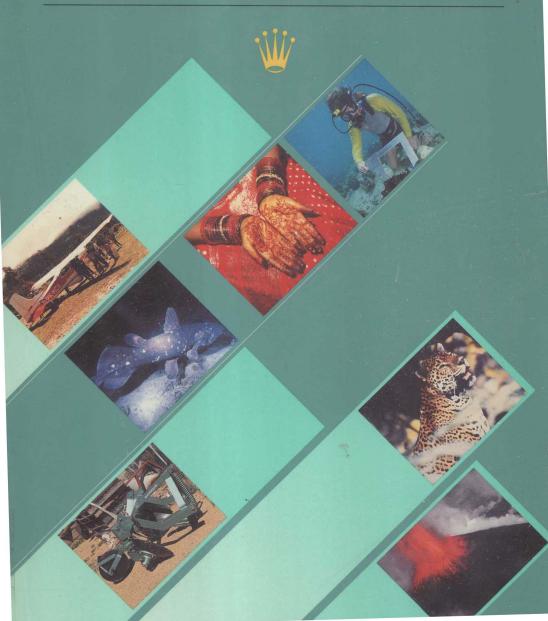
SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE

THE 1990 ROLEX AWARDS



Spirit of Enterprise

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Foreword by

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Photographs and artworks have been submitted by the entrants except where indicated in the captions

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Foreword

Our present era is an exciting one, though fraught with innumerable difficulties for the men and women who are living through it. Does it not bring into question principles we thought were untouchable? There is no doubt that it will take its place amongst the great turning-points in the history of humanity, one of those moments when the course of events accelerates like a river which, after wending calmly on its way, suddenly thunders over the rapids. Certainly, this is a consequence of the progress of our technology. Computers are opening up prospects that were unknown until now, giving external scope to our brains in the same way machines did to our muscles in the 18th century. Advances in our knowledge of the biology of the molecule, the cell and the vast ecological systems which form our biosphere – that slender envelope of living matter which surrounds the core of our planet – permit us to master living matter in ways that were previously unknown. These are factors which have profoundly changed our behaviour and have led us to a crisis point in our civilization.

It might be feared that humanity is increasingly placing its trust in machines and science and that, in the end, we could become no more than robots. And that would put an end to the individual initiative, the spirit of enterprise which Montres Rolex S. A. is so aptly encouraging.

However, a glance through the pages of this book will show that such is not the case. The urge to seek, to find out and to understand – in a perfectly disinterested and often totally individual way – what was previously unknown is just as alive 56amongst our contemporaries as it was for those who lived in earlier centuries when life was less dictated by technology. In our universe dominated by the computer and the biologist's test-tube, the yearning to know and innovate is just as vital as it was when our distant ancestors drew bison and horses on the walls of their caves in the Dordogne and Spain.

Creativity and the spirit of enterprise will continue to be essential and exclusive qualities of humankind and ones which will for ever distinguish us from the living world around us dominated as it is by instinct or a very rudimentary apprenticeship. Yet this does not exclude research on our own past – a past from which we draw our future.

The projects that the Selection Committee for The Rolex Awards for Enterprise 1990 had the difficult task of deciding on offer striking proof of this unending process. The range of subjects is vast and extends across all spheres of knowledge and research. Yet all have a common denominator: the progress of humankind. Many of the candidates have as their objective to improve the lives of their fellow men, many of whom are still in great need. Others aim to extend our knowledge of the mysterious world around us and the vastness of space which we have, as yet, scarcely penetrated. Many are devoted to the environment, in the widest

sense of the word – one of the most pressing problems of our time. All of them should receive closer consideration on the part of our political leaders than do short-term subjects of dissension.

These are subjects which are of vital concern to our candidates because the world of nature around us is seriously threatened. The survival of humanity depends on its preservation. Materially we are dependent on it. Yet, in general, we equally need the moral qualities necessary to live in harmony with those beings that have their place on the same genealogical tree as our species – derived as it was from an obscure branch of the primitive primates. For the candidates of The Rolex Awards, the human element is a matter of constant concern – and this has profoundly heartened me.

