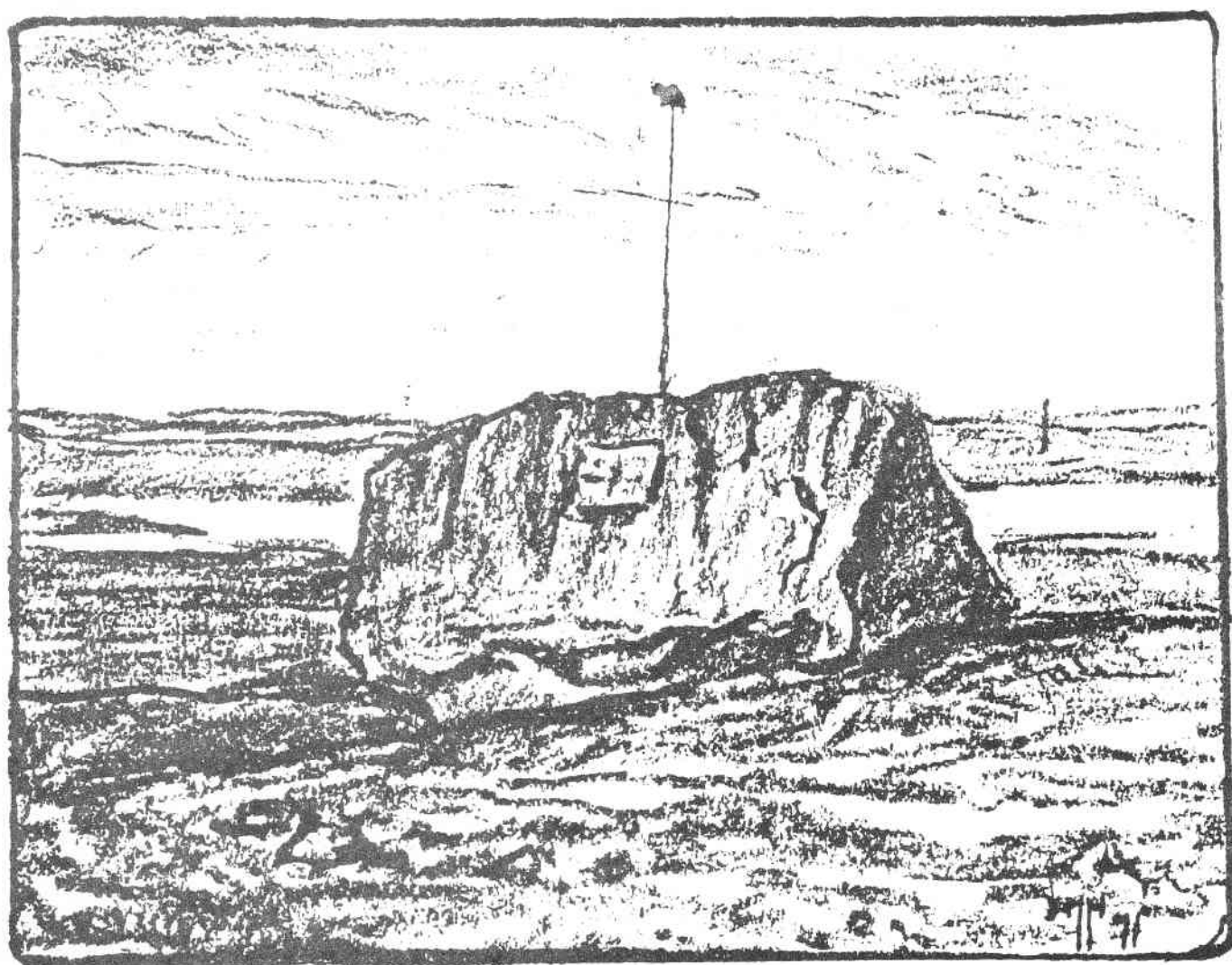


# the arctic circular

vol xxviii

nos. 1/2

March/  
June  
1980



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## THE ARCTIC CIRCULAR

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Vol. XXXVIII  
Nos. 1/2

Published by The Arctic Circle  
Ottawa, Canada

March/June  
1980

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### PARRY'S ROCK

In 1819, Commander Edward Parry sailed into Lancaster Sound and penetrated Barrow Strait and Viscount Melville Sound as far west as the south-west headland of Melville Island. Not only was this an unprecedented feat but he worked his two ships into a safe harbour on the Melville Island coast and spent the winter of 1819 and 1820 there - the first ship to winter in the Canadian Arctic. He called this refuge Winter Harbour.

Fortunately, on shore nearby there is a large and prominent sandstone rock, left there during the period of glaciation by the retreating ice-sheet. This is the famous "Parry's Rock" which later became the repository for many historic messages. Parry himself had a record of his visit carved on the south end of the rock. Captain Kellett's visit in 1853 was duly noted on the same face, and Captain Bernier's visit of 1908-1909 is recorded on its northern face. In 1853, M'Clure left a message on the top of this rock which saved his life and the lives of his crew on the Investigator which was frozen fast in the ice at Mercy Bay, Banks Island.

Many later explorers have used this "arctic post office". Messages were placed in a small metal cylinder in a depression on the top of the rock. In 1909, Captain Bernier took possession of the Arctic Islands in the name of the King and placed a bronze tablet on the western face of the rock commemorating this event. He also erected a piece of iron pipe atop which is the figure of a beaver cut from what appears to be a piece of copper or brass plate from the C.G.S. Arctic. When the cover drawing was made in 1971, the metal cylinder was still in place at the base of Bernier's iron pipe. On a later visit in 1974, the cylinder and its contents were not there, and it is hoped they were removed to a place of safety. -M.H.H. -

## ALL AROUND THE CIRCLE

### MEETINGS

257th Meeting, 8 January 1980: His Excellency Petter Graver, Ambassador of Norway, addressed the first meeting of the year. His talk, titled "Norway and the Northern Regions", dealt with the arctic coast of Norway and the particular problems associated with the establishment of the 200 mile zones. This was a joint meeting of the Arctic Circle and the Canadian Nordic Society.

Annual General Meeting, 12 February 1980: The minutes of the 1979 Annual General Meeting were read, followed by short reports of the Treasurer and the Editor of The Arctic Circular. The Report of the Nominating Committee was accepted; the new officers of the Arctic Circle for 1980 are:

### EXECUTIVE

President	Dr. Kenneth C. Maclure
Past President	Dr. Keith C. Arnold
Vice President	Professor Owen Dixon
Secretary	Mr. A.C. David Terroux
Treasurer	Dr. Thomas Frisch
Editor	Mrs. Nora Murchison
Publication Secretary	Mr. Stan A. Kanik

### COMMITTEE

1980-82	Mrs. Dorothy Brown Beckel
1980-82	Rev. Roger E. Briggs
1978-80	Mr. Peter Glynn
1979-81	Dr. David R. Gray
1979-81	Mr. J. Douglas Heyland
1979-81	Dr. Gerald Holdsworth
1979-81	Mrs. Alma Houston
1978-80	Mr. Peter Ittinuar
1978-80	Dr. Trevor Lloyd
1980-82	Dr. Olav L/ken
1979-81	Mrs. Isobel MacDonald
1978-80	Mr. Guy Narbonne
1980-82	Mr. Harold Pfeiffer
1979-81	Captain Thomas C. Pullen

258th Meeting, 12 February 1980: Following the Annual General Meeting, the Reverend Roger E. Briggs spoke on "The Transition of the Native Peoples of Canada from Traditional to Urban Ways of Life". Reverend Brigg's lecture was based partly on his recent experience in his new post as Chaplain to Native People, Diocese of Ottawa (Anglican) and on his seventeen years' work among the native peoples of the Canadian Arctic and sub-Arctic.

259th Meeting, 11 March 1980: Brian Wheatly, M.D., spoke on "Mercury in the Canadian Arctic: Findings of Recent Research". Dr. Wheatly is Director of the Environmental Contaminants Program in the Medical Services Branch of the Department of Health

and Welfare, and he is directly concerned with the environmental protection of the Indians and Inuit in the Canadian Arctic, including Northern Quebec. Dr. Wheatly discussed the recent findings of the mercury program, and some of many questions this research has evoked.

N.B. Dr. Wheatly has also said that members of the Arctic Circle could be of considerable assistance to him in this research. He uses small samples of human hair and of polar bear hair for the determination of mercury contamination levels and is anxious to obtain many more of such samples from across the Arctic, if they are fifty years old or more. We would have to know the area of origin and the approximate age. If any members of the Arctic Circle can put him in touch with the owners or whereabouts of such samples, he would be very grateful.

The Annual Dinner was held at the Hylands (CFB Uplands) Golf Club on 14 April 1980. The speaker was the Hon. John Turner, who spoke on canoeing the Burnside River in the Northwest Territories.

### MEMBERS NEWS

Mr. Richard S. Finnie writes from his home in California: "At the end of August 1979 I returned to my birthplace, Dawson City, as I have been doing almost every year during the past decade. This visit was for a special occasion: a conference on Yukon history, featuring speakers on various subjects and a premiere screening of reconstructed theatrical films of the silent era salvaged from Dawson permafrost.

The subject of my talk, followed by a screening of my 1942-44 sound-color film, "Canol," was a little-known but controversial World War II pipeline system and refinery construction project designed to help fuel the Alaska Highway and its airports. I chanced to be among only a few people closely associated with all phases of Canol (acronym for Canadian oil) from inception to completion, witnessing and photographing the entire program in northwestern Canada and Alaska."

In April, the Royal Canadian Geographical Society announced that their 1980 Massey Medal had been awarded to Dr. Maurice Hall Haycock. (The citation is reported elsewhere in this issue of "The Arctic Circular".

