

METER NEWS

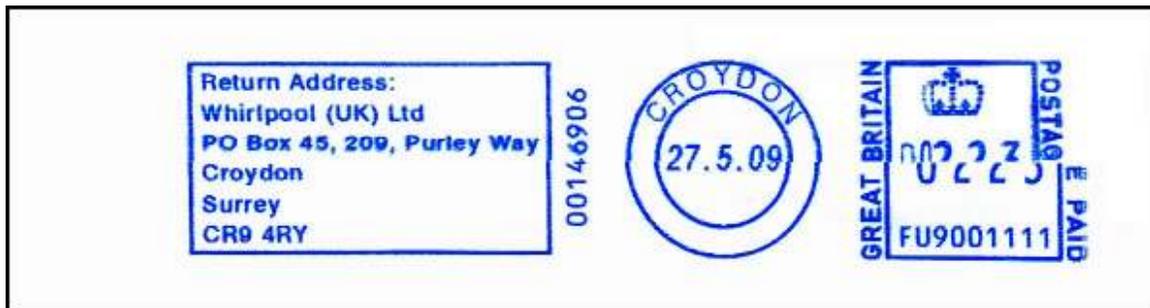
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Meter of the Month

My Meter of the month is supplied by Peter Mantell and shows a strange printing hiccup on the upper print head of a Francotyp-Postalia Ultimail 90 machine, serial FU9001111. The frank was applied on a label and shows an attempt to print a 'ghost' fifth digit in the upper half of the value die. The full image is shown below:



For what it is worth, if the image of the upper half of the value die is artificially re-positioned so that the digits '223' are aligned with the lower half, the result obtained is shown here. All this does is to suggest that the 'ghost' digit is actually the second zero, and it doesn't provide any real clue as to what could have caused the glitch in the first place.



Editorial

There have been reports in the press recently that sales of franking machines have seen a marked rise in sales since the postal rate increases in April. Undoubtedly, small businesses are taking advantage of the significant discounts currently being offered by Royal Mail for meter franked mail. For example, the rate for second class stamped mail has risen to 50p, compared to just 31p for meter franked mail.

Acknowledgements

My thanks this month go to Patrick Awcock, Ray Downing, Peter Huss, David Jones, Peter Mantell and Richard Peck for their reports, communications or contributions.

Latest Numbers

Below is the list of 'latest numbers' as at the end of July 2012 – with updates shown in red. Please could I have the next reports by 28th August - thanks.

In the list below, the part of the serial number that directly relates to the model is underlined.

Frama (UK)

Matrix F2, F4, F6	<u>F1001954</u>	31.05.12	See MN 140
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Francotyp-Postalia

Optimail	<u>T402913</u>	02.06.11	See MN 129
Optimail 25/35	<u>F04114355</u>	20.06.12	See MN 140
Centormail 240/300	<u>FC5110555</u>	21.02.12	See MN 140
MyMail / PostagePro	<u>FM2653081</u>	14.05.12	See MN 139
Ultimail	<u>FU3116825</u>	29.05.12	See MN 140

Neopost

IS-330	<u>N1052182</u>	01.06.12	See MN 140
IS-350	<u>N1180773</u>	26.06.12	See MN 140
IJ-65	<u>N1208331</u>	27.03.12	See MN 138
Various upgraded	<u>N1240619</u>	16.02.12	Reported by PM
IJ-80/90/110	<u>N1254447</u>	03.01.12	See MN 137
IS-460 (Ex IJ-50)	<u>N1373581</u>	30.11.11	See MN 138
IS-420 (Ex IJ-30)	<u>N1385374</u>	14.11.11	See MN 137
IS-440 (Ex IJ-40)	<u>N1390543</u>	10.02.12	See MN 137
IS-480	<u>N3023096</u>	27.07.12	Reported by PM
IS-240 / IS-280	<u>N3309158</u>	29.06.12	Reported by AN - See below
IS-5000/6000	<u>N5001340</u>	08.06.12	See MN 140

