

METER NEWS

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Meter of the Month

My meter of the month comes from Peter Mantell and it shows a 7-digit serial number, rather than the usual 6 digits for Connect+ machines. This is similar to the situation back in October 2014 when 7-digit serial numbers for the PB662 series first appeared (page 168-1). The full image of this frank, PB5575257, is shown below.



Decoding the matrix block confirms this serial number and the item number decodes as '0000437'. This would tend to suggest it is a new machine or a recently 'converted' machine, e.g. for a battery replacement.

In order to understand what is happening, the following questions come to mind

- (1) Is it a one-off error or, more likely, is it one of many to come with 7 digits?
- (2) Have Royal Mail requested that all Mailmark franks are assigned a 7 digit number?
- (3) In time, will all existing Pitney Bowes Connect+ machines with 6 digits get converted to ones with 7 digits?
- (4) In due course, can we expect to see the same thing happening with the PB1 series (currently the only other series with 6 digits)?
- (5) If it is a new series, why does it start with a seemingly random number? However, it is worth remembering that the PB662 series also started at a fairly random number (see page 168-1).

With just one report, we are unable to answer these questions, but with more examples, things may become a bit clearer. It is easy to overlook such items and it goes without saying that further reports of 7-figure Connect+ franks would be most welcome.

Acknowledgements

My thanks go to Jon Aitchison, Peter Huss, Duncan James, Peter Mantell, Robert Petts, and Jos Wessels for their recent reports, communications or contributions.

Latest Numbers

Below is the list of 'latest numbers' as at the end of June 2016 – with updates shown in red. Please could I have the next reports by the 28th July - 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	See MN 186
Matrix F12 etc.	<u>FR2002693</u>	22-06-16	Reported by PM

Francotyp-Postalia

Centormail 240/300	<u>FC5110729</u>	18-11-15	See MN 181
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	<u>FP6116270</u>	19-05-16	See MN 187
PostBase Mini	<u>FP7115102</u>	20-06-16	Reported by DJ

Neopost

IS-330	<u>N1053530</u>	18.05.16	Reported by PM
IS-350	<u>N1182853</u>	29.04.16	See MN 187
Various upgraded	<u>N1240763</u>	15.06.16	Reported by PM
IS-280c / 350c	<u>NE6009959</u>	05-05-16	See MN 187
IS-420c / 440c	<u>NE8011303</u>	15-06-16	Reported by AN
IS-480c	<u>NE9000554</u>	21-06-16	Reported by PM

Pitney Bowes

DM160i/220i	<u>PB176859</u>	22-04-16	See MN 186
DM60 (model K722)	<u>PB2016813</u>	25-05-16	See MN 187
DM50, 55	<u>PB312039</u>	14.04.16	See MN 186
DM50, 55	<u>PB368735</u>	11.04.16	Reported by DJ
Connect+ 10FC etc.	<u>PB5575257</u>	09-06-16	Reported by PM, see page 1
Connect+ 10FC etc.	<u>PB558209</u>	18-05-16	Reported by PM
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB620832</u>	01.06.16	Reported by PM
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB6628040</u>	23-06-16	Reported by PM
DM 110i	<u>PB885029</u>	03.06.16	Reported by PM

