

Tribute to Irma

We are deeply saddened to learn that Irma Bioujout de Azar passed away on February 12th, at the age of 100. *Mme Azar*, as we liked to call her, was an austere, tireless, and determined woman who always had exciting projects in mind. She held a teaching degree in Literature (University of Buenos Aires) and in French (Joaquín V. González Institute), and worked as a lecturer at both of these institutions, as well as at the Faculty of Humanities of the University of La Plata. In 1979, she founded the "Argentine Society of French Teachers in Higher and University Education" (SAPFESU), which she chaired for several terms, and in 1983, the SAPFESU Journal, which she edited until October 2012. French teachers in Argentina across teachers' associations became aware of the international dimension of associative relationships thanks to *Mme Azar*. Moreover, she was a member of the Governance Committee of the CRALC of AUPELF (Quebec-Paris, 1979-1983) and of the Governance Committee of the FIPF (Sèvres, France, 1984-1992). She was subsequently president of COPALC, the Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of the FIPF (1985-1987). Decorated by the French government with the Order of Academic Palms, she was awarded the rank of Knight in 1976 and promoted to Officer in 1987. We also remember that *Mme Azar* was Secretary of the Association of Members of the Order of Academic Palms, AMOPA, Argentinian branch (1999-2009). In addition to numerous articles published in national and international journals, she wrote the book *"De la evolución fonética del latín al nacimiento de una nueva lengua: el francés y su correlato en español"* (2015). The vastness and variety of the activities mentioned before reflect a spirit driven by a sense of mission: to promote the dissemination of the French and Francophone language and culture. In many places in Argentina, France, and other countries, men and women who knew and admired her will remember Irma as a great lady. Her strength, tenacity and tireless energy will remain with us as an example for life.

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CRALC (AUPELF's Regional Committee for Latin America and Caribbean)

AUPELF (*Association des Universités Partiellement ou Entièrement de Langue Française*), today known as **AUF** (Francophone University Agency)

COPALC (Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of the **FIPF** (International Federation of French Teachers))

