



POLAR LIBRARIES BULLETIN

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2004 COLLOQUY IN OTTAWA: A VALUABLE CONVERSATION

Hear from Rae-Lynn Patterson, Allison Sivak, Mary Katherine Jones, Barbara Kelcey and Julia Finn on their Colloquy experiences. Julia Finn was Colloquy's host in Ottawa; Patterson, Jones and Kelcey received the 2004 Hubert Wenger Awards; and Sivak was an enthusiastic first time attendee.

PLC 2004: THOUGHTS FROM A NEW GIRL

I will address the request for my thoughts on the Polar Libraries Colloquy (PLC) of 2004 as befits a newcomer to both the library profession and the polar library world: I offer my perspective as a first-timer. (I recognize that I only get to play this card once, so I had better take advantage while I can.)

Impressions of the PLC experience in general...

Going into the event, I wondered if the long-time attendees would be cold or hot (i.e., given to sideways glances at the newcomers who haven't done their time, or zealous in their efforts to recruit

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COLLOQUY--POLAR RESEARCH

Ottawa, Canada was host this year to the latest biennial Polar Libraries Colloquy. The theme was Polar Research: Let Us Share: Amiqqaaluta. Sixty-seven delegates attended, representing nine countries. While this was the group's 20th Colloquy, it has actually been meeting for 33 years now, with the first one taking place in Edmonton in 1971.

This year's meeting was dedicated to the memory of our wonderful colleague and friend William Mills, Librarian and Keeper of Collections at the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI), the University of Cambridge.

The conference opened with two

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WENGER AWARD

During the summer of 2003, William Mills was kind enough to spare a few minutes to talk to me in his office at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge. He persuaded me of the benefits of joining Polar Libraries Colloquy as an individual member, and deftly attempted to relieve me of two years' membership fees in one go, "because it's easier all round". I was a self-funded guest student at the University of Tromsø in Norway at the time, and desperately short of money.

It says much for William's kindness that he saw the look of horror on my face and tactfully segued into a reconsideration that "actually, five pounds will be fine

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Polar Libraries Bulletin

Issue 56, Summer 2004

Formerly entitled *Northern Libraries Bulletin*, this *Bulletin* reflects the name change of the Northern Libraries Colloquy to Polar Libraries Colloquy which was approved at the June 1988 biennial meeting.

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The 20th Polar Libraries Colloquy was held in warm and sunny Ottawa in June. It was hosted by Julia Finn of the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Together with co-workers Elise Chodat and Joanne Noel she organized a very successful meeting which attracted 67 delegates from nine different countries.

This year offers another opportunity for joining up with polar library colleagues, as the IAMS LIC meeting in Hobart in September has set up one day as a joint meeting with PLC. The meeting is titled Polar and Oceanographic Information in the 21st Century. Hopefully a number of PLC members will find their way to the southern hemisphere this fall.

Otherwise we will have to wait

two years for our next colloquy, which takes place in Rome in May 2006, and will be hosted by Silvia Sarti of the Italian Antarctic Research Programme.

Occasioned by a letter from the University of the Arctic, PLC has agreed to investigate the possibilities of establishing a circumpolar network of virtual reference materials. Sandy Campbell of the Science and Technology Library at the University of Alberta has accepted to act as liaison on this project.

All PLC members are called upon to recruit new members for our organization. New librarians joining polar organizations should be encouraged to sign up as members. So go out there and tell them what a great group we are, how interesting meetings we arrange, and how much fun it is.

Vibeke Sloth Jakobsen, Chair

INFORMATION ON BARENTS REGION AVAILABLE ON INTERNET

Arto Vitikka, of the Arctic Centre at the University of Lapland, passes on the following information. "I would like to inform you that a new portal to Barents region has been launched at the address: www.barentsinfo.org The portal contains general information about the region, pho-

tos, maps, news and articles giving an overview of different topics and links that are arranged thematically.

One aim of the portal is to provide a forum where people, projects and organizations can share knowledge and pass on relevant Barents information.

