

METER NEWS

Issue Number 178 Aug 2015



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Meter of the Month

My meter of the month has been kindly sent by Jan Lannoye and shows a frank using the 'ITS' service. 'ITS' stands for 'International Tracked & Signed' and is a combination service offering full end-to-end tracking, signature on delivery and an online delivery confirmation. The full image is shown below and further information can be found at:

<http://www.royalmail.com/personal/international-delivery/international-tracked-signed>



Francotyp-Postalia – New Series

Peter Mantell and your editor report sightings of a new FP711 series which has possibly been produced by the new Qi 3000 machine, featured last month on page 177-6. The lowest number FP7110024, from Peter Mantell, is shown below.



The earliest example, FP7110843 dated 04-08-15, found by your editor, is shown on page 3 as a highest number. The high number itself puts some doubt on whether this is actually an example of the top-of-the-range Qi 3000 as this number of machines would surely not have been made or sold at this stage.

Acknowledgements

My thanks this month go to Jon Aitchison, Keith Downing, Alan Godfrey, Gwynne Harries, Peter Huss, Duncan James, Mike Jackson, Jan Lannoye, Peter Mantell, Mike Mood, Miles Patterson and Robert Petts for their reports, communications or contributions.

Latest Numbers

Below is the list of 'latest numbers' as at the end of August 2015 – with updates shown in red. Please could I have the next reports by 28th September - 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>F1004010</u>	27.05.15	See MN 175
Matrix F12 etc.	<u>FR2001670</u>	17-08-15	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
MyMail / PostagePro	<u>FM2657744</u>	07-01-15	See MN 171
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	<u>FP6110850</u>	04.08.15	Reported by DJ
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	<u>FP6114921</u>	07-08-15	Reported by PM
PostBase Qi3000?	<u>FP7110843</u>	04-08-15	Reported by AN - new series
Ultimail	<u>FU3117315</u>	23.05.14	See MN 164

Neopost

IS-330	<u>N1053186</u>	23.04.15	See MN 175
IS-350	<u>N1182423</u>	13.02.15	See MN 172
Various upgraded	<u>N1240746</u>	31.07.15	See MN 177
IS-480	<u>N3030571</u>	22.07.15	See MN 177
IS-240 / IS-280	<u>N3319858</u>	18.05.15	See MN 175
IS-5000/6000	<u>N5001705</u>	20.10.14	See MN 168
IS-240/280	<u>NE6006609</u>	07-08-15	Reported by PM
IS-480	<u>NE8007100</u>	04-08-15	Reported by PM
IS-5000/6000	<u>NE9000370</u>	22-05-15	See MN 175

Pitney Bowes

DM160i/220i	<u>PB172817</u>	04-08-15	Reported by PM
DM60	<u>PB2006573</u>	12-08-15	Reported by PM
DM50, 55	<u>PB367041</u>	12.08.15	Reported by PM
Connect+ 1000 etc.	<u>PB551797</u>	23.04.14	See MN 162
Connect+ 10FC etc.	<u>PB557886</u>	14-08-15	Reported by PM
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB620623</u>	28.08.15	Reported by AN
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB6627188</u>	31-07-15	Reported by AN
DM 110i	<u>PB882633</u>	20.07.15	See MN 177

Advanced Mail Codes

AAGK-HY	<u>NE9000321</u>	16-04-15	See MN 174
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Erratum

A Meter News reader, Mike Mood, has kindly pointed out an error in MN 176, under "Meter Correction Handstamps" in the piece about the item from Sotheby & Co. The tariff on the postmark is not £3/0/5d, as 16 April 1969 was still nearly two years away from decimalisation. The payment here was, in fact, 305 pennies, or £1/5/5d. My apologies for this error.

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

Delivered by

04-08-15
£0.51 NE8007100

Royal Mail

1
Letter

PM - NE8007100 [Item 0000574]

Delivered by

04-08-15
£0.36 PB172817

Royal Mail

2
Letter

PM - PB172817 [Item 0000086]

AOS
SECURITY EXCELLENCE

Delivered by

12-08-15
£0.78 PB2006573

Royal Mail

1
L Letter
100g

PM - PB2006573 [Item 0000055]

