

# Post-Retreat Treat: The Origins of Subscription Home Entertainment

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<http://bit.ly/hpa23-prt>



my TV  
remote  
control

# 1972



initially 365 subscribers in  
Wilkes-Barre, PA



# 1969



*Newsday* (Nassau edition), June 30, 1969, p. 17

# 1964



<https://losangelestheatres.blogspot.com/2017/03/campus-theatre.html>



# 1954

## COAST THEATRES FIGHT TOLL VIDEO

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**Southern California Owners  
Group Warns of 'Monopoly'  
in Box-Office-in-Home TV**

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**By THOMAS M. PRYOR**

• Special to The New York Times.

HOLLYWOOD, Calif., Oct. 29  
—Reports that the Federal Communications Commission soon will take up the issue of box-office-in-the-home television have stirred theatre operators throughout the country.

*The New York Times*, October 30, 1954, p. 14

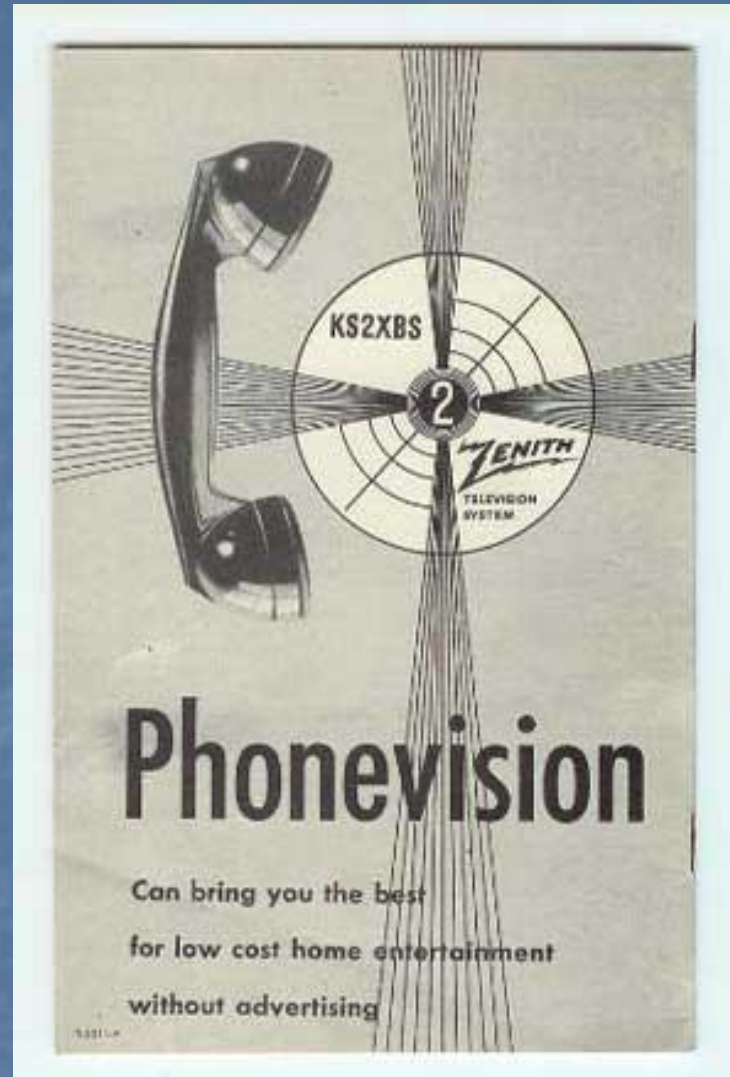
# 1953 Palm Springs



Paramount Telemeter  
<https://www.earlytelevision.org/telemeter.html>



# 1951

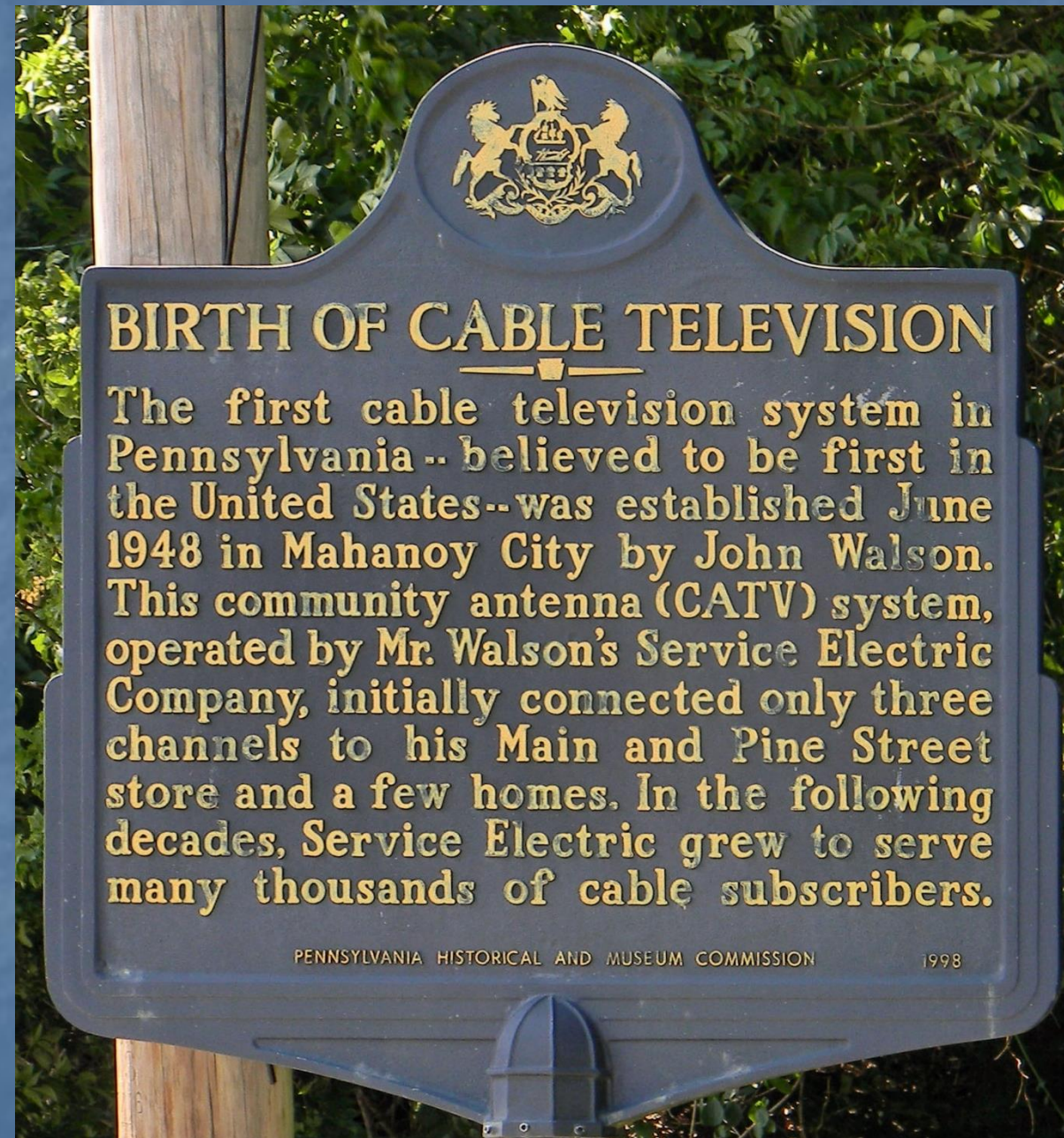


planned earlier