Advanced Mail Codes

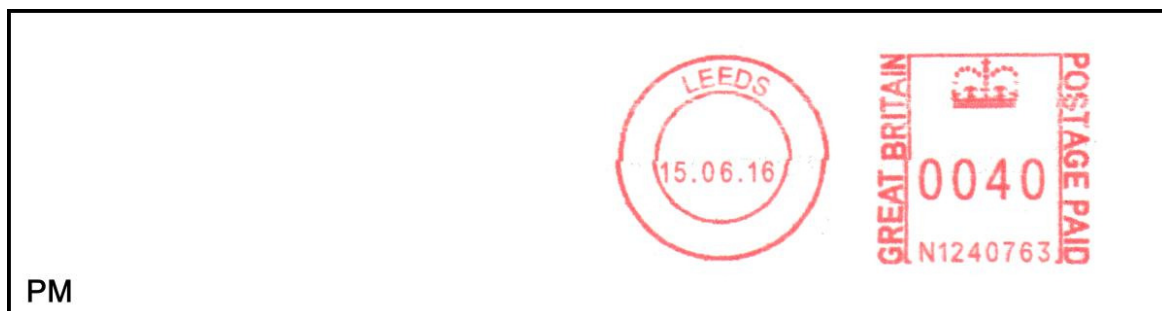
AAGX-JZ	NE8009481	24-02-16	See MN 186
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This month the following series have been removed from the above list as no updates have been recorded for a while now. These will now be regarded as 'Dead Series' but advances on these are still possible, and any reports of such would still be welcome.

Manufacturer	Series	Model	Highest number
Francotyp-Postalia	FM265	MyMail / PostagePro	FM2658042
Francotyp-Postalia	FP611	PostBase Qi3/4/6/9 (Design H)	FP6110850
Neopost	N30	IS-480	N3030571
Neopost	N33	IS-240 / IS-280	N3319858


Latest Number Images


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



Latest Number Images continued

CCMCC
PO BOX 527
SALFORD
M5 0BY


Delivered by

21-06-16
£0.51 NE9000554




1
Letter

PM - NE9000554 [Item 0000679]

04
07
00
43
14
78
33



GREAT BRITAIN

0053
POSTAGE PAID
PB368735

DJ

homehardware

Delivered by

09-06-16
£0.89 PB5575257



2
L Letter
250g

PM - PB5575257 [Item 0000437]

Delivered by

18-05-16
£0.51 PB558209





1
Letter

PM - PB558209 [Item 0051492]

