



*In this series of portraits, the EBU Technical Review honours leading figures in broadcast engineering. Their contributions have had a major impact on the development of the industry, and by presenting the work and achievements of these men and women, their personality, and their professionalism we shall illustrate some of the lesser-known facets of radio and television development.*

## Carlo Terzani – An international vocation

An electrical engineer by training, Carlo Terzani, fast approaching his 75th birthday, has devoted the greater part of his working life to the international aspects of broadcasting. The airwaves are great travellers that do not recognize national boundaries; without the delegates of the broadcasting organizations to the international bodies as arbitrators, broadcasting would never have undergone the expansion and progress it has in the past 50 years. The life of Carlo Terzani is exemplary in this respect.

Carlo Terzani was born in Rome on 15 December 1920. After studying science subjects at secondary school, he entered the applied sciences faculty of Rome University. In 1946 he graduated as an electrical engineer with the highest honours. It should be realized that at that time the higher centres of learning did not yet offer degree courses in HF applications or light current engineering.

After his brilliant studies, his first job was in the HF Applications Centre of the Italian Research Council. This was a very sound start to the career of an enthusiastic young scientist. For nearly two years he strove to penetrate the mysteries of radar technology, which had developed to an impressive extent during World War II. A story that reflects Carlo Terzani's practical turn of mind is that he worked out the main principles of the then still classified HF application by salvaging parts from the stocks abandoned by the allied forces.

However, in May 1948, on the advice of his director of research, Carlo Terzani joined Radio Audizioni Italia, which later became RAI—Radiotelevisione Italiana. He was first of all appointed to the RAI Engineering Directorate in Turin, where he participated in setting up the first television transmitter in Italy. In 1949 he was offered a position at the Sesto Calende Measuring Centre near Milan, where he headed a vast campaign for the measurement of the MF field strength over the whole of Italy. The outcome was a ground conductivity map of the peninsula.

In 1950 he returned to his birthplace, Rome, and the RAI General Secretariat to take charge of relations between the engineering directorate and the ministries. The Florence/Rapallo Conference was held the same year, and it was there that, his aptitude for international relations being noticed by the Director General of the RAI, his international career was well and truly launched.

Thus, he has taken part in virtually all the conferences of the International Telecommunication Union – the Plenipotentiary Conferences, the World Administrative Radio Conferences (WARC) and the WARC on satellite services, the Broadcasting Conferences, and the CCIR and CCITT and Plenary Assemblies. He was unanimously elected Chairman of the 13th CCIR Plenary Assembly (Geneva, 1974).

From 1975 to 1985 he assumed the sensitive position of Chairman of the ESA Consultative Group on Satellite Broadcasting. In 1975, also, he was elected Chairman of the EBU Technical Committee, of which he had already been Vice-Chairman; he served as a member of the Bureau of the EBU Technical Committee for 34 years, during which period he chaired many groups, notably in Working Parties K and A. He is currently Chairman of ITU-R Study Group 10 (Sound Broadcasting).

His responsibilities and mandates include official participation in a considerable number of important international events:

member of the Committee of the Montreux International Television Symposium, he was Vice-Chairman of ITU Com 89, and a member of the Committee of the Beijing International Symposium on Broadcasting Technology).

Carlo Terzani is a regular contributor to the *EBU Technical Review* and has also published articles in *Elettronica*, the *ITU Journal*, etc. He also lectured for more than 20 years at Rome University, handing on his professional knowledge and experience.

These very many activities have naturally earned him recognition in his professional field. Carlo Terzani is a member of the *Tiberina Academia* in Rome and a Fellow

of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers. His awards and decorations include the CCIR Diploma of Honour (1982), the Gold Medal of the Montreux Symposium, (1985), the Presidential Proclamation Award of the SMPTE (1982), and the OIRT Medal of Honour (1987), together with a large number of citations and diplomas at international level.

Such high-powered and successful activity could not stop from one day to the next. Even though, for several years now, Carlo Terzani would have been able to lay claim to a well-deserved retirement, as consultant to the RAI he has maintained a high profile as a man of experience in international broadcasting circles – to the great good fortune of the profession and his very many colleagues.

