

# METER NEWS

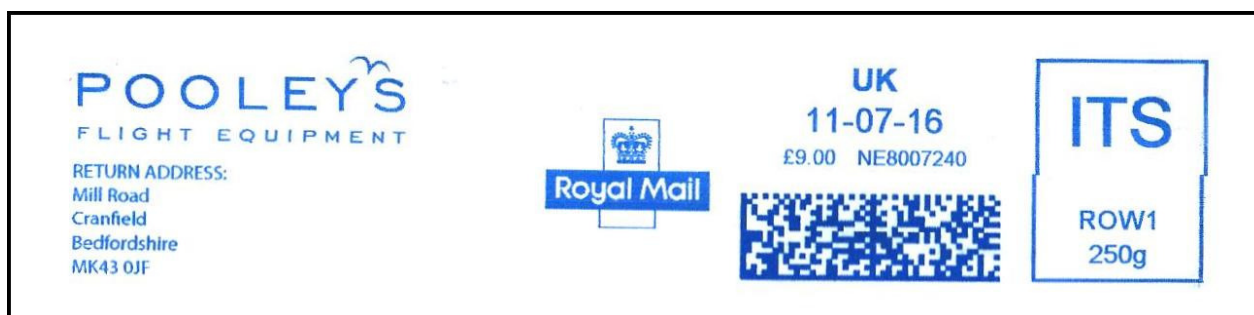
Issue Number 189 Jul 2016



Editor: Alastair Nixon, 7 Bramblegate, Edgcumbe Park, Crowthorne, Berks, RG45 6JA. Tel: +44 (0) 1344 775378  
Email: [nixon48@gmail.com](mailto:nixon48@gmail.com) Web site: <http://www.meterfranking.co.uk>

## Meter of the Month

On page 178-1 we reported an example of an 'ITS' (International Tracked & Signed) frank to Europe. My meter of the month shows a similar item but is the first reported to a 'ROW 1' (Rest of the World 1) destination. The item, NE8007240, decodes as Class 6 (Air Mail), Mail Type 6234 and has been reported by Jim Ashby. The full image is shown below.



Your editor has found this 'VSI 1st Class Service' indicia on the main Francotyp-Postalia UK web site at <http://www.fpmailing.co.uk/>. The image has been taken from a screen capture and is, unfortunately, rather blurred and consequently the matrix block does not decode. It is dated 16-12-13 (i.e. prior to the introduction of Mailmark in March 2014) but the serial number appears to read 'FP12345678'. It is not known what 'VSI' stands for.



## Editorial

This month we welcome Roy Richardson, as member number 0047. Roy's main collecting interest is Postal Stationery but has recently started collecting meter franks. As we shall see throughout this newsletter, the material he has collected from a local solicitor's office provides an excellent source.

## Acknowledgements

My thanks go to Jim Ashby, Jon Aitchison, Gwynne Harries, Peter Huss, Mike Jackson, Duncan James, Peter Mantell, Robert Petts, Roy Richardson, and Peter Wood for their recent reports, communications or contributions.

## Latest Numbers

Below is the list of 'latest numbers' as at the end of July 2016 – with updates shown in red. Please could I have the next reports by the 28th August - 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>FR2002708</u>	01-07-16	Reported by PM

### Francotyp-Postalia

Centomail 240/300	<u>FC5110729</u>	18-11-15	See MN 181
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	<u>FP6116290</u>	19-07-16	Reported by PM
PostBase Mini	<u>FP7115102</u>	20-06-16	See MN 188

### Neopost

IS-330	<u>N1053530</u>	18.05.16	See MN 188
IS-350	<u>N1182853</u>	29.04.16	See MN 187
Various upgraded	<u>N1240763</u>	15.06.16	See MN 188
IS-280c / 350c	<u>NE6010109</u>	27-06-16	Reported by PM
IS-420c / 440c	<u>NE8011696</u>	21-07-16	Reported by PM
IS-480c	<u>NE9000554</u>	21-06-16	See MN 188

