

# In Memoriam

## Lucien Bossy



Prof Lucien Bossy passed away after a short hospitalization on 21 September 1996.

He was born at Fosse sur Salm, in the Belgian Ardennes, on 8 June 1918, and went to high school at the Athénée de Malmedy. In 1939, he graduated in mathematics at the Université Catholique de Louvain with outstanding grades. Under the supervision of Monseigneur Georges Lemaître, he wrote a composition entitled *Contribution à l'étude des trajectoires, de particules chargées dans un champ magnétique dipolaire*. Mgr. Lemaître was also the adviser, in 1963, for his Ph.D. thesis entitled: *Study of the motion of charged particles trapped in the Van Allen belts from the point of view of the Störmer problem*.

After his military services and his captivity in Germany from 1939 to 1945, he became a Research Fellow at the Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique. For the main part of his life, since 1946, he worked at the Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium, where he was responsible for the External Geophysics group and, more specifically, for the ionospheric sounding station, located in Dourbes. From 1964, he was also a member of the academic staff of the Université Catholique de Louvain, where he lectured for the course on Physics of the Ionosphere until nominated Professor Emeritus in 1985. When in 1983, he retired from the Royal Meteorological Institute, he resumed the study of the Störmer trajectories at the Belgium Institute for Space Sciences.

Lucien Bossy was a member of several Belgian national committees. Shortly after the ending of the International Geophysical Year, he became one of the founders of the Comité National Belge de Cooperation Géophysique Internationale. He was a member of the Comité National de Recherches Spatiales (CNRS), the Comité National Belge de Géodésie et Géophysique (IUGG) of which he was President from July 1983 until March 1988 and the Comité National d'URSI, of which he was also President, from 1978 to 1981. For many years, L. Bossy was the Belgian representative of URSI Commissions G and H.

In 1984, he organized at Han-sur-Lesse, with J.F. Lemaire, a series of lectures on Geophysics and Solar Activity Indices. During his career, he also organized several international symposia and workshops such as the AGARD symposium on Ionospheric Structure and Variability on a Global Scale and Interaction with the Atmosphere and Magnetosphere in München, in 1988. He organized a series of symposia and workshops of the International Reference Ionosphere (IRI), an organization of which he was the President for many years, at Louvain-La-Neuve (1985), Toulouse (1986), Novgorod (1987), Espoo (1988), Abingdon (1989) and The Hague (1990).

His first scientific paper on the Störmer problem was co-authored with his advisor and mentor Georges Lemaître. He also published a series of articles in collaboration with Marcel Nicolet, Raymond Coutrez, W.R. Piggott, B.W. Reinisch and Karl Rawer. His main scientific interest was spread over a wide range of topics from actinometry, ionospheric sounding and the structure of the ionosphere, to solar cycle variations of the radioelectric flux emitted by the Sun.

Professor Bossy was well respected in the scientific community. At the Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy, where he stayed after 1983, he was appreciated for his high culture and his humility. Behind an always smiling face those who interacted with him discovered a man who enjoyed life and who knew what "savoir-vivre" means. Many of us are missing him.

J.F. Lemaire