

1



**1903 - Automatic Electric Co. earliest known Strowger desk set with "Sunburst" dial**

Extremely rare, this is considered one of the first desk telephones manufactured by Automatic Electric Company. In 1903 the Strowger dial was redesigned to conform to a desk instrument. The finger wheel was designed with the sun's rays emanating from the center of the dial and that's where it got the name "sunburst" dial. The forked spear hook has rounded bulbous ends, not seen on the earlier wall instruments. The transmitter face plate and cup are of the earlier small diameter, plain, without markings. This 1903 telephone is taller, has a smaller domed base without a button, a skinny perch and outside wire leading to the transmitter. The scans are from an original ad and article between 1902 and 1904. The back plate is a reproduction but an exact match and the rest of the phone is original, including the baseplate and the wires and coil under the base.

2



**1898 – Wilhelm Telephone Manufacturing Co. – cast base, pencil shaft**

This is a beautiful Wilhelm automatic intercommunicating portable desk set with a round cast metal base equipped for 10 station calling. It was suitable for offices, banks and other places where the surroundings demanded an elaborate instrument. The Wilhelm double diaphragm transmitter was distinctive and quite unique. 'Solid' outside

terminal receiver. Great original celluloid tag on the front of base. Wilhelms are some of the most beautiful and desirable candlesticks around. The scan is from an original Wilhelm sales brochure showing the fluted shaft version of this cast base telephone.

3



### **Clark Automatic Telephone Switchboard Company – 1902**

Very rare Clark Automatic No. 7 goose neck table top desk set with 74 station Clark Automatic dial. Marked transmitter with heavy round base. Callers would turn the dial wheel to the extension they wanted to reach, then lift the receiver and push the button on the side of the phone to buzz the party on the other extension. Please see the wonderful ad for this telephone in the June 1902 **Electrical World and Engineering** magazine.

4



### **Public Telephone Co., Shaver Style G – Dolphin**

Most Shaver Style G Dolphin Base Desk Instruments were wired for 2 or more connections, up to 50, and adapted for general inter-communication between connected stations using a push button buzzer call. However, this model had no other extensions tied to it, therefore it had no buzzer on the back. The scan is from an original image of the 1899 Public Telephone Company catalog listing the Shaver Style

G Desk Instrument for \$10.00. Extremely rare telephone and one of the most beautiful and unusual designs of all. The watchcase receiver hangs on a hook in back.

5



**Public Telephone Co., Shaver with Acme transmitter**

Extremely rare Shaver 10 button desk instrument. The Shaver "Dolphin" model was just a year or two earlier than this desk set. Please see the scan from the original patent application (granted in 1899) showing the design of this model. This particular telephone has an "Acme" transmitter, forked switch hook and "Solid" receiver. The body of this desk set is black wood with nickel plated numbers on the face. Never have seen another with the black wood face.

6



**Garl Electric Company – 1900 desk set**

The very best thing about this unusual telephone (besides the fact that it is in remarkable condition) is the original advertisement that shows this exact telephone. It isn't likely that anyone today would remember or have any idea that this telephone existed, but if you will look at the ad first, you will see just how special and how rare this telephone is.

It is a Garl Electric Company 6 point intercommunicating desk set. This system accommodates connections between any two telephones and any numbers of pairs of telephones on the same system and allows them to converse simultaneously without interference. The transmitter is a granular carbon solid back, and the receiver is a unique double pole outside terminal receiver. All contacts and springs are made of German silver. Please see the scan of an original ad for this exact telephone from a publication back in 1900. Original coil and wires are in the base, everything is there except the inside of the transmitter is empty. You would never know it without opening it up.

7



#### **Interior Telephone Co., Colvin System desk set – 1894**

This very rare Colvin wooden potbelly was one of the earliest upright desk stands. The Interior Telephone Company manufactured and sold the only non-infringing carbon transmitter available to the public. The transmitter used no induction coil and employed no carbon button. Because this telephone was introduced just as Bell's original telephone patents were expiring, it was designed carefully "to avoid infringing existing patents". Please see the Colvin telephone pictured in the original sales catalog from the late 1890s.

8



### **Sterling Electric Co. fluted shaft desk set – 1902**

Very rare Sterling fluted shaft with a beveled transmitter and marked back cup. Please see the scan from an original December, 1902 advertisement in **Western Electrician** magazine that includes this Sterling fluted shaft. The ad offers a definition from the Webster dictionary of "Sterling" - Genuine; pure; of excellent quality. It goes on to say that when you buy Silverware, you look for the "Sterling" mark. Sterling candlesticks had a very distinctive hooked transmitter mount behind the transmitter. There is also a second scan from an ad in the **American Telephone Journal** from 1904.

