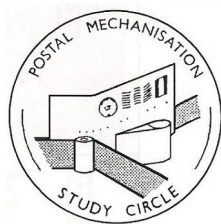


POSTAL MECHANISATION STUDY CIRCLE NEWSLETTER



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Contents

PMSC News	37/07
Cancels, Meters, IMPs and PPIs	37/08
Mail Centre News	37/10
Labels	37/11

Editorial

“BAH!!! HUMBUG!!!!!! Old Scrooge has surfaced again and I’m fed up with the run up to Christmas already and, at the time of writing, it is still a good six weeks off. However, the Editor and Committee would like to wish everyone the best for Christmas and peace, warmth, companionship and good fortune to all in the year ahead.



Merry Christmas and a Happy 2013 to
all our Members and their Families.

I would also like to end the year by giving my personal thanks to all who have contributed to and helped produce these pages. I hope that in the coming year, that support will continue and that we will see a wider range of postal mechanisation material included.

PMSC News

Meetings

Saturday 13 April 2013. Meeting at the BPMA starting at 10:00am for 10:45am. Members will be able to view selected items from the archive and share a couple of recent finds of their own.

Saturday 21 September 2013. Meeting at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London. Bob de Vekey and members will share knowledge of recent developments since Trevor Horton’s original book and Update were published, plus any earlier ‘new finds’ (Bob is seeking to put together a future Ident update to bring the story up to date on postal history markings and slogan changes for these machines – this meeting offers an opportunity to learn from Bob and input finds into this ‘study’)

Saturday 13 October 2013. Meeting at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London. AGM at 1:30pm preceded by an Auction with viewing commencing at 10:30am

Notification of change of address

Tim Schofield's new address is 4 Caralee Place, Tumbi Umbi, NSW 2261, Australia. All telephone numbers, email addresses etc remain the same.

Auction 77 Realisations (May 2012)

Six vendors contributed 102 lots that attracted 7 postal bidders all of whom were successful with at least two purchases each. 41 lots were unsold, though 10 of these from a non-member were subsequently sold on ebay on his behalf. Gross sales were £559.75 netting £69.98 for Circle funds in 2011-12; other monies in the accounts refer to the postage costs that are added to purchasers and netted from vendors' payments. In addition £16.52 commission from the ebay sales will accrue to the Circle in this year's accounts.

Lot No	Price	Lot No	Price	Lot No	Price	Lot No	Price	Lot No	Price
2	£ 1.00	3	£ 1.50	9	£ 7.50	10	£ 2.00	11	£56.00
12	£26.00	16	£ 2.00	17	£ 2.00	18	£ 1.25	19	£ 5.50
20	£ 6.00	21	£ 1.00	23	£ 1.25	24	£ 1.00	27	£ 1.00
28	£ 4.25	29	£ 5.50	30	£26.00	34	£160.00	35	£51.00
37	£ 1.75	38	£ 2.00	39	£ 2.00	41	£ 1.00	42	£ 1.00
46	£10.00	47	£ 1.00	48	£ 1.00	49	£ 1.50	54	£ 5.00
55	£12.00	56	£ 2.00	57	£ 2.00	58	£ 3.00	60	£ 2.00
62	£ 1.50	63	£ 3.00	64	£ 2.00	65	£ 9.50	66	£ 0.50
67	£ 6.50	69	£12.00	72	£ 2.50	73	£ 0.50	74	£31.00
75	£ 2.00	79	£ 1.00	81	£ 1.00	82	£ 1.00	83	£ 1.25
85	£ 1.25	87	£ 4.00	88	£20.00	91	£ 3.00	92	£10.00
93	£10.00	94	£11.00	95	£10.00	96	£ 3.25	99	£ 1.00
100	£ 2.00								

Cancels, Meters, IMPs and PPIs

Movember Jeremy Meal has forwarded these two images of cancels which were posted at the same time from Nottingham (and then processed 28 items apart ...6960....6988) but to SK7 2HG and SA2 8ND producing an English only and a Welsh-only (not bilingual! - which might upset the English-speakers in Wales!) 'Movember' slogan along with the two versions of the Branding mark.

