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Excerpt from The Canadian Amateur,  
a British Columbia based ham periodical of the early '70's.

How Old is Amateur Radio?

Amateur radio experimentation has a proud heritage. Scientists and inventors of the last century, and early in this one, such as Crookes, Maxwell, Hertz, Fessenden (a Canadian, by the way), Marconi and others were "amateur" experimenters, although some of them got into the commercial act in the later stages on radio development. Some of these pioneers were experimenting with radio waves more than one hundred years ago. How is this for a description of amateur radio?

"Any two friends living within a radius of sensitivity of their receiving instruments, having first decided on their special wavelength and attuned their respective receiving instruments to mutual receptivity, could thus communicate as long and as often as they wished by timing the impulses to produce long and short intervals on the ordinary Morse Code."...Wm. Crookes, 1892!