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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

Arctic Research Laboratory, Office of Naval Research, Point Barrow, Alaska

M. C. Shelesnyak, Head

Human Ecology Branch, Office of Naval Research

THE INCREASING INTEREST IN the Arctic has revealed an acute absence of any systematic body of scientific information about the basic biological and geophysical conditions of the region. The accumulation and synthesis of systematically collected data is very much needed. Observations during the past century have been gathered chiefly by the toil of individuals or small expeditions operating, in general, for short periods with limited technical and financial resources. Although many parties have gone into the field for seasonal studies, it has been apparent for years that long-term studies are essential to the understanding of Arctic phenomena. The establishment of fixed bases (field stations and laboratories) for the collection of regional data is of vital importance for carrying on Arctic research, particularly for studying the influence of physical and biological factors upon the function of man and machine. Advances in the technology of research which have been made during the past two or three decades are of a magnitude which demands greater financial support than can be managed without some public aid.

On August 13, 1946, the Office of Naval Research initiated an inquiry regarding the establishment, in the Arctic, of a basic scientific research laboratory where civilian scientists from universities could, under contract with the Navy, conduct investigations of biological and physical phenomena as related to that environment. The replies from various Navy organizations indicated a general enthusiasm and support for the idea of a laboratory for basic research in the Arctic.

In conformance with a general policy of the Office of Naval Research to seek counsel of qualified scientific investigators, well-known Arctic specialists, including Vilhjalmur Stefansson, Sir Hubert Wilkins, Dr. Laurence Gould, president of Carleton College, Dr. A. Lincoln Washburn, director of the Arctic In-

stitute of North America, and Dr. Harald U. Sverdrup, director of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, were solicited for their opinions. All not only confirmed the need for such facilities but expressed a keen interest in the program and an enthusiastic appreciation of the Navy's assumption of aid and support of the work in this unexplored field.

It was envisioned that the initial program of any such organization would be focused on specific research projects rather than attempt to develop large physical plan facilities. A program for the pursuit of basic research in the Arctic was undertaken by contract between interested research groups and the Office of Naval Research (*Science*, August 22, 1947, pp. 164-165). The Director of Naval Petroleum Reserves and the Bureau of Yards and Docks of the Navy Department, which administers a contract for exploration of the Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 (including the Barrow area), cooperated in the support of the research teams.

In the article which follows, Laurence Irving has described some of the facilities now available to qualified scientists for carrying on basic research in the Arctic. Plans are under way for expansion of the program to include studies of a biological nature—ecological, physiological, mycological, and limnological—and of a geophysical nature—magnetic, auroral, meteorological, etc. Some problems in need of investigation have already been described (1-3), and new ones continue to appear as work progresses. It is believed that real opportunities exist in the Arctic for the scientist.

References

1. SHELESNYAK, M. C. *Science*, 1947, **106**, 405-409.
2. ———. Problems in polar research. Special publication, American Geographic Society, 1928.
3. ———. A program of desirable scientific investigation in Arctic North America. Bull. No. 1, Arctic Institute of North America, 1946.

Per F. Scholander, of the Department of Zoology, Swarthmore College, a member of the Point Barrow research team, is shown on this week's cover (*extreme right*) with three Chandler Lake natives who recall the Leffingwell, Stefansson, and Wilkins Expeditions to Arctic regions.

*About the new
Arctic journal*



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JOURNAL OF THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE

VOL. 1, NO. 1

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JOURNAL OF THE ARCTIC INSTITUTE

The journal of the Arctic Institute aims to make known as widely as possible information about the Arctic and Subarctic areas of Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Labrador. It contains scientific articles prepared in a manner understandable to the non-specialist. Photographs and maps supplement the text. An important place is given to notes and news of events in northern North America, with particular attention to the work of scientists assisted by the Arctic Institute research programme.

A review of activity in each of the main scientific fields keeps members of the Institute abreast of contemporary research. The number of scientists residing in the Arctic has increased and many more make seasonal visits there. Some record of their comings and goings appears in the journal, so that readers with similar interests may be kept in touch with them.

