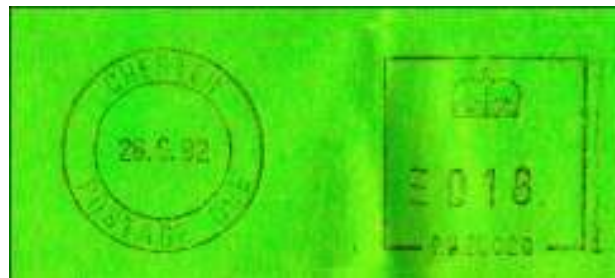


METER NEWS

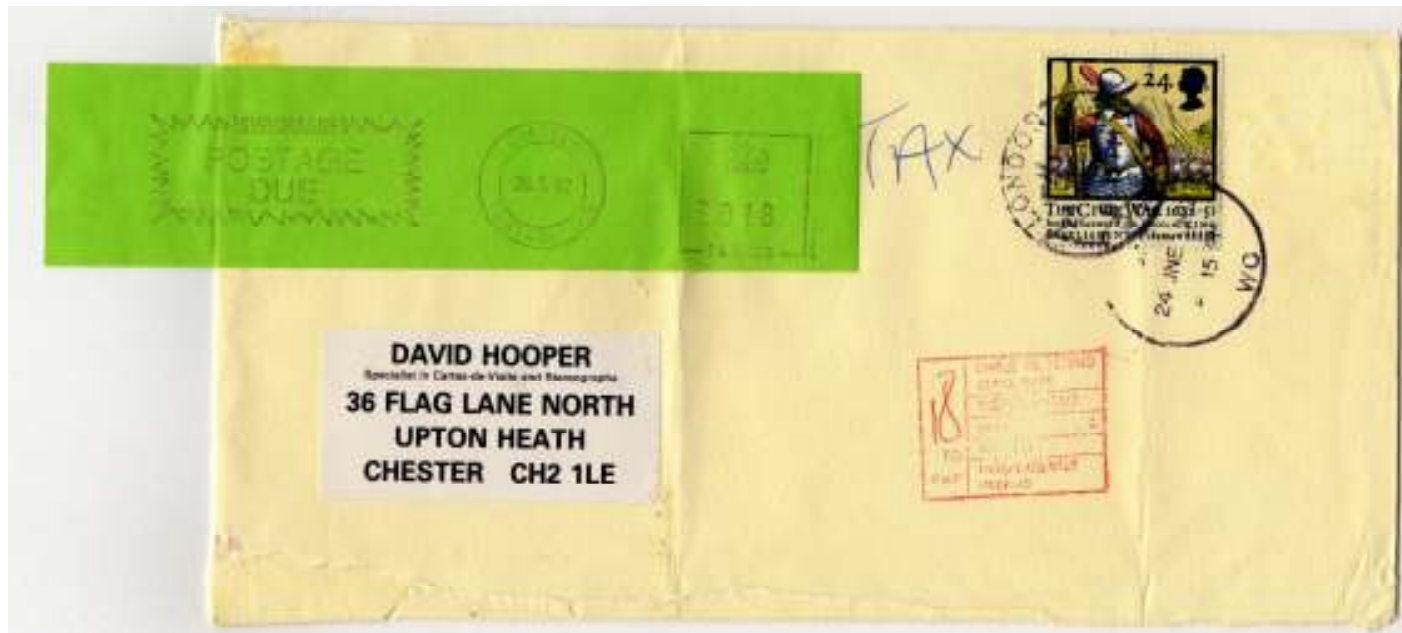
Issue Number 149 Mar 2013



Editor: Alastair Nixon, 7 Bramblegate, Edgcumbe Park, Crowthorne, Berks, RG45 6JA. Tel: +44 (0) 1344 775378
Email: nixon48@gmail.com Web site: <http://www.meterfranking.co.uk>

Meter of the Month

Further to page 38-1, here is a Postage Due meter, on a green label and dated 26.6.92 from Chester, which has not previously been recorded. The item has kindly been reported by an interested reader who wishes to remain anonymous. It is hard to make out but, under greater magnification, your editor believes the serial number to be P.B.E 5020. The cover in question is shown in full below. Reports of similar examples of this design would be most welcome.



News from the Cebit Exhibition

Peter Huss has recently visited the annual Cebit Exhibition in Hanover and brings news that Francotyp-Postalia has received approval in the UK to introduce a new Model called the 'PostBase'.

