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## A Tribute to Hervé Moulin (1946–2016)\*

The space historian Hervé Moulin died on 7 April 2016. His funeral took place on 14 April in Paris and was attended by representatives of the space agencies, firms and associations with whom he had worked for over 50 years.

An electrical engineer by training, Hervé Moulin was a former member of the *Club Spatial International*, had participated in the second space club campaign organized by the French space agency CNES at La Courtine military base in December 1962 and also joined the *Association Nationale des Clubs Scientifiques* (ANCS, later to become *Planète Sciences*). He had started his career at SEREB (*Société d'étude et de réalisation d'engins balistiques*), where he was notably in charge of the *Diamant* program, working from 1965 to 1972 in the industrial design office. He then went on to gain experience in various fields outside the space sector before resuming his studies (obtaining an advanced accountancy diploma, a certificate in work organization at the *Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers* [CNAM] and a Master's in commercial law from the University of Paris, Assas). Then, in 1990, setting up his own company, Hervé Moulin International (HMI), he went back to doing what he loved most, producing daily digests of the international press and performing research and documentary consultancy for CNES, ESA, Arianespace, the international Astronautical Federation (IAF) and the *Cité des sciences et de l'industrie* in La Villette, Paris.

Hervé Moulin was actively involved in a great many space associations, joining the *Association aéronautique et astronautique de France* (3AF) in 1977 and becoming a member of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) in 1995. Within ANCS he dedicated himself to participating in many international initiatives: *Expo 67* in Montreal (where the *Collectif International de Coordination* was set up which would later give rise to the *Expo-Sciences* exhibitions series); the major conference *Les Jeunes et l'Espace* at Marly-le-Roi in 1972 (which would give rise to the association of the same name); and the Toulouse-held convention *Animation Scientifique et Technique* of 1985 (from which the International Movement for Leisure Activities in Science and Technology (MIL-SET) originated). At the IAF, he was a leading light on the education committee. Then, in 1999, notably alongside General Aubinière (CNES's first director general) and journalists Albert Ducrocq and Christian Lardier, he founded the French Institute of Space History (IFHE), of which he was the first executive secretary until 2007, before becoming its vice-president.

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Hervé Moulin's publications and communication material were numerous and varied, as were his presentations at international conferences. He had already been awarded a postgraduate diploma (DEA) at CNAM for his dissertation on the genesis of a French space policy. But the crowning glory of his career as a space historian came in January 2012 when he presented his doctoral thesis in contemporary history at the Sorbonne entitled "*La politique spatiale de la France, 1945–1975. Indépendance, innovation et dynamiques européennes.*" The culmination of a good ten years' research, and running to around a thousand pages, his thesis was rewarded with the highest honors and a special commendation from the board of examiners.

For those closest to him, but also for all the space community members with whom he had worked for over the course of five decades, the death of Hervé Moulin at just 70 came as a terrible shock. It was therefore no surprise when so many representatives of the space agencies and associations turned out to honor him at his funeral: Gérard Azoulay (in charge of CNES's *Observatoire de l'espace*), Pierre Bescond (former director of Spot Image in Washington, and IFHE treasurer), the American artist Richard Clar (IAF) and his wife, Jacques Durand (former ESA Ariane Program manager), Francis Gérard (ex-member of ANCS), Jean-Claude Guiraudon (first ANCS director), Jean Jamet (former R&D manager at Aérospatiale and IFHE general secretary), Aaron Janofsky (associate director of COSPAR), Philippe Jung (former Aérospatiale engineer and chair of the 3AF history committee), Valérie Leenhardt (IAF secretary), Pierre and Françoise Leroy (former ANCS members), Pierre Madon (former head of Aérospatiale's Missile & Space Division, then Intelsat technical director), Anne-Marie Mainguy (special adviser at Onera), Myriam Morabet (senior project manager at the IAF), Pierre-François Mouriaux (space journalist at *Air & Cosmos*), Nathalie Tinjod (ESA History Project Coordinator) and Philippe Willekens (former IAF executive director now Head of the ESA Communication Department). A moving eulogy sent from Belgium by our colleague Théo Pirard was read out by one of Hervé Moulin's sons at the end of the religious ceremony held at the Notre-Dame de la Gare church in Paris.

At Ivry cemetery in the suburbs of Paris, Jean-Claude Guiraudon, ended his tribute to his longstanding colleague thus:

"Hervé, you were always in the top team and we are here to express our gratitude to you and to all those who followed you on your journey through life, especially your wonderful family, who stood by your side at all times and gave you their unfailing support. Now you are going to be able to contemplate the 500 million square kilometers of our planet from an ever higher vantage point, better than Claudie Haigneré, Patrick Baudry, Jean-Loup Chrétien, Jean-François Clervoy and the others have done. So I would like

to take up Pascal's wager by entrusting you to convey for us a final universal message, epitomizing your humanist values: when you go back to 48 hours before the Big Bang, if you come across a bearded individual with an ironic yet troubled expression, ask him for our sake if he would kindly restore some semblance of order to our abode, and that of our ancient common ancestor Lucy; and remind him of everything you accomplished to that end during your life, with your characteristic modesty and pugnacity. Hervé, being grateful for all you brought to us, on behalf of an entire family in mourning, I offer you heartfelt thanks and the promise what we shall continue along on the paths that you trod so well."

*Air & Cosmos* also wishes to address its sincere condolences to Annie Moulin, Hervé Moulin's wife, their three children and four grandchildren, and in California, his sister Martine, and his brother-in-law George James, also a member of the IAA. Hervé Moulin was an avid reader of our magazine right from the start and a friend of most of its successive space editors. In issue no. 1822 of the weekly (14 December 2001), he wrote an article entitled "40 ans de succès pour le Cnes."

**Pierre-François Mouriaux**