

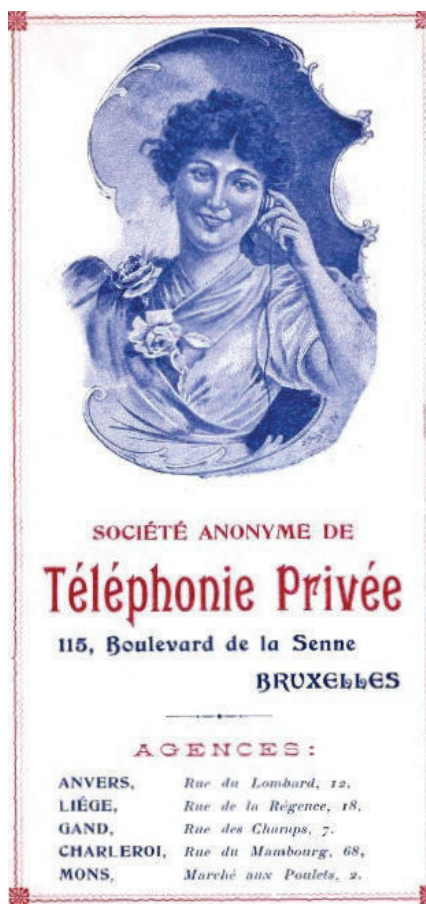
Jan Verhelst has added this follow up to his article "First payphone in Belgium, Circa 1913" published in THJ 114, Spring 2021.

In September 2021 THG members, Stefan Biesemans and Jan Verhelst, were able to visit the depot of the Museum of Art and History in Brussels. This museum "inherited" the telephones of the former telecom museum.

The payphone that was described in the earlier article was a coin box made by a company called "Contrôleur Automatique de Téléphone" connected to a regular BTMC telephone.

They write, "To our great surprise, we found in the depot of this museum a payphone from the same company where both the coin box and the phone were integrated in the same housing."

This payphone was made by the same company – Contrôleur



Automatique du Téléphone, but distributed by another company – La Téléphonie Privée. This is a Belgian company that was founded in 1896, and mainly addressed businesses.

There was also a French company with the same name, but so far we have not been able to find out if there was a link between the two.

The foundation act of the Belgian company (founded in 1896) does not show a reference to the French company nor to the French shareholders.

There is a suspicion though, considering that the advertisements of both companies "Téléphonie Privée" are similar.

Left - Fig 4: Belgian Catalogue

More pictures opposite

Event - Avoncroft Swapmeet

The Avoncroft Swapmeet will be held on Sunday 13th March 2022, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B60 4JR

Like this year the swapmeet will be held again in the Guesten Hall Building. As it is at ground floor level it is much easier to unload and set up; also the hall is quite large and there is ample space. The Avoncroft Museum has very kindly waived their admission charges for paid-up THG members for this day only. This will mean that members will not have to pay the £10.00 admission fee. Avoncroft will have a list on the day of current paid up THG members. If you want to get in free you will need to be on the list so that you can be ticked off. If your membership has lapsed then you will not get in without full payment. The free admission is just for the THG member. Seniors/Students will have to pay

£8.00 and children £6.00. The swapmeet will open to THG members from 10:30 when the museum opens. The swapmeet will end promptly at 13:30. The Museum closes at 17:00. We must vacate the Guesten hall at 15:30.

It is quite expensive to hire the Guesten Hall. To help subsidise the cost there will a charge of £5.00 per table at this I will collect this from the table holders on the day. Tables must be booked in advance with me the organiser, LaurenceRudolf, 0330 321 1844 (option 5) or email events@thg.org.uk.

If you are booking a table you will have access to drive in from 9:30. You can find out information about Avoncroft from their web site www.avoncroft.org.uk Under the Museum's health and safety policy, In order for this swapmeet to go ahead the THG have agreed to the follow-

ing;- No items that belong to THG members can be plugged in to any electrical sockets. The general public can come into the swapmeet. THG members families are welcome. The museum will allow cars on site before 10:15 for unloading, however by 10:30 all cars should be off site and in the car park. The museum can only have a maximum of 6 cars near the Guesten Hall at one time.

Avoncroft is two miles south of Bromsgrove off the A38 bypass (400 yards north of its junction with the B4091). It is three miles north of the M5, Junction 5 and three miles south of the M42, junction 1. Regular bus services from Bromsgrove and Droitwich and from Birmingham and Worcester. Bromsgrove railway station is one mile away.

We usually manage to get all 34 tables booked.

Laurence Rudolf



Fig 1: General view of the payphone



Fig 2: Manufacturer's label



Fig 3: Distributor's label



Fig 5: French Catalogue