



# Fondation Francqui-Stichting

Fondation d'Utilité Publique - Stichting van Openbaar Nut

## Ceremony of the Francqui Prize at the Fondation Universitaire on May 28, 1948

### *Curriculum Vitae - Report of the Jury*

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Pol Swings

### *Curriculum Vitae*

(24/09/1906 - 28/10/1983)

Born at Ransart, on September 24, 1906

#### *University diplomas :*

Doctor of physical sciences and mathematics, Université à l'Etat de Liège, 1927  
Special doctor in physical sciences, Université à l'Etat de Liège, 1931

#### *Functions :*

Full Professor at the Faculty of Science of the Université de l'Etat à Liège :  
astrophysics

#### *Curriculum vitae:*

Grant holder at the Observatorium of Paris-Meudon, 1927-1928

Assistant at the Université de l'Etat à Liège, 1928-1932

Associated of the Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique, 1930-1932

C.R.B. Advanced Fellow, 1931 and 1935-1936

Part-time lecturer, 1932-1936

Full Professor, 1936

Chairman and member of various commissions or sub-commissions of the Union  
Astronomique Internationale (U.A.I.), 1935

C.R.B. Visiting Scientist, 1939-1940

Assistant Professor, University of Chicago, 1939-1940

Associate Professor, University of Chicago, 1940-1941  
Professor, University of Chicago, 1941-1943  
Morrison Research Associate, University of California, 1941  
Professor at the Ecole Libre des Hautes Etudes, New York, 1941-1945  
Director of research (War Research Assignment), Pasadena, California, 1943-1946  
Member of the Commission of Astrophysics and Geophysics of the Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique, 1945; Chairman in 1966  
Research Associate, University of Chicago, 1946-1948  
Member of the Commission of the Publications and Subsidies of the University Foundation, 1948-1950  
President of the Comité Permanent des Bibliothèques Scientifiques de la Fondation Universitaire, 1950-1955  
Vice-president of the Board of directors of the University Foundation, 1950-1955  
Member of the Board of directors of the Francqui Foundation, 1950-1955  
Visiting Professor, University of Chicago, 1949-1951  
Visiting Professor, California Institute of Technology, 1951  
Visiting Professor, University of California, Berkeley, 1952 and 1967  
Fellow of the American Association for the advancement of Sciences, 1952  
Member of the scientific Commission of the Institut Interuniversitaire des Sciences Nucléaires, 1953-1959  
Vice-president, 1956-1961; President of the Union Astronomique Internationale (U.A.I.), 1964-1967.  
Member of the Conseil National de la Politique Scientifique, 1959-1965  
Scientific Consultant, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, 1962-1963, 1967 and 1968  
President of the Group SLEP (1963-1965) and the Group STAR (1963-1967) of the European Organization of space Research  
Member of the Study Group Projet d'antenne en croix vu sous l'angle de la recherche fondamentale of the Conseil National de la Politique Scientifique, 1963  
Member of the Work group of advanced Technology and the space Research of the Conseil National de la Politique Scientifique , 1963  
Member of the Study Group Etablissements scientifique of the Conseil National de la Politique Scientifique, 1963  
Professor of exchange in Poland, France (3 times), Norway, Italy (2 times), Netherlands, Turkey, the United States of America (frequently)

*Scientific distinctions :*

Laureate of the Concours des bourses de voyage du Gouvernement, 1927  
Laureate of the university Contest, 1928  
Member of the Société royale des Sciences de Liège, 1933 (President in 1950; Treasurer from 1954 to 1963)  
Honorary member of the Association des Ingénieurs diplômés de l'Université de Liège, 1947  
Member of the Comité international d'édition des Annales d'Astrophysique, 1948-1952 and 1960-1967  
Member of the Conseil scientifique de l'Observatoire de Belgique, 1948-1966  
Organizer of the International symposiums of Astrophysics of Liege, 1949

Member of the Sub-commission of Astronomy of the Institut de Recherche Scientifique en Afrique Centrale (IRSAC), 1949-1964  
Associate of the Royal Astronomical Society, Great Britain, 1951  
Member of the Board of directors of the Université Officielle du Congo Belge et du Ruanda-Urundi, 1955-1958  
President of the Belgian society of Physics, 1955-1960  
Member of the Belgian Center of Oceanography, 1955-1963  
Corresponding member of the Insitut de France, 1956-1964  
Member of the Committee of edition of the Journal of Molecular Spectroscopy, 1957-1961  
Member of the Board of directors of the Institut pour la Recherche Scientifique (IRSAC), 1957-1964  
Médailles Janssen de l'Institut de France, 1961 and of the astronomical society of France, 1958  
Member of the Committee of edition of ICARUS (International Journal of the Solar system), 1962  
Member of the Committee of edition of The Journal of Quantitative Spectroscopy and Radiative Transfer, 1962  
Member of the Committee of edition of Astronomy and Astrophysics (European Journal), 1969  
Organizer of the Symposium of the Union astronomique internationale sur l'astronomie spatiale, 1964  
Darwin Lecturer of the Royal Astronomical Society, 1964  
President of the National committee of Astronomy, 1966  
President of the National committee of Physics, 1966-1968  
Member of many other Belgian and foreign cultural companies  
Member of honor of American Astronomical, 1968  
Associate of Harvard College Observatory College, 1968  
Prize of the Amis de l'Université de Liège, 1932  
Prize A. De Potter, 1934 (two)  
Prize E. Mailly, 1936  
Prize of the Cercle des Alumni de la Fondation Universitaire, 1938  
Francqui Prize, 1948  
Prize of the Concours décennal des sciences physiques, 1958  
Prize of the Fondation Gouverneur E. Cornez, 1965  
Titular member of the Académie royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique, 1955  
Corresponding Member of the Académie astronautique internationales, 1963-1964, titular member, 1964  
Foreign associated member of the Académie des Sciences de l'Institut de France, 1964  
Foreign member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Boston, 1965  
Foreign member of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, 1966  
Foreign associated member of the National Academy of Sciences, the USA, 1966  
Foreign member of Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften, München, 1966  
Doctor *honoris causa* of the Université d'Aix-Mariseille, 1958  
Doctor *honoris causa* of the University of Bordeaux, 1963  
Doctor *honoris causa* of the University Charles of Prague, 1967

## *Report of the Jury (March 23, 1948)*

Considérant l'originalité du génie du Professeur Pol SWINGS

considérant la maîtrise qu'il a acquise en spectroscopie, particulièrement dans l'étude des spectres moléculaires et des spectres des atomes fortement ionisés,

considérant la nouveauté et l'importance des résultats qu'il a acquis dans l'étude de ces spectres émis par les étoiles de types divers, par les comètes et par la matière interstellaire,

considérant l'influence féconde qu'il a exercée sur ses collaborateurs et sur ses élèves et la renommée universelle qu'il a acquise,

considérant la valeur de ses travaux qui ont augmenté le prestige international de la Belgique,

décide de conférer le Prix Francqui 1948 à Monsieur le Professeur Pol SWINGS.

Jury members :

**Professor F.J.M. Stratton**

Professor emeritus at the Cambridge University  
Director emeritus of the Observatorium of Cambridge

*Chairman*

**Professor J.F. Cox**

Professor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles

**Professor B. Lyot**

Astronomet at the Observatorium of Paris

**Professor L. Rosenfeld**

Professor at the Manchester University

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