### Pitney Bowes

DM160i/220i	<u>PB178161</u>	12-07-16	Reported by PM
DM60 (model K722)	<u>PB2018531</u>	21-07-16	Reported by PM
DM50, 55	<u>PB312039</u>	14.04.16	See MN 186
DM50, 55	<u>PB368735</u>	11.04.16	See MN 188
Connect+ 10FC etc.	<u>PB5575343</u>	27-07-16	Reported by PM
Connect+ 10FC etc.	<u>PB558209</u>	18-05-16	See MN 188
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB620832</u>	01.06.16	See MN 188
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB6628040</u>	23-06-16	See MN 188
DM 110i	<u>PB885029</u>	03.06.16	See MN 188

### Advanced Mail Codes

AAGX-JZ	NE8009481	24-02-16	See MN 186
---------	-----------	----------	------------

## Dead Series Updates

Peter Mantell reports an update to the dead 'N5' series with serial N5001737 dated 13.07.16.

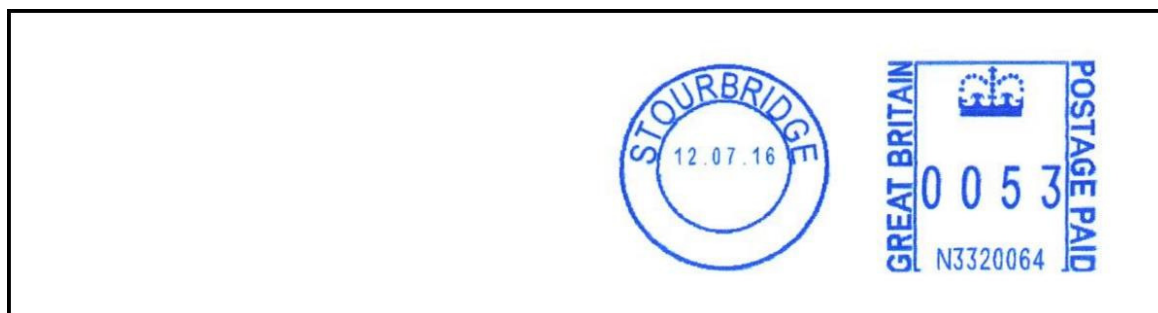


## Dead Series Updates continued

Peter has also found updates on the two Neopost series that have recently been demoted as dead series. The first is an IS-480 model with the serial N3030642, dated 01.07.16.



The second is an IS-240/280 model with the serial N3320064, dated 12.07.16.



## Latest Number Images

Contributor's initials and other details are shown in the bottom left of each image. All of the latest number reports this month come from Peter Mantell.



Latest Number Images continued

Delivered by

27-06-16  
£0.89 NE6010109





2  
L Letter  
250g

PM - NE6010109 [Item 0000600]

Return Address  
Terling Close  
Leytonstone  
London  
E11 3NT

  
BUXTON  
SCHOOL

Delivered by

21-07-16  
£0.37 NE8011696





2  
Letter

PM - NE8011696 [Item 0000870]

Delivered by

12-07-16  
£0.37 PB178161





2  
Letter

PM - PB178161 [Item 0000093]



Delivered by

22-07-16  
£0.37 PB2018531





2  
Letter

PM - PB2018531 [Item 0000123]

  
Lawyers helping injured people

Return Address  
Express Solicitors  
Resolution House  
319 Palatine Road  
Manchester  
M22 4HH

Delivered by

27-07-16  
£0.51 PB5575343





1  
Letter

PM - PB5575343 [Item 0001066]

Further to page 188-1, note that the above report would tend to suggest that this 7-digit PB557 series is, indeed, a new series.