Metcalfes
Solicitors
Tel: 0117 929 0451
www.metcalfes.co.uk

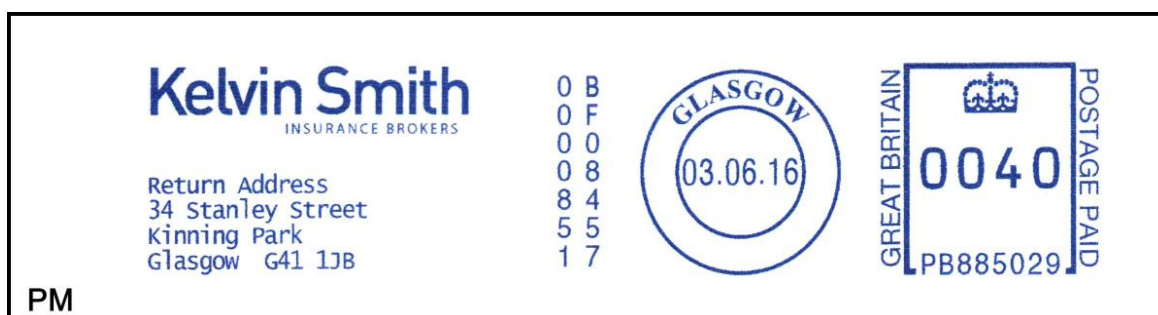
02
05
08
88
94
81
75



GREAT BRITAIN

0053
POSTAGE PAID
PB620832

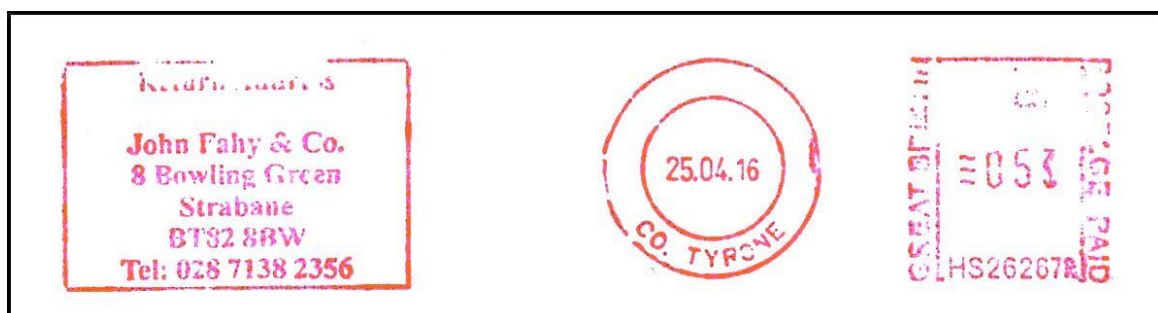
PM

Latest Number Images continued



'Last of Breed' franks

Peter Mantell has found two examples of franks applied by 'old technology' Hasler machines, but both are interesting. Like all other Hasler machines still in use today, these two are from users situated in Northern Ireland, and both are looking somewhat sorry for themselves! The first one is a 'Smile' machine with the serial HS26267R but the town is missing, leaving the central die just reading 'Co. Tyrone'.

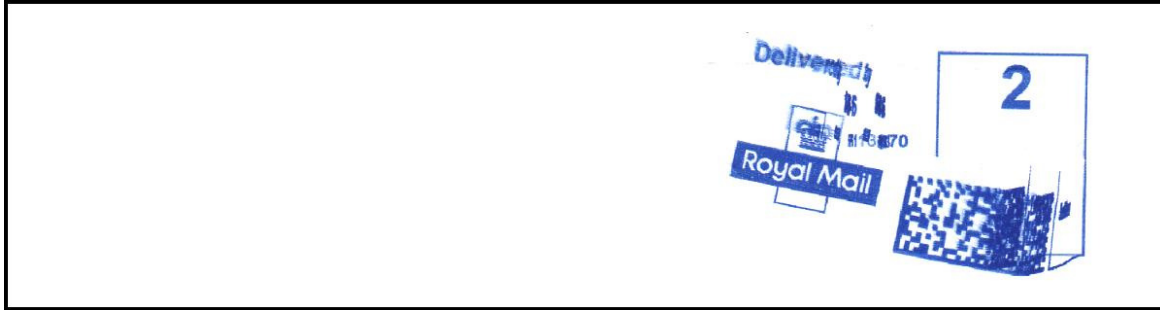


The second example, with the serial HT38001Z, is a '300 Series' with the rare 'Z' serial suffix. Further information on the 'Z' serial suffix was given on page 110-5.

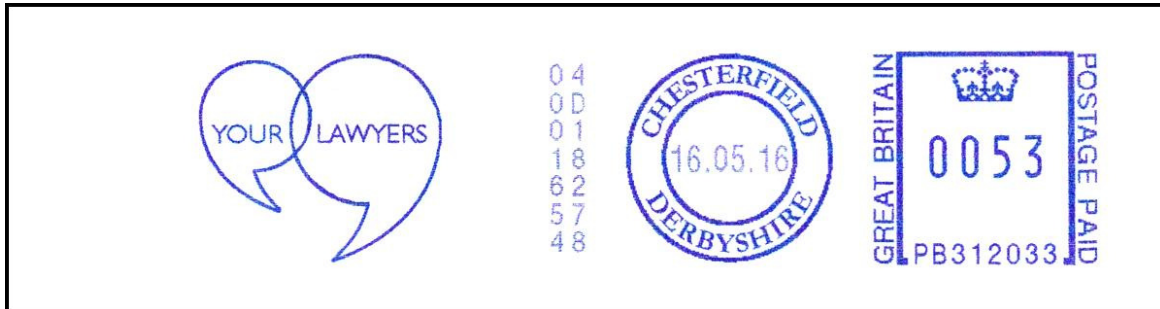


Recent Interesting Items

Duncan James has found this rather spectacular printing hiccup. The machine model / serial number cannot be determined, although the style of the '2' might, perhaps, suggest that it was a Frama machine.



Further to page 186-1, Peter Mantell reports a second example of the new PB312 sub-series. On this occasion, the serial number, PB 312033, is just 6 lower than the one previously reported.



