

METER NEWS

Issue Number 172 Feb 2015



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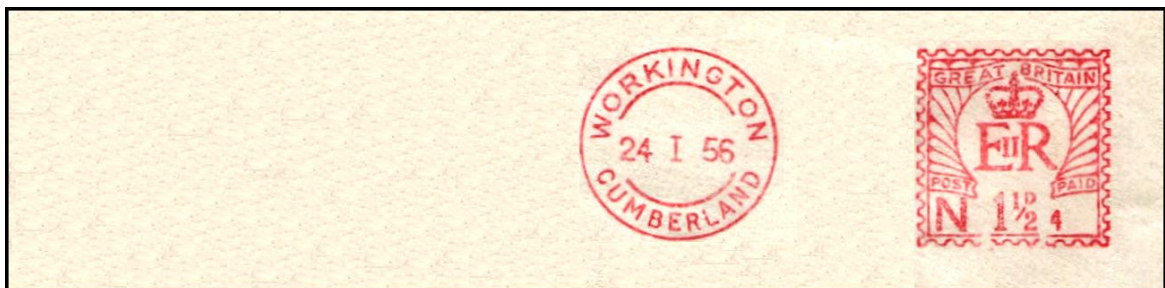
Meter of the Month

As many readers will be aware, the pre-decimal prefixes 'NZ', 'M' and the original 'N' series, machine numbers started from '1', independently in each town (or postal district in London). Numbers assigned were normally re-numbered if a machine was transferred to another town or district. However, there were exceptions to this rule as reported in the Nov 1959 issue of the Meter Stamp Bulletin in an article on the topic of "Transferred Meter Numbers".

My 'Meter of the Month' from your editor, shows an example of this happening, with the serial number 'N 820' allocated to 'Hounslow' on an item dated 13 V 66. At that time, Hounslow would have had about 50 'N series' machines assigned, so the number '820' is clearly out of sequence. In many cases the transfer would have been as a result of a user relocating their business. Probably this would have been as a result of the machine in question being transferred from London W1 – see page 7. The full image is shown below.



Below is thought to be an example of where a transferred machine was re-numbered. Here, this machine is likely to have had a three-digit number originally, but it seems that the two digits after the '4' were 'engraved out' when the machine was transferred to Workington.



Acknowledgements

My thanks this month go to Jon Aitchison, Michael Dobbs, Alan Godfrey, Peter Huss, David Jones, Jan Lannoye, Peter Mantell, Robert Petts and Peter Wood for their reports, communications or contributions.

Latest Numbers

Below is the list of 'latest numbers' as at the end of February 2015 – with updates shown in red. Please could I have the next reports by 28th March - 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>F1003875</u>	10.10.14	See MN 168
Matrix F12 etc.	<u>FR2000889</u>	12-02-15	Reported by PM

Francotyp-Postalia

Optimail 25/35	<u>F04115620</u>	04.06.14	See MN 164
Centormail 240/300	<u>FC5110688</u>	28.04.14	See MN 163
MyMail / PostagePro	<u>FM2657744</u>	07-01-15	See MN 171
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	<u>FP6110798</u>	02.05.14	Reported by PM
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	<u>FP6113471</u>	23-02-15	Reported by PM
Ultimail	<u>FU3117315</u>	23.05.14	See MN 164

Neopost

IS-330	<u>N1052975</u>	09.06.14	See MN 168
IS-350	<u>N1182423</u>	13.02.15	Reported by PM
Various upgraded	<u>N1240730</u>	12.02.15	Reported by PM
IS-480	<u>N3030278</u>	05.11.14	See MN 170
IS-240 / IS-280	<u>N3319102</u>	15.04.14	See MN 162
IS-5000/6000	<u>N5001705</u>	20.10.14	See MN 168
IS-240/280	<u>NE6003636</u>	05-12-14	See MN 170
IS-480	<u>NE8004645</u>	27-01-15	See MN 171
IS-5000/6000	<u>NE9000295</u>	22-01-15	See MN 171

