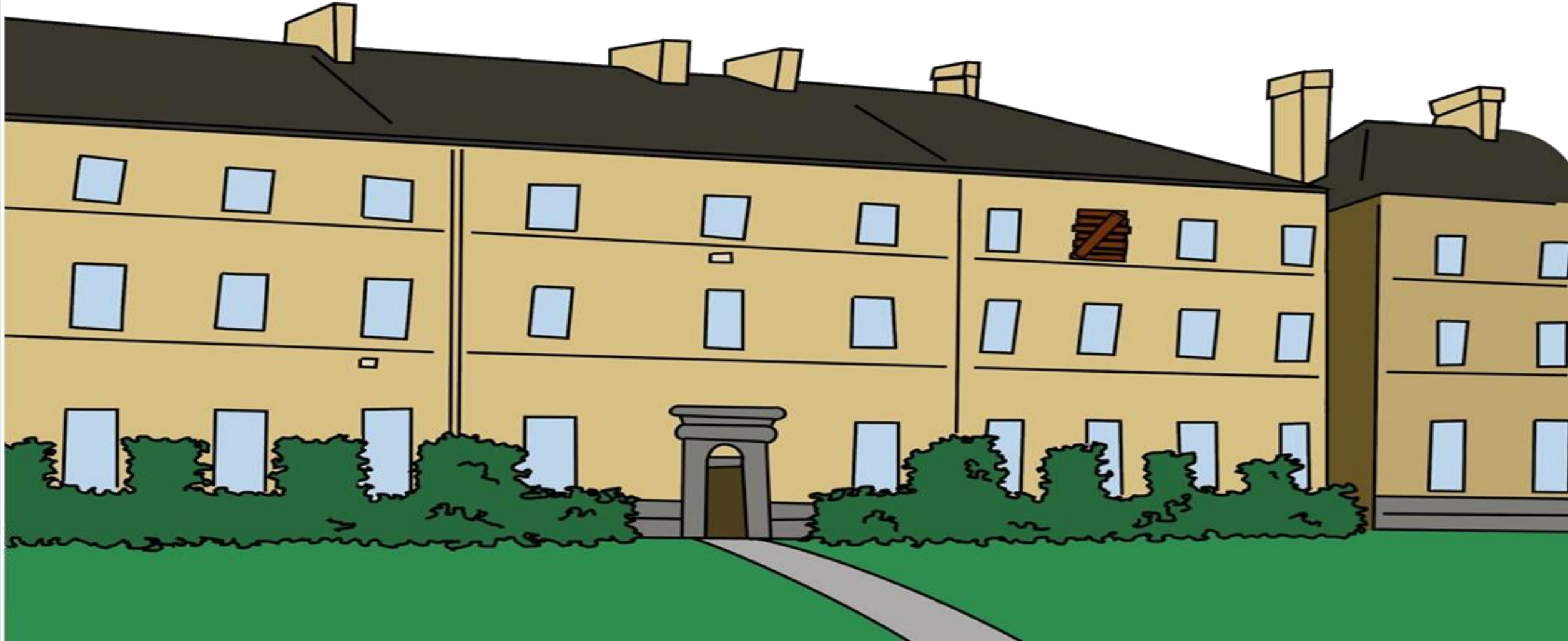


# Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS  
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



# Baker Street *Elementary*

THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON  
# 066 -- A TALE OF TWO WATSONS -- FEBRUARY, 2022



WELCOME TO TOPIC # 066... TODAY HOLMES AND I  
WILL BE LOOKING AT THE TELEPHONE AND  
TELEGRAPH.



WHILE THE INSTRUMENT CARRYING ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL'S CRY FOR HELP TO HIS ASSISTANT, ("WATSON, COME HERE, I NEED YOU,") MADE ITS APPEARANCE IN BRITAIN A YEAR...



**...AFTER THE FAMOUS CALL, YOU PREFERRED TO TELEGRAPH HIS PLEA FOR ASSISTANCE TO ME, REFLECTING ONE BRITISH POST OFFICE ENGINEER'S ASSESSMENT THAT BRITAIN HAD NO NEED FOR THE DEVICE.**



**THIS PREFERENCE FOR TELEGRAMS IS CONFIRMED  
BY FINDING NO REFERENCES IN THE SHERLOCK  
HOLMES' STORIES TO YOU EVER TELEPHONING ME...  
ONCE I DO CALL YOU FROM LITTLE PURLINGTON IN  
'THE ADVENTURE OF THE RETIRED COLOURMAN.'**



TELEPHONES ARE MENTIONED IN FIVE  
ADDITIONAL STORIES: THE SIGN OF THE FOUR,  
'THE MAN WITH THE TWISTED LIP'...