PostBase



Peter has also heard from two different sources that Royal Mail is planning to introduce 2D Matrix Coding on meter franks in 2013.

Acknowledgements

My thanks this month go to Jon Aitchison, Patrick Awcock, Peter Huss, David Jones, Peter Mantell, Miles Patterson, Richard Peck and Robert Rowe for their reports, communications or contributions.

Latest Numbers

Below is the list of 'latest numbers' as at the end of March 2013 – with updates shown in red. Please could I have the next reports by 28th April - 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>F1002622</u>	28.02.12	Reported by PM
-------------------	-----------------	----------	----------------

Francotyp-Postalia

Optimail 25/35	<u>F04114891</u>	22.03.13	Reported by AN
Centormail 240/300	<u>FC5110606</u>	30.11.12	See MN 146
MyMail / PostagePro	<u>FM2654301</u>	10.12.12	See MN 146
Ultimail	<u>FU3117122</u>	07.02.13	Reported by PM/KD

Neopost

IS-330	<u>N1052182</u>	01.06.12	See MN 140
IS-350	<u>N1181247</u>	11.12.12	See MN 148
Various upgraded	<u>N1240644</u>	09.11.12	See MN 147
IJ-80/90/110	<u>N1254486</u>	02.03.13	Reported by PM
IS-460 (Ex IJ-50)	<u>N1373650</u>	18.09.12	See MN 147
IS-420 (Ex IJ-30)	<u>N1385456</u>	06.02.13	See MN 148
IS-440 (Ex IJ-40)	<u>N1390617</u>	31.07.12	See MN 146
IS-480	<u>N3025964</u>	15.03.13	Reported by PM
IS-240 / IS-280	<u>N3312882</u>	01.03.13	Reported by PM
IS-5000/6000	<u>N5001478</u>	19.03.13	Reported by PM

Pitney Bowes

DM50, 55	<u>PB099074</u>	15.03.13	Reported by PM
DM160i/220i	<u>PB160853</u>	27.03.13	Reported by PM
DM50, 55	<u>PB334088</u>	21.03.13	Reported by PM
DM 810, 900 etc.	<u>PB527636</u>	21.01.13	Reported by AN
Connect+ 1000 etc.	<u>PB551669</u>	22.03.13	Reported by AN
Connect+ 10FC etc.	<u>PB556442</u>	21.03.13	Reported by PM
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB618303</u>	05.03.13	Reported by PM
DM100i, 150i etc.	<u>PB872855</u>	08.02.13	See MN 148

Advanced Mail Codes

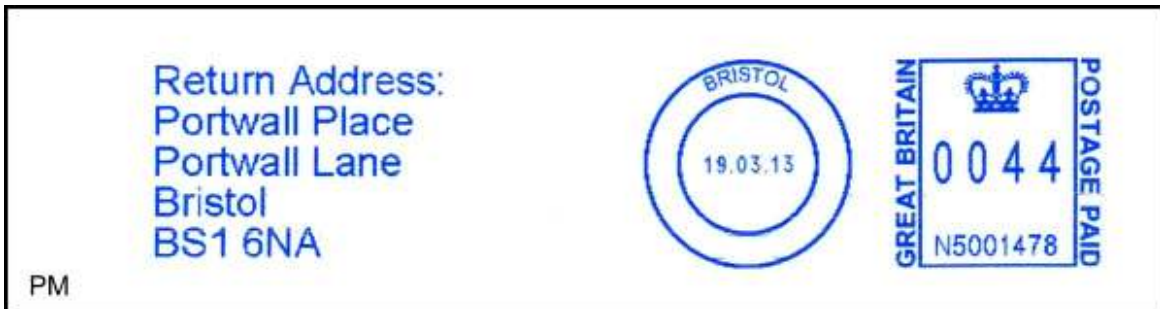
AAEU-LR	F1002463	03.12.12	See MN 146
---------	----------	----------	------------

