

Jacky Lauwers-Bekaert awarded with AAMS –Aerophilatelic Hall of Fame

by Stefan Bruylants

During the 44th FISA Congress at Meyrin, Geneva area, Switzerland on April 25th, 2009, Jacky Lauwers-Bekaert was honored with the A.A.M.S. Award of the Aerophilatelic Hall of Fame for her work in Aero- and Astrophilately. Most aero- and astrophilatelists in the world know Jacky as the Secretary-General of FISA and as a dedicated defender of astrophilately and aerophilately.

Jacky was born in 1937. In 1955 she married Georges Lauwers and starting with the Brussels World Fair in 1958, Georges started collecting stamps on space flights. In 1971, Georges and Jacky founded the Belgian Philatelic Society Cosmos. During these years, Georges became a specialized astrophilatelist and was asked to join FISA in 1983. Jacky joined her husband on several trips in Europe and silently took over some functions as secretary. During the FISA Congress in London in May 1990, she was officially elected as Secretary-General of FISA.



Until his death in 2000, Georges and Jacky made different trips in Europe and the USA, always talking and working for astrophilately, always happy to meet new people, to exchange stories about astro and to enjoy their trips to KSC (and the launch of a space shuttle).

She served three FISA Presidents Roland F. Kohl (1977-1998), Kuno Sollors (1998-2007) and now Steve Reinhard (2007-). Now, at the age of seventy, she wanted to stop this great job.



Beside her function as FISA Secretary-General, she is still active in Belgium as a National Commissioner for Astrophilately, as Provincial Commissioner and as an exhibitor with her astro collection 'China in Space'.

As Steve already said : Jacky we will miss you but you will be always welcome at the meetings of FISA and AAMS.