The first number of the journal is that of March 1948. The main articles summarize the present organization of meteorological stations and weather reporting in Alaska, Canada and Greenland, especially since 1939. An authoritative report on contemporary research in magnetism in Northern Canada records progress in the location of the elusive Magnetic Pole. Dr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson is the author of a statement on the purposes and contents of the Arctic Encyclopedia that is now engaging much of his time and that of his colleagues at the Stefansson Library.

The end of the war saw renewed scientific activity in Greenland and reports about the geological, biological and geodetic studies since carried out there are now available. Improved transportation has enabled Canadian scientists to reach formerly inaccessible parts of the Arctic hinterland with comparative ease, to undertake fairly extended periods of field work and even to enable permanent scientific stations to be established. Some of the work is already bearing fruit in better weather reports, improved maps, more accurate estimates of geological conditions and in the overall knowledge of the geography of the region. Among reports from Alaska are those about oilwell drilling on the Arctic slope and of preparatory work at the new scientific station at Point Barrow. Labrador is represented by preliminary accounts of a geological reconnaissance from Cape Chidley to the Strait of Belle Isle.

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OF NORTH AMERICA

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Audubon Terrace,
Broadway and 156th Street,
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U.S.A.

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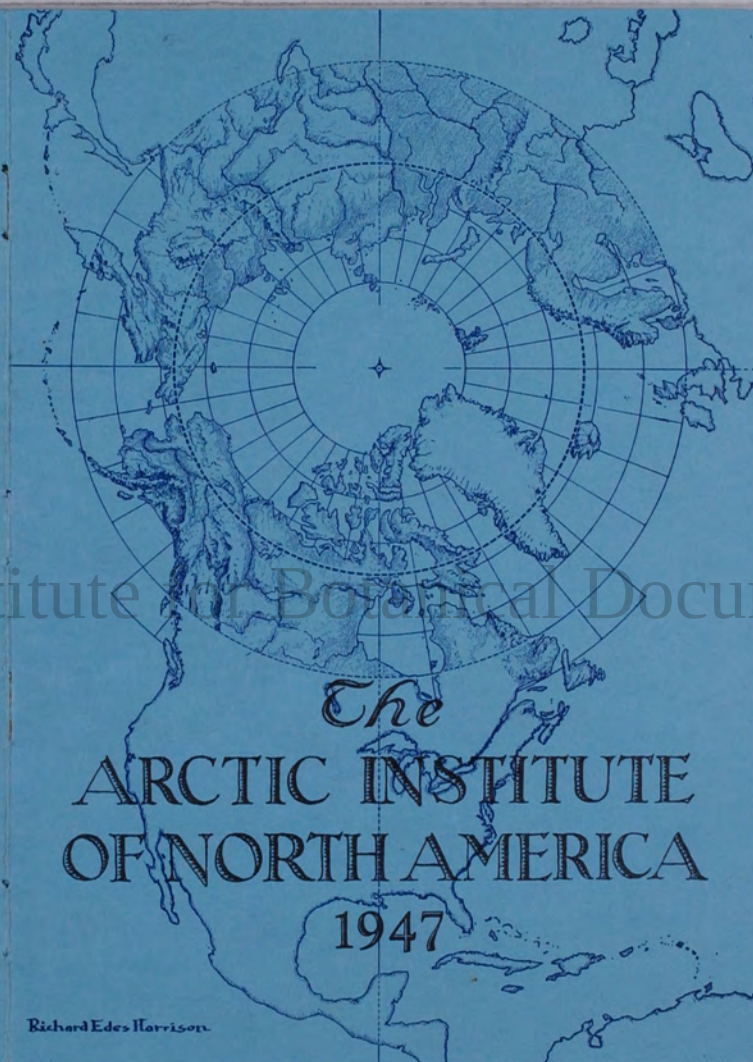


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Richard Edes Harrison

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BAKER LAKE POST, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, CANADA. T. H. Manning Photo