Pitney Bowes

DM160i/220i	<u>PB169632</u>	12-02-15	Reported by AN
DM110i?	<u>PB2001034</u>	11-12-14	See MN 171
DM50, 55	<u>PB364687</u>	06.02.14	Reported by PM
Connect+ 1000 etc.	<u>PB551797</u>	23.04.14	See MN 162
Connect+ 10FC etc.	<u>PB557563</u>	12-11-14	Reported by PM
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB620566</u>	01.12.14	See MN 170
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB6626325</u>	13-01-15	See MN 171
DM 110i	<u>PB882308</u>	24.11.14	Reported by AN

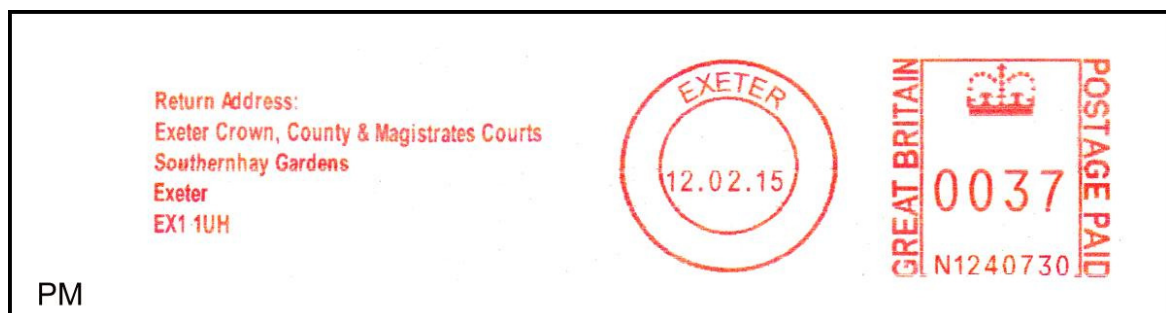
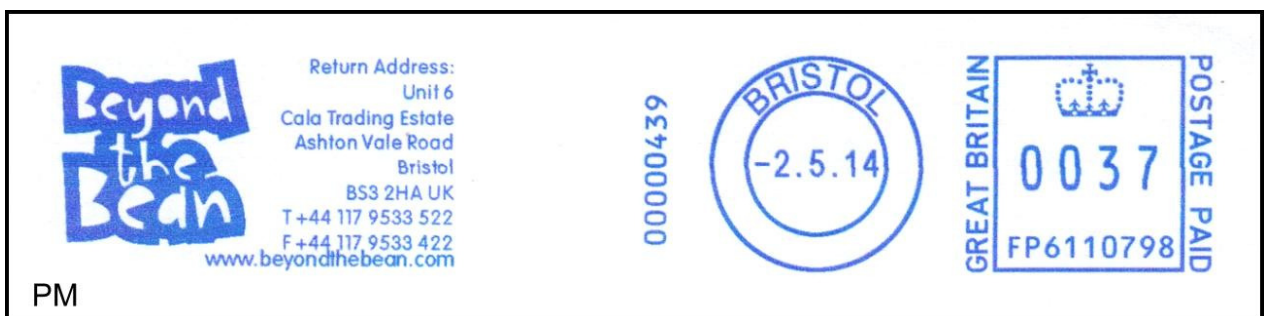
Advanced Mail Codes

AAGH-LG	NE8002505	16-10-14	See MN 168
AAGJ-HH	HQ25668	PPI no date	See MN 160

My thanks also go to Alan Godfrey for his report of PB168462 dated 05-02-15.

Latest Number Images

Here are images of the latest numbers reported this month – with contributor’s initials etc. shown in the bottom left of each image.



Latest Number Images Continued

TMB
PATTERNS LIMITED

Return Address
24 Brue Avenue
Colley Lane Industrial Estate
Bridgwater TA6 5LT

AN - PB169632 [Item 000091]

Delivered by
Royal Mail

12-02-15
£0.35 PB169632

2
Letter

05
0E
06
0E
02
43
02

BIRMINGHAM
06.02.15

GREAT BRITAIN
0037
POSTAGE PAID
PB364687

PM

Stagecoach SERVICES LIMITED

Dew Bank
Stockport
Cheshire
SK3 0DU

Delivered by
Royal Mail

03-02-15
£0.49 PB557563

1
Letter

PM - PB557563 [Item 0001814]

09
08
06
09
16
59
24

HAVANT
18.02.15
HANTS

GREAT BRITAIN
0050
POSTAGE PAID
PB882308

AN

Recent Interesting Items

Peter Huss has found this Ultimail frank with two bars produced by the lower print head appearing on the far left-hand side – similar to the item shown on page 140-1.

