



HELSINKI TELEPHONE MUSEUM Elisa
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April 2007

VINTAGE DESK TELEPHONES

MANUFACTURER L.M. ERICSSON (LME), SWEDEN



AC 110, "SKELETAL", MODEL YEAR 1892

The telephone is the first LME model with a normal handset. This is one of the real classics of telephony, popularly known as the "Skeletal" or "Eiffel Tower" phone. It was manufactured in the period 1892 - 1929. It was used almost all over the world and nearly a million of it was made. Its popularity was a result of the fact that there were many factories that made imitations. Probably the beautiful design of the set is the reason why it is a very attractive collector's item today.



AC 210, THE "COFFEE MILL",
MODEL YEAR 1893

This is another LME success story. It is called "Coffee Mill", because it resembles an old and common Peugeot coffee mill. LME manufactured it during two decades in quantity, but it is today one of the most valuable telephones.



BC 2050, MODEL YEAR 1896

The telephone was designed for offices, hotels etc. It has a special “Hygienic easy-to-clean germ resistant handset”. At the turn of the last century people were very afraid of all kinds of epidemics common at that time. The usual trumpet mouthpiece easily collected germs. People used to have a removable mouthpiece of their own. This Hygiene handset was popular in places where many people used the same phone.



BC 2000, MODEL YEAR 1896

The telephone is a simultaneous model to the one above. The only purpose of piece in the middle was to make the telephone look more striking.



CG 1110, THE "SPIDER", MODEL YEAR 1903

This decorative telephone is called the "Spider". The wall box included all other components of the phone but the handset. The oldest "Spiders", model CG 1100, had a wooden box. The Spider is rare, and specially the model with a wooden box is very valuable.



AC 300, MODEL YEAR 1902

The phone is LME's first advanced encapsulated model. The dial has been added later, when the exchanges became automatic but you still wanted to use the same old phone.



AC 400, MODEL YEAR 1905

The phone differs very little from the earlier version, mainly because the decorations are more modest.

AC 400 TWO LINES TELEPHONE, MODEL YEAR 1905

This is the same telephone model as the previous one, but two lines can be connected to it. The line can be chosen by using the switch on the front panel. The round indicator in the middle of the phone tells you if the chosen line is busy.



CL 500, TWO LINES TELEPHONE,
MODEL YEAR 1909



CL 500 is LME's first phone where the framework is entirely made of black enameled steel. This reduced the manufacturing costs and at the same time gave the phone a streamlined and elegant appearance.



CG 3001, MODEL YEAR CA. 1911

This model was called "Manager Telephone" and it was used as an extension phone in offices. It cannot be said to be very attractive, but it has certainly been very cheap.

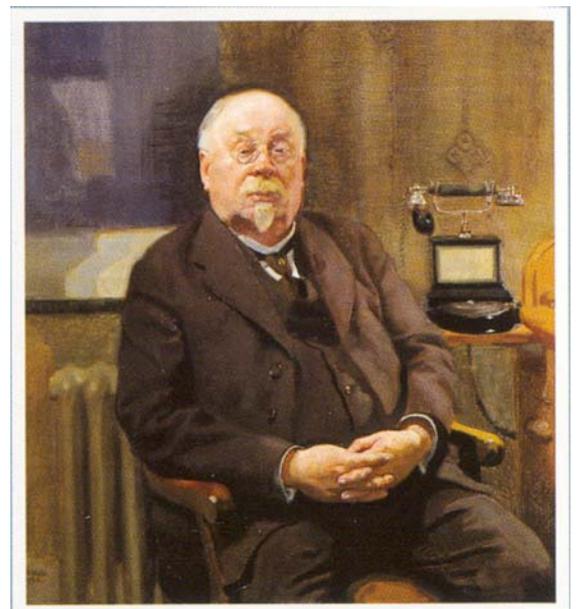


HA 150/10. 10 LINE
INTERCOM PHONE,
MODEL YEAR 1898

LME manufactured many intercom models, this one being the oldest and most beautiful one. Therefore, it is sought after as a decoration item. Another phone inside the house can be reached with the rotating switch at the base of the phone. The model was delivered also as a 15 line model.

