



Celebrating 150 years:
examples from the past



1866
1st

1890
25th

1915
50th

1940
75th

1965
100th

1990
125^h

1995
130th

2015
150th

Early anniversaries were often commemorated rather soberly, among the member administrations, celebrating the successes of the Union.

A large programme of activities was set up for the centenary year - 1965. Since then, anniversary celebrations have had more of a public relations aspect than earlier anniversaries.

1866 – 1st year

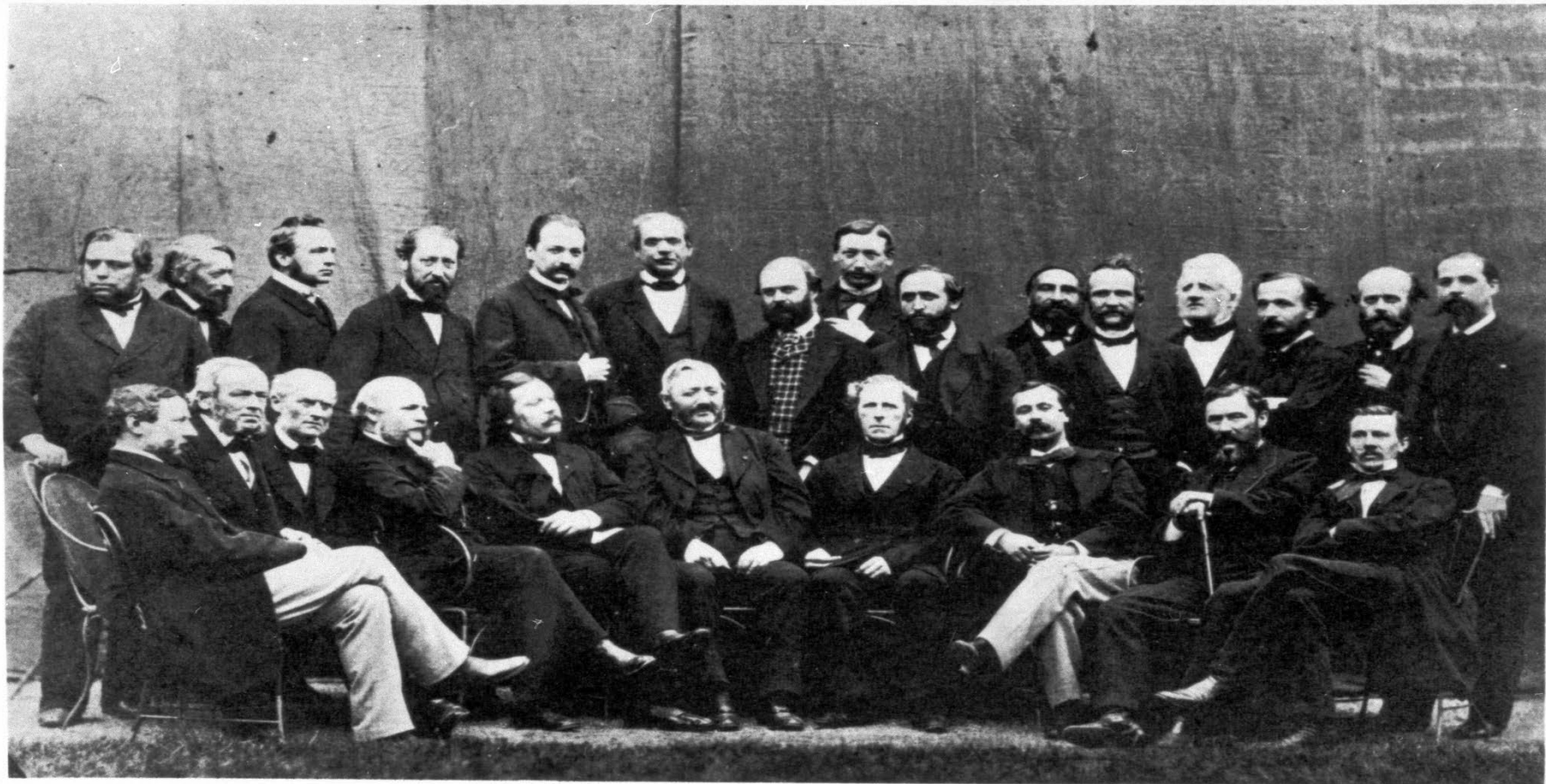
- Commemorative medal struck in 1866 by the Paris Mint to commemorate the first Conference of the International Telegraph Union, held in Paris in 1865.
- Two Bréguet telegraphs are shown around a central figure representing the electric telegraph