00
04
0C
05
09
18
17

HORSHAM
12.08.15
W SUSSEX

GREAT BRITAIN
0052
PB367041
POSTAGE PAID

PM

Delivered by

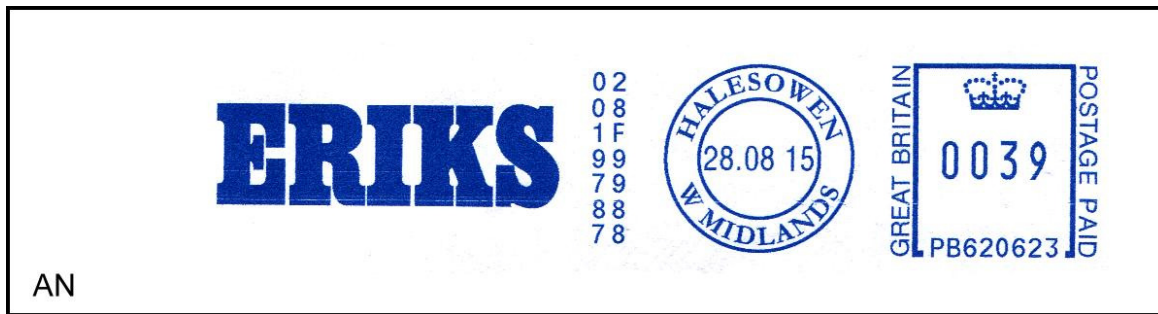
14-08-15
£0.51 PB557886

Royal Mail

1
Letter

PM - PB557886 [Item 0004188]

Latest Number Images Continued



Further to page 168-5, your editor reports a second Francotyp-Postalia Centormail example in Design J format. Although it is not the highest number seen for a Centormail machine, it is the highest seen in that format.



Recent Interesting Items

Further to page 177-1, Peter Mantell has now found an example of an Advanced Mail item but without any Advanced Mail block. Is this the sign of things to come? This is a sad day, if that is the case.



Recent Interesting Items continued

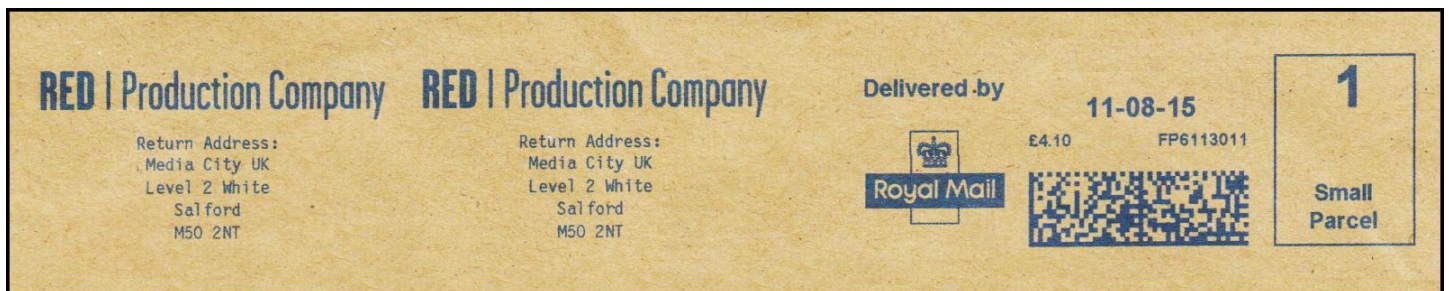
Further to page 175-1, your editor has found a third example (PB2005049) of a QR code in a meter frank. This decodes as <http://stores.ebay.co.uk/sanstampsstampsjewellerycoins?>, even though it has been over-cancelled with a Royal Mail postmark.



Your editor reports this lowest recorded number for the NE6 series (NE6000015).



Peter Mantell reports this frank from a PostBase machine where the return address is shown twice. This effect appears to be a happening quite a few times on new Francotyp-Postalia machines. The reason for this occurrence is unknown but possibly the user set-up instructions are unclear.



Your editor has found a similar occurrence but this time on a Frama machine. Here, the return address is partially printed and at a slight angle. This is more likely to be the result of a machine malfunction rather than a user error. Note also that the item also contains 'UK' in the matrix block.



Mailmark™ News

Further to the report on page 1, the 'International Tracked & Signed' item has the Mail Type code '6522'.

Further to the report last month on page 177-5 regarding the confusion over whether a new Mail Type code for the 100g rate to Europe has been assigned, Peter Huss reports another 'A Europe 100g' example (see below). The matrix block in this frank contains a new Mail Type code, namely '6201'. This implies that the machine bearing the '6002' code reported last month had probably not been updated with the latest software.



Peter Huss also sends a recent example of the 250g rate to Europe. In alignment with the change to the 100g rate, the Mail Type code for this rate appears to have changed from '6032' to '6202' when the rate changes were brought in earlier this year.