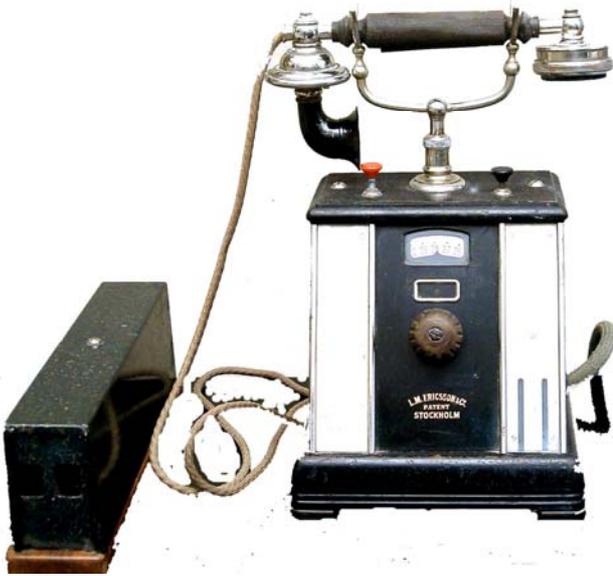
30 LINE INTERCOM PHONE, MODEL YEAR 1905

This telephone is of special interest because a similar device can be seen in the portrait of Fredrik Rosberg, painted by Antti Favén. Rosberg was Managing Director of the Helsinki Telephone Company (former name of Elisa) from 1898 to 1924 after Dan. Joh. Wadén. He worked in Wadén's company since 1878 and was one of the most important pioneers in the Finnish telephony industry. It is typical of him that he wanted a telephone to have a prominent place in his portrait..



50 LINE INTERCOM PHONE, MODEL YEAR 1910

This intercom was intended for use in a large company. A large number of lines requires a very substantial cable network. Of the 50 lines, eight can be outgoing lines and the rest internal lines.



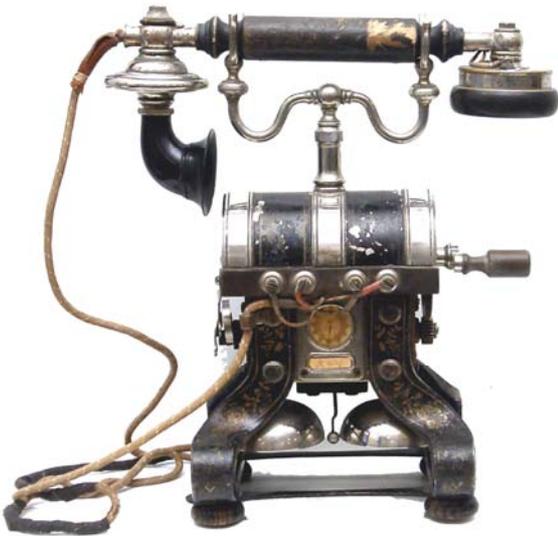
MANUFACTURER TELEGRAFVERKETS VERKSTAD, SWEDEN

AB 112, MODEL YEAR 1894

The state-owned Swedish telephone operator Telegrafverket had a telephone factory of its own. It began to manufacture this telephone in 1894 because the demand for telephones was very heavy. The telephone was designed by G. Clason, who was an architect, and it is probably one of the first industrial products in Sweden which had a professional designer. The design was also ahead of its time, because LME's first encapsulated model did not appear until in 1902. To begin with the telephones had similar painted decorations as you can see in the museum phone, but later in the early 1900's they were left out.