9



### **Whitman & Couch Mfg's – 1897 potbelly**

Very rare Whitman & Couch potbelly with marked transmitter, steerhorn switch hook and correct Couch outside terminal long pole receiver (discolored but no damage). This is another variation in the Couch & Seeley, Whitman & Couch collection. This candlestick has been renickled and has a reproduction baseplate underneath but overall a very rare telephone. Please see the scan of an original article about this telephone in the October 23rd, 1897 issue of **The Electrical World** magazine, showing this portable desk set.

10



**Sterling Electric Co. - 1905 fat shaft, Sterling marked receiver**

Extremely rare Sterling Electric fat shaft with marked transmitter back cup. This candlestick is taller than most and it has the unique curved hook transmitter mount that is unique to Sterling. It also has a marked, Sterling receiver. The company was founded in 1898 in Chicago but moved to LaFayette, Indiana in 1899. You will occasionally see a Sterling fluted shaft candlestick (which looks almost exactly the same except for the fluted shaft) but you may never come across another Sterling fat shaft candlestick.

11



**Sumter Telephone Mfg. Co. rope shaft desk set**

This is a beautiful No.19 rope shaft desk stand from Sumter Telephone Mfg. Co. The rope shaft and transmitter are nickel plated and the base is black enameled. It has a marked Sumter receiver. Please see the scan of an original Sumter sales catalog where they make the promise, "We guarantee this Desk Stand to be superior in details of construction and efficiency to any other on the market". Extremely rare candlestick. (Should have a different receiver on it now)

12



**Rawson Electric Co. potbelly with fluted shaft – 1899 (Holtzer-Cabot)**

It was not uncommon for telephone manufacturers to partner and allow private labeling on their telephones. With its fluted shaft, wooden potbelly and base, this desk set was made by the Holtzer-Cabot Telephone Company for the Rawson Electric Company. There is a metal tag on the base, marked transmitter and correct Holtzer-Cabot outside terminal receiver. There are a few Rawson Electric Company wood wall phones out there but I've never seen another Rawson candlestick. Extremely rare telephone.

13



**Century Telephone with straight shaft (forked hook)**

Extremely rare early version Century desk set. Included with these photos is a scan of an original ad for this telephone in the 1900 issue of **Telephone Magazine**. The ad says, "We guarantee in this desk set a more efficient, more symmetrical and better formed instrument than any other on the market. Each instrument is fitted with New Century Long-Distance Transmitter, Double Pole Receiver, and is furnished with or without Magneto." There is also a scan of an original article from a November 10, 1900 issue of "Electrical World & Engineer" magazine entitled, "New 'Century' Desk Telephone Set". This candlestick has a marked transmitter and a marked Century receiver. Extremely rare telephone.



14



**Couch & Seeley Co. potbelly and receiver -1899**

Beautiful, rare Couch & Seeley potbelly with a marked transmitter and marked outside terminal long pole receiver. Please see the original ad from an 1899 **Telephone Magazine** and a letterhead from a bill sent in September, 1900, both of which show this candlestick. Outstanding original condition.

15



**American Electric Telephone Co. - 1900 fluted shaft**

Very rare American Electric fluted shaft desk set on a heavy cast base. Marked transmitter, marked base and a rare early version marked American Electric Company outside terminal receiver. See also the scan of an original 1900 American Electric sales catalog picture to see this telephone model. Complete telephone, including the unusual, original red composition baseplate.



16



**American Electric Telephone Co. - 1899 potbelly**

Rare American Electric model No. 41 potbelly desk set with marked transmitter, marked again on the neck of the potbelly shaft. Shield cutout in the switch hook. This candlestick is in mint original condition, including the red rubber base plate. Correct early American Electric marked outside terminal receiver. Please see the ad from an original January, 1902 issue of **Electrical World and Engineer** magazine (bottom left ad) to see this telephone promoted back in 1902. And also a scan from an original 1901 full page ad from American Electric promoting this potbelly.