'THE ADVENTURE OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS CLIENT,'  
'THE ADVENTURE OF THE BLANCHED SOLDIER,'  
AND 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE THREE GARRIDEBS'  
AND TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES ARE CONSULTED IN  
ANOTHER TWO: 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE  
STOCKBROKER'S CLERK' AND 'THE ADVENTURE OF  
THE THREE GABLES.'





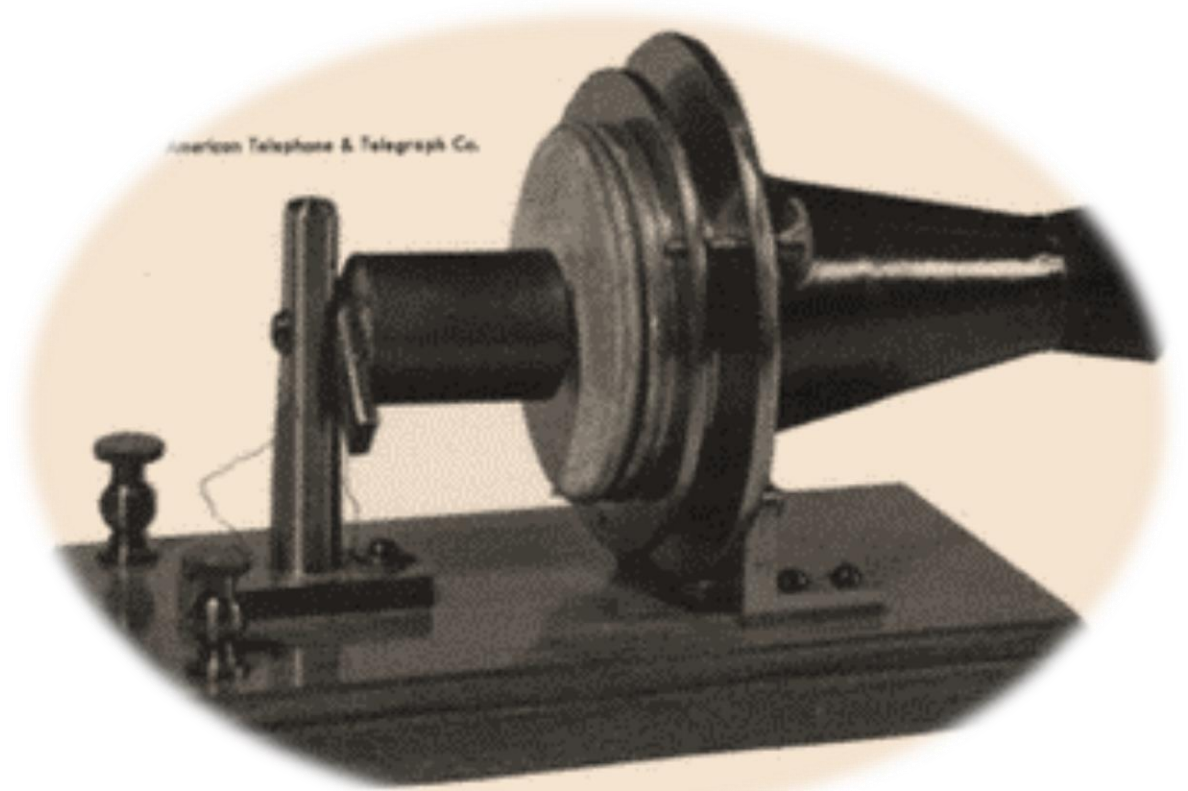
*THIS SCARCITY OF TELEPHONE USE MAY REPRESENT THE INSTRUMENT'S ROCKIER HISTORY IN ENGLAND.*



