Bo K.O. Lundberg
Sweden
1907-1991

Executive Committee Member: 1962-1968
Honorary Fellow (Life Member): 1958-

Bo Lundberg was one of the ICAS founding fathers, who took part in the formative New York meeting in 1957 and in the first ICAS Council in 1958. Lundberg became a military pilot in 1926 and graduated from the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm in 1931. During the 1930s he worked as an engineer and test pilot for Swedish aircraft companies and authorities. As the delivery of aircraft bought for the Swedish Air Force was cancelled due to the war, Lundberg in 1940 was tasked, to design a new fighter (Spitfire class) and build up the production. He was successful and “his” aircraft, the J22, made its first flight in 1942. 200 aircraft were built and used by the Swedish Air Force.

In 1944 he joined FFA (Aeronautical Research Institute of Sweden) as head of the structures department. His research focused on aircraft structural fatigue and he became a world-leading expert in this field. In 1948 he became the FFA Director and served in that position until 1967. He continued to be strongly involved in research and in 1954 he was invited by the IAS (predecessor of AIAA) to give the Wright Brothers Lecture “Fatigue Life of Airplane Structures”.

Lundberg was a strong opponent of the development of SST because of its environmental impact. At the third ICAS congress 1962 in Stockholm he gave the Guggenheim Lecture on “Speed and Safety in Civil Aviation”. This was the prelude to a courageous but controversial debate, conducted both in public and at the political level, on the pros and cons of supersonic commercial aviation.