



**HELSINKI TELEPHONE MUSEUM Elisa**  
Jukka Laine

April 2007

## **VINTAGE TELEPHONE EXCHANGES AND ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT**

### **MANUFACTURER L.M. ERICSSON (LME), SWEDEN**

#### TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, MADE IN 1885



This small telephone exchange for eight lines is the most valuable item in the museum. The device was already listed in the oldest LME catalogue of 1886 and is today, as far as we know, the only one of its kind in the world. The original model of the exchange is from 1881, but it had then a helical microphone. The exchange in the museum has a more stable carbon microphone.



### TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, MADE IN CA. 1910

This switchboard comes from some of the small telephone companies around Helsinki. All the small local companies in the Helsinki region were later incorporated with the Helsinki Telephone Company (HTC). The chair in the picture is a standard operator's chair used in HTC.



### TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, MADE IN 1900

The cast-iron base was typical for L. M. Ericsson's (LME) switchboards made in the late 1800's. All switchboards were different, because they were mainly made to order.



### JUNCTION SWITCH, MODEL YEAR 1896

Junction switches were used to connect two telephones to one line. The handle was turned to choose the telephone you wanted to use.



### EXTERNAL BELL, MODEL YEAR 1920

At the beginning of the last century the external bells were made as decorative as the wall telephones themselves.

**MANUFACTURER SIEMENS & HALSKE, GERMANY**



**TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, MADE  
AROUND 1910**

This equipment represents German design which put the main emphasis on practical details. The LME products of the same time were externally more attractive.

**MANUFACTURER DAN. JOH. WADÉNS ELEKTRISKA AFFÄR, FINLAND**



**TELEPHONE EXCHANGE,  
MADE IN 1891**

This equipment cannot be seen in the museum but in Elisa's branch office in Riihimäki, a town north of Helsinki. It was the first exchange of the previous Riihimäki telephone company and it is believed to be the only one left of Wadén's exchanges. It has not been restored at all, but even in the present condition it is clear that it at one time was an exceptionally elegant object.