### MAURICE HALL HAYCOCK - MASSEY MEDALIST

For a remarkable career which has contributed in many ways to geography - cultural, historical, human, physical and economic geography - Dr. Maurice Hall Haycock, an outstanding artist-geologist, has been awarded the 1980 Massey Medal of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society. This was scheduled to be presented May 22 by our honorary patron, H.E. the Governor General, the Rt. Hon. Edward Schreyer, at Government House in Ottawa.

Born in 1900 at Wolfville, N.S., where his father was professor of geology at Acadia University, Maurice Haycock entered the same field at 18 as a student assistant on a topographical field survey. A trip of a year-and-a-half in 1926-27 to the eastern Arctic with a Geological Survey team tied his life both to the Arctic and to art. Returning from Baffin Island in 1927, he met two fellow passengers of artistic bent, A.Y. Jackson of the "Group of Seven" and Dr. Frederick Banting. Haycock had enjoyed sketching and painting to illustrate his field notes. Now he began what became a close friendship Jackson, who strongly influenced his serious study of painting; in later years they made many expeditions to sketch and paint together in the North.

Dr. Haycock gained his Ph.D. in economic geology from Princeton in 1931. By then he had a copper ore mineral, which he found in an ore from Africa, named for him - Haycockite. From 1931 to 1965 he helped to build, and latterly to direct, an outstanding laboratory for the study of Canadian ores and mineral characteristics. He did pioneering work during the 1930s in connection with the radium deposits at Great Bear Lake.

His interest in painting grew steadily. He has painted almost everywhere in the North, from Newfoundland to Alaska to the North Pole. Since 1949 Dr. Haycock has done more than 1,000 oil panels (sketches on wood) on location in the North, perhaps 200 canvases, and over 30 books of drawings. His travels in the North have exceeded 300,000 miles.

The beauty and authentic character of his painting reflect his interest in "capturing the immense natural variety and history of our land in a scientifically realistic yet personally interpreted way," says the citation to be read at Government House. It explains:

"Already a scholar of European exploration and development of the Canadian Arctic, he has made it his personal enterprise to paint the sites of the chief camps, landing places, wintering stations and depots of the early explorers. He has assembled a unique, authentic, and artistically beautiful record of some of the most historically significant places in the nation. His record not only shows history; it shows geological changes, the signs of modern development, and, unfortunately, the effects of vandalism. His record of the Arctic historic sites not only records our past; it records the present and gives a sobering look at our people and our future."

Ignoring his official retirement in 1965, Dr. Haycock has returned to the Arctic every summer - and will return again this summer - to paint, to take photos (he is an excellent photographer), and to study local history.

While renowned as a geologist, mineralogist and painter, he also is known throughout the North as an amateur radio operator or "ham" who - for half a century - has dependably relayed personal messages for people at isolated posts, messages which could not go through official channels but often were critical for those concerned. The discreet and unselfish service provided by Maurice Haycock and his fellow "hams" has contributed meaningfully to the human geography of the North. Also a musician - he plays the French horn - Dr. Haycock was founding chairman of the Ottawa Civic Symphony and a founder of the Ottawa Youth Orchestra.

His citation for the Massey Medal sums up: "Maurice Haycock is the epitome of a truly geographical Canadian. He has added to our knowledge and the appreciation of our land in many real ways that affect our economy, our understanding, and our culture."

Reprinted with permission from CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC, vol. 100, no. 3, June/July 1980, p. 59.

\* \* \* \* \*

Editor's Note: Readers of The Arctic Circular will have noticed that since 1977 we have been privileged to have drawings from Dr. Haycock's notebooks reproduced as our covers.

\* \* \* \* \*

ALASKA PLACE NAMES. Second edition. Edited by Alan Edward Schorr. Published by the University Library, University of Alaska, Juneau, 1980. Available from: Barbara Craver, University Library, University of Alaska, Box 1447, Juneau, Alaska 99802. 75p. \$5.

The edition provides approximately 800 new or revised names for towns, rivers, mountains and other natural features located in Alaska, for the period 1966 to 1979. Entries contain the place name, the type feature, the geographical coordinates, and often a brief historical account of the name chosen.

\* \* \* \* \*

NORTHERN GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES:  
JOHN FRANKLIN'S EXPEDITION, 1825-27  
by  
Helen Kerfoot\*

In 1825 the British Arctic Land Expedition led by John Franklin left Liverpool, England to explore and map the Arctic coast, east and west from the mouth of the Mackenzie River.

A preliminary trip down river to observe sea ice conditions took Franklin and Edward Kendall to the Mackenzie Delta in 1825. Franklin named both Mackenzie River and Mackenzie Bay for Sir Alexander Mackenzie, explorer, fur trader and officer of the North West Company, who in 1789 was the first white man to navigate the length of the river. Mackenzie had labelled this route the "River of Disappointment", as he had hoped to arrive at the Pacific, rather than the Arctic shores. In several different native languages the river today is still referred to as "Big River".

Also in 1825 Franklin named the Richardson Mountains and Kendall Island after expedition members Dr. John Richardson (surgeon and naturalist) and Edward Kendall (assistant surveyor).

After the initial forays, Franklin's crew wintered at Fort Franklin until June, 1826. During the summer the expedition then headed north again, in four eight-metre boats, *Lion*, *Reliance*, *Dolphin* and *Union*. On reaching the head of the Mackenzie Delta, the crew named Point Separation, where Franklin with George Back took a western coastal route to Alaska, parting company with John Richardson and Edward Kendall who journeyed easterly towards the Coppermine River.

On the west of the outer delta Franklin's party approached some Eskimo tents (on today's Tent Island), but narrowly escaped after the hostile pillage of the *Lion* and *Reliance*. Escape Reef and

---

\* Secretariat, Geographical Names, Energy, Mines and Resources.



Pillage Point, both on the Yukon coast were named by Franklin after this event.

Among the features named by Franklin are many commemorating prominent men of the day, for example:

Peel River, after Sir Robert Peel, at that time British Home Secretary, and later Prime Minister;

Herschel Island, for Sir William Herschel, celebrated English astronomer who discovered the planet Uranus in 1781;

Phillips Bay (north Yukon coast), named for Thomas Phillips, a Professor of Painting at the Royal Academy (in London); and

Babbage River (northern Yukon), for Charles Babbage, a noted mathematician of the time, and a friend of Franklin.

Franklin commemorated his homeland when he first viewed the British Mountains from Mount Conybeare, which he named for William Conybeare, a contemporary English geologist and theologian.

Other names in the Mackenzie-Beaufort area attributed to Franklin include Demarcation Point, at that time the boundary between British and Russian territories; Mount Goodenough (for Rev. E.M. Goodenough of the Royal Geographical Society); Mount Gifford (for William Gifford, editor of the *Quarterly Review*) and King Point (for Captain Philip King, of the Royal Navy, who surveyed part of the Australian coast).

Among Franklin's selection of geographical names commemorating Hudson's Bay Company personnel are those he assigned to various Mackenzie Delta islands. Pelly Island is named for Sir John Henry Pelly, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, 1822-52. Garry Island, today interpreted as Mackenzie's "Whale Island", remembers Nicholas Garry, Deputy Governor from 1822 to 1835.

Franklin's party proceeded westward along the Arctic coast towards the planned rendezvous with HMS *Blossom* in Bering Strait. However, before late August of 1826 ice conditions had deteriorated so much that Franklin decided to turn back. His party returned to Fort Franklin where they met Richardson and Kendall who had travelled east to the Coppermine River before heading south.

## NEGOTIATIONS TO RESTART ON NORWEGIAN-SOVIET BORDER IN BARENTS SEA

At the same time as Norway is subject to an unusually strong criticism of her security policy in the Soviet press, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs received a request from the Soviet Union to restart negotiations on the unresolved border question that exists between the two countries in the Barents Sea, writes Aftenposten. The Norwegian government has accepted the proposal and negotiations will start in Moscow in April, writes the paper.

In a comment to NTB, Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Knut Frydenlund said that he is of the opinion that there is an honest desire on both sides to arrive at a solution in the matter.

The last formal round of negotiations on the borderline between the two nations' continental shelves was held in December 1976 in Oslo. It is now the turn of the Soviet Union to issue an invitation. Norway has long since demonstrated the will to send a delegation to Moscow at any convenient time suggested by the Soviet union, said Mr. Frydenlund.

In the latest foreign policy statement in the Storting, which took place after the invasion of Afghanistan, it was made plain that Norway was prepared to negotiate on the unsolved problems in the northern areas, regardless of the critical international situation.

Mr. Frydenlund pointed out that there has been a wide difference in the standpoints in negotiations until now with Norway standing on the legal principle of a median line, while the Soviet Union goes in for the sector principle. However, since 1977, Norway has made it clear that she is willing to contribute to a compromise solution.

In a comment, Norwegian Minister of Fisheries Eivind Bolle told Aftenposten that he found the Soviet initiative both gratifying and interesting and against the background of the quota negotiations in December last year, he looked forward to a start to the solving of the difficult problems in the north. Aftenposten/NTB.

Norway News Bulletin  
28 February 1980

## NEW TOURISM LITERATURE

Colorful new promotional literature designed for visitors, local tourist agencies and tour operators in and outside of Canada has been introduced by Tourism Yukon. Included in the 1980 material is The All About Yukon Book; a fold-out map in metric scale, complete with color photographs and descriptions of Yukon's highways and facilities; a fold-out color brochure in which Yukon tourist operators, communities and chambers of commerce can include highlights of their own services; and a similar brochure geared to tour operators selling Yukon travel products.

This year's literature campaign marks a change from the past in many respects. All material visitors are likely to need regarding Yukon is now contained in one publication The All About Yukon Book--rather than in several. The 48-page book includes color photographs and will be updated each year. While it does not list everything available to potential visitors to Yukon, The All About Yukon Book contains "adequate information" to ensure visitors have a clear picture of what to expect throughout the territory.

