National Capital Radio & Television Museum

Artifact of the Week:

Marconi's Autograph



This week's featured artifact is Guglielmo Marconi's autograph on a business card, dated 1932. It came to the museum laminated in plastic for protection.

Marconi is recognized as one of the most important inventors in the history of radio. He amazed the world by sending the first wireless message across the Atlantic in 1901. His firm was the most successful of the early companies established to provide long-distance wireless communication.

When Marconi died on July 20, 1937 he was mourned around the world. Shortly thereafter nearly all the world's radio stations silenced their transmitters for two minutes to honor him.

The person who donated this artifact was not the individual who received the autograph in 1932, and we do not know who did, or the circumstances, but it is certainly appropriate for a museum dedicated to preserve the history of electroic communication to have in its collection Guglielmo Marconi's autograph.

For more information about Marconi and his contributions, see "Marconi's Long-Distance Wireless Telegraph" in the May 2017 *Dials and Channels*.

We appreciate your support of the museum so that historical artifacts like these, and the stories that go with them, can be preserved for future generations. THANKS!