## Recent Interesting Items

Peter Mantell has found this item where the user has applied a 'Surcharge Payment' frank of just £0.01. It has obviously been applied to correct the date of the original frank as £0.79 is the correct postage for a '1 L Letter 100g' item.

Your editor can't recall what the Royal Mail regulations are when an incorrect date has been applied, but it is thought that 'Zero Test' franks are normally applied in this situation. Presumably, applying a frank with a Surcharge Payment of £0.00 postage is not possible.



Peter Mantell also reports this item where a Royal Mail circular handstamp has been applied to correct the date on the meter at the Chester Mail Centre.

Similar large handstamps have been seen in the past with a '24-hour clock face' around the edge that can be rotated to indicated the time of processing. However, the outer rim in this case has just four selectable segments that read "SECOND / SERVICE / 1<sup>ST</sup> / AIRMAIL".

The centre of the handstamp reads "ROYAL MAIL / REVENUE PROTECTION / 20 JUL 2016 / CHESTER PAID" with an arrow pointing to the "SECOND" segment on the outer rim.



## Recent Interesting Items continued

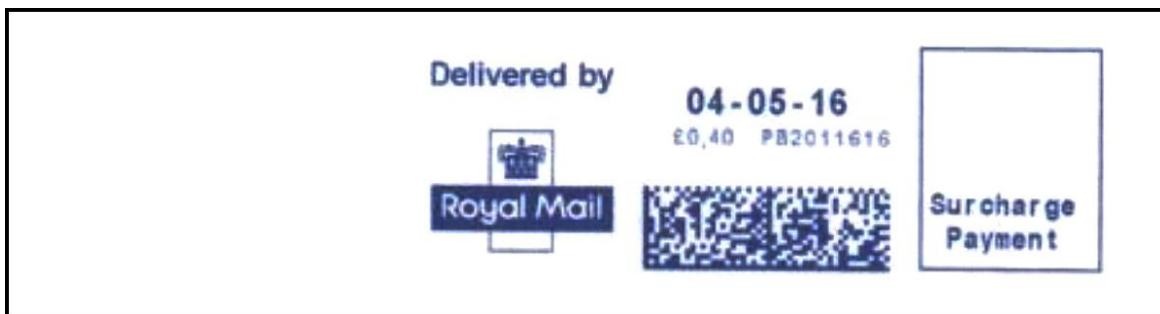
Roy Richardson sends two interesting Francotyp-Postalia franks. The first is a “Rate Change” slogan, dated 08-03-16 – prior to the change brought in on 29<sup>th</sup> March.



The second has just the date showing in the town die – with the town / county information completely missing. Errors like these have been seen in the past, but I can't recall this ever happening on modern (software-driven) machines. This machine, FM2650489, would have been new in late 2011 but, for some reason, the item count 00001691 is a very low number for a machine of that age. This might suggest that, recently, the machine was 'reset' and perhaps this was the cause of the town die 'hiccup'?



Roy Richardson has found two 'Surcharge Payment' franks from the same machine with the same payment (£0.40) but on different dates. The first, dated 04-05-16, has been printed in blue ink, whereas the second, dated 13-07-16, has been printed in red ink. Presumably, the blue ink ran out but the user only had a red cartridge available as a replacement.