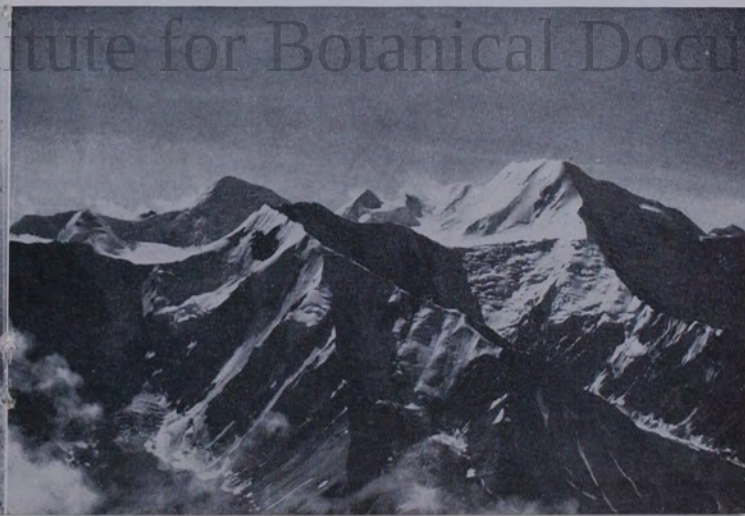


LINDÉN FJORD, SOUTHERN GREENLAND. Knud Rasmussen Photo

CAPE WHITE HANDKERCHIEF, LABRADOR. A. Forbes, American Geographical Society Photo



ALASKA RANGE EAST OF MT. MCKINLEY, ALASKA



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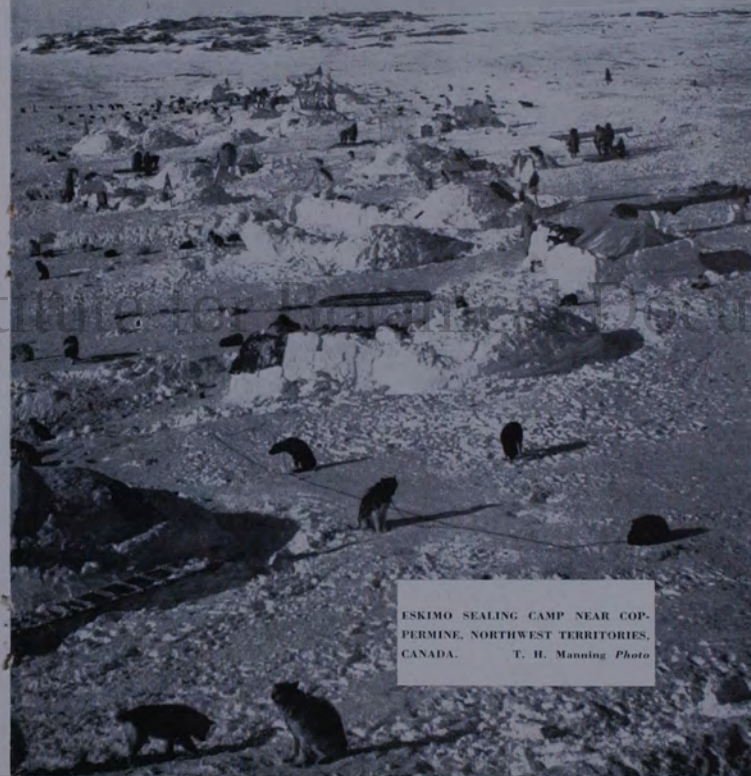
ionospheric and auroral phenomena is of great significance in radio communication. Mapping, the establishment of weather stations and ionospheric and magnetic work are illustrations of projects that are essentially governmental undertakings. However, the cooperative study of scientific problems involved in such projects, the encouragement the Institute offers young men to study these northern problems and the collection of the scientific results of such work are important Institute functions.

In addition there are countless more individualized research projects in the fields of archaeology, botany, ethnology, forestry, geology, geophysics, oceanography, wildlife, zoology and many other subjects, that the Institute can sponsor directly and which have very practical value. Geology, which includes the detailed study of stratigraphy, structure, land forms, glacial geology and distribution of mineral wealth, combines pure science with very practical considerations as to the future development of the Arctic. This is demonstrated by the many mineral deposits that are being profitably worked in the North, such as oil, coal, gold, radium, etc. The value of northern agricultural studies, which involve detailed study of climate, soils, soil organisms, permafrost, plants and crop production is also evident. Biology, geophysics, oceanography and wildlife have many practical applications as does almost every other scientific field. Increased knowledge in each field is badly needed for proper evaluation of the future of the North. Finally increased knowledge of the Arctic is an important consideration from the point of view of international relations.