Further to last month's report, Peter Mantell has found another Francotyp-Postalia frank with some additional bars – this time to the far left of the frank on a zero-value DX Mail item.



Peter Mantell has found a typo in the address block of this frank, which reads "Wilmslow Raod".

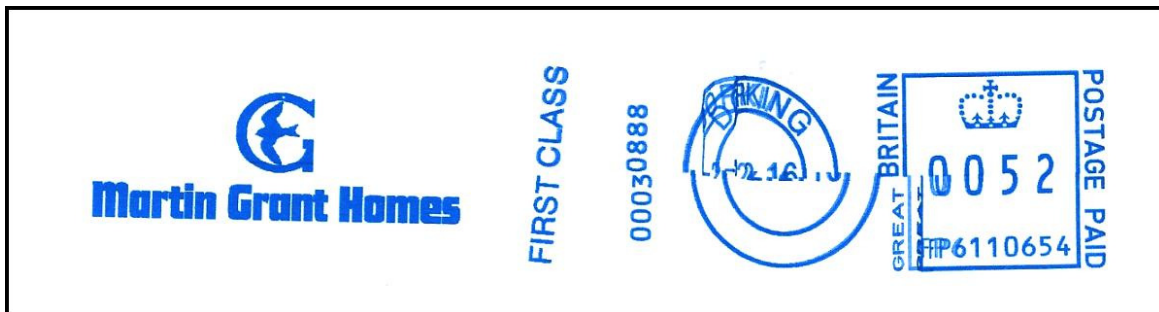


Recent Interesting Items continued

Peter Mantell reports the only slogan seen advertising the 23rd June 2016 EU Referendum. It comes from the Dacorum Borough Council. Dacorum is located in the north-west of Hertfordshire, in the East of England region, the Council itself being based in Hemel Hempstead. The logo of the Borough Council is depicted alongside.



Robert Petts sends these two printing hiccups.

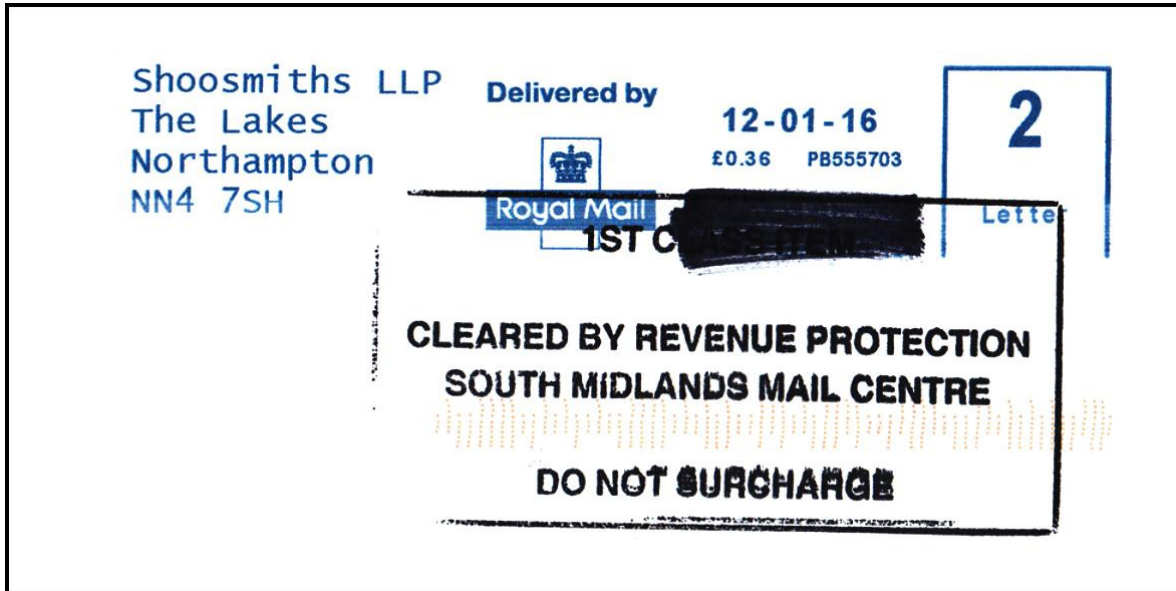


It is always nice to record very low numbers of any series. Here, Peter Mantell has found machine serial FR2000004. Previously, machines FR2000001 and FR2000005 were shown on pages 167-5 and 165-4 respectively.

