

## Obituaries

**Johannes Jacobus la Grange**, meteorologist on the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition (1955–58) and subsequently leader of the first South African National Antarctic Expedition (1959–61), died suddenly on 21 April 1999 at his daughter's home in South Africa at the age of 71.

La Grange was born on 13 October 1927 at Ladismith in the western Cape Province of South Africa. Coming from an unsophisticated background of hard-working and down-to-earth Afrikaners of seventeenth-century French Huguenot stock, he was educated at the De Villiers Graaf High School in Villiersdorp in the western Cape, and he obtained his matriculation certificate at the age of 17. He was then employed by the South African Weather Bureau in Pretoria, and subsequently took charge of several weather stations in South Africa. From 1950 to 1952 and again in 1954 he served as meteorologist at Marion Island, where he became involved in detailed bird observations in addition to his normal duties.

In 1955 la Grange was initially seconded by the South African Weather Bureau for one year to participate in preparations for the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition (TAE). In fact, he was later selected as the expedition's meteorologist, and, at the time, Vivian Fuchs remarked: 'Hannes was a blind date, but we need not have worried as he was as solid in character as he was tall and heavy in build.'

La Grange was an extremely popular member of the expedition. He was both meticulous and painstaking in all he did, and during the crossing of Antarctica he participated in the seismic programme, in addition to his meteorological duties. He achieved the distinction of being the first South African to set foot at the geographical South Pole. On his return to South Africa after the TAE, la Grange resumed his duties in the South African Weather Bureau and also began part-time studies in physical geography and zoology at the University of Pretoria, where he obtained his degree in 1962.

In 1959 he was appointed leader of the first South African National Antarctic Expedition and was immediately faced with the daunting task of selecting an appropriate team for the expedition. His experience gained both at Marion Island and on the TAE served him well in laying the foundations for the success of the first South African National Antarctic Expedition and its successors. Taking over Norway Station was a challenge, but his previous experience stood him in good stead in his fair, tactful, but firm handling of personnel, for which he was greatly respected, and led to bonds of friendship that persisted for decades. He took part in a six-week dog-sledge journey with Victor von Brunn and others into the hitherto unknown region south of SANAE to study the geology, glaciology,

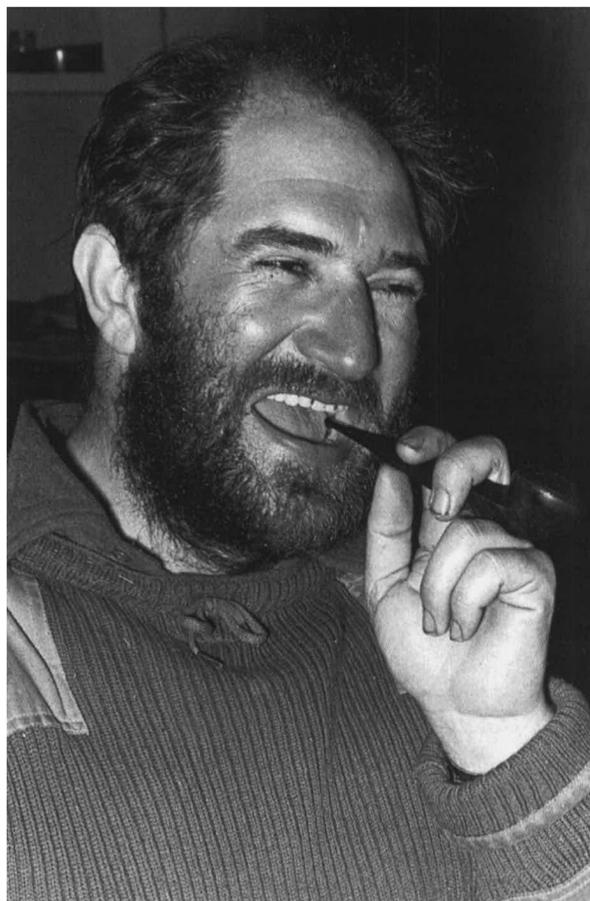


Fig. 1. Hannes la Grange in a typical moment.

and meteorology. During this journey, he encountered the worst blizzard he had ever experienced in Antarctica, but this did not deter him from achieving the main objectives of the journey.

