PVI Primer

For the uninitiated into this overlooked collecting field, Postage Validation Imprints.

These were introduced in 1992 in the San Diego area (April 16th according to John Hotchner) and then at Daytona Beach and Gainesville in Florida in the first week of May. Experimental PVI's began in Flushing, NY in August of 1974 (Ken Lawrence).

I am indebted to Hens A. Wolf for details on country codes and mail class codes sent to European addresses.

There are several different types but most contain the same information.

The figure above shows one type (which I'll designate Type IA) which contains information in three columns. To the left is the USPS emblem and the mail class code*. To the right is the information concerning date, postage paid, originating zip code, originating town and the ID number of the IRT (Integrated Retail Terminal). In the center is the bar code and receiving zip code. At the top is a pink line, this can vary from light pink to deep red. Note that it is not cancelled - the normal situation. Note how the ink has a tendency to fade in these early PVI's.

*The USPS seems somewhat loathe to use the Mail Class code, a code so hidden that postal clerks apparently do not know it, usually going with the defaults of 0000 and 9999. Of the 1,734 pieces in my collection, (last updated November 19th, 2007) the breakdown is as follows (note the EKU's (earliest known usages) and MRU's (most recent usages) are for those in my collection only):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Type IA</th>
<th>Type IB</th>
<th>Type IC</th>
<th>Type II</th>
<th>Type III</th>
<th>Type IV</th>
<th>Type V</th>
<th>Type VI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0000</td>
<td>817</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>123</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EKU</td>
<td>EKU</td>
<td>EKU</td>
<td>EKU</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>08/11/93</td>
<td>09/09/93</td>
<td>11/04/93</td>
<td>12/12/96</td>
<td>10/10/97</td>
<td>03/05/03</td>
<td>08/15/00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MRU</td>
<td>MRU</td>
<td>MRU</td>
<td>MRU</td>
<td>MRU</td>
<td>MRU</td>
<td>MRU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>04/13/06</td>
<td>01/07/04</td>
<td>01/10/05</td>
<td>02/15/07</td>
<td>10/06/07</td>
<td>12/08/06</td>
<td>05/09/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 9128 | Global Express |
| 9129 | Global Express Guaranteed |

<p>| 9130 | 2 |
| 9131 | 1 |
| 9132 | GPM |
|     | Global Express |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9156</td>
<td>Package Surface mail to Europe</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10/16/04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9160</td>
<td>Printed matter airmail to Europe</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12/03/99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9170</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12/03/99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9206</td>
<td>Book rate to South Africa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9240</td>
<td>Flat</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9241</td>
<td>Parcel post</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9242</td>
<td>Parcel post + surcharge</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9243</td>
<td>Printed matter</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9244</td>
<td>Media mail</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9245</td>
<td>Library rate</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>-----</td>
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<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9251</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9252</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9261</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9262</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9263</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Postage**: 22, 25, 507, 72, 11
- **Mailing Date**: 10/26/05, 03/11/03, 05/10/06, 03/25/00, 12/05/05, 07/13/06, 12/05/06, 04/28/06, 09/19/05, 06/20/06, 08/27/05, 08/27/05
- **Address**: EKU
- **MRU**: 02/06/03, 11/15/04, 09/19/05, 01/26/05, 01/26/05, 02/03/05, 02/14/04, 02/03/05
- **Type**: 1st class, Priority mail, Flat
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9264</th>
<th>82</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>02/08/05 EKU</th>
<th>02/22/02 MRU</th>
<th>03/21/06 MRU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>07/29/06 MRU</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9265</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12/30/03 EKU</td>
<td>05/24/02 EKU</td>
<td>03/21/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>04/05/06</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9267</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>02/09/00 EKU</td>
<td>18 EKU</td>
<td>3 EKU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>05/12/05 MRU</td>
<td>06/20/02 MRU</td>
<td>02/25/03 MRU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9268</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11/20/04 EKU</td>
<td>12/02/05 MRU</td>
<td>12/07/05 MRU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11/20/03 MRU</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11/22/05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

pvi labels. Postal Validation Imprints - a primer

http://www.iomoon.com/pvi.html
If anyone has numbers not listed above, please inform me.

Now, I find that the USPS has begun putting a code for countries into the area where the receiving zip is used on the vertically bar coded PVI's.

Again, I have no idea as to why specific numbers have been assigned to certain countries.

So far we have:

**Andorra at 00117**

**Armenia at 00159**

**Australia at 00404 and 00405**

**Austria at 00113**

**Belgium at 00108**

**Bhutan at 00171**

**Bolivia at 00453**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Type IA</th>
<th>Type IB</th>
<th>Type IC</th>
<th>Type II</th>
<th>Type III</th>
<th>Type IV</th>
<th>Type V</th>
<th>Type VI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9269</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fast signature confirmation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9999</td>
<td>85</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EKU 05/05/00</td>
<td>MRU 09/08/05</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1734</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>1134</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

pvi labels. Postal Validation Imprints - a primer

http://www.iomoon.com/pvi.html
Canada at 00290, 00294, 00296 and 00299
Chile at 00457
China at 00418
Denmark at 00105
Egypt at 00206
Eire (at least Dublin) at 00126
Ethiopia at 00231
Finland at 00118
Japan at 00408
Luxemburg at 00109
Madagascar at 00260
Mexico at 00495
Netherlands at 00107
New Zealand at 00401
San Marino at 00114
Surinam at 00448
United Arab Emirates at 00195
United Kingdom at 00122 and 00144
Click [here](http://www.iomoon.com/pvi.html) to see some examples.
OK, the above example I have designated Type IB, with full eagle and two columns.

The above is Type IC, full eagle and bar code along base.
It seems that the same machine was capable of producing types IA and IB at the same time.

The next type has just the head of the Eagle. I will designate this as Type II. Note only two columns.
The next, designated Type III, has a full length bar code and again with the receiving zip underneath it.

The next, designated Type IV shows the information in three columns and additionally has the receiving zip code under the IRT # and a bar code along the base stretching from the "P" of "Postal" to the fifth digit of the receiving zip code.
The most recent example, designated Type V, is similar to Type IV except that the bar code only extends from beneath the "P" of "Postal" to the decimal point of the paid amount.

Type VI - I only have one of these but it has been confirmed by Joe Angelucci, so Bar code extends all the way to the right with a 5-4-2 zip code.
It also seems that the same machine is capable of producing the Types III and V, PVI's.

A strange one, has IRT # and my zip code but nothing else to indicate postage rate or date.
Sometimes the PVI did not escape the cancelling machine.

With valuable items the post office sometimes got carried away.

This was also used to mark correctly paid mail handed in at PO counter.

Used extensively during anthrax crisis.
Sometimes the programmer got carried away and repeated state name.

A programmer with a stutter in both town and state name.
Sometimes it looks like programmer ran out of room for state name.

At other times the programmer engaged in shorthand. Washington I follow. PK = park or peak. Fin. it has been suggested stands for either finance or financial. RI = Rhode Island. The Zip code is actually for Cranston, Rhode Island.
One can also find PVI's for territories, again with a stutter for Puerto Rico.

An uncommon PVI - that of the Army Post Office
An oddball, two PVI's with different mail class codes.

An even rarer one, an overseas PO, this time from Yokosuka, Japan

Thanks to Steve.
And, saving the best for last, only one of four I've seen in well over a thousand PVI's, an inverted PVI.

Thanks to "nomad".

Many thanks to the people who have supplied PVI's for this primer, especially Marty, Terry, Jim, Burton and Ed.