Latest Number Images

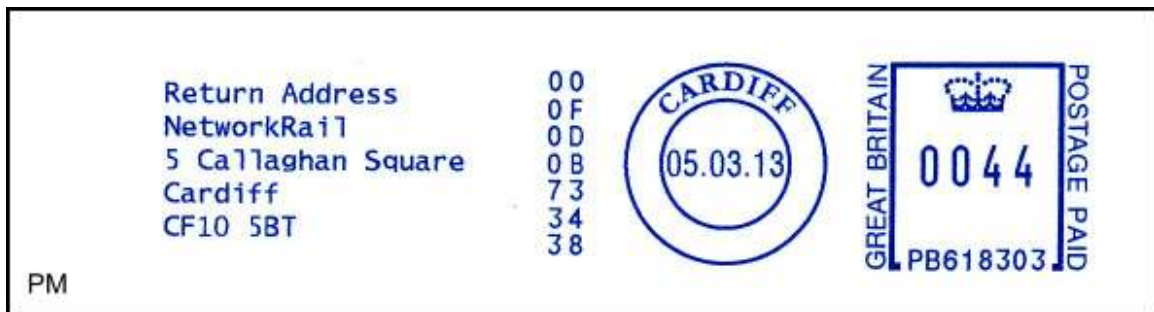
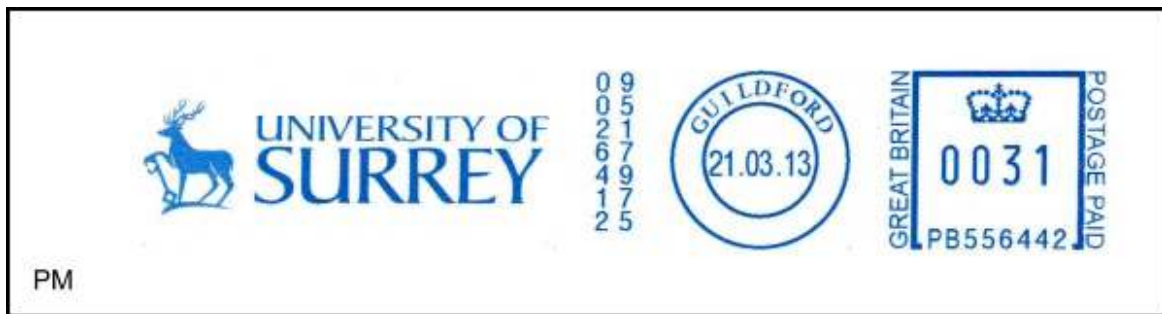
Here are images of the latest numbers reported this month.



Latest Number Images Continued



Latest Number Images Continued



Analysis of Mail Items (January - March 2013)

Your editor has performed an analysis of 1030 mail items collected from the same source over the same 7-week period (January to March) as the analysis made in recent years. This represents a 12% drop in volume compared with the figure of 1170 last year. However, the overall proportion of meter items compared with other mail types has actually increased by 3.5% to almost 60% when compared with last year.

The following table shows the breakdown of the 1030 mail items into the main categories of Meter Franked Mail, Stamped Mail and PPIs + Others. It also shows the percentage breakdown compared with the previous four years (in black text). Note that these figures include mail from overseas.

Category	Total 2013	2013%	2012%	2011%	2010%	2009%
Meter Franked Mail	612	59.4%	55.9%	55.3%	59.4%	62.4%
Stamped Mail	242	23.5%	22.3%	23.0%	23.6%	23.7%
PPI & Others	176	17.1%	21.8%	21.7%	17.0%	13.9%

The next table gives the breakdown by size of envelope.

Size	Total 2013	2013%	2012%	2011%	2010%	2009%
C4 or larger	24	2.3%	3.7%	4.1%	4.8%	6.1%
C5	190	18.5%	23.3%	19.6%	13.7%	15.9%
DL	812	78.9%	73.0%	75.9%	80.7%	76.5%
C6 or smaller	3	0.3%	0.0%	0.4%	0.7%	1.5%

The next table shows the proportion of 1st class to 2nd class mail (UK mail only)

Type - Class	Total 2013	2013%	2012%	2011%	2010%	2009%
Stamped mail – 1st	87	37.3%	43.6%	40.1%	38.6%	36.3%
Stamped mail – 2nd	146	62.7%	56.4%	59.9%	61.4%	63.7%
Metered mail – 1st	269	45.4%	48.8%	50.8%	50.6%	60.2%
Metered mail – 2nd	324	54.6%	51.2%	49.2%	49.4%	39.8%

The next table shows the volume of meter-franked mail broken down by manufacturer. Note that these figures exclude overseas mail.