<https://www.earlytelevision.org/phonevision.html>

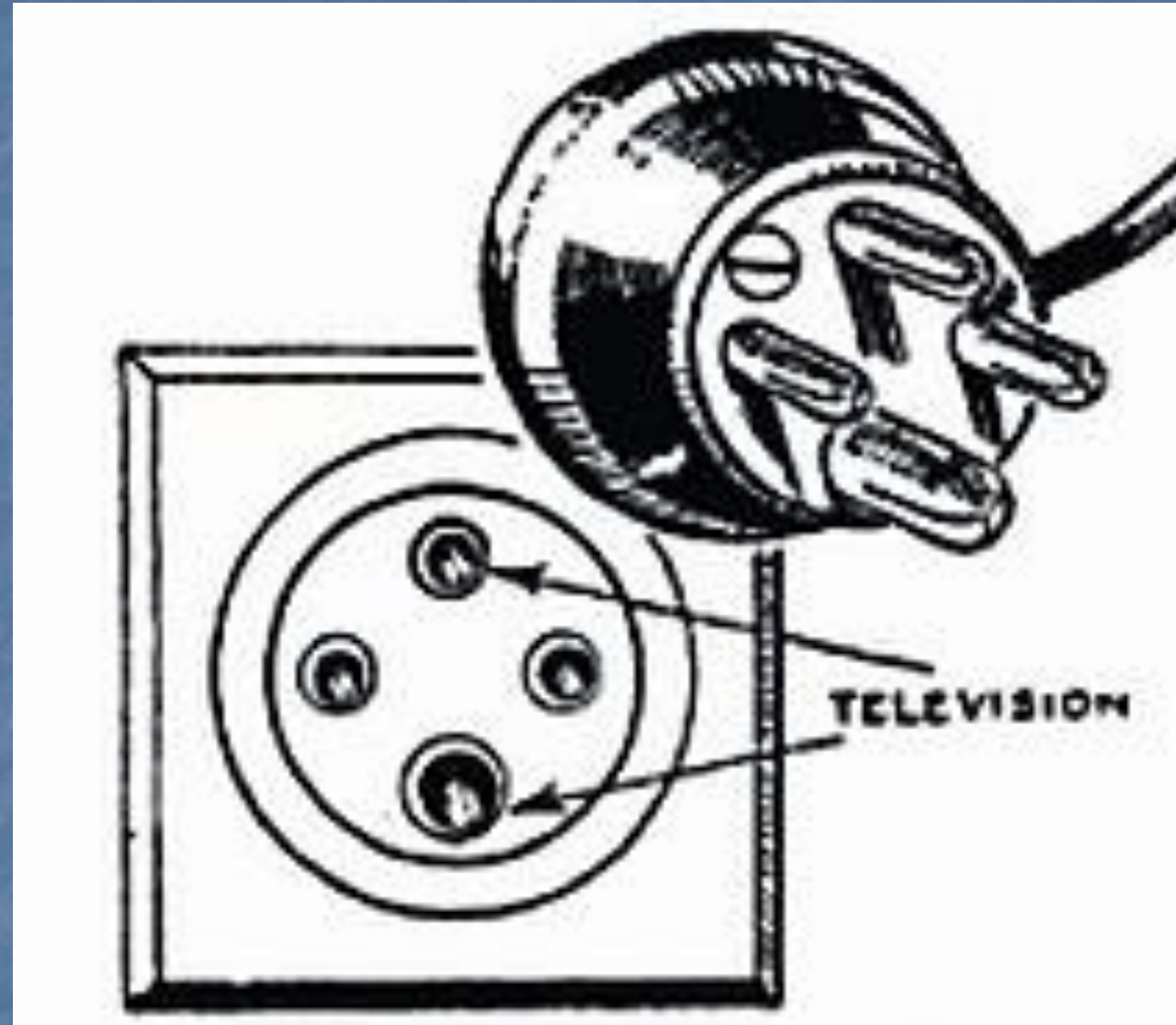


# 1948





# 1937



*TV and Shortwave World, July 1937*  
(HF modulation)

# 1932



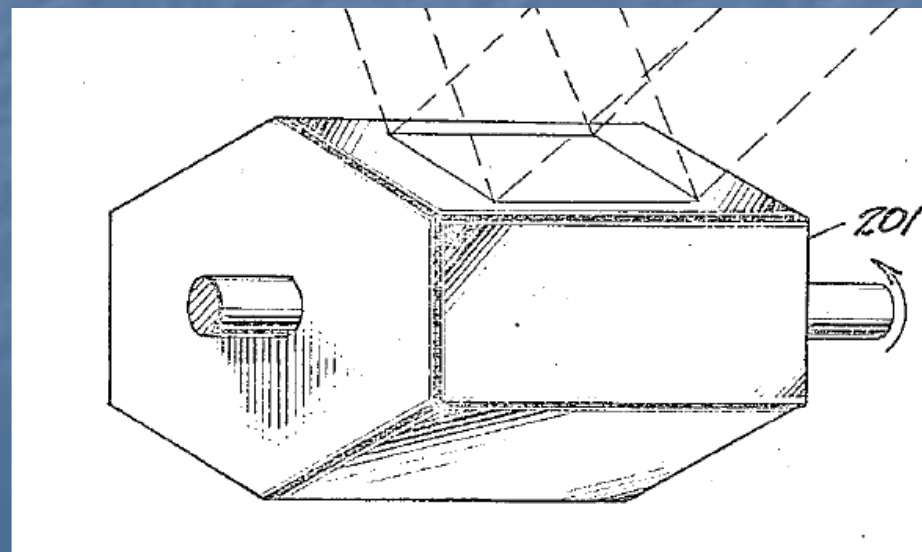
<http://www.rediffusion.info/1928-1978/>



# 1922

45 Pictures or messages may be sent in undecipherable code by tilting successive sides of the rotating mirrors as indicated in Figure 4 so as to make the picture area succeed each other at arbitrarily determined order, both horizontally  
50 and vertically. The chances of any one not