Pitney Bowes

DM50, 55	<u>PB092795</u>	19.07.12	Reported by AN – See below
DM 810, 900 etc.	<u>PB527622</u>	20.04.12	See MN 139
Connect+ 1000 etc.	<u>PB551419</u>	14.09.11	See MN 131
Connect+ 10FC etc.	<u>PB556081</u>	28.06.12	Reported by PM
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB617418</u>	23.07.12	Reported by PM
DM100i, 150i etc.	<u>PB867460</u>	17.07.12	Reported by PM
Unknown	<u>PB898932</u>	09.08.11	See MN 134

Advanced Mail

AAEK-CA	<u>FU3116534</u>	03.05.12	See MN 139
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Note that there have been significant advances in both the Neopost N33 and the Pitney Bowes PB0 series over the last few months. These are both entry-level models and these advances would appear to back up the press reports mentioned in the Editorial on the previous page. At the same time, your editor has noticed a marked fall in the overall volume of mail over the last few months as more and more business are sending invoices electronically these days.

Latest Numbers – Images

Below are images of the latest numbers reported this month, reduced in size to 60%. Note that the image for PB556082 is shown on page 141-6



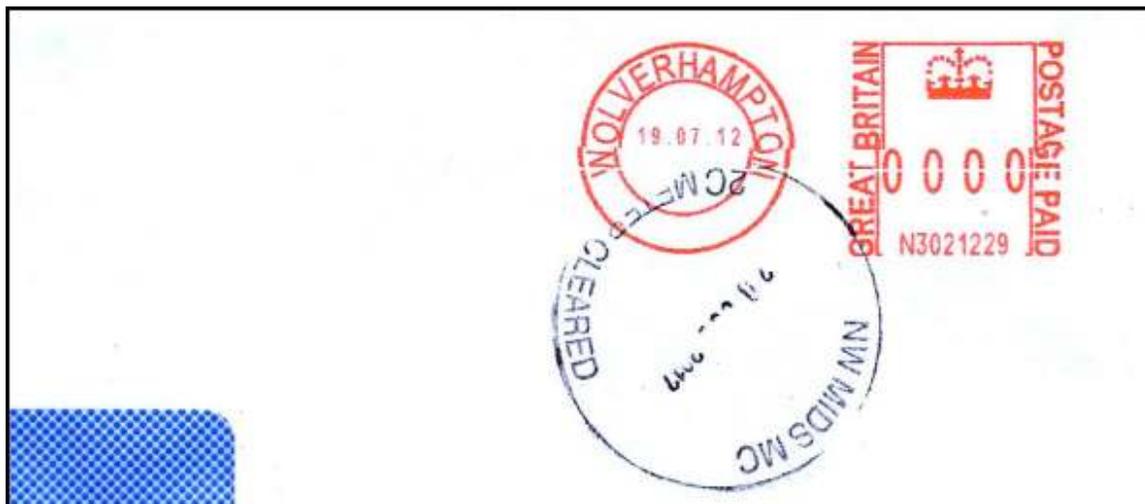
Advanced Mail

Peter Mantell reports another Advanced Mail item in red ink.



Instructional Marks

Peter Mantell also reports this “2C METER CLEARED” from the NW Midlands Mail Centre.



Recent Interesting Items

On page 82-6, we reported small vertical bars appearing within the date on a PB5 series meter. Now Peter Mantell reports the same effect appearing on a PB8 meter. The full image is shown below.



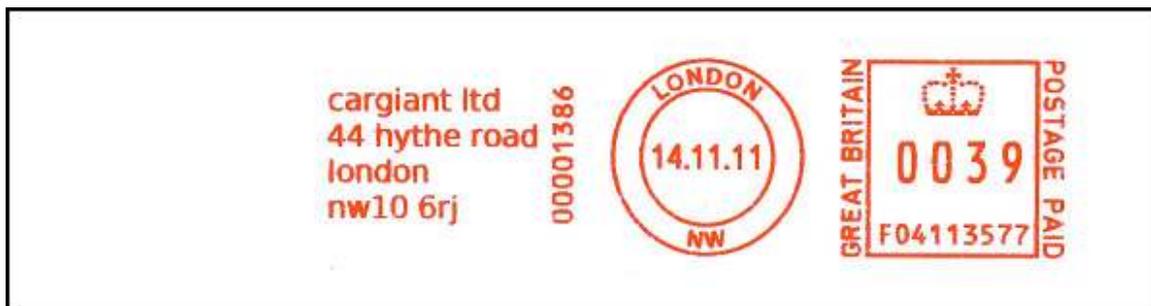
Peter Mantell reports this 2009 frank from Pitney Bowes Ltd. offices in Harlow. It includes the text 'AIRMAIL' in large text.