★ PROGRAM

In order to help carry out the objectives of the Institute, several Research Fellowships of up to \$2000 are being offered each year for work in the North American Arctic. In addition to the scientific work made possible by the Research Fellowships, the Arctic Institute is sponsoring a number of scientific projects in cooperation with governmental agencies. For instance studies including field research in biology, wildlife economics, and geology are being carried out by contractual arrangement between the Arctic Institute and the United States Government. Similarly the Institute is carrying out several geographical studies on behalf of the Canadian Government. It is a policy of the Institute that the results of such work should be available for publication in appropriate scientific journals.

THE NORTH AMERICAN ARCTIC AND SUBARCTIC



ESKIMO SEALING CAMP NEAR CAP.
PERMINE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES,
CANADA. T. H. Manning Photo

The Arctic Institute is also engaged in the compilation of a comprehensive, indexed bibliography of the Arctic and a roster of Arctic specialists for the United States Government. Both projects should constitute great assets to Arctic research; in the case of the bibliography the Institute hopes to keep it up to date with annual supplements once the initial volumes are published.

A cooperative program between McGill University and the Arctic Institute whereby a series of lectures on the Far North has been introduced into the curriculum of the McGill Summer School of Geography is another means by which the objectives of the Institute are being advanced.

The establishment of research stations in the North American Arctic promises to be of great benefit to scientists. Such a station is being erected at Baker Lake, northwest of Hudson Bay by the Department of Mines and Resources in Canada and its facilities are available to the recipients of Institute Fellowships.

An extensive Arctic library and map collection at the Montreal headquarters of the Institute and the library and map facilities of the American Geographical Society are open to those associated with the Institute and other workers. Similarly the experience of Institute staff members is always at the disposal of individuals and organizations interested in northern work.

Polar investigation can no longer be considered remote and unimportant. A forthcoming book entitled "The North American Arctic" edited by E. M. Gould and sponsored by the Arctic Institute, will show how much Arctic research is now necessarily inter-related with other scientific endeavors, and how some of the problems can only be solved by sustained investigation in high latitudes. The Arctic Institute intends not only to encourage pure research but to lend a supporting hand in the peaceful development of the polar regions in international cooperation for the benefit of all men.

★ FINANCING

Although organized initially with the support of the National Research Councils of Canada and the United States, the Arctic Institute depends on private subscriptions for conducting all work not undertaken on a contract basis. Gifts have been ruled deductible from the taxable income of donors and since it is only by means of donations that the Institute can carry out its program, the Arctic Institute invites the widest possible support.

The ARCTIC INSTITUTE of NORTH AMERICA

- ★ ORGANIZATION
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★ ORGANIZATION

The Arctic Institute is the only scientific organization in North America devoted entirely to polar research. It was organized in May 1944, by scientists and others with polar interests to fill the North American gap in the world framework of such organizations. Further developments led to the organization of the Arctic Institute of North America, incorporated in Canada by Act of Parliament and the Arctic Institute of North America, Inc., incorporated in the United States under the laws of the State of New York. Both organizations have the support of the National Research Councils of both countries and, although legally separate entities, they have identical personnel and operate as a unit, an ideal example of international scientific cooperation. The first office and headquarters was established in October 1945, in Montreal in quarters provided through the courtesy of McGill University. The New York office was expanded in October 1947, and is now occupying quarters made available through the courtesy of the American Geographical Society.

The Arctic Institute operates as a nonprofit, independent, private organization devoted to furthering Arctic research on an international basis and its Governing Board is drawn from many fields of endeavor in the United States, Canada, Greenland and Newfoundland. Governors are elected triennially and serve in a personal capacity and not as representative of agencies, whether government or private, with which they are associated. The staff includes active polar investigators who spend part of each year in the field.

