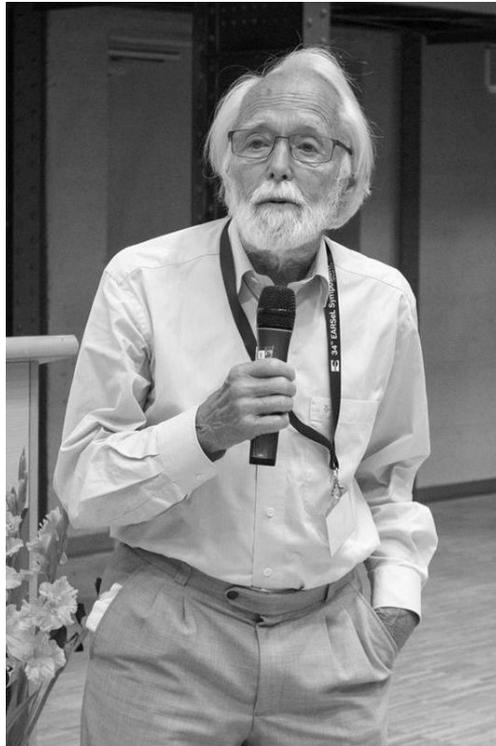


OBITUARY FOR PROFESSOR DR. PREBEN E. GUDMANDSEN

(5 OCTOBER 1924 - 2 MAY 2019)



Prof. Emeritus Preben E. Gudmandsen passed away on May 2, 2019 after a fulfilled private and above all very successful scientific life. We all lost a highly esteemed university professor, enthusiastic scientist and great friend.

Preben graduated in 1950 as M.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from Danmarks Tekniske Højskole (Technical University of Denmark, today DTU) with a thesis on waveguide structures. After some scientific stays at various institutes, he became a professor in microwave techniques at DTU. It is here where he spent the longest time of his scientific career. In 1967 Preben was one of the first who initiated remote sensing activities from aircrafts and satellites at DTU. In 1972 he started the application of satellite data from passive microwave sensors for mapping of sea ice in the waters around Greenland.

Through the 1980's and 1990's he headed many Danish and international research projects on measurements from aircrafts and satellites funded especially by DTU and the European Space Agency ESA. When he retired in 1994 he very actively continued to conduct research at the DTU especially on the Greenland Ice Shield.

While Preben served as a Danish delegate to ESA from 1972 to 1994 in various boards and working groups he was also active in many other scientific commissions and academies. He was honoured for his research with many prizes, including the Hartmann-Prisen and the Hans-Egede-Medaljen from the Royal Danish Geographical Society.

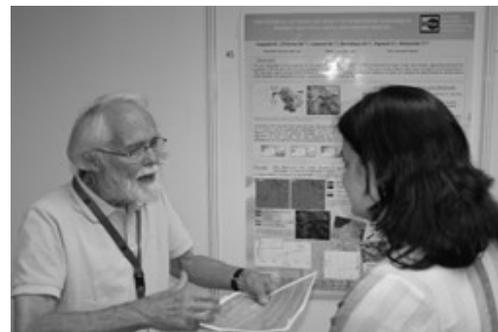
Preben was a member of the original founding group which met in Paris on 1st May 1976 and at which the idea of a scientific European association in remote sensing was floated and from which stemmed the formation of the European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories (EARSeL). Together with other visionaries of these days such as Francis Cambou, George Fraysse, Johann Bodechtel, André Lebeau and Gunnar Østrem, he founded EARSeL in 1976. At the first meeting held in Lyngby/Denmark later in 1976 he was elected the first EARSeL Chairman, a position that he held until 1982. Ever since then he remained active in the Association both as the National Representative for Denmark on the EARSeL Council, and as its Honorary President in the EARSeL Bureau with all his advice.



This picture shows the birthplace of EARSeL, the meeting in September 1976 at the Danish Technical University in Lyngby (near Copenhagen). Preben had invited a number of scientists interested in remote sensing to give presentations of their work and/or to discuss the future of remote sensing in Europe. At this meeting it was decided to create a European organization, and Preben was elected as Chairman.

The latest EARSeL symposium he attended was held in Chania/Crete Island last year. As always on these occasions Preben was fascinated to learn more about the newest knowledge and methods in remote sensing and he missed a few sessions only. He had a broad knowledge in various fields of remote sensing and not only in microwave techniques, which was his personal expertise.

He was always engaged in the “Best Poster Award” or “Young Scientist Award” teams because he very much liked to be in touch with the young generation and discuss with them about their research – not only to let them know of his experiences but also to learn from them. It was always a great pleasure to meet him and exchange ideas, be it scientific ones or his great interest in our association to help to keep it running.



He was very glad to celebrate with us the 40th anniversary of EARSeL some years ago – an event which was not expectable in the 1970s when EARSeL was founded.

It is so much that we owe to the foresight and dedication of Preben who voluntarily gave his time and enthusiasm over all these years. His contribution for the future development of EARSeL as well as his advice will be greatly missed. We all lost an important mentor and an open-minded friend.

Prof. Emeritus Preben Emanuel Gudmandsen died at the proud age of 94.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his three children and their families. We are very sad and we will miss him and his positive and visionary attitude.

Preben, tak for alt, din hjælp og støtte!