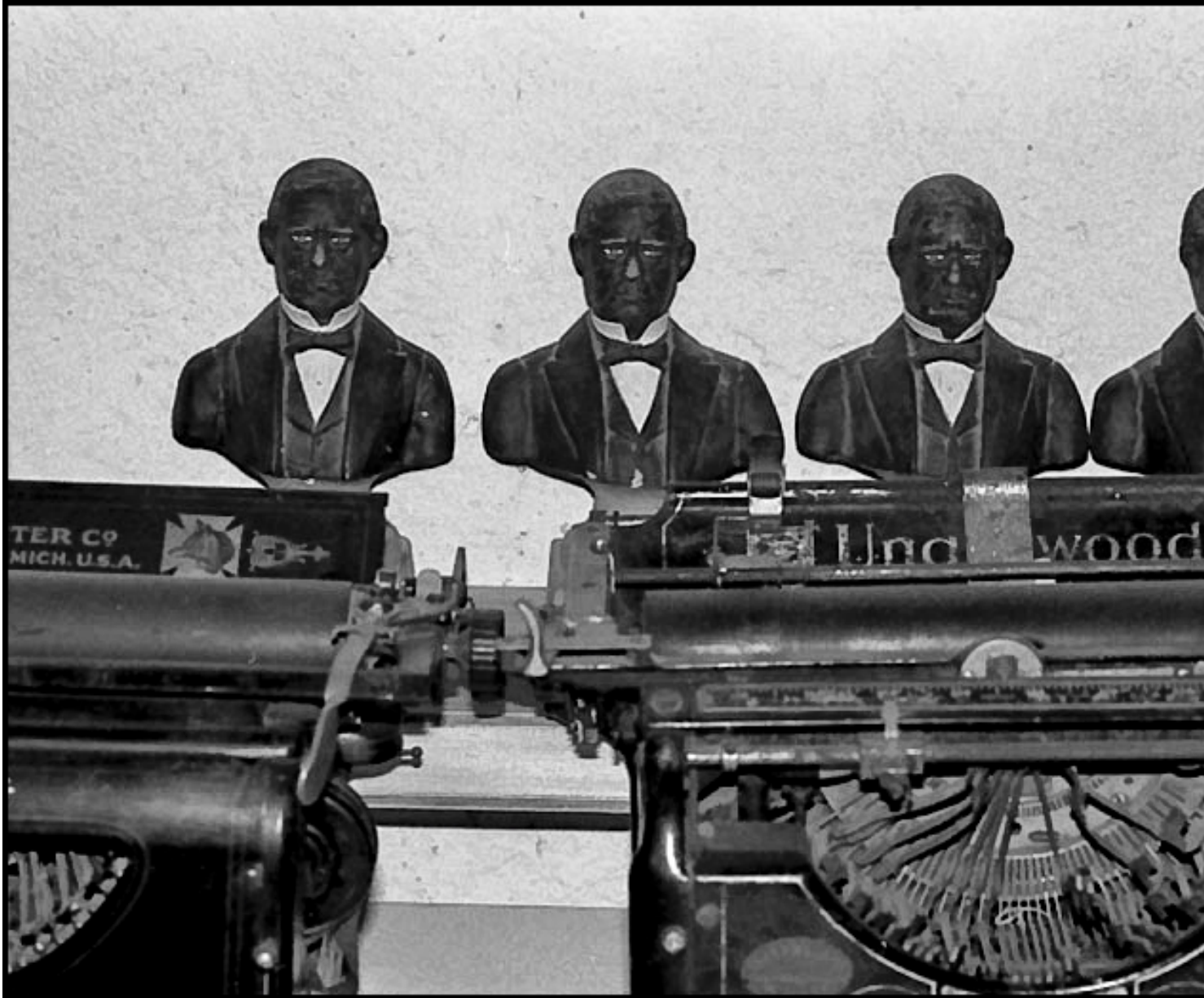


## Most people never had...

Written by Pedro Meyer

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Nowadays, when we discuss about new technologies, and I hear that they are not available to

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everyone, I wonder when was that, if ever, the case?

Certainly those Underwood typewriters which today look to us as having such a romantic aura to them, were never something that was available to the masses.

To begin with, you needed some basic skills to use them, first would be the knowledge of the language you are writing in, and then the other is that you need to know how to type. Not everyone has those skills. That has not changed today with new technologies either, regardless if you are using a computer or an Underwood typewriter there are certain abilities you require in order to make it work for you.

What we had in Mexico in the fifties, for those that needed to write love letters and did not know how to write them, or those in need of filling out forms and who did not have a typewriter, was for someone to help. A scribe sitting on the street at a minuscule table together with his typewriter and open for business was the solution. Some fifty years later, the only thing that changed is the type of typewriter being used. Today they are using IBM electric typewriters, but still no computers with word processors.

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