A membership program has been developed in order to permit the widest possible cooperation in the work of the Institute. The journal of the Institute records important polar developments on a world-wide scale and keeps members informed of Institute activities.

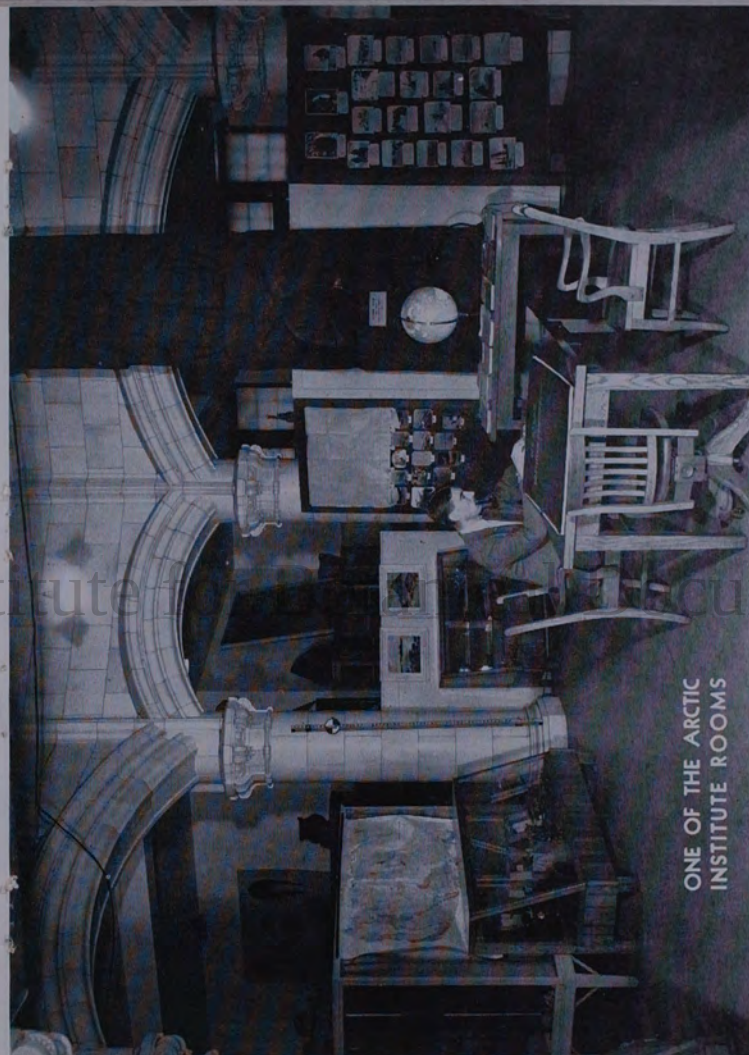
★ OBJECTIVES

The Institute acts as a coordinating centre in North America for scientific research pertaining to the Arctic and Subarctic regions. The Constitution provides that the purposes and objectives of the Institute shall be, in general:

- (a) To initiate, encourage, support and advance by financial grants or otherwise the objective study of Arctic conditions and problems, including such as pertain to the natural sciences, sciences generally and communication;
- (b) To collect, arrange and preserve records and material relating to the Arctic regions, and especially to such areas thereof as form part of or are contiguous to the Continent of North America;
- (c) To make such records and material available for pure and applied scientific use by properly qualified individuals and organizations, including governmental agencies;
- (d) To arrange for or to assist in the publication of reports, maps, charts and other documentary material relating to the Arctic regions;
- (e) To establish and maintain close contact with other Arctic institutes and organizations engaged in similar or related fields of study.

★ NEED FOR ARCTIC WORK

The "Program of Desirable Scientific Investigations in Arctic North America" published by the Institute in 1946 illustrates the great number of important problems that can only be solved through studies undertaken in the Far North. One of the first essentials in solving these problems is the detailed mapping of the Arctic since adequate maps are essential to many types of research work and development. Meteorology is another important problem. The whole pattern of daily weather in North America and across the Atlantic trade routes is frequently dominated by polar influences, so that the establishment of additional weather stations in the Arctic is essential to long-range forecasting. The study of terrestrial magnetism and of the North Magnetic Pole is vital to navigation, and the study of



ONE OF THE ARCTIC
INSTITUTE ROOMS

ARCTIC INSTITUTE OF NORTH AMERICA

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BROADWAY AT 156TH STREET
NEW YORK 32, N. Y.

