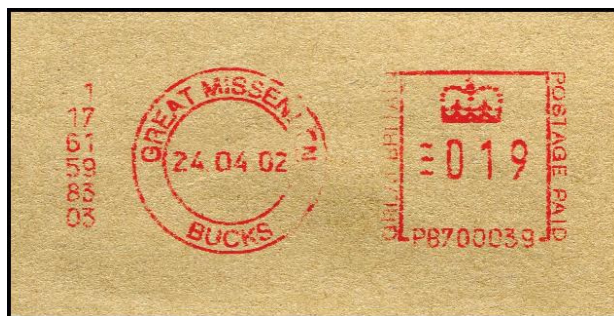


# METER NEWS

*Issue Number 180 Oct 2015*



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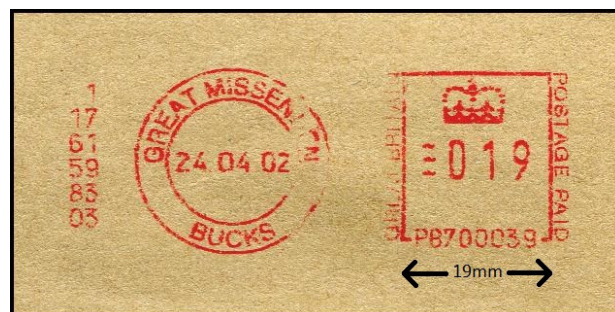
## Meter of the Month

Whilst sorting through some old envelopes recently, your editor was excited to re-discover this Post Perfect B700 (PB7 prefix) frank from 2002 where the indicia block is noticeably narrower than usual for these machines.

It is believed that this only occurred on the very first production run of these machines in 1995, and it is thought that only about 50 machines in total were produced with this format.

Although the overall length of the PB7 frank remains constant at 65mm for both formats, the distance between the vertical lines of die 1 is 19mm in the narrow format, compared with 20mm in the standard format.

The gap between the town die and the indicia is accordingly reduced in the standard format. This is best observed when the two types are placed vertically alongside – as shown here on PB700066, my thanks to Peter Mantell for supplying the illustration.



Your editor would be pleased to receive reports of other examples of this narrow die, as only one other example is believed to have been previously sighted (although the reference is, unfortunately, not to hand) and they must, surely, be very scarce.

## Editorial

This month we extend a warm welcome to Thomas Rösner from Germany as member number 0045. Thomas's main philatelic interests are concerned with German meters - mainly the FRANKIT 2D-matrix code, but he also takes an interest in meter franks from others countries.

## Acknowledgements

My thanks this month go to Jon Aitchison, Michael Dobbs, Ray Downing, Alan Godfrey, Gwynne Harries, Peter Huss, Jan Lannoye, Peter Mantell, Mike Mood, and Peter Wood for their reports, communications or contributions.

## Latest Numbers

Below is the list of 'latest numbers' as at the end of October 2015 – with updates shown in red. Please could I have the next reports by 28th November - 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>F1004010</u>	27.05.15	See MN 175
Matrix F12 etc.	<u>FR2001720</u>	09-10-15	Reported by PM

### Francotyp-Postalia

Optimail 25/35	<u>F04115620</u>	04.06.14	See MN 164
Centormail 240/300	<u>FC5110690</u>	25-08-15	See MN 179
MyMail / PostagePro	<u>FM2657744</u>	07-01-15	See MN 171
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	<u>FP6110850</u>	04.08.15	See MN 178
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	<u>FP6114980</u>	28-08-15	See MN 179
PostBase Qi3000?	<u>FP7111677</u>	22-08-15	Reported by PM

### Neopost

IS-330	<u>N1053186</u>	23.04.15	See MN 175
IS-350	<u>N1182582</u>	18.09.15	See MN 179
Various upgraded	<u>N1240746</u>	31.07.15	See MN 177
IS-480	<u>N3030571</u>	22.07.15	See MN 177
IS-240 / IS-280	<u>N3319858</u>	18.05.15	See MN 175
IS-5000/6000	<u>N5001705</u>	20.10.14	See MN 168
IS-240/280	<u>NE6006789</u>	21-09-15	See MN 179
IS-480	<u>NE8008157</u>	27-10-15	Reported by AN – see below
IS-5000/6000	<u>NE9000393</u>	25-08-15	See MN 179

### Pitney Bowes

DM160i/220i	<u>PB173396</u>	07-10-15	Reported by PM
DM60	<u>PB2007753</u>	29-10-15	Reported by AN
DM50, 55	<u>PB367690</u>	21.10.15	Reported by AG
Connect+ 10FC etc.	<u>PB557889</u>	18-09-15	Reported by PM
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB620623</u>	28.08.15	See MN 178
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB6627381</u>	06-10-15	Reported by PM
DM 110i	<u>PB883605</u>	15.09.15	See MN 179

### Advanced Mail Codes

AAGK-HY	NE9000321	16-04-15	See MN 174
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My thanks also go to Alan Godfrey for his report of NE8007976 and to Peter Mantell for his report of an update to the Neopost N137 dead series with the serial number N1373768. Images from both of these reports are included on the next page.

