

# METER NEWS

*Issue Number 168 Oct 2014*



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## Meter of the Month

This month, a number of readers have reported a new Pitney Bowes PB662 series with a 7-digit serial number – until now, PB machines have always had 6-digit numbers. The item shown here is the earliest reported and was found by your editor.

29-09-14  
£0.49 PB6625769



So, what is going on here? The Pitney Bowes web site does not advertise any new model, so it is more likely to be a converted DM 400 series machine. One possibility is that there is a policy being imposed by Royal Mail to standardise to 7-digit numbers across all manufacturers. Whatever the case, it is hard to explain such a random high serial number for the start of a new series.

## Editorial

This month we extend a warm welcome to Jan Lannoye from Belgium as member no. 0042. Jan has been a keen collector of world-wide meter franks for more than 30 years, although his prime interest is with marks from Belgium. Jan has a website showing some examples of Belgium marks at: [http://www.evergem.be/file\\_uploads/125112.pdf](http://www.evergem.be/file_uploads/125112.pdf)

## Acknowledgements

My thanks this month go to Jim Ashby, Alan Godfrey, Gwynne Harries, Peter Huss, Jan Lannoye, Peter Mantell, John Notton, Robert Petts, Greg Spring and Peter Wood for their reports, communications or contributions.

## Latest Numbers

Below is the list of 'latest numbers' as at the end of October 2014 – with updates shown in red. Please could I have the next reports by 28th November - thanks. In the list below, the part of the serial number that directly relates to the model is underlined.

In the table below, note that those entries that have a date format with hyphen separators are the ones in 'Design J' (matrix) format.

### Frama (UK)

Matrix F2, F4, F6	<u>F1003875</u>	10.10.14	Reported by PM
Matrix F12 etc.	<u>FR2000467</u>	07-10-14	Reported by PM

### 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>FM2656946</u>	14-10-14	Reported by PM
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	<u>FP6110743</u>	31.01.14	See MN 160
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	<u>FP6112678</u>	30-09-14	Reported by AN
Ultimail	<u>FU3117315</u>	23.05.14	See MN 164

### Neopost

IS-330	<u>N1052975</u>	09.06.14	Reported by PM
IS-350	<u>N1181981</u>	16.07.14	Reported by PM
Various upgraded	<u>N1240699</u>	23.10.14	Reported by PM
IS-480	<u>N3030261</u>	15.09.14	See MN 167
IS-240 / IS-280	<u>N3319102</u>	15.04.14	See MN 162
IS-5000/6000	<u>N5001705</u>	20.10.14	Reported by PM
IS-240/280	<u>NE6003082</u>	04-10-14	Reported by PM
IS-480	<u>NE8003410</u>	15-09-14	Reported by AN
IS-5000/6000	<u>NE9000151</u>	04-09-14	See MN 167

### Pitney Bowes

DM160i/220i	<u>PB167080</u>	05-09-14	See MN 167
DM50, 55	<u>PB361508</u>	28.10.14	Reported by PM
Connect+ 1000 etc.	<u>PB551797</u>	23.04.14	See MN 162
Connect+ 10FC etc.	<u>PB557299</u>	11-08-14	See MN 167
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB620521</u>	04.08.14	See MN 166
<b>DM 400, 450, 475?</b>	<u><b>PB6626184</b></u>	15-10-14	Reported by JL – see 168-1,7
DM 110i	<u>PB881891</u>	28.10.14	Reported by PM

