

METER NEWS

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Meter of the Month

We regularly see new Pitney Bowes and Neopost machines with demonstration franks on live mail but not, as far as I can recall, have we seen them on machines from Francotyp-Postalia – until now that is.

Peter Mantell reports this spectacular example on a brand new machine, serial F04114924. The item bears a postage value of “0053”. The town die reads “DEMONSTRATION / DEMONSTRATION” in place of the town name and county and a large “NOT VALID!” diagonally across the town / date die. Furthermore, the date “-6.3.13” has obscured the “V” of “VALID” in the process.

The user details are, unfortunately, not known but the tagcode decodes as Machine 108 from Chelmsford, Essex. It is presumed that this die is automatically triggered if the postage is set to zero, but such examples have not been reported. Your editor would be pleased to receive further reports of demonstration franks of this kind from Francotyp-Postalia.

Statistics form 1940

Richard Peck has recently acquired a 1940 3rd edition Harris *Meter Postage Stamp Catalogue*, which gives the following interesting statistics for that year. The number of countries that have adopted franking machines stands at 72 which breaks down into British Empire 22, Europe and Colonies 38, and the Rest of the World 12. The number of machines in use in Canada in August 1939 was approximately 1500.

Membership

This month we extend a warm welcome to Chris Pipe as member number 0040. Chris has a keen interest in postal history and has a collection of the area where he lives, namely Caerphilly, Bedwas and Trethomas. . He belongs to the Channel Island Specialist Society and collects Channel Islands postal history. He also has a collection of Square Circle postmarks.

Chris has recently started to collect meter marks of the Channel Islands and, by his own admission, is new to this area of philately.

Acknowledgements

My thanks this month go to Jon Aitchison, Jim Ashby, Dave Baker, Gwynne Harries, Peter Huss, David Jones, Peter Mantell, John McCallum, Richard Peck and Chris Pipe for their reports, communications or contributions.

Latest Numbers

Below is the list of 'latest numbers' as at the end of May 2013 – with updates shown in red. Please could I have the next reports by 28th June - 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>F1002730</u>	28.03.13	See MN 150
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Francotyp-Postalia

Optimail 25/35	<u>F04114964</u>	05.03.13	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
PostBase	<u>FP6110087</u>	20.05.13	Reported by PM
Ultimail	<u>FU3117170</u>	07.02.13	Reported by PM

Neopost

IS-330	<u>N1052218</u>	07.05.13	Reported by PM
IS-350	<u>N1181546</u>	20.05.13	Reported by PM
Various upgraded	<u>N1240644</u>	09.11.12	See MN 147
IJ-80/90/110	<u>N1254486</u>	02.03.13	See MN 149
IS-460 (Ex IJ-50)	<u>N1373678</u>	23.04.13	See MN 150
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>N3026495</u>	13.05.13	Reported by AN
IS-240 / IS-280	<u>N3313245</u>	11.04.13	See MN 150
IS-5000/6000	<u>N5001484</u>	19.03.13	See MN 150

Pitney Bowes

DM50, 55	<u>PB099074</u>	15.03.13	See MN 149
DM160i/220i	<u>PB161235</u>	04.04.13	See MN 150
DM50, 55	<u>PB335960</u>	17.05.13	Reported by PM
DM 810, 900 etc.	<u>PB527641</u>	18.03.13	Reported by AN
Connect+ 1000 etc.	<u>PB551669</u>	22.03.13	See MN 149
Connect+ 10FC etc.	<u>PB556517</u>	08.05.13	Reported by PM
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB618706</u>	02.05.13	Reported by PM
DM100i, 150i etc.	<u>PB874238</u>	07.05.13	Reported by PM