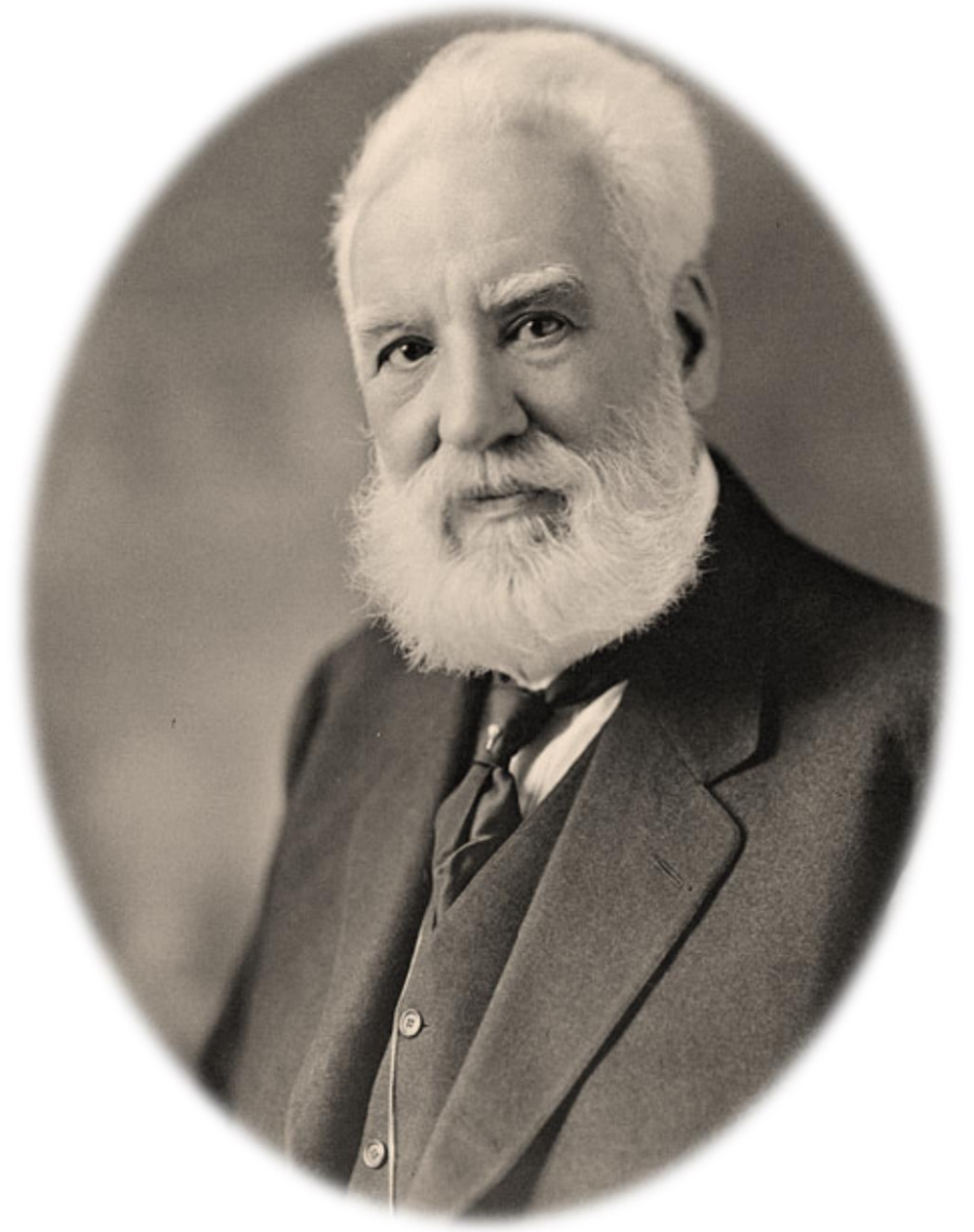
*FROM ITS INCEPTION, THE VARIOUS TELEPHONE DESIGNS (OF WHICH ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL'S REPRESENTS ONLY ONE) HAVE INVOLVED A POWER SOURCE, A SWITCH HOOK, A DIALER, A RINGER, A TRANSMITTER, AND A RECEIVER.*