Two years after his return from the Antarctic, la Grange resigned from the South African Weather Bureau and took up a post in the South African Council for the Development of Natural Resources. His interests had moved progressively from meteorology towards town and regional planning; he obtained an MSc for his dissertation on this subject. Having held successive posts in the Department of Planning and Environment, la Grange was appointed director of town and regional planning for the Orange Free State. He held this post from 1977 until his retirement in 1987. At the age of 60, he received a PhD in town and regional planning from the University of Potchefstroom. This demonstrated one of his most impressive personal characteristics — his sustained perseverance and tenacity throughout his life. He remained in Bloemfontein after his retirement, working as a private consultant. He later moved to Jeffreys Bay on the Cape coast, continuing his

consultancy business and acting as a consultant to the local municipality. Increasingly, he became involved in community affairs, actively serving his church. He volunteered to write a short history of his local church congregation, but it turned out to be a fairly detailed history of the local area from the days of Khoikhoi to the present. He also began writing a book on the South African involvement in Antarctic research, but, sadly, this was not completed.

La Grange received many distinctions. For his work on the TAE, he was awarded the Polar Medal (which he received from Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace) and also a bronze replica of the Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society. In 1958 he received a Medal of Honour from the South African Academy for Science and Art for his participation in the TAE and also a medal from the Explorers' Club of New York. In 1964 he was the first recipient of the South African Antarctic medal, in recognition of his outstanding achievements as leader of SANAE I and his work on Marion Island.

Several years after the return of SANAE I, la Grange was instrumental in founding the South African Antarctic Club, becoming its first chairman. Later, he played an important part in the formation of the South African Antarctic Association, which is open to all those South Africans interested in Antarctica and Antarctic affairs.

La Grange was a prolific, meticulous, and wide-ranging writer. From his desk emanated countless publications, ranging from detailed papers on meteorological observations during the TAE and 'Notes on the birds and mammals of Marion Island and Antarctica' to memoranda on town and regional planning and even to pamphlets of parochial interest.

La Grange will always be remembered for his humility and modesty, his profound sense of duty and responsibility, his loyalty to others, his integrity, patience, and thoroughness, and his sincere and pleasant nature. All close to him are the richer for having known and associated with 'the man with a very subtle sense of humour.'

He is survived by his wife, Mettie, a daughter, and two sons.

*Victor von Brunn*

*Ray Adie*

**Hilda Richardson**, secretary general of the International Glaciological Society (IGS) from 1953 to 1993, died suddenly on 5 February 2000 after a long illness, aged 75.

Richardson was born on 28 May 1924 in Bolton, Lancashire. After completing her education in Bolton, she worked in the Meteorological Office briefly at the end of World War II before going to Newnham College, Cambridge, where she read geography. In Cambridge, she was exposed to the inspirational Vaughan Lewis and the talented group he had attracted to work with him on Austerdalsbre, a small glacier in Norway, and also to Gordon Manley, noted for his research on snow and climate. Following her graduation in 1948, Richardson

went to work for Unilever at Port Sunlight.

In 1935 Gerald Seligman, an industrial chemist and a skier with a passion for snow and ice, and James Wordie, a geologist and academic who had been with Shackleton in the Antarctic, began discussions about forming a national body to further studies of snow and ice. It would bring together British groups involved with both the Snow and Glacier Commissions of the International Association of Hydrology. The resulting Association for the Study of Snow and Ice was reborn after the war as the British Glaciological Society, with Seligman as president, honorary secretary, and editor of *Journal of Glaciology*. In 1951 Colin Bertram, director of the Scott Polar Research Institute, agreed to provide facilities for the Society. By now Seligman was anxious to reduce his role in the running of the Society. The management structure was reviewed and a decision made to hire a secretary to be based at SPRI. Audrey Ashworth was appointed, but resigned a year later. In 1953 Richardson was appointed secretary to the Society, a position she held for the next 40 years.

