

Under the high patronage of the President of the Italian Republic

The Italian Cultural Institute in New York

with

Accademia dei Lincei in Rome

THE ITALIAN GENIUS AND THE WORLD
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

On the 150th Anniversary of the Unification of Italy

In collaboration with COTEC

Sponsored by Agusta Westland, ENEL, Farindustria,

Telecom Italia

with the contribution of

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche and Istituto Nazionale
di Fisica Nucleare

New York
Italian Cultural Institute

December 6, 2011

Premise

The 150th anniversary of the Unification of Italy must also be an occasion to celebrate and reflect on the role that Italian science and technology has played in the world. It is therefore particularly significant to analyze the contribution that Italian discoveries and inventions have made to the industrial development of the early 1900s, especially on nations such as the United States. In fact, many of these discoveries and inventions made by Italians were fundamental in the Second Industrial Revolution, which focused itself primarily on the American continent. One must think of the contributions made to the development of American technology and industry: Golgi and his neuron doctrine, Barsanti-Matteucci and the internal combustion engine, Galileo Ferraris and the electric motor, Cruto and the incandescent light bulb, Meucci and the telephone, Guglielmo Marconi and the wireless telegraph, Fermi and his nuclear research, Natta and propylene, etc. The day-long international conference shall be a gathering of some of the most important scientific, technological, and industrial historians, both Italian and American. This will mark the launch and inauguration of the exhibit. The exhibit shall display the foremost accounts on the primacy of Italian science and technology in the last century and a half by way of photographs, video recordings, findings, multimedia tools, all of which played a role in the development of worldwide industry, and particularly in that of the United States.

10.00 AM Welcome

Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, Ambassador of Italy to the United States

Lamberto Maffei, President, Accademia dei Lincei, Rome

10.30 AM Introduction

Riccardo Viale, Director of the Italian Cultural Institute in New York

10.45 AM Session I: Italian Inventors and the 2nd Industrial Revolution

Amb. Francesco Olivieri (Enel US, Washington DC)

Lecture: Marco Segala (CNRS, ENS-Paris)

Inventions and Discoveries from Meucci to Marconi:

Why some failed and others succeeded?

Lecture: Giovanni Dosi (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa)

Innovation and Ingenuity in Patenting

Comments: David C. Mowery (Berkeley, Haas School of Business)

12.45 PM Lunch Break

2.45 PM Session II: Italian Inventions and Contemporary American Growth

Chair: Massimo Scaccabarozzi (President, Farindustria)

Lecture: Vittorio Marchis (Polytechnic of Turin)

The Industrial Revolution coming from Fermi to Natta

Lecture: Massimo Loda (Harvard Medical School)

From Golgi to Levi Montalcini, The Italian Contribution to the Revolution in Life

Sciences

4.45 - 5.00 PM Coffee Break

Chair: Giuseppe Orsi (CEO, Agusta Westland)

Lecture: Arthur Molella (Director, Lemerson Center for the Study of Invention and
Innovation)

Viterbi, Vincentelli and others in the Third Industrial Revolution

6.00 – 7.00 PM Second Antonio Meucci Honorary Lecture

Lamberto Maffei (President, Accademia dei Lincei, Rome)

Brain and Environment