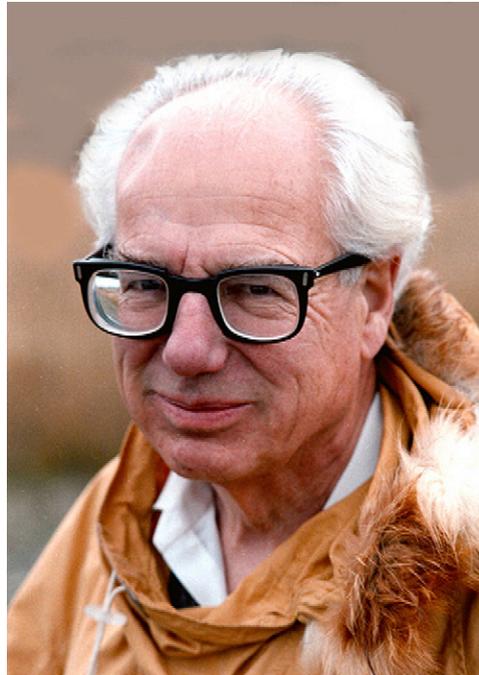


In Memoriam

A. Lincoln Washburn (1911–2007)



Professor A. Lincoln Washburn, the founder and first editor of *Quaternary Research*, died in Seattle on January 30, 2007, at the age of 95.

Washburn was an eminent and widely acclaimed polar scientist, an inspiring leader, and a role model for younger generations of Quaternary scientists. His enthusiasm for snow, ice, and the northern regions was awakened during his student days at Dartmouth College, where he was an ardent member of the downhill ski team. Together with three fellow Dartmouth skiers, Link was invited to participate in the 1936 Winter Olympic Games at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, during which he skied in both the slalom and 2-mile alpine events. He had been a member of a Harvard–Dartmouth expedition to Alaska's Mt. Crillon in 1934, and in 1936 joined a National Geographic expedition to Mt. McKinley. During the following year he participated in the Boyd East Greenland Expedition. These varied demanding excursions gave him first-hand experience working in high-latitude glacial environments.

Entering Yale for graduate work, Washburn studied under the supervision of Professor Richard Foster Flint, who later was both a faculty colleague and a close friend. Link's PhD

dissertation (1942), based on pioneering field studies in Arctic Canada with his wife, Tahoe, was published in 1947 as Memoir 22 of the Geological Society of America. Tahoe gave a delightful account of their experiences living among the Inuit in her 1999 book *Under Polaris*, which was based on her journals for the years 1938–1941.

Following war-time service as a cold-weather expert in military intelligence (1942–1945), Washburn was appointed the first executive director of the Arctic Institute of North America, a post he subsequently relinquished to head SIPRE, the U.S. Army's Snow, Ice, and Permafrost Research Establishment. His next major position was on the faculty of his alma mater, Dartmouth College, which harbored a number of well-known Arctic specialists. He conducted research in Antarctica during the International Geophysical Year (1957–1958), and a decade and a half later was involved in planning the multinational Antarctic Dry Valleys Drilling Project (1972–1975) with colleagues from Japan, New Zealand, and the United States. In 1960 Link moved on to Yale, where he became a professor in the Department of Geology and director of Graduate Studies.

A significant turn in Link's career came when he joined the University of Washington geology faculty in 1967. Capitalizing on the enthusiasm generated by the 1965 INQUA Congress in Boulder, Colorado, and a large interdisciplinary group of faculty at Washington involved in many aspects of Quaternary research, Link encouraged the administration to establish the Quaternary Research Center. It was the first such university group in this country specifically organized to promote interdisciplinary research on Quaternary problems. An integral part of the QRC is its Periglacial Laboratory, which Link designed for experimental investigations of frozen ground.

Sensing the need for a scientific journal devoted to Quaternary studies, Washburn obtained an NSF grant to help establish *Quaternary Research*, the first issue of which appeared in 1970. He shepherded the journal through its first 5 years, establishing for it a reputation for breadth and excellence and making it one of the most widely cited earth science publications.

Washburn's research activities have always been focused on the polar regions. His long-term studies of periglacial processes and patterned ground in eastern Greenland led to a series of major publications that earned him the Kirk Bryan Award of the Geological Society of America in 1971. A further outcome of his studies was his book *Geocryology*, which, like its predecessor *Periglacial Processes and Environments*, became the standard reference in this field and gained him worldwide recognition. On all of his far-flung field projects, Link's most enthusiastic and engaging field assistant was his wife, Tahoe, who, Link liked to emphasize, was the primary reason for his success. For those fortunate enough to have shared the Washburns' warmth and hospitality, whether at home or in the field, the experience was always memorable.

Link's friends and colleagues have long recognized his significant contributions to science and his singular efforts on the behalf of many national and international organizations. As a consequence, he has served as chairman of the Polar Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences, president of the American Quaternary Association, and vice president of the International Union for Quaternary Research. A further addition to his long and impressive curriculum vita was his appointment by President Reagan to the five-member U.S. Arctic Commission, which was charged with formulating an American Arctic policy.

Significant national and foreign honors also were bestowed on Link, including honorary memberships in the Arctic Institute of North America, the International Glaciological Society, and the International Union for Quaternary Research. He also was presented with an Honorary DSc by the University of Alaska (1981), the André H. Dumont Medal of the Geological Society of Belgium (1975), and the Vega Medal of the Swedish Academy for Anthropology and Geography (1997).

At a time when some of his contemporaries had retired from active professional life, Link remained engaged in field research

and writing, and he kept a schedule that likely would have exhausted younger colleagues. His last major publication, which dealt with the origin and implications of patterned ground at Resolute on Cornwallis Island in Arctic Canada, appeared in 1997 as he turned 85. Like his first major publication, which had been published exactly 50 years earlier, it was a memoir of the Geological Society of America. His more than five decades of Arctic research resulted in a long series of insightful publications. In addition to this impressive research record, a significant part of his legacy, of course, is this journal, which is dedicated to publishing outstanding papers in the broad interdisciplinary field of Quaternary research.

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