By hand converted into signs, our voice encompasses the whole world

1890 – 25th Anniversary

- To mark the 25th anniversary in 1890, the 7th International Telegraph Conference was held in **Paris**, seat of the signature of the first convention.
- The 25th anniversary was noted by the opening speakers, and a special tribute was given by **Mr. Nielsen**, the delegate from Norway, who had participated in the 1865 Paris Conference and all the subsequent International Telegraph Conferences. He was the only surviving member of the 1865 Conference to be present at the 1890 Conference.
- To commemorate the founding of the Union, a copy of the photograph of the delegates at the 1865 Conference was given to each member of the 1890 Conference.



FERNIQUE * PHOT.

31, RUE DE PLEURUS, PARIS

Danemark	Bavière	Norvège	Wurtemberg	Belgique	Portugal	Secrétaire	Suisse	Bade	Turquie	Prusse	Italie	Grèce	Secrétaire	Espagne
<i>Faber</i>	<i>de Weber</i>	<i>Nielsen</i>	<i>de Klein</i>	<i>Vincent</i>	<i>Damasio</i>	<i>de Lavernelle</i>	<i>Curchod</i>	<i>Poppen</i>	<i>Agathon Effendi</i>	<i>de Chauvin</i>	<i>Minetto</i>	<i>Manos</i>	<i>Dupré</i>	<i>de Hacar</i>
Pays-Bas	Bavière	Hanover	France	Belgique	France	Suède	Espagne	Russie	Autriche					
<i>Staring</i>	<i>de Dyck</i>	<i>Gauss</i>	<i>Jagerschmidt</i>	<i>Fassiaux</i>	<i>V^{te} de Vougy</i>	<i>Brandström</i>	<i>Sanz</i>	<i>G^l Mjr de Guerhard</i>	<i>de Wattenwyl</i>					



Norwegian delegate Mr. Nielsen



FRÉRIQUE * PHOT.

31, RUE DE FLEURUS, PARIS

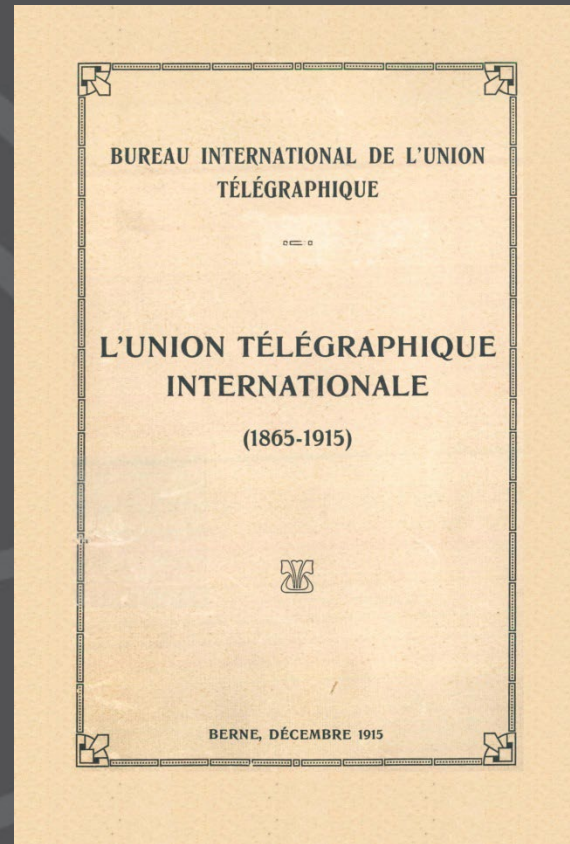
Danemark	Bavière	Norvège	Wurtemberg	Belgique	Portugal	Secrétaire	Suisse	Bade	Turquie	Prusse	Italie	Grèce	Secrétaire	Espagne
<i>Faber</i>	<i>de Weber</i>	<i>Nielsen</i>	<i>de Klein</i>	<i>Vincent</i>	<i>Damasio</i>	<i>de Lavernelle</i>	<i>Curchod</i>	<i>Peppen</i>	<i>Agathon Effendi</i>	<i>de Chauvin</i>	<i>Minetto</i>	<i>Manos</i>	<i>Dupré</i>	<i>de Hacar</i>
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1915 – 50th Anniversary

The Bureau prepared a **memoir** which briefly outlined the history of the Telegraph Union.

