

# METER NEWS

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## Meter of the Month

A reader from China, Jingsheng Wang, kindly sends this "Season's Greetings" slogan taken from a Pitney Bowes PPI frank. The full image is shown below:



Jingsheng also sends this early DM400 specimen – quite a monster of a frank!



## Pitney Bowes – New series

Peter Mantell reports a new PB20 series. Similar to the new PB662 series, it has a 7-digit serial number. At this stage it is unknown what model this has come from – possibly from a Mailmark version of a DM110 machine?



## Acknowledgements

My thanks this month go to Jon Aitchison, Jim Ashby, Patrick Awcock, Alan Godfrey, Peter Huss, Jan Lannoye, Peter Mantell, Robert Rowe, Peter Wood and Jingsheng Wang for their reports, communications or contributions.

## Latest Numbers

Below is the list of 'latest numbers' as at the end of December 2014 – with updates shown in red. Please could I have the next reports by 28th January - 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	See MN 168
Matrix F12 etc.	<u>FR2000812</u>	26-11-14	Reported by PM

### Francotyp-Postalia

Optimail 25/35	<u>F04115620</u>	04.06.14	See MN 164
Centormail 240/300	<u>FC5110688</u>	28.04.14	See MN 163, see note below
MyMail / PostagePro	<u>FM2657277</u>	17-10-14	See MN 169
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	<u>FP6110743</u>	31.01.14	See MN 160
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	<u>FP6113437</u>	19-12-14	Reported by PM
Ultimail	<u>FU3117315</u>	23.05.14	See MN 164

### Neopost

IS-330	<u>N1052975</u>	09.06.14	See MN 168
IS-350	<u>N1181981</u>	16.07.14	See MN 168
Various upgraded	<u>N1240699</u>	23.10.14	See MN 168
IS-480	<u>N3030278</u>	05.11.14	Reported by PM
IS-240 / IS-280	<u>N3319102</u>	15.04.14	See MN 162
IS-5000/6000	<u>N5001705</u>	20.10.14	See MN 168
IS-240/280	<u>NE6003636</u>	05-12-14	Reported by PM
IS-480	<u>NE8004242</u>	18-12-14	Reported by PM
IS-5000/6000	<u>NE9000246</u>	11-11-14	See MN 169

### Pitney Bowes

DM160i/220i	<u>PB168063</u>	28-11-14	Reported by AN
DM110i?	<u>PB2000200</u>	26-11-14	PM – new series, see page 1
DM50, 55	<u>PB362909</u>	04.12.14	Reported by PM
Connect+ 1000 etc.	<u>PB551797</u>	23.04.14	See MN 162
Connect+ 10FC etc.	<u>PB557482</u>	12-11-14	See MN 169
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB620566</u>	01.12.14	Reported by PM
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB6626184</u>	15-10-14	See MN 168, see page 7
DM 110i	<u>PB882070</u>	24.11.14	Reported by PM

### Advanced Mail Codes

AAGH-LG	NE8002505	16-10-14	See MN 168
AAGJ-HH	HQ25668	PPI no date	See MN 160

Note that, since initially reported in MN 163, the date of FC5110688 has been shown in error. The item was dated 28.04.14 (and not 28.04.13).

### 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.

  
barbers-online.co.uk

Return Address:  
Tower House  
Maer Lane  
Market Drayton  
TF9 3SH

Delivered by  
  
Royal Mail

26-11-14  
£0.35 FR2000812



**2**  
Letter

PM - FR2000812 (Item 0000348)

Return Address:  
SULZER DOWDING AND  
MILLS LTD  
193 CAMP HILL  
BIRMINGHAM  
B12 0JJ

Delivered by  
  
Royal Mail

19-12-14  
£0.35 FP6113437



**2**  
Letter

PM - FP6113437 (Item 0000815)

PM





Delivered by  
  
Royal Mail

05-12-14  
£0.35 NE6003636




**2**  
Letter


PM - NE6003636 (Item 0001802)

Return Address:  
High Street  
Newport  
Shropshire  
TF10 7BD



Delivered by  
  
Royal Mail

18-12-14  
£0.49 NE8004242



**1**  
Letter

PM - NE8004242 (Item 0000078)

**Latest Number Images Continued**

Note that the new series PB2000200 item reported on page 1 is shown again here for completeness.