17



**American Electric Telephone Co. – 1899 pencil shaft with Burns long pole**

This is a very early American Electric pencil shaft candlestick with a forked switch hook and a marked "Burns" long pole receiver. This marked transmitter says "patented April 25th, 1899". It is also marked on the base. The cast base is sitting on a wooden baseplate. Please also see the picture from an article published in 1898 that shows this telephone. Extremely rare pencil shaft telephone.

18



**PH&R (Plummer, Ham & Richardson) 1899 potbelly desk set**

Beautiful P.H.&R. (Plummer, Ham and Richardson) potbelly with marked transmitter and unique lettering along the rim of the potbelly. Single button in the base, unusual switch hook (unique to P.H.& R.) and an Ericsson outside terminal receiver. Much of the nickel plating has worn off so there is a lot of brass showing, but outstanding, original condition. No baseplate but the terminal strip is intact under the base. Extremely rare telephone.

19



**The Connecticut Telephone and Electric Co. – 1900 pencil shaft desk set**

Beautiful Connecticut pencil shaft on decorative rusted iron base. This was a popular base during that period and once the nickel plating had worn off, it got rusty. Several manufacturers used it. Small simple design with a watch case receiver. Extremely rare.

20



**Sumter Telephone Mfg. Co. "Imperial" rope shaft desk set**

Holtzer-Cabot manufactured telephone parts for a lot of different telephone producers. One of Holtzer-Cabot's very first uprights was a giant rope shaft. The Sumter Telephone Manufacturing Company acquired that very same rope shaft to use for their early "Imperial" transmitter. This is the result and it is a magnificent, completely original and very rare telephone. It even uses the Holtzer-Cabot outside terminal receiver sitting on a Holtzer-Cabot switch hook. The Sumter transmitter is unusual and one of its earliest.

21



**The Connecticut Telephone and Electric Co. – 1899 potbelly**

This is a Connecticut Type "C" potbelly desk telephone with a single button in the base. The nickel is not in the best of shape but overall this candlestick is in outstanding original condition for its age. It uses a Holtzer-Cabot outside terminal receiver which was common on early Connecticut telephones. Please see the scan from an original ad in the 1899 issue of **Telephone Magazine**. Almost identical to this telephone. Very rare potbelly.

22



**The Connecticut Telephone and Electric Co. -1899 potbelly**

Beautifully re-nickled, this heavy Connecticut potbelly is a great candlestick telephone for display. Holtzer-Cabot outside terminal receiver which Connecticut put on many of their telephones. Excellent original telephone.

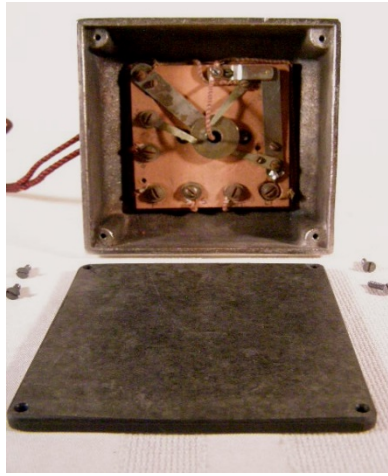
23



**Eastern Telephone Mfg. Co. – 1903 tapered shaft desk set**

Very rare Eastern Telephone Manufacturing Co. tapered shaft desk stand. Smooth rounded edge on base and unique style at the top of the tapered shaft. Marked Eastern receiver. The scan is from an original Eastern ad in 1904 edition of **American Telephone Journal**.

24



**Manhattan Electrical Supply Co., Inc. – 1898 rope shaft**

Beautiful Manhattan rope shaft with forked switch hook and outside terminal long pole receiver. It has the small Manhattan seal on the front of the transmitter and a single button in the base. Extremely rare and a beautiful telephone for display. Looks like it was re-nickled long ago, all of the original parts are there, including the baseplate, terminal strip and wires underneath.

25



**Manhattan Electrical Supply Co., Inc. – 1899 tapered shaft**

Extremely rare Manhattan tapered shaft desk set with marked transmitter. Manhattan Electric Supply Company manufactured quite a few upright desk set designs and a few, like the tapered shaft, are very scarce. Outside terminal long pole receiver. Scan is from an original Manhattan Electrical Supply Co. catalog showing this exact telephone. Outstanding original telephone, extremely rare.

26



**Manhattan Electrical Supply Co., Inc. - 1902 extremely rare straight shaft**

Unusual and very rare Manhattan straight shaft with marked transmitter, single button in a base that has a round ridge all the way around. Forked switch hook with great unusual outside terminal receiver. Never seen another, this is a very rare telephone.

