

## From PVI to TOSHIBA-labels (2014)

Hens A. Wolf

Since April 1992 the PVI-printers from the MOS Company are in operation in the United States. PVI stands for Postage Validation Imprinter. They are also known as ‘the workhorse of the US Postal Service’. More than 80,000 have been deployed over the years. The labels had round corners, a pink phosphor band on top, they were self adhesive and they came on rolls of liner paper (*picture #9*). The logo of the American Eagle was on the left hand side of the PVI.



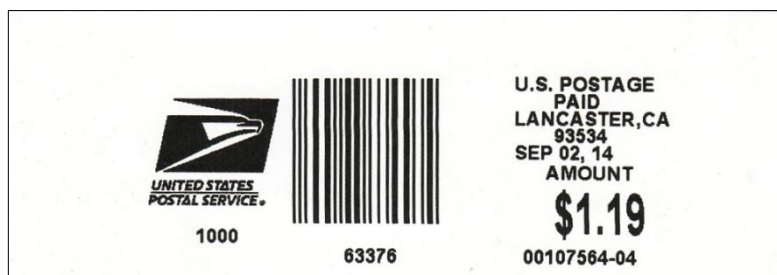
*Picture #9: PVI from 1992*

In 1999 I was in Grand Canyon National Park and I discovered a little post office on the South Rim. I bought a \$0.33 PVI, the rate for a domestic letter at that time (*picture #10*). On the PVI's the new logo of the US Postal Service was printed, an Eagle Head.



*Picture #10: PVI from 1999*

In the fall of 2014 an acquaintance sent me an envelope with a totally new label. The text and print resembled the old PVI's, but the label was much wider and totally white (*picture #11*).



*Picture #11: PVI from 2014*

It turned out that the new machines were manufactured by Toshiba. Since 2014 they gradually replace the old MOS-printers. The new labels do not have a phosphor band, they are rectangular and they are self adhesive without liner paper. In August 2015 I was at the Grand Canyon again and I asked the clerk for a label on a post card to The Netherlands (*picture #12*).



*Picture #12: PVI from 2015*

I also asked for a test print. The only test that came out of the machine was a totally blank label (*picture #13*).



*Picture #13: blank test label*

It turned out there were differences in the prints on the labels.

*TYPE 1 (picture #11)*

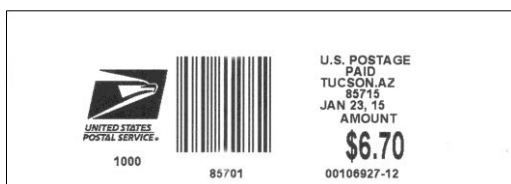


Value \$1.19 is **11 mm** wide;  
**Large** USPS-logo 21 mm diagonal  
 Comma **without space** (LANCASTER,CA)  
 Also: **dot** without space (TUCSON.AZ) (*pict #14*)

*TYPE 2 (picture #12)*



Value \$1.20 is **18 mm** wide  
**Small** USPS-logo 16 mm diagonal  
 Comma **with space** (GRAND CANYON, AZ)



*Picture #14: TUCSON.AZ with dot*

Later it turned out that red end markings appear on the labels to indicate to the clerk that the roll is almost at the end (*picture #15*). Red end markings never appeared on the old PVI-labels.



*Picture #15: red end marking*

For destinations within the USA the machine prints a separate track&trace label on the same paper (*picture #16*). The numbers underneath the bar code have no relation to the codes on the PVI-label.



*Picture #16: track&trace*

For packages the old machines used to print the same labels as for letters, so the labels in *pictures #9 and #10*. In some cases clerks put a hand stamp PARCEL POST on the label or a hand written text 'Parcel Post' (*picture #17*).



*Picture #17: PARCEL POST*

This changed with the arrival of the Toshiba machines. They could print large format labels for packages (*picture #18*). In that case the track&trace code is part of the package label. The size and text of these package labels are similar to the package labels from the self service automats, such as in *picture #8*.



*Picture #18: package label*