Delivered by **28-11-14**  
 £0.35 PB168063




**2**  
Letter

AN - PB168063 (Item 0001112)

Delivered by **26-11-14**  
 £0.85 PB2000200






**2**  
L Letter  
250g

PM - PB2000200 (Item 0001998)

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

08  
0A  
0D  
00  
13  
26  
09





GREAT BRITAIN  POSTAGE PAID  
**0050**  
 PB362909

PM

**oakwood**  
environmental services


06  
07  
01  
00  
28  
14  
37




GREAT BRITAIN  POSTAGE PAID  
**0050**  
 PB620566

PM

0C  
06  
04  
0C  
18  
65  
09



GREAT BRITAIN  POSTAGE PAID  
**0037**  
 PB882070

PM

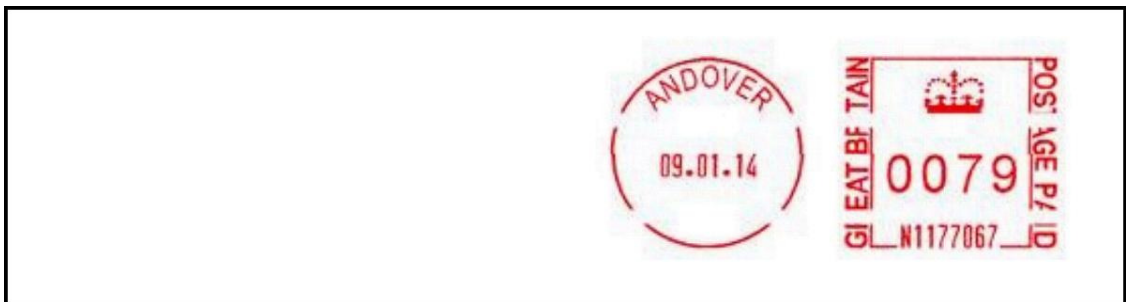


## Recent Interesting Items

Peter Mantell sends this unusual item. At first glance it seems that the frank has been applied by First Great Western trains. However, the return address shown is 'STY.com'. It turns out that 'STY' stands for 'Simply Thank You' and is a company that sends gifts out on behalf of other firms wishing to reward their staff or as compensation to a customer - or even sending gifts on behalf of the general public. The company's web site can be found at <http://www.simplythankyou.com/>. The gifts can be almost anything, from vouchers to flowers and electronic items to food and drink. When doing so, it seems that STY.com can apply the logo of the company in question, alongside their own return address!



Further to page 164-05 and earlier, Peter Huss reports a further example of a single-ring town die, making 5 different examples in total.



Peter Huss also sends this Pitney Bowes Connect+ frank where the 'Air Mail' label has been printed by the franking machine. This is the first time this practice has been seen.

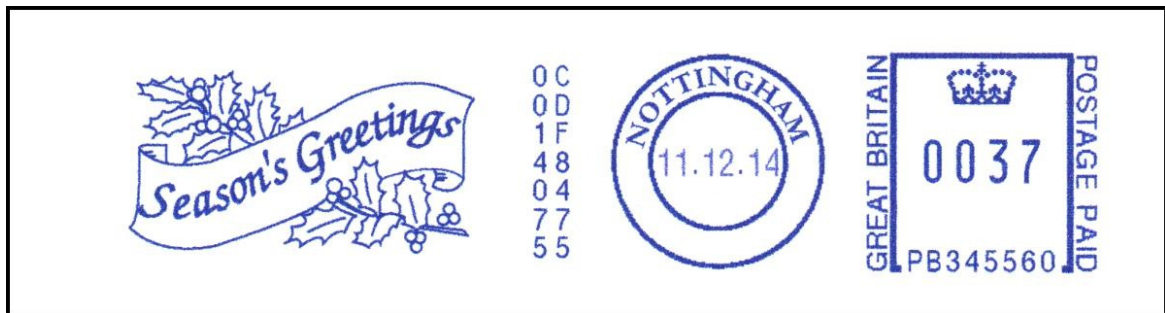


Peter Mantell reports our second Francotyp-Postalia FC series frank in Design J format.