"We've won two international design awards for our literature in the past three years, and we're equally as optimistic about this year's campaign," said Karl Crosby, Director, Tourism Yukon.

Each of Tourism Yukon's new publications is available upon request, free of charge. For further information, contact:

Tourism Yukon  
Government of Yukon  
Box 2703  
Whitehorse, Yukon

Government of Yukon  
News Release 23 January 1980

## VANCOUVER INFORMATION OFFICE CLOSES

The Yukon Government information office in Vancouver, commonly known as Yukon House, closed March 31, 1980. The Vancouver office was part of the department of government services, public affairs bureau.

"The Vancouver office has not acted as a major promotion centre for Yukon in the past four years and certainly in the last two years has functioned only as a general inquiry centre," said Government Services Minister Doug Graham. "Despite the removal of tourism promotion functions from the Vancouver office, tourism in Yukon hit record levels over the past few years."

Promotion of tourism and economic development was given serious consideration. "However," Graham said, "in recent years the cooperative marketing approach taken by the department of tourism and economic development has provided an alternative and many functions of the Vancouver office have been fulfilled and enlarged by tourism in cooperation with the visitor industry. It was felt, that given these circumstances, the cost of maintaining an inquiry centre office in Vancouver could no longer be justified and that significant economies could be made in government operations by closing the office without interrupting the promotion of government programs and services."

Government of Yukon  
News Release 31 December 1979

## NEW NORTHERN INFORMATION SERVICE

Four northern research centres in Quebec universities are collaborating to establish a northern information network to make their joint resources available to all interested groups and individuals.

Information Nord Québec/Information North Quebec (INQ) is the subject of an agreement just signed by these research centres.

Centre d'études (Université Laval)  
 Centre d'ingénierie nordique (Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal)  
 Centre for Northern Studies and Research (McGill University)  
 Centre de recherches du Moyen Nord (Université du Québec à Chicoutimi)

INQ will be an important data base for the north with a collective and cooperative bibliographical information service for Quebec that will pool the resources of the participating institutions. It will cover the literature related to the Quebec-Labrador peninsula, to the north and to cold regions in general, in all academic disciplines.

Enquiries from government, business, academic researchers and others will be handled by whichever of the four participants is best able to reply.

INQ will build a bibliographic data base from which a bibliography of current literature on the north will be printed.

INQ also plans to publish a newsletter for a wide readership both within and outside Quebec. It will contain information on the activities of the participants, including research programs and their results, and on courses, seminars, lectures and films that they offer. There will also be news of visiting scientists and scholars and information about employment opportunities in northern research. New services of the documentation centres or libraries of the participants will be announced and described.

INQ hopes to offer on-line computer access to this cooperative data base and to produce specialized bibliographies on demand. Meanwhile, the participating centres will make use of interlibrary loans and photocopy services.

Funding for the initial planning and immediate development of INQ has come from the Quebec government through McGill's Centre for Northern Studies and Research.

Further information is available from:

Professor M.P. Langleben, Director, Centre for Northern Studies and Research, McGill University, 1020 Pine Avenue West, Montreal H3A 1A2 Tel.: (514) 392-8202

M. Serge Payette, Directeur, Centre d'études nordiques, Université Laval, Cité Universitaire, Ste-Foy G1K 7P4 Tel.: (418) 656-3340

M. B. Ladanyi, Directeur, Centre d'ingénierie nordique, Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal, CP 6079, Succursale A, Montréal H3C 3A7 Tel.: (514) 344-4711

M. C. Luan Phan, Directeur, Centre de recherches du Moyen Nord, Université du Québec à Chicoutime, 30 est, rue Jacques-Cartier, Chicoutimi G7H 2B1 Tel.: (418) 545-5492.



ARCTIC

1880/1980

## NEW STAMP COMMEMORATES ARCTIC ISLANDS CENTENNIAL

In 1880 Canada acquired Britain's claims to the Arctic Islands. This crowned ten years of national growth which had seen Canada absorb British Columbia, the Hudson's Bay Company territories, and Prince Edward Island. Never before had such a small country gained so much territory so peacefully and so quickly.

Britain's explorers had been establishing that country's rights in the Arctic archipelago ever since the sixteenth century. Men such as Frobisher, Hudson, Button, Bylot, Baffin, Fox, Ross, Parry, Franklin, Rae, Penny, McClure, Kennedy, Belcher, and McClintock discovered practically all the land there. Only in the nineteenth century did American explorers arrive, and only at the end of the century did a Norwegian, Otto Sverdrup, find the Rignes Islands and Axel Heiberg Island.

During the 1860's, France and Russia recognized the supremacy of the United States in North America and withdrew from the area. Britain itself quietly began to withdraw after the Anglo-American crisis of 1861. Britain thus promoted Confederation, theorizing that it would reduce the chances of further Anglo-American conflict. In 1870, the imperial government handed a good part of the continental interior over to the new Dominion.

Events in 1874 precipitated action on the Arctic Islands. An Englishman enquired about who owned them, and an American requested a land grant there. Officials in London reasoned that "if this Yankee adventurer is informed by the British FO (Foreign Office) that the place indicated is not a portion of H.M. dominions, he would no doubt think himself entitled to hoist the 'Stars and Stripes'....." To mollify the Americans and to prevent them from seizing the islands, Britain offered them to Canada in 1874. Legal arguments about the best way to make the transfer and a futile attempt to define the region's boundaries caused a delay of six years, but on 1 September 1880, Canada at last took possession. Ironically, Ottawa largely ignored the islands until 1895, when foreign initiatives there forced the government to pay attention to the region and to establish their claim more firmly.

The Arctic Islands stamp was designed by Toronto graphic design firm Gottschalk & Ash. It features a handsome treatment of the map of Canada. The Arctic Islands, to which Canada acquired claim in 1880, are shown in white on the design.



### ARCHIVES HOSTS THE LAUNCHING OF A NEW STAMP ON THE ARCTIC ISLANDS

The Public Archives of Canada, of which a component, the National Map Collection, houses the most extensive and complete record of Canada's cartography (approximately three quarters of a million maps) was chosen as the site of the launching of a new commemorative 17-cent stamp on the Arctic Islands by Governor General Edward Schreyer. The official ceremonies took place on January 23 at 12:15 p.m. in the presence of His Excellency John Ford, High Commissioner of Great Britain, the Hon. Jaques Flynn, Minister of Justice, Dr. Wilfred I. Smith, Dominion Archivist, and Dr. Guy Sylvestre, National Librarian.

In connection with the launching of this stamp which marks the 100th anniversary of Canada's acquisition of the Arctic Islands from Great Britain, the Archives displayed more than 40 items from its travelling exhibition "Arctic Images" brought back from Vancouver for this special occasion. The exhibition was originally displayed in the Public Archives in 1977. Since then, it has been seen by thousands of Canadians, from Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia, to Vancouver, British Columbia.

The Public Archives of Canada holds extensive documentation - textual, graphic and cartographic - concerning the transfer of sovereignty of the Arctic Islands to Canada, and also concerning the exploratory activity under the federal government in the early part of the twentieth century which in effect ensured Canada's claim to the area. Records of expeditions, including those of Joseph E. Bernier and Albert P. Low, are available there for study.

The exhibition "Arctic Images" was on display from January 23 to March 8, 1980 at the Public Archives in Ottawa.

Public Archives of Canada  
News Release 21 January 1980

### COMMEMORATE COINS STRUCK

Yvon Gariépy, Master of the Royal Canadian Mint, announced, on behalf of the Honourable Roch LaSalle, Minister of Supply and Services, that a silver dollar and a \$100 gold coin would be struck by the Royal Canadian Mint to commemorate the centenary of the transfer from England to the Dominion of Canada of a large part of the Canadian Arctic Territories.

The obverse of the silver dollar will bear the effigy of Her Majesty while the reverse will depict a polar bear on an ice floe with the aurora borealis in the background. The coin will contain 50% silver and will have a diameter of 36 mm. The design was submitted by Donald Paterson of Toronto.

The obverse of the \$100 coin will bear the effigy of Her Majesty and the reverse will represent an Inuit in a kayak with an iceberg in the background. The coin will have a diameter of 27 mm and will contain 1/2 oz of pure gold. The design was submitted by Montreal artist Arnaldo Marchetti.

Royal Canadian Mint  
Communiqué 12 December 1979





## THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

ARCTIC CIRCLE MEETINGS - The regular meetings of the Arctic Circle are held on the second Tuesday of every month, October to May, at 8.30 p.m. at the Staff Lounge, University of Ottawa.

Out-of-town members who wish to receive notices of these meetings and, thereby, be informed in advance regarding the guest speakers and the topics to be discussed, should address their requests to the Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP DUES - Dues are payable as of 1 January. New members joining the Arctic Circle in the Fall or at any time during the period between the last meeting in the Spring and the first meeting in the Fall (usually May-October) will be considered paid up members for the following year. The dues are:

Members living in the Ottawa area	\$ 7.00
Out-of-town members	\$ 3.00
Student Membership	\$ 5.00
Libraries and institutions	\$ 5.00

THE ARCTIC CIRCULAR is published four times a year. Correspondence, papers and reports are welcomed from all members, from persons living in the north, or from anyone having information on general northern activities, research and travel, or on technological, industrial or social developments. Contributions and correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, The Arctic Circular, 185 Kamloops Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1V 7E1.