WENGER AWARD AUCTION RESULTS

Those who have attended Colloquys know that a highlight of the meeting is the fun at the Wenger Award Auction. The Award commemorates Hubert Wenger's outstanding contribution to Polar libraries and is used to provide financial assistance to one or more delegates who might otherwise be unable to attend a PLC biennial meeting. The award covers the full cost of registration for the meeting. Three delegates received Wenger Awards to attend the conference in Ottawa, thanks to the 914.37 British pounds sterling contributed by delegates to the auction held as part of the 2002 Polar Libraries Colloquy in Copenhagen.

In Ottawa, everyone attending contributed to the auction a total of \$1,907.95 in Canadian dollars which converts to 762.33 British pounds sterling, 1,148.12 Euros, and \$1,393.68 US dollars.

PLC MEETING-- VARIETY

The strength of the Polar Libraries' Colloquy (PLC) is its interdisciplinary nature and the diverse range of presentations. Looking at the program on the first day, I was most impressed with the variety of themes, topics and presenters. As a first-timer at the PLC, I was pleased and surprised with the intimate size of the conference (with just over 50 attendees), as well as with the level of engagement and interest shown by attendees at the various sessions offered.

My own interest in visual arts was piqued by the presentations on the sketchbooks of Andrea Motz Skene.

Eva Major -
Marothy
took the
audience

on a fascinating examination of the experience of an artist on expedition. While the slides were excellent, detailed reproductions of the original sketches, I was excited that the PLC could see the actual items during the group's tour of Library and Archives Canada's Gatineau Preservation Centre. This was a reminder that while reproductions are excellent for easy access to artworks (and expedition artifacts), there is an undeniable importance attached to be able to see the actual works. The expedition sketchbooks were

amazing items, intimate in size and vivid in colour. Along these lines was also the fascinating presentation by Elaine Hoag of the Library and Archives of Canada on shipboard printing (where we could view an exhibition of the actual printed pieces themselves). A favourite anecdote that has stayed with me is Fleming's description of opening an archival file at the Explorer's Club (NY), and finding a preserved set of wings from a bird caught on expedition - a point where the object meets the archive!

While the archival presentations often play on the romantic notions that polar exploration hold for many, most inspiring were contemporary accounts of how northern peoples and researchers

are
working
with
govern-
ment
agencies
and other

bodies in order to sustain their environment, face the numerous challenges in the north today, and to build strong futures. The keynote address by Liseanne Forand (Assistant Deputy Minister, Northern Affairs, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada) used this principle as the basis of her talk. She reminded us of the importance of not only conducting research, but also communicating it so it does have valuable outcomes, and can be used as a tool.

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PLC REPORT FROM A NON- LIBRARIAN

First of all, I would like to thank the PLC for the Wenger award so I could attend the 2004 PLC, and it was wonderful to meet old friends from Winnipeg. Since I am editing the proceedings, it was great to be able to actually hear the papers presented and to meet the speakers; it always makes it easier if there is a face to match to a name, especially if you have put a lot of red on their papers. I'd also like to mention Julia Finn and her staff for organising a superb conference. Thank you Julia.

Since Ottawa used to be home, there weren't a lot of surprises for me, or new sights to see, although I don't remember tours of the Parliament Buildings being quite so revisionist before, but the company was grand at any rate. When I usually make a trip to the capital, it is to make research trips in the winter, and I am often reminded of Nicholas Montsarrat's book *Alias Smith and Jones* which was partly a reaction to his service there. The whole time you're reading the book you think he's talking about two men defecting from Moscow to Ottawa, when that's not what happens. At least in June the city wasn't frigid or reminding itself that it is probably the coldest capital in the world. The one defining moment though

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(Thoughts--Cont. from pg. 1)

the fresh blood). I was pleased to find that neither was the case with the group of dedicated long-time PLC members; simply, they were welcoming.

