EVOLUTION OF THE TELEPHONE

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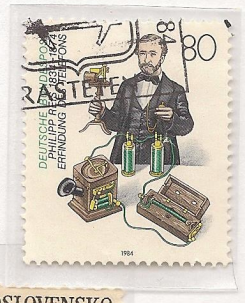
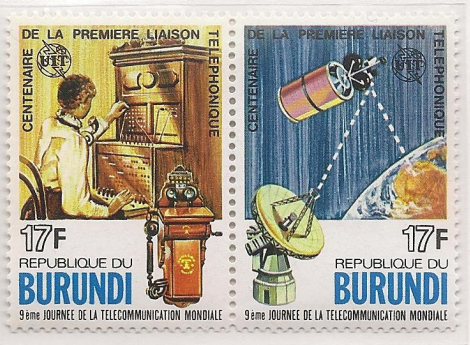
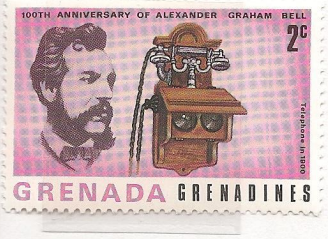
Purpose of Exhibit:

To show the humble beginnings of the telephone to its comprehensive functions today.

1876 With the words "Mr. Watson, come here, I want you" Alexander Graham Bell send the first message via telephone to his assistant. Although many people worked on creating this device, Bell was the first to patent the telephone as an apparatus for transmitting vocal or other sounds telegraphically.

Prior to the invention of the telephone exchange switchboard, the early telephones were hardwired to and communicated with only a single other telephone.

1877 George W. Coy designed and built the first switchboard for commercial use. This switchboard connected as many as 64 customers, only two conversations could be handled simultaneously and six connections had to be made for each call.