

Guglielmo Marconi

Honorary Member 1917

John Fritz Medalist 1923

GUGLIELMO Marconi, Italian inventor, famous for establishing wireless telegraphy on a commercial basis, was elected an Honorary Member of the Institute on August 14, 1917. He was born in Italy on April 25, 1874, and was educated privately. In 1895 the idea became firmly rooted in his mind that a system of telegraphy through space, could be provided by means of electromagnetic waves, the existence of which had already been determined. Marconi was the first to devise practical means by which these waves could provide a new method of communication. In 1896 he went to England, taking out during that year the first patent ever granted on wireless telegraphy. An extensive series of experiments followed, and his first commercial company was organized in 1897. During the next few years, he took out many patents on new devices in wireless telegraphy, and had much to do with the remarkable growth of this industry in many countries of the world. He also was one of the pioneers in the use of short-wave for radio communication. During the World War, Marconi served in both the Italian Army and Navy; and also visited America as a member of the Italian War Commission to the U.S. Government. He was appointed a delegate to the Peace Conference in Paris in 1919. Among the many honors he has received are the Nobel Prize for physics in 1909, the Albert Medal of the Royal Society of Arts, of Great Britain, and the 1932 Kelvin Medal of the Institution of Civil Engineers, of Great Britain. He has been decorated with the Italian order of St. Maurice and St. Lazarus, and with the Grand Cross of the Crown of Italy. In 1915 he was nominated senator of the Kingdom of Italy. In the United States, he has received the Franklin and John Fritz medals and Medal of Honor of the Institute of Radio Engineers. He is president of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, Ltd., at London, England.



GUGLIELMO MARCONI

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