

METER NEWS

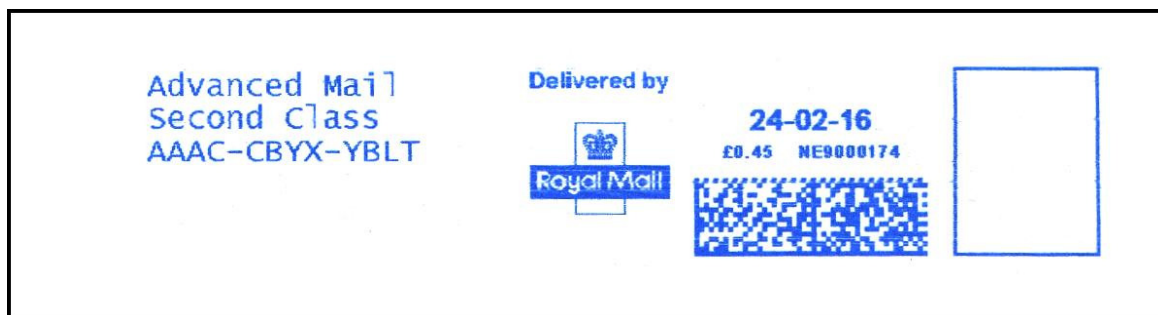
Issue Number 186 Apr 2016



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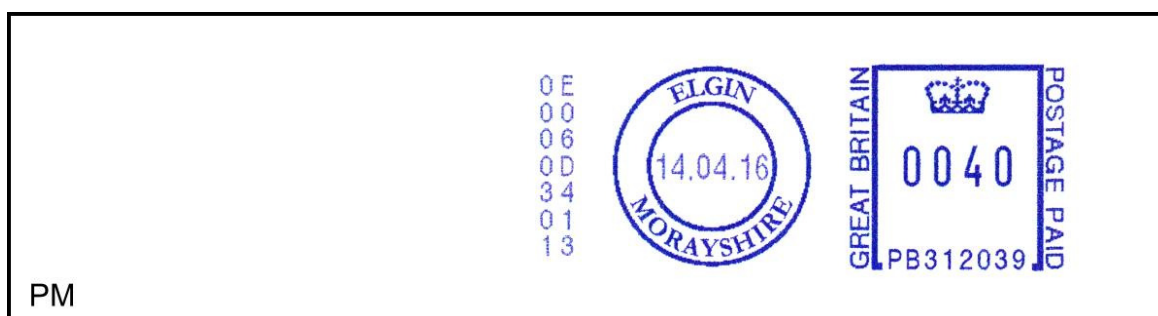
Meter of the Month

My meter of the month has been found by your editor and shows a Design J frank where the indicia box is completely blank! The user details are not shown (see full image below) but the frank includes the Advanced Mail code 'AAAC-CB' that was previously seen on meter serial N1252593 and known to be used by Nottingham City Council. The data matrix block decodes as Class 8, Mail Type 1503 indicating that the indicia should have printed '2 Advanced'.



New PB3 Sub-series

Peter Mantell reports a new sub-series 'PB312' - likely to be a continuation of the 'PB36' series.



Editorial

This month we welcome Kemal Adlig from Turkey as member number 0046. Kemal has a general interest in philately and has been collecting meter franks for about 30 years. His collection is worldwide but mainly from the USA, UK, France and Germany.

Acknowledgements

My thanks this month go to Kemal Adlig, Jon Aitchison, Jim Ashby, Keith Downing, Peter Huss, Mike Jackson, Duncan James, Peter Mantell, Robert Petts, and Peter Wood for their reports, communications or contributions.

Latest Numbers

Below is the list of 'latest numbers' as at the end of April 2016 – with updates shown in red. Please could I have the next reports by the 28th May - thanks.

In the list below, the part of the serial number that directly relates to the model is underlined. Entries with hyphen separators in the date indicate 'Design J' (matrix) format.

Frama (UK)

Matrix F2, F4, F6	<u>F1004086</u>	12.04.16	Reported by PM
Matrix F12 etc.	<u>FR2002367</u>	22-04-16	Reported by DJ

Francotyp-Postalia

Centormail 240/300	<u>FC5110729</u>	18-11-15	See MN 181
MyMail / PostagePro	<u>FM2658042</u>	27.02.15	See MN 182
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	<u>FP6110850</u>	04.08.15	See MN 178
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	<u>FP6115662</u>	29-03-16	Reported by PM
PostBase Mini	<u>FP7113893</u>	01-04-16	Reported by PM

Neopost

IS-330	<u>N1053426</u>	24.02.16	See MN 184
IS-350	<u>N1182674</u>	08.02.16	See MN 185
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-280c / 350c	<u>NE6008722</u>	02-02-16	See MN 184
IS-420c / 440c	<u>NE8010684</u>	08-04-16	Reported by AN
IS-480c	<u>NE9000466</u>	07-12-15	See MN 183

