

Charles François, his 90th. Anniversary **By Ernesto Grün, GESI, Argentine Association**

These days, our friend and mentor in Systemics and Cybernetics turns 90 years. In about 33000 days he has gone through 9 worlds, some of them overlapping.

Let me explain:

He lived in 3 continents

He served 3 different types of activities: commercial, diplomatic and intellectual, and mentally moved in 3 different times: past, present and future.

Born in Europe, more precisely in Belgium, where he had his primary, secondary and university education.

He then moved into deep Africa, the Belgian Congo, where he had commercial as well as intellectual activities as journalist and writer.

At the beginning of the process of ending the colonial status in that country, he moved to South America, settling in the province of Mendoza, Argentina, where he had also commercial activities. His services as belgian honorary consul, led him later on to diplomatic activities at the Belgian Embassy in Buenos Aires, as a commercial attaché until his retirement in 1987.

He then dedicated his life principally to what was, already for many years, his passion: the study and teaching of General Systems Theory and Cybernetics with applications to his main interest subjects: economy and education. He spread his knowledge throughout Argentina, various Latin America countries, and beyond in Europe and the U.S.

He is author of books, numerous contributions and articles in several languages, and of reference works as a Dictionary in Spanish and the International Encyclopedia in English, both about Systemics and Cybernetics (*Charles François: International Encyclopedia of Systems and Cybernetics, 2nd edition in 2 volumes, K.G. Saur, München 2004, 740 pages, ISBN 3-598-11630-6*).

He toured many countries, giving tutorials and lectures, participating in forums and seminars and integrating multiple institutions. Friends in Argentina and around the world joined with affection his 90th celebration.



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