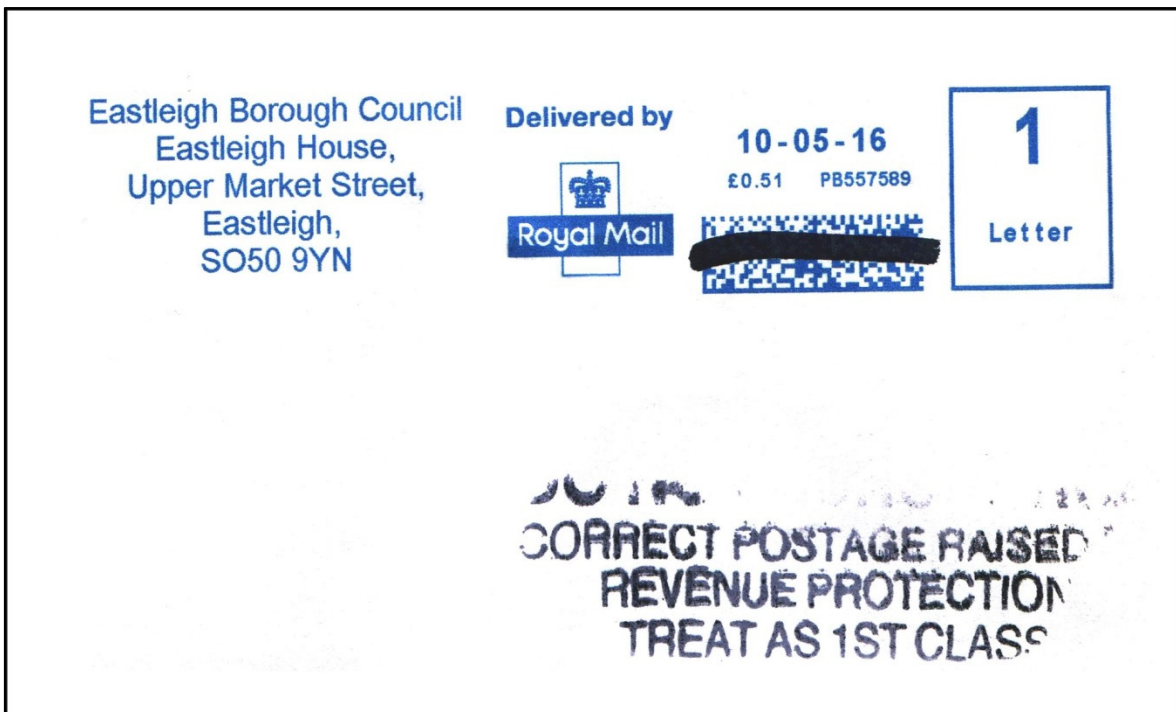


Recent Interesting Items continued

Two examples of underpaid items have been reported where the matrix block has been manually erased by Royal Mail staff. The first example from Northampton and addressed to Germany, is reported by Peter Huss. It received a 'Revenue Protection' handstamp at the South Midlands Mail Centre because the rate for Europe was not paid by the user.



The second example is reported by your editor. The item was franked on a C4-sized envelope and received a 'Revenue Protection' handstamp at Southampton Mail Centre because the 'Large Letter' rate was not paid by the user.



Your editor does not know whether there is any operational significance in erasing matrix blocks in this way. However, it does appear to be Royal Mail policy to do so across the country.

Coloured Slogans

This month we have five black / coloured slogans not previously recorded – all kindly provided by Peter Mantell.