Pitney Bowes

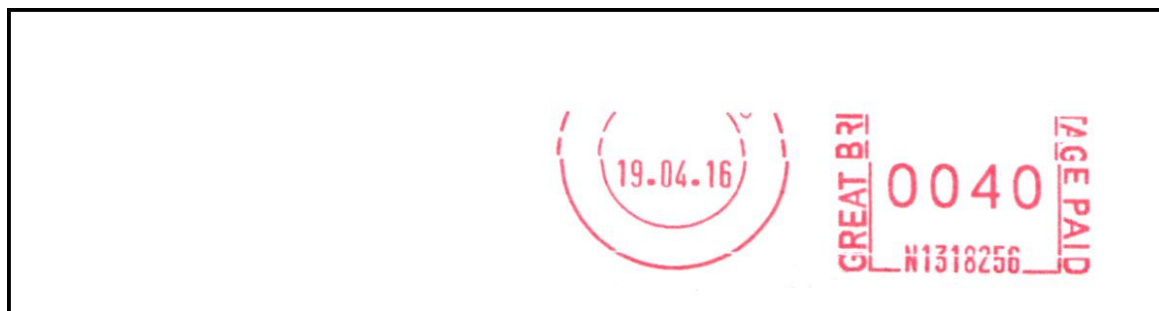
DM160i/220i	<u>PB176859</u>	22-04-16	Reported by PM
DM60 (model K722)	<u>PB2014590</u>	12-04-16	Reported by AN
DM50, 55	<u>PB312039</u>	14.04.16	New sub-series PM - see p 1
DM50, 55	<u>PB368265</u>	08.12.15	See MN 182
Connect+ 10FC etc.	<u>PB558149</u>	28-04-16	Reported by PM
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB620820</u>	06.01.16	See MN 183
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB6627919</u>	14-04-16	Reported by PM
DM 110i	<u>PB884627</u>	06.04.16	Reported by AN

Advanced Mail Codes

<u>AAGX-JZ</u>	<u>NE8009481</u>	24-02-16	Reported by PM - see p 6
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Dead Series Update

Your editor reports a high number for the N131 Dead Series with N1318256. The town mark has not printed but, for what it is worth, the tagcode on the mail item shows that it was processed at the Medway MC (in Rochester).



Latest Number Images

Contributor's initials and other details are shown in the bottom left of each image.



Latest Number Images continued

Note that the illustration of the new sub-series is shown on page 1.

Delivered by **22-04-16**
 £0.53 PB176859

Royal Mail 

Surcharge Payment

PM - PB176859 [Item 0000199]

Delivered by **12-04-16**
 £0.51 PB2014590

Royal Mail 

1
Letter

AN - PB2014590 [Item 0000292]

NoteMachine UK Ltd
 Russell House
 Elvicta Estate
 Crickhowell
 Powys NP8 1DF

Delivered by **28-04-16**
 £0.37 PB558149

Royal Mail 

2
Letter

PM - PB558149 [Item 0003999]


 Return Address
 The Court House
 Elm Grove
 Walton Upon Thames
 Surrey
 KT12 1LZ

Delivered by **14-04-16**
 £0.79 PB6627919


Royal Mail 


1
L Letter
100g

PM - PB6627919 [Item 0000925]

 Return Address:
 Rodney Way,
 Widford, Chelmsford
 Essex, CM1 3BY
 England

05
06
0C
11
69
28

 CHELMSFORD
 06.04.16
 ESSEX

GREAT BRITAIN  POSTAGE PAID
 0053
 PB884627

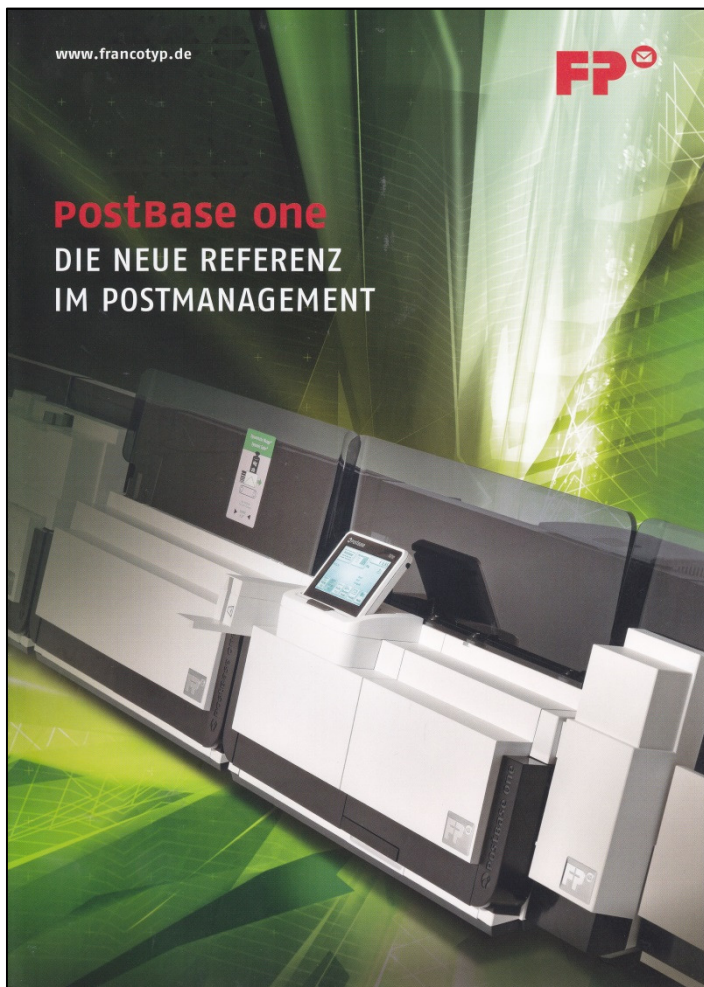
AN

Francotyp-Postalia – The ‘Postbase One’

Peter Huss reports that a new Francotyp-Postalia machine in Germany has been approved for use. This is the ‘Postbase One’ which is a replacement for the high-volume Jet Mail. It is likely, however, to be some time before this machine becomes available in the UK.