Advanced Mail Codes

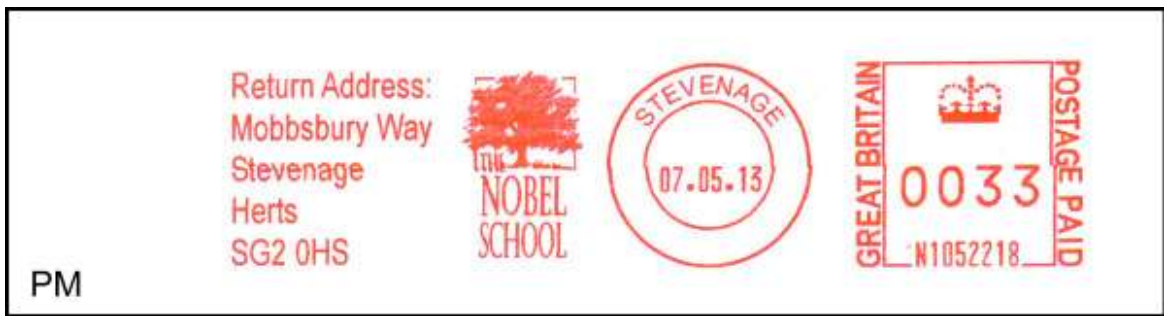
AAEU-LR	F1002463	03.12.12	See MN 146
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Please note that the date for FP6110017 in the listing for last month should have been 02.04.13. This will be corrected for the version of MN 150 on my web site.

Further to the Meter of the Month item on page 149-1, the contributor has kindly provided earliest / latest dates for the Chester Postage Due meter. This style is known to have been in use between 31.01.91 and 01.03.93.

Latest Number Images

Here are images of the latest numbers reported this month.



Latest Number Images Continued



Recent Interesting Items

Further to pages 86-3, 89-6 and 90-3, your editor reports that William Reed (Crawley) are still applying department numbers to their franked mail – over 5 years on from the first report. In the illustration below, the frank includes the number ‘85’ – a department number that has not previously been recorded against this user.



Dave Baker reports this Frama Mailmax frank where the town name ‘WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA’ appears in the lower half of the town die.



Pitney Bowes Connect+ Matrix Coding

Peter Mantel has received in his own post a cover that appears to have been franked by a Connect+ machine operating in PPI mode. The item is from Life Line Screening and the front of the envelope bears a colour-printed company logo. The reverse side of the envelope bears a return address and a QR Matrix code that appears to have also been printed by the Connect+ machine.



Using a smart-phone app, Peter has been able to interpret the QR code and it decodes as: *“Mr Peter Mantell;201 Nuthurst Road;;;Birmingham;Worcestershire;B31 4TG;MFNU105;;;”*

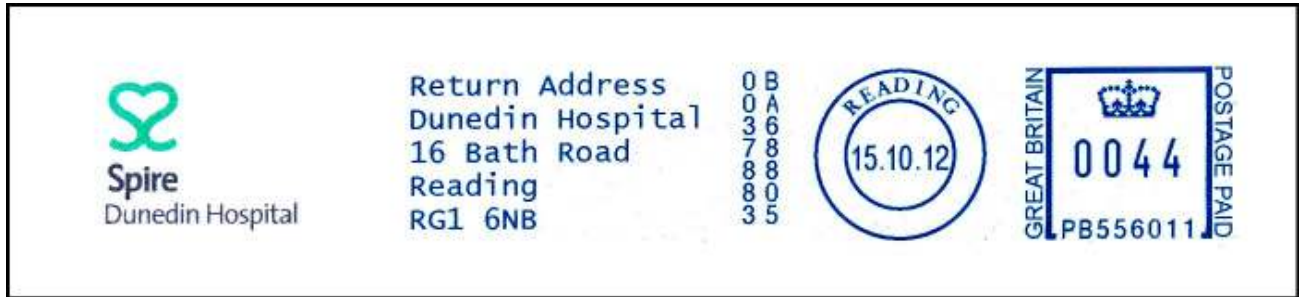
Peter was surprised to find he has been relocated to Worcestershire (!) and would also like to understand what the “MFNU105” means.

