

METER NEWS

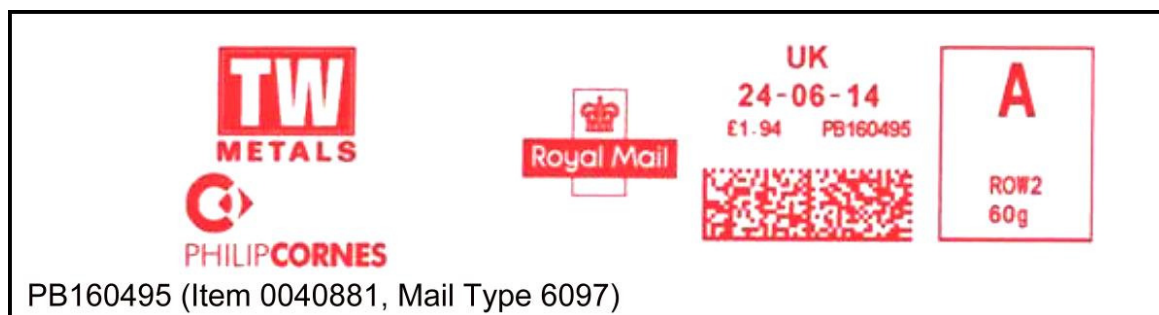
Issue Number 166 Aug 2014



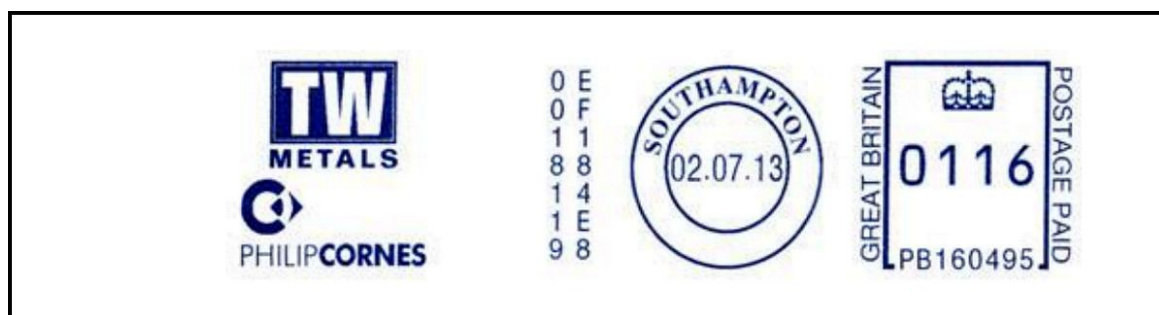
Editor: Alastair Nixon, 7 Bramblegate, Edgcumbe Park, Crowthorne, Berks, RG45 6JA. Tel: +44 (0) 1344 775378
Email: nixon48@gmail.com Web site: <http://www.meterfranking.co.uk>

Meter of the Month

Peter Huss from Germany kindly sends our first report of an Overseas Airmail 'Design J' frank. This is indicated by "ROW2" in the indicia – "ROW" standing for "Rest Of World". The item was incorrectly franked by the user as it should have assigned "Europe" – see example on page 164-6. Decoding the matrix block (see page 162-8) shows that the Mail Type assigned to this item was 6097. This extends the summary table shown on page 6 of this newsletter. The full image is shown below.



Peter also sends this item from the same user a year showing a town die of Southampton, thus allowing us to identify the town of origin. The town die information is sorely missed by us collectors and is the main criticism of the new matrix format.



Your editor would appreciate further examples of 'overseas' franks as, obviously, these are rarely seen in the UK.

Acknowledgements

My thanks this month go to Peter Huss, Peter Mantell, Rick Stambaugh and Peter Wood for their reports, communications or contributions.

Latest Numbers

Below is the list of 'latest numbers' as at the end of August 2014 – with updates shown in red. Please could I have the next reports by 28th September - thanks. In the list below, the part of the serial number that directly relates to the model is underlined.

In the table below, note that those entries that have a date format with hyphen separators are the ones in 'Design J' (matrix) format.