Peter also sends a copy of a brochure that details the specification (in German) for the ‘Postbase One’ machine and shown in reduced size below. Further information can be found at the www.francotyp.de web site.



postbase one

TECHNISCHE DATEN

Hardware	PostBase One
Farb-Touchdisplay	ja
Druckverfahren	Inkjet
Tanksystem easyconnect	optional
Briefdurchlassstärke	20 mm
Streifengeber	ja
Briefablage	ja
Großvolumen-Staffelablage	optional
Schließmodul	optional
Automatische Zuführung (AZ)	optional
Anlage-Erweiterung für AZ	optional
Durchsatz (Sendungen/Min.)	120/150
Externe Waage/Kapazität in kg/Differenzwiegen	ja/7/optional
Dynamische Waage	optional
Konnektivität – Highspeed-LAN	ja
Software	PostBase One
NavigatorBasic* (PC-Steuerungssoftware)	ja
NavigatorPlus* (Kostenmanagement)	optional
MailReport*	optional
Zugriffsschutz mittels PIN (Einrichtung über Navigator)	ja
Kostenstellen, Standard/Option	200/500
Werbeklebschees, Standard/Option	30/50
Kurzwahlen	20
SMS-Zusatztexte	12

* MS Windows Betriebssystem vorausgesetzt. Technische Änderungen vorbehalten.

Francotyp-Postalia
Vertrieb und Service GmbH
Prenzlauer Promenade 28
13109 Berlin
Telefon: 030 3726269
E-Mail: info@francotyp.de
www.francotyp.de

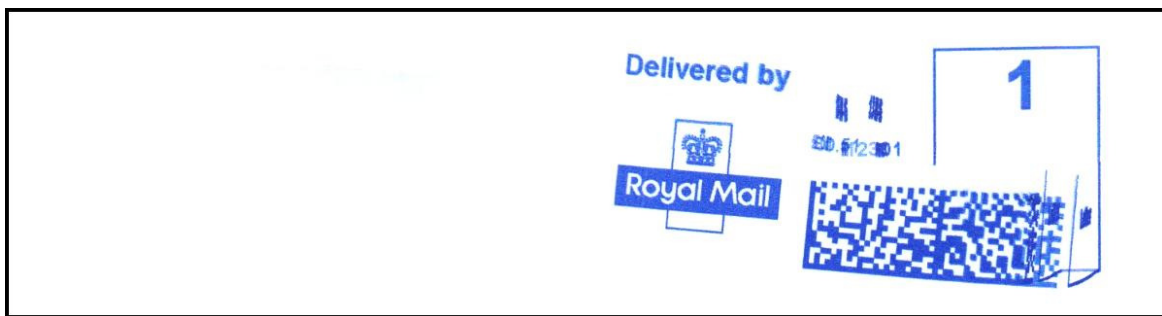
www.francotyp.de

Recent Interesting Items – Franking errors

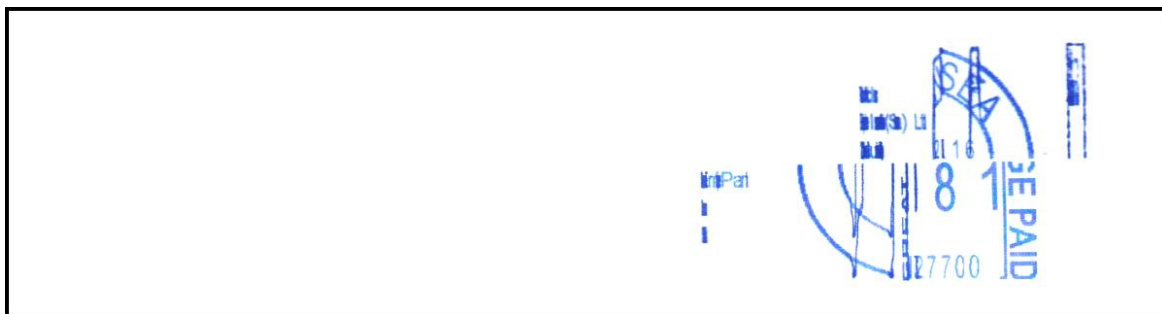
Peter Mantell has spotted an unusual error on this '2 L Letter 100g' item. The £0.63 postage paid aligns with the indicia as you would expect. However, it also bears an Advanced Mail block that appears to have been included in error as it does not align with the indicia or postage. This block should presumably have been removed by the operator after an earlier franking. Note that the code in the Advanced Mail block is the highest recorded so far – see page 2.



