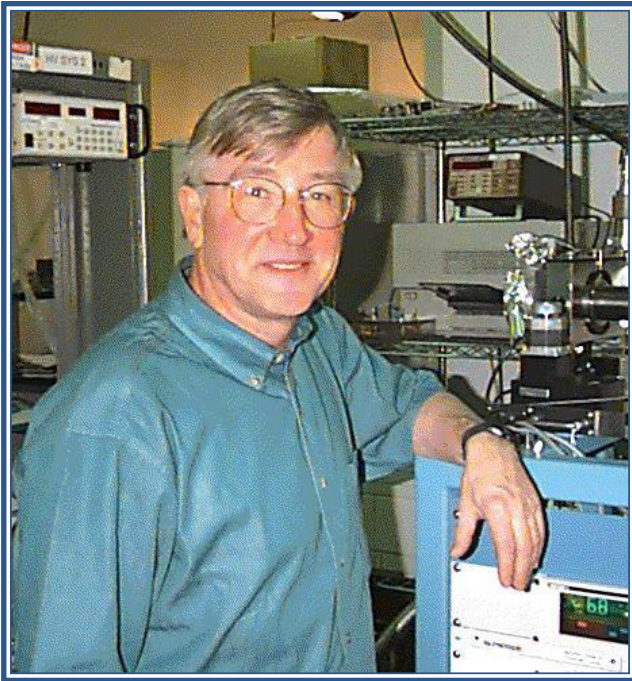


## Martin Zombeck (1936–2016)



In late September 2016, Martin Zombeck, who had been the HRC project scientist for many years until his retirement in 2005, unexpectedly passed away.

Martin, apart from his scientific accolades and career, was known for his extremely friendly and avuncular nature. He was always the most popular and most in demand emcee at any social function—a great boss, travelling companion and friend. If you were lucky, he was the scientist you got stuck sitting next to on the bus. During his tenure as HRC project scientist, every piece of equipment engendered an appropriate and elaborately detailed operator's manual. Everything from the laboratory thermostat, to the computer clock synchronization was regimented, photographed and documented. His breadth of interests and attention to methodical details are reflected in his never ending “n”<sup>th</sup> edition “Handbook of Space Astronomy and Astrophysics”. Later editions along with their expected chapters on astronomical topics even ventured into wine selection. At the time of his passing, Martin was working on a subsequent edition. Martin will be greatly missed.

Martin was a veteran of SAO and played a key role in developing flight instruments that were mainstays in X-ray astronomy. He began working at American Science and Engineering in the late 1960's on the S-054

X-ray Telescope on Sky Lab to carry out Solar studies and continued that work when he joined the CfA in 1976. By the early 1980's, he had already begun working on the Advanced X-ray Astrophysics Facility (AXAF), which subsequently became *Chandra*. In the early 1980's until June 1984, Martin was the AXAF Mission Support Team Project Scientist.

While still engaged with AXAF and the AXAF Mission Support Team working on demonstrating the high angular resolution capability for AXAF, Martin began working on the ROSAT High Resolution Imager (HRI) in the late 1980's. Martin was one of the ten co-authors of the important paper (over six hundred citations) “The focal plane instrumentation of the ROSAT telescope” (1987, SPIE, 733, 519). He was lead author of the paper describing the ROSAT HRI calibration (1990, SPIE, 1344, 267) and of its orbital performance (1995, SPIE, 2518, 304). Following his work on ROSAT, Martin again contributed to studies supporting the AXAF Mission Support Team. By the mid-1990's Martin had become a key contributor to the High Resolution Camera (HRC) Team for AXAF and served as the HRC Project Scientist starting in 1992. Martin retired from SAO in 2005.

During Martin's hardware activities, he began the compilation of a High Energy Handbook that eventually would see three editions. His High Energy Astrophysics Handbook grew from its first incarnation as SAO Special Report #386 in 1980 through three editions published by Cambridge University Press. While the first 1982 edition was just over 300 pages, the third edition, published in 1997, had expanded to over 700 pages. Martin was actively working on a fourth edition. For the third edition, Nobel laureate

Riccardo Giacconi wrote “The Handbook of Space Astronomy and Astrophysics gathers in one place the most frequently-used information in modern astrophysics and presents it in the most useful fashion to the non-specialist in a particular field.”

Martin was a highly respected experimentalist and instrument builder, with an easy-going manner with friends and colleagues throughout the US and international high energy communities. He will be missed by all members of the HRC team and the broader *Chandra* community. ■

**Prepared by Almus Kenter, Ralph Kraft, Paul Gorenstein, William Forman**