## Recent Interesting Items Continued

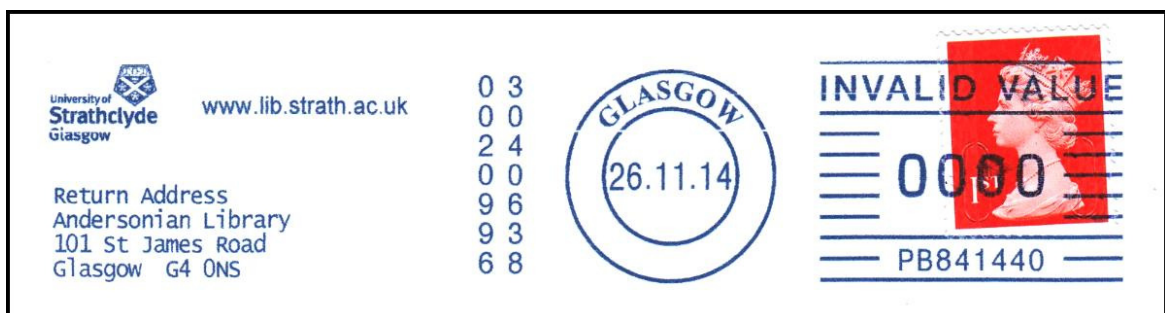
In addition to the PB362909 item shown on page 4, Peter Mantell sends two further Christmas slogans:



Further to pages 163-1 and 164-2, Peter Mantell reports a third example of a Design J 'Surcharge Payment', but the first on a Pitney Bowes machine. As with the previous examples, the Mail Type code is '9999'.



Peter Mantell also sends this 'Invalid Value' frank from the University of Strathclyde that has been applied over a first class stamp. This is a strange practice and one that surely breaks Royal Mail regulations.

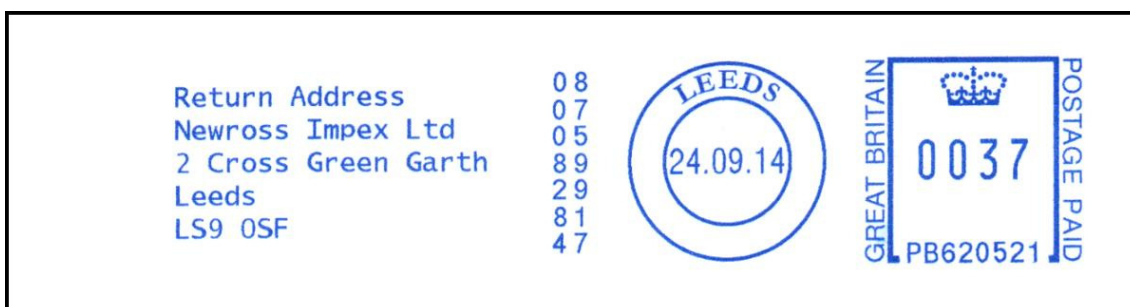


## Pitney Bowes – PB662 Series

Further to page 168-7, Peter Mantell reports a significantly lower number for the recently introduced PB662 series. The serial number is PB6625149 - some 600 lower than the previously recorded number. It is possible that the series started at PB6625000 but it remains a mystery why this series should commence at such a random number.



Peter also reports a more recent example that provides the user details. Peter has also found an example of the user's previous machine, serial PB620521. It is possible that the Mailmark version is actually the same machine but converted to Design J. Either way, this seems to confirm that the PB662 series is definitely associated with the DM 400 series models.