This book was distributed to all the member Administrations.

Available on ITU History Portal:
<http://handle.itu.int/11.1004/020.1000/12.18.72.fr>



1915 – 50th Anniversary

- In order to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Telegraph Union with appropriate dignity, the Lisbon Conference, 1908, unanimously accepted the proposal of the Conference's President, Mr. Pereira, to erect a **monument** in Berne.
- An international competition, to which 106 projects were submitted, chose the design of Mr **Giuseppe Romagnoli**, a Bolognese sculptor.
- Due to the First World War, the erection and inauguration of the monument did not take place until Saturday 16 December **1922**.
- In 2002-2003, the Swiss Confederation, through the Office fédéral des constructions et de la logistique, undertook a thorough restoration of the monument.



Further information:

<http://www.itu.int/en/history/Pages/ITUMonument.aspx>



MEMORIAL TO THE BARRIERS OF THE ITALIAN RESISTANCE
IN THE YEAR 1945

IL CANTO DI UNO DEI PIÙ GRANDI EPIGRAMMI DI ANTONIO DI SAUDA È IL PUNTO DI PARTENZA PER UNO DEI PIÙ GRANDI SCULTORI ITALIANI DEL SECOLO XX. GIUSEPPE NOGINOLI, CHE HA STUDIATO LA PENSATA DI SAUDA E HA RISPETTATO IL SUO STILE, HA CREATO UN'OPERA CHE È UN MONUMENTO ALLA LIBERTÀ E ALLA DEMOCRAZIA. LA SCELTA DI SAUDA PER UNO DEI PIÙ GRANDI SCULTORI ITALIANI DEL SECOLO XX È UN MONUMENTO ALLA LIBERTÀ E ALLA DEMOCRAZIA. LA SCELTA DI SAUDA PER UNO DEI PIÙ GRANDI SCULTORI ITALIANI DEL SECOLO XX È UN MONUMENTO ALLA LIBERTÀ E ALLA DEMOCRAZIA.

GIUSEPPE NOGINOLI
ROMA 1904 - 1985

Kunsthalte

JOURNAL TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE

PUBLIÉ MENSUELLEMENT PAR

LE BUREAU INTERNATIONAL

DE

L'UNION TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE

Abonnements.

Un an : Suisse, 9 fr.

Union postale, 10 fr. suisses.

Abonnements pris par l'intermédiaire
de la poste (dans les pays où
ce service d'abonnement est
organisé), 9 fr. 80 suisses.

Un numéro isolé, 1 franc.

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Union postale, 10 fr. suisses.

Abonnements pris par l'intermédiaire
de la poste (dans les pays où
ce service d'abonnement est
organisé), 8 fr. 80 suisses.

Un numéro isolé 1 franc.

XLVI^e volume. — 54^e année.

N° 12.

Berne, 25 Décembre 1922.



MONUMENT COMMÉMORATIF DE LA FONDATION DE L'UNION TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE
INAUGURÉ À BERNE LE 16 DÉCEMBRE 1922.

Available on ITU History Portal:
<https://historicjournals.itu.int/idvieswer/2148/3>

1940 – 75th Anniversary

- The 75th anniversary of the Union passed almost unnoticed, in the midst of the Second World War.
- Article in the *Journal des télécommunications*, No. 4 (avril 1940), pp. 83-84.

« Un anniversaire.

L'Union internationale des télécommunications a 75 ans. C'est en effet le 17 mai 1865 qu'elle fut fondée, à Paris.

Le Bureau de l'Union se propose de publier dans le courant de l'année, pour célébrer cet anniversaire, une plaquette dans laquelle sa vie sera retracée à grands traits.

Mais il nous semble que ce serait manquer aux égards dus à une aussi respectable institution que de ne pas lui adresser un modeste hommage au moment même où elle atteint sa soixante-quinzième année... »

1965 – 100th Anniversary

ITU organized a broad programme of events to celebrate its 100th anniversary. The Centenary celebrations were considered a great success and “helped to convince the world of the usefulness of the Union and of its promising future.”