Your editor’s wife has also received a similar cover and this decodes as: *“Mrs Patricia Nixon;7 Bramblegate;;;CROWTHORNE;Berkshire;RG45 6JA;MCNU807;;;”*



Pitney Bowes Connect+ Images

Your editor reports two new coloured franks this month. The first is from the Dunedin hospital in Reading.



On page 132-4 we illustrated a 'Disney Pixar Cars' design from Walt Disney. Here the same machine, PB555262, is advertising the film 'Frankenweenie'.

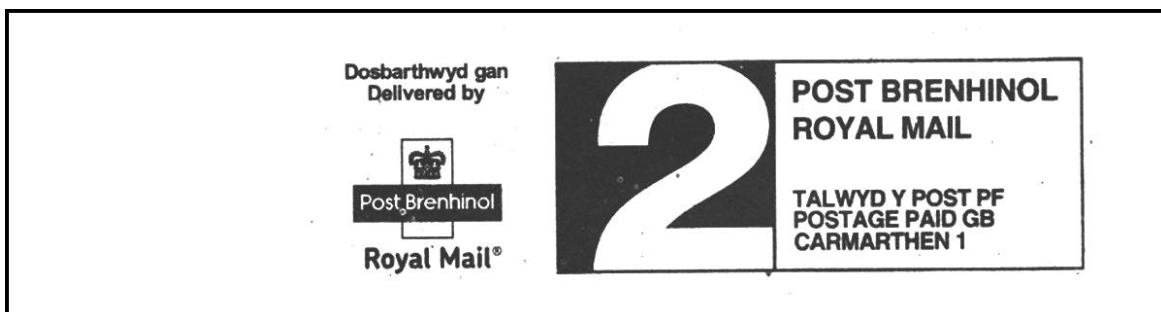


Printed Postage Impressions

Peter Mantell reports two new PPI variations. The first shows the PPI format being used in conjunction with the Royal Mail's new [Tracked 48](#) parcel service.

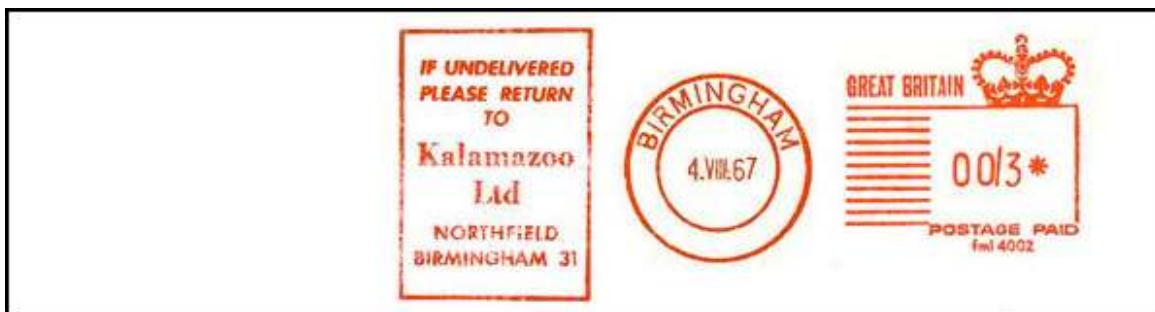


The second illustration shows the Welsh version of Royal Mail's Cruciform Logo.