||

OVERSEAS MAIL

00032333

MOTHERWELL
26.11.14

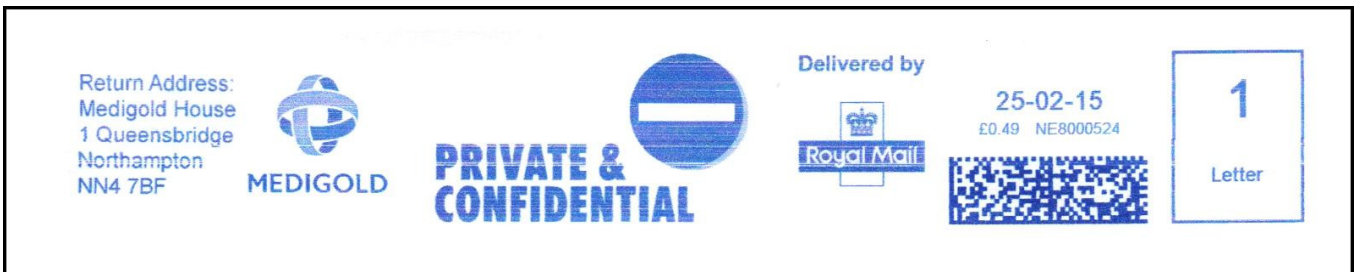
GREAT BRITAIN
0133
POSTAGE PAID
FU9000235

Recent Interesting Items continued

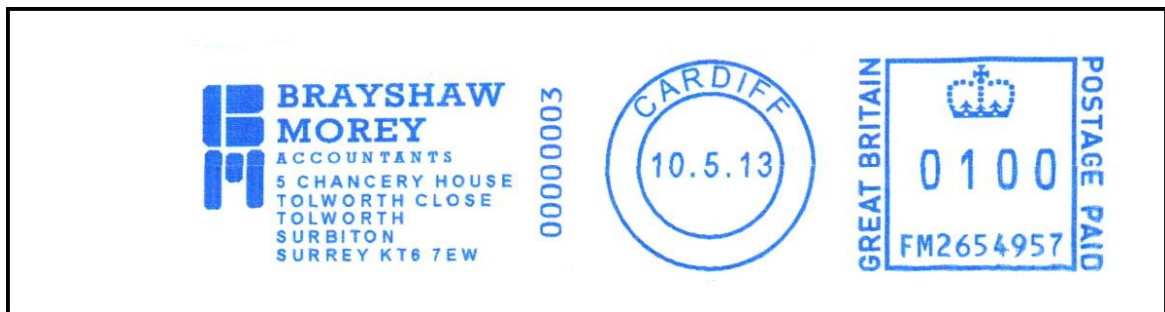
Further to page 171-4, Peter Mantell reports another 'inland' Design J with 'UK' included in the frank. Note that the item is a nice animal and football thematic from Leicester Football Club. Like the previous report, this is also from a Frama Matrix machine and Peter wonders whether there may be a generic software bug associated with this model.



Peter Mantell reports our longest Design J frank seen to date with this 6-element monster from machine NE 8000524.



Peter Mantell reports this low-numbered item (no. 3) on a MyMail frank from 2013.



Peter Mantell sends this completely unnecessary use of abbreviations in the Return Address field, which clearly breaks current Royal Mail regulations. The user is the Central Middlesex Hospital in Park Royal, London. So called 'text speak' appears to be encroaching on our everyday lives more and more these days. Your editor hopes that abbreviations such as "rtn" never gain formal entry into the English dictionary!



Coloured Franks

On page 161-10 we illustrated this coloured slogan from the Royal Society of Chemistry in Design H format. Now, David Jones sends an example of this frank in Design J format.



Two further items with the Return Address field in black ink have been found by Peter Mantell and your editor, shown respectively below.



Mailmark™ News

Your editor has found that the Tariff Version, encoded in the matrix block of FR2000889 on page 3, has a value of '2', and not the current '3'. This is also true for machine FR2000714 on page 5. Indeed, no examples from the FR series have yet been seen with a Tariff Version of '3'. It is possible that the software was never updated on Frama machines in October 2014 (see page 168-8). It will be interesting to discover whether Frama machines have Tariff Versions of '2', '3' or '4' when the new rates come into operation at the end of March 2015.