R. A. Fessenden, US patent 2,059,221



R. A. Fessenden, US patent 2,059,222

# 1920

In Vandergrift, Pa., the returns were received and bulletined in the street for the benefit of hundreds of persons there, the news being shown from ten minutes to a half hour before they were received by means of a special telegraph wire between Vandergrift and Pittsburgh. In addition, the wireless set was connected by means of a cable with the local telephone exchange, and the wire chief sent the news directly to subscribers who had arranged beforehand for the

story about the KDKA broadcast of election returns carried from a radio receiver to telephone subscribers  
*The Indiana Gazette*, November 6, 1920, p. 1



# 1907

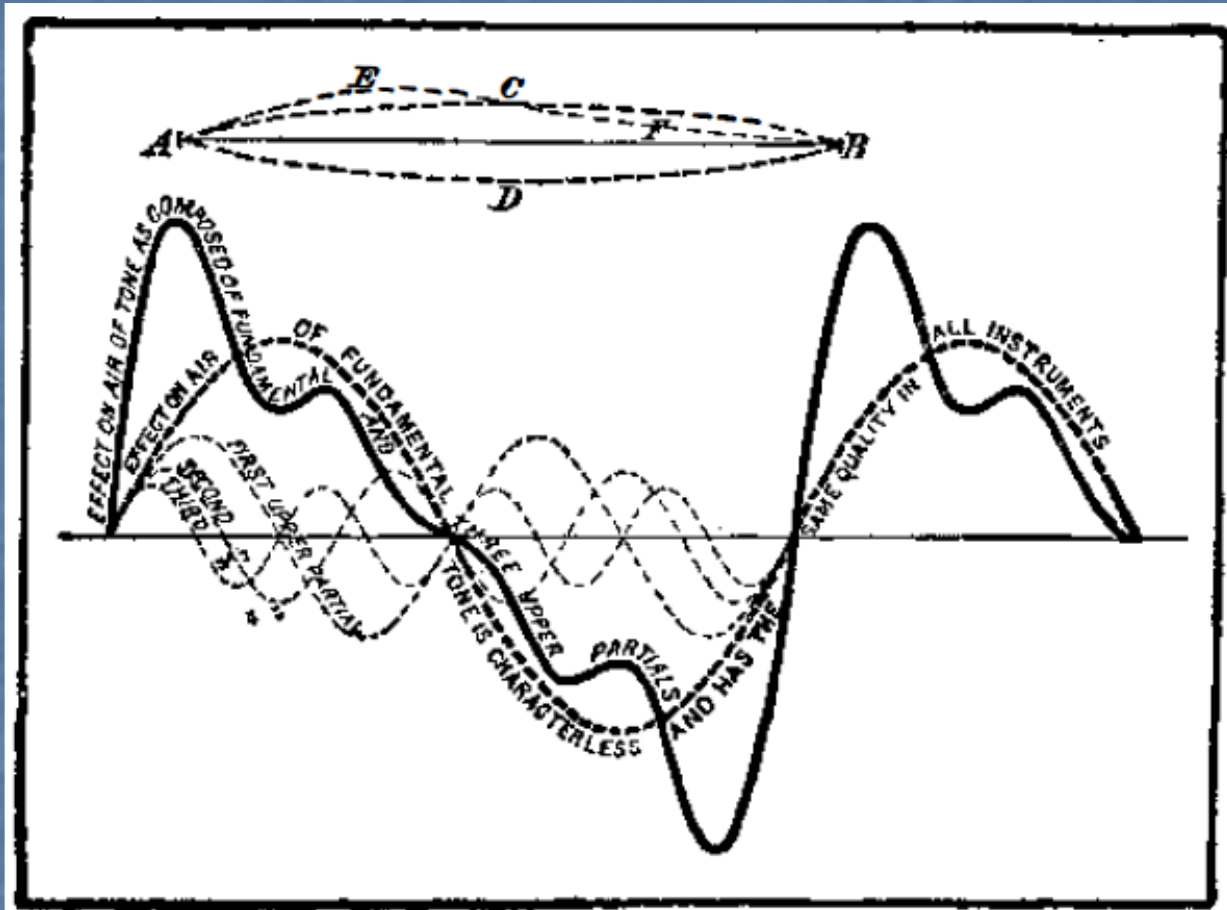


Diagram Showing Effect of the Upper Partial in Modifying the Fundamental Tone.



Telharmonium  
music synthesizer  
200 tons!





# 1897

(No Model.)

