Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer: the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in

the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1978) Heft: 1744

Artikel: Getting ready for space history

Autor: [s.n.]

DOI: https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-689225

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Mehr erfahren

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. En savoir plus

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. Find out more

Download PDF: 30.11.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, https://www.e-periodica.ch

GETTING READY FOR SPACE HISTORY

-An interview with a Swiss who will do just that

An exciting event for your editor took place in London a few weeks ago when he was priviliged to meed Claude Nicolier, the Swiss astronaut who will be one of the first Eruopeans to fly in the United States space shuttle in 1980.

Mr. Nicolier was in London to help launch a new scale model of the shuttle being produced by Airfix.

M.T.

RESEARCH CAREER

After graduating in physics at Lausanne University, he entered upon a research career at the Astronomical Institute of Lausanne and Geneva Observatory, where he contributed to an observation and research programme for photometric classification of super-giant stars.

Having qualified as a professional pilot, he interrupted his research work for three years (1973-1976) and worked as an airline pilot on DC-9 aircraft for

Swissair. During this period, he terminated his studies in astronomy and astrophysics which he had started before joining Swissair, and was awarded a degree by Geneva University in these subjects.

In 1976, he resumed his activities as research scientist and is at present a visiting scientist at ESTEC, Noordwijk, Netherlands. In this capacity, he took part in the ASSESS-II mission — airborne simulation of a Spacelab mission — in May 1977 as experiment operator.

He is still a pilot in the Swiss Air Force, on a part-time basis, flying Hawker Hunters. Married with a three and a half year old daughter, M. Nicolier lives in Holland. He will be spending extended training periods in the United States to prepare for his historic flight.

FLYING BRICKYARD

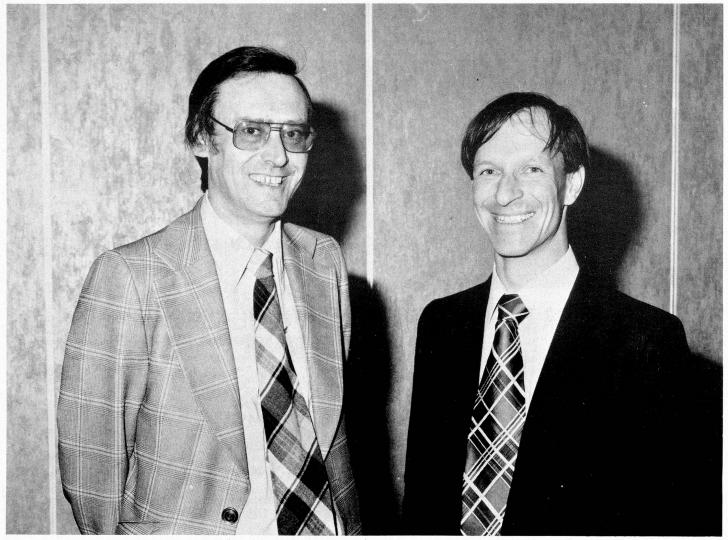
The Shuttle — known as the flying brickyard because of the 32,000 silica covered ceramic bricks built into the

That year will also see the first Spacelab mission, which will include European as well as American technicians.

Shuttle is designed to deposit scientific payloads in space, then return to earth to pick up a new load — at a cost to the customer of about 337 dollars (about £170) a pound "delivered". (Each Shuttle flight will cost between 18 million to 23 million dollars — and NASA will recoup these costs from governments and private firms). By 1985, Shuttle will be averaging one flight a week.

A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

Airfix's Shuttle has 92 parts and is made up of the delta-shaped orbiter vehicle, two booster rockets and the huge fuel tank. The kit is the only one on the market in full space flight configuration. WGS



Claude Nicollier, likely to be one of the first Europeans into space with the spacelab mission in 1980 talks with George Sommer, at a London press show to launch the new Airfix 1/144th scale model kit of Space Shuttle. Picture by courtesy of Airfix.