Manufacturer	Total 2013	2013%	2012%	2011%	2010%	2009%
Frama	20	3.4%	3.7%	4.2%	5.4%	5.5%
Francotyp-Postalia	38	6.4%	7.3%	8.8%	7.3%	7.9%
Neopost	251	42.3%	40.9%	42.6%	41.9%	40.4%
Pitney Bowes	284	47.9%	48.2%	44.5%	45.4%	46.2%

Analysis of Mail Items Continued

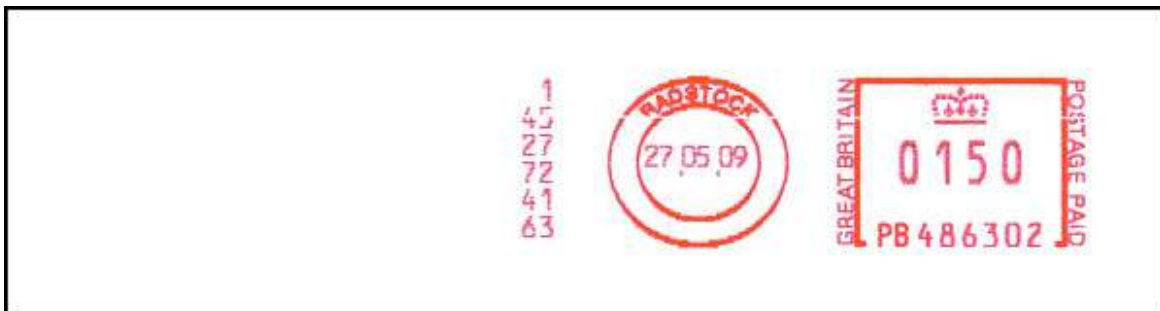
This table shows the actual number of items for each main meter series.

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Frama					
F1	3	6	7	2	-
FSC20-22	0	1	4	6	8
FSC25-29	2	4	7	8	13
FSC3	1	3	7	5	4
FSC7	0	0	0	2	0
FSC9	14	9	10	25	28
PB					
ASA	0	0	0	0	1
ASM	0	1	0	2	3
PB0	45	49	53	50	30
PB12	0	0	4	2	6
PB13	2	3	2	1	3
PB14	0	0	2	1	0
PB2	4	3	3	12	10
PB30-32	0	0	4	7	16
PB33	4	-	-	-	-
PB37-38	0	1	2	12	14
PB4	2	7	11	35	28
PB50-52	31	40	59	74	102
PB550-551	7	8	5	-	-
PB555/6	6	3	2	-	-
PB6	45	52	52	39	33
PB7	0	1	14	10	6
PB8	134	133	150	148	174
PB9	3	2	10	8	19
ST2	0	0	0	1	1

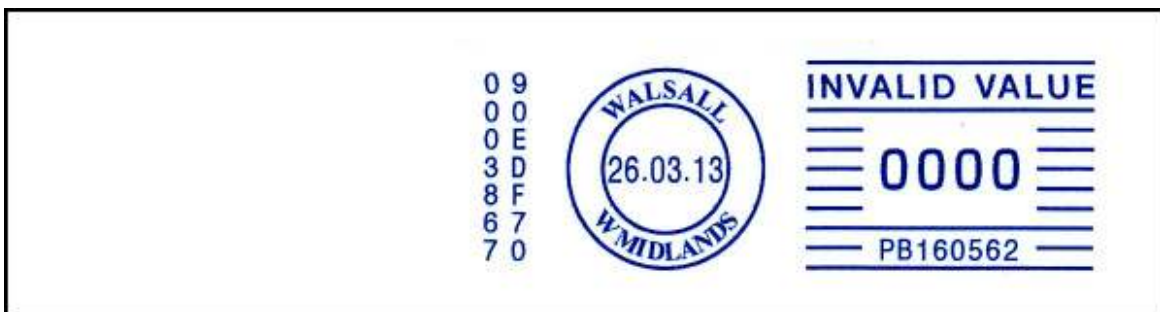
	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
F-P					
F04	12	15	16	7	9
FC	0	1	2		
FJ	0	0	0	2	0
FM	5	6	6	3	4
FU3	2	3	13	3	7
FU8	6	5	14	15	10
FU9	6	11	8	11	13
T	7	5	15	19	30
Neopost					
1NE	0	0	0	6	10
4NE	0	2	15	8	13
5NE	0	0	10	7	7
N105	3	2	0	0	-
N11	34	38	61	72	82
N120	6	8	9	26	34
N124	5	3	4	2	3
N125	14	16	19	19	33
N129	0	0	1	0	0
N130-131	7	11	31	30	70
N135	22	26	42	64	67
N137	0	5	13	15	15
N138	19	20	23	22	23
N139	1	1	2	2	0
N3	134	114	111	72	25
N33	5	8	0		
N5	1	0			
HS	1	0	6	7	6
HT	0	3	10	21	21

