

METER NEWS

Issue Number 163 May 2014

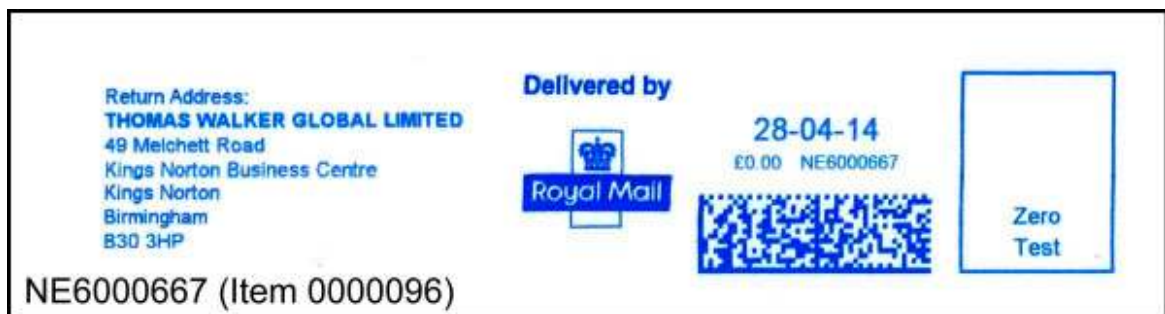


Editor: Alastair Nixon, 7 Bramblegate, Edgumbe Park, Crowthorne, Berks, RG45 6JA. Tel: +44 (0) 1344 775378
Email: nixon48@gmail.com Web site: <http://www.meterfranking.co.uk>

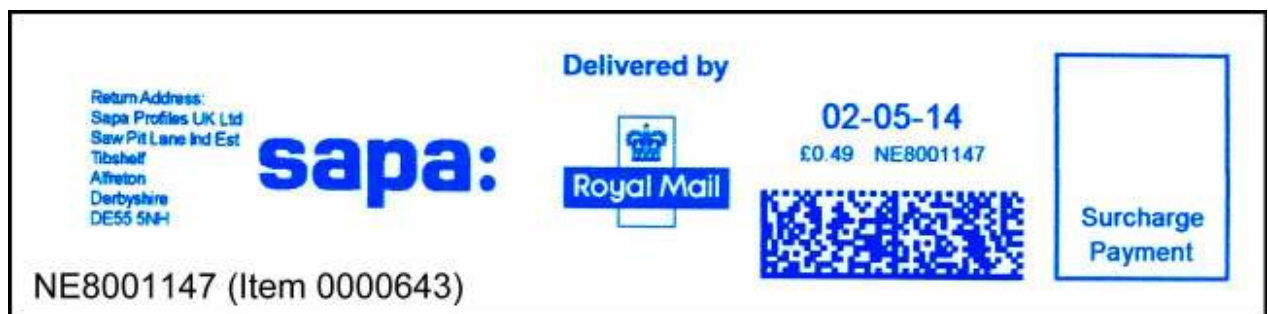
Meter of the Month

A joint award this month - with two new Neopost 'Design J' franks that nicely complement each other. The first is from Peter Mantell and shows a 'Zero Test' item from an IS-240/280 model (NE6 prefix).

With reference to pages 162-9 &10, this item decodes as Format '0', Mail Class '0' and Mail Type '0000'. The full image is shown below:



The second is from Alan Godfrey and shows a 'Surcharge Payment' item from an IS-480 model (NE8 prefix). Here, the item decodes as Format 9, Mail Class 9 and Mail Type 9999.



Your editor assumes that the 'Surcharge Payment' option is for settling underpayments with Royal Mail. However, if an item were un-franked, surely the surcharge would be more than just the first class rate of £0.49. It is possible that this was a 'mis-selection' made by the user.

Acknowledgements

My thanks this month go to Jon Aitchison, Patrick Awcock, Alan Godfrey, Gwynne Harries, Peter Huss, David Jones, Kamal Maheshwari, Peter Mantell, John Notton, Robert Rowe, Peter Shaw, Greg Spring, Rick Stambaugh, Peter Wood and Ray Woodward-Clarke, for their reports, communications or contributions.