## Recent Interesting Items continued

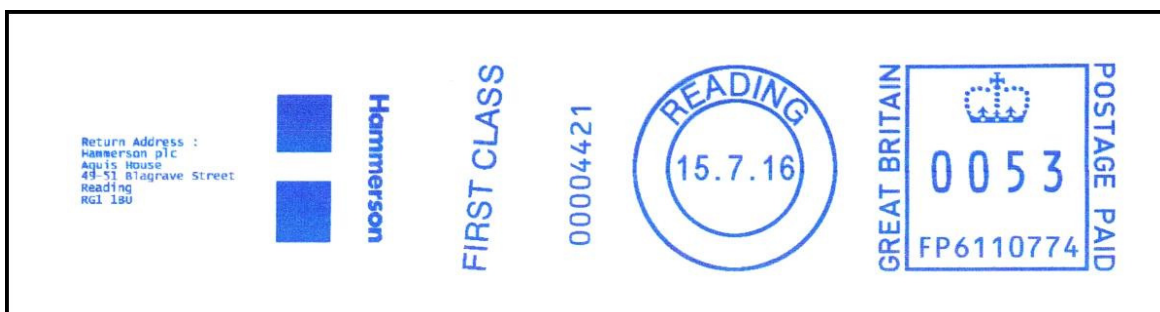
Peter Mantell has found this interesting frank where the top half has printed in a lighter shade of blue. It is likely that this model prints using two ink cartridges and that two different makes have been fitted.



Peter Mantell sends this squashed frank which could either be a machine hiccup or a feed error. The item town reads 'Tavistock / Devon' but the user is unknown.



Peter Mantell has also found this 'FIRST CLASS' 'mini-die' on a Francotyp-Postalia PostBase Qi3/4/6/9 machine.



## Coloured Slogans

We can report six new coloured slogans this month, starting with this 'URGENT' message in black & grey from a Pitney Bowes Connect+ machine, found by your editor. It is almost certainly a pre-loaded 'built-in' message.

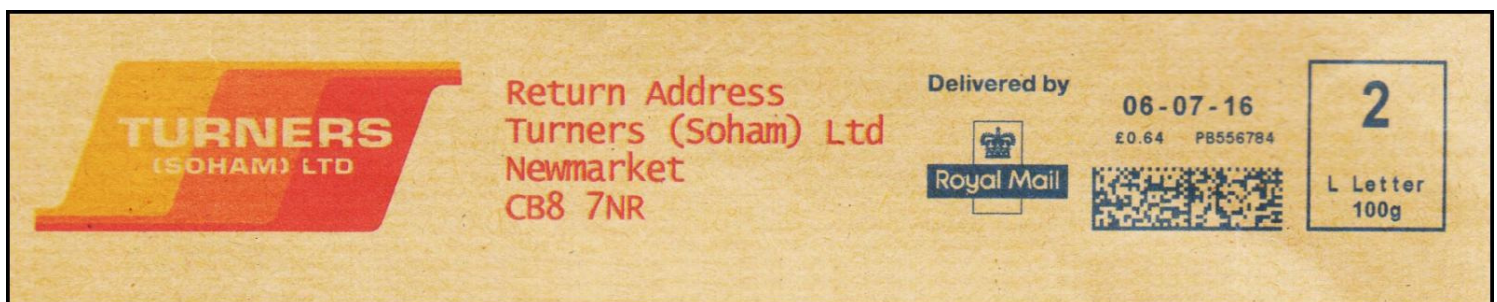


## Coloured Slogans

The next one from Hambleton District Council in North Yorkshire also comes from your editor:



The other four reports all come from Peter Mantell:





## Mailmark™ News

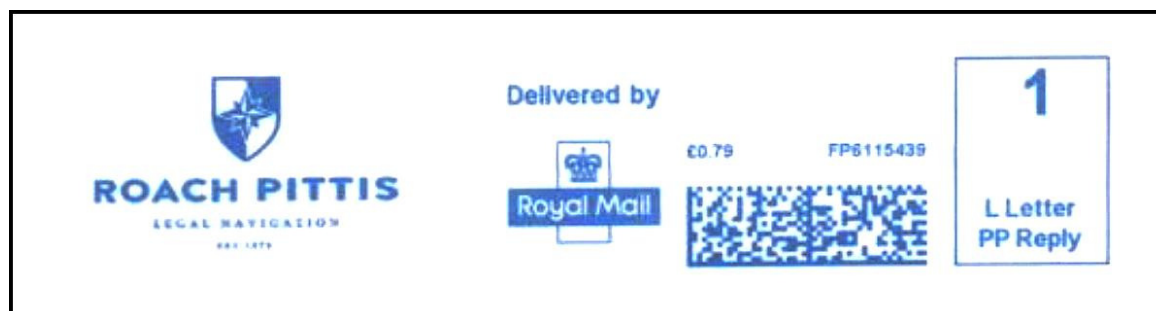
The report on page 1 from Jim Ashby enables the 'ROW ready reckoner table to be updated as follows:

