PAUL LEDOUX

(1914–1988)

Despite his extensive teaching duties, Paul Ledoux always kept an unfailing interest in research (for all astrophysicists around the world, and this was particularly true in 1984 when the 25th Liège Colloquium was held in his honour, stellar stability and stellar evolution problems are directly associated with Paul Ledoux's name), and towards further developments in astrophysics.

In the latter context, it is worth emphasizing that Professor Ledoux not only played a role (1972–1975) in the Observing Program Committee of the European Southern Observatory (ESO), but more importantly, as member, and then Chairman (1981–1985) of the Council of ESO. He actively participated in the first of the two workshops devoted to the Very Large Telescope project of ESO, that in Cargèse (Corsica) in 1983.

Besides being very serious, Professor Ledoux could also, and quite definitely, enjoy life: his sense of humour was well known in Liège, and elsewhere; he also liked to participate in little celebrations at our Institute (promotions, retirements, weddings, Ph.D. dissertation drinks, etc.) and on those occasions he would even sing his probably favorite song (he knew many) 'Les 80 chasseurs' (the 80 hunters) while sitting on a chair and jumping all around the place with it. Paul Ledoux was also one of the owners of the 'astrophysical' Mustang, a car my father bought in Cambridge, Mass. (U.S.A.) in 1968: the successive owners were Pol Swings, myself, Paul Ledoux, G. Wallerstein, and finally (15 years later or so) a member of the University of Washington in Seattle.

For details about the scientific career of Professor Paul Ledoux, I recommend you read the introduction by A. Noels and M. Gabriel to the 25th Liège Colloquium (1984); what I wish to do here is only to pay a small tribute to a great Belgian astrophysicist who is missed by his colleagues worldwide.

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