

Riccardo Giacconi

period UNIMI Italy

*Memorial Symposium - by - Guido Chincarini
29 - 30 May 2019 Washington DC*

Riccardo Giacconi obtained the chair (Tenured full Professor) created for him “per chiara fama” (Clear Fame) at the University of Milano on November 01 1990. Ettore Fiorini one of the main mover.

He resigned, to go back to his “Home”, on January 15 1999

The Rector of the University of Milano, Prof. Elio Franzini, greets all the participants to this memorial and points out that it has been a great honour to have Prof. R. Giacconi as a Faculty member.

Italians connected to him since early times

Beppo Occhialini - University of Milano - go abroad

Bruno Rossi (a Venetian) - MIT - Left Italy because of the Italian racial laws.

Mirella Giacconi - Always with, and supporting, him !

Hard to add or do better than Riccardo in talking about Giacconi's approach to science and life: See

*“Secrets of the Hoary Deep. A personal History of Modern Astronomy”
by R. Giacconi publisher John Hopkins University 2008*

Montedison & Donegani Foundation
President Riccardo Giacconi (1987)

The Brera Observatory obtained funds for a fellowship.

Brera selected Paolo Padovani among the various applicants. He spent two years at the STScI [the only one since soon after we had the Montedison scandal].

To help Brera Observatory (OAB) to take off, he participated (together with other leading scientists) to the commemoration of the bicentennial of Ruggero **Boscovich** (founder of the Observatory) - Bicentennial of the death - **1987**. At the time OAB was nothing.

Actions soon after accepting the University position:

- *The introductory lectures to his course - Fundamental ...*
- The proposal of the Data Analysis Institute - **Minister Luigi Granelli**
- The sacrifice of the Faculty meetings, now and then we participated.
- *Accepted the position at ESO - Director General*

L'idea parte da tre illustri scienziati del cosmo

Proposta: fare di Milano la capitale dell'astronomia

The idea was based on:

*Issues and Recommendations
Associated with Distributed
Computation and Data
management Systems for the
Space Sciences.*

*National Research Council
1986*

di Michela Fontana

MILANO - Creare un centro di eccellenza per la ricerca astronomica, con sede nel capoluogo lombardo, che diventi un punto di riferimento privilegiato per gli scienziati italiani e stranieri interessati allo studio dello spazio. Allestire una banca



Riccardo Giacconi, direttore del progetto dello Space Telescope di Baltimora: è uno dei sostenitori di 'Milano capitale dell'astronomia' (a sinistra l'Osservatorio di Brera)

significasse, come spesso succede, il dover rinunciare ad un ambiente di lavoro stimolante e dotato di strumentazione adeguata e al passo con la più avanzata tecnologia. Non è un caso che proprio Chincari-

WFXT (his dream for clusters of galaxies)
The global view in Italy

Telephone call from Baltimore (Riccardo)

..... I have a innovative telescope to design a new mission or something like that [Burrows, Burg, Giacconi 1992].

Fiat Avio - The rocket VEGA .. (Managing Director) Pier Giorgio Romiti

Organised a meeting with Broglio - How to modify a rocket.

Visit Colle Ferro - Arienne fuel -

Alenia Spazio - the shroud payload assembly

The ASI committee where also Carlo Rubbia was a member

ASI Proposal with Steeve Murray



Fundamental for research & technology @ OAB



ESO - only few remarks

“The goal was to attain local air superiority”

The duo Riccardo & Jim Crocker - simulations before implementation. The very rigorous logic of Riccardo,

I would say that using a Socratic logic, he would find any possible weaknesses in the procedures if present.

Primary goal quality - Never give up quality for rushing

One of the VLT requirements by Riccardo ... speed of the system this was essential when thanks to Catherine Cesarsky, Jason Spyromillio & Roberto Gilmozzi the telescope was ready to get to the Swift (launch 2004) **target in 6 minutes** (stop of the ongoing observations and repointing).

“ The procedures are as important as the project itself because the step by step know how to reach the goal will remain and be useful for various endeavours in addition to educate scientists”.

What I admire

The global approach to a science project with
a crystal clear mind searching (& basing on) new innovative
ideas

*actions and decisions the consequence of a very rigorous logic,
merit and proper procedures.*

This is what some of us learned from him

&

The best compliment to Riccardo I recall.

*..... do not worry Guido, the decision will be by Riccardo and for sure he will take
the right one.*

Martha Haynes answering some concern I had about the fixing of HST

*Marg
Chester*

*Patrizia
Caraveo*

*Monica
Sperandio*

**Control room
Plattform San Marco
Malindi - Kenia**



.....typical in Italy during the corrupt regime of Bettino Craxi, whose main purpose was to put illegal funds into the coffers of the dominant political parties.

*Giacconi in
“Secrets of the Hoary Deep. A personal History of Modern Astronomy”*

..and he saw only the tip, in time & people, of the iceberg.