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
£9.00	n/s	n/s	(LL) ITS ROW 1 250g	6	6234
£12.40	n/s	n/s	(Small Parcel) A ROW 1.0kg	6	6538

Roy Richardson kindly reports two '1 L Letter PP Reply (100g)' franks – both from the same machine, FP6115439. Both items decode as Class 3, Mail Type 3003. The first, with £0.78 postage, is at Tariff 6 and has a date of 29-12-15 within the matrix block



The second, with £0.79 postage, is at Tariff 8 and has a date of 07-07-16 encoded within the matrix block.



Further to page 184-7, your editor believes he now has a clearer understanding of the way that the Royal Mail 'PP Reply' service works using Mailmark franking . . . .

If a user wants to pre-pay the postage for an item to be returned, a label with a 'PP Reply' frank is produced and enclosed when the user posts the item. The date on such items clearly needs to be suppressed on the frank as it is not known when the recipient will actually post the item back.

Presumably, payment is charged at the time of franking, rather than when (and if) the item is returned. It is also assumed that no surcharge will be made by Royal Mail if the whole process spans a Tariff rate change period. Previously, it was thought that 'PP' stood for 'Postage Paid' but your editor now believes it is more likely to stand for 'Pre-Paid'.

## Mailmark™ News continued

Duncan James reports a Tariff 6 'Signed For' 1 Large Letter 250g with £2.19 postage.



Roy Richardson reports a Tariff 8 '(Signed For) 1 L Letter 500g with a Mail Type of 2102 and a Tariff 6 '1 Medium Parcel' (5kg weight) with a Mail Type of 0303.



The above reports enable the '1st Class ready reckoner table' to be updated.

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
<b>£0.79</b>	<b>n/s</b>	<b>n/s</b>	<b>1 L Letter PP Reply (100g)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3003</b>
£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	<b>£2.19</b>	n/s	(SF) 1 L Letter (250g)	7	2101
<b>£2.66</b>	<b>n/s</b>	<b>n/s</b>	<b>(SF) 1 L Letter (500g)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2102</b>
£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	<b>£15.85</b>	£15.85	1 Medium Parcel (5kg)	1	0303

**Mailmark™ News continued**

Duncan James sends three previously unreported Class 7 '(Signed For) Small Parcel' items. The first one is at Tariff 6 and has a Mail Type of 7100 for the 1Kg weight.



The second item is also at Tariff 6 and has a Mail Type of 7101 for the 2Kg weight.



The third is at Tariff Rate 8 and has a Mail Type of 7101 – again for the 2Kg weight.



Duncan also reports this Tariff Rate 6 (Signed For) Medium Parcel 5Kg weight with a Mail Type of 8102.



As stated on page 186-7, no discount appears to be given to the franking machine user, for this particular rate / weight combination as £14.85 is also the charge for stamped items.

## Mailmark™ News continued

Roy Richardson sends this PB555548 (SF) '2 L Letter 250g' at Tariff 8 with £1.99 paid.



The above reports enable the '2nd class ready reckoner table' to be updated (and which now includes the 'PP Reply' items shown on page 184-7).

Tariff 8	Tariff 6	Tariff 3	Interpretation	Class	Mail Type
£0.37	£0.36	£0.35	2 Letter	2	0001
n/s	£0.36	n/s	2 Letter (PP Reply)	3	3002
£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
£1.99	£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
£3.67	£3.60	n/s	(SF) 2 Small Parcel (1Kg/2Kg)	7	7100 / 7101
£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
n/s	£14.85	n/s	(SF) 2 Medium Parcel (5kg)	7	8102

Roy Richardson reports this '1PM Special Delivery' Tariff 8, 100g weight.



