

METER NEWS

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Meter of the Month

Ray Woodward-Clarke reports a Frama specimen frank from the mid-1990s that has not previously been reported in Meter News. The indicia block is inscribed "MMC FRAMA" - MMC standing for 'Mail & Mechanisation Company', based in North London and a subsidiary of the Swiss Company 'Frama AG'.

MMC first introduced franking machines to the UK in 1982 with their Model E4 (MMC prefix). Within two years, the company changed its name to 'Scriptomatic' and the serial prefix was changed to 'FSC'. The company became known as 'Frama UK' from about 1990.

Ray has kindly supplied two different examples of this specimen frank with the complete images being shown below.



Acknowledgements

My thanks this month go to Jon Aitchison, Gwynne Harries, Peter Huss, David Jones, Peter Mantell, Robert Petts, Robert Rowe, 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 July 2014 – with updates shown in red. Please could I have the next reports by 28th August - 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 | See MN 163 |
| Matrix F12 etc. | <u>FR2000360</u> | 29-07-14 | Reported by AN |

Francotyp-Postalia

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|----------|----------------|
| Optimail 25/35 | <u>F04115620</u> | 04.06.14 | See MN 164 |
| Centormail 240/300 | <u>FC5110688</u> | 28.04.13 | See MN 163 |
| 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>FP6112503</u> | 03-07-14 | Reported by PM |
| Ultimail | <u>FU3117315</u> | 23.05.14 | See MN 164 |

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-440 (Ex IJ-40) | <u>N1390685</u> | 22.08.13 | See MN 154 |
| IS-480 | <u>N3030170</u> | 08.07.14 | Reported by PM |
| 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>NE6002156</u> | 30-07-14 | Reported by AN |
| IS-480 | <u>NE8002109</u> | 03-07-14 | Reported by PM |
| IS-5000/6000 | <u>NE9000088</u> | 31-05-14 | See MN 164 |

Pitney Bowes

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------|----------------|
| DM50, 55 | <u>PB099074</u> | 15.03.13 | See MN 149 |
| DM160i/220i | <u>PB166214</u> | 17-07-14 | Reported by PM |
| DM50, 55 | <u>PB355680</u> | 04.07.14 | Reported by AN |
| 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>PB557173</u> | 17-07-14 | Reported by PM |
| DM 400, 450, 475 | <u>PB620146</u> | 07.04.14 | See MN 163 |
| DM 110i | <u>PB880678</u> | 18.06.14 | See MN 164 |

Advanced Mail Codes

| | | | |
|---------|------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| AAGH-CU | <u>NE8001997</u> | 07.07.14 | Reported by PM. See page 6 |
| AAGJ-HH | <u>HQ25668</u> | PPI no date | See MN 160 |

Having relegated the N137 series last month to the 'Dead Series', we now have a latest number update for this series with N1373709 dated 24.07.14 - reported by Peter Mantell.

Next month, the PB0 and PB527 series are likely to be dropped from this list as no updates have been seen on these 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.



Latest Number Images Continued



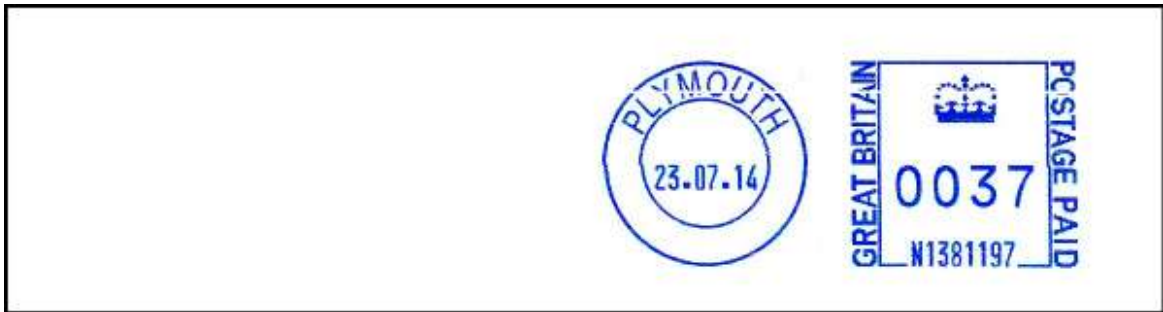
Low Number

Peter Mantell reports this low number (FR2000005) for the Frama Matrix F12 series.