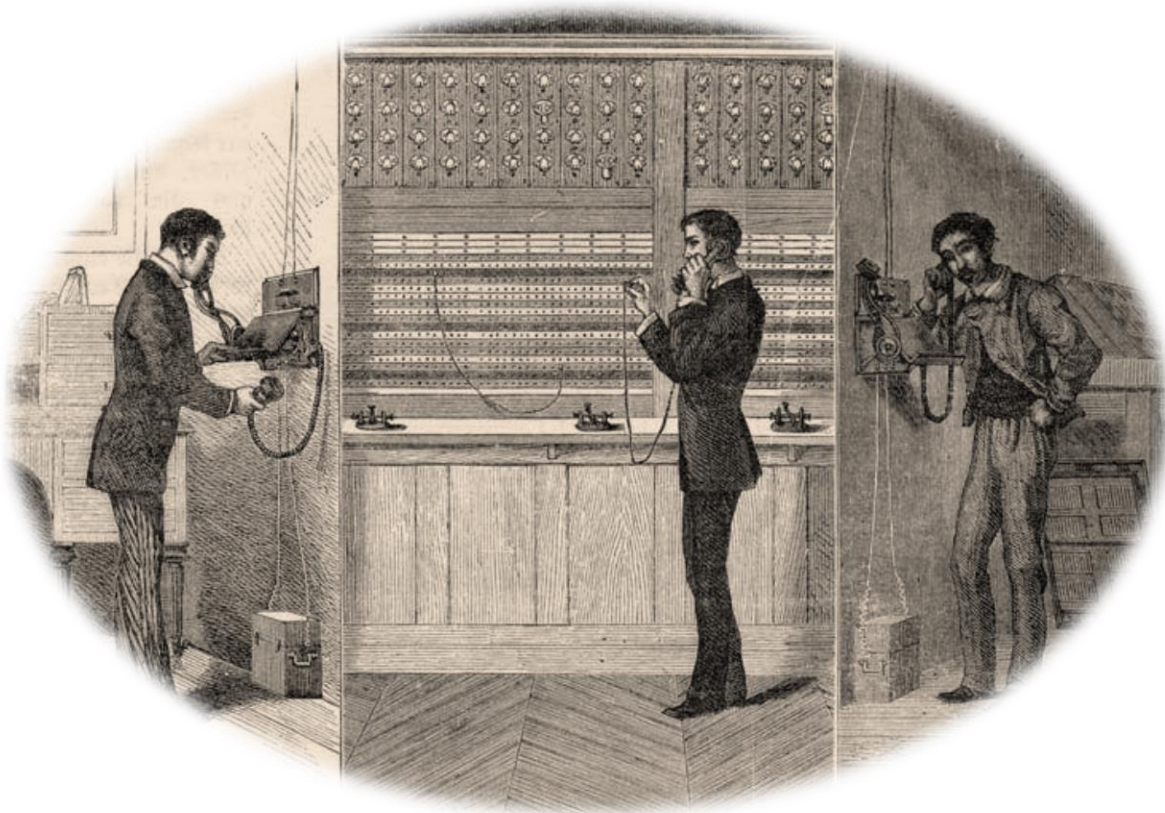
THE TRANSMITTER AND RECEIVER EACH HAVE A MEMBRANE WHICH SOUND WAVES CAUSE TO VIBRATE. VIBRATIONS FROM THE TRANSMITTER FLOW ALONG WIRES TO BE RECREATED IN THE RECEIVING MEMBRANE.



WHEN BELL PATENTED THIS DEVICE IN 1876, HE INCLUDED NOT ONLY THE INSTRUMENT, BUT THE SYSTEM TO LINK THEM.



**AT THE BEGINNING, THE STRUCTURE INVOLVED NON-INSULATED WIRES SIMILAR TO TELEGRAPH WIRES CONNECTING THE DEVICE TO A CENTRAL POINT OR EXCHANGE, WHERE A SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR WOULD CONNECT THE CALLER TO THE RECEIVER'S WIRE USING A SHORT CABLE.**



THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER USERS AND THE POOR TRANSMISSION QUALITY OF THE WIRES MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE SIGNAL TO CARRY AS LONG A DISTANCE AS A TELEGRAPH LINE UNTIL THE INVENTION OF HAND-DRAWN COPPER WIRE.