1965 – 100th Anniversary – Book

From Semaphore to Satellite

- Book on the history of telecommunications was published (about 19,000 copies printed).

Available on ITU History Portal:

<http://handle.itu.int/11.1004/020.1000/12.25.72.en.100>



1965 – 100th Anniversary – Stamps

Some 100 countries and the United Nations issued around **220 postage stamps** commemorative of the Centenary. Most of the administrations concerned agreed to supply the Union with copies of these stamps in order to allow for the preparation of 2000 albums to be distributed. Copies of the albums were provided to each ITU member, and the remaining albums were made available for purchase.

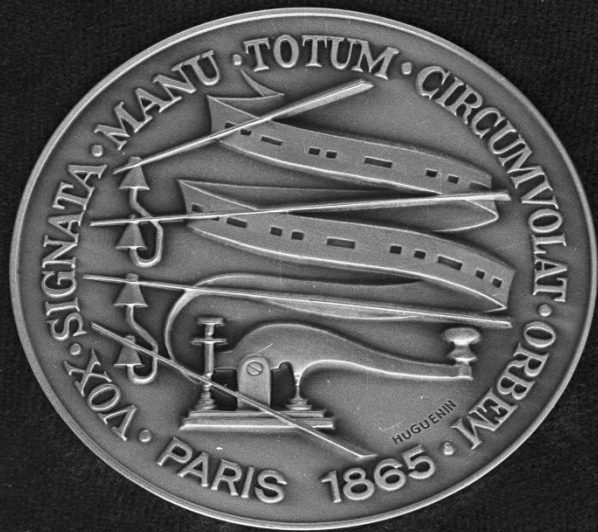




Satellite commercial "EARLY BIRD" et Station de PLEUMEUR-BODOU

1965 – 100th Anniversary – Commemorative medal

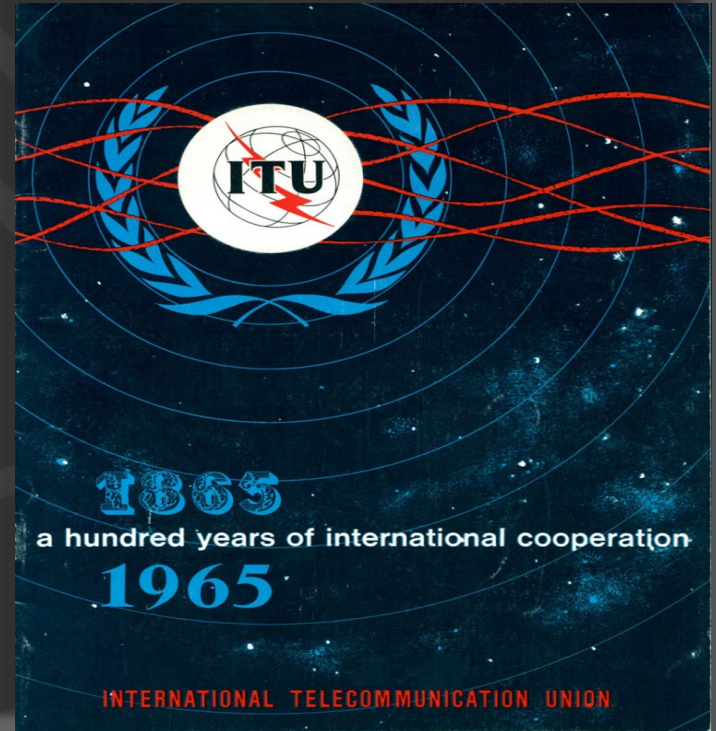
A commemorative medal was struck in gold, silver, and bronze in time for the Plenipotentiary Conference in Montreux. The design of the Centenary medal symbolized the advances in telecommunications and ITU's membership in the United Nations family.



1965 – 100th Anniversary – Brochure & Journal

The title of the brochure, “*One hundred years of international cooperation, 1865-1965*”, reflects the underlying theme of the centenary celebrations: 100 years of cooperation among the nations. By coincidence, 1965 had been designated as International Cooperation Year by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Available on ITU History Portal:
<http://handle.itu.int/11.1004/020.1000/12.17.73.en>



telecommunication journal



MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION — 15 MAY 1965



NAPOLEON III — SPONSOR OF THE ITU 100 YEARS AGO

telecommunication journal

MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION — 15 JUNE 1965



1965 – 100th Anniversary – Publicity materials

- A poster, a pamphlet and a special issue of the leaflet *“The ITU - What it is, What it does, How it works”* were distributed free of charge in all countries.
- A press kit containing written and illustrative material intended to facilitate the preparation of articles on the ITU was also distributed to the most important newspapers, journals and technical reviews throughout the world.