Of the important lessons I have learnt from my participation in this Jury, the first and foremost is that the spirit of enterprise is still marvellously alive amongst the young, and even the less young — which is extremely encouraging in our century encumbered with technology where the machine should be in the service of man, and not dominate him.

Without this spirit of enterprise, we would have remained what we were in the age of the cave-man. To quote the words of the great French biologist, Jean Rostand: Man, this "grandchild of the fish, great-nephew of the snail... From a line of animals that in no way seemed intended for such a destiny, there came one day that preposterous animal which was to invent integral calculus and dream of justice".

Here we have the great concept that acts as a permanent driving force for humanity. Moreover, the fact that it is an ongoing tradition has once again been proven by the candidates who have participated in this international competition organized by a major company pursuing the course of universal humanism. For me this has been a great source of joy.

Paris, November 1989 Jean DORST

Institut de France

Preface

With this, the fifth round of The Rolex Awards for Enterprise, I feel there is scarcely any need to introduce you to this incredible world of endeavour and achievement that we at Montres Rolex S. A. have the privilege and pleasure to explore anew every three years. Nevertheless, for those of you who are encountering The Rolex Awards for the first time, a word of presentation will certainly not go amiss.

It all started in 1976, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of a "first" that occupies a very special place in our traditions – the invention and patenting in 1926 of the Rolex Oyster Case which was immediately acclaimed as the world's first waterproof watch. This was a particularly important moment for us since the Rolex Oyster has been an eminent example of our own enterprise in the field of fine watchmaking, and its 50th anniversary seemed to us an appropriate occasion to share and celebrate what we have long called "The Spirit of Enterprise".

The Rolex Awards were therefore inaugurated in 1976 and granted for the first time in 1978. The response was immense, worldwide and exciting; it far exceeded our wildest imagination but revealed that our initiative had struck a response amongst the public at large and that our concept of the "spirit of enterprise" is one that is shared by a vast number of people of unusual talents and capabilities. The first Awards Ceremony held in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1978 consecrated five Rolex Laureates, and subsequently 26 Honourable Mentions were suitably celebrated at ceremonies in their countries of residence throughout the world.

In view of the remarkable response to our first call, we decided to maintain the Awards which – now having been organized sequentially in 1981, 1984 and 1987 – have become a tradition. Over this period, 20 enterprising individuals have become Rolex Laureates and over 100 have been granted an Honourable Mention.

The fifth and latest round of The Awards, which is the subject of the present book, has had nothing to envy of its predecessors. The level, variety and quality of the projects submitted by our candidates have filled us with pleasure but at the same time have rendered the task of the eminent Members of our Selection Committee even more difficult than on previous occasions.

Right from the start in 1976, we realized that the granting of five Laureates and thirty or so Honourable Mentions could not do justice to the quantity and quality of our candidates. We therefore undertook to present to the world at large a wider panorama of this wealth of enterprise by publishing a book describing and illustrating a number of the projects that had most vividly captured our imagination – both for the pleasure of the reader and to ensure that these candidates could demonstrate their ideas to the largest possible audience and, perhaps, gather the wider support they need to bring their projects to realization.

Our expectations have not been unfounded and the response given to the four previous editions of *Spirit of Enterprise* has been generous and effective, with many of the candidates whose projects have been published informing us of the opportunities that have presented themselves.

I feel convinced that this fifth edition of *Spirit of Enterprise* will have a similar impact. The projects that you will read about on the following pages demonstrate the panorama of achievement and the profound sensation of human generosity that are for us so typical of our candidates. They will take you into new and amazing realms of human endeavour and will, I am sure, leave you with a renewed admiration at human aspirations.