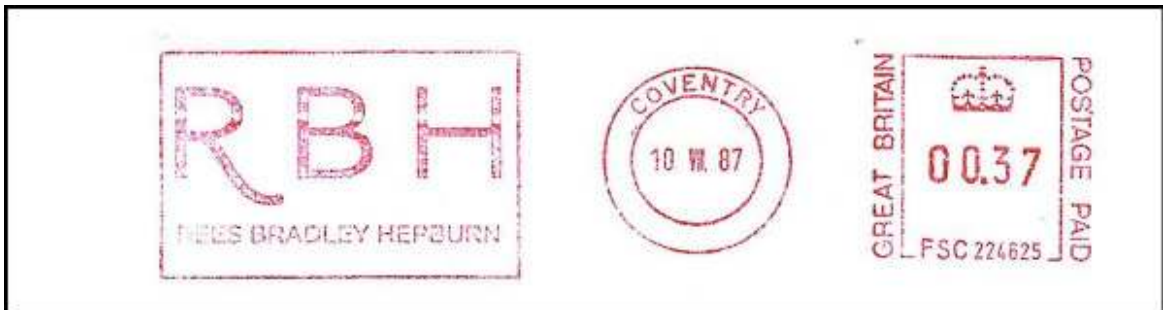


Recent Interesting Items

Peter Mantell reports all of the items in this section, starting with this frank from an IS-420 machine (N138 prefix) using blue ink. This is the first such report for this series.



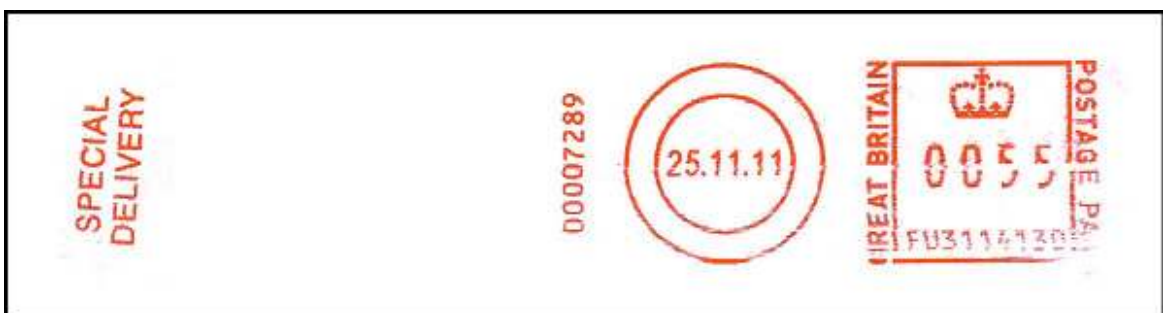
This month we illustrate two 'Last of Breed' category items from Sensonic 2000 machines. The first one is serial FSC 224625, showing an incorrect year of '87' instead of '14'.



The second is serial number FSC224878. These old-technology machine (where the date is set manually by the user) would have been new in 2004 and there must now be very few of these remaining in use.

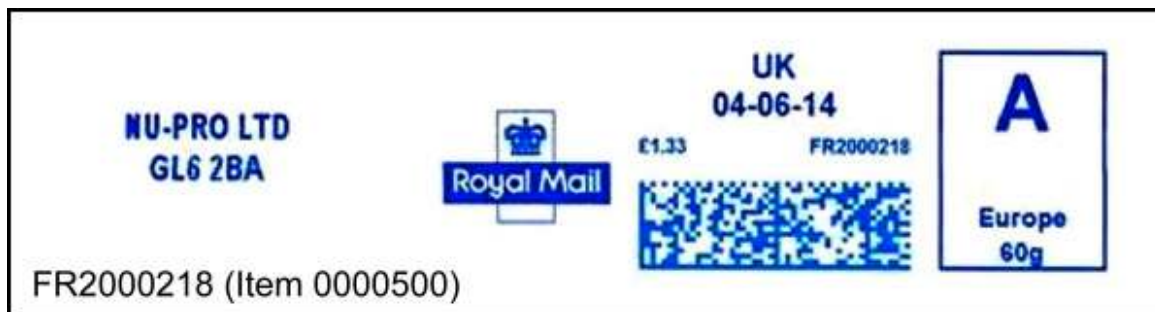


Peter Mantell reports this unusual Francotyp-Postalia Ultimail item (serial FU3114130) where the town name is completely missing!



