

“Mondo in Tasca”: celebrations at MUMEC

Fausto Casi¹

¹Museo dei Mezzi di Comunicazione, Arezzo, faustocasi@tiscali.it.

Abstract: Specifically for the year 2024, the MUMEC Museo dei Mezzi di Comunicazione in Arezzo proposes a calendar of events entirely dedicated to the history of telecommunications to celebrate a series of fundamental anniversaries: 150 years since the birth of Guglielmo Marconi; 100 years of broadcasting in Italy; 70 years of Rai Italian radio-television. The exhibition *Il Mondo in Tasca* will be the year's protagonist. It testifies to how technology has brought constant and widespread ease of information. “L'ha detto la Radio” was the key phrase of the years of large-scale diffusion of the radio, which first established itself as the absolute protagonist in the dissemination of information. It has always been considered the voice of truth, and with time, will be joined by TV and online information. The exhibition - open until February 2025, will feature original equipment recalling the early successes of Marconi, the inventor of Radio, from 1895 onward. They will be followed by vintage apparatus from the early 1920s (the beginning of Italian radio) and later eras up to pocket transistors as evidence of the constant miniaturization of technology. The novel bust of Marconi, made around 1930 by the Turin sculptor Giuseppe Bottinelli, will be exposed. The volume of over 350 pages *Il Mondo in Tasca*, written by Prof. Fausto Casi, Founder and Scientific Curator of the MUMEC, and a bronze medal, celebrating all the above-mentioned events, created specifically by the Arezzo sculptor Enzo Scatragli, are the spearheads of the celebrations in Arezzo.

Keywords: Radio, Television, Guglielmo Marconi.



Fig. 1: Cover of the *Mondo in tasca*, 2024.

The MUMEC, a museum of mass media, was opened in 2005 by Professor Fausto Casi and consists of pieces from his collection. Still located in the Arezzo's Town Hall, the assortment has been enriched (also through donations), counting more than 2000 pieces, then being included among the Museums of Regional Importance in 2018, reconfirmed in 2023. Today it is a mainly educational museum, managed and organized to be within the reach of young people, through games and events that remind them that humanity wasn't born with a mobile phone in the pocket.

In 2024, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Guglielmo Marconi, 100 years of broadcasting in Italy, and 70 since the birth of RAI, Italian Radio, and Television, the MUMEC organized a series of events for which Enzo Scatragli, a sculptor from Arezzo, sculpted a bronze medal on display at the museum together with the unpublished bust of Marconi from 1930 made by G. Bottinelli; different historical films are also screened throughout the year in collaboration with

Rai Teche, and in the end the presentation of the book written by Professor Casi, founder and scientific curator of MUMEC: *Il Mondo In Tasca* (The World in the Pocket).

About the book, the beating heart of the whole event, you'll enjoy an extensive catalog of over 350 pages, which revolve around the undisputed Father of telecommunications: Guglielmo Marconi. His nephew, Dr. Guglielmo Principe Giovanelli Marconi, personally dedicated himself to the writing of the preface, followed by the opening dedicated to the author's studies and professional experiences. The essence of



Fig. 2: Overview of the opening conference and the book presentation - February 2024.

Prof. Casi's passion is consumed in the corpus of the book. We find him portraying G. Marconi in his figure as a scientist and inventor. It also traces the evolution of the means of communication and analyzes its social impact, making the reading clear, fluent, and interesting; satisfying both the thirst for meticulous experts and the delight of readers guided more by curiosity. From the history of wireless telegraphy with its applications, we get to talk about broadcasting with URI, EIAR, RAI, and the development of radio programs in Italy up to the last chapter, which focused on television and a succession of inventions. In the end, the author exposes the inevitable reflection on the concept of "today's telecommunications". It thus pushes the reader to ask himself what technology can still evolve into, how much more complex it can become, and how strong its impact on humanity can be.

Bibliografia

Casi, F. (1987). *Il Mondo in casa*, Città di Castello: AC Grafiche Cerbara.

Casi, F. (2024). *Il Mondo in tasca*. Arezzo: Edizioni Museo MUMEC.