Back issues of The Arctic Circular on micro-film are available, single copies at \$ 1.50 and complete sets (Volumes I to XXV) at \$ 100.00. Requests should be addressed to the Publications Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE should be addressed to the officer concerned,

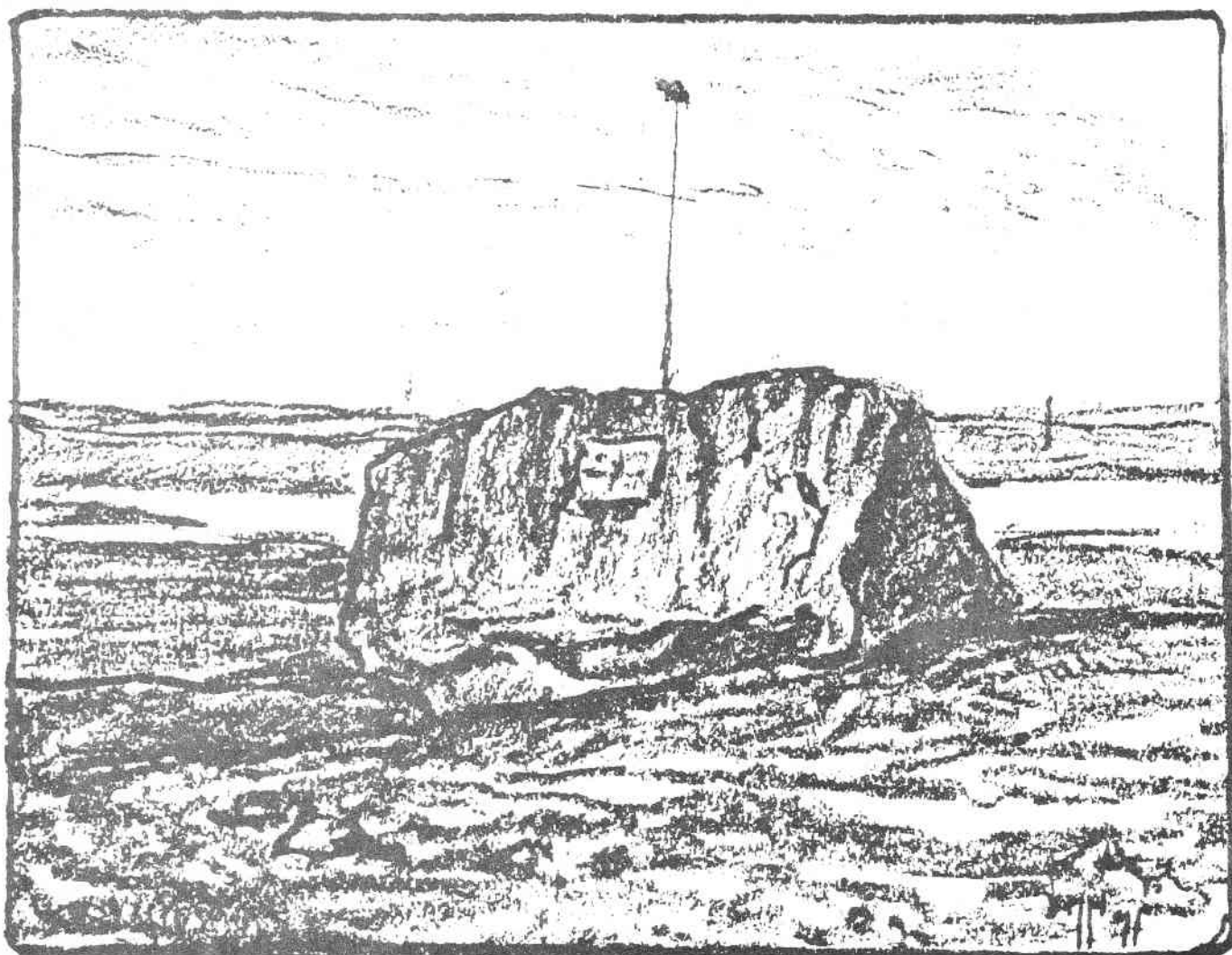
c/o The Arctic Circle  
Box 2457, Station "D"  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 5W6

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## PARRY'S ROCK

In 1819, Commander Edward Parry sailed into Lancaster Sound and penetrated Barrow Strait and Viscount Melville Sound as far west as the south-west headland of Melville Island. Not only was this an unprecedented feat but he worked his two ships into a safe harbour on the Melville Island coast and spent the winter of 1819 and 1820 there - the first ship to winter in the Canadian Arctic. He called this refuge Winter Harbour.

Fortunately, on shore nearby there is a large and prominent sandstone rock, left there during the period of glaciation by the retreating ice-sheet. This is the famous "Parry's Rock" which later became the repository for many historic messages. Parry himself had a record of his visit carved on the south end of the rock. Captain Kellett's visit in 1853 was duly noted on the same face, and Captain Bernier's visit of 1908-1909 is recorded on its northern face. In 1853, M'Clure left a message on the top of this rock which saved his life and the lives of his crew on the Investigator which was frozen fast in the ice at Mercy Bay, Banks Island.

Many later explorers have used this "arctic post office". Messages were placed in a small metal cylinder in a depression on the top of the rock. In 1909, Captain Bernier took possession of the Arctic Islands in the name of the King and placed a bronze tablet on the western face of the rock commemorating this event. He also erected a piece of iron pipe atop which is the figure of a beaver cut from what appears to be a piece of copper or brass plate from the C.G.S. Arctic. When the cover drawing was made in 1971, the metal cylinder was still in place at the base of Bernier's iron pipe. On a later visit in 1974, the cylinder and its contents were not there, and it is hoped they were removed to a place of safety. -M.H.H. -

## ALL AROUND THE CIRCLE

### MEETINGS

The members of the Arctic Circle were invited to attend a meeting of the Canadian Nordic Society on 18 September 1980, at which Her Worship Mayor Marion Dewar of Ottawa discussed her visit to the three Nordic countries.

260th Meeting, 14 October 1980: Dr. Graham W. Rowley spoke on "The Inuit as Explorers".

261st Meeting 18 November 1980: Professor Donat Pharand, Professor of International Law and Director of Graduate Studies, Civil Law Section, University of Ottawa, and Adjunct Professor at the Norman Peterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University, Ottawa, spoke on "Canada's Jurisdiction Within the Arctic", covering legal historical problems, and the present status of the arctic regions, including continental shelves, air space and drifting stations.

The members of the Arctic Circle were invited to attend a meeting of the Canadian Nordic Society on 20 November 1980 to hear Dr. Trevor Lloyd speak on "Nordkalotten" and collaboration between Newfoundland/Labrador and northern Scandinavia.

262nd Meeting, 9 December 1980: Mr. Hans L. Blohm, MPA, gave an illustrated talk on his "Photographic Experiences in the North". Mr. Blohm is an independent commercial photographer whose works have been exhibited in many cities. He has travelled extensively in the North American Arctic.

### MEMBERS NEWS

Dr. Graham W. Rowley was named a Member of the Order of Canada.

Dr. Don E. McAllister has informed us about two new publications: 1) Lee, R.K.S. 1980. A catalogue of the marine algae of the Canadian Arctic. National Museum of Natural Sciences, National Museums of Canada, Publications in Botany (9): 1-82, 1 figure. This lists 183 species and varieties with collection sites, habitat and literature. 2) Accepted for publication by the Bulletin of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences is A revision of the seasnail genus Liparis from Arctic Canada by K.W. Able and D.E. McAllister. 102 MS pages and 15 figures.

Dr. Trevor Lloyd completed his three-year commitment to serve as Executive Director of the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies on 1 August 1980, "leaving the association well established and in a position to assist universities, governments and the northern communities in the challenging tasks that lie immediately ahead." Dr. Lloyd continues, "My own interest in northern affairs will continue unabated. Research and writing on Greenland-Canada relations, put aside three years ago, will be my first priority. For this I shall utilize the resources of the McGill Centre for Northern Studies and Research. My existing links with circumpolar lands will be strengthened through service as co-chairman with Dr. A.F. Treshnikov, of the Sub-Committee on the Polar Regions of the Pacific Science Association. My residence will continue to be in Ottawa."

## INUIT SPIRITS THEME OF POSTAGE STAMPS



Most people have some conception of a world beyond the purely material. The Inuit were no exception. To them the "natural" and the "supernatural" were intimately associated on a practical, day-to-day basis.

The Inuit believed spiritual force existed in each phenomenon of nature, not only in living creatures but also in inanimate objects such as sleep and a person's name. This view naturally affected the customs of Inuit life. It was very important, for example, to propitiate the souls of dead animals killed in the hunt. Otherwise, when reborn, they might avoid man and cause starvation. Some Inuit believed that seals suffered from thirst because they lived in salt water. A little fresh water poured on a dead seal's snout would thus conciliate its soul. Another method of doing this was to leave by the lamp the harpoon head that had killed a seal. Its soul stayed in the harpoon head the first night after the kill and could thus warm itself. Some hunters threw away part of the liver of each dead caribou to mollify its spirit. Many Inuit believed that a woman (Sedna) living on the sea bottom controlled the supply of sea animals. To avoid offending her, people tried to prevent any contact between caribou meat and these sea animals. There were numerous other such customs.

To some Inuit, the soul of a man looked like a miniature human. Various forces might steal a soul, causing a person to fall ill. There was some disagreement about where the soul went after death. Some felt it lingered around the body for a short period and then descended to Sedna's house at the bottom of the sea. Others believed that the soul went to a warm and comfortable underworld, or even to the skies, where the dead caused the northern lights by playing ball with a walrus head.

Certain individuals called shamans acted as intermediaries between the Inuit and the spirit world. People credited shamans with amazing powers. Equipped with helpers from the spirit world, they could walk on water, turn themselves into animals, return from the dead, cut off limbs and reattach them, talk to animals, or

make themselves disappear. The Inuit weren't surprised to hear of the moon-landing in 1969, because some believed shamans had been going there for years. Shamans served the people by healing the sick, convincing Sedna to release sea animals, predicting the location of game, and regulating the weather.