Recent Interesting Items

Peter Mantell has made a remarkable discovery on two Pitney Bowes 'Personal Post' franks from 2009. The machines PB290587 and PB486302 illustrated below both show the date positioned well above the date separator dots. Even more remarkable is that they are both from the same user, namely 'Eyeplan Limited, The Old Surgery, Radstock, Somerset, BA3 2HG'. How can that possibly be explained?!



Peter Mantell reports our first example of the INVALID VALUE die on the new PB16 series. The item in question managed to survive any Revenue Protection surcharge.



Peter Mantell reports the lowest number seen for the PB33 series, namely PB330054. This beats the previous low number of PB330129 shown on page 147-8.



Royal Mail Branding

Further to page 148-5, the Royal Mail branding logo on meter mail started to be rolled out nationally from 5th February 2013. By the end of February, nearly all of the Mail Centres were applying the logo.

Patrick Awcock reports that the logo is actually printed in one of three different forms as shown in these illustrations below – referred to as Types A, B and C:



The analysis of mail reported on page 5 of this newsletter nicely spans the first month of the application of branding logos on meter mail and your editor has carried out some further investigation on the 578 meter items that were on mail types eligible for receiving this logo.

106 items in this sample were found to have received the branding logo – both on DL and C5 sized envelopes. The following table gives the split between the three types A, B and C. Note that the comments are aimed at readers who have a postal mechanisation interest and reflect your editor’s provisional interpretations.

Type	Quantity	Percentage	Comments
Type A	59	55.7%	Type A logos were applied on IMP equipment
Type B	9	8.5%	Type B logos were applied on IMP or iLSM equipment
Type C	28	26.4%	Type C logos were applied on iLSM or MTT equipment
Type A or Type B	10	9.4%	Most of these are probably poorly printed Type A's

Furthermore, Patrick has noticed that Type B markings on iLSM mail seem to be on C5-sized envelopes.

It appears that the Royal Mail sorting equipment is capable of detecting a company pre-printed logo in the top left-hand corner of an envelope and then shifting the Royal Mail Cruciform logo 6cms to the right in order to avoid obliterating the user’s logo. Your editor reports this nice example from the IMP at Shrewsbury, but other reports would be welcome.



Pitney Bowes Connect+ Coloured Franks

Further to page 147-9, your editor reports that Pitney Bowes are no longer depicting their Connect+ machine in the frank of machine PB555206 at their Hertford office. They have replaced it with their company logo instead, using a slightly brighter blue colour to that used in the main part of the frank.



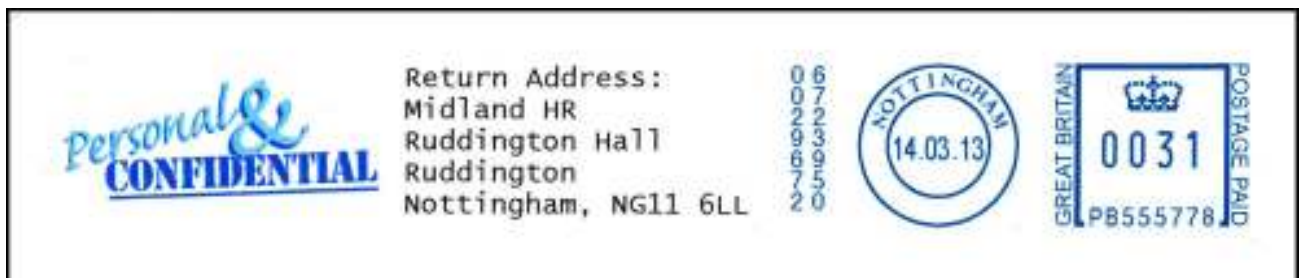
Peter Mantell sends the remaining coloured franks in this section, starting with this amazing Christmas slogan from Fenland District Council. Compare this with the two other examples from the same user that were shown on page 146-7.



