

ELIE CARAFOLI, WIDE INTERNATIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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Honored audience, distinguished guests,

It's a great privilege and pleasure for me to have been invited by the management of INCAS to share some international appreciations and the wide acknowledgement addressed to the University Professor Academician Elie Carafoli.

I consider i am able to make this presentation because, until 1975, as a scientific secretary of the *Academy Astronautics Committee* headed by Prof. Carafoli, i have the privilege of a direct collaboration with him. I think that the first international assessment of Prof. Carafoli's scientific capacity was made during 1926 - 1928 when, after having taken his diploma and Ph.D. degree in Mathematics and Physics at the Sorbonne, he wrote several original scientific papers and printed 4 valuable works of aerospace, becoming teaching assistant of Professor Paul Painelvé. During this period he has worked closely with scientist Professor Albert Toussaint, with whom he made an important research tool called hydrodynamic tank Toussaint-Carafoli.

During the the same period he designed a new class of aerodynamic profiles with rounded leading edge, called profiles Carafoli. His studies and original scientific works brought him, in 1928, the award "Louis Bréguet" and the silver *Medal of Honor*, awarded by the *National Society of Encouraging Progress* in Paris, on February 17, 1928. Since 1930, the aeronautical higher education and the aviation industry in our country have benefited from an aerodynamic wind tunnel appreciated at that time as the first installation of this kind from the South Eastern Europe. This facility was designed and built according to the plans of Professors Carafoli and Ion Stroiescu.

In 1949, in collaboration with the former professor Nicolae Tipei, Prof. Carafoli published in France an original study on the drift and swept-back wings, issues particularly topical for that stage of the aviation.

In 1954 Prof. Carafoli was invited in China by the Academy of Sciences of Beijing to lecture on his theory of conical motions in subsonic and supersonic regimes and on this occasion his work "*Conical motions in supersonic regime*" was printed in Chinese. During the same period his treatise entitled "*Aerodynamics*" was translated into Russian and German and he was elected member of the *British Royal Aeronautical Society*. As a result, in 1956, he published in English his treatise "*High Speed*

Aerodynamics”; this work has been reviewed abroad and later on was printed in Romanian and Russian.

For his many and valuable contributions in Aeronautics, Prof. Carafoli was awarded in 1956, on the occasion of the Congress in Los Angeles with the diploma “*Paul Tissandier*” awarded by the *International Federation of Aeronautics*.

Choosing Prof. Carafoli as a member of the *International Academy of Astronautics*, based in Paris, led to the nomination of the *Commission of Astronautics of the Romanian Academy* as a company member of the *International Federation of Astronautics*, entitled to speak and vote. During 1962-1964 Professor Carafoli was elected a corresponding member of the *Academy of Sciences and Arts* in Toulouse and an extraordinary member of the German rocket company “*Hermann Oberth*”. For his valuable works Prof. Carafoli became a member of the Executive Committee of the *International Council of Scientific Unions*. In 1967, Professor Carafoli was honored with the title of Member of the Scientific Council of the international body *GAMM*.

In 1967 a new international acknowledgement was added to his honors list when he received, the *Silver Medal* awarded by the the *Society of Research and Invention Supporting* in Paris.

Professor Carafoli was elected vice president of the *International Federation of Astronautics* for the period 1967 - 1968; the next year he was elected president of the Federation for the 1969 - 1970 stage; the same year he became a member of the *German Scientific Society of Braunschweig* and was awarded the *Gauss Medal*.

I'd like to share with you a happening that Professor Carafoli told me once. In 1969, when he was on his way to Mar-del Plata, where he was to chair a conference of Aerospace, he made a stopover in Buenos Aires at a press conference where he discussed with two American astronauts who were members of Apollo 11 crew.