

METER NEWS

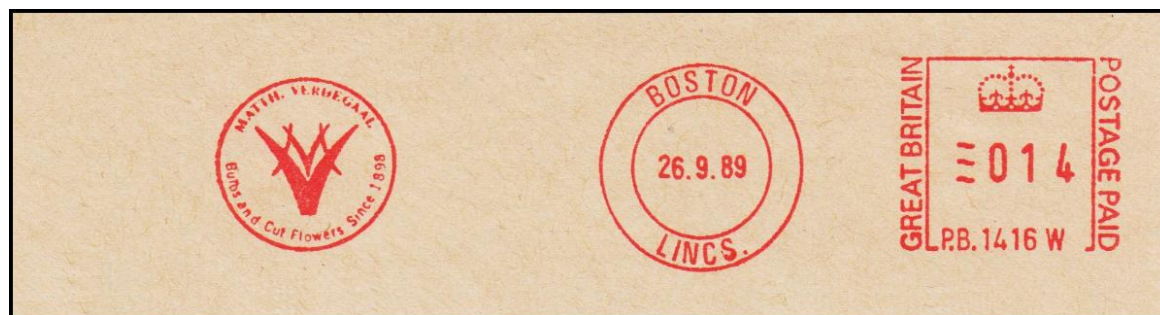
Issue Number 182 Dec 2015



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Meter of the Month

My Meter of the Month is a Pitney Bowes frank from 1989 and has been found by Peter Mantell. It shows an astonishing error in the meter serial number because there was never any series of the form 'P.B.1xxxW'. The complete image is shown below.



So what should the serial number have read? Your editor has carried out some research in order to find the answer. Readers interested in meters from that period will recall that there were three Pitney Bowes machines whose serial numbers included a 'W' suffix, namely 'P.B.D', 'P.B.L' and 'P.B.T'.

My first observation is that the impression is exceptionally clear – indicating it was almost certainly produced by a brand new machine at that time. My records reveal the highest numbers for the series with a 'W' suffix included the following: 'P.B.D 1166 W' dated 29.09.88, 'P.B.L 1880 W' dated 27.10.83 and 'P.B.T 1222 W' dated 30.10.78. From this alone, it would seem very likely to be from a 'P.B.D' series machine as machines that would have been 5 or 10 years old at that time would surely show some signs of wear.

Further research has also revealed that 'P.B.D' machines always included three wavy lines in the value die, whereas the 'P.B.L' and 'P.B.T' series didn't. Surely, therefore, we must conclude that it should have read 'P.B.D 1416 W', i.e. from the model 6320/6330.

Acknowledgements

My thanks this month go to Jon Aitchison, Michael Dobbs, Ray Downing, John Fowler, Alan Godfrey, Gwynne Harries, Peter Huss, Duncan James, Mike Jackson, Peter Mantell and Robert Petts for their reports, communications or contributions.

Latest Numbers

Below is the list of 'latest numbers' as at the end of December 2015 – with updates shown in red. Please could I have the next reports by the 28th January - thanks.

In the list below, the part of the serial number that directly relates to the model is underlined. Note that those entries that have a date format with hyphen separators are ones in 'Design J' (matrix) format.

Frama (UK)

Matrix F2, F4, F6	<u>F1004014</u>	14.12.15	Reported by AG
Matrix F12 etc.	<u>FR2001888</u>	22-10-15	See MN 181

Francotyp-Postalia

Centormail 240/300	<u>FC5110729</u>	18-11-15	See MN 181
MyMail / PostagePro	<u>FM2658042</u>	27.02.15	Reported by PM
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	<u>FP6110850</u>	04.08.15	See MN 178
PostBase Qi3/4/6/9	<u>FP6115262</u>	18-12-15	Reported by PM
PostBase Qi3000?	<u>FP7111849</u>	14-12-15	Reported by AN

