

METER NEWS

Issue Number 191 Sep 2016



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

Meter of the Month

My Meter of the Month has been sent by Stafford May and shows another format that has not previously been reported. This time we have an indicia inscribed '2 Local Mail Letter'.

Your editor was previously unaware that such a service existed and would be pleased to hear from anyone who can supply any information. Further details with regard to the attributes held within the data matrix of this frank are given on page 9.

Editorial

Eight people attended our third get-together on 18th September. It was held at the Royal Philatelic Society, London as part of the World's first Cinderella Stamp Congress and we are most grateful to Jon Aitchison for providing the venue. Unfortunately, Jon was unable to attend as he was involved in other Congress events on the day. All of us felt that the meeting was a great success, with very interesting displays being shown. The photo here shows the meeting attendees - from left to right we have: Peter Mantell, Maggie Thompson, Michael Dobbs, Alan Godfrey, John Fowler, your editor, Peter Huss and Patrick Awcock.



Acknowledgements

My thanks go to Jim Ashby, Jon Aitchison, Patrick Awcock, Michael Dobbs, John Fowler, Alan Godfrey, Peter Huss, Mike Jackson, Duncan James, Jan Lannoye, Peter Mantell, Robert Petts, Roy Richardson, Thomas Rösner and Peter Wood for their recent reports, communications or contributions.

Latest Numbers

Below is the list of 'latest numbers' as at the end of September 2016 – with updates shown in red. Please could I have the next reports by the 28th October - 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>FR2002806</u>	17-08-16	See MN 190

Francotyp-Postalia

Centomail 240/300	<u>FC5110729</u>	18-11-15	See MN 181
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	<u>FP6116610</u>	15-09-16	Reported by PM
PostBase Mini	<u>FP7115102</u>	20-06-16	See MN 188

Neopost

IS-330	<u>N1053555</u>	19.08.16	See MN 190
IS-350	<u>N1182853</u>	29.04.16	See MN 187
Various upgraded	<u>N1240763</u>	15.06.16	See MN 188
IN-360 / IS-280c	<u>NE6011034</u>	22-09-16	Reported by PM – see below
IS-420c / 440c	<u>NE8011696</u>	21-07-16	See MN 189
IN-600	<u>NE8500701</u>	08-09-16	Reported by PM – see below
IN-700 / IS-6000c	<u>NE9000578</u>	08-09-16	Reported by PM – see below

Pitney Bowes

DM160i/220i	<u>PB178161</u>	12-07-16	See MN 189
DM60 (model K722)	<u>PB2018531</u>	21-07-16	See MN 189
DM50, 55	<u>PB313502</u>	16.09.16	Reported by PM
DM50, 55	<u>PB368735</u>	11.04.16	See MN 188
Connect+ 10FC etc.	<u>PB5575381</u>	26-08-16	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>PB6628301</u>	15-09-16	Reported by PM
DM 110i	<u>PB885287</u>	01.09.16	Reported by RR

Advanced Mail Codes

AAGX-JZ	<u>NE8009481</u>	24-02-16	See MN 186
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Note that there has recently been some re-branding with three new Neopost models listed on their web site. Further information on these new 'IN-series' models is given on page 5.

Latest Number Images

Contributor's initials and other details are shown in the bottom left of each image. Note that the image for PB885287 is shown on page 11.

Return Address :
163 Eversholt Street,
London, NW1 1BU

Return Address :
163 Eversholt Street,
London, NW1 1BU

Delivered by

15-09-16
£0.79 FP6116610

1
L Letter
100g

PM - FP6116610 [Item 0000881]

Delivered by

22-09-16
£0.37 NE6011034

2
Letter

PM - NE6011034 [Item 000087]

Return Address
The Harpur Trust
Princeton Court
Pilgrim Centre
Brickhill Drive
Bedford, MK41 7PZ

HARPUR TRUST

Delivered by

08-09-16
£0.37 NE8500407

2
Letter

PM - NE8500407 [Item 000095]

Return Address
Asda Stores
Great Wilson Street
Leeds LS11 5AD

ASDA
Save money. Live better.

