

The Editor,
Railnews.

Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp

Herman Perk looked extremely proud when holding his absurdly expensive hand lamp of £8000. at Birmingham New Street Station (as reported in March 03 issue of Rail News). I looked quite hard at the accompanying photograph to see if this valuable lamp may have been attached to his wrist by a chain for security purposes but could see nothing. The lamp will be a great boon, as it will dispel much of the perpetual gloom at this station. I am glad that during my railway career I was never called upon to be guardian of such a costly item.

May I suggest to Herman that he delays his annual leave until the autumn, then, obtains special dispensation to take his much prized lamp to the illuminations at Blackpool. He would certainly be the talk of the town and a sensation on the Golden Mile. I hate to think what the tram drivers will get up to when the lamp is flashed.

During his absence from New Street, staff in their eerie darkness will be feeling their Braille calendars crossing the days off awaiting his safe return. When finally the day arrives he will step from a first class coach onto the red carpet to applause, flashing cameras, shouts and calls, "Herman is back with his lamp".

Peter Chater,

A letter in reply to an item printed in the Railnews. The figure of £8000 was probably an error.