

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS  
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CABLE, CYANDRIC



TO THE PRESS - For release Monday, December 12, 1932.

EDISON MEDAL AWARDED TO  
BANCROFT GHERARDI

The Edison Medal for 1932 has been awarded by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers to Bancroft Gherardi, "for his contributions to the art of telephone engineering and the development of electrical communication".

The Edison Medal was founded by associates and friends of Thomas A. Edison, and is awarded annually for "meritorious achievement in electrical science, electrical engineering, or the electrical arts" by a committee consisting of twenty-four members of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

The following eminent engineers and scientists have been recipients of the medal: 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, and Edwin W. Rice, Jr.

Bancroft Gherardi, vice-president and chief engineer, American Telephone & Telegraph Company, was born in San Francisco, California, April 6, 1873. His degrees are B.Sc., Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn 1891; M.E., Cornell 1893; and M.M.E., Cornell 1894.

Upon the completion of his studies at Cornell University, he entered the employ of the New York Telephone Company under John J. Carty, who was then chief engineer. From 1900-06 he was chief engineer of the New York and New Jersey Telephone Company; 1906-07 assistant chief engineer of the New York Telephone Company; 1907-18 engineer of plant, American Telephone & Telegraph Company. In 1918 he became acting chief engineer and shortly afterward chief engineer of the latter company. Since 1920 he has been vice-president and chief engineer of the American Telephone & Telegraph Company. He is a director of the Michigan Bell Telephone Company, the Cuban American Telephone & Telegraph Company, the 195 Broadway Corporation, and the Bell Telephone Laboratories, Incorporated.

Mr. Gherardi's activities in the Institute are outlined below: Associate 1895; Fellow 1912; Manager 1905-08, 1914-17; vice-president 1908-10; president 1927-28; member at various times of many committees, including the Executive, Edison Medal, Finance, Headquarters, Public Policy, Research, and Constitutional Revision. He has represented the Institute upon the Board of Trustees of the United Engineering Trustees,

Incorporated, the Library Board, the National Research Council, the U.S. National Committee of the I.E.C., the John Fritz Medal Board of Award, and other bodies, having served as president of the United Engineering Trustees, Incorporated, and as chairman of the John Fritz Medal Board of Award. He is at present chairman of the Public Policy Committee, a representative of the Institute upon the John Fritz Medal Board of Award, and the Board of Directors of the American Standards Association, and has been president of the latter organization during the past two years.

He is vice-president and director of the planning Foundation of America; a trustee of Cornell University; a member of the joint general committee of the Bell Telephone System and the National Electric Light Association; a member of the joint general committee of the Bell Telephone System and the American Railway Association; and chairman of the American Committee on Inductive Coordination.

Mr. Gherardi's entire professional and business career has been devoted to the art of communication. Coming into this field when the telephone art was very young (300,000 telephones in 1895) he has played a most important part in the development and perfection of operating practises and in the development of methods, equipment, and apparatus, which have brought telephone communication to the high state of perfection in which we find it today.

Mr. Gherardi has directed the development and introduction of many new and improved arrangements which are in use today on a large scale, and which have added greatly to the speed and accuracy of local and long distance telephone service.

His broad vision as to the place of communication, not only in the affairs of the people of the United States but also in world affairs, and his initiative and skill in the development of engineering and operating organizations and in the development of the art generally have contributed enormously to the growth and success of present-day communication.

Mr. Gherardi is the author of numerous important contributions to the technical press, including the Transactions of the A.I.E.E.

His other memberships include the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; the Franklin Institute; the New York Electrical Society; and Sigma Xi.

In 1923 the Emperor of Japan conferred upon Mr. Gherardi the emblem of the Fourth Order of the Rising Sun.

FROM:

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H. H. Henline, Acting National Secretary  
American Institute of Electrical Engineers,  
33 West 39th Street, New York, N.Y.

December 8, 1932