Frama (UK)

Matrix F2, F4, F6	<u>F1003746</u>	08.05.14	See MN 163
Matrix F12 etc.	<u>FR2000360</u>	29-07-14	See MN 165

Francotyp-Postalia

Optimail 25/35	<u>F04115620</u>	04.06.14	See MN 164
Centormail 240/300	<u>FC5110688</u>	28.04.13	See MN 163
MyMail / PostagePro	<u>FM2655540</u>	03.09.13	See MN 155
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	<u>FP6110743</u>	31.01.14	See MN 160
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	<u>FP6112540</u>	15-08-14	Reported by AN
Ultimail	<u>FU3117315</u>	23.05.14	See MN 164

Neopost

IS-330	<u>N1052705</u>	06.08.13	See MN 154
IS-350	<u>N1181955</u>	14.02.14	See MN 160
Various upgraded	<u>N1240674</u>	18.11.13	See MN 158
IJ-80/90/110	<u>N1254487</u>	11.07.13	See MN 158
IS-440 (Ex IJ-40)	<u>N1390685</u>	22.08.13	See MN 154
IS-480	<u>N3030170</u>	08.07.14	See MN 165
IS-240 / IS-280	<u>N3319102</u>	15.04.14	See MN 162
IS-5000/6000	<u>N5001663</u>	04.02.14	See MN 160
IS-240/280	<u>NE6002156</u>	30-07-14	See MN 165
IS-480	<u>NE8002391</u>	27-08-14	Reported by AN
IS-5000/6000	<u>NE9000100</u>	30-07-14	Reported by PM

Pitney Bowes

DM160i/220i	<u>PB166214</u>	17-07-14	See MN 165
DM50, 55	<u>PB358704</u>	15.08.14	Reported by PM
Connect+ 1000 etc.	<u>PB551797</u>	23.04.14	See MN 162
Connect+ 10FC etc.	<u>PB557173</u>	17-07-14	See MN 165
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB620521</u>	04.08.14	Reported by PM
DM 110i	<u>PB881499</u>	14.08.14	Reported by PM

Advanced Mail Codes

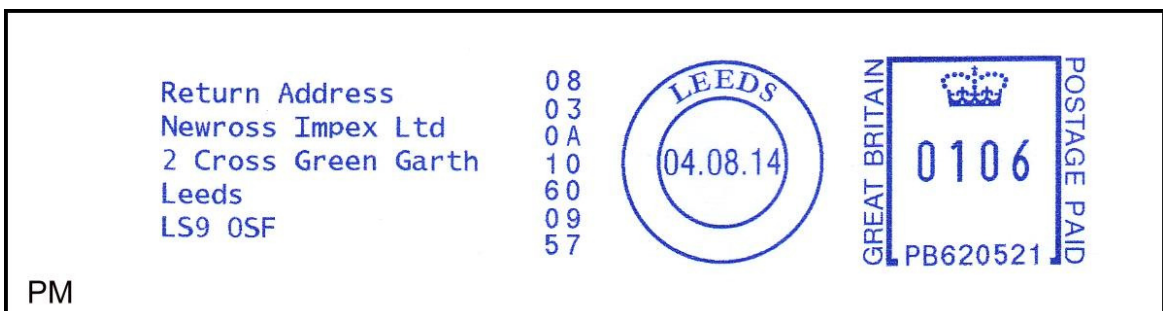
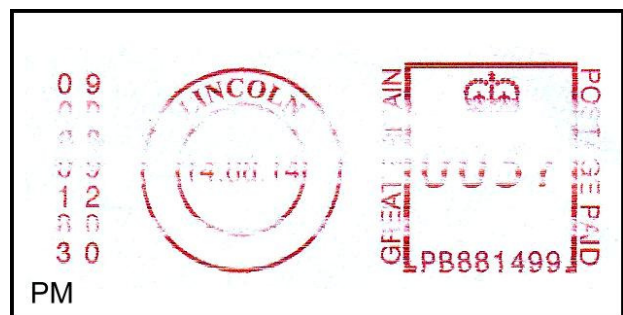
AAGH-CU	NE8001997	07.07.14	See MN 165
AAGJ-HH	HQ25668	PPI no date	See MN 160

This month, the PB0 and PB527 series have been dropped from this list as no updates have been seen on these for over a year.

Next month the N125 and N139 series are due for retirement.

Latest Number Images

Here are images of the latest numbers reported this month – with contributor's initials shown in the bottom left of each image, together with a repeat of the serial number for Mailmark items as the serials on these are in such a small font size.



Recent Interesting Items

Your editor reports a Francotyp-Postalia FM211 'dead series' frank that has been converted to the new 'Design J' format.