The Inuit Spirits stamps were designed by Reinhard Derreth of Vancouver. As in previous issues, these stamps depict a particular theme associated with the Inuit way of life. The Spirits stamps feature prints and sculptures by Inuit artists. On the 17-cent stamps, the sculpture of Sedna is by artist Ashoona Kiawak, and the print Return of the Sun is by Kenojouak. The 35-cent stamps reproduce the sculpture Bird Spirit, by Doris Hagioloik and the print Shaman by Simon Tookoone. This set of stamps completes the four-year series on the Inuit.

### SAVING THE WHITE PASS

When turn-of-the-century would-be gold diggers started Yukon dreaming, reveries often tripped over the sticky question: how exactly to you get to Dawson? For most, it turned out the easiest way to get within striking distance of the gold was to sail from such bustling West Coast centres as Seattle and Vancouver to the Alaskan seaport of Skagway. From there, the city of golden dreams lay a mere 550 miles inland. But what a 550 miles. Aspiring sourdoughs' hearts no doubt sank upon first looking at the mountains which rose like a great, impenetrable wall behind Skagway. Impenetrable? Not to the mad Irishman Mike Heney who, in just 10 months in 1898, headed a work crew which built the 115 mile line to Whitehorse.

Although the years of gold are long gone, the White Pass and Yukon Railway, the longest narrow-gauge railway in the world, has continued to shuttle passengers and cargo back and forth across some of the north's most historic and spectacular topography. In recent years, however, rumours spread that the White Pass was in financial difficulty; and when two Cassiar asbestos mines closed two years ago, the railway's resulting tonnage loss seemed to make the shut-down only a matter of time.

Now, however, there is hope that the railway has not come to the end of the line. Federal government officials are currently studying the feasibility of pumping an estimated \$15 million to keep the railway alive. If the funding comes, it will be met with approval not only by the 60,000 tourists who take the train each year, but by all who want to see Canada's most romantic railway chug on.

Reprinted from  
Canadian Heritage  
October 1980, p. 9

ROBERT MITCHELL TO NEGOTIATE N.W.T. INUIT CLAIM  
FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Saskatoon lawyer Robert Mitchell, a former deputy minister of Saskatchewan's department of labour, has been named to head a team of federal and territorial officials to negotiate an agreement in principle with the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (ITC) of their aboriginal rights claim to vast tracts of land in the Northwest Territories. The appointment, announced today by Indian and Northern Affairs Minister John C. Munro, paves the way for intensive negotiations between the Inuit and the federal government team to begin. Negotiations are anticipated in Ottawa, as soon as a negotiating schedule can be worked out with the ITC.

ITC, the national Inuit organization, represents approximately 15,000 Inuit who live in the central and eastern part of the Northwest Territories. ITC first presented a claim settlement proposal, entitled "Nunavut", to the federal government in February 1976 which, among other matters, called for the creation of an Inuit government in "Nunavut Territory" above the treeline in the Northwest Territories. This proposal was subsequently withdrawn to enable the ITC to undertake extensive consultations with Inuit communities regarding the proposals put forward in the claim. A new proposal, in the form of 11 broad principles "for the establishment of Inuit rights between the Inuit of Nunavut and the Government of Canada", was presented to the government in December 1977. An additional position paper, outlining in greater detail the ITC's proposal for the creation of a new Nunavut territory, was adopted by the ITC in September 1979 and was referred for study to the enquiry underway at that time by the Honourable C.M. Drury, the federal government's Special Representative for Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories. Discussions between ITC and federal officials on other elements of the claim continued during this time.

The appointment of Mr. Mitchell fulfills a commitment made by Mr. Munroe to the ITC in April 1980, shortly after assuming his new portfolio responsibilities, to get intensive negotiations underway quickly on the ITC claim. As an expression of this commitment the Minister agreed, at a subsequent meeting with the ITC on 15 July, to name a senior negotiator to head the federal negotiating team as soon as possible. "I am pleased to be able to announce Mr. Mitchell's appointment today," Mr. Munro said.

"The claim proposals which the Inuit Tapirisat has put forward have been carefully developed over the past three years, in conjunction with the Inuit communities the Tapirisat represents. ITC officials and officers of my department have had many meetings and discussions in these intervening months to explore possible approaches to full-scale negotiations.

"The groundwork has now been laid for fruitful negotiations to begin. I know these will not be easy ones, for the claim raises many issues that will need to be carefully explored and discussed. But I know there is goodwill on the part of the negotiators to fashion a concrete agreement in principle, one which will meet the concerns of the Inuit for the safeguarding of their culture, will protect and enhance the Inuit life-style, while at the same time permitting maximum participation by the Inuit in all aspects of economic development. Such an agreement will provide a solid foundation for the achievement of Inuit goals, and form the basis for a final settlement satisfactory to all parties.



"Mr. Mitchell is currently completing his duties as chairman of an environmental impact enquiry in connection with a proposed uranium mining development at Key Lake in northern Saskatchewan. In assuming his new role as senior federal negotiator for the ITC claim, he will be reporting directly to me and I shall be following progress in the upcoming negotiations closely".

Communiqué, 20 August 1980, Indian and Northern Affairs

#### NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ARCHIVES

The Federal Archives Division recently published the Records of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry (RG 126), a concise inventory of the records of Justice Thomas R. Berger's comprehensive examination of the proposed construction of an energy corridor and gas pipeline along the Mackenzie Valley. The records form a rich source for the study, not only of resource development and pipeline routes, but also of northern wildlife, native culture, environmental issues, and land claims.

Sources for the Study of the Canadian North was prepared for the Special Publications Series of the Federal Archives by Terry Cook. It was written in conjunction with the Royal Society of Canada symposium: "A century of Canada's Arctic Islands, 1880-1980", held in Yellowknife, 11-13 August 1980. It was also produced as part of the observance by the Public Archives of Canada of the centenary of the transfer of the Arctic Islands to Canadian jurisdiction.

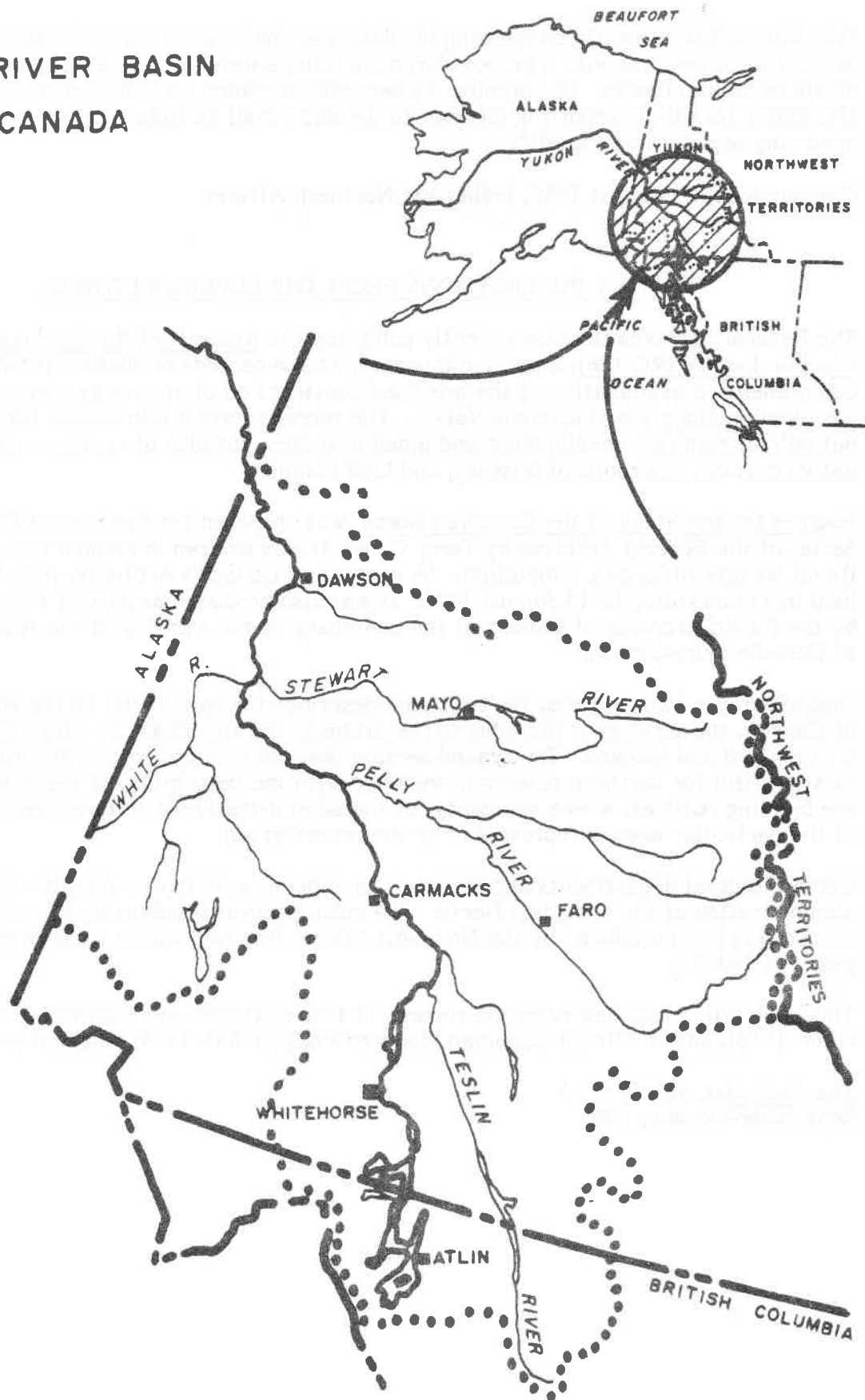
Organized into two sections, the first part describes the role of the Public Archives of Canada, the services it provides to researchers, and the means by which its material is organized and indexed. The second section describes records of the federal government most fruitful for northern research. Included with the description of the actual records are briefing outlines, where necessary, of the administrative structures and changes of the particular agency represented by the record group.

