Marconi’s Centennial Celebration

The year 2001 marked the Centennial of Guglielmo Marconi’s first transatlantic radio transmission between England and Canada, and the city of St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada, organized the Wireless Vision Congress on the same dates as our conference.

The Centennial, besides being of great interest to the entire wireless world, has a special meaning for the Hotel Miramare, our conference hotel, where Marconi conducted short wave radio experiments in the early thirties.

To celebrate the centennial and the connection to the Miramare, and thanks to the cooperation of Telespazio and Eutelsat, we had a live link with the Wireless Congress during its opening ceremonies. The program, hosted by Frank Gargione and beamed live to Canada, included an address by Princess Elettra Marconi Giovanelli and her son Prince Guglielmo Marconi Giovanelli, a retrospective of Marconi’s work by Gabriele Falciasseca of the Marconi Foundation, and an address by Franco Marconicchio on current communications activities in Europe.

The taped address by Sir Arthur C. Clarke beamed from St. Johns.

The event ended with a taped address by Sir Arthur C. Clarke, introduced by Canadian Astronaut Marc Garneau and beamed to us from St. Johns.

A cocktail reception sponsored by Telespazio at the hotel’s Poolside Restaurant concluded the evening.