This item, together with other recent reports enables the table series items to be updated:

Serial	Earliest Date	Reported by	Comments
PB6625149	30-10-14	Peter Mantell	See above
PB6625767	11-12-14	Peter Mantell	Mail Class = 7 (wow!!)
PB6625769	29-09-14	Alastair Nixon	See page 168-1
PB6625812	10-10-14	Alastair Nixon	See page 168-7
PB6625841	10-10-14	Peter Mantell	See page 168-7
PB6625888	11-11-14	Alastair Nixon	
PB6625893	22-10-14	Alan Godfrey	See page 168-7
PB6625908	05-11-14	Peter Mantell	
PB6625937	27-10-14	Peter Mantell	See page 168-7
PB6626184	15-10-14	Jan Lannoye	See pages 168-2 & 168-4



## Mailmark™ News

This month, for the first time, we are able to report four examples of Design J meters franked at the 'Medium Parcel' rate. The first example is a Second Class Pitney Bowes item and comes from your editor. Decoding the matrix block reveals the Mail Type to be '0301' (Tariff Rate 2).



The other three reports are provided by Peter Mantell. The item below is similar to the one above and is also Mail Type '0301' (Tariff Rate 2).



The next example is a First Class Francotyp-Postalia item and the Mail Type in this case is '0302' (Tariff Rate 2). It is surprising the codes for these are not the other way round. Logically, you would expect to see '0301' assigned to First Class and '0302' to Second Class.



However, the position with regard to 'Mail Type' is further complicated as can be seen with the report of this final example from Peter. The item is from a Pitney Bowes machine and the Mail Type is '0303' (Tariff Rate 2).





## Mailmark™ News Continued

Furthermore, Peter Mantell reports our first example (in red ink) of a ‘2 Small Parcel’ item. Here the Mail Type code is ‘2221’.



One possible explanation to all this is that, at some stage, changes were made to the Mail Type code assignment. This was possibly made in association with Tariff Rate 3 - see page 168-8 where we reported that a new ‘Small Parcel’ rate was being introduced from 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 14.

It is also possible that the software for some machines or for some manufacturers may not have been updated. In time, further examples of ‘Small Parcel’ and ‘Medium Parcel’ may clarify the situation.

Finally, Peter Huss reports this item addressed to Germany where ‘ROW2 20g’ had been applied incorrectly. The Mail Type code for this item is ‘6096’.



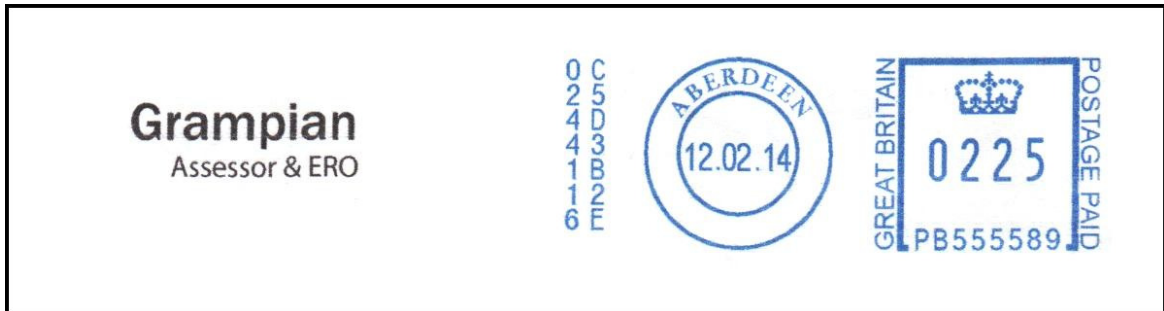
The above reports enable the following entries to be added to the ‘Mail Type’ table (together with corrections to the ‘6016’ and ‘6097’ entries).

Mail Type Code	Type Description	First Reports
0301	2 Medium Parcel	See above
0302	1 Medium Parcel	See above
0303	1 Medium Parcel	See above
2221	2 Small Parcel	See above
6016	A ROW1 20g	Page 168-8
6096	A ROW2 20g	See above
6097	A ROW2 60g	Page 166-1

The Mail Type table was last shown in full on page 168-8.

