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Temistocle Calzecchi Onesti Lab in Fermo and the Maggiori Sisters

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In 1889, the physicist Temistocle Calzecchi Onesti (Lapedona 1853 –Monterubbiano 1922), the inventor of the coherer, organized a visit to the physics laboratory of the Royal Classical Lyceum Annibal Caro in Fermo for the Maggiori sisters. The physicist from Fermo, who discovered in 1883 the detecting properties of electromagnetic waves by a glass tube filled with metal filings, took care of the education of these two disadvantaged girls who were deaf and mute.

The visit to the laboratory was an exciting experience for the sisters, which they recorded in their diary in 1889. In my presentation, I will talk about the ancient physics laboratory of Professor Temistocle Calzecchi Onesti through the eyes of the Maggiori sisters. In the same laboratory, where Prof. Calzecchi was the director, the physicist Oreste Murani, the architect Giuseppe Sacconi, and the future Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, Enrico Stelluti Scala, also studied. In August 1904, Stelluti Scala, together with Guglielmo Marconi, conducted in Ancona the famous transmission experiments known as the “Monte dei Cappuccini” experiments, thanks to Temistocle Calzecchi Onesti’s coherer.

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