Stephensons Solicitors Llp
Wigan Investment Centre
Waterside Drive
Wigan WN3 5BA

Delivered by
10-06-16
£0.79 PB558155

Royal Mail

1
L Letter
100g

**BUSINESS
IN THE
COMMUNITY**

Return Address
Business in the Community
137 Shepherdess Walk
London
N1 7RQ

Delivered by
29-06-16
£0.37 PB556932

Royal Mail

2
Letter

Target Medical
Centaur House
Gardiners Place
Skelmersdale WN8 9SP

Advanced Mail
First Class
AAAK-STJX-RGCK

Delivered by
23-06-16
£0.63 PB555904

Royal Mail

1
Advanced

Scott Rees & Co
Centaur House
Gardiners Place
Skelmersdale WN8 9SP

Advanced Mail
First Class
AAAK-STJX-RGCK

Delivered by
24-06-16
£0.63 PB555904

Royal Mail

1
Advanced


Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

Return Address
B.I.S.
1 Victoria St
London
SW1H 0ET

Delivered by
29-06-16
£0.51 PB557891

Royal Mail

1
Letter

Mailmark™ News

Duncan James reports a 'Signed For' Large Letter 250g with £2.20 postage. This particular combination has not previously been reported. The matrix block decodes as Class 7 and Mail Type 2101.



Peter Mantell reports this Small Parcel frank with £4.17 postage, indicating a 'Signed For' item for Tariff 8 at a 1kg weight. As expected, the matrix block decodes as Class 7, and Mail Type 3100.



The above reports enable the '1st Class Ready Reckoner' table to be updated. The update also amends the Tariff 8 value for the 'Class 7, Mail Type 0104' entry that was previously shown incorrectly as £2.03 – an example is shown on page 13.

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
£2.06	£2.02	n/s	1 L Letter 750g	1	0104
£2.20	n/s	n/s	(SF) 1 L Letter (250g)	7	2101
£3.07	£3.00	£2.90	1 Small Parcel (1kg)	1	1111
£4.17	£4.10	n/s	(SF) 1 Small Parcel (1kg)	7	3100
n/s	£4.80	£4.80	1 Medium Parcel (1kg)	1	0301
£5.22	n/s	n/s	1 Small Parcel (2kg)	1	1112
n/s	n/s	£15.85	1 Medium Parcel (5kg)	1	0303

Mailmark™ News continued

Duncan James reports this previously unrecorded '2 L Letter 500g' item on a 'Signed For' item. The matrix block decodes as Class 7, Mail Type 6102.



Duncan James also reports this (1kg/2kg) Medium Parcel at Tariff 8.



The above reports enable the '2nd class Ready Reckoner' table to be updated:

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
£2.29	n/s	n/s	(SF) 2 L Letter 500g	7	6102
£2.57	£2.50	£2.50	2 Small Parcel 1Kg/2kg	2	2221 / 2222
£4.47	£4.40	n/s	2 Medium Parcel (1kg/2kg)	2	0301
£5.57	n/s	n/s	(SF) 2 Medium Parcel 1kg/2kg	7	8100
n/s	£13.75	n/s	2 Medium Parcel (5kg)	2	0303

Peter Mantell reports this Tariff 8 '1PM Special Delivery' item:



Mailmark™ News continued

This report enables the 'Special Delivery Ready Reckoner' table to be updated:

Tariff 8	Tariff 6	Tariff 3	Interpretation	Class	Mail Type
n/s	£6.20	£6.15	(SD) 1PM 100g	3	0100
£6.85	£6.85	n/s	(SD) 1PM 500g	3	0101
n/s	£10.40	n/s	(SD) 1PM 2000g	3	0104

This month your editor has compiled the 'Air Mail (Europe)' and 'Air Mail (Rest of World)' Ready Reckoner tables, based on reports in previous newsletters.