1965 – 100th Anniversary – Publicity materials



**WHAT IS
TELECOM -
MUNICATION?**

“Tele”, which comes from ancient Greek, means “far off”, so that “telecommunication” simply means “long-distance communication”. The ITU Convention (which is the organization’s Charter) defines it as “Any transmission, emission or reception of signs, signals, writing, images and sounds or intelligence of any nature by wire, radio, optical or other electromagnetic systems” — in other words, telegraph, telephone and radio and all their applications such as telex and television.

**WHAT IS
THE NEED FOR
THE ITU?**

**WHAT DOES
THE ITU
CONSIST OF?**



= THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION = WHAT IT IS = WHAT IT DOES = HOW IT WORKS =

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency dealing with telecommunications



1965 – 100th Anniversary – Commemorative ceremony in Paris

To commemorate the Centenary of the founding of the ITU, the French Government invited the ITU Administrative Council, as a body, to participate in a ceremony on 17 May 1965 in **Paris**.

The ceremony was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the **Salon de l'Horloge**, the very room in which the 1865 Convention had been signed.

The representatives of the founding countries of the ITU and its Administrative Council took part in the ceremony.



*Partial view of the table of honour during the ceremony. In the foreground, from left to right, can be seen Mr. C. J. Griffiths, Mr. Maurice Couve de Murville, Mr. Jacques Marette and Mr. Gerald C. Gross.
(Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Paris)*

1965 – 100th Anniversary – Commemorative ceremony in Berne

- The participants in the Plenipotentiary Conference in Montreux were invited by the Swiss Government to a ceremony in Berne, for the unveiling of a **bronze plate** bearing the names of all the countries which were Members of the Union on 17 May 1965, affixed to the side of the monument erected in honor of the Union's 50th anniversary.
- Music was played by the Fanfare PTT of Berne, notably a special **ITU Anthem** composed by Bernard Schulé, which was performed for the first time.



(Waldis)

Mr. Tschudi addressing the gathering. In the background, the ITU monument with the commemorative tablet covered by the Conference flag.

