Andre Brahic, discoverer of Neptune's rings, dies

15 May 2016 | Europe



Science "could make the eyes of small children light up", Andre Brahic said

Andre Brahic, one of the people who discovered the rings of Neptune, has died aged 73, his publisher says.

The Frenchman was one of the team who first spotted the rings in 1984, naming them Equality, Fraternity and Liberty after the motto of the French Republic.

In a tribute, French President Francois Hollande said Brahic had known "how to easily explain the mysteries of space".

Brahic, who was 73, was seen as a key figure in increasing public awareness of research into space.

He once said science "could make the eyes of small children light up".

"He was a brilliant character: extraordinarily warm, profound and authentic, a great scholar and also a storyteller, a writer," his publisher and friend Odile Jacob said.

His discovery of Neptune's rings, along with American astronomer William Hubbard, followed on from his interest in the rings of Saturn.

In his work with the Commission for Atomic Energy and Alternative Energies in Paris and as a professor at the University of Paris, he helped carry out research into the solar system through Nasa and European unmanned missions.

A minor planet numbered 3488 was named Brahic in tribute to his work.

Related Topics

France

Share this story About sharing

Europe >



Jolie Pitt: Refugee system breaking down

16 May 2016 | Europe



Brexit 'risk' for UK universities

17 May 2016 | Education & Family



Oil boss says North Sea 'has a future'

17 May 2016 | Business

More Videos from the BBC

Recommended by Outbrain



Julia Roberts: Pretty Woman wouldn't get made today



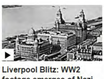
Australia quintuplets: 'Our house is absolutely wild'



Door handle breaks as Putin inspects Russian military jeep



Long-lost Gordon Highlanders' chapel found in Singapore



Liverpool Blitz: WW2 footage emerges of Nazi plans



US commander demoted over Iran capture at sea

Elsewhere on BBC

Recommended by Outbrain



BBC News

Five signs that you're being emotionally abused



BBC Culture

The sleepwalker of New York



BBC News

How a 15-year-old discovered an ancient city



BBC Culture

Why the Brits love drinking



BBC News

Gunman who got wrong house dies in Edinburgh prison



BBC Future

What we would actually do to stop a 'doomsday' asteroid

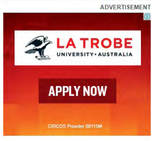
Top Stories

HK tense as key Chinese leader visits
Tight security is in place in Hong Kong for the visit of China's third-highest leader, as concern grows about political interference by Beijing.
57 minutes ago

Canada oil workers urged to flee blaze
7 minutes ago

Thailand to close island to tourists
4 hours ago

ADVERTISEMENT



Features & Analysis



A memory avoided
China tiptoes around Cultural Revolution upheaval



Brutal murders
Why violence dominates Keralan politics



Voting abroad
Is migration making Eurovision unfair?



'Empathy and hypocrisy'
Chinese women react to sexual harassment of men



Calling Bob 'Judas'
The night a Dylan heckler changed music



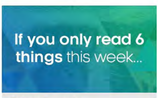
Drones with jobs
How co-operating flying robots will change the way we work



Local boy
A Lebanese village celebrates Brazil's new president



Car-crash TV
Austrian election debate turns to 'slugfest'



Subscribe today
6 can't miss stories in your inbox every Friday

Most Popular

Read | Watched

1. Missing Sinead O'Connor found in US
2. Thailand to close island to tourists
3. Chinese bank buys London gold vault
4. BBC 'to close recipes website'
5. Four more ways the CIA has meddled in Africa
6. Bison calf put down after car boot trip
7. Canada oil workers urged to flee blaze
8. HK tense as key Chinese leader visits
9. Is there a Eurovision migrant effect?
10. Business Live: Pound rises on Brexit poll

From Around the Web

Promoted content by Outbrain



Top 10 Most Dangerous Dogs in the World
iWorld List



Gamers around the world have been waiting for this...
Elvenar

Top 10 World's Most Dangerous Pets in 2016
Viral Share



I Tried Blue Apron's Meal Delivery Service: Here's...
Blue Apron on Liberty ...



Top 5 Prettiest Actresses in Bollywood in 2016
Viral Content



7 Cancer-Fighting Culinary Spices and Herbs - For...
Dummies.com

Ads by Google

Satellite Maps
Get Maps, Directions, Street Views & Traffic with MapsGalaxy - Free
www.mapsgalaxy.com

Facebook® Account Sign Up
Connect With Your Friends Online. Join the Facebook Community - Free!
facebook.com

ECT Flaw Detector
ECT Flaw & Conductivity Detectors. All NDT Applications Catered For!
www.ethernde.com/instruments

Copyright © 2016 BBC. The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites. Read about our approach to external linking.