At this time, the Society's office consisted of a small desk on the top floor of the Scott Polar Research Institute, known as the gallery. After the Institute was extended, Richardson moved to a larger room above the director's office. From here, and from her home at Street Farm in Shudy Camps, she interacted with visitors to the Institute and welcomed glaciologists from around the world, often prevailing on them to contribute to the work of the IGS.

On the strength of her position as manager of a learned society, Richardson was able to join the Soroptimist International of Cambridge, a service club for professional women. She rose rapidly through the ranks, becoming local president in 1962, president of the London and Eastern Divisional Union in 1967, federation president of Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland in 1973, and finally president of Soroptimist International in 1977. The internationalism of this organization came to be mirrored in Richardson's approach to the IGS. She realized that for the Society to survive and grow, it was necessary not only to recognize the international nature of research on snow and ice, but to reach out to scientists everywhere. In 1962 the British Glaciological Society changed to the Glaciological Society and, in 1971, added 'International' to its name. By 1969 the Society had managed to acquire its first non-British president, with the election of the Swedish scientist Valter Schytt. Richardson reached out to scientists in Japan, the Soviet Union, and China, organizing tours, symposia, and workshops, arranging for members of the Society to visit those countries and welcoming their scientists to Cambridge and into the management of the Society.

To facilitate and increase the flow of glaciological ideas and information, Richardson organized symposia on all aspects of snow and ice, the Society always having maintained that glaciology covered the entire cryosphere, not just glaciers. In 1980 papers from these symposia, which had been published in *Journal of Glaciology*, began

to be published in a parallel publication called *Annals of Glaciology*, which to date runs to more than 30 timely thematic volumes that periodically summarize the state of the science.

During the 40 years Richardson served the International Glaciological Society, she helped transform it from a group of British snow and ice enthusiasts into an international learned society, acknowledged worldwide as the premier organization for glaciologists and the publisher of the two principal international glaciological serials — *Journal of Glaciology* and *Annals of Glaciology*. A measure of the high standards insisted on right from the start, and maintained today, is that both serials are included in the Science Citation Index.

Richardson's contributions to the development of glaciology were recognized during her lifetime by the award of honorary membership in 1986; in the naming of Richardson Peak on the east side of Vallot Glacier in the Tyndall Mountains, Antarctica (67°20'S, 67°21'W); and by the creation of the Richardson Medal to honour her on her retirement in 1993.

*Simon Ommanney*

**Clive Holland**, Arctic historian and former archivist at the Scott Polar Research Institute, died 15 September 2000, at his home in Haslingfield, Cambridgeshire, at the age of 53.

Clive Anthony Holland was born 13 December 1946, in Bramhall, Cheshire. He matriculated to Downing College, Cambridge, where he read Modern and Medieval Languages, with an emphasis on French and German. Although he was naturally gifted in languages — later adding Russian, Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish to his repertoire — it was while at Downing that he found his true love — the history of exploration of the polar regions. Once he read his first Arctic expedition account, he later stated, he knew that he wanted to make that field his life's work, and he went to his tutor to try to change to the History Tripos. He was convinced by his tutor, however, to remain officially in Modern and Medieval Languages, in which he received his BA in 1968. Four years later he took his MA.

While at Downing, Holland represented his college in cricket and rowing. Years later, he still would emphasise to graduate students the advantages that could be gained by participating in college sports, particularly promoting the mental and physical health that came from all of those early mornings at practice on the Cam.

