Thornton Ads on a Faber Box!

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It is known that A.G. Thornton, the Manchester drawing supplies company, sold A.W. Faber and other slide rules in the late 1800's before they began marketing their own their own brand around the turn of the century; a 1895 Thornton catalogue lists "Faber's Calculating Slide Rule" for sale as it's featured slide rule, whereas a 1901 Thornton price list contains Thornton's own rules.



What may be less well known is that some A.W. Faber slide rule boxes from this period carried A.G. Thornton advertising. Faber boxes were carrying their own advertising on the back around the turn of the century, but it appears that Faber also had an agreement with Thornton to carry Thornton advertising, presumably only on boxed Faber slide rules supplied exclusively to Thornton. The evidence is this Faber box containing an early Faber model 360 (available in the UK from 1895), on the back is AG Thornton advertising including the address "109 Deansgate, Manchester" which Thornton vacated in 1897.

The arrangement must have been relatively short lived, lasting only a few years while Thornton sold Faber slide rules, making this box a rare and interesting find. Please get in touch if anyone has any more information or examples.

Larger pictures of the slide rule and box can be found here: <u>http://www.countbelmiro.com/slides/faber/(360)/(360).html</u>.