METER NEWS

Issue Number 176 June 2015

FPB02	Postage Download - Receipt	30.06.15 12:37:24
M-03150087A-12C		FP6114505
Descending	£ 177.73	
Postage Used	£ 172.27	
Control Total	£ 350.00	
Total Items	220	
Last Amount	£ 350.00	
Last Date	10.06.15 14:17:13	

Meter of the Month

On pages 6-1, 121-4 and 126-3, 'Refill Receipts' produced by Pitney Bowes franking machines were illustrated. Now, Robert Petts reports an example of a Francotyp-Postalia 'Postage Download Receipt' - produced on a 'PostBase' machine. A 'Zero Test' frank from the same machine, FP6114505, is shown below – note the inclusion of 'UK' above the date.

A photo of the actual machine is shown on the left.

Peter Huss reports that a new model, the 'PostBase Mini' (shown right) was authorised for use in the UK in the Spring of 2015. At this stage, it is unknown whether a new serial prefix will be used for the PostBase Mini.

Editorial

This month we welcome Duncan James as member no. 0043. Like many of us, Duncan started by collecting GB stamps but gave up because there were too many to collect. About 10 years ago he switched to collecting PPI marks and related labels and postmarks but has recently taken up an interest in UK meter franks.

Acknowledgements

Latest Numbers

Below is the list of 'latest numbers' as at the end of June 2015 – with updates shown in red. Please could I have the next reports by 28th July - 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	F1004010	27.05.15	See MN 175
Matrix F12 etc.	FR2001280	05-05-15	See MN 175

Francotyp-Postalia

Optimail 25/35	F04115620	04.06.14	See MN 164
Centormail 240/300	FC5110688	28.04.14	See MN 163
MyMail / PostagePro	FM2657744	07-01-15	See MN 171
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	FP6110841	25.04.14	See MN 173
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	FP6114505	30-06-15	Reported by RP
Ultimail	FU3117315	23.05.14	See MN 164

Neopost

IS-330	N1053186	23.04.15	See MN 175
IS-350	N1182423	13.02.15	See MN 172
Various upgraded	N1240736	19.03.15	See MN 173
IS-480	N3030453	31.03.15	See MN 174
IS-240 / IS-280	N3319858	18.05.15	See MN 175
IS-5000/6000	N5001705	20.10.14	See MN 168
IS-240/280	NE6005894	11-06-15	Reported by AN
IS-480	NE8006456	11-06-15	Reported by PM
IS-5000/6000	NE9000370	22-05-15	See MN 175

Pitney Bowes

DM160i/220i	PB171449	04-06-15	Reported by DJ
DM60?	PB2003376	17-04-15	See MN 174 and 175
DM50, 55	PB366074	20.05.14	See MN 175
Connect+ 1000 etc.	PB551797	23.04.14	See MN 162
Connect+ 10FC etc.	PB557706	01-06-15	Reported by AN
DM 400, 450, 475	PB620598	20.05.15	See MN 175
DM 400, 450, 475	PB6626704	08-05-15	See MN 175
DM 110i	PB882541	14.05.15	See MN 175

Advanced Mail Codes

AAGK-HY	NE9000321	16-04-15	See MN 174

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.

RP - FP6114505 [Item 0000219]

AN - NE6005894 [Item 0000099]

PM - NE8006456 [Item 0002040]

DJ - PB171449 [Item 0000414]

AN - PB557706 [Item 0000523]

Mailmark^{TM} News

With reference to page 175-7, John Fowler reports that when the new rates came into force at the end of March 2015, the Europe and ROW 60g limits were changed to 100g. Whether the codes previously used for the 60g rates (codes 6002 and 6097) have been retained for the new 100g rates or whether new codes have been assigned is not known at this stage.

Recent Interesting Items

It is unusual to find examples of meter franks from the Outer Hebrides. Duncan James reports this one from the Isle of Lewis.

Further to page 120-6, Peter Mantell reports another "London / London" example.

Patrick Awcock sends this item that has been franked twice – firstly with a 'Zero Test' frank and then with a normal '1 Letter' frank. The matrix code is, of course, impossible to decode.

Peter Mantell reports this frank from a Neopost IS240/280 machine, that has two (slightly different sized) squares appearing in the Return Address Block.

Coloured Slogans

Peter Mantell reports this monster frank with the slogan in colour from a Payment Protection Insurance claims company called Real Time Claims.

Your Claim Documents Are Enclosed

Simply Check : Sign : Return in Freepost

Delivered by **Royal Mail** — 27-05-15 £1.09 PB556266 — **1** L Letter 250g

Peter has also found these three return address franks in black.