Latest Numbers

Below is the list of 'latest numbers' as at the end of May 2014 – 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>F1003746</u>	08.05.14	Reported by PM
Matrix F12 etc.	<u>FR2000060</u>	24.04.14	See MN 162

Francotyp-Postalia

Optimail 25/35	<u>F04115546</u>	28.02.14	See MN 161
Centormail 240/300	<u>FC5110688</u>	28.04.13	Reported by PM
MyMail / PostagePro	<u>FM2655540</u>	03.09.13	See MN 155
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	<u>FP6110743</u>	31.01.14	See MN 160
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	<u>FP6112404</u>	15.05.14	Reported by PM
Ultimail	<u>FU3117271</u>	08.07.13	See MN 153

Neopost

IS-330	<u>N1052705</u>	06.08.13	See MN 154
IS-350	<u>N1181955</u>	14.02.14	See MN 160
Various upgraded	<u>N1240674</u>	18.11.13	See MN 158
IJ-80/90/110	<u>N1254487</u>	11.07.13	See MN 158
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>N1390685</u>	22.08.13	See MN 154
IS-480	<u>N3029799</u>	17.04.14	See MN 162
IS-240 / IS-280	<u>N3319102</u>	15.04.14	See MN 162
IS-5000/6000	<u>N5001663</u>	04.02.14	See MN 160
IS-240/280	<u>NE6000667</u>	08.04.14	See MN 162
IS-480	<u>NE8000824</u>	02.05.14	Reported by AN, see below
IS-5000/6000	<u>NE9000041</u>	25.04.14	See MN 162

Pitney Bowes

DM50, 55	<u>PB099074</u>	15.03.13	See MN 149
DM160i/220i	<u>PB164165</u>	18.03.14	See MN 161
DM50, 55	<u>PB353407</u>	18.04.14	See MN 162
DM 810, 900 etc.	<u>PB527641</u>	18.03.13	See MN 151
Connect+ 1000 etc.	<u>PB551797</u>	23.04.14	See MN 162
Connect+ 10FC etc.	<u>PB556984</u>	18.03.14	See MN 161
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB620146</u>	07.04.14	Reported by AN
DM100i, 150i etc.	<u>PB880514</u>	07.05.14	Reported by PM

Advanced Mail Codes

AAGB-BU	PB619053	07.03.14	See MN 161
AAGJ-HH	HQ25668	PPI no date	See MN 160

Peter Wood also reports serial NE8001011 dated 29-04-14 (image not supplied).

Next month it is expected that the N137 and N138 series will be dropped from the list as there have not been any updates to these series for over a year.

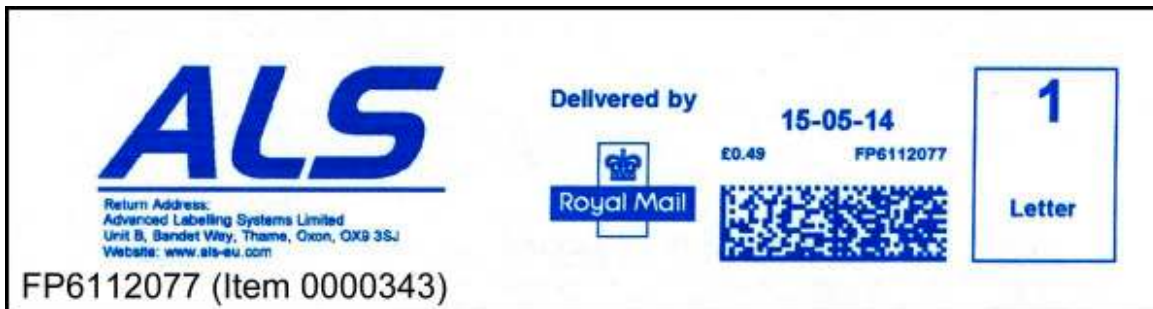
Latest Number Images

Here are images of the latest numbers reported this month – with contributor’s initials shown in the bottom left of each image, together with a repeat of the serial number for Mailmark items as the serials on these are in such a small font size.