**WITHIN A YEAR OF THE PATENT, THE TELEPHONE  
WAS PRESENTED AROUND THE WORLD AS A  
CURIOSITY... IT FIRST APPEARED IN BRITAIN IN  
1877 WHEN SIR WILLIAM PREECE, CHIEF ENGINEER  
FOR THE BRITISH POST OFFICE, DEMONSTRATED  
THE INSTRUMENT.**



HE FAMOUSLY NOTED TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS  
TWO YEARS LATER THE TELEPHONE WAS NOT  
NECESSARY IN BRITAIN BECAUSE THEY HAD PLENTY  
OF MESSENGER BOYS.





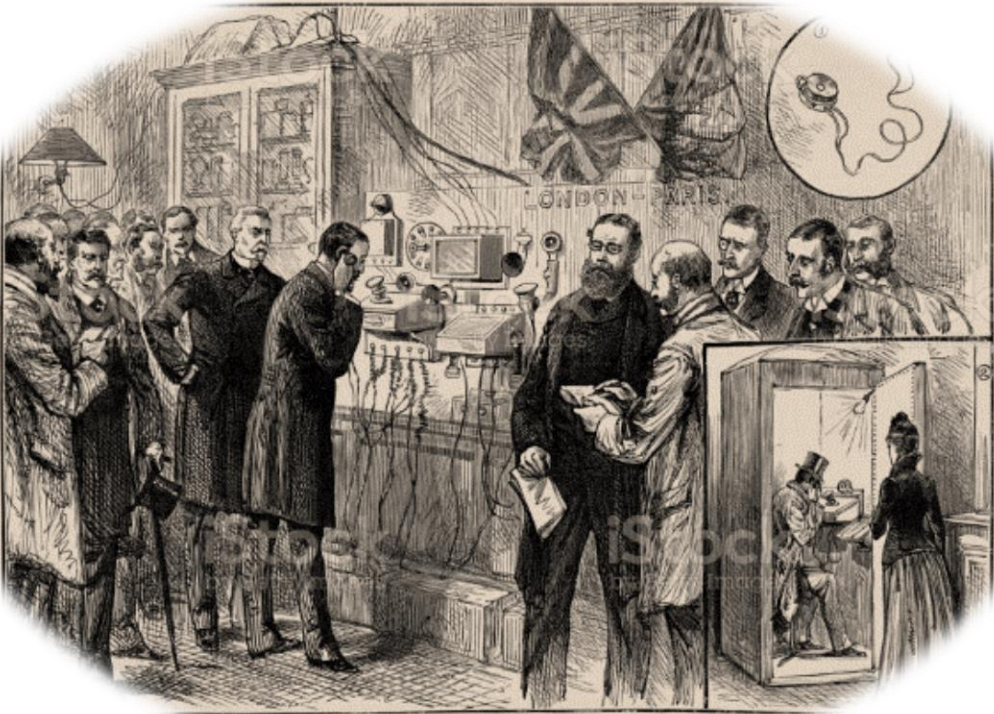
REGARDLESS, FOLLOWING A DEMONSTRATION TO  
THE QUEEN IN 1878, BELL CREATED THE  
TELEPHONE COMPANY LTD. TO SELL HIS  
INSTRUMENT IN BRITAIN, AND SOON HAD A  
NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS.



**THE TELEPHONE COMPANY LTD., HOWEVER, FACED STIFF COMPETITION FROM THE EDISON TELEPHONE COMPANY OF LONDON LTD. BECAUSE THE SECOND OFFERED LOWER RATES... IRONICALLY, AN 1880 COURT DECISION GAVE CONTROL OVER THE BUDDING SERVICE TO THE BRITISH POST OFFICE...**



**...NOTING TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS COULD BE CONSIDERED A FORM OF TELEGRAM, WHICH THIS GOVERNMENT AGENCY ALREADY CONTROLLED.**



1. The Speaking Machine. 2. Secretary (Miss) Bell. 3. First speaking with Paris at the Grand Hotel.  
...FROM LONDON AT THE COMPLETION OF THE ANGLA-FRENCH TELEGRAPH.



THE JUDGEMENT GAVE THE POST OFFICE A  
MONOPOLY OVER SERVICE, AND THE  
ORGANIZATION CREATED THE NATIONAL  
TELEPHONE COMPANY.





