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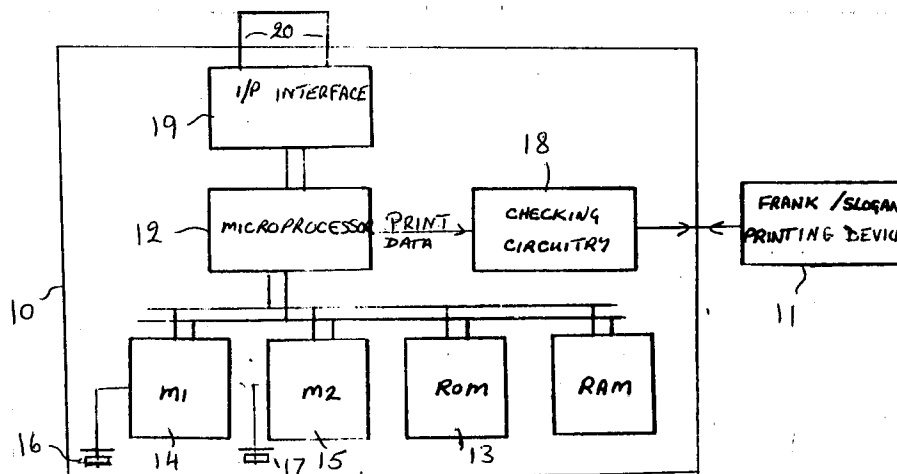
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(54) **Franking machine.**

(57) A franking machine is disclosed for franking items in respect of a number of different services. The franking machine is provided with non-volatile memories (14, 15) in which there are a separate set of registers for each service to store accounting data relating to the corresponding service. When a service is selected a printer (11) is controlled to print a

franking impression corresponding to the selected service and the accounting data for the selected service is updated in the corresponding set of registers. Account data may be read from the registers and used to generate a validation code and both the data and code are printed in a report.

FIGURE 1





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 91 31 1899

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
X	GB-A-2 188 880 (PITNEY BOWES) * page 2, line 40 - page 4, line 91; figures *	6	G07B17/02
Y	---	1-3,5	
Y	EP-A-0 376 488 (PITNEY BOWES) * page 3, line 33 - page 5, line 3; figures *	1-3,5	
A	---	6	
A	EP-A-0 400 917 (ALCATEL BUSINESS SYSTEMS) * page 2, column 2, line 16 - page 4, column 6, line 38; figures *	1-3,5,6	
A	EP-A-0 333 043 (ALCATEL SATMAM) * abstract; figures *	1,6	

			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			G07B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 01 JUNE 1992	Examiner RAKOTON DRAJAOA C.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			