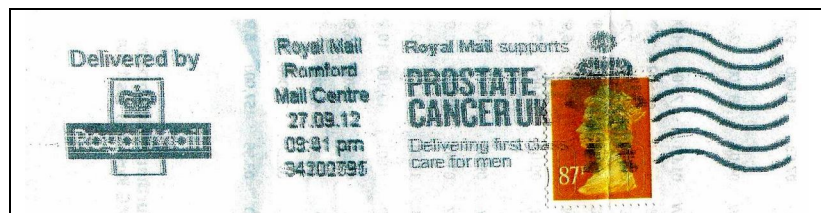


appearing on items from IMPs 3 and 7 at Birmingham and IMPs 1 and 3 at Chelmsford. It would seem that the former bitmap with six wavy lines has been downloaded in error for each of these IMPs. This was replaced by the seven wavy lines when Branding commenced in June onwards. Due to the extra length of the six wavy lines compared with the seven, the effect is that they appear as part of the cancellation, As illustrated on NL37/04 and NL37/07, each of these IMPs will also print the six dots on PPI mail.

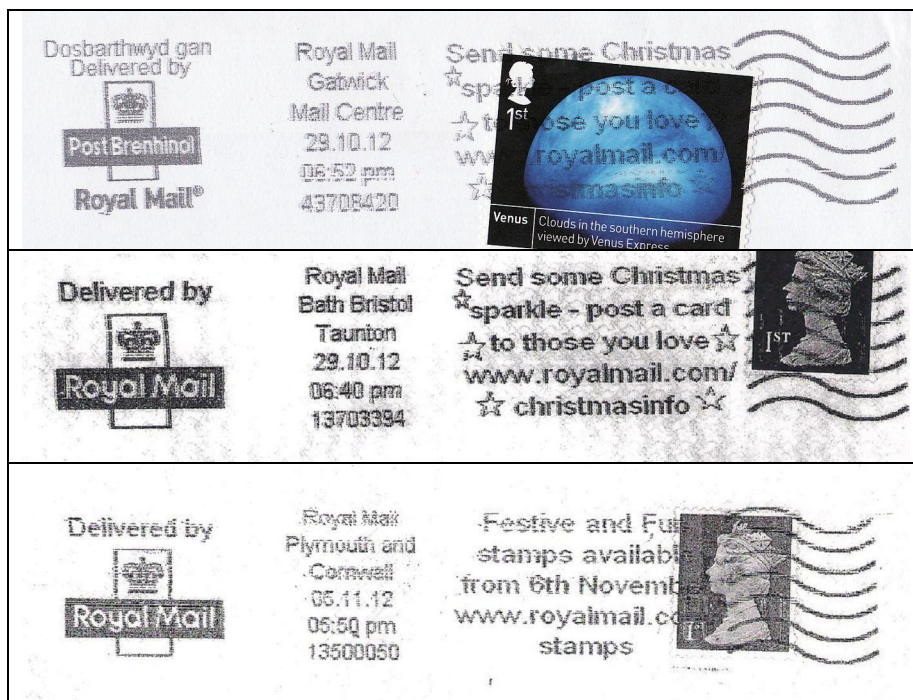
Michael McNamara has forwarded this image of a cover from Birmingham IMP3 on 14 September to Eire. You will see that there are six vertical dots to the far left of the information block.



He has also forwarded an example of a Branded item which was addressed to Eire.



Christmas Cancels The “Send some Christmas/ sparkle – post a card/ to those you love/ www.royalmail.com/ Christmasinfo” slogan was introduced on the 29 October and officially ran until 10 November. Bilingual and English only Branding examples are illustrated below. However “Festive and Fun/ stamps available/ from 6th November/ www.royalmail.com/ stamps” was due to start on Monday 12 November but started earlier at most Mail Centres. An example from Plymouth and Cornwall dated 5 November 2012 is illustrated below. The “Movember” slogan resumed on Monday 19 November.



Missing Location An envelope from the House of Commons on the 4 October 2012 with just “Mail Centre” and no location name has been found. The tag code indicates that it was processed at Jubilee MC on iLSM6. The reason for this is not apparent beyond the fact that an empty information field occurred; so no office information was entered.