Peter also has found this frank where a spurious full stop has appeared after 'LONDON' in the town die.

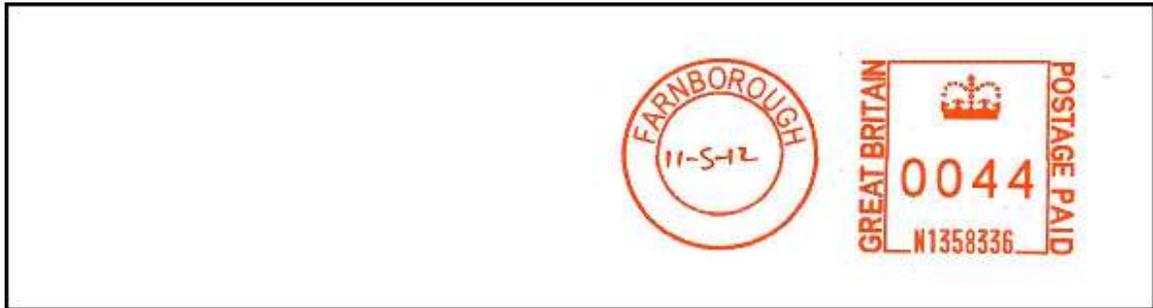


Your editor has found this frank where the sender's return address details are all in lower case letters.



Recent Interesting Items Continued

Further to page 133-4, your editor reports that machine N1358336 appears to be permanently printing a blank date as the date is still being entered manually nearly 9 months on.



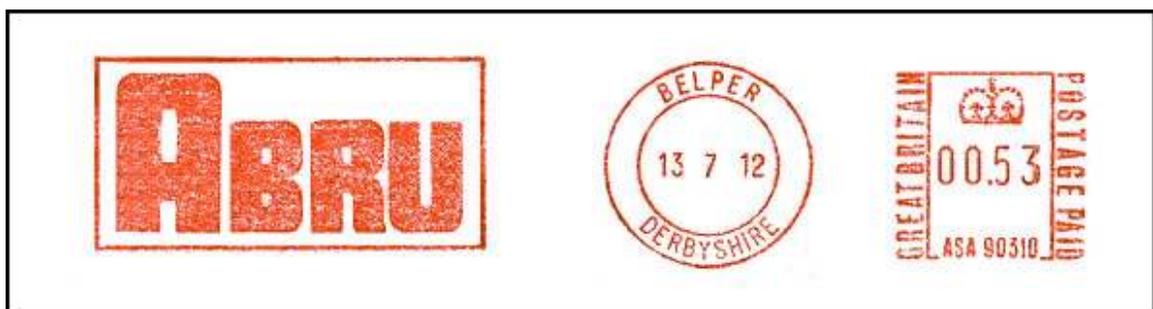
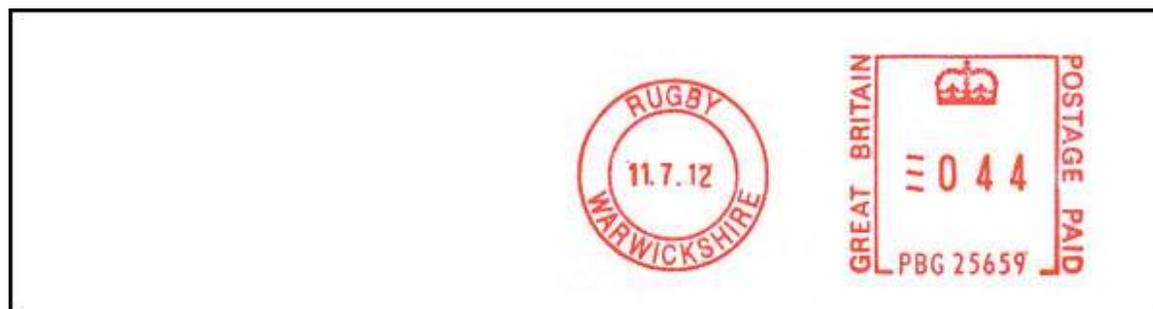
Printed Postage Impressions

Further to page 140-6, Peter Mantell sends another 'Condition 9' PPI with the Royal Mail cruciform logo. This time, the PPI design is much wider than the example previously shown. Patrick Awcock confirms that these will, indeed, replace the existing style used for C9 mail.