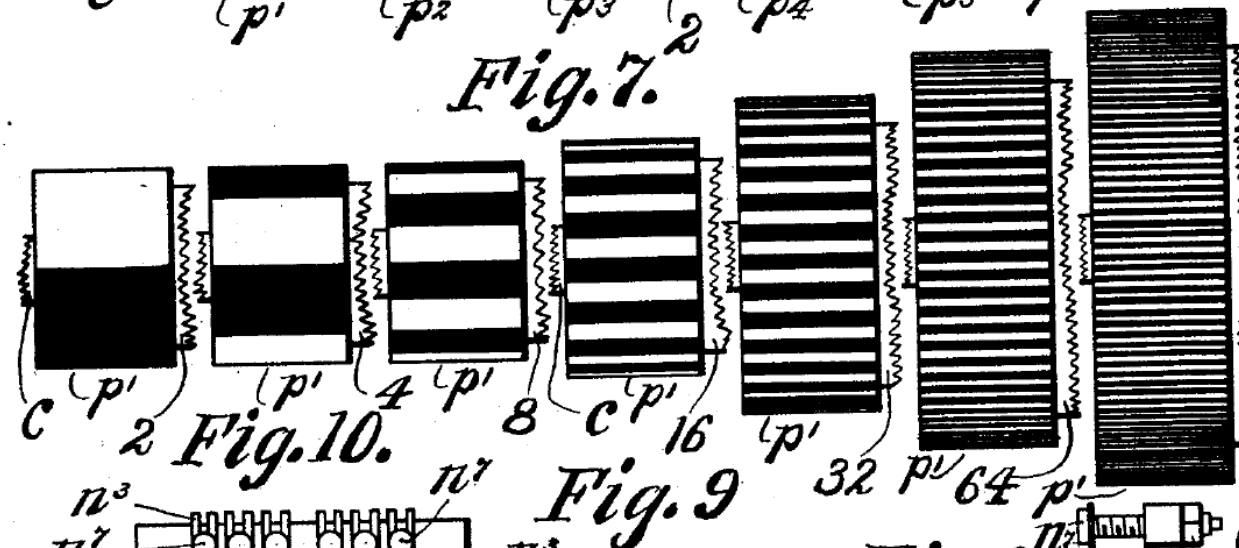
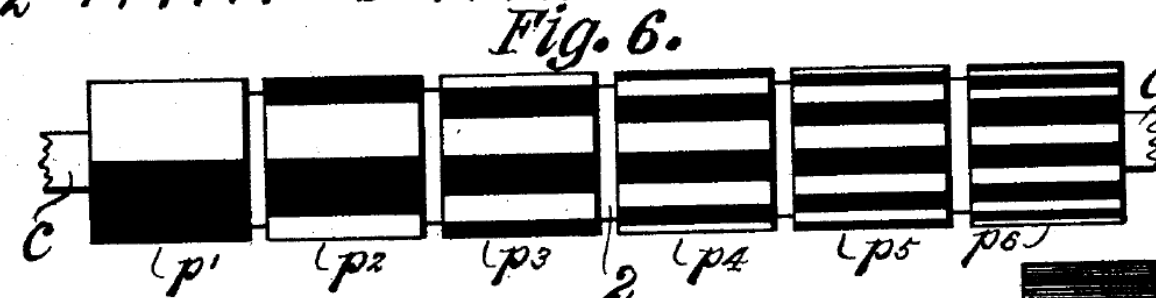
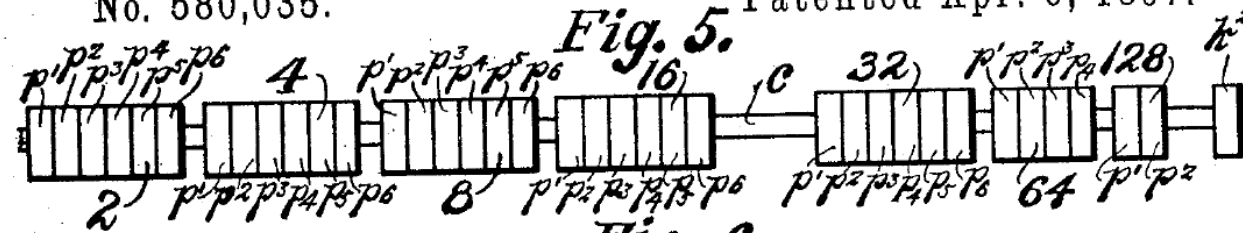
10 Sheets—Sheet 4.