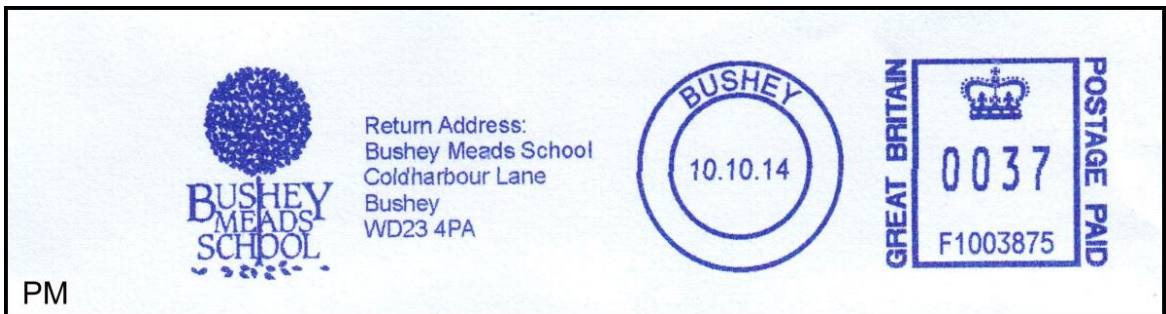
### Advanced Mail Codes

AAGH-LG	<u>NE8002505</u>	16-10-14	Reported by PM
AAGJ-HH	HQ25668	PPI no date	See MN 160

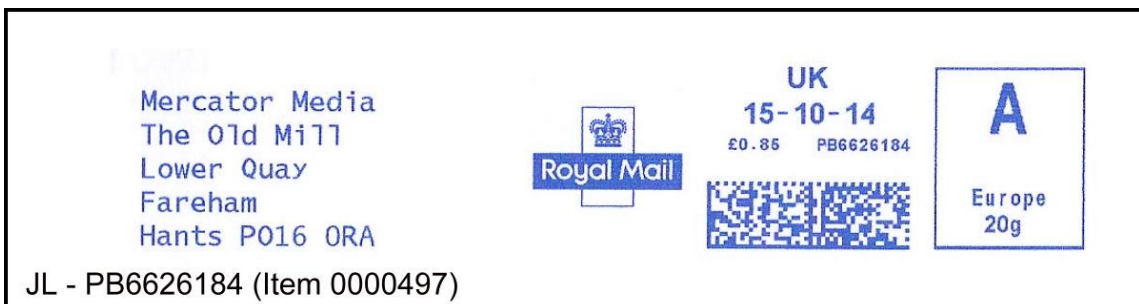
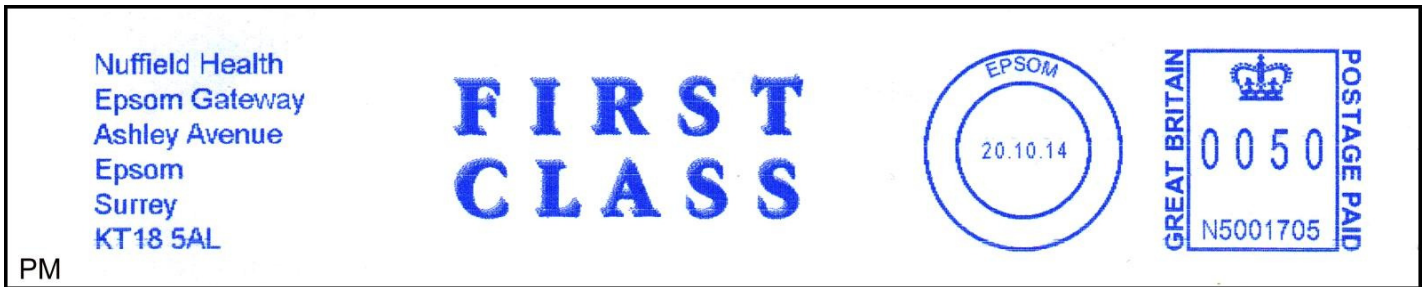
My thanks also go to Robert Petts for his report of N1052855 dated 06.06.14.

### Latest Number Images

Here are images of the latest numbers reported this month – with contributor's initials etc. shown in the bottom left of each image.



**Latest Number Images Continued**



## Latest Number Images Continued

Finally for this section, below is the image of the 'high-numbered' Advanced Mail Code. Note that the higher code AAGJ-HH was reported in Meter News Issue 160, but that report was an undated PPI (Printed Postage Impression).