Tunisian Ink Jet The Tunisian Post Office appears to have introduced ink jet technology as evidenced by this cancel from El Kantaoui in August 2012.



Mail Centre News

Leeds Following action from York MPs concerned about the closure of York Mail Centre, due on 1 December 2012, and the resulting loss of the York Postmark, a change in the title for Leeds Mail Centre is due on 3 December. The objection also being that a Leeds Postmark failed to represent York. A compromise has been reached whereby the new title will be “North and West Yorkshire”. Currently, the postmark incorporates the postcodes of Leeds (LS), Harrogate (HG) and Wakefield (WF). Additionally, Bradford (BD), Huddersfield (HD) and York (YO) mail is processed there. The new title will incorporate each of these postcode areas. It is planned to have a PMSC cover processed on Monday 3 December 2012. It is planned to change the handstamps in use at Leeds to the new title at that time or soon afterwards.

The York machine cancellation will continue to be used on appropriate mail during December for the Christmas period. This is expected to be withdrawn after the Christmas period; prior to the new year.

Worcester The IMP cancellation ceased on all outward mail in early April but continued on some inward mail until early June. The two IMPs were removed during July and replaced with 4 CSSMs during July. The Delivery Office now only has these machines for processing purposes.

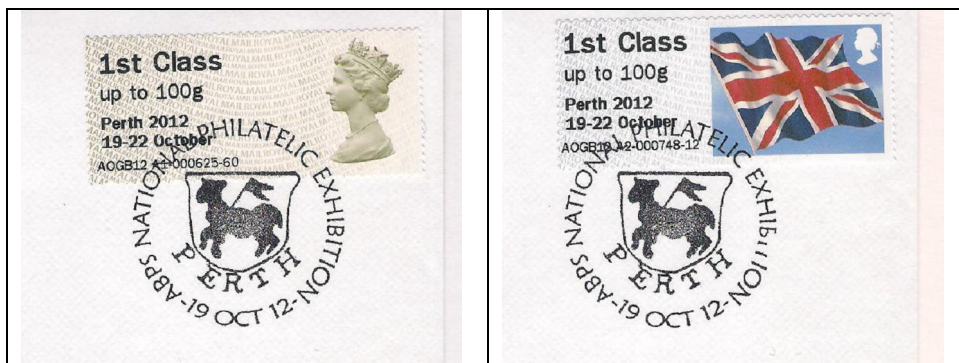
Gloucester Mail processing will be transferred to Bristol in 2013 and will become a D.O. later next year (2013). (See NL36/85)

Portsmouth A six month consultation period prior to the cessation of mail processing was announced at the beginning of November 2012. No details have been given as to where the processing of Portsmouth mail will take place.

Parcelforce Worldwide Royal Mail Group are investing £75M to modernise its effort and will include three new parcel processing centres. The first of these will be at Chorley, Lancashire, and is due to open in the summer of 2013. Two new depots are planned for Cornwall and Hampshire. The existing parcel hub at Coventry will be expanded and a further nine depots will either be extended or moved to larger premises.

Labels

Perth 2012 As noted on NL37/06, the two public Hytech kiosks used at Stampex were taken to the 2012 Scottish Philatelic Exhibition and Congress at Perth. Machin and the Flag issue were used in both machines simultaneously between 19-22 October.

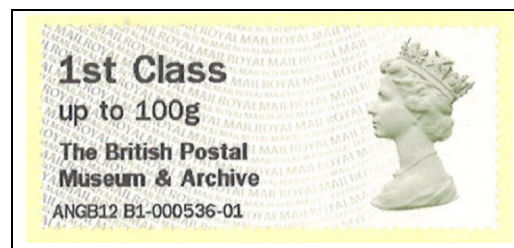


Christmas Robins It was decided to reprint and reissue the Robin stamp design that was in the first Bird set, as a Christmas special. The simplest way to identify the stock source is by purchasing two stamps from a kiosk which result in receiving two robin stamps. Alternatively, the Royal Mail backprint contains a security code ROYALMA12ROYAL just above the weight limit of the service.