Meanwhile, Peter Mantell has found the following frank that has a Tariff Version of '5'!



Pre-decimal N-series - Town Allocations

As mentioned on page 1 of this newsletter, meter numbers for the pre-decimal N-series were allocated on a 'per-town' or 'per-district' basis. The London W1 district had the most number of machines assigned and, from time to time, issues of the Meter Stamp Bulletin recorded the highest numbers reached for the London W1 district.

Your editor has recently acquired a vast accumulation of meter franks from the period 1957-1962 that has enabled a more detailed analysis to be carried out on the N-series franks – in particular the highest numbers reached for the other major towns and districts.

Below is the full 'league table' that shows the major towns that had 100 or more machines allocated by the end of 1961. In the table, the year of last sighting is given to account for cases where examples were not always seen with 1961 year dates. In these cases, the actual number reached by the end of 1961 is likely to be slightly higher than the number shown.

Town / District	No.	Year	Town / District	No.	Year
London W1	1554	1961	Leicester	260	1961
Manchester	871	1960	London NW1	231	1961
Birmingham	817	1961	Bradford	227	1961
London SW1	770	1961	London E1	213	1961
Glasgow	731	1961	Hull	212	1960
London EC2	717	1961	Belfast	196	1961
London EC1	692	1961	Brighton & Hove	177	1961
London EC3	654	1961	Plymouth - Devon	158	1961
London WC2	582	1961	London N1	136	1959
London WC1	555	1961	Croydon - Surrey	133	1960
Liverpool	549	1961	Swansea	126	1959
London EC4	539	1961	Coventry	126	1961
Leeds	444	1961	Bournemouth - Poole	125	1961
Nottingham	437	1961	Wolverhampton	119	1960
Sheffield	391	1961	Southampton	119	1961
Newcastle-on-Tyne	361	1961	London NW10	118	1960
Bristol	344	1961	Exeter	114	1959
Cardiff	323	1961	Norwich - Norfolk	106	1960
London SE1	301	1961	Gloucester	104	1961
Edinburgh	296	1960	Derby	102	1960

It should be noted that the above only includes what are believed to be 'genuine' numbers and excludes the 'transferred meter numbers' shown on page 1.

Other transferred numbers excluded in this analysis include Ashton-under-Lyne (N 300), Bridgwater (N 731), Sutton Coldfield (N 229), Walsall (N 128) and Weybridge (N 118).

It is also interesting to record the major towns that do not appear in this '100-Club' for 1961. In particular, the towns of Reading, Oxford and Aberdeen are noted by their absence.

Historic Items

Peter Mantell has recently acquired this Parcel Post form (ref. no. PP 90) from 1981, where a frank to the value of 2p has been applied on a label (serial PBT 1459M). A similar form with 5 entries listed had a meter frank with 5p paid. It would seem, therefore, that a 1p handling fee was paid for each parcel listed on the form. The purpose of form is uncertain but it is possible that, at that time, the Post Office provided a parcel pick-up service from business premises. Any further information regarding the use of this form and whether a similar service operates today, would be appreciated.

INLAND PARCEL POST		NORPRINT LTD.,		PP 90
LIST OF PARCELS POSTED		NORFOLK STREET,		ITEM CODE 52 00 59
		BOSTON,		(Rev'd March '79)
		LINCS.		
Name of Poster		Date		8.9.81
FULL NAME AND ADDRESS AS SHOWN ON THE PARCEL				
(For C O D parcels the sender should keep a record of the numbers of the relative Trade Charge Forms)				
1	FINE FARE LTD	LIVERPOOL	205	
2	FINE FARE LTD	WEST WORTHING	247	
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

NOTE: Limited compensation may be payable for loss or damage. This list should be produced with any application for compensation.
 No compensation is payable for money unless sent by registered letter post.
 For further details see Post Office Guide.

Postage stamps (or franking machine impression) to the value of 1p for each parcel (up to a maximum of 10p per posting) to be affixed here by the sender.