January 31, 1948

Mr. Carleton R. Ball
3814 Jocelyn St., Northwest
Washington 15, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ball:

The Arctic Institute of North America, founded in 1944, is the only organization in the Western Hemisphere devoted exclusively to scientific research in the Polar Regions. The enclosed pamphlet sets forth the character and objectives of the Institute.

During its formative years many friends expressed the hope that a means of close association with our objectives might be made possible. In response to this expression the Board of Governors takes pleasure in inviting you, because of your associations and interests, to become a Charter Associate.

I hope you will indicate your acceptance by signing and returning to the Institute the enclosed card.

A class of Fellows of the Arctic Institute is being planned for the near future, the Fellows to be selected from Associates of the Arctic Institute who have done distinguished work in relation to the Polar Regions. It is contemplated that Fellows will take a leading part in Institute affairs and will have the privilege of electing a proportion of the Board of Governors.

Sincerely yours,

W. A. Wood

W. A. Wood

Dr. Walter A. Wood,
Director New York Office
Arctic Institute of America,
Audubon Terrace, Broadway at 156th St.,
New York 32, N.Y.

3614 Jocelyn St., N.W.
Washington 15, D.C.

June 28, 1948

Dear Dr. Wood:

Today, when I went to my file on the Arctic Institute, I was scandalized to find your letter of January 31 last in the file and apparently without reply. I hasten to inclose the membership card and my check for three dollars. If the Charter associate membership offer is no longer available, please let me know what is the next step for me to take.

What I was going to ask about, when I made the discovery noted above, was the possibility of any grant from the Institute which would help me to spend two weeks or so at the New York Botanical Garden and the Gray Herbarium in Cambridge studying herbarium material in *Salix* in connection with my monograph of the genus, and my write-up of the Alaskan willows for the Flora being put out by Dr. J.P. Anderson, formerly of Junesau and now of Iowa State College.

There was an item in Science some weeks ago regarding some funds available for such grants. I had not thought of asking help, but the continued rise in living costs has steadily whittled down the face value of my Federal retirement annuity.

If this request should go to some other office, please let me know.

Cordially yours,

Carlton R. Ball

W.A.W.
W.A.W.

ARCTIC INSTITUTE OF NORTH AMERICA

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ROSTER OF ARCTIC SPECIALISTS
CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON
1530 P STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 5, D. C.

1948

Mr. Carlton R. Ball
3814 Jocelyn St., N. W.
Washington 15, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The enclosed forms are sent to you because of your interest in the North, with the hope that you will fill them out so that a record of Arctic specialists and their particular fields of interest can be developed.

The best and most up-to-date information on northern matters often rests with individuals and their cumulative experience. A roster of such individuals to whom the Arctic Institute and others can turn for advice would materially aid the progress of scientific work in the North. It is intended that the Roster include, not only those persons who have had actual experience in the northern areas, as indicated on the enclosed map, but also those individuals in the Engineering Sciences, Physical Sciences, Agricultural and Biological Sciences and Social Sciences, who, through study or economic endeavor, are familiar with northern conditions and problems. The role of the Arctic Institute in northern research is outlined in the enclosed pamphlet.

The present project has the active support of the United States and Canadian governments, the National Research Councils of both countries, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Whether the roster will be printed is not yet determined, but it is hoped that it will have the widest possible distribution.

Your cooperation in helping to assemble the roster by completing the enclosed forms will be deeply appreciated.

Very truly yours,

G. Dudley Smith
G. Dudley Smith
Director, Roster Project.

(See over)

3214 Jocelyn St., N.W., Washington 15, D.C.

Dear Dr. Smith:

June 28, 1948

In looking up some material regarding the Arctic Institute of America, I find an undated form letter from you asking for a record of my work pertaining to the Arctic.