Once things got underway, I came to appreciate the relatively small number of delegates and the single schedule of presentations and events. Attending the same program with the same folks (more or less) every day fostered a sense of community that I find lacking at larger conferences. The atmosphere was also mercifully relaxed, which I particularly appreciated when it came time for me to get up and speak.

I was pleasantly surprised by the diversity of professions within the group (I had been bracing myself for a week full of non-stop librarian-ness). Having the irresistible professional urge to categorize, I still managed to sort the delegates into two main groups (not necessarily mutually exclusive) in spite of their diversity:

- 1) Those who work with polar information (collections and/or products).
- 2) Those who serve people in polar regions.

I especially appreciated the chance to share common experiences with the latter; and the former were likewise interested to hear about resources that complimented their own, I'm sure.

Impressions of this event specifically...

The event was fabulously organized. Julia, Elise, and Joanne were an especially impressive team.

I enjoyed the dialogue that arose from topics that were presented from more than one perspective, in a panel-style set-up. The case of the radical open access publishing scheme being presented alongside the "evil" corporate publishing defense comes to mind as being particularly engaging, for example.

I was also pleased to see discussions taking place that had the potential to carry beyond the meeting room at the Marriot (e.g., the resolution surrounding the fate of PolarInfo and a progressing partnership with the University of the Arctic). It's always encouraging to see an organized group do instead of just be.

While I do recognize certain efforts were made to address the aboriginal presence in the Arctic (e.g., the interesting session on traditional ecological knowledge), I had hoped to see more content on these indigenous peoples. This topic is my priority, as well as my reality, since the majority of the patrons at my library are Inuit. After spending any time in Nunavut, one recognizes the inextricable link between the Arctic and its people,

so I have come to expect that discussions about one will include the other. I realize though, that my area of interest is just one of many to accommodate within the scope of the PLC.

Fortunately, the PLC body seems to be one that encourages its membership to voice individual perspectives. I see the opportunity to benefit from the experiences of others in this setting, and I see the opportunity to contribute. On that final note, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for having received the Wenger award to assist in my introduction to the PLC.

*Rae-Lynne Patterson
Librarian, Nunavut Arctic College*

(Research-- Cont. from pg. 1)

speakers especially close to William sharing their memories of him. Shirley Sawtell of SPRI highlighted William's many contributions to polar research. David Walton of British Antarctic Survey spoke about William's family, work and personal interests. David explained that a glacier flowing down into the Ronne Ice Shelf in the Antarctic was recently named in William's honour. In his memory, the Friends of SPRI have also established the

(Cont. on pg. 6)

(Research--Cont. from pg. 5)

William Mills Library Acquisitions Fund to add to, what for William and many others, is the best polar library in the world. Later in the week Shirley Tahirkheli presented an award from the National Science Foundation, given to William in recognition of his valued contributions to the United States Antarctic Program.

Many delegates took the opportunity to add messages to a memory book for William. This book is being sent to William's wife and children.

A total of 35 papers were presented throughout the week. Each day was given a specific theme: Special Collections, Science, History, Client Services, Databases and Bibliographies. Many long-time Colloquy members updated delegates on projects and developments, while a number of speakers new to Colloquy brought us information about their institutions and work. Tuesday afternoon saw a first for Colloquy when Dennis Stephens directed a number of delegates through a productin of his one act play "Being a Librarian: Multi-Tasking at the Reference Desk, ca. 1890" based on an article by Horace Kephart.

Three one-hour speakers' panels resulted in a good deal of animated discussion at the conference.

Judie Triplehorn and Ron Inouye

from University of Alaska Fairbanks, Ross Goodwin from the Arctic Science and Technology Information System (ASTIS), and Elva Simundsson from Fisheries and Oceans Canada formed a panel that addressed a number of issues related to Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

Sandy Campbell from the University of Alberta presented a think piece on Polar Virtual Reference Collaboration. This topic was especially interesting to delegates in light of the request David Walton presented from the University of the Arctic asking how Colloquy might support a virtual library for the University. The last panel, delivered by Cameron Macdonald of Canada's National Research Council Press and David Walton, discussed the pros and cons of Open Access Publishing.