T. CAHILL.

ART OF AND APPARATUS FOR GENERATING AND DISTRIBUTING MUSIC  
ELECTRICALLY.

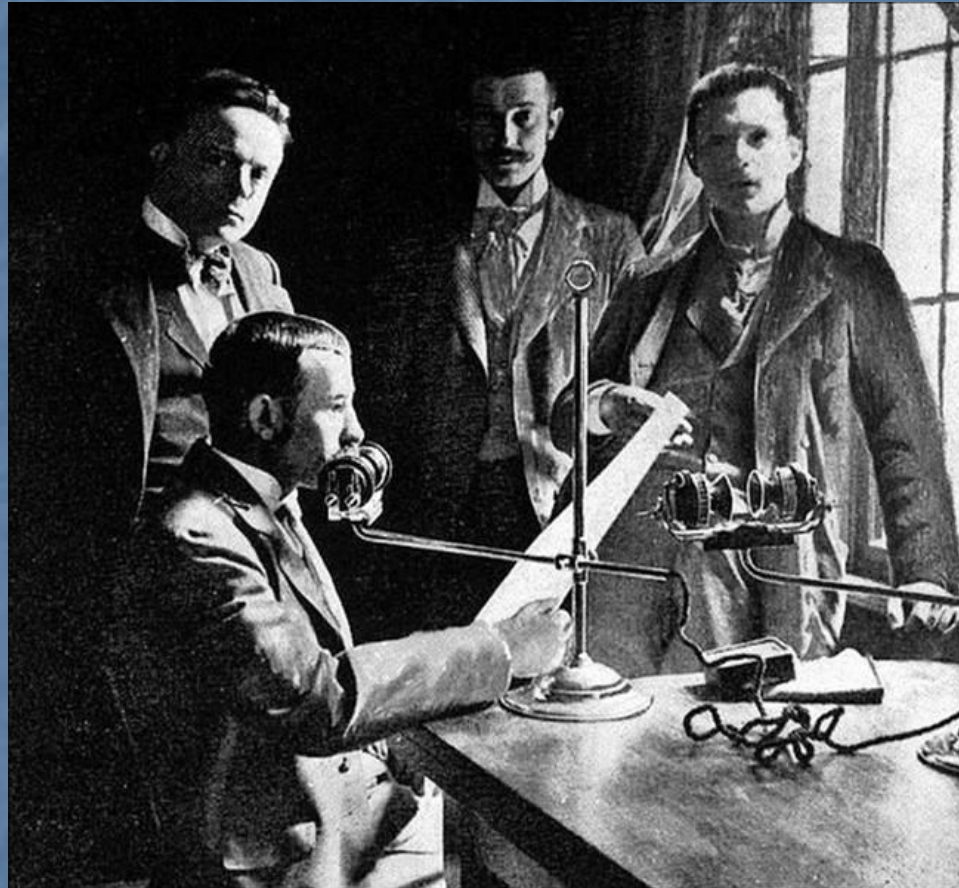
No. 580,035.

Patented Apr. 6, 1897.





# 1893



Telefon Hírmondó  
Budapest  
1<sup>st</sup> newscast

# 1890



<http://telephoniste.free.fr/collections/jean-louis/theatrophone.jpg>

Paris



# 1885 1<sup>st</sup> system

**A Edison Gower Bell Telephone Company  
of Europe (Limited)**  
DE ACORDO COM A

**EMPRESA MATTOS & VALDEZ**  
EMPRESARIOS

**REAL THEATRO DE S. CARLOS**

Estabelece nas casas de moradia os telephones necessarios para a transmissão das operas cantadas no Real Theatro de S. Carlos, conforme os desejos e conveniencia do sr. subscriber.

**SUBSCRIÇÃO POR TODA A ÉPOCA**  
(90 récitas d'assignatura)

*Para casas que estejam dentro da circumvallação da cidade . . . . . 1800000 réis*  
*Para casas que estejam fóra da circumvallação mas dentro do radius  
de 5 kilometros (inclusive) do Theatro de S. Carlos . . . . . 2250000 »*

Estes subscriptores teem direito a terem 3 pares de telephones e quando queiram mais, pagarão por a época toda, 225000 por cada par; por noute 45000 réis cada par.  
Para qualquer récita extraordinaria o preço será regulado conforme aquelle estabelecido adiante para a Rede Geral.