MANUFACTURER AB TELEFONFABRIKEN (ABT), SWEDEN



10, "TUNNAN (DRUM)".
MODEL YEAR 1896

In the mid-1890's Stockholms Allmänna Telefonaktiebolag (ABT) was of the opinion that LME could not deliver telephones as fast as it wanted, so the company set up a factory of its own. It began to manufacture phones which were as good as full copies of LME's products. The drumlike plate cover was almost the only difference between "Tunnan" and LME's "Skeletal". The story of ABT was short, LME buying it up in 1902.



12, MODEL YEAR 1896,
MODERNISED

Soon ABT began to produce this model which was so identical to LME's "Skeletal" that it is difficult to distinguish them from one another. The telephone in the museum was modernised at the workshop of the Helsinki Telephone Company. It was provided with a dial and a modern transmission circuit. The telephone company had in its former head office (Korkeavuorenkatu 35) a directors' dining room which was named after Dan. Joh. Wadén, and this elegant telephone went well with the furniture from the early 1900's.

MANUFACTURER SIEMENS & HALSKE, GERMANY

WHISTLE CALLING TELEPHONE, MADE IN 1878

Siemens copied the model from the first commercial Bell telephone called “Butterstamp” (from the tool used to stamp butter in dairies). Bell had patented his phone in 1876, but only in the USA, not in Europe. The telephone could be used on a fixed line between two points only. To begin with, the telephone had no signalling system. You tapped the membrane of your phone with a pen and hoped that at the other end of the line somebody heard it. It also was possible to use an external bell, but it needed a line of its own and a battery. Siemens equipped its telephone with a separate whistle which normally was stuck in the speech/hearing hole of the phone. When you wanted to speak with the other end you blew the whistle. The other end heard the whistle and began to listen by putting the hole to the ear. For speaking the hole was put in front of the mouth and so on. This first telephone was in general very simple technically. Inside there was only a metallic membrane, a magnet and around it a coil. The whistle was usually made of Arabic gum. The phone in the museum has a wooden whistle, which makes it very rare.



MANUFACTURER OMK SÄHKÖPAJA, FINLAND

**DESK TELEPHONE,
MADE IN 1890-95**



The telephone looks as if it were the upper part of Wadén's wall telephone from 1890.

Traditionally it has been said that the manufacturer was OMK Sähköpaja, an unknown small workshop in Helsinki. Perhaps it really is a tailormade special model. As far as it is known, it is the only one ever made.

MANUFACTURER DAN. JOH. WADÉNS ELEKTRISKA AFFÄR, FINLAND

**DESK TELEPHONE,
MADE IN 1890**



This is also a unique telephone, the only desk telephone model Wadén ever made. We believe that this is actually the device which he had on his desk during his time as Managing Director of the Helsinki Telephone Company in 1882–98.

MANUFACTURER KRISTIAN KIRKS TELEFONFABRIKKER, DENMARK

ALTERNATOR TELEPHONE, MODEL YEAR 1927



The design dates back to the usual Kirk desk telephone from 1909, but the electronic circuit and operation are different. This set has been used in Aalborg, Denmark. It is a part of a system using so-called alternator ringing. The alternator ringing system was mainly used by larger companies with many extension telephones connected to a switchboard. When the red button is pushed the alternator sends out the

alternating ringing current that you normally had to generate yourself by turning the crank. This type of telephone was never widely used. It was manufactured in Horsens by Kristian Kirks Telefonfabrikker and was still in use at the beginning of the 1970's.

MANUFACTURER ELEKTRISK BUREAU, NORWAY

DESK TELEPHONE, MODEL YEAR 1893



The whole telephone is of cast metal and is particularly decorative. The dealer in Finland was Dan. Joh. Wadén. He seems to have ordered so many of them that the telephones were equipped on their backside with the elegant text "AGENT: DAN. JOH. WADEN, HELSINGFORS". However, only a few of them have survived here in mint condition, and even in Norway it is rare. Specimens like the one in the museum in perfect condition are sought-after collector's items.