In 1968 Holland began a long-term relationship with SPRI, working with assistant librarian Alan Cooke on compiling 'A chronological list of expeditions and events in northern Canada,' a monumental reference work published in 11 parts in *Polar Record* between 1970 and 1973. Holland's meticulousness was recognised with his appointment in 1970 as library cataloguer. Then, in January 1972, he became assistant librarian and curator of the museum. Three years later, he added the position of curator of manuscripts to his job description. Holland was the ideal person to serve as curator of manuscripts: not

only did he know intimately everything in the Institute's holdings, but he took great pride in providing service to scholars visiting the archives, giving them valuable information about hidden treasures in the Institute and little-known works elsewhere. It was this unusual combination of service and Holland's in-depth knowledge of the history of the polar regions that made the Institute archives one of the main focal points for researchers around the world.

Holland's help to other researchers extended beyond the physical limits of the SPRI archives. In 1978 he and Cooke published *The exploration of northern Canada, 500 to 1920: a chronology* (Toronto: Arctic History Press), a reference work further expanded from their earlier chronological lists. For more than two decades this has served as one of the essential tools of any serious Arctic historian. In fact, little respect would accrue to any historian of the Arctic who is not familiar with, and has not at least attempted to purchase, 'Cooke and Holland,' which sold out immediately and has long been one of the most coveted prizes for any polar antiquarian book-collector. Four years later, Holland published his *Manuscripts in the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge, England: a catalogue* (New York: Garland), which listed each manuscript in the holdings with an outline of its contents. This is not only a crucial document for use of the SPRI archives, it is invaluable for its information about other archival collections throughout the world.

When Harry King retired as librarian in 1984, Holland served for half a year as acting librarian, until Valerie Galpin was appointed to the position. He then continued in his former role until a grant from the Leverhulme Trust allowed him to work full-time on what proved to be his magnum opus. This was ultimately published as *Arctic exploration and development c. 500 B.C. to 1915: an encyclopedia* (New York: Garland, 1994). This book is arguably the most important reference work ever produced for a historian of Arctic exploration. It extended the range of 'Cooke and Holland' throughout the circumpolar Arctic, although the latitude of the second book did not extend as far south as the former. The book includes summaries of each expedition to the Arctic, a vast bibliography of works referring to those expeditions, an appendix of main expedition members, some 30 pages of maps, and two indexes, one general and one specifically of ships. It is a remarkable tool that passes on to the modern scholar the advantages not only of Holland's command of languages — since much of the information had to be gained from Russian, German, Norwegian, and other languages — but of his exacting research skills. After completion of this project, he received a two-year grant to extend this work to 1950. Unfortunately, this new encyclopaedia remained incomplete at his death.

Shortly after he left the Scott Polar Research Institute, Holland produced his major effort dealing with the Antarctic, editing Sir Clements Markham's personal

narrative of Robert Falcon Scott's first expedition. This was published as *Antarctic obsession: a personal narrative of the origins of the British National Antarctic Expedition 1901–1904* (Bluntisham: Bluntisham Books, 1986). As well as numerous publications in *Polar Record* and *The dictionary of Canadian biography*, he also edited a volume of accounts of Arctic exploration, published as *Farthest north: the quest for the North Pole* (London: Robinson, 1994).

For a number of years after his official departure from SPRI, Holland continued his affiliation with it. He lectured there regularly, supervised a number of students for the MPhil degree, and generously gave of his knowledge. In 1991, I became his only student ever to receive a PhD. Unfortunately, he later broke official relations with SPRI — although he continued to give me feedback about *Polar Record* — and withdrew to a great extent from the polar community, disappointing and puzzling many of his friends and colleagues. In his final years, he served as librarian for Wolfson College, Cambridge.

Even today, there can be few serious historians of Arctic exploration who have not been influenced or assisted by Clive Holland. His chronological encyclopaedias will make certain that this remains true of future generations of historians as well.

*Beau Riffenburgh*

**Raymond Lowry**, PhD, PEng, one of the brightest lights of the polar remote-sensing community in Canada, died of cancer in Calgary, Alberta, on 28 November 2000, at the age of 58.

