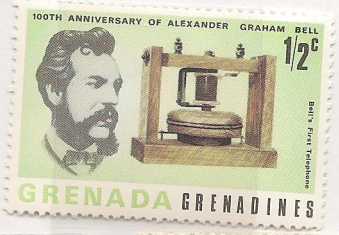
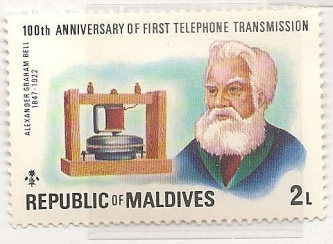
1878 (January)The first commercial telephone exchange was opened in New Haven, Connecticut with 21 subscribers.Telephone exchange systems were responsible for a small geographic area that provided the interconnection of two or more individual subscriber lines. This made it possible to call each other at homes, businesses, etc.

(February) First telephone directory was published with 50 subscribers: physicians, police, post office and 11 residences four of which were persons associated with the company.

These early telephones were big and cumbersome with a local battery. The early telephones only had one opening for sound and the user alternately listened and spoke (shouted) into the same hole. Exchange operation soon resulted in telephones being equipped with a bell.





1893 Teledensity: Sweden was the country using the most telephones, followed by New Zealand, Switzerland and Norway.

1896 Cradle designs were used, having a handle with the receiver and transmitter attached, separate from the cradle base.