The opinion regarding the 'Design J' format is mostly unfavourable, mainly because the town of origin is no longer shown. However, your editor has found a case where there is an advantage. In the example below, the serial number is totally illegible because of a printing malfunction, but decoding the matrix block enables it to be determined, i.e. PB162244.



On page 164-6 an example of the 'Design J' format to Europe was shown. This item, although not mentioned at the time, also had "UK" inscribed above the date. Presumably, this is automatically inserted on items going abroad to meet international regulations. However, your editor has found "UK" appearing on an inland letter. Note also that the example of this same machine shown on page 165-4 did not have "UK" inscribed.

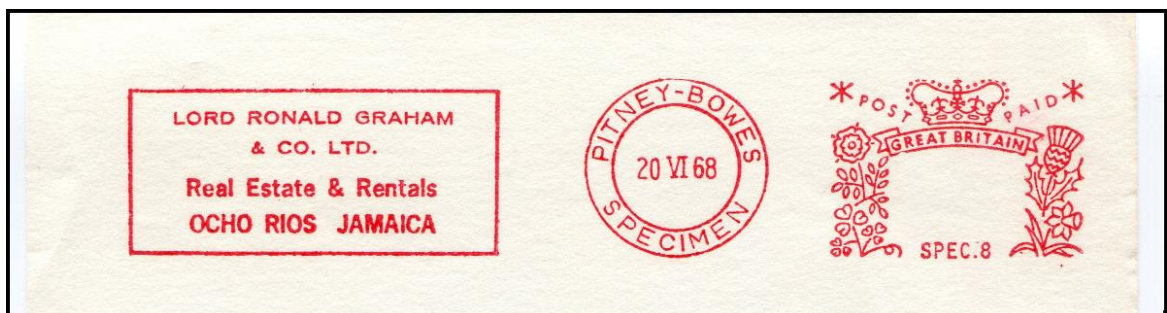
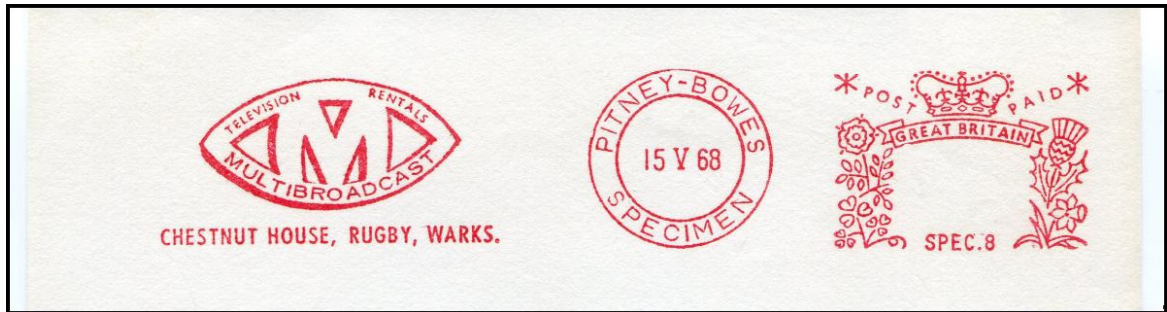


Further to page 163-1, your editor reports another (live mail) Neopost 'Zero Test' item:

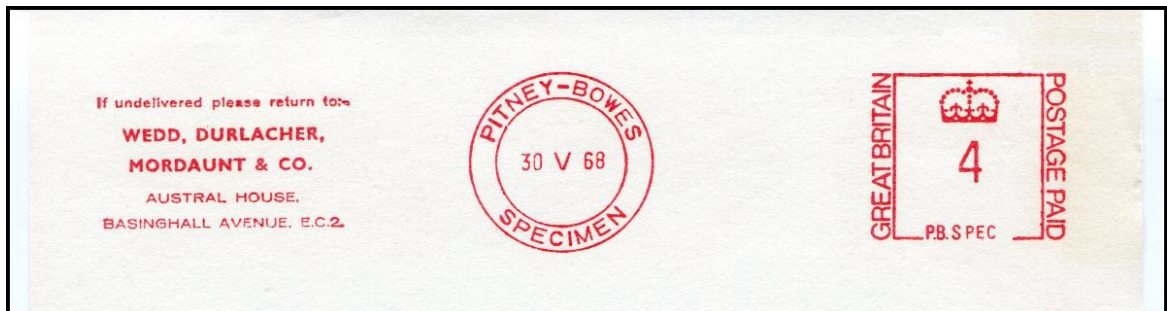


Historic Meter Franks

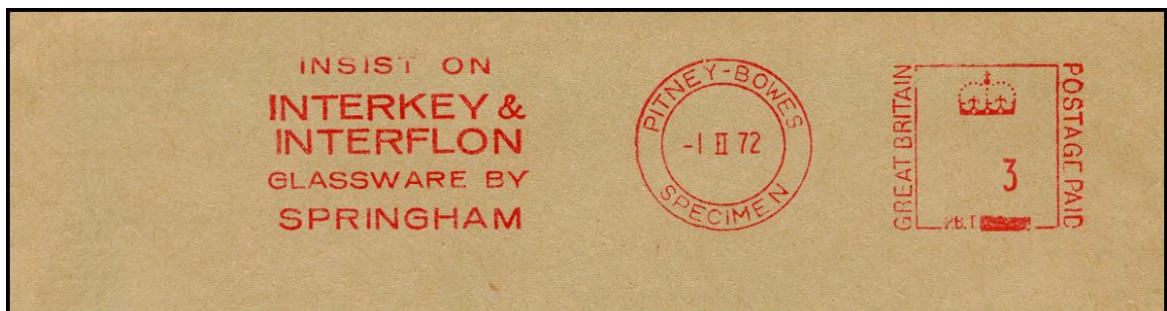
Peter Mantell has recently acquired three Pitney Bowes specimen franks from 1968. The first two, in Design F (Emblems), bear the serial "SPEC.8".



The following item, dated 30th May 1968 is the earliest Design H recorded and it precedes the formal launch of this design on 12th June 1968.

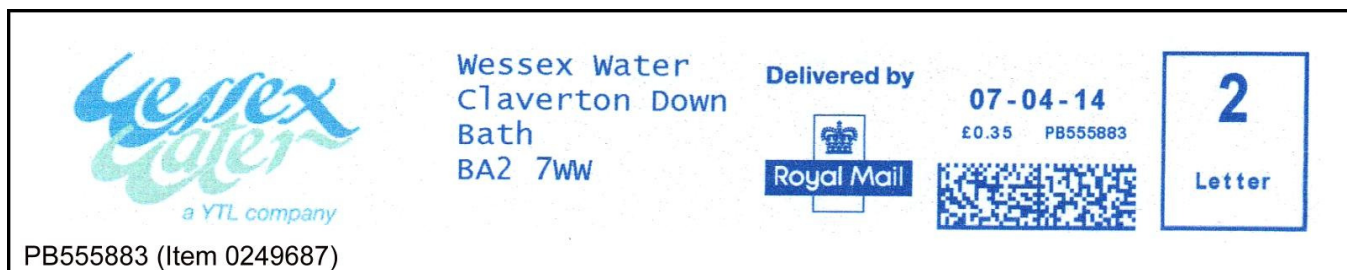


Peter also sends this Pitney Bowes specimen frank from 1972 with the meter serial number blocked out.



Coloured Slogans

Just one new coloured slogan this month, sent by Peter Mantell:



Mailmark™ News

The Mail Type code '6097' for the 'Rest Of World' item shown on page 1 enables the 'Mail Type' table to be extended as follows:

Mail Type Code	Type Description	First Reports
0000	Zero Test	Page 163-1
0001	1 Letter, 2 Letter	Pages 161-3 and 161-1
0100	(Special Delivery) 1 PM 100g	Page 162-3
0101	1 L Letter 100g, 2 L Letter 100g	Pages 162-4 and 161-7
0102	1 L Letter 250g, 2 L Letter 250g	Pages 161-7 and 163-5
0103	1 L Letter 500g	Page 164-6
0104	2 L Letter 750g	Page 162-3
1111	1 Small Parcel	Page 161-7
1403	1 Advanced	Page 161-7
1503	2 Advanced	Page 161-7
5000	(Special Delivery) 9 AM 100g	Page 162-4
6001	A Europe 20g	Page 164-6
6002	A Europe 60g	Page 165-6
6097	A ROW2	Page 166-1
9999	Surcharge Payment	Page 163-1

Meter Thematics

Peter Huss sends what appears to be a built-in slogan from a Frama Mailspirit machine, not previously reported. It is also well deserving of my 'Meter Thematic of the Month' award.