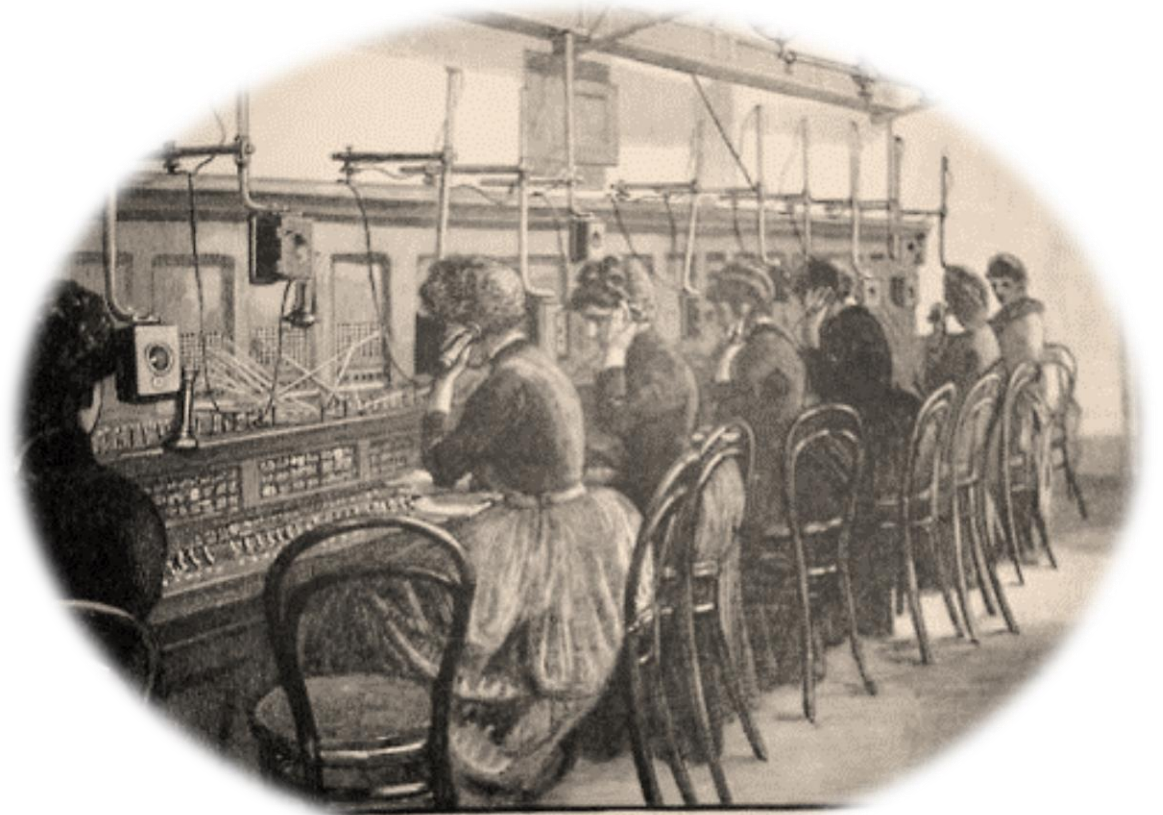
**THE POST OFFICE BECAME A SEPARATE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY IN 1969 BUT STILL RAN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM UNTIL 1981...**



*...WHEN BRITISH TELECOM WAS CREATED AS A PUBLIC CORPORATION, AND THE SAME YEAR ANNOUNCED THE DISCONTINUATION OF TELEGRAM SERVICES.*



FOR THE PUBLIC, THE TELEPHONE COMPANY  
CONVERTED SOME TELEGRAPH EXCHANGES INTO  
TELEPHONE EXCHANGES...



