



Archivist's Note for the new CHRS posting of Fahie's History: Now, there's even more New and Primary History on both of the the two CHRS websites:

[http://www.sowp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Fahie\\_Marconis\\_Method-copy-rectfied-.pdf](http://www.sowp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Fahie_Marconis_Method-copy-rectfied-.pdf)

<https://www.californiahistoricalradio.com/libraries-archives/>

John Staples, W6BM, did this scan (PDF) of the Marconi chapter in J. J. Fahie's 1902 book "A History of Wireless Telegraphy" newly shelved in the CHRS Library.

John Staples notes that Fahie's work is rich in lost technical history and a primary source, and I agree it's quite marvelous.

Deputy Archivist Bob Rydzewski notes: "I like the last footnote: 'The [Marconi] syndicate must hurry up, as Mr. Nikola Tesla is now on their track with a wireless telegraph that will "stagger humanity." \*\*\* When I look at old science texts, it always amazes me how they were able to figure anything out at all with what we would say is weird terminology and murky theories. But that's all they had, and they did it."

[As usual, Tesla was right, but it took the Internet to make this particular prophecy come true.]

The question has arisen of the 1902 book and Fahie's earlier book on wired telegraphy to 1837: "So is J.J.Fahie the first media archaeologist?" ( Archaeologies of telegraphy - J.J.Fahie - Cartographies of Media ...mediacartographies.blogspot.com/2010/11/archaeologies-of-telegraphy-jjfahie.html )

One researcher notes of Fahie's book that it is:

"One of the first histories of wireless communications, J.J. Fahie's *A History of Wireless Telegraphy 1838-1899* (1899), was written by a contemporary to many of the early practitioners within its pages and featured an illustrated list entitled 'The Arch Builders of Wireless Telegraphy.' This list stretched from key contributors to the early study of electromagnetism such as Ampère, Faraday, and Maxwell through to developers of early wireless apparatus and systems such as Branly, Lodge, Preece, and Marconi. The equal recognition recorded to these twelve men and the collective contribution of scientists, engineers, government employees, along with men of commerce, to the embryonic field of wireless communications has been mostly ignored in the existing body of scholarship on wireless telecommunications." (Bruton, Elizabeth Mary (2012) *Beyond Marconi: the roles of the Admiralty, the Post Office, and the Institution of Electrical Engineers in the invention and development of wireless communication up to 1908*. PhD thesis, University of Leeds; from <http://etheses.whiterose.ac.uk/4431/>).

The World Catalog notes:

“John Joseph Fahie (1846-1934) was an engineer for the Electric and International Telegraph Company before being posted overseas in the Indo-European Government Telegraph Department. He was also a respected historian whose *History of Wireless Telegraphy* (1899) sold out two impressions in little over a year. In this second edition (1901), he traces the development of wireless communication during the nineteenth century, drawing extensively from the correspondence and technical illustrations of inventors themselves. This edition was fully updated to take account of the latest advances in radio technology, including Marconi's latest public demonstrations. As a practising telegraph engineer, Fahie was in the perfect position not only to understand the significance of these developments, but to explain them to a non-specialist audience. Contemporary reviews indicate he did this with great success. His book gives an eyewitness account of the rise of radio technology that still fascinates scholars and enthusiasts today.” (Fahie, J. J. (John Joseph) 1846-1934; from <http://www.worldcat.org/identities/lccn-n86868998/>)

Reprints of both Fahie books are available on Amazon. com etc. [de K6VK]