Delivered by

08-09-16
£0.51 NE9000578

1
Letter

PM - NE9000578 [Item 0005819]

VICKERS
LABORATORIES LTD

01
0A
06
04
00
18
22

PUDSEY
16.09.16
W YORKSHIRE

GREAT BRITAIN
0053
POSTAGE PAID
PB313502

PM

Latest Number Images continued



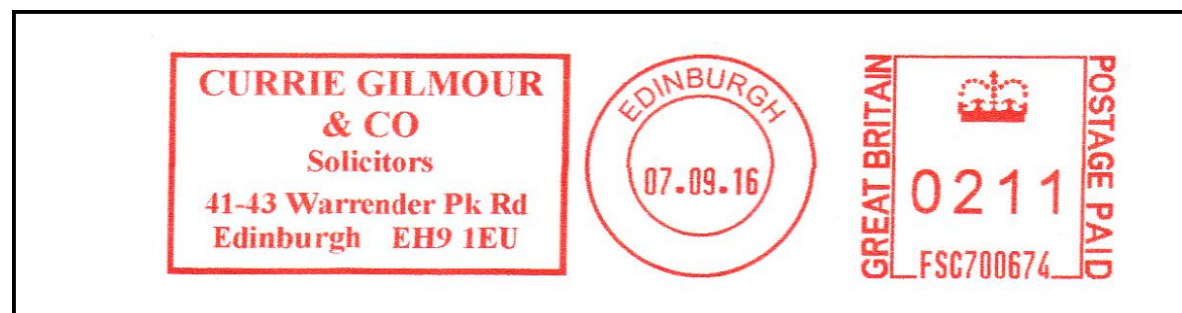
Dead Series Update

Further to page 188-2, Duncan James reports a higher number of the FM265 'dead series' with this report of FM2658205, dated 12.9.16:



Last of Breed

Duncan James reports an example of a Frama Mailspirit (FSC7 series) that still going strong. This model ceased production back in 2005 and the last sighting by your editor was about a year ago. This particular machine, FSC700674, which would have been new in about September 2002, is still functioning well it would appear.



Neopost machines

In addition to the report of NE8500407, there have been two further sightings of the new 'NE85' sub-series, and all three reports are listed below:

Serial	Date	Reported by	Comments
NE8500083	02-09-16	Alastair Nixon	See below
NE8500097	13-09-16	Duncan James	See later in this section
NE8500407	08-09-16	Peter Mantell	See Latest Numbers section

This is the image of the earliest (and lowest serial number) example of the new 'NE85' sub-series, found by your editor:



The Neopost web site <http://www.neopost.co.uk/equipment> currently lists five models, with the following characteristics:

Model	Type	Specification
IS-280c	Low volume	100 ipd
IN-360	Low volume	45 iph
IN-600	Medium volume	70 iph
IN-700	High volume	150 iph
IS-6000c	High volume	140 iph

The 'IS' models are their existing machines and the 'IN' models are new or re-branded models. The following are images of the five models currently on sale, taken from the Neopost web site:



IS-280c



IN-360

Neopost machines continued



IN-600



IN-700



IS-6000c

Neopost machines continued

So how do the serial prefixes map onto each of these current models? There is, perhaps, some degree of uncertainty at this stage but your editor's best guess is given below. These mappings have been reflected on page 2 of this newsletter.

Prefix	Model	Type	Notes
NE60	IS-280c	Low	Peter Mantell confirms this with a viewing of NE6000667.
NE60	IN-360	Low	Possibly to receive an 'NE65' prefix in future?
NE85	IN-600	Med	The 'NE80' prefix may still be seen increasing if stocks of the 'IS-400' model are still available.
NE90	IN-700	High	Possibly to receive an 'NE95' prefix in future?
NE90	IS-6000c	High	As previously assigned.

The Neopost web site also allows the User Guides for these models to be downloaded. While your editor has not studied these in depth, some interesting observations have been noted.

Firstly, 'built-in' messages are inserted as 'ERA' (External Return Address) messages. Duncan James has found such a message with his report of the new 'IN-600' frank. Your editor thinks this new built-in slogan 'Mail makes you think!' is absolutely fantastic as it happens to reflect our hobby perfectly!



Secondly, these machines are sophisticated enough to make fine adjustments when it comes to the weighing of large mail items. The Weighing Platform calculates the weight according to the user's geographical location, as weights can change according to altitude and latitude. The correcting geodesic code may be entered either manually or automatically with Online Services and this enables the machine to calculate the precise weight value accordingly.