Duncan James reports this '1PM Special Delivery' Tariff 8, 2Kg weight.



## Mailmark™ News Continued

With Special Delivery items, customers can pay more for higher compensation rates. These rates are set at £500, £1000 or £2,500. £1000 is the compensation rate that the user has chosen for this item.

These reports enable the 'Special Delivery Ready Reckoner' table (which now includes these compensation rates) to be updated:

Tariff 8	Tariff 6	Tariff 3	Interpretation	Class	Mail Type
<b>£6.20</b>	£6.20	£6.15	(SD) 1PM 100g ( <b>£500 comp.</b> )	3	0100
£6.85	£6.85	n/s	(SD) 1PM 500g ( <b>£500 comp.</b> )	3	0101
n/s	£10.40	n/s	(SD) 1PM 2000g ( <b>£500 comp.</b> )	3	0104
<b>£11.40</b>	<b>n/s</b>	<b>n/s</b>	<b>(SD) 1PM 2000g (£1000 comp.)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0108</b>

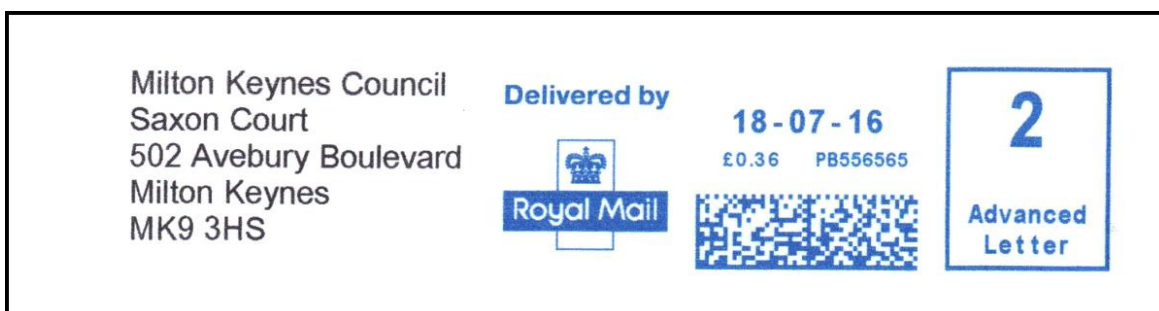
Roy Richardson reports this Tariff 8 '(Small Parcel) A Europe 500g' on NE6004852.



This enables the 'Europe ready reckoner table to be updated:

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	<b>n/s</b>	(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
<b>£5.25</b>	<b>n/s</b>	<b>n/s</b>	<b>n/s</b>	<b>(Small Parcel) A Europe 500g</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6501</b>
n/s	£9.49	n/s	<b>n/s</b>	ITS Europe 500g	6	6522

Finally, further to pages 181-6 and 184-1, Peter Mantell has found a third example of an 'Advanced Letter'. Interestingly, the Tariff Version has been set to 9 on this item. As with previous examples of 'Advanced Letter', the Advanced Mail block has been omitted.



## Mailmark™ News Continued

However, your editor has also found this example, dated 30-06-16, from the same machine with the normal '2 Advanced' indicia and with the Advanced Mail block.



