

PHONE OF THE MONTH: ATEA TYPE 51

By Jan Verhelst, Belgium

I like the shape of this phone, which has an “art deco” look. I presume it has been designed already before World War II, but after 1939.

It is the standard wall phone ATEA

this phone is delivered in a Bakelite version.

An interesting feature is the use of hinges and their shape. The phone is wall mounted, but can open while hang-

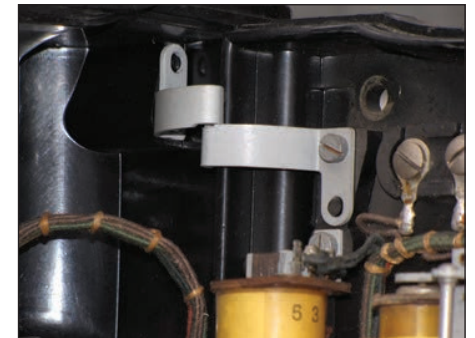
from the wall part.

We do find the phone in the ATEA catalogue with the original name “Telephones” of May 1, 1940. It has been manufactured for sure until the mid 1950s, probably even later. More details, including a wiring diagram, are in the Bonus Pages. ☛



delivered to the RTT. Unlike the standard desk phone from around this time,

ing at the wall for maintenance. If necessary, the front part can be unhooked



THE CONTINENTAL TELEPHONE



equipped with an ivory handset (plastic or painted) and a metal finger wheel that was called a Continental set. The Bell System also offered custom colors like the one pictured here that was made for the University of Texas. It is our understanding that this set was made for anyone willing to pay the upfront color or custom charge and the additional monthly fee for a color set. This set is

It may interest you to know that this very common telephone, the Western Electric “D” mount, or “202,” was reissued in the fifties in a variety of colors and styles. There were the five basic painted colors (Blue, Ivory, Green, Pe-kin Red, and Old Rose), and a beige set

the exact official orange color and is in “new” condition, undoubtedly not used or kept as a souvenir. According to a Western Electric plant retiree, they did just about any custom work that the customer was willing to pay for. ☛