Neopost

IS-330	<u>N1053359</u>	15.12.15	Reported by PM
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-240/280	<u>NE6008102</u>	01-12-15	Reported by PM
IS-480	<u>NE8008809</u>	29-12-15	Reported by DJ
IS-5000/6000	<u>NE9000458</u>	19-11-15	See MN 181

Pitney Bowes

DM160i/220i	<u>PB174901</u>	02-12-15	Reported by AG
DM60	<u>PB2011321</u>	15-12-15	Reported by PM
DM50, 55	<u>PB368265</u>	21.10.15	Reported by PM
Connect+ 10FC etc.	<u>PB558027</u>	08-12-15	Reported by PM
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB620651</u>	17.12.15	Reported by PM
DM 400, 450, 475	<u>PB6627562</u>	24-11-15	See MN 181
DM 110i	<u>PB884008</u>	06.11.15	See MN 181

Advanced Mail Codes

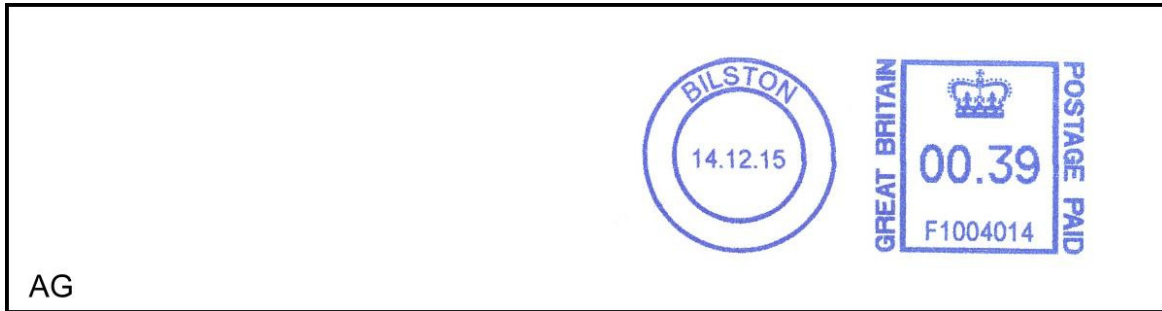
AAGK-HY	NE9000321	16-04-15	See MN 174
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Note: With the PB2 series rapidly advancing it is, perhaps, worth recording the sightings of two 'intermediate' highest numbers, namely PB2009546 dated 01-12-15 (AG) and PB2010613 dated 10-12-15 (AN).

This month the Optimail F04 and Neopost IS 5000/6000 series have been removed from the list as no increases have been reported on these for over a year.

Latest Number Images

Contributor's initials and other details are shown in the bottom left of each image.



Latest Number Images continued

DOUGLAS & GRAHAME
GENTLEMEN'S CLOTHIERS SINCE 1924

Return Address:
Shenstone Business Park
Lynn Lane, Shenstone
Lichfield WS14 0SB

Delivered by

01-12-15
£0.36 NE6008102

2
Letter

PM - NE6008102 [Item 0000246]

Delivered by

29-12-15
£0.36 NE8008809

2
Letter

DJ - NE8008809 [Item 0002291]

RETURN ADDRESS
Plastic Coatings
Ham Lane
Kingswinford
DY6 7JY

Delivered by

02-12-15
£0.36 PB174901

2
Letter

AG - PB174901 [Item 0000164]


"From small acorns great forests grow"

Return Address
Sherwood House
High Church St
New Basford
Nottingham
NG7 7JP


Delivered by


15-12-15
£0.36 PB2011321

2
Letter

PM - PB2011321 [Item 0000040]