8.9.81

2

PBT1459M

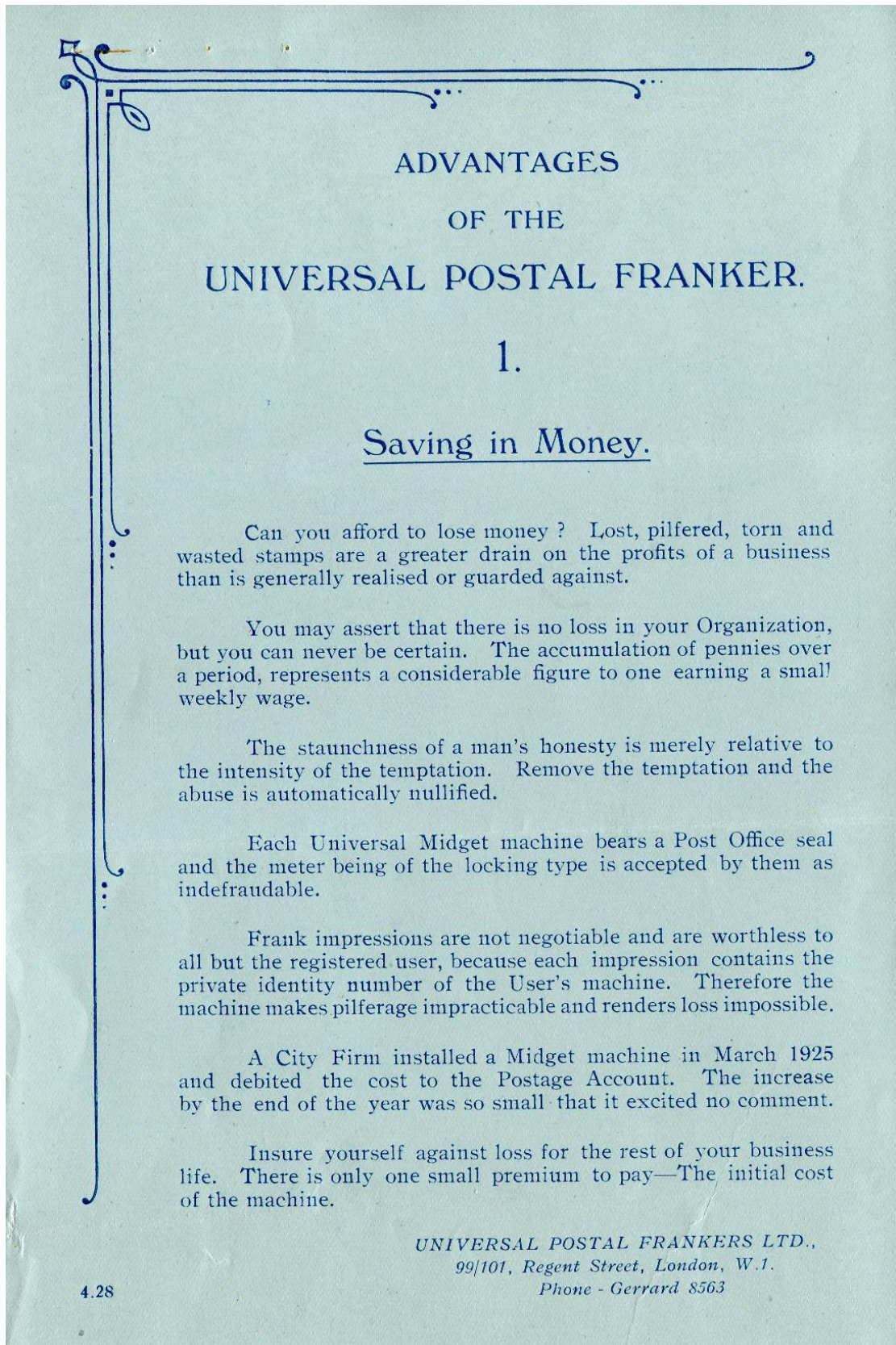
BC BOSTON
 8 SEP 1981
 5-15 PM
 LINCS.

Accepting Officers Initials

Retention period: 2 years
 AC396 BOSTON, LINCS.
 M.P. 56-0430-41C. 9-80

Historic Items continued

Further to the UPF material supplied by Michael Dobbs (see page 171-9), below is the first of four promotional cards included in the information pack sent to a customer in 1928. It advertises the advantages of the Universal Postal Franker with the title "Saving in Money".



ADVANTAGES
OF THE
UNIVERSAL POSTAL FRANKER.

