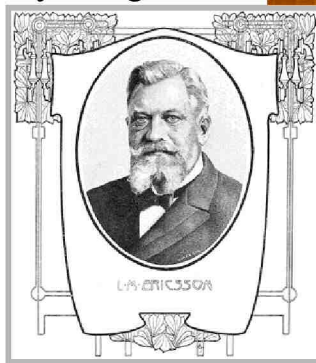


The Ericsson Potbelly Desk-stand ... that was made in the USA

By the late 1880s, LM Ericsson's telephones were finding their way into the America, Through the promotion of their high quality instruments, his Coal grain transmitter and efficient bi polar receiver became a very successful substitute when upgrading the many older US telephone wall & table sets.

LM Ericsson established a presence in the US by having dedicated agents, one such agent **F.O Plummer of Boston Massachusetts**. Plummer promoting through his catalogue of authentic Ericsson telephones and including his own range of US manufactured instruments that were fitted with the Ericsson OST receives and coal grain transmitter.

The catalogue also included the "Ericsson Desk Telephone" which was an early potbelly design from around 1896 *seen far right*:



F. O. PLUMMER,
620 Atlantic Ave., BOSTON, MASS.

**ERICSSON
DESK TELEPHONE.**



No. 213. Price, \$17.55.

The Standard Long Distance Set (all nickel) fitted with Ericsson's Swedish Coal-Grain Microphone and all Metal Bipolar Receiver.

NO ADJUSTMENT.
NEVER CHANGING.

Generator for above (Series), Price, \$7.75.
(Bridging), " " 11.75

Imitated by many, equalled by none.

F. O. PLUMMER,
620 Atlantic Ave., BOSTON, MASS.

**Ericsson's Swedish
Bipolar,**

All metal Samson receiver.

NO ADJUSTMENT.
NEVER CHANGING.

(IMPORTED.)

No. 547. - - Price, \$3.25.

Improved to fit any standard hook.
Nickel-Plated Magnet Ends.

The term desk-stand is also refers to what we all recognise as the candlestick telephone.

This article looks at a few early varieties of what we have got to know as the Ericsson desks-stand all being those from Pre 1900

The current price range varies between \$2500 to 3500US, but sometimes you can get lucky as one ebay bidder found a bargain "Buy it now " last year for \$1800 US

Below: extracts from my Plummer catalogue
(Catalogue available for download on ATCS website)

<p>MAGNETO TELEPHONE.</p> <p>Equipped with Ericsson Coal-Grain Microphone and Double Pole Receiver.</p> <p>No. 10, STYLE B.</p> <p>Has 10,000 ohm generator, 80 ohm ringer, and 250 ohm coil.</p> <p>Finished in Oak.</p> <p>Imitated by many, equalled by none.</p>	<p>F. O. PLUMMER, 620 Atlantic Ave., BOSTON, MASS.</p> <p>Ericsson's Genuine Swedish Imported Telephones.</p> <p>A COMPLETE WALL SET. (IMPORTED.)</p> <p>Handsome, serviceable instrument, finished in walnut.</p> <p>Price, \$21.35</p> <p>Imitated by many, equalled by none.</p>	<p>F. O. PLUMMER, 620 Atlantic Ave., BOSTON, MASS.</p> <p>Ericsson's Swedish Desk Set.</p> <p>This set gives one the luxury of telephoning. It brings your correspondent to your elbow.</p> <p>It has a combined transmitter and receiver and a "cut out," which prevents free conversations being overheard through the phone. It is a complete instrument, with generator and bells, goes through 25,000 ohms, and is the <i>loveliest desk set ever produced.</i></p> <p>(IMPORTED.)</p> <p>Series Bells, Price, \$35.85. Bridging Bells, Price, 40.00.</p> <p>Imitated by many, equalled by none.</p>
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With the emergence of the US potbelly desk-stand design we have some variations between models, to which are very distinct to the manufacturer. Variations to the perches, switch hooks profiles , how it's fitted to the main body all add to the style and look of these instruments . The potbelly generally had exposed connections around the top neck areas and most of the time, a direct wire connection to the transmitter. The actual potbelly body is mostly a hollow bulbous centre section , these are prone to having stress cracks or split apart after much handling and wear.

The solid cast base was generally covered over by a thin plated brass dome, in this case it featured a stepped and rounded profile while the earlier issues had a more squarer edge shape that will be seen soon.

Below: two variations to support the Ericsson transmitter via a long protruding shaft.



The Ericsson transmitter is secured via a unique bracket that makes contact with both the outer body and via a wire feed contact from the rear's insulated fitting.

The below wiring has been incorrectly secured as its needs to be from the back to make a clean connection with the transmitters inner pin



Note the steer arm hook its has a very distinct wave to its horns.



The OST receiver fitted on the LHS candlestick is manufactured by the Swedish American Co .

Reading up on Plummer's history from Boston Massachusetts, I find that his company had been manufacturing & selling a variety of items since the 1860s until around the mid 1880's when he partnered up with Edwin W. Ham and Frank A. Richardson to form **PH & R Plummer, Ham & Richardson**

By the 1900 both Ham & Richardson bought the interest of Mr Plummer yet still continued the business of electrical contracting under the old firm name — Plummer, Ham & Richardson—at Worcester, Mass

During those partnership years PH & R, the company patented many items including their own transmitters and desk-stand / wall phone designs.

Examples can be seen below



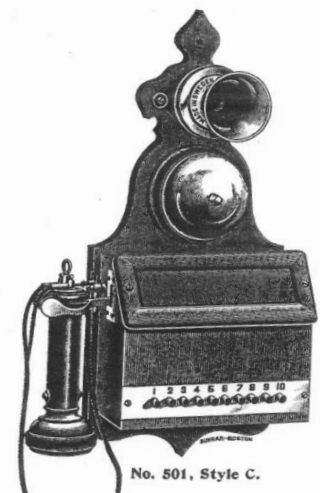
PH&R had engraved their markings on their instruments, such as around the coupling rim of the pot belly on on the faceplates of their exclusive branded transmitters

Left: PH & R,
Worcester, Mass
Pat AP'ld FOR.

It's obvious that later when F.O Plummer was on his own, he sold stocks of the PH & R within his catalogue range while being an agent for Ericsson telephones after leaving PH& R.

Intercommunicating Telephone Battery Call

With Mechanical Automatic Switch.



Made with Capacity up to 50 Points.

This last example resembles a common design to a Connecticut or Swedish American Potbelly.

Here we have the Ericsson transmitter fitted to a slightly different mount fixture than the previous examples. There is an ebonite insulated end fitting to capture the external wire connection and the switch hook has no steer horns but does have the small hole looped ends.

This potbelly was made not part of Plummer catalogues.



Above: Plummer, Ham & Richardson Badge



Below: we have an internal view of the Ericsson deluxe transmitter