## Coloured Franks

All of the items in this section come from Peter Mantell. On page 158-9 we illustrated PB55589 with a logo from Aberdeenshire Council. Peter has now found a more recent example from the same machine, with the logo replaced with "Grampian Assessor & ERO". The Grampian Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer is responsible for valuing non-domestic properties for rating, allocating dwellings to council tax bands and maintaining the Electoral Register. The Assessor & ERO is employed and funded by the Grampian Valuation Joint Board. The Board is a public body that provides the local taxation service to the three councils within the Grampian area (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray). By agreement with these councils, the Board is also responsible for the appointment and funding of the ERO.



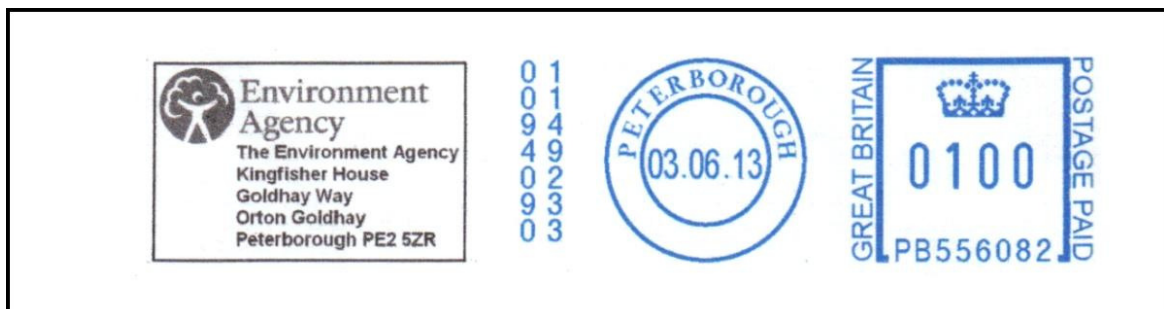
The user details of this next item cannot be found but, with such a high item number, it is likely to be a large user.



PM - PB555840 (Item 1874170)



PM - PB555946 (Item 0165665)



Coloured Franks Continued

**METSEC** return address  
Metsec plc  
Broadwell Road  
Oldbury  
B69 4HF

01  
00  
93  
04  
3A

OLDBURY  
10.02.14

GREAT BRITAIN  
0082  
PB556323  
POSTAGE PAID

**METSEC** return address  
Metsec plc  
Broadwell Road  
Oldbury  
B69 4HF

Delivered by  
Royal Mail

12-09-14  
£0.74 PB556323

1  
L Letter  
100g

PM - PB556323 (Item 0012699)

**ATL**  
the education union

ATL  
7 Northumberland St  
London  
WC2N 5RD

0C  
16  
04  
7E  
8D  
8D  
3B

LONDON  
24.02.14

GREAT BRITAIN  
0033  
PB556513  
POSTAGE PAID

**ATL**  
the education union

ATL  
7 Northumberland St  
London  
WC2N 5RD

Delivered by  
Royal Mail

07-05-14  
£0.85 PB556513

2  
L Letter  
250g

PM - PB556513 (Item 0127105)