Posters were on display throughout the week, from the Programma Nazionale di Ricerche in Antartide, the Canadian Circumpolar Institute and the Scott Polar Research Institute. Ottawa is the national capital of Canada and is home to a number of important Canadian institutions, some of which delegates were able to visit during the week. At the main building of Library and Archives Canada, Elaine Hoag from the Rare Book Collection made a presentation on the Library's impressive shipboard printing collection. On another day we were

Delegates were, as always, very mittee for all their support and advice leading up to the confer-

ence. The organizers also wish to thank the delegates for their participation and wonderful presentations.

Delegates were, as always, very generous in contributing both items and money to the Wenger Auction to support future delegates who may need financial assistance to attend. Almost \$2,000 CAD was collected. Three delegates were able to attend Colloquy in Ottawa, thanks to the generosity of Colloquy members in Copenhagen.

At the closing banquet on Friday evening, Dennis Stephens played a lament for William Mills on his bagpipes. Sun's drum (Siqiniup Qilauta), an Inuit group, performed throat singing and drum dancing and demonstrated traditional Inuit games.

Proceedings for the 20th Colloquy should be available before Christmas 2004.

Organizers of the 20th Polar Libraries Colloquy wish to thank the PLC Steering Committee for all their support and advice leading up to the conference. The organizers also wish to thank the delegates for their participation and wonderful presentations.

We look forward to seeing many of you again in Rome in 2006.

Julia Finn, Colloquy Host

(Colloquy Reports continue on page 7)

(Wenger Award--Cont. from pg. 1) conference.

for now." We went on to talk about the (then) forthcoming colloquy in Ottawa and William told me about the Hubert Wenger Awards that were available, musing aloud that this might be of assistance to a "penniless postgrad," as he put it.

William had told me in an earlier telephone conversation that, as far as he was aware, no-one else was working on anything like the database of books and specialist articles about Spitsbergen that I had begun to compile as a background to my intended doctoral studies. "I think we'd really like to hear about your database," he said, and his much-needed words of encouragement kept me going for months afterwards.

I cited William in funding application after funding application, until at last the Framkomitéens polarfond in Oslo awarded a bursary, enabling me to devote two months' full-time research to my database.

This gave me the confidence to apply to Polar Libraries Colloquy for a Wenger Award and when the award was made, this, in turn, inspired the University of Tromsø's History Institute (where, by this time, I had become a fully-fledged Ph.D. candidate) to fund my travel and accommodation costs. A tortuous chain of events, which finally enabled me to attend the Ottawa

This is by way of a lengthy introduction to the conference itself, which, as anyone who attended will tell you, was an outstanding success on all fronts. From my point of view, the whole week was filled with interesting and useful presentations; practical help and advice was offered from all sides; networks established that I hope will stand me in good stead for years to come; the experience gained of presenting my own conference paper; access to bibliographical Polar expertise on the broadest possible scale – and all in an atmosphere of informative and, may I say, luxurious fun! Too many good events to single out the best one, but possibly the quirkiest was an enthusiastic discussion about Arctic texts that I might have time to translate when I retire!

This was my first introduction to Canada, and I am now searching for any and every excuse to get back there as soon as possible; in the meantime, I am looking forward enormously to the next conference in Rome. I find it deeply supportive to know that Polar Libraries Colloquy attracts people from all over the world who have an overwhelming interest in the Polar regions. I should like to make special mention of the Wenger Awards auction: it was wonderful to have the chance to participate in an event that will enable other people to be offered the same, fantastic chance that I had this

year. It only remains for me to say a heartfelt "thank you" for the Hubert Wenger Award, and to William Mills for the original idea.

Mary Katherine Jones
PhD Candidate

(Non-Librarian--Cont. from pg. 4)

was seeing the Commons chamber absolutely bare, despite being told that each of the 306 seats represented an average of 1000 people! (Am still puzzling over that one.)

