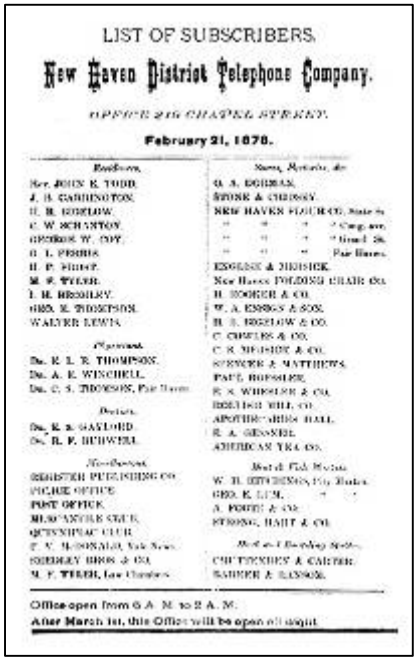
Did you Know

The Telephone Directory

1878 – New Haven District Telephone Company



LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

New Haven District Telephone Company.

February 21, 1878.

Office open from 6 A. M. to 8 A. M.
After March 1st, this Office will be open all night.

On 10 march 1876, with the words, 'Mr. Watson – come here, I want to see you, 'the world was changed for ever.

Alexander Graham Bell's invention of the telephone ushered in an era of instant long-distance communication that revolutionized commerce, industry, politics and personal relationships. The telegraph had already been invented, in 1837, but it required a specialist operator to put the (usually terse) message into Morse code, another operator at the receiving end to decode it, and then someone to deliver it to the recipient.

The telephone, by contrast, put people directly and vocally in touch with each other.

The telephone also created an occasion for the new technology of telecommunications to join with a much old technology – print.

Subscribers to the new telephone services needed to know how to contact other subscribers – otherwise the new invention would be little more than a toy.

Hence the publication of the first telephone directory, called simply The Telephone Directory. It was issued in Connecticut in 1878 by the New Haven District Telephone Company, the world's first, and comprised a single-sheet list of 50 subscribers.

Most of the entries were for business or public services such as the police and the post office. Only 11 were for private residences, 4 of those for individuals connected to the company. The directory did not actually give the subscribers' telephone numbers-callers had to ring the New Haven exchange to be put through.

Books that changed the world

The 50 most influential books in human history

By Andrew Taylor

The Iliad – Homer (8th Century BCE)
The Histories – Herodotus (5th Century BCE)
The Analeets – Confucius (5th Century BCE)
The Republic – Plato (4th Century BCE)
The Bible – (2nd Century BCE – 2nd Century CE)
Odes – Horace (23-13 BCE)
Geographia – Ptolemy (100 – 170 CE)
Kama Sutra – Mallanaga Vatsayana (2nd or 3rd Century CE)
The Quran - (7th Century CE)
Canon of Medicine – Avecenna (1025)
The Canterbury Tales – Chaucer (1380s – 90s)
The Prince – Machiavelli (1532)
Atlas, or Cosmographic Meditations – Mercator (1585-95)
Don Quixote – Miguel de Cervantes (1605 – 15)
First Folio – Shakespeare (1623)
An Anatomical Study of the Motion of the Heart and Blood in Animals – William Harvey (1628)
Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems – Galileo (1632)
Principia Mathematica - Isaac Newton (1687)
A Dictionary of the English language - Samuel Johnson (1755)
The Sorrows of Young Werther - Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe(1774)
The Wealth of Nations - Adam Smith (1776)
Common Sense - Tomas Paine (1776)
Lyrical Ballads - William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1798)
Pride and Prejudice - Jane Austen (1813)
A Christmas Carol - Charles Dickens (1843)
The Communist Manifesto - Karl Marx (1848)
Moby Dick - Herman Melville (1851)
Uncle Tom's Cabin - Harriet Beecher Stowe (1852)
Madame Bovary - Gustave Flaubert (1857)
On the Origin of Species - Charles Darwin (1859)
On Liberty - John Stuart Mill (1859)
War and Peace - Leo Tolstoy (1869)
The Telephone Directory - New Haven District Telephone Company (1878)
The Thousand and One Nights - Translated by Sir Richard Burton (1885)
A Study in Scarlet - Arthur Conan Doyle (1888)
The Interpretation of Dreams - Sigmund Freud (1899)
The Protocols of the Elders of Zion - Mein Kampf (1905)
Poems - Wilfred Owen (1920)
Relativity: The Special and the General Theory - Albert Einstein (1920)
Ulysses - James Joyce (1922)
Lady Chatterley's Lover - D. H. Lawrence (1928)
The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money - John Maynard Keynes (1936)
If This is a Man - Primo Levi (1947)
Nineteen Eighty-four - George Orwell (1949)
The Second Sex - Simone De Beauvoir (1949)
The Catcher in the Rye - J. D. Salinger (1951)
Things Fall Apart - Chinua Achebe (1958)
The Silent Spring - Rachel Carson (1962)
Quotations from Chairman Mao - Mao Zedong (19640
Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone - J. K. Rowling (1997)

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