Peter Mantell sends this item showing a strange printing glitch where the serial number is completely unreadable. However, your editor has managed to 'reconstruct' the data matrix and determine that it is, actually, from machine serial FP6112301.



Peter Mantell has also found this amazing printing glitch.



A correctly printed label was then placed over it - thus doubling the postage cost for the user!



Mailmark™ News

1) Small Parcels

Peter Mantell reports a new Mail Type on this 2kg Small Parcel. This report has helped me to make sense of the Mail Types assigned to Small Parcels and resolve the confusion with regard to the report of Mail Type '2222' last month. Attempts in the past to understand the situation have been not been helped by the lack of 'item weight' in the indicia on these items.



For Small Parcels, there are just two weight options, namely 1kg and 2kg. The amount of postage shown in the meter frank has been key to understanding the associated Mail Type codes.

The latest Royal Mail prices from 29 March 2016 only detail the amounts to be paid for stamped mail. The following table, however, includes the meter rates for the current Tariff 8 (and earlier tariffs) that have been compiled from various reports. It should be noted that the rates are identical for 2nd class 1kg and 2kg Small Parcels and this fact was overlooked last month with regard to the understanding of Mail Type '2222' reports.

Rate	Category	Stamps	Tariff 8	Tariff 6	Tariff 3	Mail Type
1st	Small Parcel 1kg	£3.35	£3.07	£3.00	£2.90	1111
1st	Small Parcel 2kg	£5.50	£5.22	n/s	n/s	1112
2nd	Small Parcel 1kg	£2.85	£2.57	£2.50	£2.50	2221
2nd	Small Parcel 2kg	£2.85	n/s	£2.50	n/s	2222

2) Medium Parcels

For Medium Parcels there are five weight options, namely 1kg, 2kg, 5kg, 10kg and 20kg and the tariff rates and Mail Type codes for each are summarised in the table below. Note that it appears there is no meter user discount for the 5kg weight option.

Rate	Category	Stamps	Tariff 8	Tariff 6	Tariff 3	Mail Type
1st	Medium Parcel 1kg	£5.70	n/s	£4.80	£4.80	0301
1st	Medium Parcel 2kg	£8.95	n/s	n/s	n/s	0302
1st	Medium Parcel 5kg	£15.85	n/s	n/s	£15.85	0303
1st	Medium Parcel 10kg	£21.90	n/s	n/s	n/s	0304
1st	Medium Parcel 20kg	£33.40	n/s	n/s	n/s	0305

Mailmark™ News continued

Rate	Category	Stamps	Tariff 8	Tariff 6	Tariff 3	Mail Type
2nd	Medium Parcel 1kg	£4.95	n/s	£4.40	n/s	0301
2nd	Medium Parcel 2kg	£4.95	n/s	n/s	n/s	0302
2nd	Medium Parcel 5kg	£13.75	n/s	£13.75	n/s	0303
2nd	Medium Parcel 10kg	£20.95	n/s	n/s	n/s	0304
2nd	Medium Parcel 20kg	£28.55	n/s	n/s	n/s	0305

3) 'Signed For' Small and Medium Parcels (Class 7)

Your editor reports this '1 Small Parcel' frank from last year that decodes as Class 7, Mail Type 3100, which means that it is also a 'Signed For' item. It has been franked with £4.10 postage (1kg) category. This Class / Mail Type combination has not previously been reported.



For 'Signed For' parcel items, it will also be necessary to be aware of the various weights in order to interpret the associated Mail Type codes:

Rate	Category	Stamps	Tariff 8	Tariff 6	Tariff 3	Mail Type
1st	(SF) Small Parcel 1kg	£4.45	n/s	£4.10	n/s	3100
1st	(SF) Small Parcel 2kg	£6.60	n/s	n/s	n/s	3101
2nd	(SF) Small Parcel 1kg	£3.95	n/s	n/s	n/s	Unknown
2nd	(SF) Small Parcel 2kg	£3.95	n/s	n/s	n/s	Unknown
1st	(SF) Medium Parcel 1kg	£6.80	n/s	n/s	n/s	Unknown
1st	(SF) Medium Parcel 2kg	£10.05	n/s	n/s	n/s	Unknown
1st	(SF) Medium Parcel 5kg	£16.95	n/s	n/s	n/s	Unknown
1st	(SF) Medium Parcel 10kg	£23.00	n/s	n/s	n/s	Unknown
1st	(SF) Medium Parcel 20kg	£34.50	n/s	n/s	n/s	Unknown
2nd	(SF) Medium Parcel 1kg	£6.05	n/s	n/s	n/s	Unknown
2nd	(SF) Medium Parcel 2kg	£6.05	n/s	n/s	n/s	Unknown
2nd	(SF) Medium Parcel 5kg	£14.85	n/s	n/s	n/s	Unknown
2nd	(SF) Medium Parcel 10kg	£21.35	n/s	n/s	n/s	Unknown
2nd	(SF) Medium Parcel 20kg	£29.65	n/s	n/s	n/s	Unknown

Mailmark™ News continued

Your editor has found this previously unrecorded '2 L Letter 250g' item. The matrix decodes as Class 7 (Signed For) with a Mail Type code of '6101'.