Return Address:-
PO Box 3111
Bristol
BS1 9GA

Delivered by **Royal Mail** — 19-06-15 £0.36 PB557343 — **2** Letter

Return Address
PO BOX 7853
LEICESTER
LE1 9WW

Delivered by **Royal Mail** — 10-06-15 £0.78 PB555521 — **1** L Letter 100g

Return Address
Oakham School
Chapel Close
Oakham
LE15 6DT   UK

Delivered by **Royal Mail** — 05-06-15 £0.36 PB557132 — **2** Letter

On page 168-9 a frank from Westland Horticulture was shown with the return address in black. Your editor has now found an example but with a pale green colour.

Westland Horticulture
14 Granville Industrial Estate
Dungannon
BT70 1NJ

Delivered by **Royal Mail** — 09-01-15 £0.49 PB555993 — **1** Letter

Meter Correction Handstamps

Gwynne Harries sends this item from 1969 from Sotheby auctioneers that was franked with 3 pounds 5d of payment! The item duly received a handstamp that asked for the cover to be returned in order for the account to be adjusted. Presumably it never was.

Historic Items / Thematics

On page 107-4 we illustrated a specimen frank from machine RN 000 dated 2 Oct 54 that depicted a slogan regarding free advertising space in the frank. Now, Peter Mantell has found this nice slogan from the same machine dated one week earlier stating that Neopost franking is "safer, quicker and cheaper". Editor: Assuming that the comparison was being done with using stamps, I'm not quite sure how they could claim that franking is safer!

Peter Mantell sends this Automax frank from 1967 that has the serial appearing to be underlined. This effect is presumably due to the die being incorrectly seated in the machine.
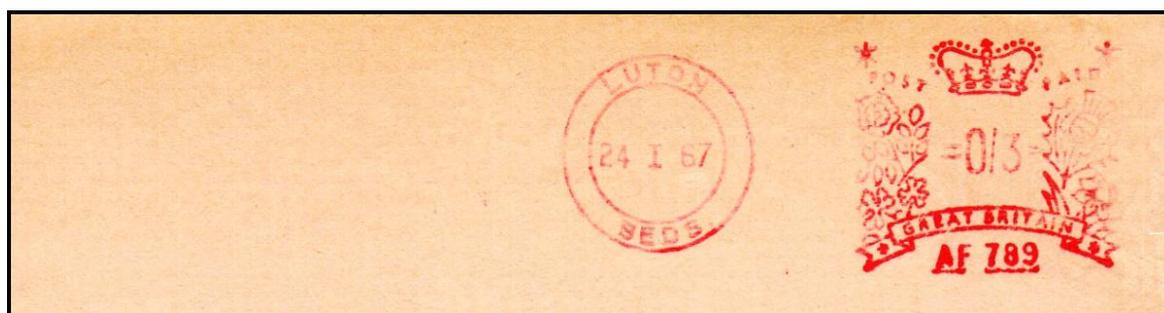
## Historic Items / Thematics continued

Peter Mantell has acquired this Midget model frank on a 'specimen card'. It was almost certainly produced by a demonstration machine at the 1938 Business Efficiency Exhibition. It is interesting to note that it has a GvR (design B) frank because the GviR (design D) indicia was fitted on all new machines in 1937. You would have thought that a new machine would have been on show at such a prestigious exhibition.
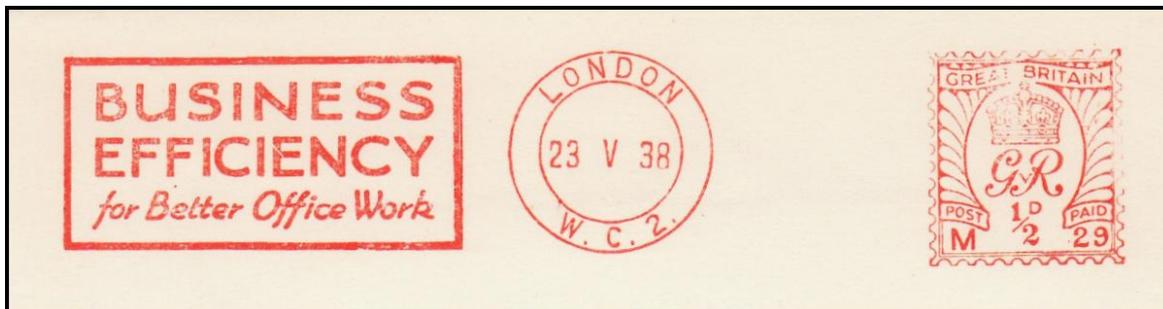
Peter has also acquired this Universal model frank on a 'specimen card'. This was likely to have been produced by a demonstration machine at the 1956 Business Efficiency Exhibition.

