

## Giorgio Sacerdoti



**Giorgio Sacerdoti, a pioneer in the development of Italian informatics, died on May 25, 2005.**

**He graduated in electrical engineering from the University of Rome in 1953 with a thesis on electronic computers, the first one in Italy. In 1954 he was charged with the installation of a Ferranti computer at the Istituto Nazionale per le Applicazioni del Calcolo, a research structure within CNR, the Italian National Research Council, and subsequently was named director of its computing center.**

**In 1956 he became member of a group of young researchers that, within the Laboratorio di Ricerche Elettroniche that the Olivetti Co. had set up in Pisa, was involved in the design and construction of a then large size computer, assuming the responsibility for the overall system design and for the design of software. The computer, the first built in Italy, was**

**commercialized starting from 1959 with the name of ELEA 9003. It was a very advanced realization for the time considering its overall system design, its technology (all solid state) and its physical layout.**

**In 1960 the Laboratorio moved to Milan and in 1962 Giorgio Sacerdoti became its Director. The Laboratorio was involved in the design of other models of what had become the ELEA series of computer, including their peripheral devices, and he maintained the same responsibility when Olivetti's activities in electronics were grouped within a newly formed company, Olivetti General Electric. During this period of time for two years he also taught a newly established course on "Electronic computers" in the College of Engineering at the University of Genoa.**

**In 1967 he moved to the Olivetti headquarters in Ivrea, where he became director of personnel training and development for the entire Olivetti Group in the world. In such a capacity he gave substantial support to the development of training and teaching approaches based on audiovisual and computer technologies and worked constantly to convince public and private structures of the importance of spreading the informatics literacy to all people, and in particular to the younger generations. At the same time he promoted the implementation of software for teaching applications.**

**In 1971 he was named General Director of a research firm, SAGO, located in Florence and working on applications of electronic and computer technologies to the medical and health sectors. From 1971 to 1985 he taught a course on "Technologies for system organization" at the College of Engineering of the University of Florence and in 1985 he started teaching a course on computer architecture at the University of Brescia.**

**During his long professional career Giorgio Sacerdoti has devoted a lot of time and efforts to AICA, the Italian association member of IFIP, and was its President for three 2-year terms. As member of AICA he represented the association in many cultural and organizational structures and extremely significant was his service within IFIP. Indeed he was the Italian representative to the General Assembly from 1977 to 1999 and in 1983 received the Silver Core. His additional responsibilities included: 1977-85 member Committee for International Liaison; 1984-85 member Committee Informatics for Development; 1987 member Activity Development Board; 1989-91 member Activity Management Board; 1989 member Nomination Committee for Officers; 1990-99 member Admissions Committee.**

**With his departure our field has lost a person appreciated for his calmness, knowledge, wisdom and sensibility and that will always be remembered because, overcoming his physical impairment, was able to communicate and share enthusiasm and passion for serious work with all the people with whom he came in touch.**