

Obituary

FRITZ MÜLLER

Prof. Dr Fritz Müller's rich life of teaching and scientific investigation has been suddenly and tragically ended by heart failure. Dr Müller died on 26 July 1980 during a field excursion on the Rhone Glacier where he and his students had recently established a new field programme of glaciological and hydrological studies. To the very end he showed much enthusiasm for research in earth science and had the capacity for inspiring his colleagues and young scientists.

Professor Müller was born in 1926 near Zurich, Switzerland. His academic career began in 1954, when he graduated in Geography and Geology at the University of Zurich and took part in Dr Lauge Koch's Danish East Greenland Expeditions. In 1956 he became a scientific member of the Swiss Mt Everest Expedition, which moved him definitely to concentrate his scientific life on research in the field of cold region hydrology. More than 100 titles of publications provide proof of his restless endeavours, not only to observe and analyse, but also to bring the findings to the attention of the scientific world. It all started with his studies on pingos, a special feature of water and frost action in the Arctic. In 1959 he was appointed as Scientific Leader of the Jacobsen-McGill University (Montreal) Expeditions to Axel Heiberg Island, Northwest Territories. This was the decisive chance which greatly determined his scientific life and which allowed him to develop his outstanding capabilities to organize expeditions and research work in the Canadian Arctic. After 1961 he became an Associate Professor of Glaciology at McGill University. The numerous scientific observations and results achieved by him and his many collaborators reveal the hard and extensive work carried out throughout these years. The Axel Heiberg Research Program, directed by Fritz Müller, focussed upon snow and ice, the determinative hydrological factors in these regions. It covered the broad range of glaciology including topics specifically of interest to hydrology such as heat balance, accumulation, ablation of snow and ice, water flow through the glacier, and water balance. In 1970, when he returned to Zurich as Professor of Geography and Glaciology and became Head of the Institute of Geography at the Federal Institute of Technology, he was able to continue his Arctic research activities. It was even possible for him and his group to engage in another very interesting long-term project, the glacio-climatological investigation of the North Water Polynya in Northern Baffin Bay. In 1976 the Glacier Inventory of the Swiss Alps was completed and published under his leadership. At the same time Fritz Müller took over the Temporary Technical Secretariat for the UNESCO/UNEP/IAHS Project of a World Glacier Inventory. Parallel to this mandate, he was appointed as Director of the International Permanent Service on the Fluctuations of Glaciers (IAHS/IUGG-FAGS/ICSU). Besides these international activities, Prof. Müller was responsible for organizing his institute and teaching his students, which he did with the same

personal persuasive power and enthusiasm. Professor Fritz Müller's passing has been a great loss to his students, co-workers and colleagues, and to the international hydrological community where his name is certainly inscribed, as it is on the "Müller Ice Cap" (Axel Heiberg Island) in memory of his achievements in the exploration of the Arctic.

Herbert Lang
Zurich, Switzerland

SEA LEVEL, ICE, and CLIMATIC CHANGE *Edited by Ian Allison*

Sea Level, Ice, and Climatic Change (IAHS Publication no. 131) is the proceedings of the symposium organized by ICSI and sponsored by IAHS, IAMAP and IAPSO during the IUGG General Assembly in Canberra, 1979. The latest in the series of IAHS proceedings publications the book was published at the end of March 1981. The papers arranged in two sections

1 Ice and snow as elements in the weather and climate system and as indicators of change

- The record of climate change in glaciers*
- The climatic role and environmental effects of snow*
- Sea ice as a climatic element*
- Evidence of the past climatic change from large ice sheets*

2 Features and interactions of sea level, ice and climate in the Quaternary

- The global record of the late Quaternary changes of sea level, ice and climate*
- Processes of interaction between sea level, ice sheet and climate*
- Sea level, ice, and climatic change: invited summary reviews*

highlight the complexity and multidisciplinary nature of the study of the relationships between sea level, ice and climatic change, and a flyer listing the titles of all the papers is available from the Editorial Office or the Treasurer's Office of IAHS, or the IUGG Publications Office.

Over 450 pages long and priced \$50US or 250F the book is available from

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