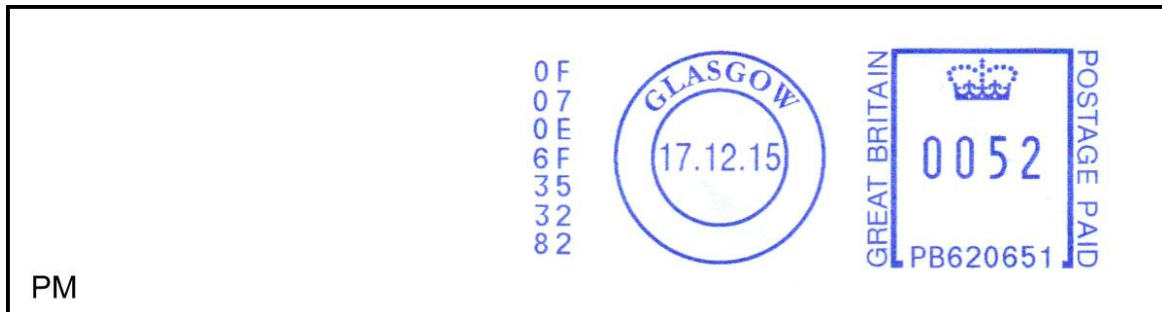
03
09
0E
03
31
98
75



GREAT BRITAIN

0052
PB368265
POSTAGE PAID

PM

Latest Number Images continued



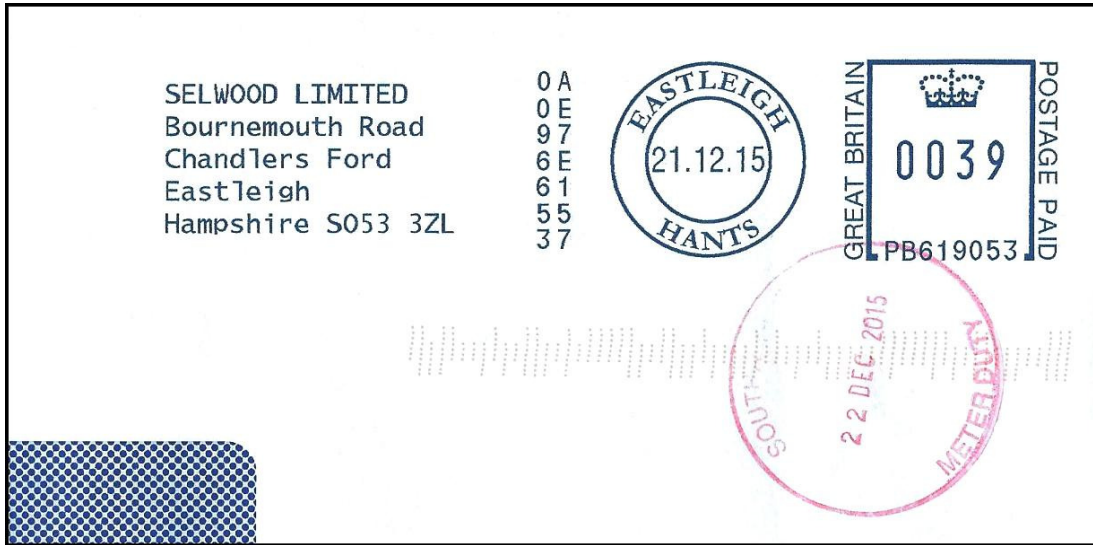
Meter Correction Handstamps

Peter Mantell reports this franked item dated 04.12.15 which has then been corrected some 6 days later with both a circular and a rectangular handstamp at Nottingham Mail Centre.



Meter Correction Handstamps continued

Robert Petts sends this 'Meter Duty' date correction handstamp from Southampton MC.

