

BIOGRAPHY OF ROGER-MAURICE BONNET

Born 23 December 1937, Dourdan 91, France;
French Citizen;
Graduated from Paris University in Physics and Astronomy, 1961;
Doctor in Physics of Paris University (Sorbonne) in 1968;
Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of London (Imperial College);
Presently Professor of Faculty at Liège University, Belgium;
Executive Director of the International Space Science Institute (ISSI) in Bern (Switzerland) since January 2003;
President of COSPAR since October 2002.

Following undergraduate and graduate studies in physics and astronomy his early career focused on Solar Physics. While at Service d'Aéronomie, he launched the first French space astronomy experiment on board a Veronique rocket, from Hammaguir in the Sahara. His thesis, presented in 1968, was on the imagery and spectroscopy of the Sun in the ultraviolet. He later developed instruments that he placed on board both sounding rockets and balloons of the French space programme. His early work culminated in the building of the Transition Region Camera experiment in collaboration with the Lockheed Solar Physics group in Palo Alto, CA, which obtained the best-ever pictures of the Sun in the Lyman-alpha radiation.

At the Laboratoire de Physique Stellaire et Planétaire LPSP, where he was Director from 1969 until 1983, together with co-workers he developed several experiments which have been carried on board US (OSO-8) or French D2-A and D2-B artificial satellites. His laboratory was involved in the development of the infrared spectrometer on board the VEGA-1 and VEGA-2 soviet missions and he developed the telescope of the Halley Multicolour Camera that flew on board the Giotto mission of ESA, which obtained the first image ever of the nucleus of a Comet in 1986.

As Director of the Science Programme of the European Space Agency from May 1983 until May 2001, Prof. Bonnet, established the first long term programme of ESA called "Horizon 2000" which incorporated a balanced blend of large, medium and small missions. He was also entrusted with defining the European strategy for Earth Sciences and Observation, now called the "Living Planet" programme. Between 2001 and 2006, he served as an advisor to the Director General of the European Space Agency (ESA), on the "Aurora" programme of planetary exploration.

As Joint Director General for Science at CNES, from January 2002 to January 2003, he helped define the prospective for future science programs on a 2015-2020 horizon and identified the means to match the scientific and technological challenges of the next 15 years. In November 2002, the French Minister of Research and the Minister of Defense, asked him to chair a Commission to reflect on the future of the French Space policy. The Commission's report has led to a major reorganization of the French space agency.

Prof. Bonnet is the author of more than 150 articles and scientific publications and a number of books including "Les Horizons Chimériques" (Dunod, 1992), "International Cooperation in

Space” together with V. Manno (Harvard University Press, 1994), and “*Surviving 1000 Centuries. Can we do it?*”, together with Lo Woltjer, (Springer-Praxis, Publishers, July 2008).

Awards and distinctions

- Officier de la Légion d’Honneur
- 1976 Médaille d'Argent du CNES,
- 1980 Prix Deslandres de l'Académie des Sciences,
- 1985 Médaille I. Gagarine de la Fédération de Cosmonautique d'URSS,
- 1985 Laurel Aviation Week and Space Technology,
- 1987 Emil Award, International Academy of Astronautique,
- 1987 Personnalité de l'Année" dans les Sciences en France,
- 1993 Médaille C. Tsiolkovsky de la Fédération de Cosmonautique of USSR,
- 1993 « Basic Scientist » of the l'Académie Internationale d'astronautique,
- 1993 Laurel Aviation Week and Space Technology,
- 1996 Grand Prix of Association Aéronautique et Astronautique de France,
- 1998 Laurel Aviation Week and Space Technology,
- 2000 COSPAR Award,
- 2001 NASA Public Service Medal,
- 2001 Fellow of the European Geophysical Society,
- 2001 Prix Icare des Journalistes Scientifiques,
- 2001 Laureate Hall of Fame Award, Aviation Week and Space Technology,
- 2002 World Technology Award for Space.
- 2003 Laurel for Team Achievement of the International Academy of Astronautics (SOHO Team)
- 2006 Advancement of International Cooperation Award of the American Astronautical Society
- 2006 Janssen Prize, Société Astronomique de France

Academies

Member of:

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences,
The Academia Europaea,
The Académie Nationale de l’Air et de l’Espace
The International Astronomical Union
The European Physical Society
The International Academy of Astronautics,
The Royal Astronomical Society
The Royal Society of Sciences of Liege
The European Academy of Sciences of Arts and Humanities