The blank forms mentioned are not with the form letter and there is no carbon of a reply to me. If I returned the blanks, please let me know. If I did not, and you still wish the information, please send the blanks again and I promise prompt return.

Cordially yours,

ASLA FLINTA AONLE

Carleton R. Hall

ASLA FLINTA AONLE

ASLA FLINTA AONLE

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1446

May 18, 1950

Dr. Carleton R. Ball
3814 Jocelyn St. N.W.
Washington 15, D.C.

Dear *Doctor Ball*,

Early in 1946, the Arctic Institute of North America published Bulletin No. 1, titled: "A Program of Desirable Scientific Investigations in Arctic North America". Since that time there has been much research in the Arctic and Subarctic. The need for restating and reemphasizing certain aspects of the essential gaps in our knowledge regarding arctic regions is becoming great.

The Arctic Institute is undertaking, at present, a project which it hopes will lead to a well formulated statement, in specific terms, of desirable scientific investigations in all fields of science and technology. We believe that this will enable us to reach a better understanding of the Arctic.

As one who is highly qualified and interested in Arctic matters, your ideas and suggestions regarding specific scientific studies which you consider important for increasing our knowledge of that field in which you are engaged will be of great help to us. We are aware that this is an imposition on your time and energy but feel strongly that to produce the most valuable program, your contributions should be included and therefore beg of you your support in this undertaking.

I trust that we will hear from you shortly that you consider this worthy of your attention and that we will be able to count on your valuable aid. We seek from you a statement of the problems you consider important for further investigations. A general statement would be helpful, but we are eager to have specific recommendations.

In order that you may have some frame of reference, I am enclosing an appendix to this which describes in general terms the type of compendium or symposium we are trying to compile.

Sincerely yours,

Shelesnyak
M. C. Shelesnyak

(see over)

Dr. M. C. Shelesnyak, Director,
Arctic Institute of North America,
3506 Greenway, Baltimore 18, Maryland.

3614 Jocelyn St., N.W.,
Washington 15, D.C.

14 June, 1950

Dear Dr. Shelesnyak:

Your letter of MEX 18 May, with inclosure, came during the hospital illness of Mrs. Ball and unfortunately has been neglected, for which I am sorry.

I inclose a statement of the facts concerning my particular problem in the arctic, and trust that it may be of some use to you and the Institute in developing the arctic research problem and encouraging projects.

If your Office desires reprints of my Salix papers, I will be glad to send such as are still available.

I am trying to do a hurry-up job on available material, as I have just passed my 77th birthday anniversary and have much yet to do. Anyway, my 174th paper is out and more in press.

If I can be of service in any way, at any time, please inform me.

Cordially Yours,

Carleton R. Ball

I might have mentioned that my life work has been in crop science (cereals) which are not an arctic problem, and more recently in the development of government cooperation and other public administration. The work with willows has been a service to the agencies named.

PROBLEMS OF NORTH AMERICAN ARCTIC RESEARCH

The object of this cooperative work will be the formulation of a program of desirable scientific investigations in arctic and subarctic North America in all fields of inquiry: physical, biological and social.

The purpose of formulating such a statement showing the great amount of research that has yet to be done in vast areas of the North American Arctic will be to serve as a useful guide in planning (a) a comprehensive program of arctic research and (b) specific research tasks.

The method by which this work will be achieved will be to (a) invite participation of all authorities to submit their views in (1) a general statement of the state of the special field of their interest in respect to arctic research, and (2) specific problems in need of investigation; (b) refer the collected material to an advisory group (or groups, depending upon the field of inquiry) for general guidance and direction; and (c) integrate the material in subject content and geographical areas; and finally to prepare the material in proper manuscript form for final editorial review preparatory to publication.

The sponsorship although nominally under the Arctic Institute of North America will clearly depend upon the interest and activity of all scientists concerned with research in problems of the Arctic and with increasing our knowledge of that region. Credit will, of course, be given to all participants.

M. C. Shelesnyak, Director
Baltimore - Washington Office
Arctic Institute of North America
3506 Greenway
Baltimore 18, Maryland