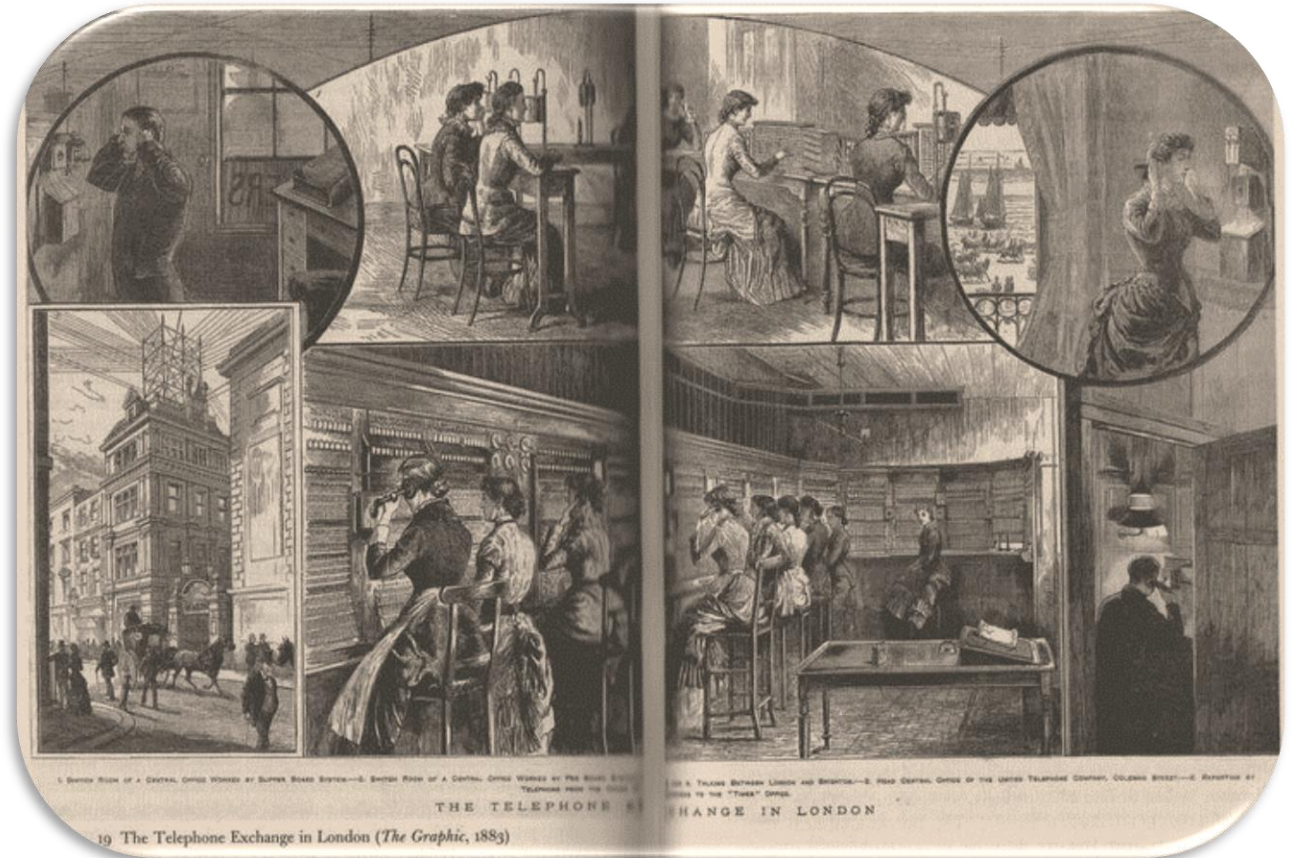
AT THE QUEEN VICTORIA

...AS WELL AS OFFERING PUBLIC CALL OFFICES IN  
RAILWAY STATIONS AND GENERAL STORES.





THE ORIGINAL CALL OFFICES WERE SMALL WOODEN HUTS WHERE ANYONE COULD MAKE A CALL FOR A 'TUPPENCE.'



THESE EARLY CALL OFFICES HAD NO STANDARD DESIGN UNTIL 1921.





THAT YEAR, THE POST OFFICE INTRODUCED A KIOSK SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR THE TELEPHONE... MADE OF REINFORCED CONCRETE, THEY COULD BE PAINTED TO MATCH THEIR SURROUNDINGS.





**NOT UNTIL 1926 WAS THE ICONIC RED TELEPHONE KIOSK DESIGNED.**



OTHER DESIGNS WERE INTRODUCED OVER THE  
NEXT FORTY YEARS, THE LAST IN 1968.



**DESPITE THEIR COLLEAGUES' PREFERENCES FOR ONE FORM OF COMMUNICATION OVER ANOTHER, (TELEPHONE VS. TELEGRAM) WHEN THE PLEA ARRIVED, EDISON'S WATSON AND I QUICKLY RESPONDED TO THE CALL.**



*SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 066 IN OUR SERIES...*

*IN TOPIC # 067, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT THE SPORT OF RUGBY DURING THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.*



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# Baker Street Elementary

"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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&  
STEVE MASON

