

Who mainly benefits from patent?

Madam, Sir,

Who mainly benefits from patent? The answer lies in the following statement: the invention. **Not the inventor!** Otherwise, one would have applied such a title to inventors, not inventions. In the realm of arts, no doubt is possible, since one talks of copyright as an author's right and not as an art's right. If one can read between the lines, the meaning of the term becomes quite clear.

In 1876, an individual named Elisha Grey registered a patent on the same invention as Graham Bell's, two hours after the latter. This circumstance led to a trial between both claimants lasting over a span of three years, to finally grant anteriority to Graham Bell. A trial that should never have taken place given Antonio Meucci's temporary patent application filed in December 1871 for the same invention. Unfortunately, Antonio Meucci was not recognized as the inventor of the telephone **for lack of money**. Later, in 1887, American authorities attempted to annul the patent granted to Bell in a fraud trial. **One hundred and twenty-six years** later, the American House of Representatives felt compelled to reveal the historical truth by restoring to the genuine author the paternity of his creation. Regrettably, such recognition will never restore Antonio Meucci's descendants to even a mere fragment of the fortune amassed by Bell's family since more than 130 years.

By comparison, in 1987, Professor Luc Montagnier's authorship right (*copyright on the discovery of the AIDS virus via his article published in the "Science" magazine*) invalidated Professor Robert Gallo's American patent (*filed three months later on the same discovery*), and this (*without a need to annul the patent*). Prof. Montagnier received the Nobel Prize for this discovery 25 years later. So Antonio Meucci could have done the same against Bell if he, at the time, had received an informed advice on such authorship right strategy. With regard to means (*finances – power – influence*), as with some trials and/or confrontations that occurred between several inventors such as ~ *Augustin Le Prince, Charles Cros, Nikola Tesla* ~ and their predator Thomas Edison, Antonio Meucci's unfortunate experience only benefited Graham Bell, the one who, we must remember, had the means until 1904 to purchase 900 patents and file 600 trials to defend his two main patents. **What inventor or SME can do the same?**

Since then, nothing has changed for the inventor ; worse even, if one notices the millions of dollars invested by Samsung and Apple in the court case which they recently took against the other. **Finally, as it is practiced, who benefits from patent if not predatorily industrialists and their advisers?**