Recent Interesting Items

In the 'Latest Numbers' section above, we report our first example of a Francotyp-Postalia in the 'Design J' format, using the FP6112 prefix (compared with the FP6110 prefix used in the 'Design H' format). This means, of course, that we have now seen examples of the new Mailmark™ matrix design from all four of the manufacturers. Your editor has also found an example, FP6112077, on the same date that is the lowest recorded number for this series.



Peter Mantell reports a second example of FP6112404 (see previous page), but this time with a pair of double vertical bars appearing to the right of the frank. John Notton reports a similar item on N1240123, with single vertical bars on the far left of the envelope. John wonders whether there could be any operational significance to these bars. Your editor believes these are merely printing malfunctions but it is interesting that the items have come from two different manufacturers. We would be pleased to receive reports of similar items.



Peter Mantell has found this item with a '233' appearing in the slogan position. The sender is Bournemouth University. It is possibly a department number – see page 116-3 and earlier.



Mailmark™ News

Your editor reports a new 'Design J' format, namely '1 L Letter 250g' as shown below:



The above, together with the two new formats, illustrated on page 1 of this newsletter, enable the 'Mail Type' table to be extended as follows:

Mail Type Code	Type Description	First Reports
0000	Zero Test	Page 163-1
0001	1 Letter, 2 Letter	Pages 161-3 and 161-1
0100	(Special Delivery) 1 PM 100g	Page 162-3
0101	1 L Letter 100g, 2 L Letter 100g	Pages 162-4 and 161-7
0102	1 L Letter 250g, 2 L Letter 250g	Above and page 161-7
0104	2 L Letter 750g	Page 162-3
1111	1 Small Parcel	Page 161-7
1403	1 Advanced	Page 161-7
1503	2 Advanced	Page 161-7
5000	(Special Delivery) 9 AM 100g	Page 162-4
9999	Surcharge Payment	Page 163-1

Colour Slogans

Your editor reports two new colour slogans produced on Pitney Bowes Connect+ machines:



Meter Franking Publicity Leaflet

Your editor has come across this colourful Royal Mail publicity leaflet sent out to customers.



On the reverse side, the leaflet advertises the new international mail and parcel services that were launched by Royal Mail on 31st March 2014.

Our new international mail and parcel services launch on 31st March 2014

With delivery to Europe from 3 days and the rest of the world from 5 days – it's easy to access our new services through your franking machine.

International Tracked & Signed
Fully tracked with signature on delivery and online confirmation

International Tracked
Fully tracked with delivery confirmation online

International Signed
Tracked to the point the item leaves the UK, with a signature taken on delivery

International Standard (previously Airmail)
Great value standard delivery

International Economy (previously Surface Mail)
Non-priority delivery for even less

Using our new international services on your franking machine

- » Weigh the item to find the correct price
- » Frank onto the item or onto a label
- » Attach an international barcode label (available by calling 08457 950 950*)
- » Complete the recipient's details in your despatch book and on the barcode label
- » Give your item to the collections postman or to your local Post Office® branch with a copy from your despatch book

For details on all Royal Mail products accessible from your franking machine, please visit www.royalmail.com/franking

To find out more about our new services speak to your franking manufacturer or visit www.royalmail.com/franking

*Calls to this number cost 5p per minute from a BT Landline, calls from mobiles cost considerably more.
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Interesting Historic Items

Your editor reports this unusual bulk posting frank, with “B.P.I.” appearing in the town die instead of a date. Patrick Awcock assumes that this is similar to the usage in pre-paid machine cancellations at the time (1960s).

