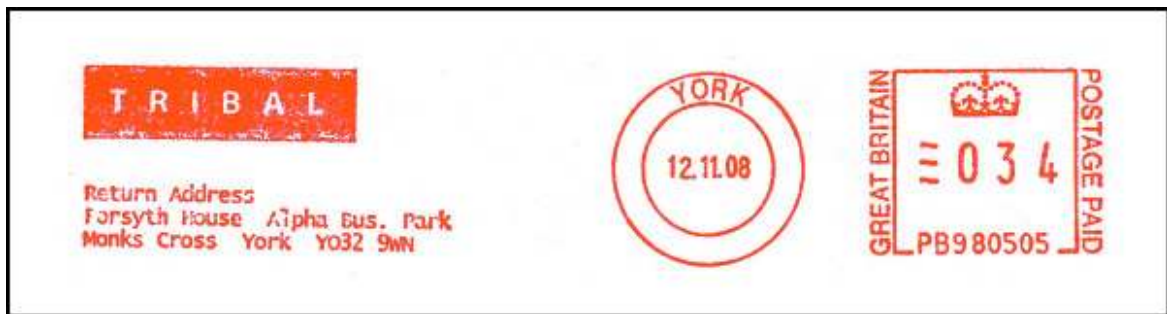


Examples of the PB16 series are still fairly elusive but Peter Mantell reports this one to add to the collection so far.



Dead Series Update

Peter Mantell reports an increase in the PB98 'Dead Series'. The previously recorded highest number for this series was PB980489.



Instructional Markings

Your editor reports this date correction handstamp from the South Midlands Mail Centre based at Northampton. It reads simply 'SMMC / 07 SEP 2012' and has been applied to correct the date of '6.9.12' on the frank.



Printed Postage Impression (PPI) News

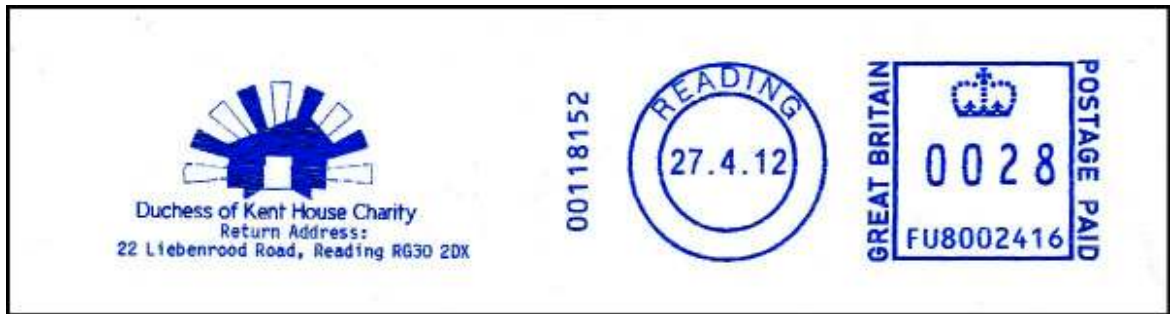
Your editor has come across this unusual 'double' PPI that has been printed on a label. The right-hand half has been printed in the normal 'Smart Stamp' style but there is an additional 'Postage Paid' indicia on the left-hand side, together with the Royal Mail cruciform logo.



The serial number of the PPI is '11369651' which is a very large number – much bigger than the highest number reached with the normal number allocation for these (i.e. somewhere around 55000). Your editor would be pleased to receive any explanations for this, together with any further reports of PPIs of this kind.

Meter Thematics

Your editor supplies all the meter thematics for this month. First of all is this 'royalty' thematic, which comes from the Duchess of Kent House Charity in Reading. The charity supports hospice-care in West & Central Berkshire.



With reference to the Royal Opera House thematic shown on page 138-6, here is one from the Welsh National Opera.



With reference to the London Philharmonic Orchestra thematic shown on page 59-7, here is one from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra depicting their attractive coat of arms.



The decision taken with regard to my choice for the 'Meter Thematic of the Month' was based on the novelty factor. This 'Pastimes' thematic slogan from Dice & Games Ltd. based in Sudbury, Suffolk is unusual, simple but effective and somehow rather attractive.

