



Royal
Astronomical
Society

A 2023 Honorary Fellowship of the RAS is awarded to Professor Erik Høg

In a distinguished career over nearly seven decades, Professor Erik Høg has played a prominent role in moving the fundamental discipline of astrometry into the space age, generating many scientific advances. In 1960 he proposed the concept of a photoelectric meridian circle, which pioneered the principles of photon counting astrometry later used by the Hipparcos satellite; he brought digitization and computers into astrometric instrumentation. He championed the Hipparcos mission and, after its selection by ESA, was a member of the Hipparcos Science Team. He led the Tycho Data Analysis Consortium in the production of the Tycho catalogue of over 2.5 million stars from Hipparcos data. Professor Høg first proposed in 1992 a follow-on mission to Hipparcos, a mission which later became Gaia, and he made important contributions to Gaia's design. In 2013, he proposed a next-generation astrometry mission which has become the Gaia NIR capable of extending the capabilities which Gaia has shown to be so powerful to the obscured regions of the Milky Way, including the galactic centre.

For these reasons Professor Erik Høg is awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the RAS.