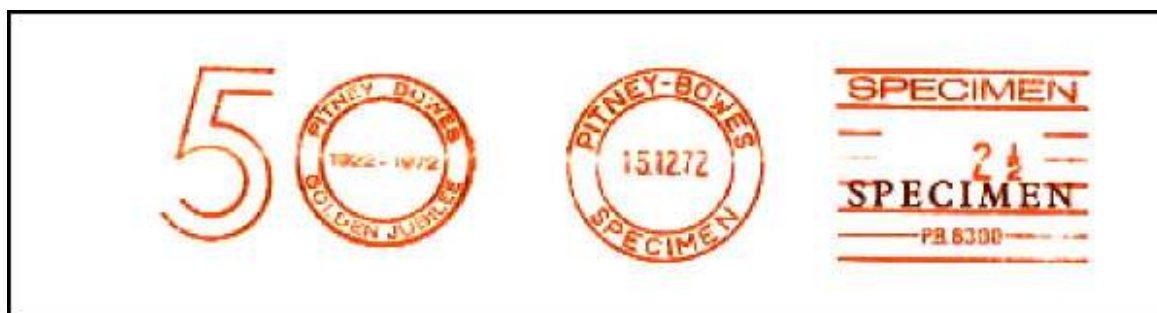


Patrick states that “BP1” was used for the first bulk posting of (initially) a minimum of a million items from an office. As quantity rebates became the norm, the number of items was reduced, and just “BP” was used. Patrick also points out that the 4^D postage indicates a date range between 1965 and 1968 and assumes it was applied by Barclaycard as the item came from Northampton.

On page 50-8, we illustrated this ‘Golden Jubilee’ slogan to celebrate 50 years of Pitney Bowes franking machines.



Now, Jon Aitchison sends this unusual specimen frank with the same slogan. The serial number of this frank is P.B.8300 and is dated 15.12.72.



The item is one of a number of interesting items from a collection that Jon has recently acquired. Your editor hopes to include further items from this collection in future editions of the newsletter.

Interesting Historic Items Continued

Whilst browsing through some back issues of the Meter Stamp Bulletin, Ray Woodward-Clarke has come across this photograph of the first Postage Meter in Great Britain that was included in an advertising leaflet around 1922. Ray wonders whether any copies of the original leaflet have survived – if so, we would be pleased to know.

SETTING THE FIRST POSTAGE METER IN GREAT BRITAIN.



The illustration above, showing the Assistant Postmaster, London, E.C.1., setting the first Postage Meter (a Pitney-Bowes single value) on 5th September, 1922, is reproduced from an advertising leaflet (undated, but probably not long after 1922) published by Postage Meters and Machines Co., Imperial Buildings, 56 Kingsway, W.C.2 (subsequently incorporated in Universal Postal Frankers Ltd., now Pitney-Bowes Ltd.) Although the faces would be clearly recognisable in the original, we do not know the names of any of those present.

The leaflet gives much detail about the machines - which, it states, are "in nowise similar to the many devices upon the market for affixing ordinary postage stamps"! - and their advantages. They are said to be a "to a great extent" modification of the 'Universal' Postmarking and Canceling Machines manufactured by us and in use in the Post Offices of many different countries".

Historic Meter Thematics

Peter Shaw, an interested reader who collects King Edward VIII philatelic items, kindly sends this slogan which reads "Insist on Savoy Stamp Albums".



