

# Cooke and Wheatstone and the invention of the electric telegraph.

**Augustus M. Kelley - Invention of the Telegraph**



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## When Charles Wheatstone, inventor of the electric telegraph, was born

As an interim measure, a two-needle system was used with three of the remaining working underground wires, which despite using only two needles had a greater number of codes. Originally the Great Western Railway telegraph had just two instrument stations, Paddington and West Drayton. In 1850, the year in which Dickens wrote this article, the mainstream telegraphs were the one- or two-needle instruments operated by the skilled operators of the Electric Telegraph Company.

## Morse Code & the Telegraph

The first, championed by Cooke, was based on the relatively simple one- or two-needle instrument that required skilled operators for its operation. Cooke had also perhaps forgotten that his own mechanical arrangements were never practical, and might never have been operational without the scientific insight of Wheatstone, as evidenced by a letter he wrote to his mother in February 1837.

## Wheatstone, Charles, Cooke and Wheatstone; London manufacturer

By then the terms of the joint patent of 1840 had expired, leaving Wheatstone free to develop further the step-by-step technology. There were geographical constraints on intercepting the telegraph cables, but once radio was used, interception could be much more widespread.

## Cooke and Wheatstone

The needle struck a post when it moved causing it to ring. Commercial telegraphy made a revolution in world communications possible, laying the groundwork for new uses in the second half of the century in military intelligence and personal communication.

## Distant Writing

Should such an event take place especially when the whole line is open to Bristol it might occur to many that there would be considerable difficulty as all the wires are inclosed in a hollow tube, not more than about an inch in diameter in ascertaining, throughout the 117 miles, the precise point at

which the injury required to be repaired; but this apparent difficulty has been met by Mr. In 1817 a man took his curious fifteen-year old nephew from London to view the telegraph in Mr Ronalds' garden.

### **Inventions In The Victorian Era**

We find Thomas Wedgwood producing such pictures on paper by aid of a preparation of nitrate of silver so far back as the year 1790, only he could not fix them; and the subsequent experiments of Davy equally failed to do so. He turned his focus to mechanical and civil engineering, traveling extensively and developing new surveying tools as well as drawing instruments to help artists achieve better perspective in their sketches. The receiver was designed around a clockwork mechanism.

### **William Cooke**

Several such telegraphs exist, and among them are some very happily arranged; and there is something so simple in the fact of being able to point to any desired letter, that it is no wonder the public generally may, on a hasty glance, and before studying the practical merits of the case, be ready to decide in their favour, and prefer them to any other plan, the A, B, C of which is less obvious.

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