Peter Mantell reports this coloured logo from the Met Office on machine PB555598. It supersedes the nice 'Union Jack' logo that was shown on page 131-6,



Peter Mantell reports this 'Personal & Confidential' slogan from Midland HR on PB555778. Note that it is similar to the frank depicted on page 145-4 from the same user but that was on a different machine, PB555793, and had a different return address.



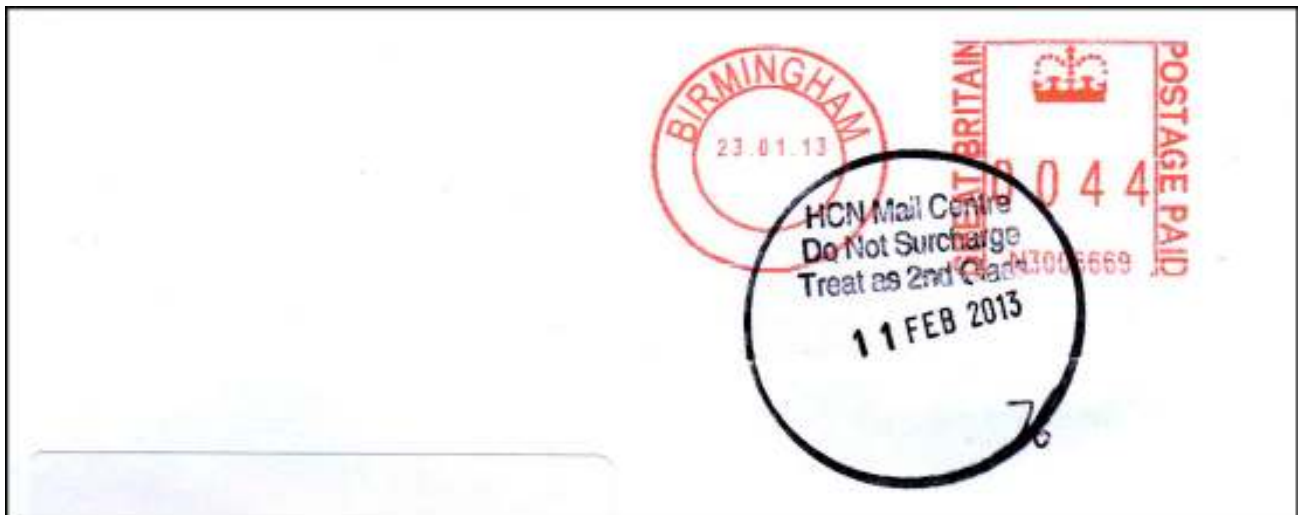
Pitney Bowes Connect+ Coloured Franks Continued

Further to page 147-9, Peter Mantell sends another example of PB555941 with the same return address of EC4Y 8JX, but this time showing a different user. The user on the frank previously illustrated was 'Passenger Focus', whereas this frank shows the user as the 'Office of Fair Trading'. This appears to be another example of two users sharing the same franking machine in order to take advantage of greater overall discounts on their mail.



Instructional Handstamps

Peter Mantell reports this new handstamp that has been applied to an underpaid meter item. It reads 'HCN Mail Centre / Do Not Surcharge / Treat as 2nd Class'. HCN stands for 'Home Counties North' Mail Centre, based at Hemel Hempstead which was opened about a year ago. The postage that was applied by the user (i.e. £0.44) is the rate for 1st class but the item was over-sized and £0.76 should have been paid - according to the hand-written amount beneath the handstamp. It appears that the Revenue Protection scheme was not applicable in this case and the item therefore received the 2nd class treatment.



Overseas News

Peter Mantell reports this new meter frank design from Sweden.