27



**The Holtzer-Cabot Electric Co. -1899 Ness Automatic Desk Set (early)**

Extremely rare and very early version Ness Automatic Telephone System manufactured by The Holtzer-Cabot Electric Co. 15 button intercom with fluted shaft and wooden potbelly. Early marked transmitter and early version receiver. Tag on base lists only Brookline, Mass while most others show the addition of New York and Chicago on the tag. Beautiful deep red wood grain makes this a special Ness potbelly. Please see the original ad from a 1902 **Electrical World and Engineering** magazine, showing this Ness Automatic telephone. You may have seen a Ness Automatic Desk Set before, but I have not seen another of this earliest version.

28



**The Holtzer-Cabot Electric Co. - 1910 8-button theater desk set**

This extremely rare Holtzer-Cabot 8 button desk stand came from a New York area theater. On the base are extensions for "stage", "orchestra", "manager's office", "booth" etc. The attachment on the shaft is a pencil holder. The back cup of the transmitter is marked and it has a Holtzer-Cabot outside terminal receiver. A wonderful, original telephone from about 1910.

29



**Augusta (Illinois) Electric Co. - 1898 fat tapered shaft**

In the year 2000 census, the town of Augusta, Illinois had 657 residents. Back on September 18, 1858, soon to be President Abraham Lincoln visited Augusta and gave a speech. In 1864, another soon to be President, James Garfield stopped in Augusta and gave a speech on behalf of Lincoln. And by the year 1900, this beautiful telephone was introduced with a transmitter from the Augusta Electric Company, Augusta, Illinois. Most likely the telephone itself was manufactured by the Williams Telephone Company, who made this model of the fat tapered shaft and The Augusta Electric Company added their transmitter. Williams made this telephone for B-R Electric Company as well. Fantastic and very rare telephone.



30



**L.M. Ericsson & Co. - 1896 potbelly desk set**

Fantastic, early L.M. Ericsson potbelly desk set with a marked transmitter, metal mouthpiece, unique forked switch hook and a marked L.M. Ericsson outside terminal receiver. Outstanding original telephone.

31



**Phoenix Interior Telephone Co. pencil shaft desk set**

Wonderful Phoenix Interior Telephone Company No. 7 (pencil shaft) desk stand. This model includes the Sutton patented microphone and is Phoenix's claim to fame. The catalog says, "When you have a Sutton Patented Granular Carbon Transmitter, you have the 'Standard of Merit'. Guaranteed to give satisfaction in every case or money refunded. Sensitive and powerful for long or short distances; will not pack or change its adjustment." This candlestick has a marked transmitter (trademark logo), steerhorn switch hook with an outside terminal long pole receiver. The scans are from an original Phoenix advertisement and an actual Phoenix catalog. The catalog image shows a "rope shaft" (left side of page) that is very similar to this straight shaft candlestick.

32



**Mianus Electric Co. - 1898 rope shaft with empty base**

Extremely rare Mianus rope shaft desk top telephone with watch case receiver. The switch hook assembly may not have come from the factory on this particular desk stand and all of the nickel plating has worn off. This telephone has nothing in the base, but the base and telephone itself are completely original. Please see the scan of an original 1898 Mianus catalog showing this telephone model.

33



**Stromberg Carlson Telephone Mfg. Co. -1896 flip top desk set**

Stromberg-Carlson "flip top" desk stand with unique transmitter and switch hook that, when the receiver was removed, would flip down for the caller to speak into. It's been said that this Stromberg-Carlson design was created to get around Bell's switch hook patent that was set to expire in 1894. Outstanding original and very rare upright telephone.

34



**Stromberg Carlson Telephone Mfg. Co. -1897 roman column desk set**

This is one of the most copied and reproduced candlesticks ever made. The Stromberg-Carlson "roman column" desk set with a beautiful fluted shaft, marked transmitter and black heavy cast base. Steerhorn switch hook and marked Stromberg-Carlson receiver. Please see the scan of a print ad promoting this telephone in an original 1898 **The Electrical World** magazine. Also three other original articles from 1898-1899 that show the Roman Column sitting on a desk. Outstanding original condition (no base plate).

35



**Stromberg Carlson Telephone Mfg. Co -1902 ball mount tapered shaft**

This is not the rarest candlestick but it is beautiful none-the-less. Stromberg-Carlson tapered shaft "oil can" desk set with marked transmitter. This model has the ball mount right behind the transmitter. Stromberg-Carlson marked receiver. The scan is from an original 1904 ad in **The American Telephone Journal** showing this tapered shaft, "oil can" model.