**bre** Return Address  
BRE  
Bucknalls Lane  
Watford  
WD25 9XX

Delivered by  
Royal Mail

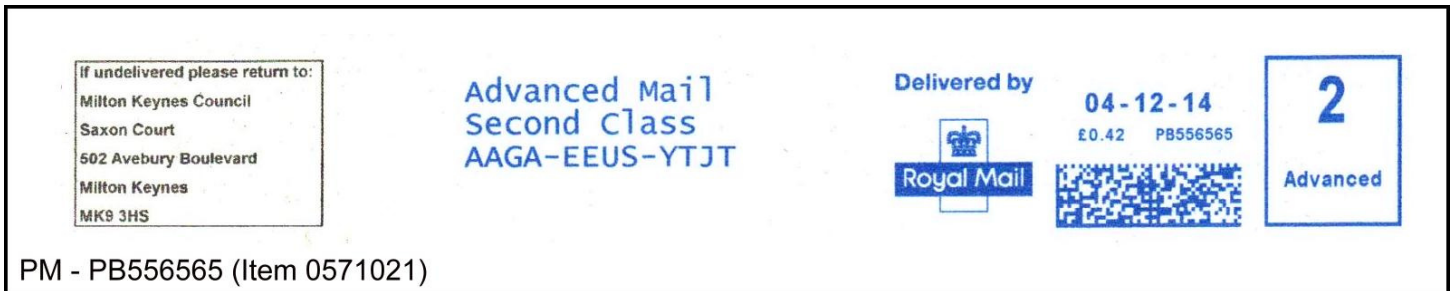
22-08-14  
£0.35 PB556848

2  
Letter

PM - PB556848 (Item 0036555)



## Coloured Franks Continued



## Overseas News

Further to page 169-1, Peter Huss reports two overseas examples of meter franks with 'QR' codes. The first comes from the USA and the second from the Netherlands.



## Meter Franking Web Site

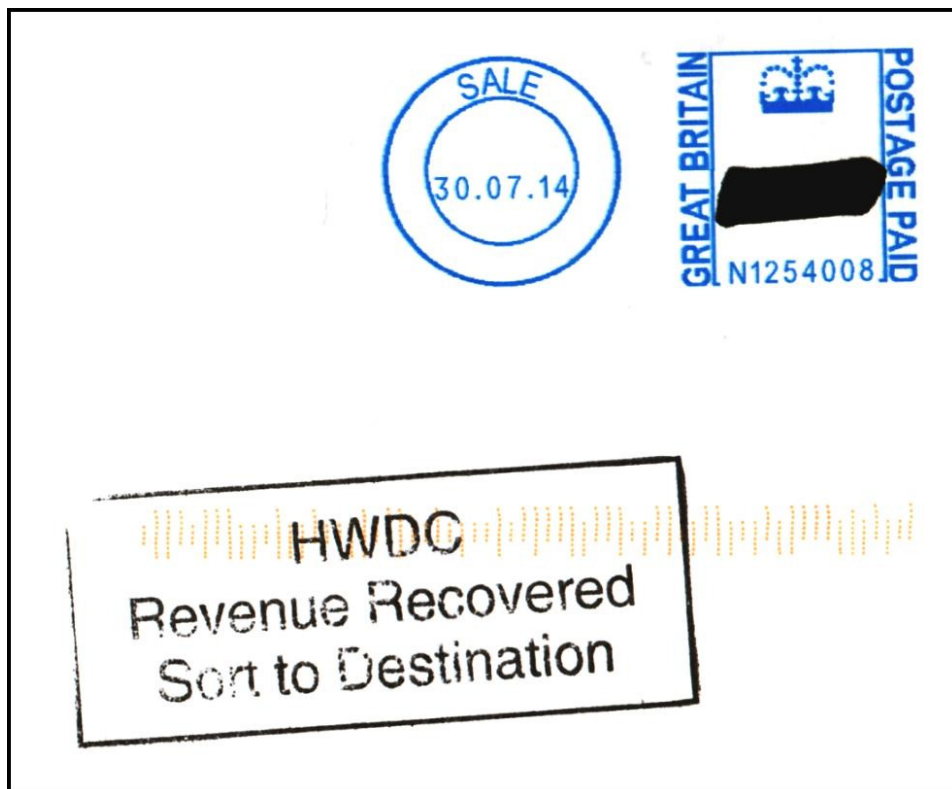
Jan Lannoye advises that the address for his web site of Belgium meters has changed. It can now be found at: [http://www.evergem.be/file\\_uploads/146590.pdf](http://www.evergem.be/file_uploads/146590.pdf).

## Meter Correction Handstamps

Peter Huss reports this Revenue Protection handstamp on an item addressed to Europe - applied at Heathrow MC, where the underpaid 37p has been obliterated.

Last month (p 169-6), we showed a similar item from the NW Midlands MC. Peter confirms in that case the item was franked with 85p postage.

It seems, therefore, that it is Royal Mail policy to blank out the franked underpayment on items sent to Europe. Why they should do this is unknown.



Peter Mantell sends this handstamp "E15 Collection Hub / E15 2AA", not previously reported.