4) The 'Ready Reckoner'

Knowing just the item date and postage paid on an item, we can now construct a look-up table (separated into 1st and 2nd class) to find the Class code and Mail Type code for a particular item – without having to decode the matrix block! Hopefully, it should prove to be handy for anyone who doesn't wish to go through the formal decoding process each time. The Tariff 8 column reflects the current Royal Mail meter franking rates as from 29 Mar 16.

Tariff 8	Tariff 6	Tariff 3	Interpretation	Class	Mail Type
£0.51	£0.51	£0.49	1 Letter	1	0001
£0.63	£0.63	£0.60	1 Advanced	8	1403
£0.79	£0.78	£0.74	1 L Letter 100g	1	0101
£1.10	£1.09	£1.04	1 L Letter 250g	1	0102
£1.46	£1.43	£1.38	1 L Letter 500g	1	0103
£1.61	£1.61	£1.59	(SF) 1 Letter	7	1100
£1.89	£1.88	n/s	(SF) 1 L Letter	7	2100
£2.03	£2.02	n/s	1 L Letter 750g	1	0104
£3.07	£3.00	£2.90	1 Small Parcel (1kg)	1	1111
£5.22	n/s	n/s	1 Small Parcel (2kg)	1	1112
n/s	£4.80	£4.80	1 Medium Parcel (1kg)	1	0301
n/s	n/s	£15.85	1 Medium Parcel (5kg)	1	0303

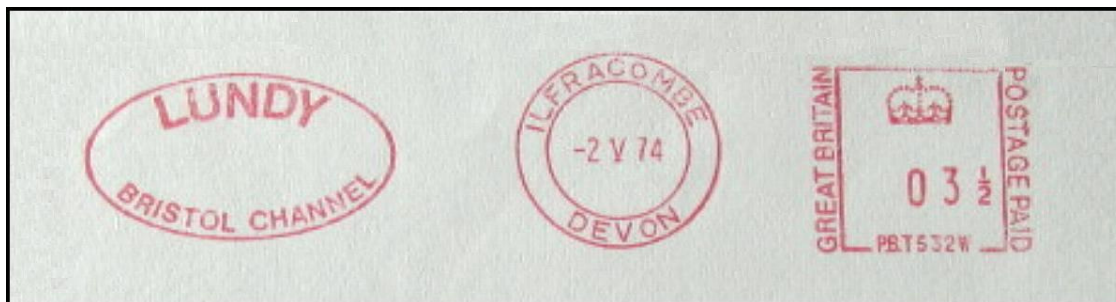
Tariff 8	Tariff 6	Tariff 3	Interpretation	Class	Mail Type
£0.37	£0.36	£0.35	2 Letter	2	0001
£0.45	£0.45	£0.42	2 Advanced	8	1503
£0.64	£0.63	£0.60	2 L Letter 100g	2	0101
£0.89	£0.88	£0.85	2 L Letter 250g	2	0102
£1.19	£1.17	n/s	2 L Letter 500g	2	0103
£1.47	£1.46	£1.45	(SF) 2 Letter	7	5100
£1.68	£1.65	n/s	2 L Letter 750g	2	0104
n/s	£1.98	n/s	(SF) 2 L Letter 250g	7	6101
£2.57	£2.50	£2.50	2 Small Parcel 1Kg / 2kg	2	2221 / 2222
n/s	£4.40	n/s	2 Medium Parcel (1kg)	2	0301
n/s	£13.75	n/s	2 Medium Parcel (5kg)	2	0303

Note: This information is only provisional at this stage and further entries (e.g. to include Air Mail items) will be added in due course.