1965 – 100th Anniversary – Gift to the Union : Centenary monument

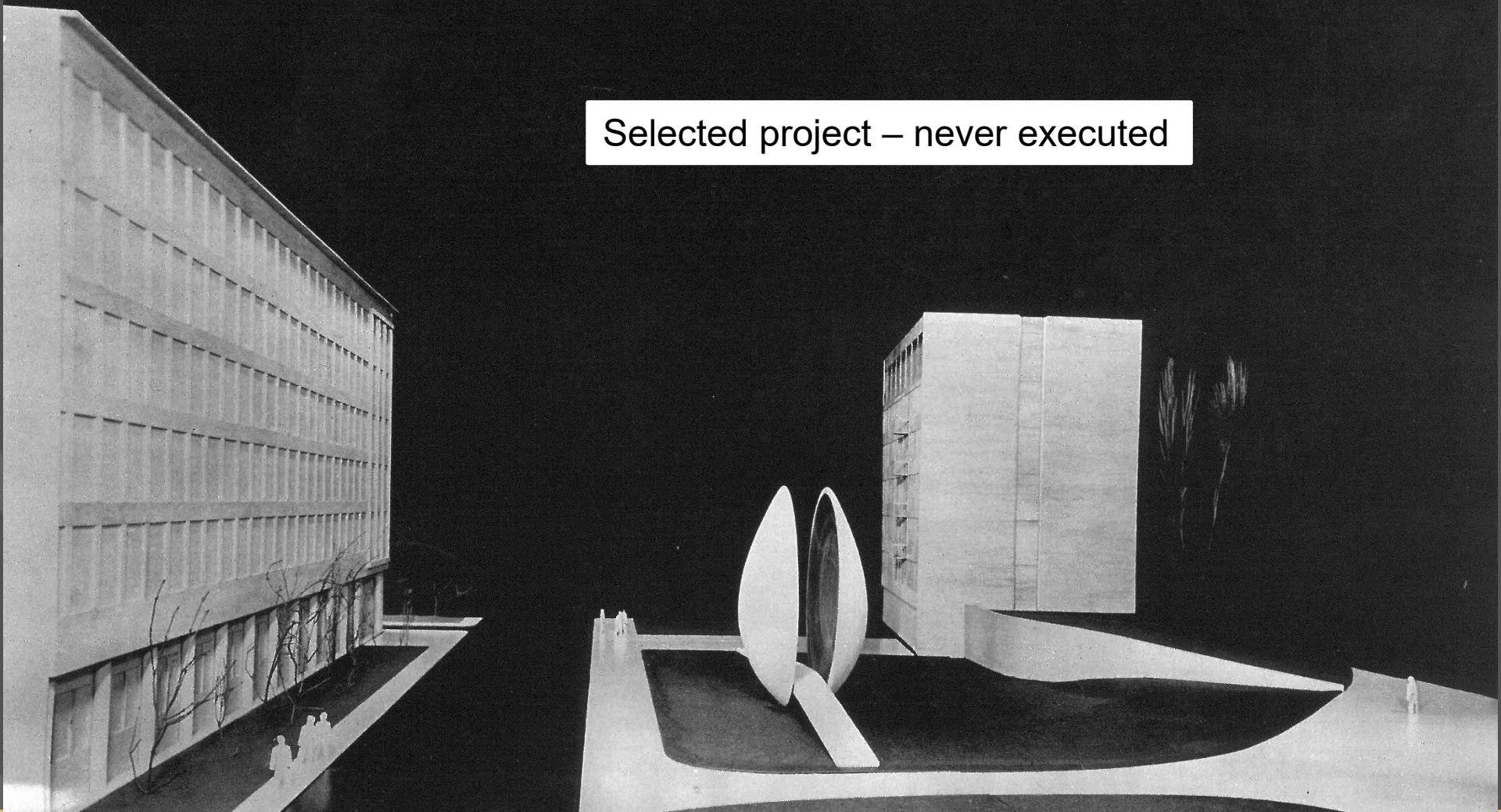
SCULPTURE COMPETITION JURY MEETS



The opening meeting of the Jury, presided over by Mr. Alfred Langenberger

- The Swedish and French Administrations (two of the founding members of the Union) proposed that the Members of ITU should jointly offer a Centenary gift.
- An international competition for an “ITU Centenary Memorial” was held in 1965. A project submitted by a Soviet team, led by Mr. D.B. Riabitchev, was selected.
- The project was never constructed due to technical and logistical difficulties.

Selected project – never executed



Description

The last century has been the century of great discoveries. The world has become "an ear that hears all" and "an eye that sees all".

Invisible radio waves envelop the earth, curtailing distances and drawing people together.

The monument is a space bounded by two spherical surfaces of reinforced concrete. The titanium coating (screens) of the spheres make the space resound perpetually. When sound from the surrounding medium strikes this space, it is repeatedly reflected and it is a long time before it dies out completely. This sound statue represents the many tongues of the world.

The surfaces of the polished titanium give the sensation of infinity, while the reflected sunlight fills the space of the statue with light - representing space without shadows.

It would be possible to install special radiating or self-radiating devices on the sphere to produce fantastic sounds and to strengthen the effect of the resonance of the space.

1965 – 100th Anniversary – International Amateur Radio Club (IARC)

The International Amateur Radio Club (IARC) commemorated the ITU Centenary by operating its station located in ITU headquarters on all amateur frequency bands for a 72-hour period from 15-17 May 1965

The American Radio Relay League Inc.
— extends to —
The International Amateur Radio Club
Greetings

on the occasion of the special amateur radio operation from ITU Headquarters in Geneva on May 16 and 17, 1965, in celebration of the Centenary of the International Telecommunications Union.

Francis E. Summely
Vice President and Communications Manager

IARC CELEBRATES ITU CENTENARY



(ITU)
A technical panel of the International Amateur Radio Club (IARC) in session during the ITU Centennial IARC Convention. A worldwide coverage of over 300 radio amateurs and visitors from 60 different countries came to Geneva for the Convention between September 17th and 20th

1965 – 100th Anniversary – National celebrations

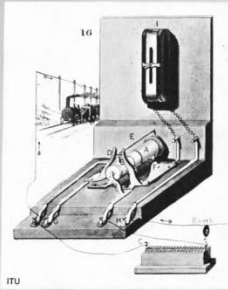
The Centenary of the Union was celebrated in many countries by the publication of articles in the newspapers and various journals, by the holding of special meetings and by speeches and lectures.