1.
Saving in Money.

Can you afford to lose money? Lost, pilfered, torn and wasted stamps are a greater drain on the profits of a business than is generally realised or guarded against.

You may assert that there is no loss in your Organization, but you can never be certain. The accumulation of pennies over a period, represents a considerable figure to one earning a small weekly wage.

The staunchness of a man's honesty is merely relative to the intensity of the temptation. Remove the temptation and the abuse is automatically nullified.

Each Universal Midget machine bears a Post Office seal and the meter being of the locking type is accepted by them as indefraudable.

Frank impressions are not negotiable and are worthless to all but the registered user, because each impression contains the private identity number of the User's machine. Therefore the machine makes pilferage impracticable and renders loss impossible.

A City Firm installed a Midget machine in March 1925 and debited the cost to the Postage Account. The increase by the end of the year was so small that it excited no comment.

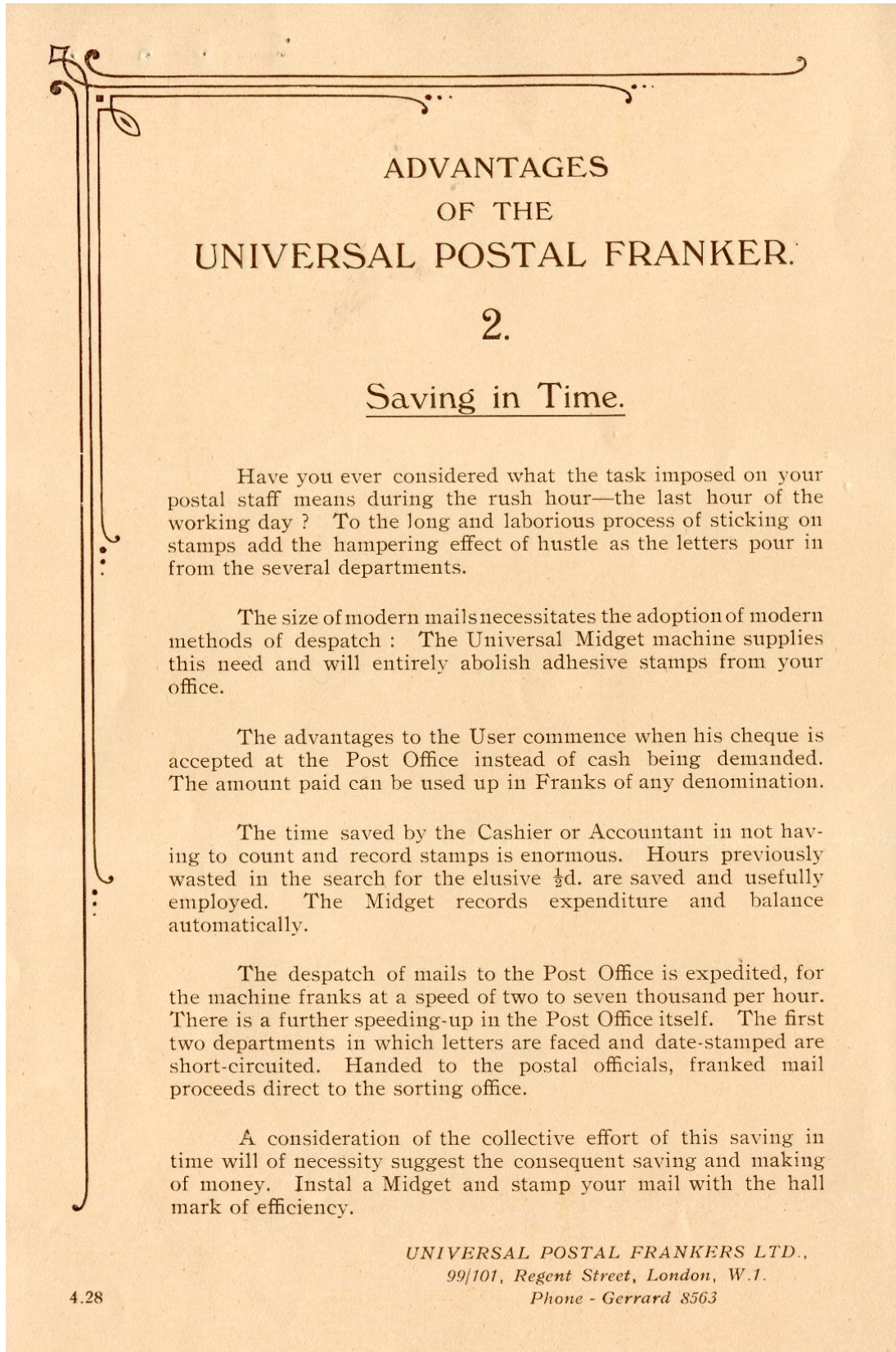
Insure yourself against loss for the rest of your business life. There is only one small premium to pay—The initial cost of the machine.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL FRANKERS LTD.,
99/101, Regent Street, London, W.1.
Phone - Gerrard 8563

