

University of Saskatchewan scholars, and then it gradually widened its scope to embrace Canada, and finally the entire circumpolar world. A collection of books was built up to augment northern material already in the university library, and so eventually a separate INS library was established.

While INS matured it remained small in size. The workload was carried, perhaps not too effectively but certainly inexpensively, by university faculty whose main responsibilities were teaching and pursuing various research projects in one of the established university departments. INS remained outside the formal academic structure and continued to be responsible to the president.

By 1973 the general university climate was changing once again; institutions of higher learning became much influenced by student unrest and a growing public dissatisfaction that began in the late 1960s. Administrators of universities were coming to regard 'institutes' and 'centres of excellence' not as academic challenges but as financial liabilities. The Institute responded to this new difficulty by seeking outside finance, based on short-term contracts with government and industry, as the only way to survive. The option of keeping the Institute small and supported entirely from university funds was effectively closed, because the static financial contribution from the university to the Institute meant, in effect, diminishing support during a time of rapidly rising costs.

The third, last and major change in direction of university governance, and the one that led to the closing of INS, took place only recently with the coming of the eighties. The general public, through their elected representatives in government, began to exert ever-increasing pressure on the universities to cut costs. To the public small units, such as the Institute for Northern Studies, the Plant Ecology Department, and the Department of Far Eastern Studies (the latter two are also to be phased out at the University of Saskatchewan) appeared to be redundant. It was now no longer sufficient to obtain outside funding from contracts. The hidden contributions of the university, covering such costs as heating, lighting and maintenance of buildings, were no longer immune to adverse criticism. Even keeping a small library open at night to allow access to books appeared to be in itself an indication of the wasteful practices of the university. At least, this is how it seemed to a substantial portion of the public.

Formerly preoccupied with promoting academic excellence, with doing a job well, university presidents now appear to have shifted their concern toward cutting costs and enlarging their student bodies, and thus increasing their income. Commendable as efforts to increase the participation rate of the economically disadvantaged, the handicapped, women and people of native ancestry may be in themselves, I fail to see why this development should be at the expense of existing programmes which have shown their academic worth. A university following this path is in danger of losing its credibility as an academic institution devoted to scholarly aims. One cannot help but note the result of a recent productivity survey of universities in Britain, the United States and Canada, covering the 100 most productive institutions. The survey did not include the University of Saskatchewan among the 11 Canadian universities mentioned. One aspect of the Institute has been salvaged and that is the *Musk-Ox* journal. The general university policy now is to assign some functions of the smaller units condemned to be phased out to departments already in existence. In line with this policy the responsibility for the *Musk-Ox* has been transferred to the Department of Geological Sciences. Dr Shirley Milligan will remain editor of the journal and no change in editorial policy is contemplated. The multidisciplinary aspects of northern studies will continue to be stressed in the *Musk-Ox* and expanded whenever appropriate. The peer-review system to which articles are subjected, now firmly in place, will assure the maintenance of academic quality. We hope that the principles set out 22 years ago by those able scholars, who had the foresight to establish an Institute for Northern Studies, will still prosper at the University of Saskatchewan.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

MEMORIAL TO G. W. DE LONG

Madam, while glancing through the January 1981 issue of the *Polar Record* (Vol 20, No 127), I spotted the note (p 381) based on an earlier brief article in *Vodnyy Transport*. It concerned the visit of a Soviet expedition to the grave of Commander George Washington De Long in the Lena delta, marked by an

obelisk and a model of a sailing ship recently erected by schoolchildren from Tiksi. I should not like to disappoint the children of Tiksi, but Commander De Long is not buried in the Lena delta; or more correctly he was, but is no longer.

Commander De Long and 9 other members of the *Jeannette* expedition were indeed buried at Skala Kyuyegel'khaya by George W. Melville, *Jeannette's* engineer, in early April 1882. Indeed Melville went to a great deal of trouble to produce an enduring grave and monument for his former shipmates; the cross he erected over the grave was 22 ft [6.1 m] high and 13 in [0.3 m] in diameter! But a year later, in early March 1883, Lieutenant Giles B. Harber, USN, while in the Lena delta searching for further missing men from *Jeannette*, disinterred the bodies on orders from Washington. In a quite remarkable feat of logistics they were transported by sledge to the railhead at Orenburg in the southern Ural mountains, a distance of some 4 000 km, arriving there on 16 January 1884. The bodies had been stored in the permafrost at Yakutsk over the summer. On the sledge trip from Yakutsk to Orenburg the bodies were greeted with much fanfare and ceremony at such cities as Irkutsk, Tomsk and Omsk, where the coffins were put on display in temporary catafalques, accompanied by military guards of honour and public addresses. Having been transferred to sealed metal coffins, the bodies left Orenburg in a special railway carriage on 24 January and travelled via Samara, Moscow and Berlin to Hamburg. They were put aboard the Hamburg American Packet Company's steamer, *Frisia*, which sailed on 6 February 1884 for New York. After her arrival on the 20th the coffins were taken in what was almost a state funeral procession to the Brooklyn naval yard. Next day, in an equally impressive procession, they were taken to the Church of the Holy Trinity at the junction of Forty-second Street and Madison Avenue. After the service a special train carried the funeral party to Woodlawn Cemetery. Here is where Commander De Long is buried. I hope that the schoolchildren of Tiksi will forgive me, but these are the facts.

Yours sincerely
WILLIAM BARR

24 November 1981

Review

ARCTIC OCEAN ATLAS

[Review by Terence Armstrong and Vernon Squire* of *Atlas okeanov. Severnyy ledovityy okean [Atlas of the oceans. Arctic Ocean]* edited by V. I. Faleyev and others. Moscow, Ministerstvo Oborony SSSR. Voyenno-Morskoy Flot, 1980, xii, 184, 5p. Hardcover. 25 roubles.]

The Soviet Ministry of Defence has produced a third atlas in its series covering the oceans of the world: the Arctic Ocean. It is, like its predecessors, a magnificently produced volume which conforms to the highest standards of cartographic printing. An edition of 15 000 copies has been printed, and, selling at 25 roubles, it represents remarkable value.

The main sections of the atlas are history of exploration, ocean floor, climate, hydrology, hydrochemistry, biogeography, and a miscellaneous section called reference maps. Each section has a short introductory text which summarizes the information shown in the maps and indicates the limiting dates of the data recorded and, in general terms, the sources. The data were assembled by at least eight institutions, including the atlas's own editorial office, but the lion's share of the work seems to have been done by the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute [Arkticheskiy i Antarkticheskiy

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