**PREÇOS PARA OS SUBSCRIPTORES DA REDE PUBLICA**  
**POR CADA RÉCITA EXTRAORDINARIA**

<i>Por um telephone . . . . .</i>	<i>100000 réis</i>
<i>Por dois telephones . . . . .</i>	<i>150000 »</i>
<i>Por tres telephones . . . . .</i>	<i>200000 »</i>
<i>Por cada telephone extra . . . . .</i>	<i>45000 »</i>

Nas noutes extraordinarias em que a Empresa augmenta os seus preços, a proporção d'esse augmento é tambem adduzida aos preços acima estabelecidos.

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A Companhia tambem recebe já os nomes de todas as pessoas que residam ou tenham casa de commercio em Belem ou suburbios, e que desejem subscrever para a Nova Estação suburbana de Belem que brevemente será aberta ao publico, e a qual estará em communicação com todas as Estações da Rede Geral.  
O preço das subscrições são de Réis 450000.

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Para tratar na administração da Companhia Telephonica, Rua Larga de S. Roque, 2, 3.º andar.

1058 LAMBERTI FRERES, LIMBURG, LIÉGE.

The 1<sup>st</sup> system with subscribers, Lisbon

1<sup>st</sup> documentary evidence of use of consumer headphones



## THE OPERA TELAKOUPHANON.

OUR attention has been directed to an article made of Gutta Percha, called the Telakouphanon, or Speaking Trumpet, a contrivance by which it is stated, that a clergyman having three livings might preach the same sermon in three different churches at the same time. Thus also it would be in the power of MR. LUMLEY, during the approaching holiday time, to bring home the Opera to every lady's drawing-room in London. Let him cause to be constructed, at the back of Her Majesty's Theatre, an apparatus on the principle of the Ear of DIONYSIUS, care having been taken to render it a good ear for music.

Next, having obtained an Act of Parliament for the purpose, let him lay down, after the manner of pipes, a number of Telakouphana, connected—the reader will excuse the apparent vulgarism—with this Ear, and extended to the dwellings of all such as may be willing to pay for the accommodation. In this way our domestic establishments might be served with the liquid notes of JENNY LIND as easily as they are with soft water, and could be supplied with music as readily as they can with gas. Then, at a *soirée* or evening party, if a desire were expressed for a little music, we should only have to turn on the *Sonnambula* or the *Puritani*, as the case might be; an arrangement which would provide us with a delightful substitute for a deal of execrable singing, besides being in general highly conducive to the harmony of private families.

“all such as may  
be willing to pay”