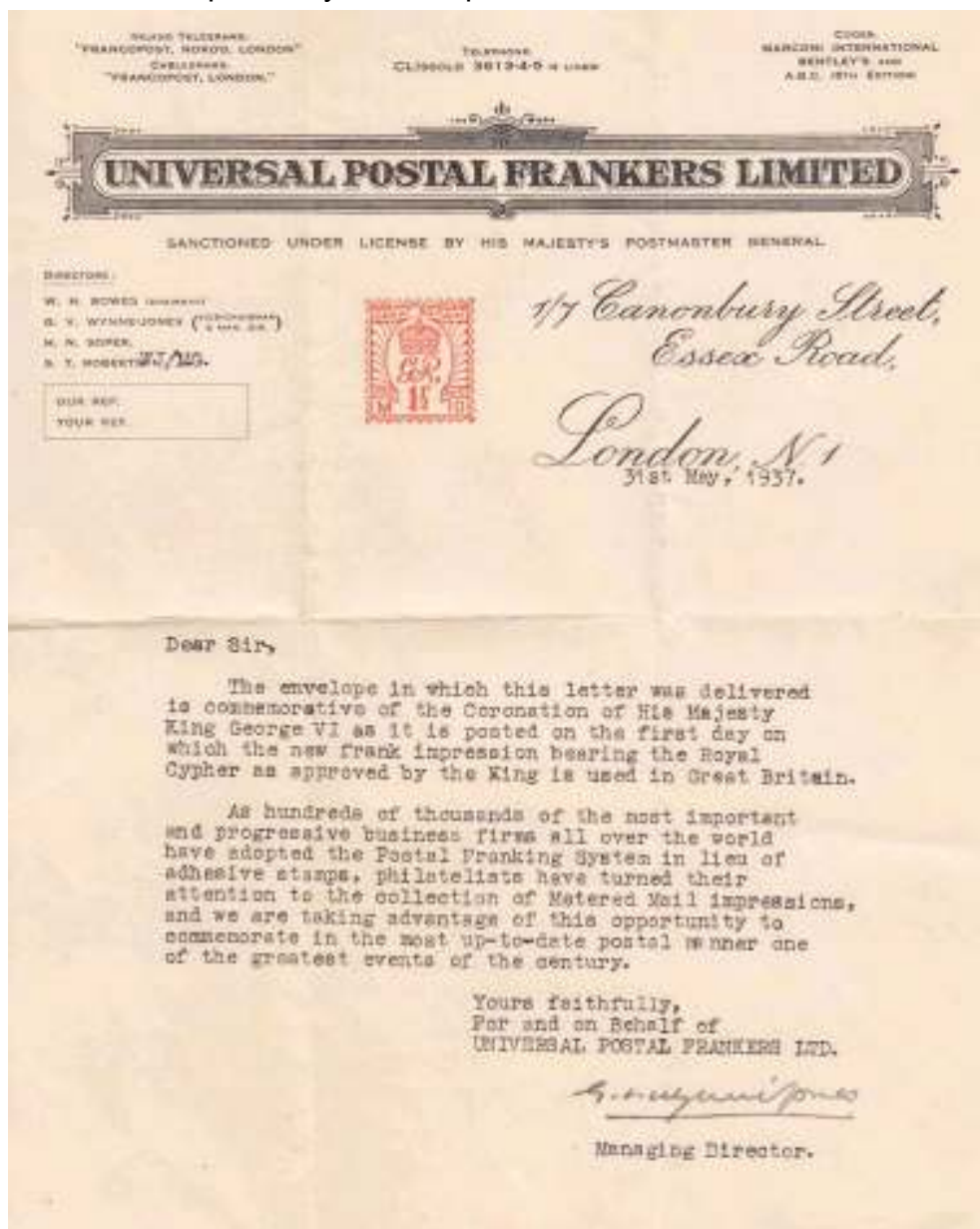


Interesting Historic Items

Peter Huss very kindly sends this most attractive slogan from 1937 that was used by Universal Postal Frankers on specially produced commemorative covers to celebrate the coronation of King George VI and the new Royal Cypher design. The cover in question is dated 31 V 37, although the coronation actually took place on 12 V 37.