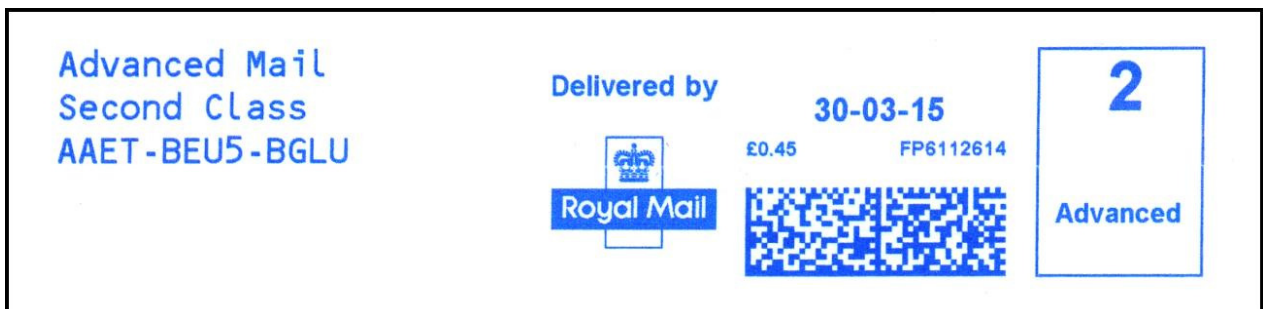


Peter Mantell sends this exceptionally clear and perfectly aligned 'Revenue Protection' instructional handstamp, applied at Peterborough MC on a cover bearing zero postage.



Franking Error

Peter Mantell has spotted this item with a '5' in the Advanced Mail Code (instead of an 'S').



Recent Interesting Items

Peter Mantell reports this 'Zero Test' frank that has been applied as a date-correction by the user, Great Western Railways. The original frank in the upper position is dated (Saturday) 12-12-15, but the lower frank, applied on a label, is dated (Tuesday) 15-12-15.



The Mail Type code on the original frank is '1403' (indicating Advanced Mail service) with an item count of '0402704', whereas the Mail Type code on the Zero Test frank is '9995' and has an item count of '0406647'.

Mailmark™ News

On page 168-8 we reported 'A ROW1 20g' as having the Mail Type code '6016'. Peter Mantell now reports this 'A ROW1 10g with the same code.



The item concerned was applied to an inland mail item and we can only assume that the operator failed to reset the machine after franking an overseas item.

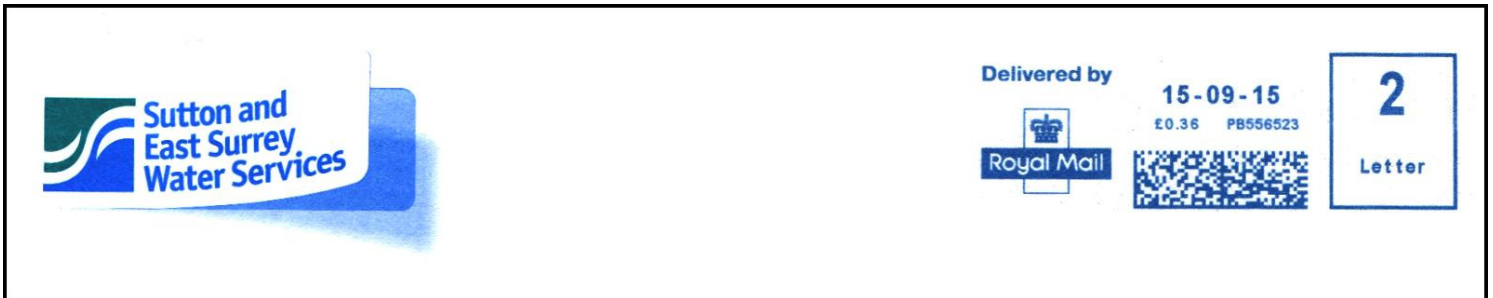
Note that this same machine has been in the news before. On page 173-6 it produced a very strange printing 'hiccup' but it is not thought that the two events are connected.

This report means that the Mail Type table (last shown in full on page 178-8) can be updated as follows:

Mail Type Code	Type Description	First Reports
6016	A ROW1 10g / A ROW1 20g	Pages 168-8 and 182-7

Connect+ Colour Franks

Your editor has found this frank from the Sutton and East Surrey Water Services with the logo printed at the extreme left of the envelope.