## Historic Meters – ‘Design A’ Universal Postal Frankers ‘High Speed’ machines

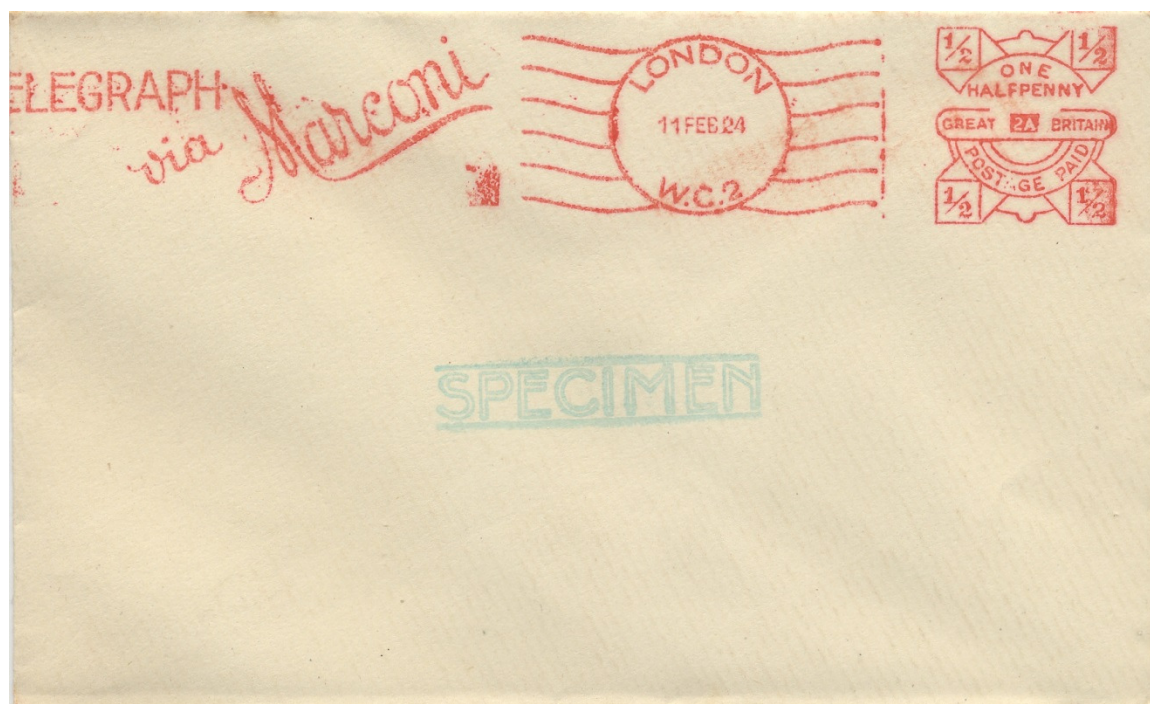
UPF ‘High Speed’ machines were first used on 14th February 1923. There were just eight of these machines sold and they can be identified by a single-ring circular town die in six wavy lines. They can be distinguished from the single ‘Special Midget’ machine (user ‘The Anglo-American Oil Co. Ltd.’) which had a double-ring town die and the licence number 5.

With the exception of licence number 2, the users of the eight ‘High Speed’ machines were based in London and are recorded as follows:

Licence No.	Company
1 (W.C.2)	Universal Postal Frankers
2 (Watford)	A Wander & Co.
3 (W1)	Selfridge & Co. Ltd.
3A (E.C.3)	J Henry Schroeder & Co.

Licence No.	Company
4 (S.W.1)	Harrods Ltd.
6 (E.C.1)	Carreras Ltd.
8 (E.C.4)	Universal Postal Frankers
X1 (S.W.1)	Harrods Ltd.

Mike Jackson has kindly provided an illustration of a Design A UPH High Speed specimen that has a machine number of ‘2A’ in white within a rectangular block and a slogan that reads ‘TELEGRAPH via Marconi’. This machine was never recorded on live mail, though, as far as we know. This item will form part of his ‘GB Meter Franking’ 80-sheet entry (five frames) for Stampex 2017. We wish Mike the very best of luck with his entry.