Peter Mantell reports a new 2kg weight associated with the '1PM' (Special Delivery) service. The Mail Type code for this is, surprisingly, '0104' - seen previously on the '2 Large 750g' rate! Perhaps there has been some further re-allocation of Mail Type codes? Time will tell, no doubt.



The reports from this month enable the Mail Type table to be updated. The table is shown on the next page, with recent changes highlighted in red.

Mailmark™ News Continued

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
0104	(Special Delivery) 1 PM 2000g	Page 178-7
0301	2 Medium Parcel	Page 170-9
0302	1 Medium Parcel	Page 170-9
0303	1 Medium Parcel	Page 170-9
1111	1 Small Parcel	Page 161-7
1403	1 Advanced	Page 161-7
1503	2 Advanced	Page 161-7
2221	2 Small Parcel	Page 170-9
5000	(Special Delivery) 9 AM 100g	Page 162-4
6001	A Europe 20g	Page 164-6
6002 (no longer in use)	A Europe 60g	Page 165-6
6016	A ROW1 20g	Page 168-8
6032 (no longer in use)	A Europe 250g	Page 175-7
6096	A ROW2 20g	Page 170-9
6097	A ROW2 60g	Page 166-1
6098	A ROW2 100g	Page 177-5
6201	A Europe 100g	Page 178-7
6202	A Europe 250g	Page 178-7
6522	ITS Europe 500g	Page 178-1, 178-7
9999	Surcharge Payment	Page 163-1


PPI News



Peter Huss reports this Airmail PPI sent to Europe that bears the word 'Specimen' in the matrix block. This error has been seen before, but not on an airmail item.



Coloured Slogans

This month your editor reports five new Pitney Bowes coloured slogans. Note the 'DX56' (Direct Exchange) identifier in the first item.

DX56 WC2A1PL Return Address
 The Law Society
 The Law Society
 113 Chancery Lane
 London
 WC2A 1PL

Delivered by
 20 04 15
 £0.51 PB555318


1
 Letter


NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM
 ROYAL RIVER
Power, Pageantry & the Thames
 Sponsored by BARCLAYS
 27 APRIL - 9 SEPTEMBER
 Book now at
rmg.co.uk/royalriver

010753146912
 LONDON
 27.04.12
 GREAT BRITAIN
 0028
 POSTAGE PAID
 PB555580


CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL
 We're going digital
 Join us for your chance to
WIN £1,000
 Visit www.carlisle.gov.uk
 (T&C's apply)
 Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG

Delivered by
 24-04-15
 £0.36 PB556075


2
 Letter

 recycle for your community
www.rochdale.gov.uk/recycle

Advanced Mail
 Second Class
 AABS-ATJH-KTTR

Delivered by
 28-04-15
 £0.45 PB557036


2
 Advanced

 Bolton Market
Support local life

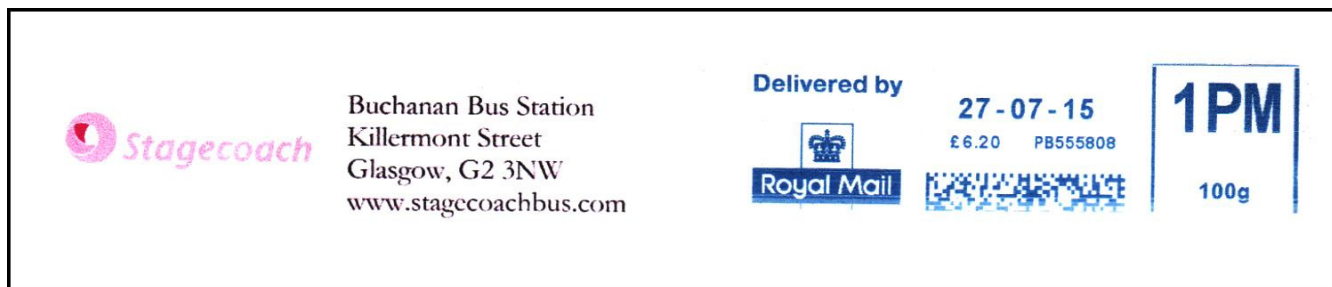
Return Address
 Bolton Council
 Bolton
 BL1 1RU

Delivered by
 08-07-15
 £0.63 PB557514


2
 L Letter
 100g

Coloured Slogans continued

Duncan James also reports this coloured slogan from Stagecoach in Glasgow.