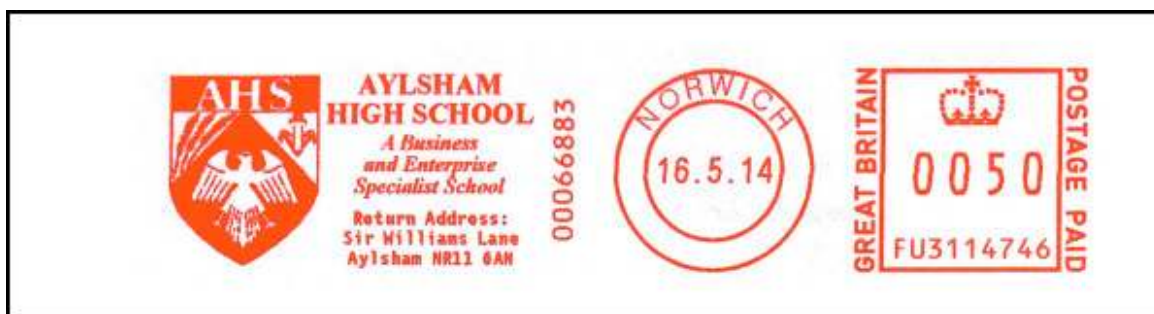
Meter Thematics

This month we illustrate four nice Coat of Arms designs. The first is from David Jones and the other three are from Peter Mantell.

The first item is from the Handsworth Grammar School in Birmingham.



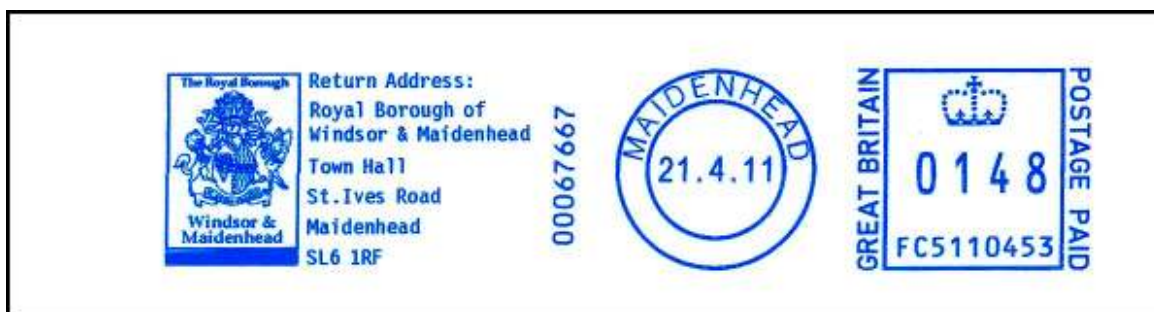
The second is from the Aylsham High School in Norwich.



The third is from Beech House School in Rochdale.



The fourth is from the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead Town Council.



Meter Thematics

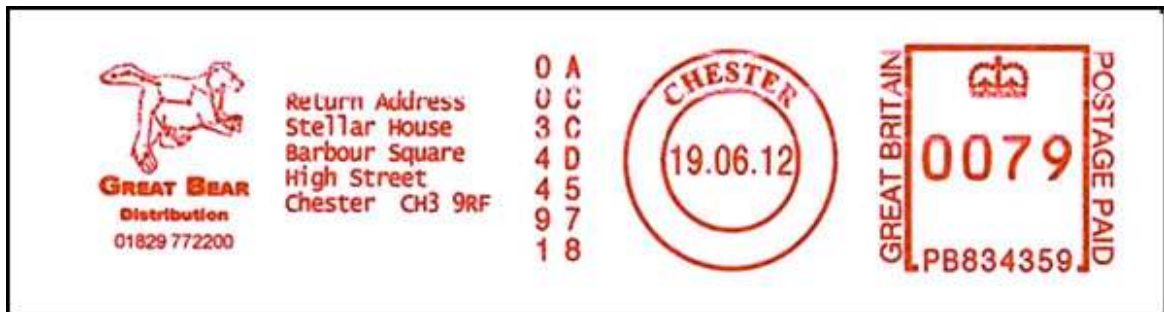
Further to page 151-8 and earlier, David Jones reports the latest slogan from the British Museum, advertising their current exhibit entitled “Ancient lives, new discoveries”.



Peter Huss kindly sends this ‘Wind Farm’ slogan from a company called Windhoist based in Irvine, Scotland.



Peter also provides this unusual Astronomy thematic, depicting the Great Bear.



Finally, my Meter Thematic of the Month award goes to Peter Mantell for this attractive flag thematic from the Union Jack Club in London.