Your editor has acquired this attractive USA cover from 1960 that commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the U.S.S. Holland submarine. The frank itself depicts the firing of a Polaris missile on a modern-day submarine, together with a scale drawing of the Holland.
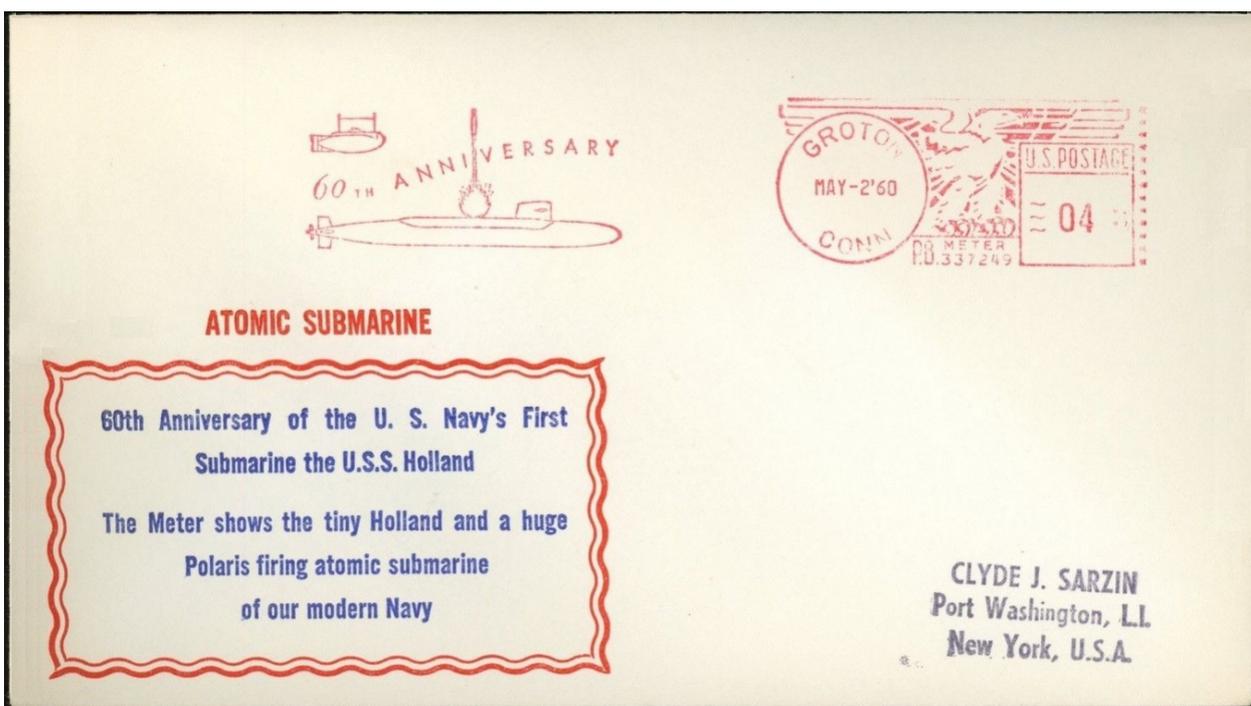
Historic Items / Thematics continued

Peter Mantell sends this unusual frank from 1969 that bears the image of a dustbin!

Your editor has found this railway thematic from 1955 that advertises the Bradshaw Guides. UK readers will no doubt be aware of these guides from the television series 'Great Railway Journeys' presented by the politician Michael Portillo.

Peter Mantell has found this attractive frank from 1967, showing a seahorse.


Peter Mantell also sends this nice 1967 shipping thematic from the port of Bristol.