## Recent Interesting Items

The report of FC5110272 above is the first example received of a Centormail 240/300 appearing in 'Design J' format.



The really interesting fact, however, is that the Item number for this frank is '0000000'. Peter Mantell initially thought that the item counter wasn't working for some reason. However, since then, four further examples from this machine have been found with item numbers 0005025, 0009293, 0009788 and 0010098, dated 8th, 22nd, 23rd and 24th October respectively.

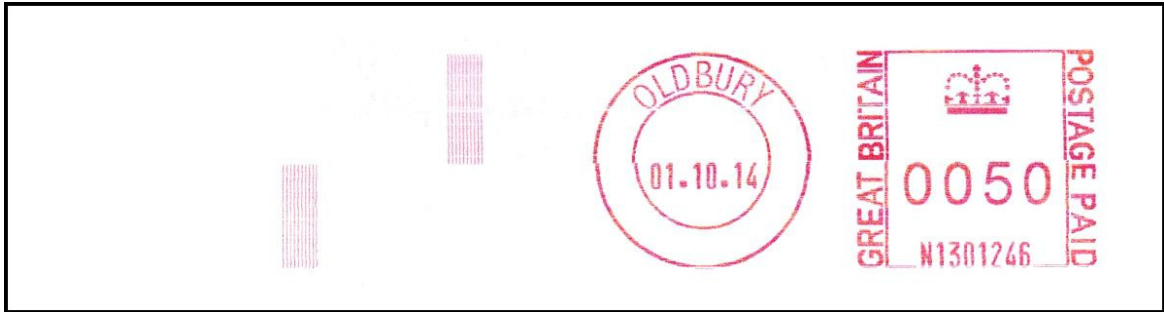
So what is going on? Do the item counts in the matrix block always start at '0000000' rather than '0000001'? Perhaps the counter was not working for an initial period? The chances of finding similar examples are remote, so we shall probably never know!

Further to page 167-5 and earlier, Peter Mantell has found a fourth 'Zero Test' item on live mail. Note that all examples seen to date have been from Neopost machines.

