

From the Collection - Ericsson Wall Phone

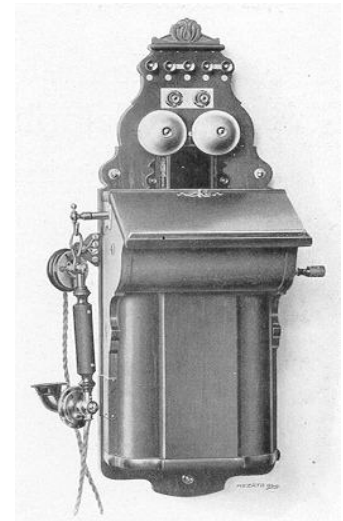
By Coal Creek Curatorial Officer - 22 October 2009



Ericsson wall phone Coal Creek 2009

Hanging in the foyer, just inside the entrance to Coal Creek, is an Ericsson wall phone. It is part of the Communications exhibition put together by students from Korumburra High School in September this year.

Although the style slightly differs from the model in the adjoining photograph it is believed to be an AB520 model made in Stockholm in 1905. The students were encouraged to research the history of the phone and I was pleased to select an object they could relate to with mobile phones being used by so many people these days.



Ericsson AB520



Lars Magnus Ericsson (May 5, 1846 - December 17, 1926) was a Swedish inventor, entrepreneur and founder of telephone equipment manufacturer Ericsson. At the age of twelve his father died, and he had to start working as a miner. He worked until he had money enough to leave the village and move to Stockholm in 1867. He then worked for six years for an instrument maker named *Öllers & Co.* who mainly created telegraph equipment. Because of his skills, he was given two state scholarships to study instrument making abroad between 1872 and 1875.

Upon his return to Sweden in 1876, he founded a small mechanical workshop together with his friend Carl Johan Andersson who had also worked at *Öllers & Co.* Here, he started a telephone company by analyzing Bell company and Siemens telephones and creating his own copies in their image. His training as an instrument maker was reflected in the high standard of finish and the ornate design which made Ericsson phones of this period so attractive to collectors

Lars Ericsson stepped down from the company in 1901 and retired from Ericsson at the age of 54. He kept his shares in the company until 1905 and then sold them all. Today Ericsson is one of the largest Swedish companies, is a leading provider of telecommunication and data communication systems, and related services covering a range of technologies, including especially mobile networks.

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