In Geneva, on 26 April 1990, I will be proud to welcome to the podium the five Laureates of The Rolex Awards for Enterprise 1990 and present each of them with a cheque for 50,000 Swiss francs and a specially engraved gold Rolex Oyster Day-Date Chronometer. In the days that follow, a total of 35 Honourable Mentions will similarly attend special ceremonies organized around the world at which their successes will be acknowledged by the presentation to each of them of a steel and gold Rolex Oyster. Finally, we are once again publishing this book and other documents to ensure that, in 1990 too, the spirit of enterprise has the largest possible hearing around the world.

The Rolex Awards for Enterprise 1990 have, in the same way as their predecessors, given myself and all those involved in them considerable pleasure and gratification. They have also strengthenend us at Montres Rolex S. A. in our estimation of the intrinsic value of the Awards that we have conceived and of our vision of the programme's future. We hope that your appreciation will match ours. So please allow me to take this opportunity of announcing that the next Rolex Awards for Enterprise will be launched in 1991 and of inviting you to join us in them.

Geneva, November 1989 André J. Heiniger

Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director

Montres Rolex S. A.

Introduction

What is it that drives men and women to go where nobody has ever gone before, to adopt a cause and tenaciously persevere until the grievance has been righted, to give generously of themselves to help those less privileged than they, to undertake a crusade to protect the animals and plants of our environment? There is, of course, no single answer to such a question but there is a universal thread which links them together and which results in many of the most outstanding of their kind figuring in this volume. That thread is the "spirit of enterprise" — a quality that has been a fundamental force helping humankind to ever-greater achievements over the centuries and a quality that Montres Rolex S. A. has decided to honour and encourage in five consecutive rounds of The Rolex Awards for Enterprise.

The 267 people who will be recounting to you their hopes and ambitions from the pages of this book are uncommon but incredibly stimulating. They come from all the corners of the globe, and they represent an amazing range of disciplines. Yet they have all been chosen for their spirit of enterprise. Five of them were selected by a distinguished Selection Committee to become The Rolex Laureates for 1990 and a further 35 were designated Honourable Mentions. Yet they all have an exciting story to tell and this book has been created to ensure that the stories are broadcast as widely as possible.

On 26 April 1990, the five Laureates will come to Geneva to take part in the Awards Ceremony and each receive from the hands of Mr. André J. Heiniger, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Montres Rolex S. A., a cheque for 50,000 Swiss francs, a specially inscribed gold Rolex Oyster Day-Date Chronometer and a scroll attesting their selection. This will be followed shortly afterwards by similar ceremonies throughout the world at which the 35 Honourable Mentions will be celebrated and each receive a steel and gold Rolex Oyster and a scroll.

However, as in previous years, Montres Rolex S. A. has agreed to extend further support and encouragement to many of the other candidates whose projects were of outstanding merit. It was therefore once again decided to publish a book containing descriptions of the award — winning projects and of a further 236 projects that were considered to merit a wide audience.

Since the project descriptions that the candidates submitted on the Official Application Forms for The Rolex Awards for Enterprise were of widely varying lengths, it has proved necessary to condense many into a more concise form. This has had the added advantage of allowing even more projects to be presented than in the four previous Rolex Awards books.

As before, the book itself is divided into three sections, each being devoted to one of the categories of The Awards: Applied Sciences and Invention; Explora-

tion and Discovery; and The Environment. However, the individual projects are presented in a random order and the sequence is in no manner intended to indicate a rating on the part of Montres Rolex S. A. or the Editor.

This book has a dual purpose. It provides a vehicle for the world to appreciate the qualities of many of those who have participated in The Rolex Awards for Enterprise 1990 – their inventiveness, tenacity, courage and perseverance. But it also offers you, the reader, the opportunity of participating in the efforts that are being undertaken. We would therefore encourage you to reach out to these individuals and offer them your encouragement. Better still, write to the candidate whose project has particularly appealed to you and offer your own support in return for further details.

Last but not least, we hope that the endeavours that you read of in the following pages will incite you to give free rein to your own "spirit of enterprise" and encourage you to put your own project down on paper and submit it for The Rolex Awards for Enterprise 1993.

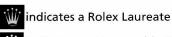
Geneva, November 1989 David W. Reed

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