Mailmark™ News

Peter Huss reports a new Mailmark™ format with this Airmail Europe 60g item.



The Mail Type code for this format is '6002' which enables 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 | Pages 161-7 and 163-5 |
| 0103 | 1 L Letter 500g | Page 164-6 |
| 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 |
| 6001 | A Europe 20g | Page 164-6 |
| 6002 | A Europe 60g | See above |
| 9999 | Surcharge Payment | Page 163-1 |

Peter Mantell reports this Advanced Mail item in Design J format where the indicia block, in error, reads "2 Letter" rather than "2 Advanced". Note that this is also a 'highest' Advanced Mail Code - see page 2.



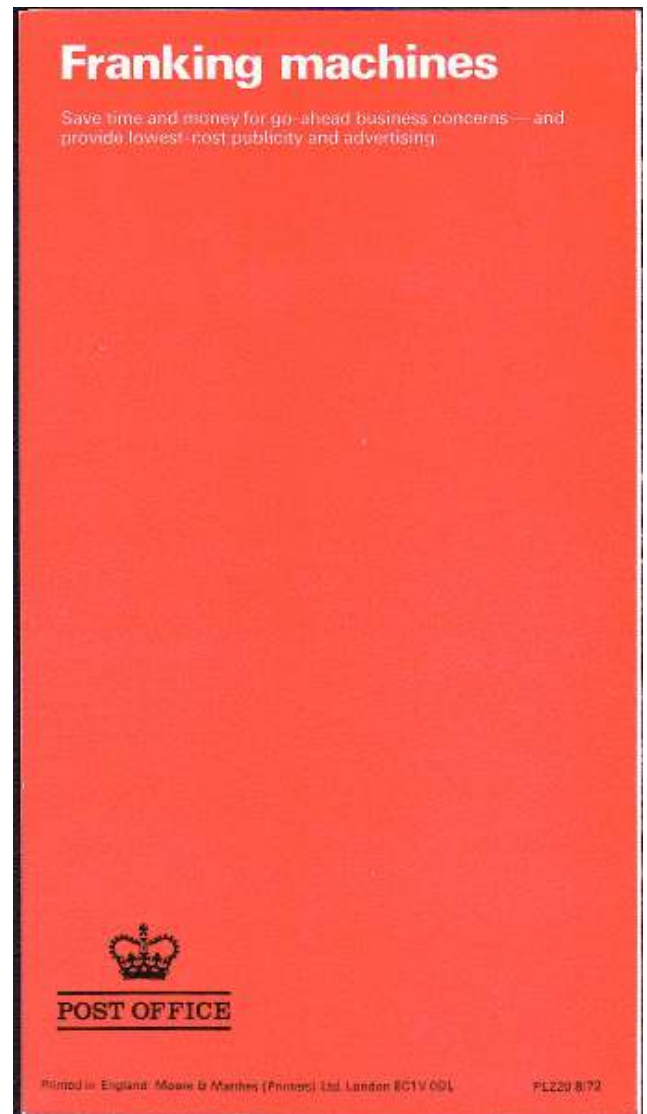
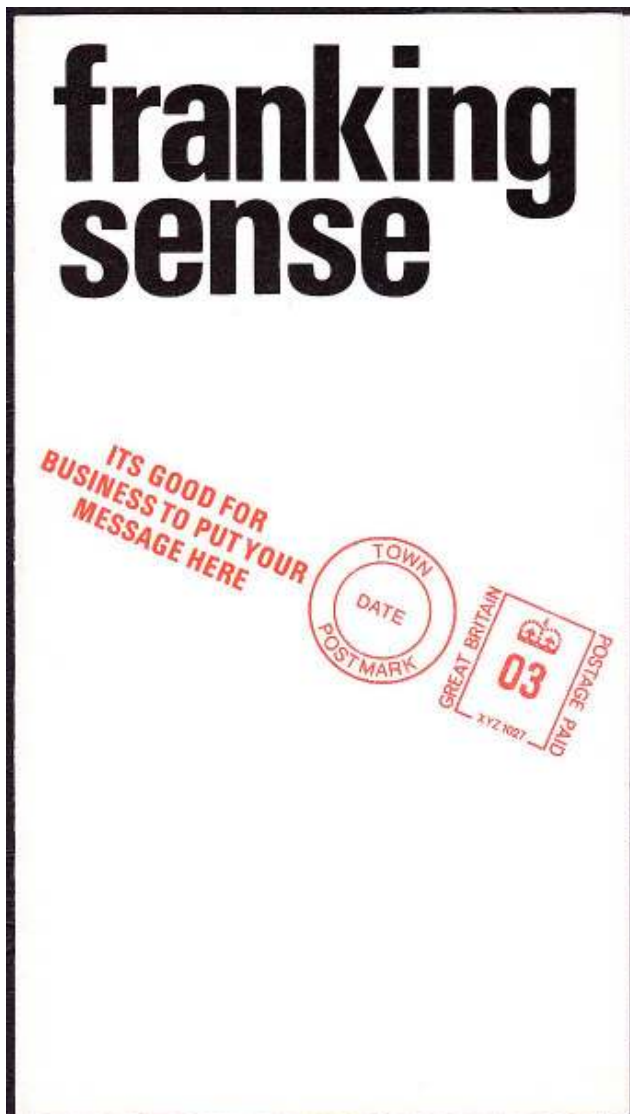
Coloured Slogans