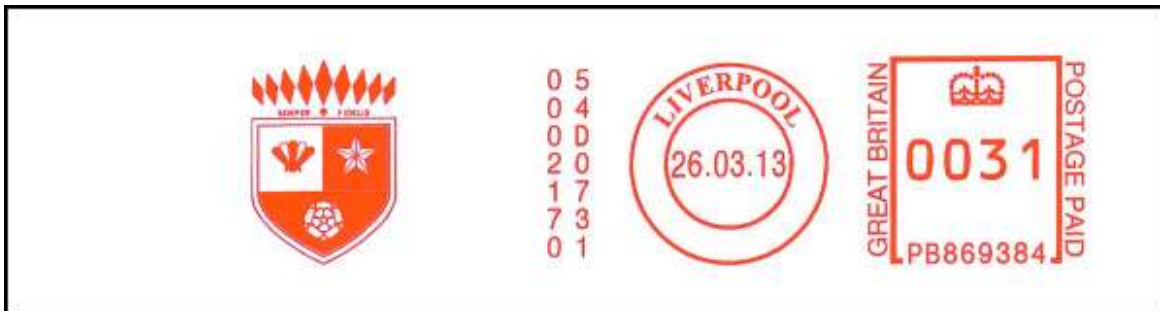
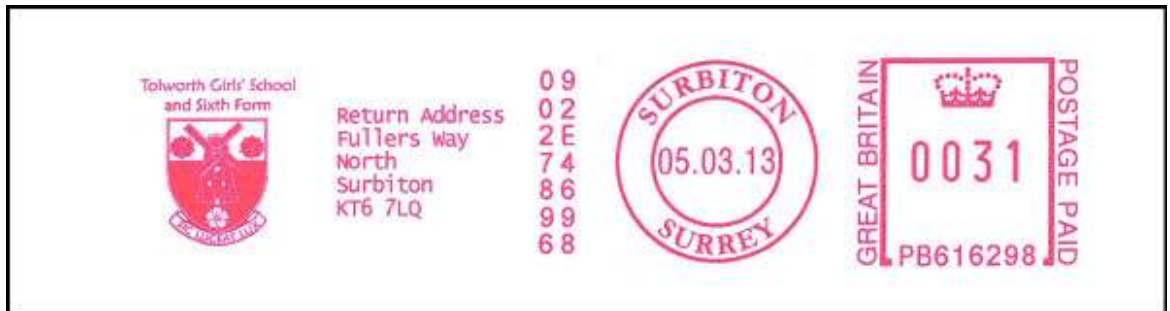
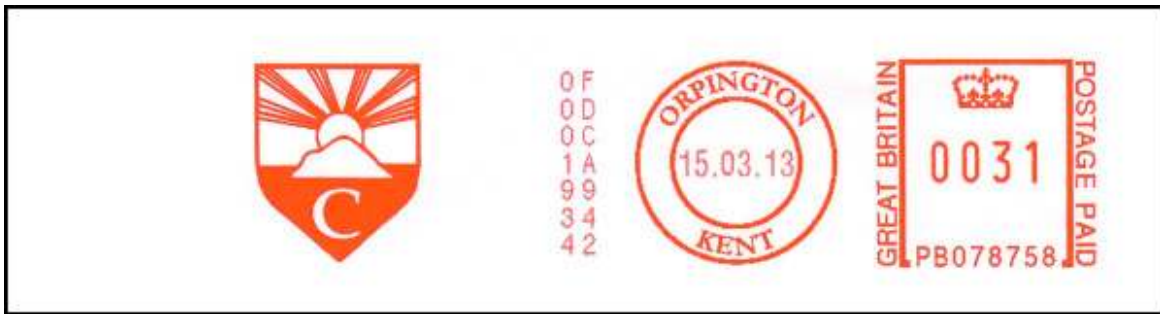
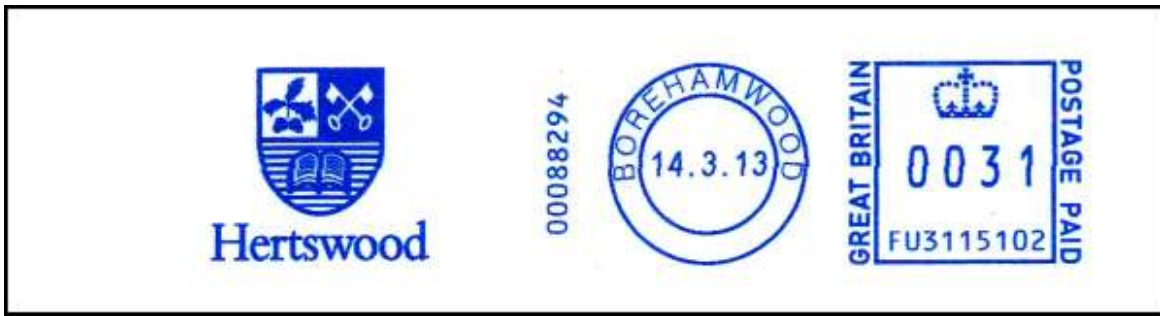
The cover contains an explanatory letter, reproduced below:



Note, however, that the GviR cypher (Design D) was not generally seen on mail until 1938.

Meter Thematics

Peter Mantell sends these four attractive 'coat of arms' designs:



Finally, Robert Rowe receives my 'Meter Thematic of the Month' award for this Union Jack decorated cow – simply wonderful.