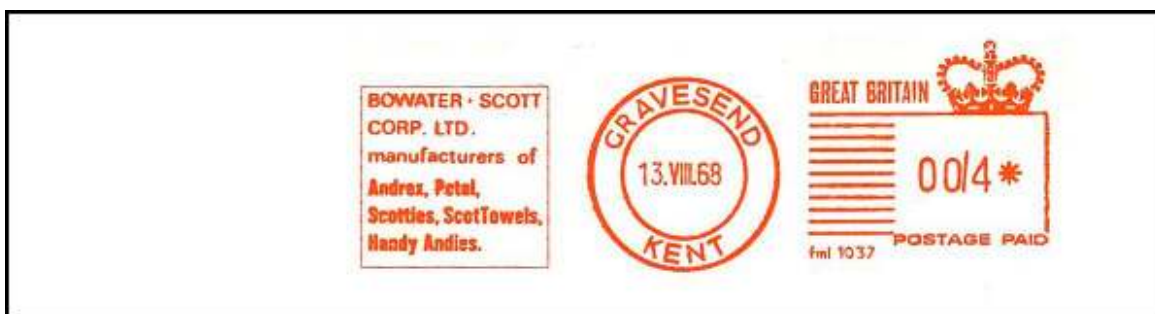


Design G Franks

Dave Baker has kindly supplied examples of both types of the scarce Design G frank. These were produced by the Hasler F88 machine and were introduced in the UK in 1967.



Type 1: Serial number (fml 4002) underneath "POSTAGE PAID" (1967)



Type 2: Serial number (fml 1037) below the horizontal lines (1968)

The first digit of the serial number was assigned to different regions of the UK as follows:

fml 1xxx	Greater London, Surrey, Sussex, Kent, Essex, Suffolk, Huntingdonshire, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Hertfordshire
fml 2xxx	Scotland
fml 3xxx	Cheshire, Lancashire, Westmorland, Cumberland, Northumberland and Durham
fml 4xxx	Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Northamptonshire, Rutland, Leicestershire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Montgomeryshire, Merionethshire, Angelsey, Caernarvonshire, Flint and Denbighshire
fml 5xxx	Somerset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Monmouthshire, Radnor, Brecknock, Glamorganshire, Carmarthenshire, Cardiganshire and Pembrokeshire
fml 6xxx	Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire
fml 7xxx	Hampshire, Dorset, Devon, Cornwall and the Isle of Wight
fml 8xxx	Northern Ireland

In some cases (possibly when machines were relocated) this allocation was not followed. It is not known whether any machines with the serial prefix 'fml 8' were ever produced and any reports would be welcome. Indeed, reports of all Design G franks would be welcome.

Meter Thematics

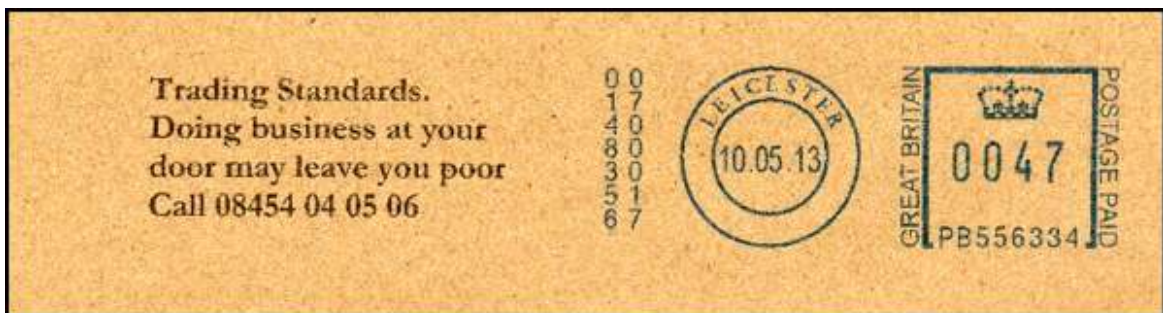
Further to page 139-11 and earlier, David Jones reports the latest slogan from the British Museum, advertising their latest World Cultures exhibition with 'Life and death in Pompeii and Herculaneum'.



On page 73-7, back in 2006, we illustrated this thematic on machine PB509135 from the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew. However, since then, the user has changed allegiance to Neopost and the same slogan now appears on machine N3021981, this time in blue ink.



In line with the 'Sign of the Times' slogans on pages 124-8 and 136-7, Gwynne Harries sends this nice 'Trading Standards' slogan from Leicester City Council. It reads: "Doing business at your door may leave you poor".



Your editor has found this rather nice woodpecker from Glass Scribe International Ltd based in Dingwall, Scotland, and it receives my Meter Thematic of the Month award.