Peter Mantell sends this colourful SmartStamp Printed Postage Impression from Broadcast Media Services.



Interesting Historic Items

Ray Woodward-Clarke sends a scan of a Post Office promotional leaflet for franking machines from 1972. The images below (in reduced size) show the front and the back of the leaflet. The inside is completely blank and Ray wonders whether this has been misprinted. Does anyone also own an example of this leaflet and able to confirm whether or not it has been misprinted?

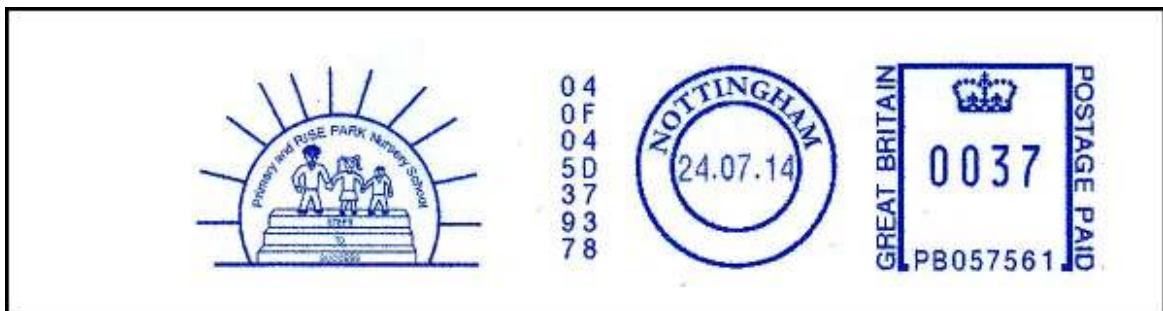


Meter Thematics

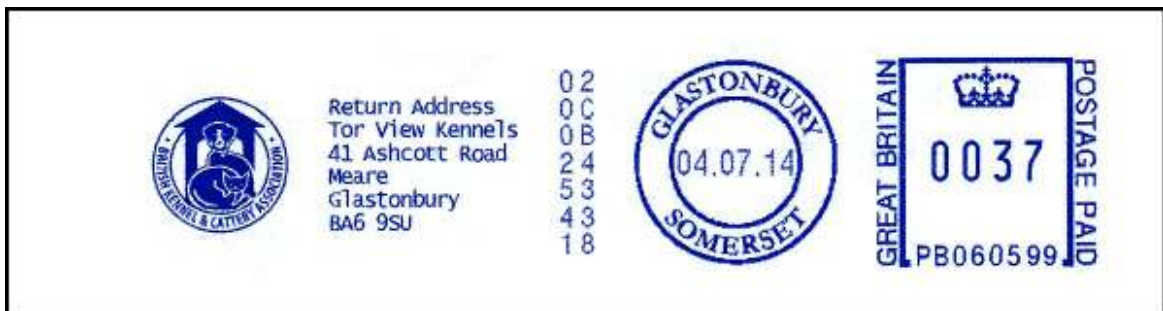
David Jones sends this unusual design from the Jackfield Tile Museum in Shropshire.



Schools normally depict coats of arms in their slogans but Peter Mantell has found this one that breaks the general rule.



Peter Mantell has also found this slogan showing a cat and a dog from the Tor View Kennels in Glastonbury..



Finally, my Meter Thematic of the Month award goes to Peter Mantell for this unusual and attractive design depicting a taxi.