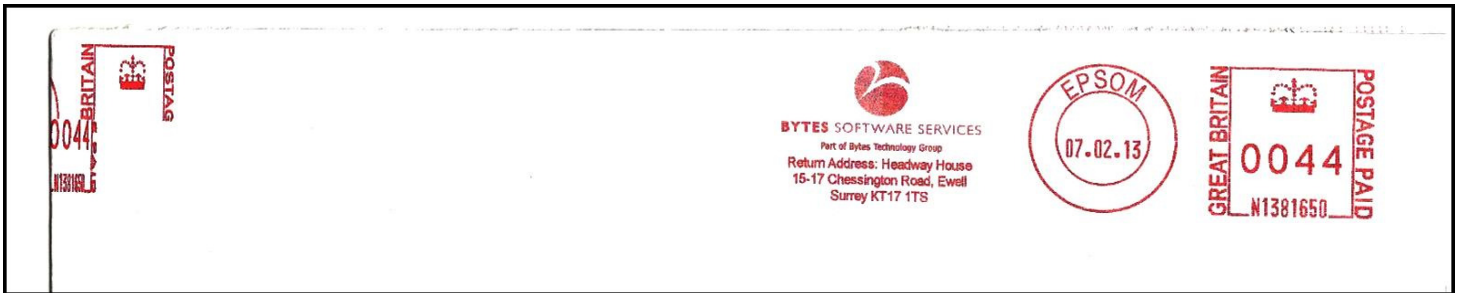


## Recent Interesting Items Continued

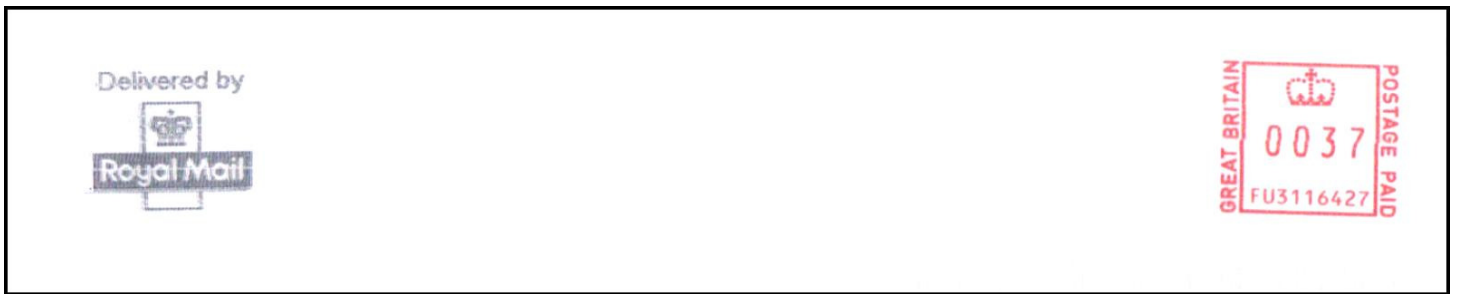
Peter Mantell reports these two unusual blocks appearing on this IJ35/45 machine - each block comprising 10 vertical bars. Your editor is undecided whether it is some kind of test pattern or a printing malfunction.



Robert Petts sends this printing error from a Neopost IS-420 machine. The indicia has been repeated (but squashed and displaced) at the far-left of the envelope.



John Notton reports this printing error where the town die is completely missing! It is rather surprising that a 'date correction' handstamp was not applied by Royal Mail in this case, as it surely breaks meter franking regulations not to have a date present.



Peter Mantell has noticed several Francotyp-Postalia PostBase machines producing the slogan block left-justified on the envelope. Here is an example from the Greensward Academy based in Hockley, Essex.



PM - FP6112353 (Item 0006061)

## Pitney Bowes – PB662 Series

Further to page 168-1, below is a table listing all reports to date of the new PB662 series.

Serial	Earliest Date	Reported by	Comments
PB6625769	29-09-14	Your editor	See page 168-1
PB6625812	10-10-14	Your editor	See below
PB6625841	10-10-14	Peter Mantell	See below
PB6625893	22-10-14	Alan Godfrey	See below
PB6625937	27-10-14	Peter Mantell	See below
PB6626184	15-10-14	Jan Lannoye	See pages 168-2 & 168-4


Below are illustrations of the other reports from this new series.


 Delivered by **10-10-14**  
 £0.35 PB6625812



Spectrum Brands  
 2a Stephenson Estate  
 Stephenson Road  
 Washington  
 NE37 3HW




AN - PB6625812 (Item 0000266)


 Delivered by **10-10-14**  
 £0.35 PB6625841

PM - PB6625841 (Item 0000904)


 Experience. The difference


 Delivered by **22-10-14**  
 £0.35 PB6625893

Return Address  
 Icknield House Heaton Street  
 Birmingham B18 5BA




AG - PB6625893 (Item 00001478)


 Delivered by **27-10-14**  
 £0.49 PB6625937

PM - PB6625937 (Item 0000208)