Tariff 8	Tariff 6	Tariff 3	Tariff 1	Interpretation	Class	Mail Type
-	-	-	£0.79	AIR Europe 10g	5	0001
n/s	£0.90	£0.85	n/s	(L) A Europe 20g	6	6001
-	-	£1.33	n/s	(L) A Europe 60g	6	6002
n/s	£1.37	-	-	(L) A Europe 100g	6	6002
n/s	£2.27	-	-	(LL) A Europe 100g	6	6201
n/s	n/s	£3.35	n/s	(Small Parcel) A Europe 100g	6	6032
n/s	£3.43	-	-	(LL) A Europe 250g	6	6202
n/s	£9.49	n/s	n/s	ITS Europe 500g	6	6522

Tariff 8	Tariff 6	Tariff 3	Interpretation	Class	Mail Type
n/s	£0.90	n/s	(L) A ROW1 10g	6	6016
n/s	n/s	£1.17	(L) A ROW1 20g	6	6016
n/s	n/s	£1.17	(L) A ROW2 20g	6	6096
-	-	£1.94	(L) A ROW1 60g	6	6097
n/s	£2.06	n/s	(L) A ROW1 100g	6	6098
£4.50	n/s	n/s	(LL) A ROW1 250g	6	6222
£12.40	n/s	n/s	(Small Parcel) A ROW 1.0kg	6	6538

There are many Air Mail frank rate / tariff combinations that have not yet been seen and entries for such have been omitted. Any reports (particularly from overseas readers) that would enable the above tables to be updated would be much appreciated.

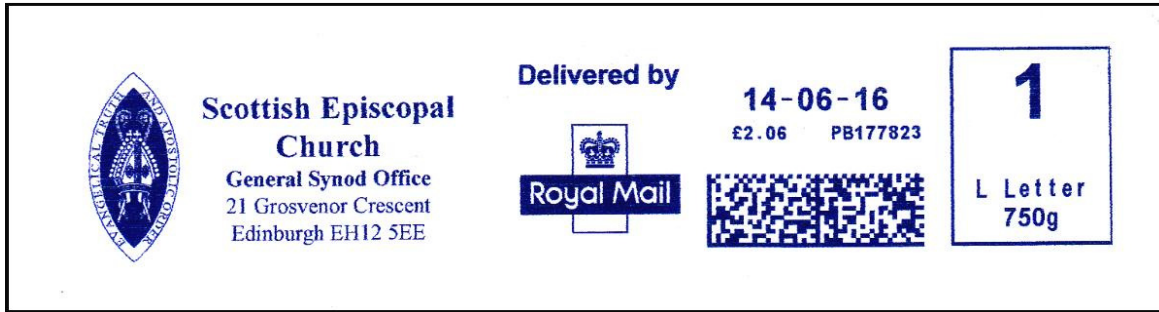
Historic Thematic Meter

Jos Wessels sends a scan of an attractive cover from November 1998. It was franked by a Neopost 5450/5460 machine, serial 5NE10436, depicting the SS Great Britain. The cover was addressed to The Netherlands but was franked with only £0.20 postage, this being the internal 2nd class rate at the time. The cover duly received a Royal Mail Revenue Protection handstamp (shown alongside, below)



Meter Thematics

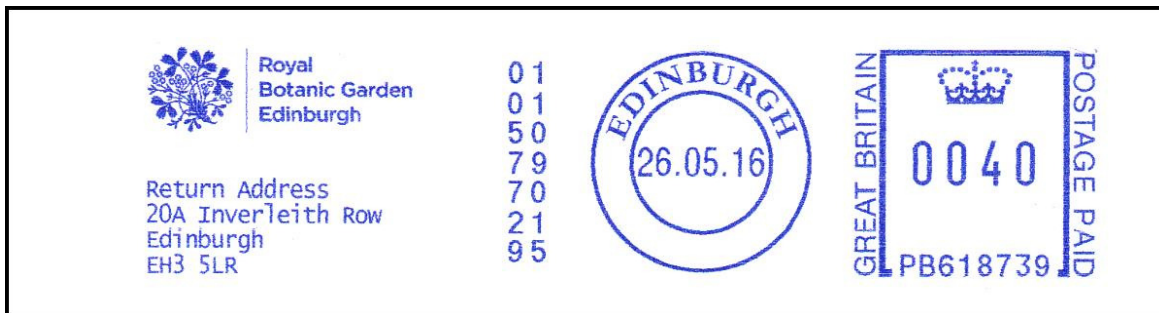
Duncan James kindly sends all of the thematics on this page. First of all, he has found this attractive 'religious' thematic from the Scottish Episcopal Church based in Edinburgh.