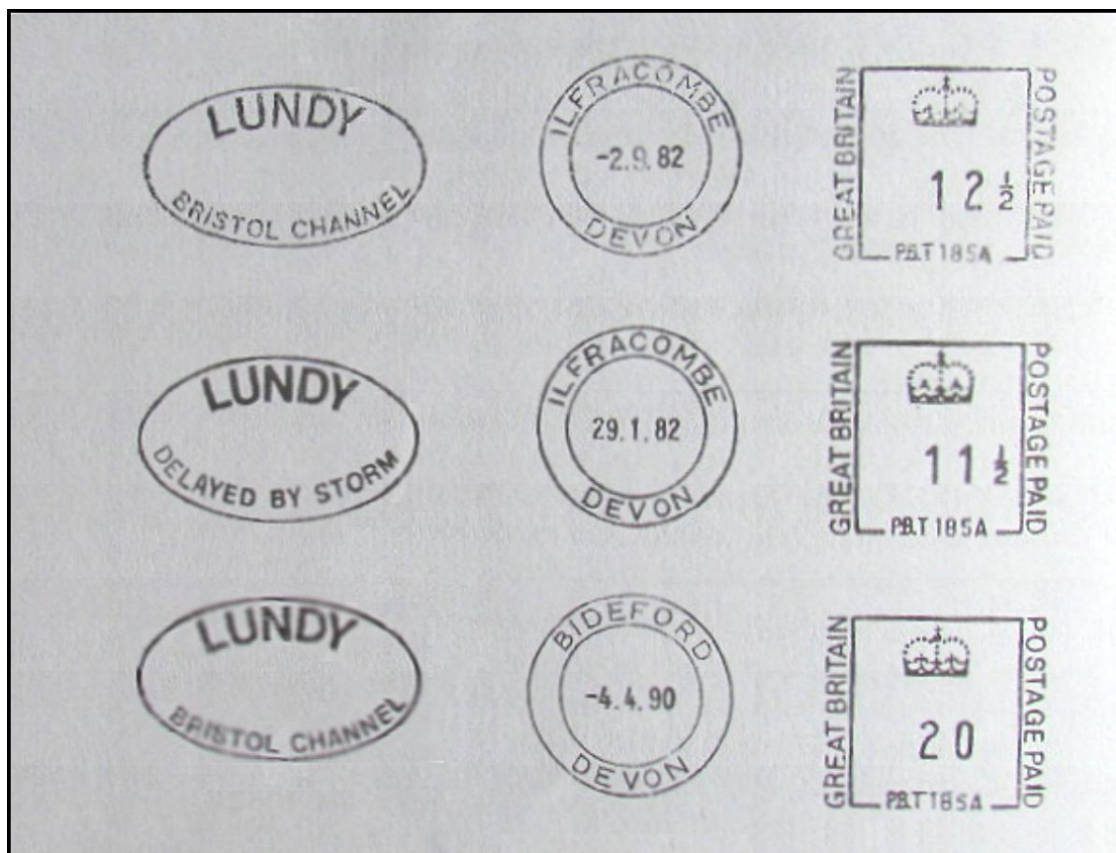
Lundy Island Meter Franking Machines

Last month we illustrated the latest Mailmark version of the Lundy island meter as a meter thematic. This was reported by Peter Mantell but actually originated from Keith Downing. Further to that report, your editor has managed to find out some additional information with regard to the use of the different franking machines used on the island in the past.

The first franking machine used was a manually operated Model 5333, serial P.B.T532W that started on 1 April 1974 and that machine was in use until 3 December 1980 when it broke down. Franks from the machine always appeared with the town die 'ILFRACOMBE / DEVON'.



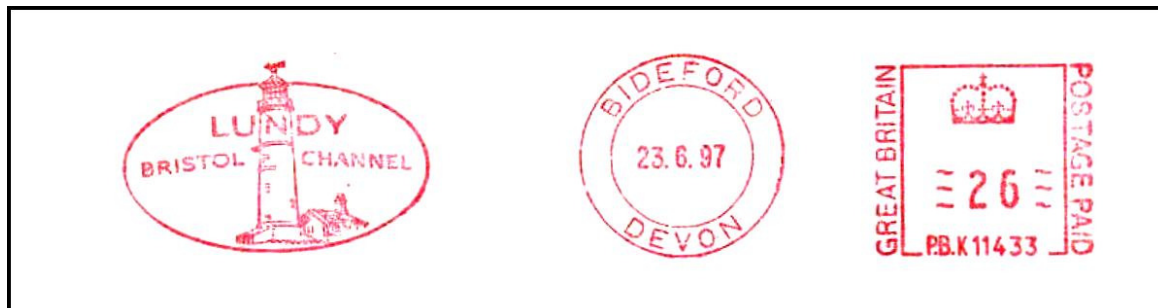
That machine was replaced by P.B.T185A on the 23 December 1980 – initially appearing with the town 'ILFRACOMBE' but this was later replaced with 'BIDEFORD'. Example franks, taken from Jon Aitchison's book called 'Stamps and Postal History of Lundy Island', with both town dies from this machine, are shown below. Note the unusual 'DELAYED BY STORM' in the second frank.



The P.B.T185A machine was in use until September 1995 but it was retained on the island until May 1996 when it was transferred to the Lundy Shore Office.

Lundy Island Meter Franking Machines continued

The P.B.T185A machine was replaced by an electro-mechanical machine Model 5325, serial P.B.K11433 in September 1995 and depicted the Lundy lighthouse in the slogan. The image below has been kindly supplied by Keith Downing. This machine was, in turn, replaced by P.B.K02950 (see page 46-3) in October 1998.



In February 2003, this was replaced by machine PB929744 (see p 86-8) and it remained in use until it was replaced by the Mailmark machine NE6005255 in June 2015. Since 2000, franking machines in the Lundy booking offices at Bideford and at Ilfracombe had machines 5NE15617 and 5NE15038 respectively. In about November 2011 the machine at Bideford was replaced by N3303711 (image kindly supplied by Keith Downing).



The following tables summarise the use of the different machines.

