

## Charles FRANÇOIS

Adapted from a memorandum of Ernesto GRÜN, GESI, Argentine Association

These days, our friend and mentor in Systemics and Cybernetics, Charles FRANÇOIS, turns 96 years. In about 35000 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 he moved in 3 different times: past, present and future.

Born in Europe, 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.A.** He toured many countries, giving tutorials and lectures, participating in forums and seminars and integrating multiple institutions.

He is the author of books, numerous contributions and articles in several languages, and the editor 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*).

Friends in Argentina and around the world joined with affection his 96<sup>th</sup> celebration.