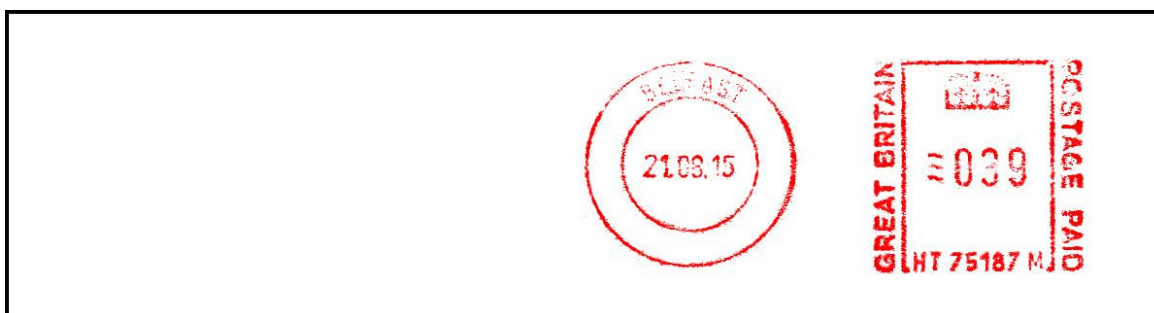


Last of Breed

Peter Mantell reports a Frama Mailspirit frank – the first sighting in 2015.

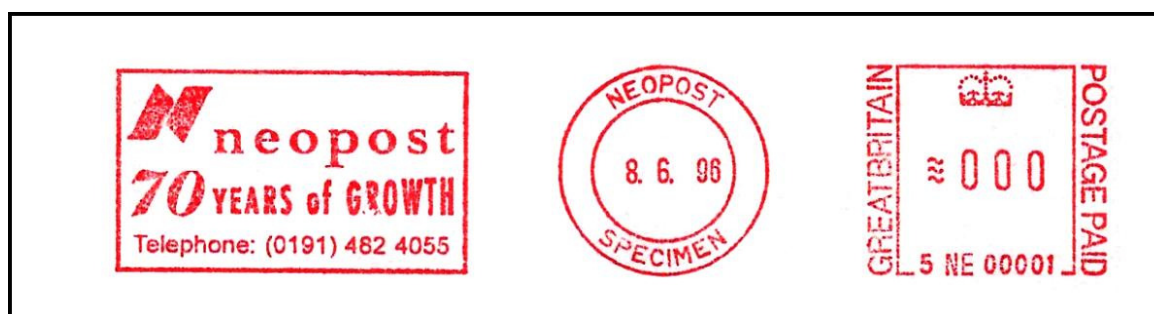


Your editor also reports a rarely seen Hasler frank which is feeling rather sorry for itself! There must be very few of these currently in operation – all are thought to be from Northern Ireland.