Meter Thematics

Peter Mantell sends this equestrian thematic from the Mount Mascal Stables in Bexley.
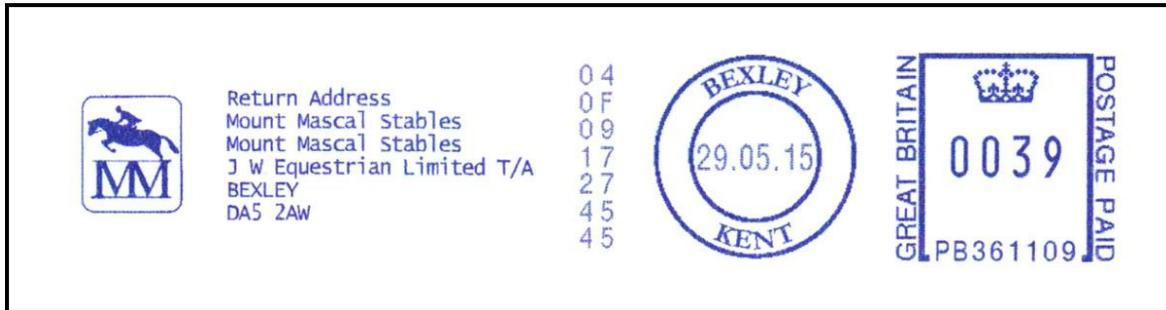
Duncan James sends this impressive building from the Merchiston School in Edinburgh.

Duncan also sends this 'Emergency Services' thematic from the South East Divisional HQ of the Scottish Ambulance Services based in Edinburgh.
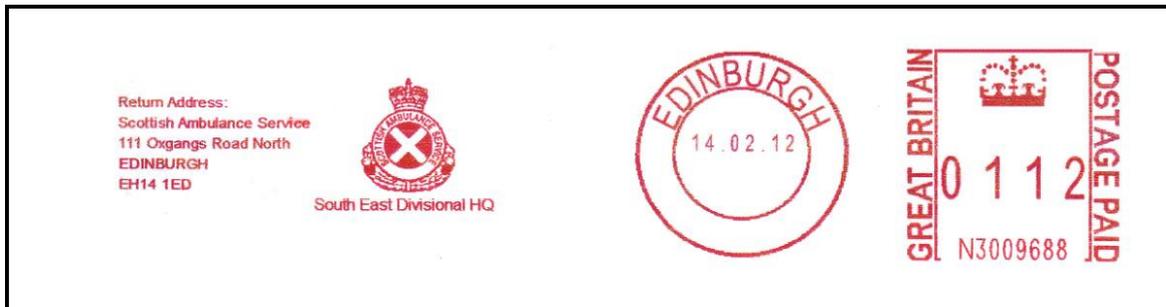
Alan Godfrey sends this frank from the Marshall Motor Group, Peterborough - depicting their logo together with those of 8 manufacturing brands that the group supports.
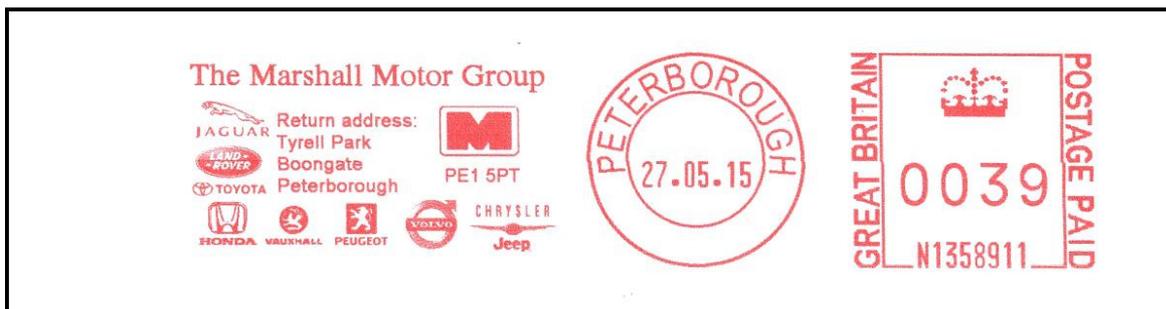
Historic Items / Thematics continued