## 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**



## Recent Interesting Items

Design J franks applied in red ink are still appearing, even though the practice breaks Royal Mail regulations. In addition to the item shown on the previous page, your editor has found this further example.



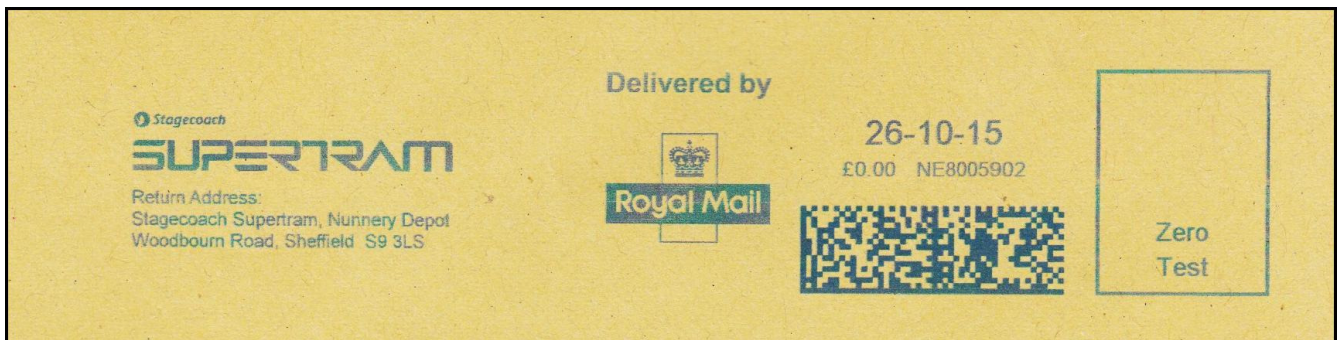
## Coloured Slogans

Two new slogans in black ink have been found this month. The first is from Peter Mantell - originally reported in Design H format (see page 135-7). The second is from your editor.



## Mailmark™ News

Peter Mantell has recently acquired this 'Zero Test' item from Stagecoach Supertram in Sheffield. Unlike all of the previous 'Zero Test' items recorded (which all had a Mail Type code of '0000' in the matrix block), this frank surprisingly has a Mail Type code of '9995'.



**Mailmark™ News continued**

Further to page 179-6, your editor has now found an example of a 2nd class 'Signed For' item which contains a Mail Type code of '5100' in the matrix block.



The above reports allow the Mail Type table (last shown in full on page 178-8) to be extended as follows:

Mail Type Code	Type Description	First Reported
5100	(Signed For) 2 Letter	Page 180-6
9995	Zero Test	Page 180-6

Note also that in all the 'Signed For' items seen to date, the 'Class Code' in the matrix block has been assigned the number '7'. These 'Class Codes' have not received very much attention in previous newsletters, but can now be summarised as follows:

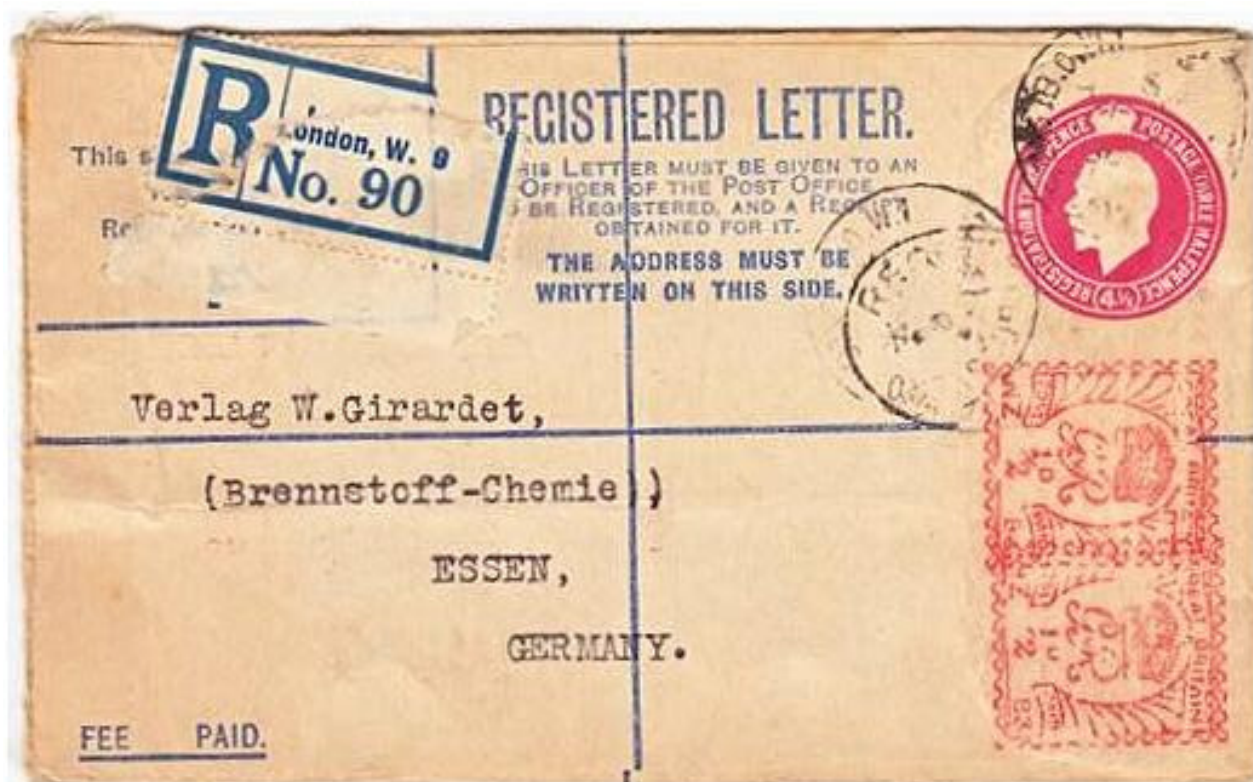
Class Code	Description
0	Zero Test items (see also Class Code 9)
1	1st class letters, large letters and small parcels
2	2nd class letters, large letters and small parcels
3	Special Delivery items
4	Not yet seen
5	Not yet seen
6	Air Mail items
7	Signed for items
8	Advanced Mail
9	Surcharge and Zero Test items (see also Class Code 0)

## Historic Items and Thematics

Peter Huss kindly sends this interesting cover showing two ½p Universal NZ Design B franks (without a town die), applied vertically as make-up values on a pre-paid 4½p registered letter sent to Germany. Unfortunately, the postmark date cannot be made out, but was probably the late 20s or early 30s.

The frank dies have the serial numbers 'B4' (left) and 'B3' (right), indicating a multiple-machine user. The user in this case was 'British Celanese', London, as this is the only firm known to have used 'B' prefix serials on a NZ Design B die. According to Wikipedia, 'British Celanese' was a chemical company that was formed in 1916 and based in both London and Derby. It survived as an independent company until 1957 when it became a subsidiary of Courtaulds.

For some inexplicable reason, the registered label bears the town name 'London W9', whereas the postmark reads 'London W1'.



Jan Lannoye kindly sends this attractive frank from 1977 from the White House Hotel in London. It includes an emblem celebrating the Queen's Silver Jubilee in that year.



## Meter Thematics

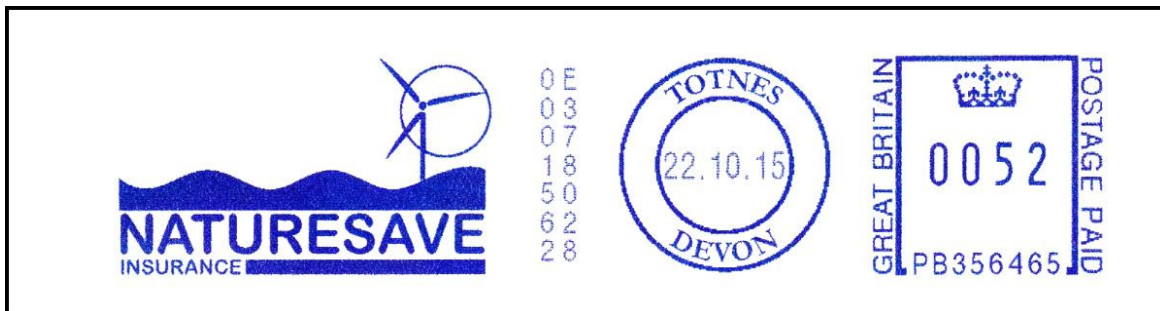
Peter Mantell has found two franks from the same machine (user unknown) with what are believed to be 'pre-loaded' slogans from the Connect+ machine. The first frank bears a nice union jack design.



The second frank depicts an image of a ribbon. [Your editor has noticed that the design bears a remarkable similarity to the one used in connection with 'World AIDS Day', designated as the 1<sup>st</sup> December each year since 1988. The image for this in red is shown alongside - taken from the Wikipedia web site.]



Peter Mantell has found this image of a wind turbine from Naturesave Insurance.



Finally, my Meter Thematic of the Month award goes to Peter Mantell for this superb image of a Heron.