Patrick Awcock advises that a collection hub is where mail from an area is brought to a central location (in this case Stratford, presumably receiving mail from several London E districts) for forwarding in bulk (in this case) to Romford. Putting E15 2AA into Google shows that Stratford DO is Delivery Office/Sorting Office/Post Office Collections. Clearly this item has been handled in some way at Stratford before forwarding. Since 50p is the current 1st class postage for meters, presumably this has been applied as a date correction, rather than a pricing error.



## Historic Items & Thematics

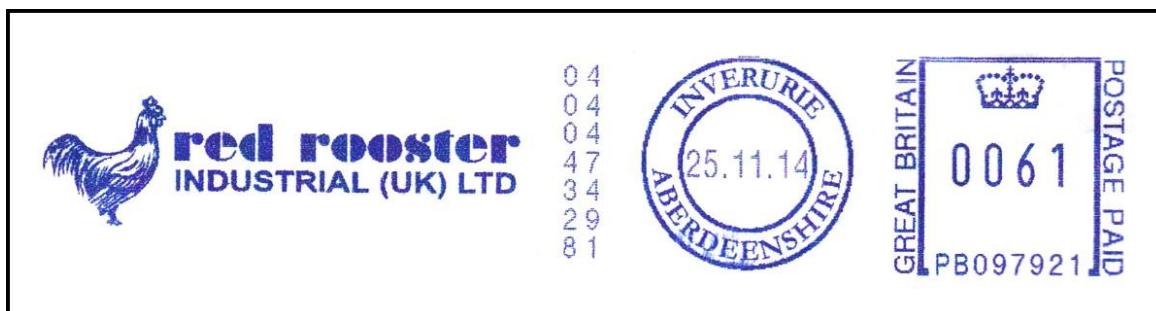
Your editor has recently acquired these nice Motor Racing thematic slogans from the 1950s. These events at Silverstone were sponsored by the Daily Express and were all franked on machine PB 130.