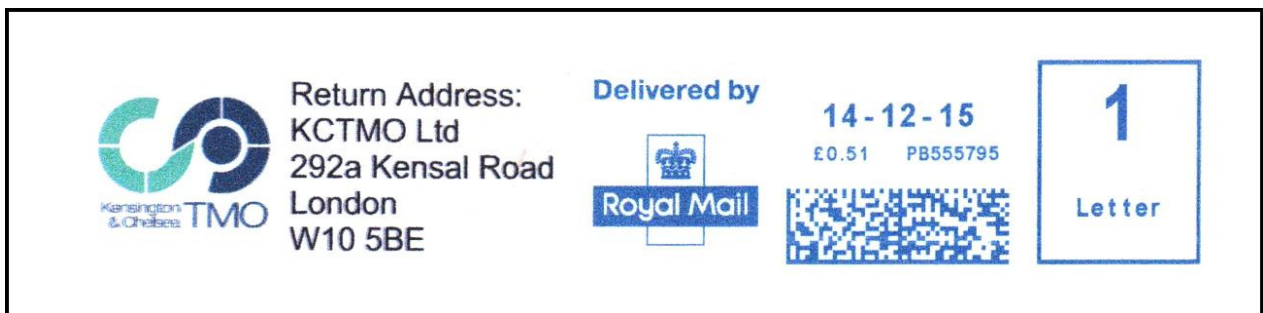
Further to page 181-5, Peter Mantell reports that Solihull College have now corrected the spelling of 'Solihull' in the return address block.



Peter Mantell has also found this frank from Vinci Construction with the logo and Return Address block in black.

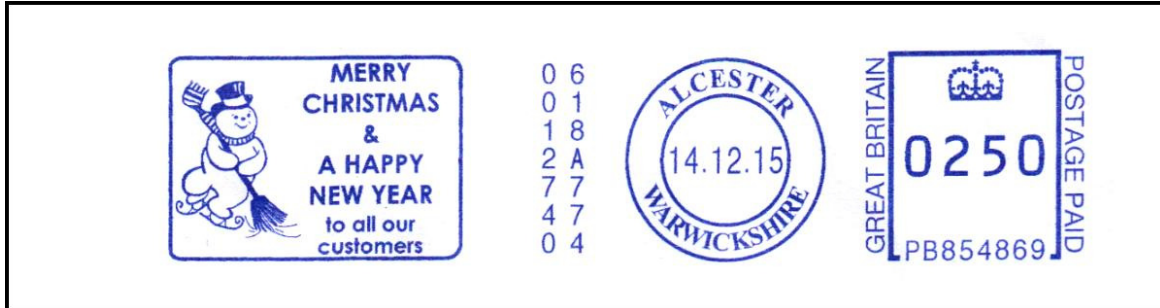


Peter Mantell has found this item with a colourful logo from the Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation.



Meter Thematics

Peter Mantell sends the only two Christmas thematics reported so far this season. The first is a rather attractive design that has the feel of a pre-loaded slogan but not reported before. Peter has the user of this machine recorded as 'Westmore Document Management and Mailstream Solutions' based in Alcester, B49 6PU.



The second is a standard slogan and comes from an outdoor clothing company called Sherwood Forest. This machine, PB2006795, has since been replaced by PB2011321 - shown on page 4 as a highest number.



Duncan James sends this frank from the Ross County Football Club, depicting a stag's head and antlers. The colour version of their team emblem is shown alongside.



Duncan also sends this attractive 'piggy bank' from a Company called Utility Warehouse, based at 508 Edgware Road, The Hyde, London, NW9 5AB.



Meter Thematics continued

Duncan sends this frank from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, depicting their logo.



Peter Mantell sends this frank from the National Football Museum in Manchester. Note that this same meter was included as a highest number on page 177-4,



Peter Mantell sends this frank from Newport City Homes that depicts the town's Transporter bridge – one of only eight remaining in use worldwide. The bridge was built in 1906 and is a Grade 1 listed structure.



Finally, my Meter Thematic of the Month is awarded to Peter Mantell for this image of the planet Jupiter. It comes from a company called Jupiter Asset Management Ltd., based in the Westminster region of London. Note that the dot of the letter 'i' of 'Jupiter' has been positioned to represent the planet's largest moon, Ganymede.