Certain federal departments and branches have been explicitly responsible for the general administration of the Canadian North. The most extensive and useful group of northern records has been produced by the Northern Affairs Program whose records span the years 1890-1977.

This publication also describes the records of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (1867-1976), and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (1868-1965) among many others.

The Archivist, vol. 7, no. 5  
September-October 1980

# YUKON RIVER BASIN IN CANADA



### YUKON RIVER BASIN STUDY AGREEMENT SIGNED

The water resources of the Yukon River Basin will be studied jointly by the federal government and the governments of the Yukon and British Columbia as a result of a new agreement under the Canada Water Act. The signatories were Environment Minister John Roberts, Indian and Northern Affairs Minister John Munro, Yukon Administrator Douglas Bell, Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources Dan Lang and British Columbia Minister of the Environment Stephen Rogers. This study will evaluate management alternatives for the resources of the Yukon River Basin in Canada.

The Yukon River Basin is the fifth largest in North America in terms of both land area and average water discharge. The river rises in British Columbia and, with its tributaries, drains most of southern Yukon before it crosses the Canada-U.S. border into Alaska.

The purpose of the agreement is to study current and foreseeable uses of the water and related resources, to highlight specific areas where further investigation or resolution of conflicts is needed and to provide a framework for future resource management decisions. The study program will involve public consultation and exchange of information among governments and agencies.

The study will be directed by the Yukon River Basin Committee -- four members representing Environment Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and the governments of Yukon and British Columbia -- and is scheduled for completion by December 30, 1983. The cost is not to exceed \$2.2 million, which will be shared 50% by Environment Canada, 40% by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and 5% each by the governments of Yukon and British Columbia.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
Communiqué 25 November 1980

ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES FOR NORTHERN  
STUDIES APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies has announced the appointment of P. Campbell Mackie as its new Executive Director. Mr. Mackie, 42, has since 1969 pursued a career in the Canadian Public Service, and most recently was the Assistant Deputy Minister for Indian and Inuit Affairs in the Federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. Earlier, he was Director General of the Job Creation Branch for the Department of Manpower and Immigration, and he also had the responsibility of being the first Director of the Opportunities for Youth developed in the Secretary of State Department. Mr. Mackie was born in Winnipeg and holds B.A. and M.S.W. degrees from the University of Manitoba. Subsequently he studied at London School of Economics and Political Science, the Centre D'Etudes Industrielles, Geneva/Switzerland, and the London Graduate School of Business Studies. He is a member of the National Board of the Y.M.C.A., and is Chairman of its Government Relations Committee.

In announcing the appointment, the President of A.C.U.N.S., Dr. J.K. Stager, said, "Our Board of Directors were especially pleased to be able to attract a man of the quality and experience of Cam Mackie. The Association, committed as it is to helping Canadian Universities develop and coordinate their research and educational functions as they relate to the northern parts of Canada, recognizes the necessary task of interpreting these goals to governments in the country whose policies intersect with both research and education in the north. Cam Mackie with his recent and extensive experience in the Federal Government will, I am sure, bring to A.C.U.N.S. fresh insights and contacts in that area, and although he is less well known in the university communities, he soon will be. His skills in policy formulation, implementation and management will be a great help to our Council and Board."

Mr. Mackie is replacing Dr. Trevor Lloyd who was the first Executive Director for the Association. "In announcing this change, I want also to pay tribute to Trevor Lloyd," Dr. Stager said. "Since A.C.U.N.S. was formed three years ago, and indeed during the period leading up to incorporation, Trevor Lloyd with his widely respected reputation and splendid achievements as a northern scholar was really the only man we could turn to. His wisdom, hard work and loyalty have enabled the Association to become firmly established. Canadian universities, especially their northern scientists, are really very much in his debt." Dr. Stager said.

The Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies has a membership of 30 Canadian universities, each of which has centres, institutes or committees committed to fostering northern research and educational programs on their campuses, and has its head office in Ottawa.

### ACUNS PUBLICATIONS

The Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies is pleased to publish the text of Professor T.H.B. Symons' paper: "Some Thoughts on the Current State of Teaching and Research about Northern Canada." The paper was presented to the Association's Annual Conference at Trent University, Peterborough, in April 1980. Requests for copies of the paper should be addressed to the ACUNS office in Ottawa.

"The Use of Greenlandic and Danish in Greenland Schools 1950-1978", a report by Mr. Ben Gynther of the Ministry for Greenland, Copenhagen, prepared at the request of ACUNS as a contribution to the wider employment of Native languages in Canadian schools. It is hoped that this work will be of direct assistance to educational authorities, school administrators, teachers and local School Boards. It is also intended as a contribution to university-based research on the use of Native languages as a medium of instruction in Canadian schools. Copies may be obtained from ACUNS at a cost of \$ 5.00 to individuals and \$ 10.00 for libraries and institutions.

The association has also issued a bibliography on "Literature concerning instruction in the Lappish language in the school systems of Finland, Norway and Sweden" compiled by Salme Korhonen, Librarian. The Lapland Department, Rovaniemi, Finland.

Requests for copies of the above publications should be addressed to: Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies, 130 Albert Street, Ottawa, Canada K1P 5G4.



### CANADIAN ARCTIC ISLANDS CENTENNIAL 1880/1980

OTTAWA (July 31, 1980) - Ceremonies to mark the 100th Anniversary of the transfer of the islands of the Arctic Archipelago from Great Britain to Canada begin today in Frobisher Bay and Ottawa.

In Ottawa, at the National Museum of Man, the Honourable John Munro, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, presents Dr. William Taylor, Jr., Museum Director with a copy of the Vice-Regal Proclamation designating this day as Canadian Arctic Islands Centennial Commemoration Day. The commemoration period continues until October 9, 1980.

The Honourable J.-Gilles Lamontagne, Minister of National Defence, is to announce that the Aurora will make its maiden operational flight across the Arctic on September 1. The new Aurora replaces the aging Argus as Canada's long-range patrol aircraft.

Invited guests include representatives of the British High Commission and Inuit Tapirisat of Canada. Later, they will view the Peter Pitseolak Exhibit at the museum.

The Honourable Yvon Pinard, President of the Privy Council, begins an Arctic visit by meeting residents at Frobisher Bay this evening. On this tour, Mr. Pinard is to convey the Prime Minister's good wishes and draw attention to the strong ties all Canadians share with the North. In addition, Mr. Pinard will read from the Governor General's Proclamation at a community reception.

Later, Mr. Pinard will visit Pangnirtung, on south Baffin Island and other points. He is scheduled to return to Ottawa on August 2.

Other events commemorating the centennial include the August 11 - 13 Royal Society Symposium at Yellowknife, N.W.T. - "A Century of Canada's Arctic Islands - 1880-1980" and a joint British-Canadian Baffin Island Kayak expedition from Frobisher Bay to Allen Island and return.

National Museum of Man  
News Communiqué

STATEMENT BY  
HONOURABLE YVON PINARD  
PRESIDENT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
CANADIAN ARCTIC ISLANDS CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION  
JULY 31, 1980  
AT FROBISHER BAY, N.W.T.

My purpose in being here is to mark the beginning of a period of some considerable historical significance to Canadians which might pass largely unnoticed unless we go out of our way to bring it to peoples' attention. On this day in 1880, Her Majesty Queen Victoria declared that the islands of the Arctic Archipelago were to become part of the new Dominion. The formal transfer of jurisdiction took place on September 1 of that same year.

Thereafter, "all British Territories and Possessions in North America, not already included within the Dominion of Canada, and all islands adjacent...(with the exception of the Colony of Newfoundland and its dependencies)" became Canadian and subject to Canadian laws.

The history of man among the Arctic Islands predated the transfer by many centuries. Inuit hunters were the first true explorers of this vast and formidable region. They traversed it in their sealskin kayaks, raising stone cairns in the likeness of a person, which they called inuksuk (in-NOOK-shook) to mark their way. So it is fitting that the inuksuk symbol has been chosen to represent this centennial commemoration.

British explorers followed in search of the fabled Northwest Passage. One of the expeditions sent out, under the command of Sir John Franklin of the British Admiralty, disappeared somewhere among the islands in 1847. Curiously, a series of search parties, some dispatched by Franklin's frantic wife, awakened international interest in what was until then a global backwater to Europeans and Americans.

Despite the many expeditions which gave Britain a claim to the islands, huge tracts were virtually unknown when it came time for the transfer. Its magnitude would not be clarified for decades to come. Its import was sublimated at the time by the enthusiasm of a young nation preoccupied with prospects in the West.

The Government of Canada did not turn its attention to the Archipelago in a concerted way until the twilight of the 19th Century. A quarter of a century after the transfer Captain Joseph-Elzéar Bernier, a son of sea-faring heritage born in L'Islet, Quebec in 1852 was commissioned to make the first of three Arctic voyages to take "formal possession of all lands and islands" in his way on behalf of Canada.

Bernier has been linked to Jacques Cartier. Like Cartier he wanted to find the Northwest Passage, but was thwarted by the merciless climate. As Cartier did for France, Bernier took possession of a great many Arctic islands in the name of Canada. And as Cartier had done for France, Bernier also planted crosses on several of the newly-discovered islands as confirmation of Canada's sovereignty.

Bernier, like others who came to know these lands and waters, owed much to his Inuit guides and hunters. William Wakeham, the Mounted Police, Vilhjalmur Stefannson and their successors were shown the way by Inuit dead-reckoning, native navigational skills which are still legendary in the Arctic.