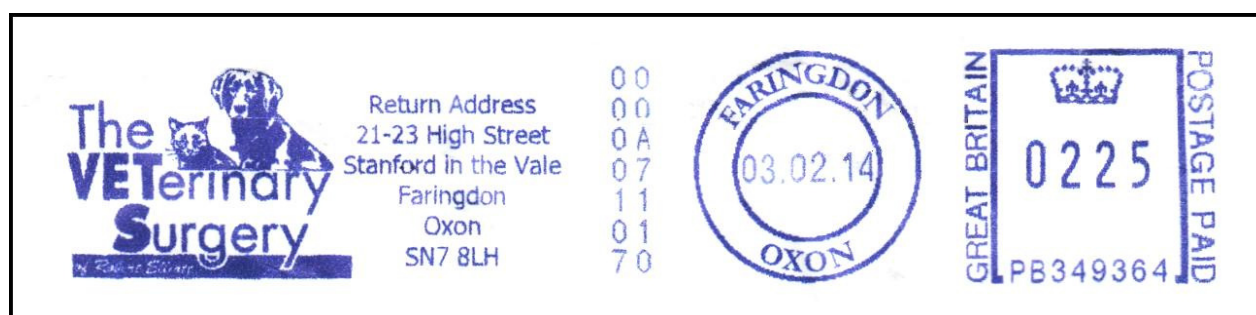


## Meter Thematics

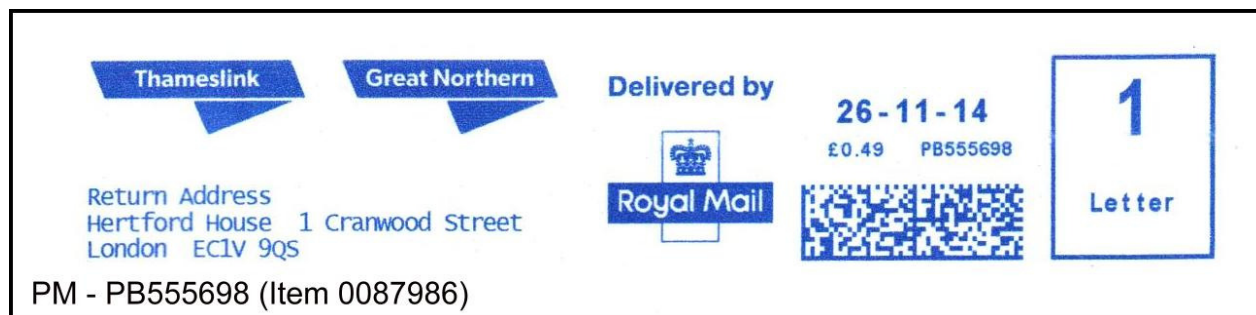
Peter Mantell sends this rather attractive 'red rooster' cockerel.



Peter has also found this nice animal thematic depicting a cat and dog.



Further to page 168-10, Peter Mantell sends another railway thematic from 'Thameslink & Great Northern', this time from their head office in London – the previous example was from their Plymouth office.

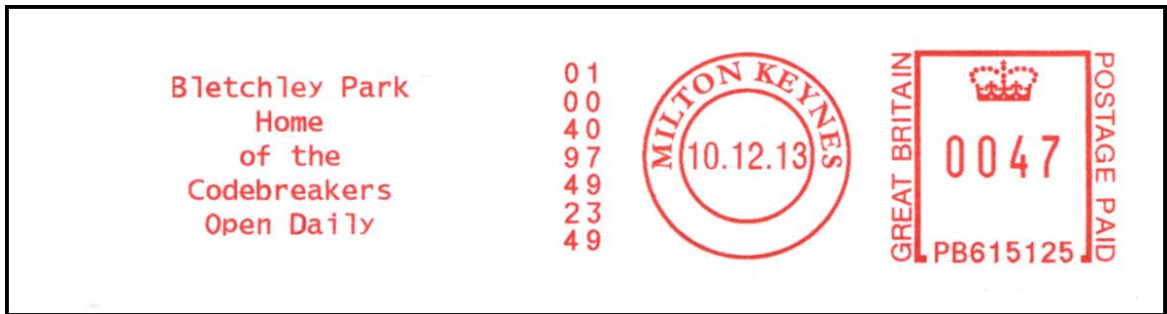


Alan Godfrey sends this logo from Somerset County Council, depicting a dragon holding a mace.

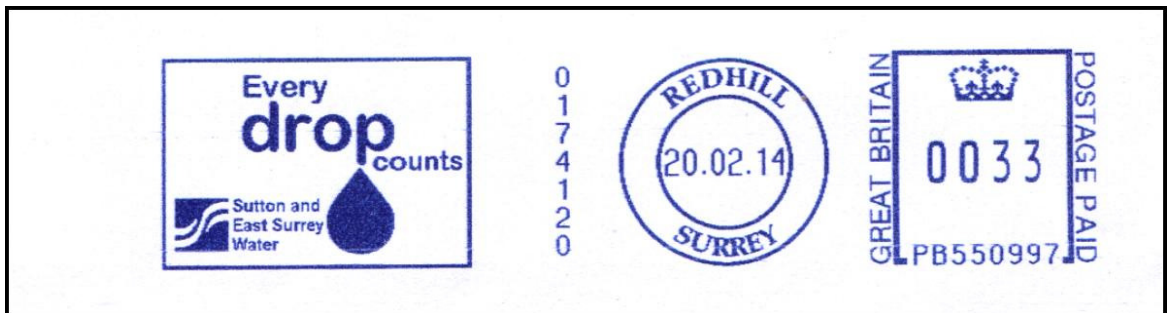


### Meter Thematics

Your editor has found this WW2-related frank, bearing the slogan “Bletchley Park / Home of the Codebreakers”.



This ‘Sign of the Times’ thematic found by your editor comes from Sutton and East Surrey Water plc and bears the slogan “Every drop counts”.



Peter Mantell has found this nice swan from a company called Buckingham Plant Hire Ltd.



Finally, my Meter Thematic of the Month comes from Robert Rowe and it depicts a rather good representation of a seagull.

