



Fritz Müller with friends and colleagues during the 1968 Seminar on the Causes and Mechanics of Glacier Surges held at St. Hilaire, Québec. (L to R): Fritz Müller; Mark Meier, glaciologist; Pat Baird, former Director of AINA's Montréal office and in 1968 Director of McGill University's Gault Estate at St. Hilaire; A. T. Wilson, glaciologist; and William O. Field of the American Geographical Society's Office of Exploration and Field Research.

FRITZ MÜLLER

1926 — 1980

Fritz Müller, world-famous glaciologist and long-time member of the Arctic Institute of North America, died of a heart attack on 26 July 1980 while conducting a field excursion on the Rhone Glacier, Switzerland. He was 54 years old at the time of his death. He leaves his wife, Barbara, and two daughters, Hanna and Barbara, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

Fritz first came to the Arctic Institute in 1955 when it was located in its original home, Bishop Mountain House on University Avenue in Montréal. He came as a McGill-Carnegie Arctic Research Scholar to undertake the study of pingos which form the basis of his doctoral dissertation and of the definitive publications on pingos which were his first major scientific contribution.

The Carnegie Scholarship was awarded to Fritz on the strength of his already extensive experience of cold weather phenomena gained first in the mountains of his native Switzerland and extended through three summers, 1952-54, with the Danish Lauge Koch Expeditions to Eastern and Northern Greenland. In 1953, Fritz's contribution to the latter included a first crossing of the interior of Pearyland.

After two very full field expeditions to the Mackenzie Delta and Greenland in connection with the pingo work, Fritz left the Arctic Institute and McGill to accompany the successful Swiss Everest Expedition of 1956. Although he was attached to the expedition as a scientist, Fritz climbed to the 8200-m level, taking the opportunity to extend his studies of patterned ground, begun in Greenland, to levels

close to 8000 m in the South Col. After the expedition proper, he remained behind on the Khumbu Glacier to conduct observations throughout the Monsoon Season.

In 1959, Fritz returned to Canada as a Research Associate at McGill and as leader of the Jacobson-McGill Arctic Research Expedition to Axel Heiberg Island, which has effectively operated ever since. Fritz himself was in the field in the Arctic Islands for eighteen field seasons during the last two decades. From the first, the Axel Heiberg program deliberately included a wide range of disciplines although its principal focus was the variety of glaciers which are to be found around Expedition Fiord on the west side of Axel Heiberg Island. In several respects, the glaciological record for ice masses in the Expedition Fiord area is now the longest and best such record in Canada. For more than twenty years, the Axel Heiberg program has been a vehicle for the training of many students, graduate and undergraduate, including ourselves. Fritz's enthusiasm about ice and things northern was infectious, and will, with his numerous publications (selected bibliography attached), keep his influence alive for many decades to come.

Although Fritz left Canada in 1970 to become head of the Department of Geography at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zürich, he maintained an expedition office and the title of Honorary Professor at McGill for the remainder of his life. He actually extended his research operations in the High Arctic during the Seventies through his extensive involvement in the North Water Project, a study of the relatively ice-free area between Devon and Ellesmere islands and Greenland, and its surrounding land and ice masses. Like the Axel Heiberg program, North Water was a highly interdisci-

plinary endeavour. During this time, Fritz almost literally straddled the Atlantic, teaching, conducting research and administering on both sides of it and spending, as a result, many hours above it. Many of us remember him "dropping in" to cities such as Montreal, Ottawa or Washington for a few hours of hectic activity on his way to or from the Canadian North.

Although Fritz always thought of himself as a "field man", a special type of field man bridging the gap between the old-style Arctic expeditions and the new-style "remote sensors" of the polar regions, his credentials as a scientific organizer within his universities, in connection with the Learned Societies and in connection with major research projects are remarkable. In addition to his roles as leader of the Axel Heiberg and North Water projects, he set up glaciological teaching and research programs at McGill and ETH, he was chairman of the Canadian National Research Council's Sub-Committee, on Glaciers, and was a member and official of committees of such organizations as the International Geographical Union, the International Commission on Snow and Ice (IUGG), the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the International

Glaciological Society. He was also a member of a variety of other scientific committees in Canada, Germany, Switzerland and the United States.

Fritz Müller's death is a great loss for northern research in general and for glaciology in particular. It is also a great loss for all of those who knew him as a friend and teacher. We are pleased to report that the Government of the Northwest Territories has officially re-named the ice cap in central Axel Heiberg Island (70°47' N, 91°30' W) as the Müller Ice Cap, in his memory.

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SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE
PUBLICATIONS OF FRITZ MÜLLER
FOR THE PERIOD 1954 - 1980

We have selected publications which, in addition to providing an entrée to Fritz' work in various fields, provide a good impression of the diversity of his interests and the major activities of his adult life. Selections are arranged in chronological order.

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ERRATUM

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