Finally, the user is able to align the two print heads with a printer adjustment. The image below is an example test pattern for the IS-280c model. This pattern can be displayed on the screen to guide the operator if a horizontal adjustment is required (by keying a letter A-K).

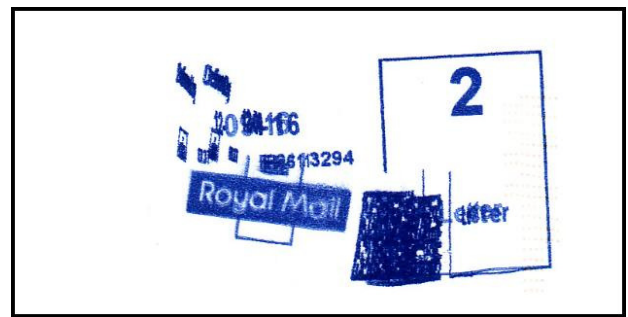


Recent Interesting Items

Further to page 190-5, Duncan James reports another frank incorporating a QR code – with the words “Aberdeen Orthodontics” in the centre of the code. The QR code decodes as <http://www.aberdeenortho.co.uk>.



Duncan also reports that this Francotyp-Postalia machine, serial FP6113294, had a serious printing malfunction on 12 September 2016 as these two examples show:



Your editor reports these two franks (dated 04-06-15 and 01-03-16) from an unknown user, which have an ‘M’ in the user’s Return Address block. If it is merely a spurious character, it is a bit surprising that it should still be there some 9 months later. Could it be deliberate and, perhaps, identify a particular department within that business?



Early press articles

Mike Jackson sends scans of numerous old press cuttings relating to meter franking in the 1920s that he has found in the British Newspaper Archive. Of particular interest are various articles relating to these events:

- 17 May 1922 - Date of first official demonstration (and announcement of PMG authorisation)
- 6 Mar 1923 - PB meter (no. 7) set for Fry in Bristol. (earliest report on page 81-4 is 5 Dec 23)
- 12 Nov 1924 - PB meter (no. 16) set for Co-op in Manchester. (earliest report is 31 Aug 25)

Mailmark™ News

Duncan James reports this (Signed For) 1 Medium Parcel at the 1kg weight that has not previously been reported.



This report enables 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
£0.79	n/s	n/s	1 L Letter PP Reply (100g)	3	3003
£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	£2.19	n/s	(SF) 1 L Letter (250g)	7	2101
£2.66	n/s	n/s	(SF) 1 L Letter (500g)	7	2102
£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
£5.97	n/s	n/s	(SF) 1 Medium Parcel (1kg)	7	4100
n/s	£15.85	£15.85	1 Medium Parcel (5kg)	1	0303

Further to the report on page 1 of the 'Local Mail Letter' frank (illustrated again here for convenience), it is assumed that this could be some kind of bulk mailing from a large user. Although it shows the standard 2nd Class rate of £0.39 postage being paid, presumably a discount was received from Royal Mail as a separate transaction.



As far as the data matrix attributes of this frank are concerned, the Class code is '9', which has previously been seen on Test, Frank Pay and Surcharge items. The Tariff Version is '9' which was reported on an 'Advanced Letter' item - see page 189-13.

The Mail Type is '1001' but, interestingly, the Item Count is a huge '3731248' – the highest ever seen on any machine!

Mailmark™ News continued

Jan Lannoye reports this 'A ROW2' 20g (Mail Type Code 6097) coloured frank that has not been reported previously. The user has made an error as it was addressed to Belgium and should have been franked at the 'ROW 1' rate. The 'ROW' ready reckoner table is updated as a result.



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	£1.17	(L) A ROW2 20g	6	6096
£1.20	-	-	(L) A ROW2 20g	6	6097
-	-	£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

Coloured Slogans

In addition to the coloured slogan above, this month we have these two black slogans, from Duncan James and your editor respectively.



Meter Correction Handstamps

Roy Richardson sends this meter correction handstamp from the Southampton, Portsmouth and IOW Mail Centre which is also a highest number report for this month. Presumably, the handstamp has been applied because the item was over-paid by the user.