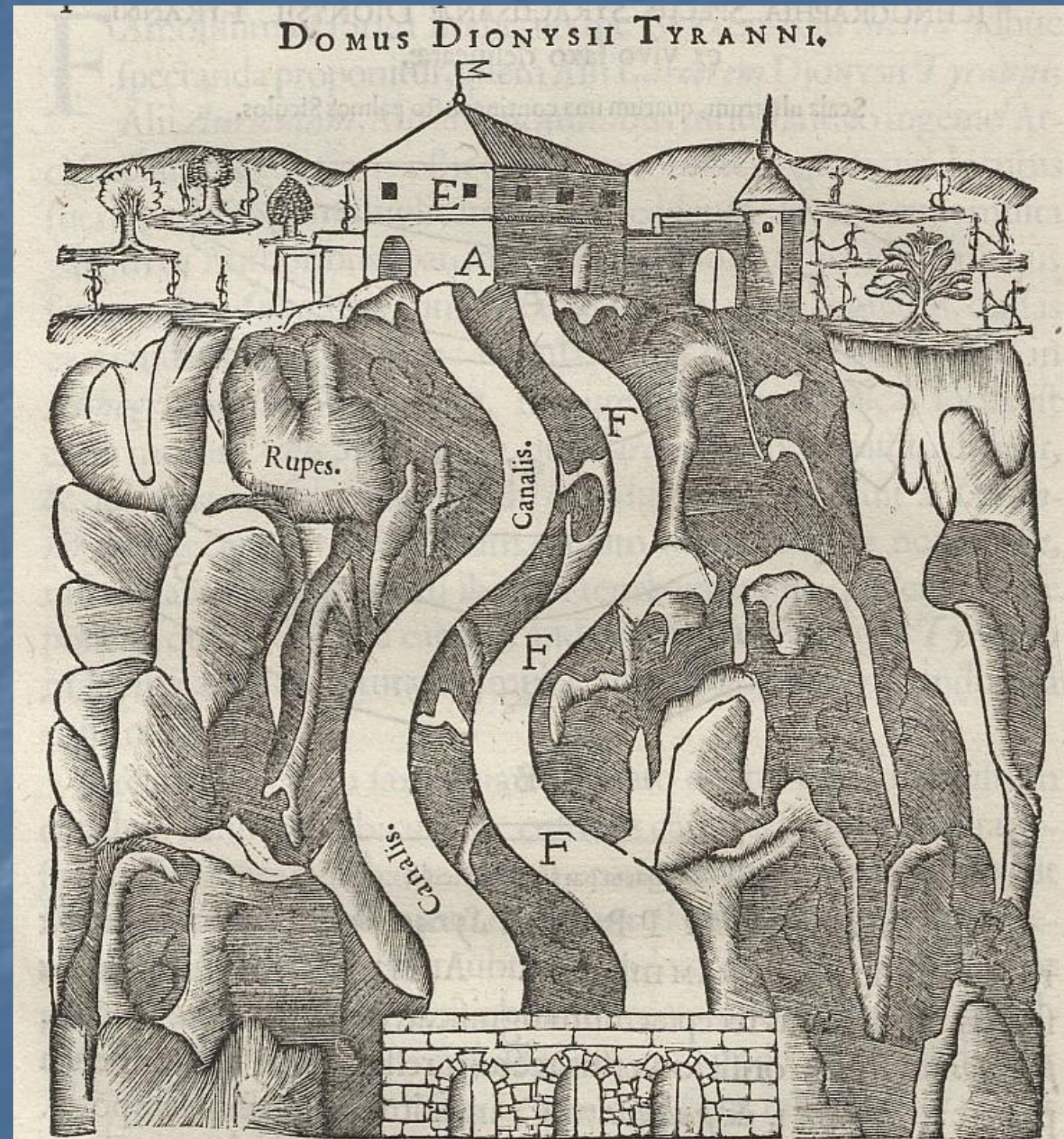
*Punch*  
Dec. 30, 1848  
p. 275



# Now Count Up



# 1673



- Mayan pyramids with speaking tubes
- 1608 "Ear of Dionysius" named by Caravaggio

illustration from  
*Phonurgia Nova* by  
Athanasius Kircher



# 1778

subscription  
contract

Paris Water  
Company  
(1<sup>st</sup> private  
company on the  
Paris Stock  
Exchange)

Gallica/BNF



## SOUSCRIPTION

Pour la Distribution de l'Eau de Seine,  
par la Compagnie des Eaux de Paris.

Remplir ci-  
contre la quan-  
tité de muids.

*JE* soussigné, m'engage à acquérir, de la  
Compagnie des Eaux de Paris, la quantité  
de muids d'Eau de la Seine par  
jour, rendue chez moi, moyennant le prix  
& aux conditions annoncées dans son  
Prospectus imprimé.

Remplir ci-  
contre la date,  
mettre la signa-  
ture & l'adresse  
exacte du Souf-  
cripteur écrite  
bien lisiblement.

*A Paris, le*

M.<sup>rs</sup> les Souscripteurs sont priés de renvoyer la présente  
Souscription au Bureau de la Compagnie, chez M. PERIER,  
rue de la Chaussée d'Antin, N.<sup>o</sup> 72.

V.  
3

Q

Z.2284.  
v.943

486



# 1782



Fig. 67. — Expérience de télégraphie acoustique faite à Paris, par Dom Gauthey (1782).

*La science pittoresque*, March 28, 1867, p.179



# 1787 – 1<sup>st</sup> idea

## VARIÉTÉS LITTÉRAIRES.

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### LITTÉRATURE LÉGÈRE, OU

*RECUEIL de Vers, Chansons anciennes,  
Contes, tant en prose qu'en vers, &c.*

OUVRAGE PÉRIODIQUE.  
TOME II.



A PARIS,

AU BUREAU, place S. Michel, au coin de la rue  
Sainte-Hiacythe, N°. 53.

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M. DCC. LXXXVII.

*Avec Approbation & Privilège du Roi.*

Les mêmes conditions d'abonnement subsisteroient à l'avantage de MM. Perrier; ils distribueroient également leurs conduits pour les eaux comme pour les sons. Combien d'amateurs de musique en feroient aboutir à l'orchestre de l'Opéra; & de leur chambre, en soulevant une trappe, s'extasieroient à leur aise sur Gluck & sur Piccini! Combien de personnes pieuses, impotentes, ou malades, seroient trop heureuses de s'unir, de leur fauteuil, au chant de l'église, & expieroient ainsi, par des abonnemens édifiants, l'usage profane auquel on les consacreroit d'ailleurs.

# Now You Know

a pdf of these slides is available at  
<http://bit.ly/hpa23-prt>