Last of Breed

Peter Mantell reports two series that haven't been seen for a very long time, namely the PBG and ASA series.



Meter Thematics

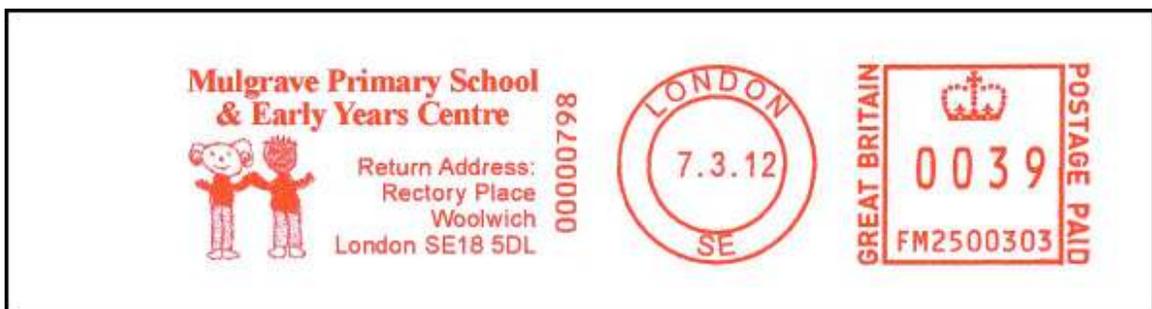
David Jones sends this attractive swan design from the [Canal & River Trust](#) based in Leeds.



Peter Mantell sends all of the remaining thematics this month starting with this one from the [British Waterways Scotland](#) – to compliment the item shown above. This became a stand alone public body of the Scottish Government on 2 July 2012 and is now known as the 'Scottish Canals'.



It is unusual to find primary schools using franking machines – normally they are used by larger secondary schools. However, here Peter Mantell has found two Francotyp-Postalia examples showing drawings presumably based on their children's designs.



Meter Thematics Continued

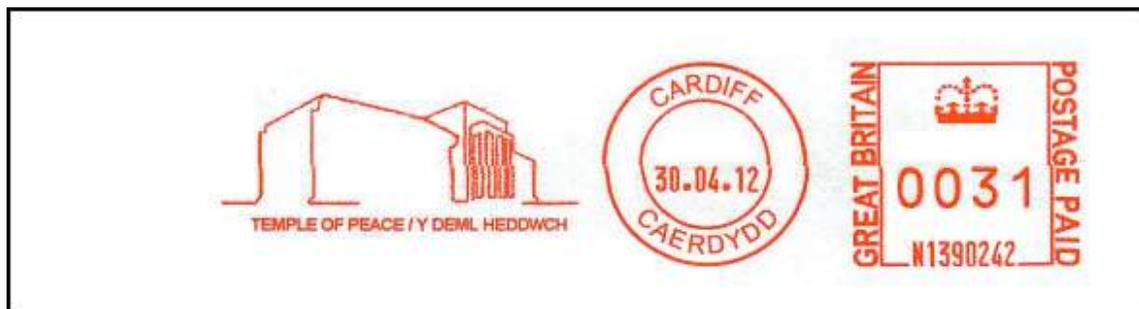
Further to pages 62-7 and 114-8, Peter Mantell reports our third 'Air Ambulance' frank – this time it is from the Cornwall Air Ambulance.



Peter Mantell has found this tourism thematic, advertising a new ride at Paultons Park theme park in the New Forest.



Peter has also found this unusual religious thematic showing an image of the Temple of Peace in Cardiff.



Finally, Peter Mantell receives my Meter Thematic of the Month award for this stunning image of a Sabre tooth tiger.

