

Letter from George Henckel to Alexander Graham Bell, January 4, 1898

ACHERT & HENCKEL LITHOGRAPHERS . *S.W. Cor. 3 rd . & Plum Sts .* CINCINNATI ,
Jan. 4th. 1898. Professor A. Graham Bell, Washington, D. C. Dear Sir:

Some time ago I read in one of the magazines that you had invented a "Dentaphone" or "Otophone" which has proved to be of invaluable service to Mrs. Bell. Last week I found one of my intimate friends in Kentucky has suddenly become afflicted with a serious case of deafness, and I informed him of your wonderful invention. Could I ask of you for humanity's sake to advise me where I can possibly procure an instrument such as is used by Mrs. Bell? All of the instrument houses in this town claim that they have never heard of it. and have nothing but ear trumpets and such like. I understand that your instrument is somewhat similar to the receiver of a telephone and that a small piece of metal is held between the teeth and which conducts the sound in this way to the oral nerves.

Thanking you in advance for such information as you may feel inclined to give me, I remain, dear sir, with great respect.

Yours very truly, Geo Henckel.