Historic Meters

Roy Richardson sends this Pitney Bowes specimen cover from 1965, advertising their Addresser Printer at the time.



Historic Meters continued

Jan Lannoye sends this attractive ship thematic dated 1940 from a shipbrokers, T.Veitch & Co. Ltd., based in Newcastle-On-Tyne.



Jan also sends this tourism thematic dated 1991, advertising the Royal Armouries at the Tower of London.



Jim Ashby has recently acquired a slogan plate for a PB Model RF meter, and a photo of it, plus the resultant impression is shown below. The Model RF was introduced in the USA in 1940, but it was not available in the UK.



For further details see: <https://learninglab.si.edu/resources/view/377330#more-info>

Meter Thematics

Roy Richardson has found this animal thematic from the Mayhew Animal Home.



Duncan James reports a similar thematic, this time from 'The Company of Animals' based in Chertsey, Surrey.



Roy Richardson has found this nice tractor design from Sheen Stickland – a Chartered Accountants based in Alton and Chichester. However, why they should choose to include a tractor in their logo is unclear to me.

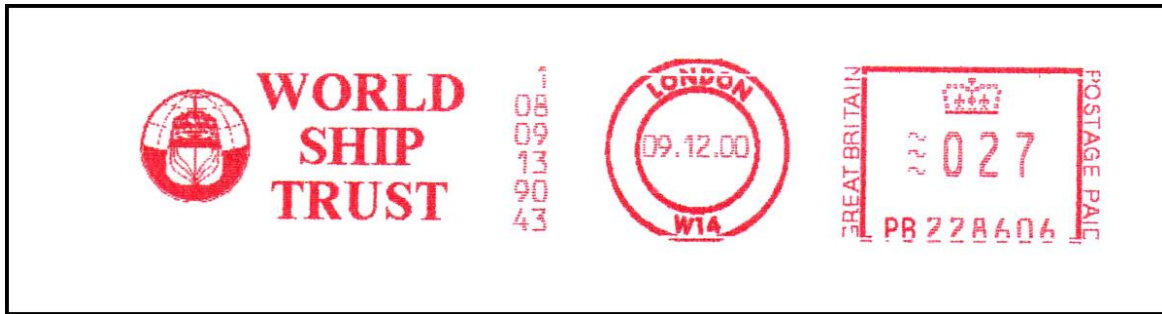


Duncan James sends this education thematic from a company called EducationCity who produce products to inspire learning at school and at home.

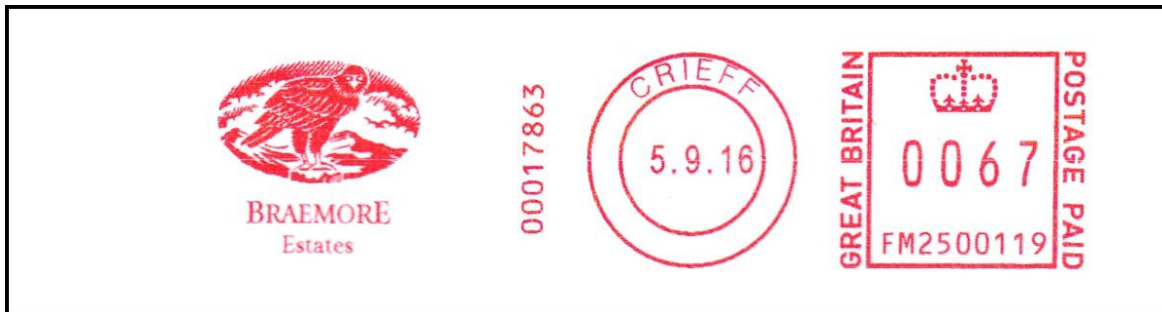


Meter Thematics continued

Roy Richardson has found this frank from back in 2000, with this ship's hull being used by the World Ship Trust based in West London.



Peter Mantell has found this golden eagle depicted on a frank from the Braemore Estates,



My Meter Thematic of the Month award is shared equally between two great designs – both kindly supplied by Duncan James. The first one shows a unicorn and is from the James Gillespie's High School in Edinburgh. The second depicts a cockerel weathervane and is from the "Luxury Car Village" car dealership based in Edinburgh.