Raymond Theodore Lowry was born on 20 May 1942 in Biggar, Saskatchewan, a small prairie town with a big sign outside it, saying 'New York is big but this is Biggar.' He went on to obtain a PhD in electrical engineering from Imperial College, London, in 1971. He then joined the Defence Research Establishment in Ottawa (DREO, Remote Sensing Section), which at that time was carrying out pioneer work on the nature and distribution of sea ice in the Canadian Arctic. At DREO, Lowry worked with the indomitable Moira Dunbar and took part in a number of polar missions using the specially adapted Canadian Forces Argus aircraft or 'SLARgus,' fitted with side-looking airborne radar (SLAR) and a laser profilometer, and made available for research.

Lowry moved on to the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing (CCRS) (Applications Division) in 1975, where he worked with the newly developed synthetic aperture radar (SAR) fitted to a Convair 580 research aircraft, again with an emphasis on snow and ice applications.

In 1978, as both the Canadian federal government and industry became increasingly interested in new radar technology, 'Uncle Ray' joined Intera Technologies Ltd in Ottawa as senior staff consultant; he moved to Calgary in 1983 as senior radar engineer/scientist.

During his 16 years at Intera, he played a leading role in the planning, development, support, and promotion of Intera's STAR-1 and STAR-2 airborne SAR systems and

their uses for sea-ice monitoring and terrain applications. Intera had the contract for supplying the system to carry out ice-patrol missions for the Atmospheric Environment Service across the Arctic. Fluently bilingual, Lowry trained numerous radar engineers, software developers, and applications specialists in the technical details of radars. He had a wonderful knack for making this not only interesting, but also fun.

Lowry wrote more than 50 papers and had a worldwide network of associates and friends in the radar field. In 1996 he joined the National Research Council in Calgary as an industrial technology advisor (IRAP Program), specializing in geomatics, and was instrumental in supporting new geomatics ventures in Alberta. He was an active board member of the Alberta Geomatics Group, a new industry association, and vigorously supported geomatics education at the University of Calgary and elsewhere.

In addition to his significant technical contributions in the radar field, Lowry had a wide range of other interests, which he pursued with passion. He had a love of music and played jazz guitar with the Calgary Westwinds Musical Society. A life-long athlete, he was a member of the University of Calgary Triathlon Club. Lowry was a tireless and passionate spokesman for the end of starvation and absolute poverty, and was a founding partner of RESULTS Canada. He was also a founder and dedicated leader of the New Frontier men's team in Calgary. He had a genuine interest in people, an irreverent sense of humour, and the capacity to invent truly dreadful puns — all these will be sadly missed by his family, friends, and the scientific community at large.

My personal memories of Lowry begin in March 1973 at the icebound Canadian Forces base of Summerside, Prince Edward Island, where we joined the SLARgus for a transpolar laser profiling flight designed to cover the same terrain as the British submarine *Dreadnought* had profiled two years earlier, the aim being to match upper and lower ice topography. The most dangerous part of this mission was attending a Saturday night hop in the Lofoten Islands at journey's end. In spring 1975 we again worked together in the SLARgus from Inuvik, profiling over the AIDJEX camp in the Beaufort Sea. Then followed two larger pieces of co-operation that I shall always remember fondly. In 1976 Lowry operated the SLARgus in an Arctic Ocean mission, where it flew directly over a track being profiled from below by HMS *Sovereign*, gaining the first genuinely concurrent measurements of upper and lower surface topography of sea ice. Lowry continued this involvement in 1987, when he ran an Intera SAR mission along the track of HMS *Superb* in the Arctic Ocean, again permitting direct comparison of upper and lower ice surfaces. These projects brought us together for many friendly sessions of planning, fieldwork, and paper-writing on the statistical properties of sea ice.

Lowry is survived by his wife, Sarah Rose, his children Phoebe and Bevis by his first marriage to Vivien, and his stepdaughters, Jenny and Rebecca Trew.

*Peter Wadhams*