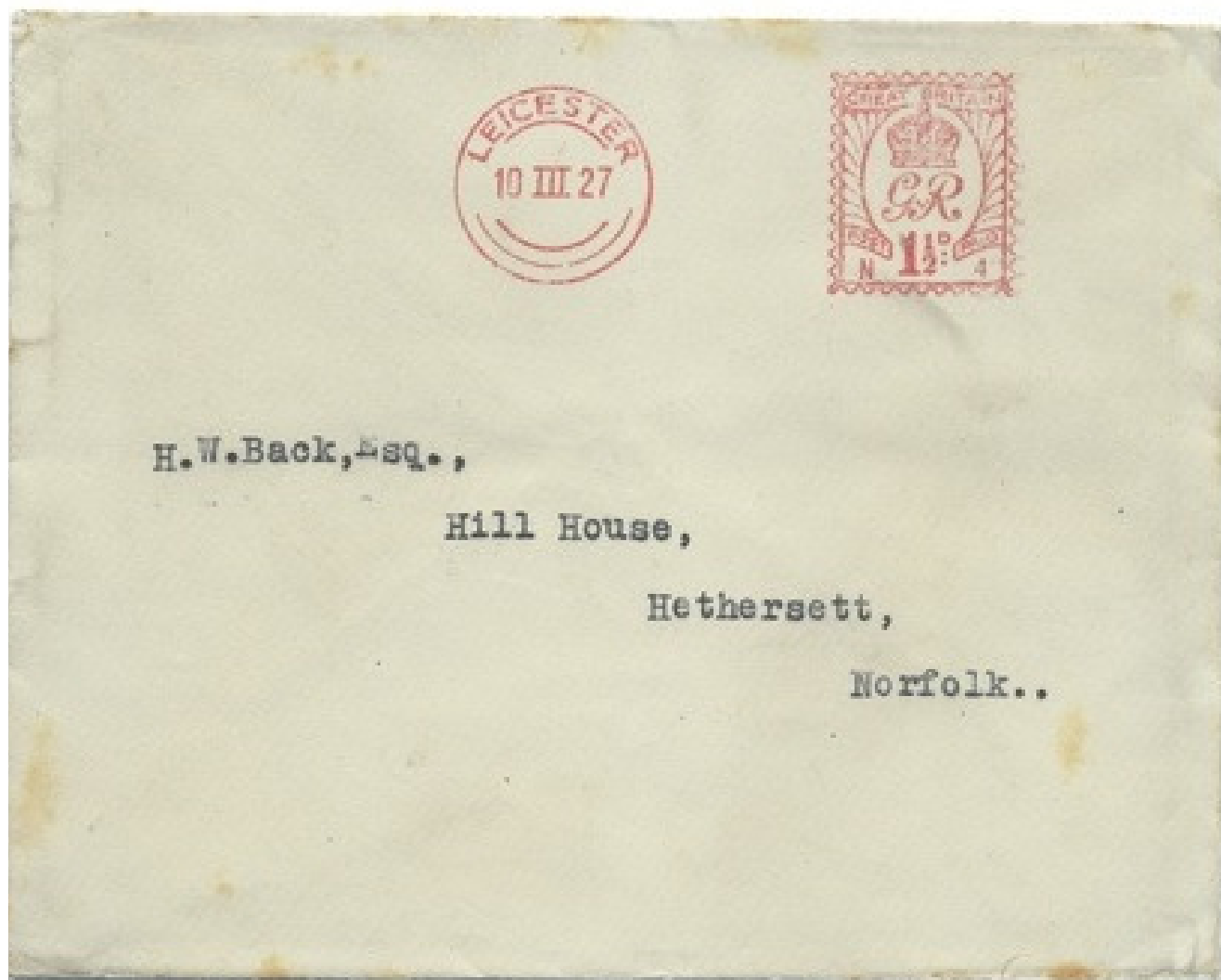
Historic Items

Robert Petts report this Neopost 5450/60 specimen frank from 1996 with the serial 5NE00001. Your editor recalls visiting a Mailroom Exhibition around that time where such specimen franks were readily available on the Neopost stand and this may well have been the source.



Historic Items

Further to page 177-9, Mike Jackson reports an earlier example of a Design B frank, dated 10 March 1927. It comes from Arthur Wheeler & Co., Leicester. It is unusual to see a Neopost machine being used by that company – normally they franked their mail with Pitney Bowes machines.



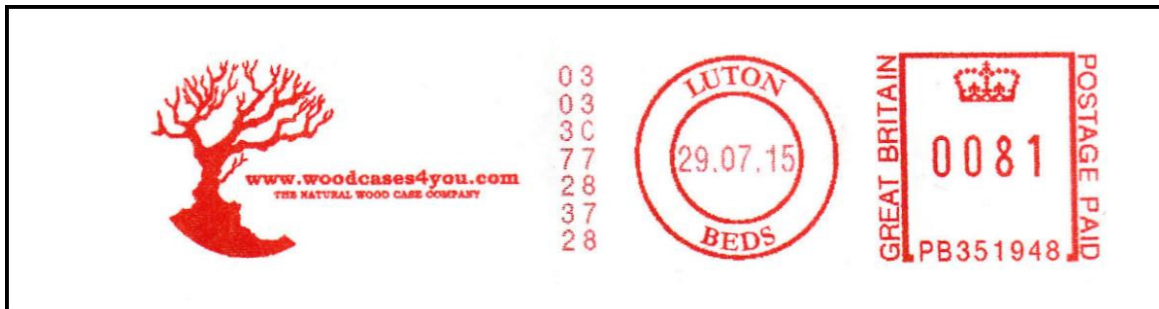
H. W. Back, Esq.,
Hill House,
Hethersett,
Norfolk..



Mike points out that, according to Jack Peach's articles in GSM, Design B was announced and illustrated in the Post Office Circular dated 9 March 1927 and 'would shortly be brought into use'. The Circular was the means by which postmasters received their instructions, so presumably the 9 March 1927 issue of the Circular should have been in postmasters' hands before covers bearing the new Design B frank arrived at their office - otherwise they wouldn't know if the new franks were valid. So, assuming we take the information and dates at face value, it could well be that 10 March 1927 is the earliest possible date for Design B.

Meter Thematics

Duncan James has found four attractive thematic slogans this month.



Finally, your editor reports this attractive 'Recycling Revolution' frank which receives my Meter thematic of the Month award.