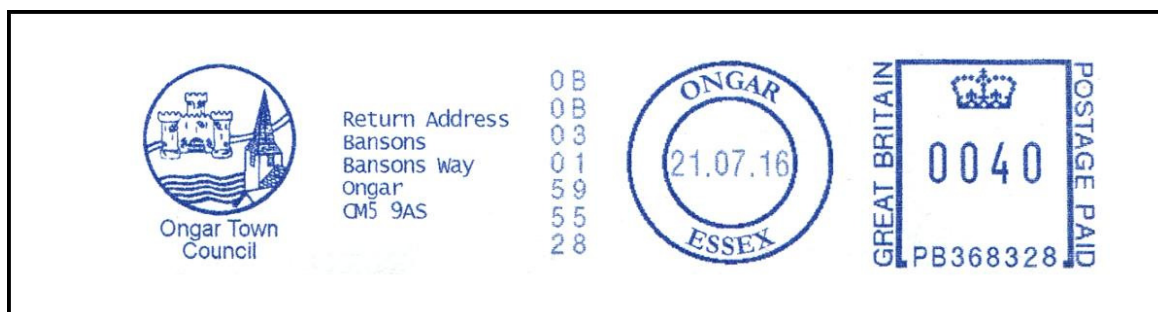


## Meter Thematics

Your editor rather likes this fun design from Littlewick Green Service Station. It is perhaps surprising how small businesses can justify the use of a franking machine when surely most ordering and invoicing is carried out on-line these days.



Your editor has found this attractive design from Ongar Town Council, depicting the castle that the town of Ongar used to have. Today, only the earthworks from the castle remain.



Further to the image of PB073481 in Design H on page 137-9, Peter Mantell has now found this same 'wasp' design on a Design J frank. This time the return address details have been included and it enables the user to be identified as 'Wasp Supplies Limited'.

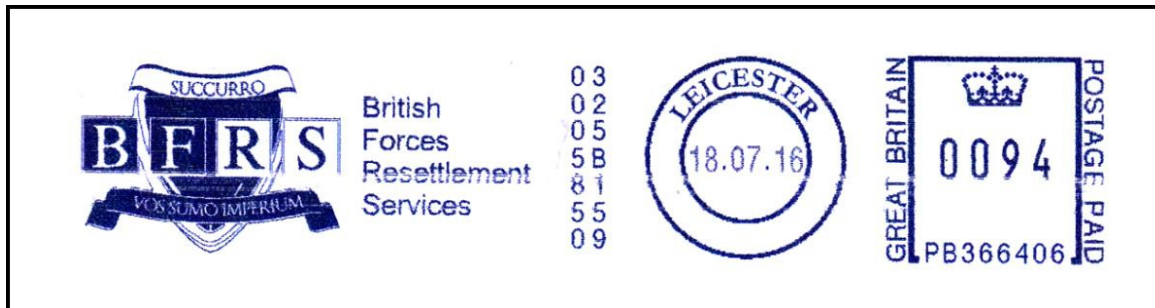


Peter Mantell has found this frank from Leeds Castle near Maidstone in Kent. A castle has been on the site since 1119. In the 16th century, Henry VIII used it as a residence for his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. The castle today dates from 1823 and is built on islands in a lake formed by the River Len near the village of Leeds. It has been open to the public since 1976.



### Meter Thematics continued

Duncan James sends this frank from the British Forces Resettlement Services based in Leicester. The BFRS is a Social Enterprise created to help the Armed Forces Community with their transition into civilian life. A coloured version of the logo, taken from their web site, is shown alongside.



Peter Huss has found this rather attractive sailing boat design from 2010. The organisation works closely with the world's sail training for Tall Ships, national sail training organisations and host ports, to help young people benefit from the sail training experience.



Duncan James has found this attractive logo from a small business called Krafty-Koala, based in Northampton.



Further to the image of N1206711 shown on page 71-7, Roy Richardson reports the latest Mailmark version, serial NE9000497, from 'The Donkey Sanctuary' - based in Sidmouth, Devon. This most attractive design receives my 'Meter Thematic of the Month' award.