This 'education' thematic from the Queen's University in Belfast is also a rather nice 'Letters of the Alphabet' thematic.



This 'floral' design is the logo used by the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh.

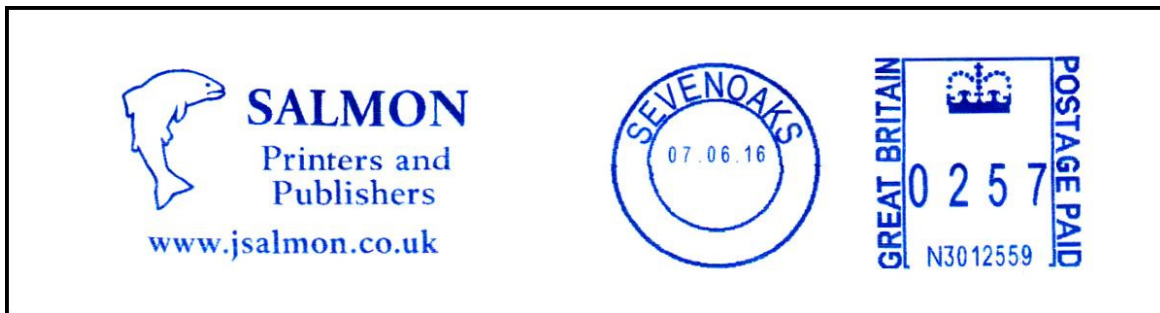


This could well be the first rocking horse that has been depicted in Meter News!

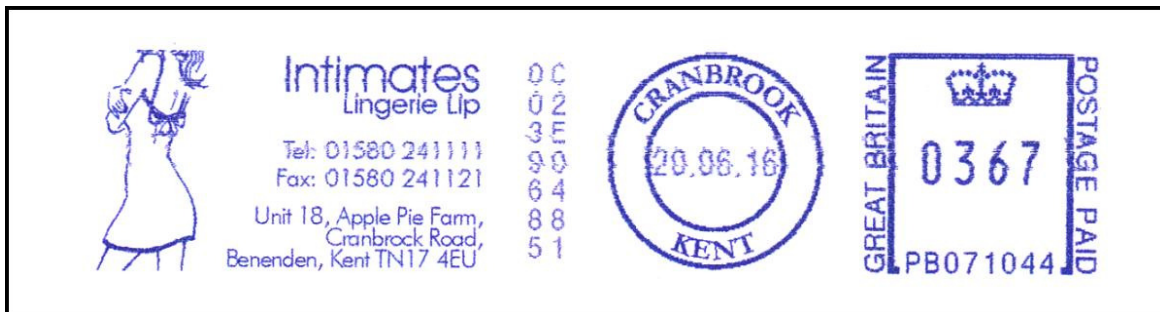


Meter Thematics continued

Duncan James sends this frank from 'Salmon Printers' that bears an attractive design showing the outline of a salmon.



Duncan James has found this frank from a company called 'Intimates Lingerie' based in Cranbrook, Kent.



Peter Mantell has found this rather nice wolf on this frank from a company called 'Wolf Law'.



My Meter Thematic of the Month award goes to Peter Mantell for this rather attractive mountainous setting of the Loch Insh Water Sports and Outdoor Activity Centre, near Aviemore, Scotland. The frank includes the chalets at the Centre, together with some of the water sport activities available, e.g. sailing, windsurfing, kayaking and canoeing.