New Hytech installation A new type of Post Office (similar to 'Pop-Up Shops') opened on the 16 November 2012 in the very busy Camden Market, London NW1. This new, temporary, branch is called 'Camden Christmas Post Shop'. This office will only be operational up to Christmas Eve. It is using two new Hytech kiosks, A3 and A4, to vend Machins and Robins. From the examples on <http://postagelabelsuk.com>, the "office ident" appears to be ANGB12. The "office ident" changed to ADGB12 on 1 December. By the 18 November, kiosk A4 was at session 37 and two days later was at 55. On 3 December A3 was at 236 and A4 at 232.

BPMA The British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) received a fully functioning Royal Mail Post & Go machine on 3 December. This makes the BPMA the first place to get a permanent Royal Mail Hytech Post & Go machine, outside an exhibition environment. It was placed in the foyer of the BPMA Search Room in Clerkenwell, London and commenced operation on 3 December. The machine holds two different stamp designs, which will be changed 3-4 times/year. The first stamps will be the special Christmas Robin and the standard Machin designs. The unique overprint has been especially designed for the BPMA. Although the example illustrated (kiosk ident B1) in the press release would suggest the desk top type which in public at Spring Stampex 2011 and



was in the “backroom” at the last three Stampex events. However, Brian Sinnott suggested that it is more likely to be of the “A” type which was accessible to the public. On 3 December, I visited the BPMA and can confirm that it is kiosk A1. The overprint was “The B.P.M.A.”. A report will appear next month. **NOTE:** Personal purchases are by credit/debit card only. NO postal applications.

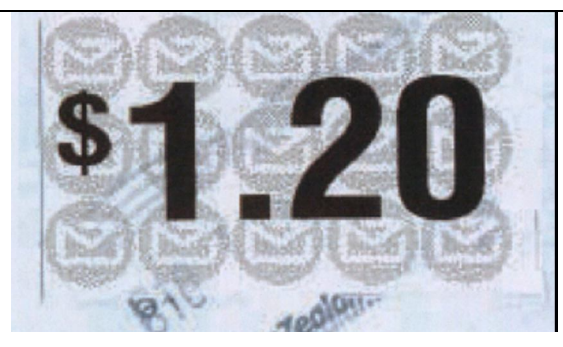
Croydon (009013) Croydon is now equipped with five Wincor-Nixdorf kiosks. According to a member of staff, these were installed around April 2012. Kiosks 1 and 2 are now card payment only. There are notices over the places where the coin and note slots should be. Apparently, the coin mechanisms and note readers have been removed. The reason for the removal is down to cutting costs as coins jam or the kiosks either have too much or no change. The order of the kiosks (from left to right) is 4, 5, 3, 1 and 2.

New Zealand My thanks to Brian Vincent, *NZ Stamp Collector* and the Royal Philatelic Society of NZ for data on some trials into new vending machines in mid to late 2011 and for permission to summarise the original article.

Ten machines (see right) were configured to vend small boxes containing a number of stamps covering various services were trialled in the Auckland area. Six boxes were available containing either 5x60c covering the domestic rate or 5x\$2.40 or 5x\$1.90 or 5x\$1.80 or 10x\$1.20 or 10 Kiwistamps (equivalent to UK standard rate stamps). For more widespread use, these machines would be reconfigured to vend booklets. The machines were trialled between 5 September 2011 and the end of December 2011. Payment was by card.



Of more relevance was a separate trial involving offices at Paraparauma, Paraparauma Beach, Raumati Beach, Raumati South and Waikanae Postshops. In appearance, the kiosk looks similar to the desktop Hytech machines which first appeared at Spring Stampex 2011 (see below). From left to right, the components of the unit are, label printer, receipt printer, terminal, eftpos/card scanner and bar scanner. Payment is by card only. The label produced has a back print of the NZ Post logo and the postage rate.



Credits

T. Norgate, J. Meal, R. Downing, M. McNamara, I. Baker, B. Sinnott, B. Vincent, BPMA, NZ Stamp Collector and the Royal Philatelic Society of NZ, <http://postagelabelsuk.com>, <http://www.itv.com/news/london/2012-11-30/pop-up-post-office/>, <http://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/first-ever-popup-post-office-opens-in-camden-market-for-christmas-8371190.html>, Stamp Magazine website