4.28

Historic Items continued

Here is the second advertising card. It lists the advantages of the Universal Postal Franker under the title "Saving in Time". The final two cards will be shown in a future edition of the newsletter.



ADVANTAGES
OF THE
UNIVERSAL POSTAL FRANKER.

2.

Saving in Time.

Have you ever considered what the task imposed on your postal staff means during the rush hour—the last hour of the working day? To the long and laborious process of sticking on stamps add the hampering effect of hustle as the letters pour in from the several departments.

The size of modern mails necessitates the adoption of modern methods of despatch: The Universal Midget machine supplies this need and will entirely abolish adhesive stamps from your office.

The advantages to the User commence when his cheque is accepted at the Post Office instead of cash being demanded. The amount paid can be used up in Franks of any denomination.

The time saved by the Cashier or Accountant in not having to count and record stamps is enormous. Hours previously wasted in the search for the elusive $\frac{1}{2}$ d. are saved and usefully employed. The Midget records expenditure and balance automatically.

The despatch of mails to the Post Office is expedited, for the machine franks at a speed of two to seven thousand per hour. There is a further speeding-up in the Post Office itself. The first two departments in which letters are faced and date-stamped are short-circuited. Handed to the postal officials, franked mail proceeds direct to the sorting office.

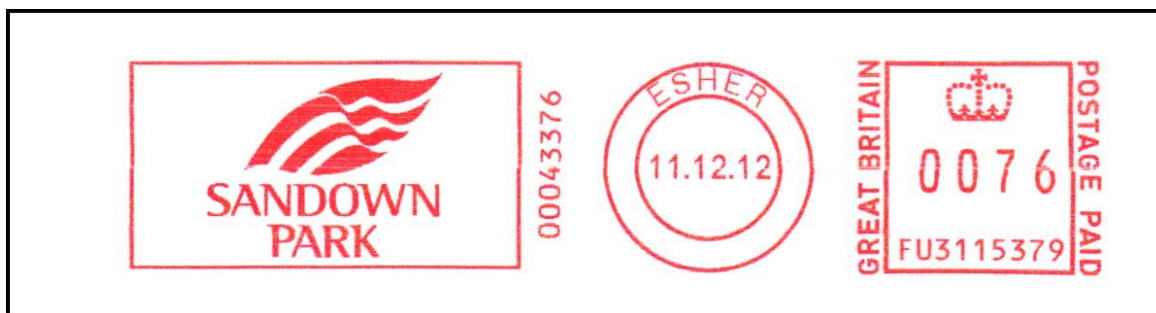
A consideration of the collective effort of this saving in time will of necessity suggest the consequent saving and making of money. Instal a Midget and stamp your mail with the hall mark of efficiency.

*UNIVERSAL POSTAL FRANKERS LTD.,
99/101, Regent Street, London, W.1.
Phone - Gerrard 8563*

