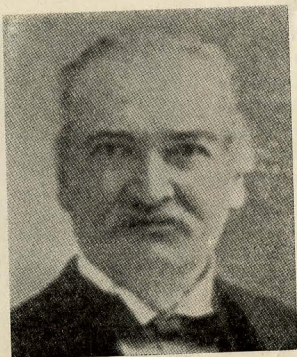


## Antonio Pacinotti Honorary Member 1912

PROFESSOR Antonio Pacinotti, original inventor of the d-c dynamo with its commutator, and of the ring and toothed types of armature, was born at Pisa, Italy, June 17, 1841; his death occurred in that city on March 24, 1912, only a few weeks after his election on January 12, 1912, as an Honorary Member of the Institute. Under the direction of his father he early began the study of electromagnetism, and by the time he was 17 years of age had the principles of the d-c generator well in mind, constructing in 1860 the celebrated machine which 10 years later was reinvented by Gramme. After 3 years of experimentation with his models, Professor Pacinotti published an illustrated description of his dynamo in the *Nuovo Cimento* in 1864, but this received little attention at the time. The machine described by the young Italian embodied for the first time the ring armature with its symmetrically grouped coils closed upon themselves and connected to the bars of a commutator, the brushes of which delivered practically non-fluctuating current. Early in his work the Italian inventor discovered the reversibility of

the dynamo of his creation, having noted that if the machine were supplied with energy from an outside source it would run as a motor. In 1862 he was appointed to the assistant professorship of astronomy at Florence, and, having to renounce carrying out his electrical experiments on the enlarged scale he had planned, then prepared the *Nuovo Cimento* description of his generator already mentioned. In 1864 he received the professorship of applied physics at Bologna and in 1873 was appointed professor of physics at Cagliari. At the Vienna exposition in 1873 he exhibited his dynamo model made in 1860, and for the first time received wide credit. A medal of progress was granted Professor Pacinotti at Vienna, and other medals of honor were given him in 1881 at Paris. At the time of his death he was professor of technological physics at the University of Pisa and senator of the kingdom of Italy.

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ANTONIO PACINOTTI

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