In this century, the Government of Canada has stepped up its activities in the Archipelago, establishing RCMP posts, weather stations, post offices, defence installations and medical communications facilities. Resource exploration has, in recent years, helped maintain the Canadian presence first established by the government. Panarctic and Petro-Canada are but two corporate entities which help give expression to the national interest in the north.

Nowadays, the Government is in the forefront of protection for the rich and delicate natural environment in the north. Economic development, drawn by the resource potential offshore and on the land, have put pressure on the wildlife, the people and the environment they depend on. The government is there to ensure that the rush to satisfy new goals and fulfill new dreams does not impair the environment. The Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act of 1972, and such projects as the Lancaster Sound Regional Study now underway, have been put in place to help understand and to safeguard the precious Arctic ecology.

While the centennial has a somewhat different significance for the Inuit, in the context of their centuries-old culture and traditions, they too are making their unique contribution. As full participants in the national fabric, they are helping to keep this region a vital part of Canada.

The significance of this centennial is not only historical. It is contemporary and it is visionary. Canada's North today is a dynamic link - no longer a backwater - to some vital national considerations. Despite their remoteness, despite the stark contrast of climates and the gentler distinctions of culture, little happens among these islands in isolation from the rest of the country. Canadians of the south should remember too that what they do also touches the people of the north.

These linkages are not all as tangible as resource development, social and political arrangements, regional economics or an environmental protection regime. While these subjects are of paramount importance, it occurs to me there is another less conspicuous dimension worth considering.

So much has been made of our differences as regionalized or ethnic-Canadians down through the years that it serves us to pause, from time-to-time, and reflect on our similarities. This, to me, is such a moment.

We who explored the New World together, who charted its vastness and laid open its secrets, have at times forsaken our partnership in discovery. We who created a new nation out of a raw, stubborn wilderness - who raised its first cities and linked them with steel - have muted the echoes of our toil. Perhaps we owe it to each other as Canadians to recall how immense the challenge was...and how we met it, together. Surely it was the act of nation-building that brought us together, not an accident of birth.

In important ways the north today is a reflection of that process. It is vast; to some it is forbidding; it offers challenge and it offers hope. The North can also help to re-awaken in us the sense of shared purpose and united spirit that brought us this far.

What of our identity...of its potency in dealing with our needs? If there is a distinctive Canadian trait it is an awareness of the land and of its expanse. An understanding of northern conditions, of climate and geography, is common to us all. We may deal with it in unique ways, but we all must adapt to a land which is greater than any of us. Given our sense of spaciousness, it is natural for us also to ponder our horizons - to be forward-thinking, not paralyzed by our past.

Apart from its historical aspects, then, this centennial gives us a chance to reflect on who we are...and where we are going. From a global perspective, we are all northerners. In our appreciation of a distinctly northern art and culture we are alike. Do we not share an awe for this imposing land and for the legends of its discovery? As we look for the future, do we not all embrace the north and its promise?

Blair Fraser, whose heart was with the north, once described it as "too barren ever to be thickly settled, too bleak to be popular." Then he prophesied: "there is no reason to doubt that it will always be there, and so long as it is there, Canada will not die."

Our challenge will be to awaken to our northerness and to employ it in wise, even-handed and innovative ways. The scientific-technological, socio-political and environmental imperatives of the north present us with complexities. Our individuality will influence the way we approach these tasks. We are not replicas of one another, but we have common interests and sense of purpose. Surely, this will serve us well.

Through you people here, and the opportunity of the moment, I ask each Canadian to consider what the north means to him or her. It is for us to acknowledge that we all share a stake in the future of the North and that stake is really in ourselves.

I hereby set aside the period from this day of July 31, 1980 to October 9 for the Commemoration of the Arctic Islands Centennial and trust that Canadians will pause to reflect on its significance.

Indian and Northern Affairs  
Communiqué

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM these Presents shall come or whom the same may in anywise concern,

GREETING:

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS Her Majesty Queen Victoria in Council at the Court at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, did, on the 31st day of July, 1880, order and declare, by and with the advice of Her Most Honourable Privy Council, that "from and after the first day of September 1880, all British Territories and Possessions in North America, not already included within the Dominion of Canada, and all Islands adjacent to any of such Territories or Possessions, shall (with the exception of the Colony of Newfoundland and its dependencies) become and be annexed to and form part of the said Dominion of Canada; and become and be subject to the laws for the time being in force in the said Dominion, in so far as such laws may be applicable thereto."

AND WHEREAS certain of these Islands and waters of the Arctic Archipelago have been frequented for centuries by Canadian Inuit who, as full citizens and participants in the national fabric, have contributed to making this region a vital, integral part of Canada.

AND WHEREAS, on the first day of July, 1909, Captain Joseph Elzéar Bernier, Commander of the Canadian Government Steamer Arctic landed on Melville Island and proclaimed the Archipelago, all Islands and Territories within the degrees 141 and 60 West Longitude, as Canadian Territory and under Canadian jurisdiction.

AND WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the Centennial of the Order-in-Council in 1880 be observed by all Canadians.

NOW KNOW YOU that We, by and with the advice of Our Privy Council for Canada, by this Our Proclamation declare and direct that the 31st day of July 1980 be known as the Canadian Arctic Islands Centennial Commemoration Day from sea to sea.

AND WE DO HEREBY declare and command that Our Officers, Ministers and loyal subjects observe a commemoration period from this day to the 9th day of October 1980.

OF ALL WHICH Our Loving Subjects and all others whom these Presents may concern are hereby required to take notice and to govern themselves accordingly.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Canada to be hereunto affixed.

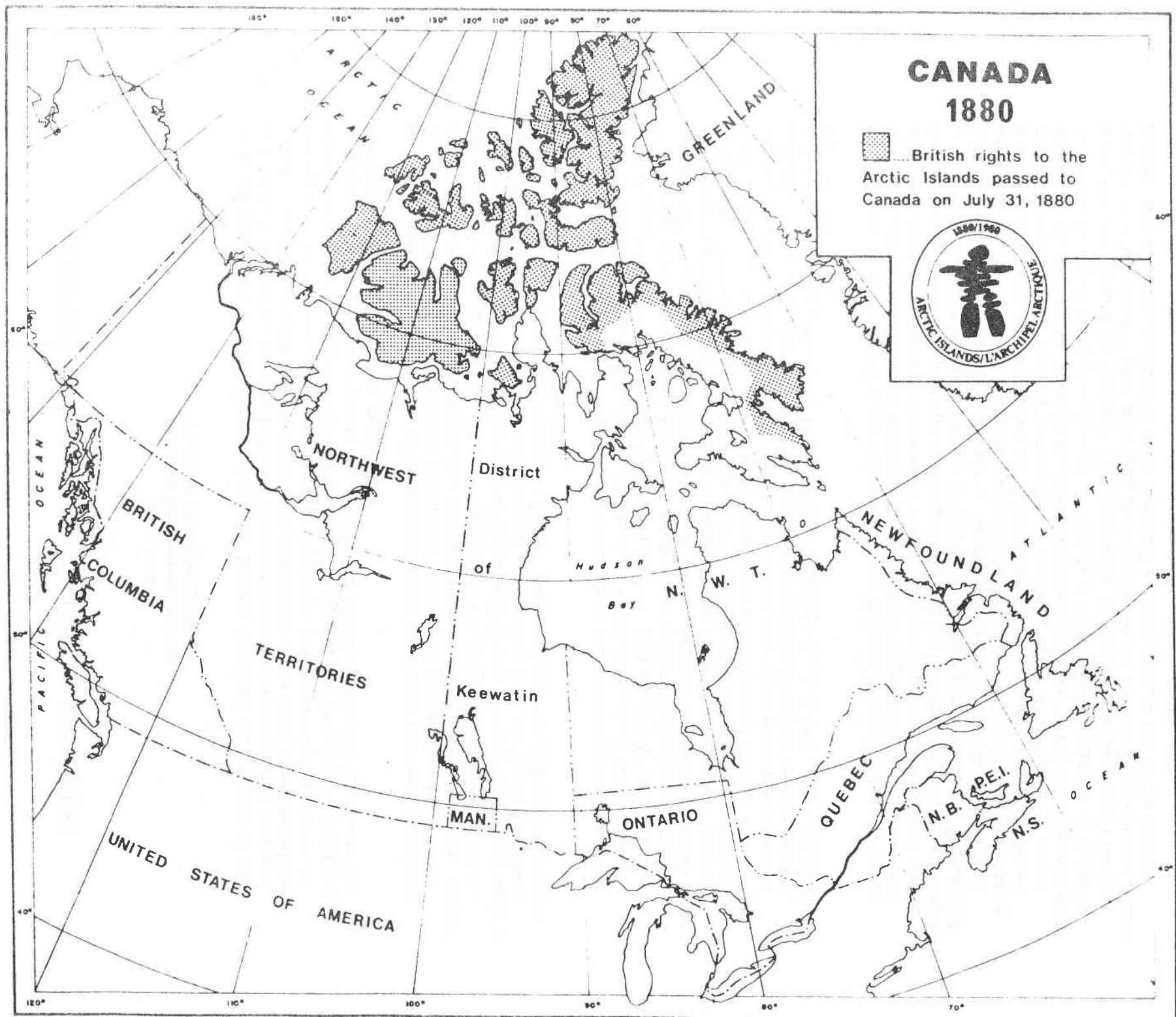
WITNESS:

Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved Edward Richard Schreyer,  
Chancellor and Principal Companion of Our Order of Canada,  
Chancellor and Commander of Our Order of Military Merit upon  
whom We have conferred our Canadian Forces' Decoration, Governor  
General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

AT OUR GOVERNMENT HOUSE, in Our City of Ottawa, this twenty-fifth day of July  
in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty and in the twenty-ninth  
year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND,

DEPUTY REGISTRAR GENERAL OF CANADA



## CANADA'S ARCTIC ISLANDS: A CENTENNIAL PERSPECTIVE

by

Terry Cook  
Natural Resources Records  
Federal Archives Division

On 8 December 1953, Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent heralded the creation of the new Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources by conceding that previously Canada had "administered these vast territories of the north in an almost continuing state of absence of mind." He might well have added that a similar state of mind very nearly cost Canada its Arctic heritage. When Great Britain first proposed to transfer its claim of sovereignty over the Arctic Islands to the new Dominion, the Canadian government was not overjoyed.

