53rd IAA SYMPOSIUM ON THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE (SETI) – The Next Steps (A4)
Interactive Presentations - 53rd IAA SYMPOSIUM ON THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE (SETI) – The Next Steps (IP)

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THE "OVERFLY OF THE MERIDIANS" EXPERIENCE

Abstract

In 1983, a competition aimed at promoting among young people the first Spacelab mission – the European laboratory embedded in the Shuttle bay - was organized in France by the European Space Agency (Esa) and a well known peripheral radio station. Several experiments were selected and carried out during the first Spacelab flight (STS-9 mission) in November 1983. The one that won first prize was imagined by the author; it aimed to illuminate portions of the meridian of Greenwich (the initial proposal) and Paris (not planned by the author, but added by the organizers). The results of this Seti experiment were presented at the International Astronautics Congress (IAC) in 1984 in Lausanne. 40 years later, the author presents how and why he conceived this idea to "manifest in heaven" and the actual realization of the experience. By way of conclusion, he wonders whether such an experiment would be legitimate today.