36



**Stromberg Carlson Telephone Mfg. Co. tapered shaft, no ball mount**

Stromberg Carlson tapered shaft "oil can" desk set with a rare raised letter transmitter mounted on a standard perch, not the more common ball mount. Marked Stromberg Carlson receiver. Excellent condition.

37



**Stromberg Carlson "Kansas City" straight shaft with raised letters**

Rare Stromberg Carlson straight shaft desk stand with beautiful marked transmitter (front and back). This was called the Kansas City model because early print ads for this phone were set in Kansas City. Marked Stromberg Carlson receiver. Excellent original condition.

38



**Automatic Electric Strowger with black base, small (early) transmitter**

This is a rare Strowger potbelly 11 digit dial desk set, but this one has the smaller, early style transmitter and forked spear hook with rounded bulbous ends and a ring button in the base. This button took the place of the previously required magneto generator. The base is unusual because it is painted black rather than the more common nickel plated base. Outstanding original condition including original baseplate and everything inside the base.

39



Williams Abbott Electric Co. -1899 potbelly (need new picture)

Very rare Williams-Abbott potbelly in excellent original condition. Marked transmitter and marked "milk bottle" outside terminal receiver. Williams-Abbott was established in 1895 by Joseph Williams in Cleveland, Ohio and sold to the Federal Telephone & Telegraph Company in 1907. Outstanding, very rare telephone.

40



**Williams-Abbott Electric Co. -1898 fat tapered shaft**

This is a really nice, completely original Williams-Abbott fat tapered shaft desk set.

Marked transmitter and marked "milk bottle" outside terminal receiver. The Williams-Abbott Company was established in Cleveland in 1895 but was sold in 1907 to the Federal Telephone & Telegraph Company. The scan is from an original advertisement in the July, 1903 issue of **Telephony** magazine, showing this exact fat tapered shaft. The faceplate has been brassed out but the telephone is otherwise in outstanding original condition.

41



**Williams-Abbott Electric Co. -1904 oil can with milk bottle OST receiver**

Beautiful Williams-Abbott straight shaft "oil can" desk stand with marked transmitter and marked, Williams "milk bottle" outside terminal receiver. The scan is from an original Williams-Abbott Electric Company ad in 1904. This telephone is in outstanding original condition.

42



**Williams Telephone & Supply Co. tapered shaft**

Very rare Williams tapered shaft desk stand with marked transmitter and a single button in the base. Marked Williams "milk bottle" outside terminal receiver. Outstanding original candlestick in excellent condition, extremely rare.

43



**Williams Telephone & Supply Co. potbelly**

This Williams potbelly was renickled years ago but it is completely original, including the baseplate and everything inside the base. Great "milk bottle" outside terminal receiver. Extremely rare potbelly and a beautiful display telephone.



44



**DeVeau Telephone Manufacturing Co. -1900 early model 6-button desk set**

This is an early DeVeau 6 button desk set. It has a smaller base than the traditional, later models and a slightly different transmitter mount. Marked transmitter and base.

"Solid" receiver. The scan is from an original ad in the 1902 issue of **Electrical World & Engineer** magazine, showing this telephone. The later, larger models of this DeVeau desk set are more common, but this early, smaller version is very rare. Outstanding original condition.

45



**DeVeau Telephone Manufacturing Co. - 8-button**

Very heavy, later version of the DeVeau 8 button desk stand with marked transmitter, marked base and "Solid" outside terminal receiver. These are not terribly rare but they are unusual examples of a desk top telephone. Excellent original condition.

46



### **DeVeau 1898 rope shaft desk telephone**

The base on this beautiful and rare desk set is a very good reproduction and it is empty inside. The rope shaft, switch hook assembly, receiver and transmitter are completely original. This is a great display telephone or would make a great project for the collector who might already have the original base. Extremely rare and very early telephone.

47



### **Swedish American Telephone Mfg. Co. #70 straight shaft desk set**

Very nice Swedish-American model #70 desk stand with marked transmitter and Swedish-American receiver. The scan is from an original Swedish American letterhead envelope that was mailed in 1909.

Continue to another file:

<http://doc.telephonecollectors.info/auctions/PDAcosta/1.pdf>  
<http://doc.telephonecollectors.info/auctions/PDAcosta/3.pdf>