Lundy Island Office (use on island)

Serial	Model	Earliest use	Last use	Location	Town die
P.B.T 532W	5333	1 Apr 1974	3 Dec 1980	Lundy Island P.O.	Ilfracombe
P.B.T 185A	"	23 Dec 1980	9 Jun 1984	Lundy Island P.O.	Ilfracombe
"	"	11 Jun 1984	4 Sep 1995	Lundy Island P.O.	Bideford
P.B.K 11433	5325	6 Sep 1995	<i>7 Aug 1997</i>	Lundy Island P.O.	Bideford
P.B.K 02950	"	10 Oct 1998	<i>25 Jul 2002</i>	Lundy Island P.O.	Bideford
PB929744	B900	14 Feb 2003	30 May 2015	Lundy Island P.O.	Bideford
NE6005255	IS-280c/350c	2 Jun 2015	Current	Lundy Island P.O.	N/A

Lundy Shore Office / Lundy Booking Office (use on mainland)

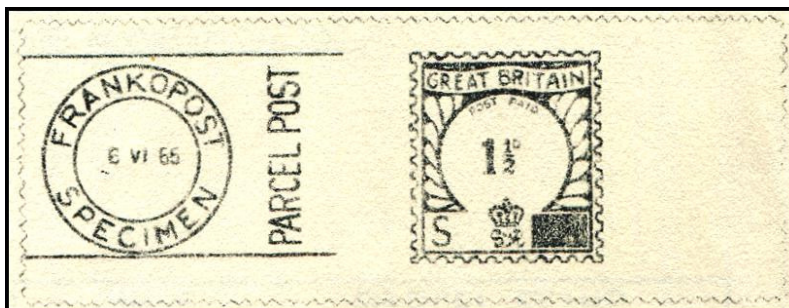
Earliest use	Model	Earliest use	Last use	Location	Town die
P.B.T 185A	5333	24 May 96	<i>Unknown</i>	Lundy Shore Office	Bideford
5NE 15617	5450	Approx. Sep 2000	<i>21 May 2002</i>	Lundy Booking Office	Bideford
N3303711	IS-240/280	13 Oct 2011	Current	Lundy Booking Office	Bideford
5NE 15038	5450	Approx. Jun 2000	<i>Unknown</i>	Lundy Booking Office	Ilfracombe
N3302594	IS-240/280	Approx. Aug 2011	<i>Unknown</i>	Lundy Booking Office	Ilfracombe

The 'last use' entries in italics indicate latest recorded dates. The actual last use dates for these are unknown but would have been much later. Reports of later dates and examples of N3302594 would be appreciated.

Parcel Post Essays

Those of you who have a copy of John Mann's 1962 book on Parcel Meters may recall the section on the adapted Simplex machines for Parcel Post meters. Illustrated in that section are essays of the three variations that existed.

The first of these was the normal commercial design but with lines at the top and bottom and with the words 'PARCEL POST' appearing vertically between the Townmark and the value die. These were produced on yellow adhesive tape but a black and white scan taken from the book is shown alongside.



Jim Ashby has recently acquired examples of varieties 2 and 3 and kindly provides scans of these



Variety 2 shows the normal commercial design with the addition of a column of vertical bars immediately to the right of the value die. It also has two rows of bars that are similar to those seen on the SL1 and SL2 labels (see p 122-6).

Variety 3 is the same as a normal commercial design but with the town die appearing to the right of the value die.

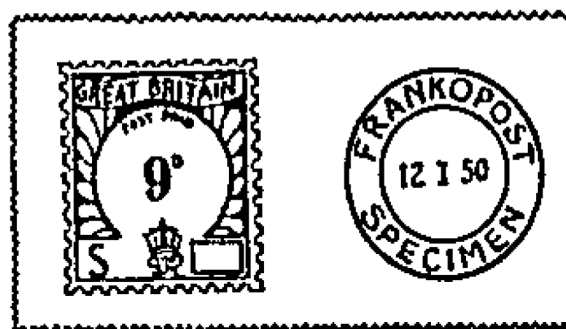


Note that these examples are from two different machines. The value is the same, but the font of the figures is different.

Jim has also provided a copy of the 1950/52 patent specification for the machines.

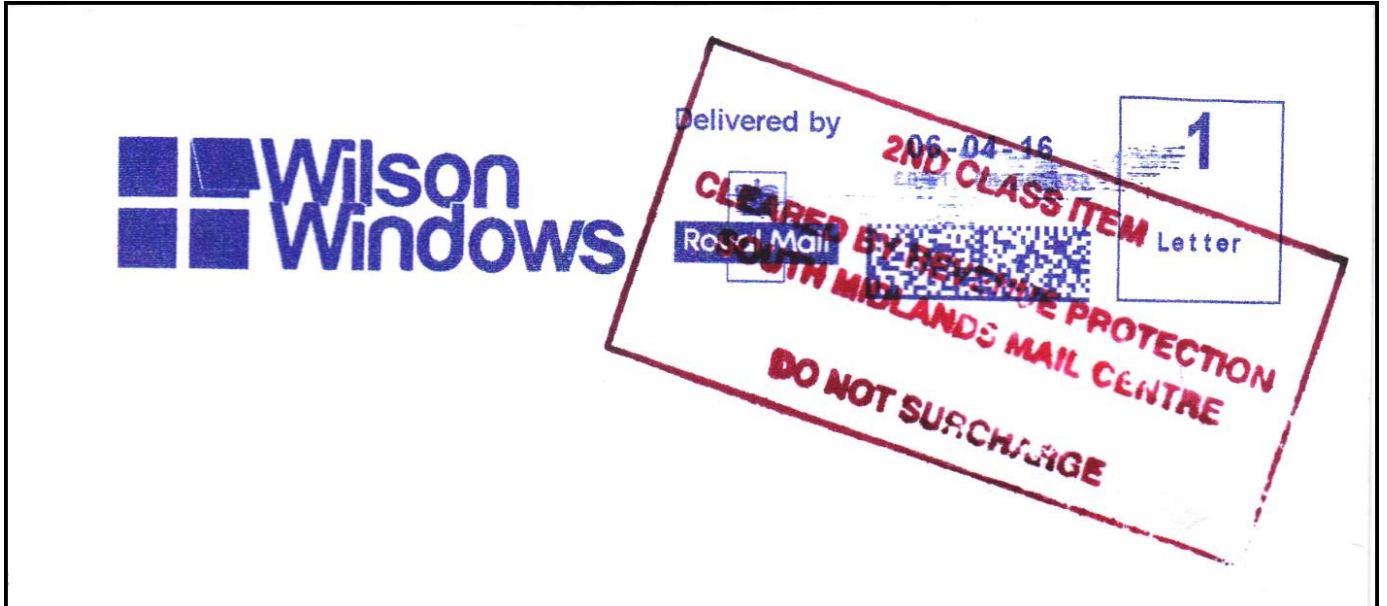
The illustration alongside, taken from the specification, shows the 'Variety 3' format.

