



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS
33 WEST THIRTY-NINTH STREET
NEW YORK

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CABLE, CYANDRIC

To the Press - For immediate release.

EDISON MEDAL AWARDED

TO

PHILIP TORCHIO

Philip Torchio, who retired in 1938, at the age of 70, from the position of Vice President of the Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc., has been awarded the 1939 Edison Medal of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the highest award in electrical engineering.

The award was made to Mr. Torchio "For distinguished contributions to the art of central station engineering and for achievement in the production, distribution, and utilization of electrical energy".

The presentation will be made on the evening of Wednesday, January 24th, during the winter convention of the Institute, which will be held in the Engineering Societies Building, New York.

Mr. Torchio, a native of Italy, was graduated from the University of Pavia, in 1890, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and from the Royal Polytechnic of Milan, in 1893, with the degrees of Mechanical Engineer and Electrical Engineer.

He came to New York in 1893. The following are the positions he has occupied since:

Sprague Electric Elevator Company
Draftsman and Chief Draftsman 1893-1895

The New York Edison Company, Inc. and its successor,
Consolidated Edison Company
Engineer of Economics 1895-1901
Engineer of Distribution 1901-1905
Chief Electrical Engineer 1905-1924
Vice President 1924-1938

also

Consulting Engineer 1905-1928
of
The United Electric Light & Power Co.
N.Y. & Queens Electric Light & Power Co.
Westchester Lighting Co.
Bronx Gas & Electric Co.
Yonkers Electric Light & Power Co.

The progress made in the distribution of electric energy in New York City from the isolated direct-current generating stations to the large alternating-current central stations with their extensive interconnections was a result of Mr. Torchio's careful analyses and experimentations in which he was always seeking improved methods for insuring higher continuity of service and lower cost of production and distribution.

Mr. Torchio's ingenuity in solving scientific and engineering problems was instrumental in advancing high-voltage transmission and distribution. The Committee on High Potential Disturbances of the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies, of which Mr. Torchio was an active member and Chairman, was depended upon to solve the early growing problems of the central station. For example, he was one of the first to use reactance coils, which permit the unlimited interconnection of systems and, at the same time, confine troubles to a limited area and reduce the magnitude of such troubles to the capacity of available protective equipment.

Mr. Torchio's investigations and analyses were important factors contributing toward the present satisfactory performance of high-voltage electric power cables and the successful adaptation of large generators to the requirements of electric power systems. He was one of the first in the United States to install 132,000 volt cable.

Mr. Torchio is the author of 38 original papers published in the transactions of: technical societies (American Institute of Electrical Engineers 1901-1927; Association of Edison Illuminating Companies 1900-1923; National Electric Light Association 1909-1923; Association of Iron and Steel Electrical Engineers 1922), international congresses (International Electrical Congress, St. Louis, 1904; International Congress of Applications of Electricity, Turin, 1911; Pan-American Scientific Congress, Washington, 1915; World Engineering Congress, Tokyo, 1929), and in technical magazines ("Electrical World", "L'Energia Elettrica" and "Water Resources") and college graduate lectures (Columbia University, 1903, Johns Hopkins University, 1921; and Yale University, 1922).

In these main papers and in more than 100 Briefer contributions the author gave the results of original researches and new developments in electrical apparatus, high voltage power cables, and the art of mass production of electricity and distribution over large territories; the latter including comprehensive analyses of the problem of national power supply, in which the most important economical factors relating to different sources of energy for power are so coordinated as to clearly indicate the plan of utilization most economical for the ultimate consumer.

Although Mr. Torchio is the patentee in America and in foreign countries of many improvements in electrical apparatus and devices for the production, transmission and distribution of electric energy, his assistance in the development of this equipment and its successful application to the central station industry has been of even greater value.

During the World War, Mr. Torchio acted as Consultant in developing with the Government's representatives, plans for interchange of electric power between different electric power companies along the Eastern Seaboard to meet the greatly increased requirements of the war industries; also as Consultant to the Navy Department in the design of electric cables for use in the large electrically propelled cruisers and battleships having power plants of enormous capacity. Incidentally, the type adopted was a special cable which Mr. Torchio had previously developed for the New York Electrical Companies.

He has been chairman of many technical committees in the Institute and organizations active in the development of electric power systems.

The Edison Medal, founded by associates and friends of Thomas A. Edison to perpetuate his memory and the memory of his great works, is awarded annually for "meritorious achievement in electrical science, electrical engineering, or the electrical arts" by a committee of twenty-four of the leading members of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. Previous recipients have been Elihu Thomson, Frank J. Sprague, George Westinghouse, William Stanley, Charles F. Brush, Alexander Graham Bell, Nikola Tesla, John J. Carty, Benjamin G. Lamme, W. L. R. Emmet, Michael I. Pupin, Cummings C. Chesney, Robert A. Millikan, John W. Lieb, John White Howell, Harris J. Ryan, William D. Coolidge, Frank B. Jewett, Charles F. Scott, Frank Conrad, Edwin W. Rice, Jr., Bancroft Gherardi, A. E. Kennelly, Willis R. Whitney, Lewis B. Stillwell, Alex Dow, Gano Dunn, and Dugald C. Jackson.

From: H. H. Henline, National Secretary
American Institute of Electrical Engineers
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