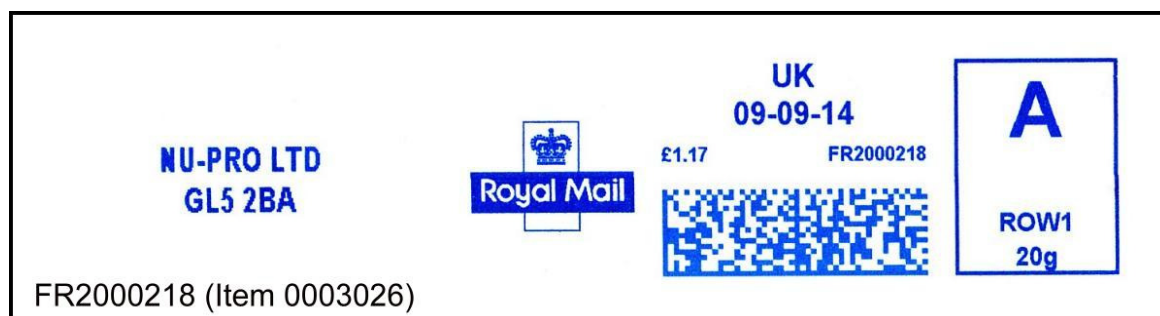

## Mailmark™ News

Further to page 162-10, your editor has noticed that the Tariff Version (encoded in the matrix block) on items dated on or after 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014 has changed from '2' to '3'. Initially I was puzzled by this as I was not aware of any recent postal rate changes. However, I have recently come across a letter from Royal Mail that was sent to meter franking users on 19<sup>th</sup> September advising of a new service, thus explaining the change in tariff. The letter includes the following statement:

“From 20th October 2014, a parcel measuring up to 450mm x 350mm x 160mm in size and up to and including 2kg in weight will be a small parcel.”

This letter also advises that between the period 20th Oct 2014 and 18th Jan 2015, 1-2kg 2nd class small parcels will be charged the same price as 0-1kg small parcels and advises Mailmark franking machine users to just continue to frank as normal because the promotion price will be available automatically – Mailmark includes automated Tariff updates.

Peter Huss reports this incorrect (Rest of World) use on a letter to Germany:



The Mail Type code for this item is '6016' which enables the 'Mail Type' table to be extended:

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	Page 165-6
6016	A ROW1	See above
6097	A ROW2	Page 166-1
9999	Surcharge Payment	Page 163-1



### Coloured Franks

Peter Mantell sends this nice colourful logo from the Bath office of the Withy King group of solicitors.



Your editor has found this black and white sender's address from Westland Horticulture in Dungannon, Northern Ireland.



Peter Mantell has found this black and white sender's address from INSS, Nottingham.



Peter Mantell has also found this attractive green logo from BAM Ltd. – a building contractor based in Hemel Hempstead.



## Meter Thematics

Peter Mantell sends this new Railway thematic with 'Thameslink & Great Northern' in the return address block.



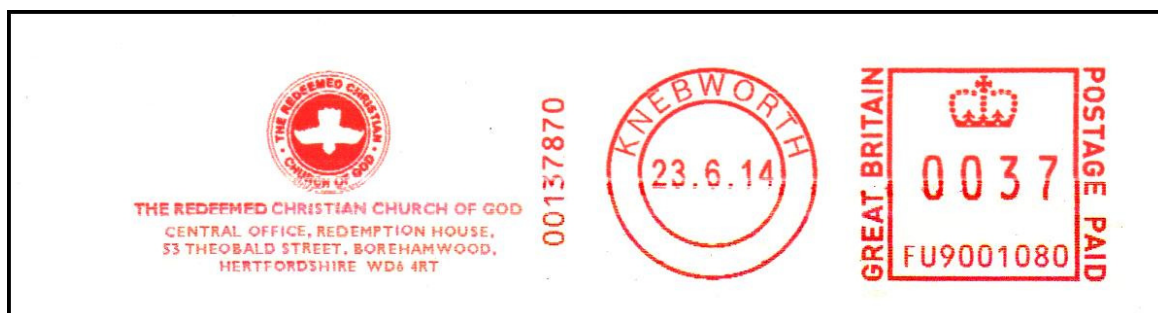
Gwynne Harries sends this attractive coat of arms from the Royal Philatelic Society London.



Staying on the philatelic theme, Peter Huss sends this one from Stanley Gibbons. This logo has been reported before, but not on a Design J format frank.



Peter Mantell sends this religious thematic from The Redeemed Christian Church Of God in Knebworth, Hertfordshire.



Finally, my Meter Thematic of the Month award goes to the Coyote Moon design on page 3.