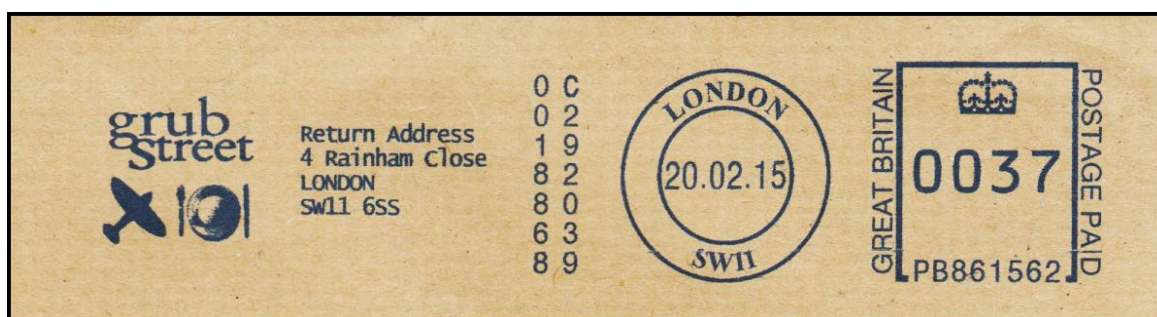
4.28

Meter Thematics

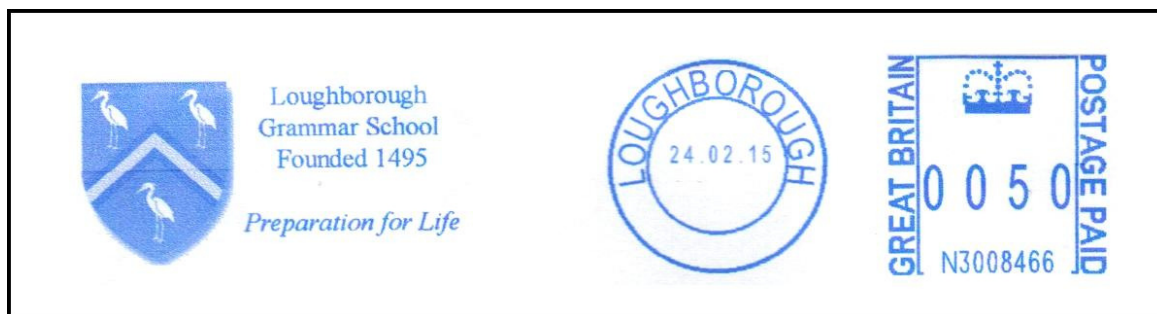
Except for the last item in this section, Peter Mantell kindly provides all of the thematic franks this month. This frank comes from the famous Sandown Park racecourse in Esher, Surrey.



Here is an unusual thematic combination, showing a knife, fork and plate, together with an aeroplane. The user is Grub Street Publishing, who specialise in aviation and cookery books – a strange combination!



Here is a heraldry thematic, depicting three herons.



This frank depicts the famous spire at Chesterfield. The spire is the Church of St Mary and All Saints, and is popularly known as the 'Crooked Spire' that was originally constructed in the 14th-century.



Meter Thematics continued

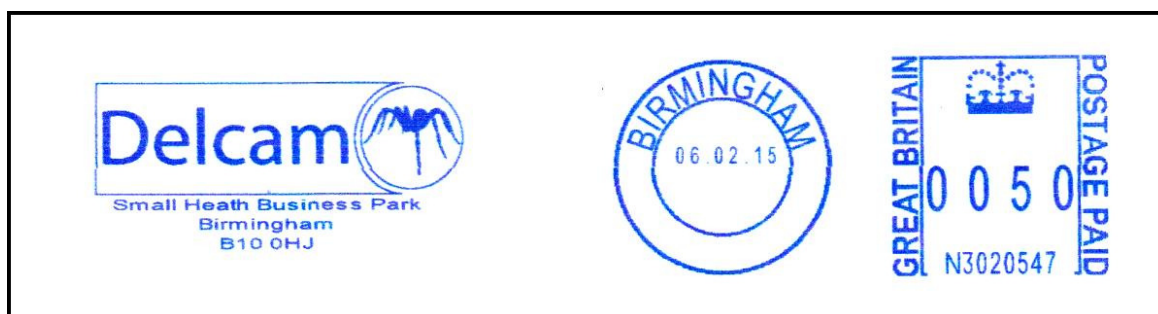
In recent months we have shown a number of nice religious thematic franks. Here is another – this time from the Diocese of Peterborough.



This frank has a rather attractive design depicting St. George (without his dragon!).



Peter Mantell sends this spider design from a company called Delcam - a supplier of advanced CAD/CAM software for the manufacturing industry. Why the company should want to show a spider in their logo is a mystery when many people genuinely suffer from arachnophobia.



This month's Meter Thematic of the Month comes from your editor who has come across this attractive education thematic from a company called 'Read for Good' – a national charity that improves children's lives through its UK sponsored schools reading scheme.