H.I.M Hailé Selassié I signing the visitors book at the end of his tour of the Telecommunication Institute Addis Abeba

1965 – 100th Anniversary – UN family celebrations

- The UN Economic and Social Council, in a formal resolution, expressed its congratulations to ITU on the occasion of its' Centenary.
- The United Nations and most specialized agencies associated themselves with the celebration of the ITU Centenary, in most cases by the publication of **special articles** in their official journals.
- The Centenary of the I.T.U. was one of the main events in 1965, which had been declared “International Cooperation Year.”



With the launching of the communications satellite, "Early Bird" (right) from Cape Kennedy, U.S.A., on April 6, the world now has a "telephone exchange" in outer space. The new satellite will also be used for transmitting telegraph messages and TV pictures above the Atlantic. Capable of transmitting simultaneously 240 two-way telephone conversations, "Early Bird" has now to be tried out experimentally for two months. "Early Bird" is on an equatorial orbit at a height of 22,300 miles and keeps pace with the earth's rotation, thus appearing to hover at the same spot. The telecommunications revolution began a little over a century ago with the electric telegraph. To the world of the 1840s, the telegraph with its lines alongside the railway track (left) also seemed an astounding invention at the time.

1865-1965

TELE-COMMUNICATIONS

A century of international co-operation

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU), oldest of the United Nations specialized agencies, is celebrating its 100th birthday in 1965, designated by the United Nations as International Co-operation Year. The ITU was born as the International Telegraph Union, on May 17, 1865, when the growing network of electric telegraph lines linking country to country had shown the need for international agreement on communication procedures and regulations. Thirty-five years later the first radio transmissions opened up another new era in telecommunication. Radio, broadcasting, television and other technological achievements during the past fifty years have all brought increasing responsibilities to the ITU. Today, as the ITU enters its second century, the contributions it is making to the development of space communications show that it is already planning for the needs of tomorrow's world.



Engineers in the New India

It might seem a long way from the dawn of civilization until a little over a century of achievements in telecommunications, with telex and radio helping us to reach out into space and our telephone calls travelling along beams of light yet perhaps this juxtaposition of old and new is not so strange. For what after all is "telecommunication"? Human societies, as they developed and began to master the concept of distance, worked out a number of ingenious ways for communicating over the vast areas which separated them. Mostly, messengers of one kind or another were used. But there were also methods involving direct sight and sound—drums in the jungle, beacons along the coast, smoke signals on the horizon. These methods, picturesque to-day, were strictly practical solutions devised by man's imagination for overcoming the obstacles that distance placed in the way of his basic need to

communicate. The first real telecommunications were the first real telecommunications. The dawn of civilization until a little over a century ago did not get much further than the drum, the beacon and the smoke signals to communicate at long distances. One of the first was an "optical telegraph" or semaphore, invented by Claude Chappe, a Frenchman, at the end of the 18th century. Signal towers with movable arms were spaced a few kilometres apart. Messages spelt out by different positions of the arms were read by telescope from one tower to another and passed on. The system worked quite fast on clear days but was useless at night or in fog.

With the development of electricity in the first half of the 19th century, man's capacity for practical achievement was suddenly enlarged a hundredfold. Nowhere was this

CONT'D ON NEXT PAGE

1965 – 100th Anniversary – Centenary film

The film, *“In Signal Honour” – “Pour 3 milliard d’hommes”* was co-produced with the French Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and the Office de Radiodiffusion-Télévision Française (ORTF).

Further information and links:

<http://www.itu.int/en/history/Pages/ITUFilms.aspx>



1990 – 125th Anniversary – ITU Open Day

- **Sunday 13 May 1990**
- Exhibition of telecommunications of the past, present and future, covering **1000m²** and displaying **150 panels** in three languages.
- It was the first time that ITU opened its doors to the public.
- **1700 visitors !**



1990 – 125th Anniversary – Postmark

The Swiss PTT designed a special postmark for ITU's 125th anniversary and Open Day event (1990). It was stamped on envelopes specially designed for the 125th anniversary and sold at a PTT philately counter during the Open Day.



1990 - 125th Anniversary – Cherry trees



The ITU Association of **Japan** offered 14 cherry trees to ITU for its 125th anniversary.

