

EDITH ALICE MÜLLER

AWARD



SERVICE ÉGALITÉ



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Swiss Academy of Sciences
Akademie der Naturwissenschaften
Accademia di scienze naturali
Académie des sciences naturelles



**UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE**



Edith Alice Müller, Madrid 1918 – 1995

Edith Alice Müller's parents were Swiss living in Spain. She had with her sister Jenny a happy childhood in a cosmopolitan surrounding. She expressed very young a real interest in mathematics, which her father encouraged. She studied at the University of Zurich, where she completed her doctorate in 1943. Her doctoral thesis applied an abstract mathematical theory to a far from abstract ancient building, the Alhambra in Granada.

She then held posts in various observatories, including Basel and Zurich, as well as Ann Arbor in Michigan, where she worked with the most powerful instruments of the time and collaborated on the most advanced research on the table of the abundance of chemical elements.

She was by far the person the most involved in this fundamental research, and she published numerous frequently cited articles. When this monumental task was complete, she joined the Geneva Observatory, in 1962. She was appointed extraordinary professor of astrophysics in 1964, and full professor of physics in 1972. During many years, she remained the only female professor teaching at the Geneva Science Faculty. She was general secretary of the International Astronomical Union from 1976 until 1979.

In addition to her teaching at the observatory, Edith Alice Müller brought about her wide experience of life in society and her passion to travel and her curiosity to discover different continents and people. Thanks to the fact that she frequently spoke several languages and also owing to her sociability, numerous foreign and Swiss scientists came to the Geneva Observatory. And this great scientist encouraged many talented young women to start a career, and guided them effectively.

Meeting Marcel Golay in the Observatory, she said: *I have had a passionate life and I have been very happy for 75 years, whatever my heart is going to decide to do to me now...*

FOR ONE STUDENT HAVING PRESENTED A PHD THESIS IN SWITZERLAND

In order to celebrate, in 2018, the half-century of the Swiss Society of Astronomy and Astrophysics (SSAA), the SSAA Committee decided to create a yearly award rewarding one astronomer, author of an excellent PhD thesis.

It will be named the **Edith Alice Müller Award** in recognition for the scientific research done by Edith Alice Müller (1918-1995) on the composition of the Sun and for her involvement in promoting Astrophysics at the international level. She was the first woman to be appointed General Secretary of the International Astronomical Union.

PUBLIC

Students having presented a PhD thesis in Switzerland in 2017 (Award 2018).

OBJECTIVE

To promote high quality astrophysical thesis in Switzerland and support the access to this field of science for both female and male young researchers.

OFFER

The awardee will receive a sum of CHF 1 000.– and a diploma.

MORE INFORMATION

Submission for the **Edith Alice Müller Award** must be sent to the following address:

secretary-ssaa@phys.ethz.ch **before the third week of June.**

Needed:

1. A letter of the thesis supervisor that describes the thesis
2. The thesis manuscript
3. A CV of the candidate
4. A list of publications of the candidate

The SSAA will announce the name of the awardee during the third week of September. The award will be officially delivered at the yearly General Assembly of the Society.

<https://saa.phys.ethz.ch/>