If anyone would like to receive a copy of the 8-page patent specification, please contact your editor.



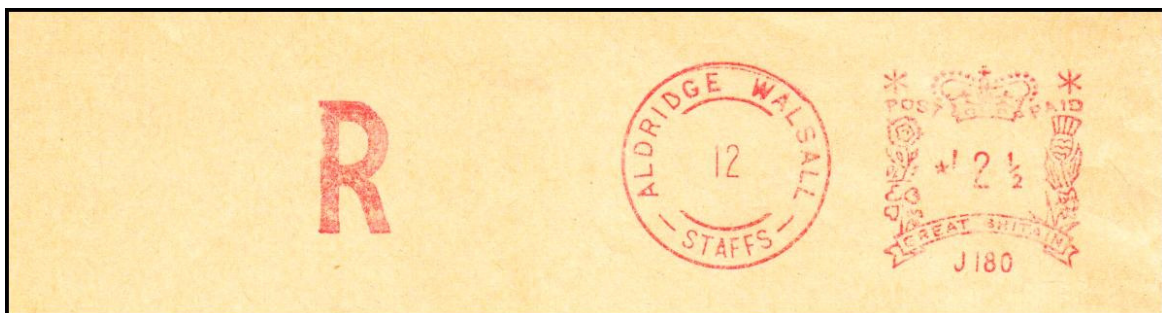
Instructional Handstamps

Peter Mantell sends this instructional handstamp that has not been reported previously. With some careful editing, your editor has managed to decode the matrix block which reveals that the machine is PB2009353.



Historic Items

Peter Mantell reports these two unusual rebate items - probably from the late 1960s / early 1970s period. The date dies have been replaced with '11' and '12' respectively and Peter wonders what these numbers could mean. My best guess is that they indicate the month of posting but I would be pleased to hear from anyone who has any other thoughts or definitive information.

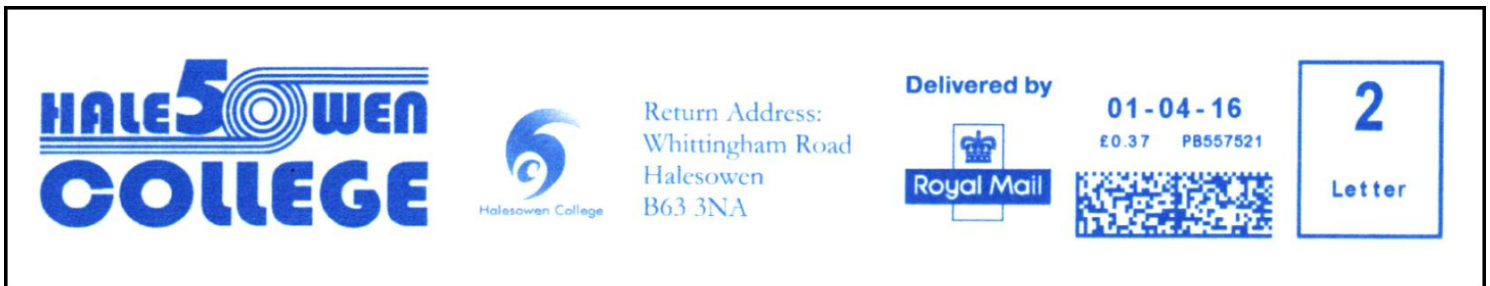


Meter Thematics

This frank sent by Duncan James depicts the armorial insignia that is used by the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Hungary. A colour image showing the design in greater detail is shown alongside.



Peter Mantell sends this monster frank from Halesowen College where the 'SO' of Halesowen has been cleverly depicted as '50' to reflect the 50th anniversary year of the college.



Duncan James sends this frank from 'Keep Scotland beautiful' - a charity committed to making Scotland clean, green and more sustainable – see <http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/>



My Meter Thematic of the Month award goes to Peter Mantell for this very attractive Isle of Mull Cheese frank.