During the opening ceremony for the ITU Open Day, Dr. P. Tarjanne, ITU Secretary-General, Messrs. D. Föllmi, Shigeo Sawada, Chairman of the ITU Association of Japan, and Akio Ijuin, Minister, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations in Geneva, proceeded to symbolically plant one of the trees.

1990 – 125th Anniversary – Medal

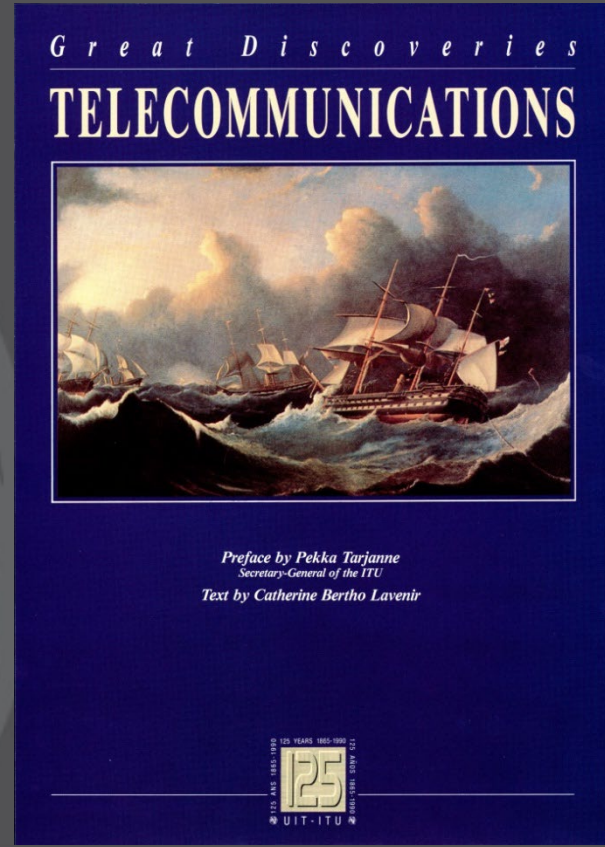
This medal commemorating the 125th anniversary of ITU is still given out by the Secretary-General on special occasions.



1990 – 125th Anniversary – Book

Great discoveries: Telecommunications

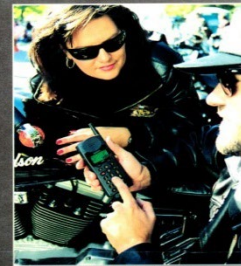
To mark its 125th anniversary, ITU produced an illustrated book on the history of telecommunications and the ITU.



1995 – 130th Anniversary – Book

This commemorative **volume** was published by a commercial publisher in association with ITU to mark the 130th anniversary of ITU and the 100th anniversary of radiocommunications.

International Telecommunication Union



*Celebrating 130 years
1865-1995*

1995 – 130th Anniversary

- Pins, stickers, overprint on ITU letterhead
- The design of this commemorative pin was also used for stickers and was printed on ITU stationery during the 130th anniversary year.



2015 – 150th Anniversary

The image shows a screenshot of the ITU 150th Anniversary website. The top navigation bar is blue and contains the logo '150 1865 2015 innovating together' on the left, social media icons for #itu150, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube on the right, and a search bar with the text 'English عربي 中文 Español Français Русский' and a search icon.

Below the navigation bar is a horizontal menu with the following items: Home, About, Stories, Historical Timeline, #itu150 Community, Worldwide Events, Resources, and ITU Members.

The main content area features a large blue-tinted image of a man in a suit and glasses. Overlaid on the right side of this image is a calendar icon for the month of May, with the text 'A world wide celebration' and 'ICTs: DRIVERS OF INNOVATION'. Below the calendar, the text 'Innovating with Baye' and 'Can ICTs transform access to healthcare?' is displayed in white. Navigation arrows are visible on the left and right sides of the main image, and a series of small circles at the bottom center indicates the current slide position.

2015 – 150th Anniversary

- Historical timeline
- ITU 150th Anniversary mobile app
- Commemorative Book
- Special issue of ITU News
- Golden Book
- ITU150 poster competition
- ITU 150 video greetings
- Inter-agency games
- Videos and social media





**WE HOPE TO HAVE INSPIRED YOU
THANK YOU**