In the three centuries before the 1870s, exploration in the Arctic had been stimulated by the desire to discover the elusive Northwest Passage, to promote the fur trade, and later to search for the mysteriously vanished expedition of Sir John Franklin. Arctic exploration had primarily been a British imperative, the golden age of Hudson, Foxe, Frobisher, and Baffin, of Ross, Parry, Franklin, and McClure. Through discovery, exploration, and limited occupation, Britain's claim of sovereignty over the North American Arctic was strong. This nearly exclusive British preserve, however, did not long remain unchallenged after the mid-century.

Requests in 1874 by a British subject for permission to erect buildings for a whaling base on Baffin Island and, more seriously, from an American seeking to start a mica mine there, left the British government in a dilemma. If it granted these applications, it would de facto be assuming a degree of sovereignty and an administrative burden which it did not want. If it refused to do so, it might adversely prejudice Canada's future development in the Arctic Archipelago by encouraging other nations to stake claims in the area. There was a fear expressed in the Colonial Office that "this Yankee adventurer...would no doubt think himself entitled to hoist the 'Stars and Stripes' which might produce no end of complications." Indeed, the recent and highly publicized northern exploits of two American adventurers, Elisha Kent Kane and Charles Francis Hall, as well as the growing presence of United States' whaling vessels in the region underlined this concern.

Accordingly, on 30 April 1874, Lord Carnarvon, the British Colonial Secretary, wrote to Lord Dufferin, the Canadian Governor General, inquiring whether or not "the territories adjacent to those of the Dominions on the N. American Continent, which have been taken possession in the name of this Country but not hitherto annexed to any Colony or any of them should now be formally annexed to the Dominion of Canada. The Liberal administration in Ottawa remained silent. Somewhat irritated that his question had been ignored, Carnarvon sent another despatch on 26 August 1874 pointedly requesting a reply. Eventually, on 10 October 1874, the Canadian government passed an Order-in-Council stating that Canada "is desirous of including within the boundaries of the Dominion the Territories referred to, with the islands adjacent." (The northern mainland to the Arctic Coast had been acquired by Canada in 1870 with the transfer of Rupert's Land, the territory of the Hudson's Bay Company). In response to Carnarvon's further request on 6 January 1875 for advice on the formula for the proposed annexation, Canada passed another Order-in-Council on 30 April 1875 stating that an act of the British

Parliament would be most useful as the transferring instrument in order to remove any ambiguity, but also requesting that no such action be taken until after the next session of the Canadian Parliament. As the new territories would "entail a charge upon the revenue", the transfer would have to be approved by Parliament.

This penny-pinching lack of vision of the Liberal government of 1873-1878 was typical. Led by Alexander Mackenzie and Edward Blake, two Ontario Grits who had doubted the wisdom of a transcontinental railway to include British Columbia within Confederation, the government not surprisingly was less than keen to accept additional burdens in the frozen North. For two and one-half years, the Liberals did nothing. Finally, in response to Carnarvon's growing annoyance over this inaction, another Order-in-Council was passed on 29 November 1877 acknowledging that nothing had been done because "there did not seem at that time any pressing necessity for taking action" but that, "as the reason for coming to a definite conclusion now appear urgent", a suitable resolution would be submitted to the forthcoming session of the Canadian Parliament. No doubt this urgency resulted, as Carnarvon had warned three years earlier, from the newspaper accounts that the American William Mintzer, had gone ahead on his own and extracted in 1875-1876 fifteen tons of mica from Cumberland Sound worth some \$120,000. In reference to this and other private expeditions by Americans, "I need hardly point out to you", Carnarvon commented, "that ...great difficulty in effecting this (transfer) may easily arise unless steps are speedily taken to place the title of Canada to these territories upon a clear and unmistakable footing." At last, on 3 May 1878, the Canadian Parliament formally passed an address to the Queen requesting the transfer of the Arctic Islands to Canada.

A new Colonial Secretary, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, doubted that an act of the Imperial Parliament was necessary. An Imperial Order-in-Council would draw less international attention and create less foreign annoyance over the transfer of jurisdiction. It would also mean that the imperfectly explored Islands would not have to be described as precisely as in a formal statute. He wrote in this vein to Ottawa in April, 1879, and once again the Mackenzie government failed to act for over five months. Following the September election, the returned Conservative government of Sir John A. Macdonald was eager for the transfer, declaring in an Order-in-Council on 4 November 1879, that the British proposal was "in the highest degree satisfactory". After additional consultations with Macdonald in London in the summer of 1880, the British government on 31 July passed an Order-in-Council stating that "From and after September 1, 1880, all British territories and possessions in North America, not already included within the Dominion of Canada, and all islands adjacent to any of such territories or possessions, shall (with the exception of the Colony of Newfoundland and its dependencies) become and be annexed to and form part of the said Dominion of Canada; and become and be subject to the laws for the time being in force in the said Dominion, in so far as such laws may be applicable thereto."

The confusion and procrastination which marked the acquisition of the Arctic Islands persisted for many years. Although Canada had received the British claims to sovereignty on 1 September 1880, it did not exercise that sovereignty for many years. Indeed, Canada did not formally accept the transfer of sovereignty, as international law seemed to require, until 1895, at which time the British Parliament also passed an act to confirm and reinforce the Imperial Order-in-Council of 1880.

Canadian concern to exercise sovereignty in the Arctic after the mid-1890s was well founded. Famous northern expeditions by the Norwegians Fridtjof Nansen, Otto Sverdrup,

and Ronald Amundsen; travels by Knud Rasmussen of Denmark; and most notably the attainment of the North Pole by Robert Peary of the United States all cast doubt on Canada's control over the Arctic. Not wanting a repetition of the Alaska boundary fiasco and stimulated by an expansionist climate of economic boom and national self-confidence, the Laurier government decided to send expeditions throughout the Arctic Islands to "plant our flag at every point". Once this was done, a proclamation of Canadian jurisdiction over the entire North west of Greenland could safely be made. The most notable northern voyages then were those of William Wakeham on the Diana in 1897 to Hudson Bay and Baffin Island; of A.P. Low on the Neptune in 1903-04 around Baffin, Ellesmere, and Somerset Islands; and of J.E. Bernier on the Arctic between 1906 and 1911 to scores of northern islands. With the coincident establishment of North West Mounted Police posts, fishing and whaling inspection, a customs service, mail delivery, geological and topographical survey expeditions, and northern game laws, the Canadian Arctic presence became much more than an 1880 slip of paper. On 1 July 1909, Bernier formally erected a tablet at Winter Harbour on Melville Island "to commemorate the taking possession for the Dominion of Canada of the whole Arctic Archipelago..."

This exercise of sovereignty was reinforced by the famous exploits of Vilhjalmur Stefansson and the Canadian Arctic Expedition of 1913-18 and by the establishment in 1922 of the Northwest Territories and Yukon Branch in the Department of the Interior to coordinate all federal northern activity and to monitor the activities of missionaries and miners, trappers and traders. This early federal administrative presence was passive and regulatory; with World War II it became active and interventionist. The construction of such wartime projects as the Alaska Highway, Canol Pipeline, and Northwest Staging Route airfields followed in the postwar years by the erection of schools, hospitals, and housing; the building of roads, bridges, and harbours; the sponsorship of fishing, mining and wildlife industries; and the administration of justice, health and education, and social concerns - all this removed any question of Canada's claim to her Arctic frontier.

When St. Laurent established the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources in 1953 as the first department ever to be almost exclusively devoted to northern administration, he hoped that this would "give new emphasis and scope to work already being done, and to indicate that...such greater emphasis (be) made a continuing feature of the operation of government." The department's new name was itself "indicative of the fact that the centre of gravity...is being moved north." Subsequent developments - John Diefenbaker's northern vision and programmes, the discovery of Arctic oil and gas, the various pipeline debates and commissions - certainly validated St. Laurent's prediction. Canada's northern destiny seems secure; the absent-mindedness that almost cost her the Arctic Islands had been thoroughly repudiated.

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## THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

ARCTIC CIRCLE MEETINGS - The regular meetings of the Arctic Circle are held on the second Tuesday of every month, October to May, at 8.30 p.m. at the Staff Lounge, University of Ottawa.

Out-of-town members who wish to receive notices of these meetings and, thereby, be informed in advance regarding the guest speakers and the topics to be discussed, should address their requests to the Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP DUES - Dues are payable as of 1 January. New members joining the Arctic Circle in the Fall or at any time during the period between the last meeting in the Spring and the first meeting in the Fall (usually May-October) will be considered paid up members for the following year. The dues are:

Members living in the Ottawa area	\$ 7.00
Out-of-town members	\$ 3.00
Student Membership	\$ 5.00
Libraries and institutions	\$ 5.00

THE ARCTIC CIRCULAR is published four times a year. Correspondence, papers and reports are welcomed from all members, from persons living in the north, or from anyone having information on general northern activities, research and travel, or on technological, industrial or social developments. Contributions and correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, The Arctic Circular, 185 Kamloops Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1V 7E1.

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CORRESPONDENCE should be addressed to the officer concerned,

c/o The Arctic Circle  
Box 2457, Station "D"  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 5W6