It is always exciting to find meter franks from unusual places. Peter Mantell reports these examples from the Carmelite Monastery in Dolgellau - on three different machines.
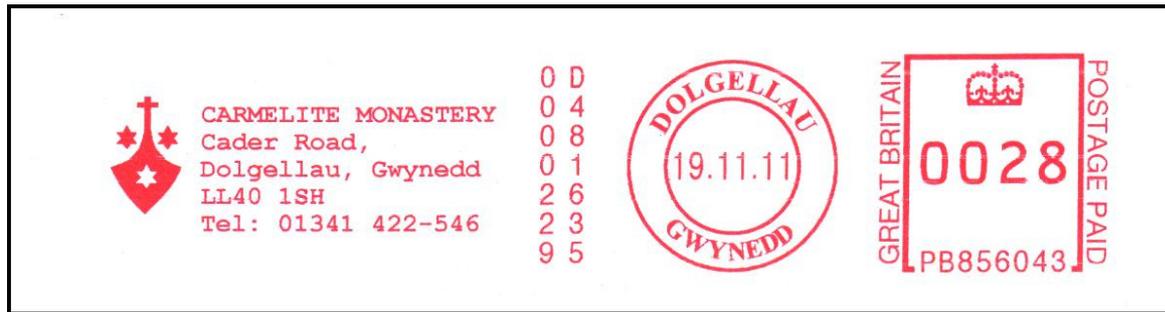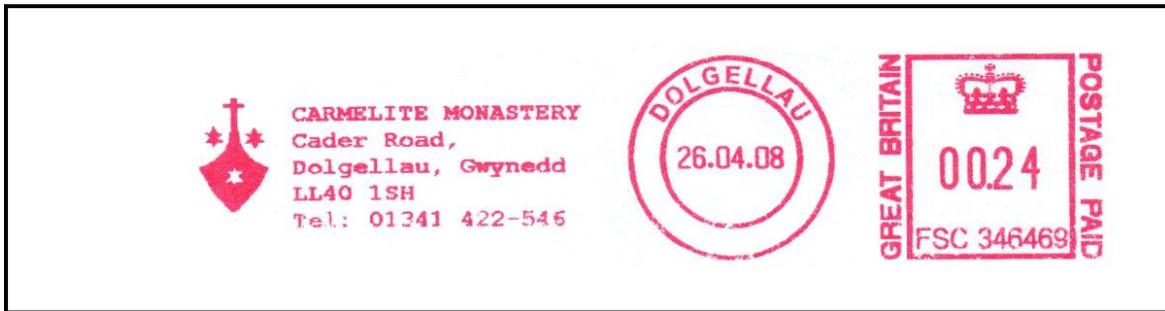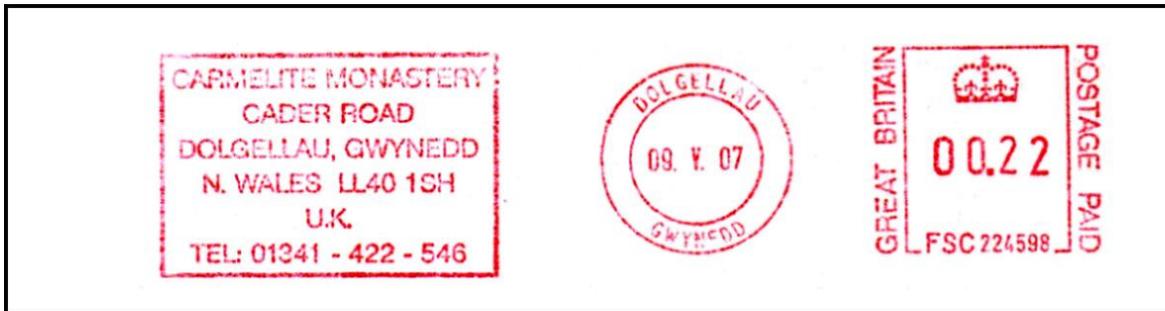
Your editor also reports a frank from a monastery – the Prinknash Abbey, Gloucester.
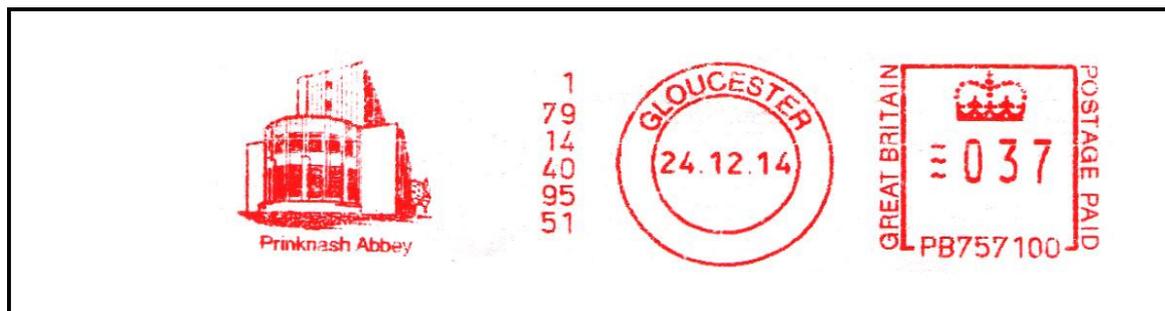
My Meter Thematic of the Month goes to Duncan James for this superb bulldog.