Since I'm not a librarian or an information systems person (being married to one only almost counts), many of the papers were a little out of my league, but I was interested to learn about all the new technology which will ultimately affect much historical research. I suppose as an historian, I get a little concerned when I see everything going into a computer. There's something about a card catalogue that doesn't require second guessing the systems designer, and creative stack-cruising was always my most productive library time, but I do understand that things move on, although the little research man in my brain still sends up the occasional red flag when I see a web site instead of a book or papers. I was fascinated by those presentations dealing with map-making, and polar exploration, and was

(Non-Librarian--Cont. on pg. 8)

(Variety--Cont. from pg. 4)

She told several anecdotes of using targeted forms of communication in order to disseminate a message; for example, using posters and traditional wall hangings to inform northern residents about contaminants in the environment.

Libraries, as access points for information, are natural partners between different groups and institutions in making sure that necessary information gets to those who need it. I very much enjoyed Yvonne Earle and Rae-Lynne Patterson's discussion on resource sharing in Nunavut, as well as the panel on traditional ecological knowledge. Presentations by Canadian federal government agencies on GIS and northern claims (Dave Perrin, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada) and the National Library of Medicine's Arctic Health Website were exciting views into the potential and power of information sharing.

The PLC also served as a point for future planning for libraries and the polar library community. Relevant presentations included Liz L'Heureux's description of film and video preservation best practices, David Walton's discussion on building a virtual reference library for the University of the Arctic, and the articulation of a polar libraries' virtual reference service, by Sandy Campbell.

One of the highlights of the PLC was surely Dennis Stephens' multimedia play for voices, "Being a Librarian: Multi-tasking at the

Reference Desk," based on Horace Kephart's writings. This piece was lighthearted, funny, and amazingly contemporary. We could all relate to the demands of the desk circa 1890!

It was a busy, informative, stimulating week of research presented by a great variety of participants. Complementing this were the site visits to Library and Archives Canada, the Gatineau Preservation Centre, the Parliament Buildings, and the Canadian Museum of Civilization. As a first-timer, I left with my knowledge of polar libraries and polar research much enhanced, both through presentations and through the many interesting casual discussions with other colleagues. Much applause should be given to Julia Finn, Elise Chodat, Christiane Corneau, and the other staff of the Indian and Northern Affairs Departmental Library for organizing such an energizing colloquy.

*Allison Sivak
University of Alberta*

(Non-Librarian--Cont. from pg. 7)

even more intrigued by the talk at the National Library & Archives about ship-board printing. It was an element of northern exploration with which I wasn't familiar, and was worth the trip. I was also able to take back some useful information to the Archives of the Diocese of

Rupertsland, which though small and almost penniless, tries hard to do it right.

As some of you know, I returned home to a big move, the last one ever before the nursing home I hope. I am now more or less settled in the country, but with all the usual country problems. But it is so quiet and peaceful, and I hope when the dust settles I can get on with some writing. The paper I presented about Rupertsland may well turn into a book, but of course all the research material is in Winnipeg and I no longer live there! I also hope to work on a private collection of arctic memoirs, diaries, and photographs that I was lucky enough to be invited to see this spring in British Columbia. They are owned by a sprightly octogenarian whose grandmother was the fated woman in the last chapter of my book on white women in the Arctic, and whose granddaughter has provided me with the definitive answer to my questions about what happened at Herschel Island.

Thank you again for the Wenger award. I'm not sure about Rome, but it sure is tempting. Maybe I can cut down trees and sell firewood! Cheers to everyone.

*Barbara E Kelcey
MATLOCK, MB R0C 2B0*

This concludes the five
2004 PLC Colloquy
Reports

IN TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM JAMES MILLS

REMEMBERING WILLIAM JAMES MILLS

14 August 1951 – 8 May 2004

It is always difficult to sum up a friend's life in just a few words, more especially so when their lives seem to have been cut short just when their greatest achievements have come. So it is with William, a friend and colleague to many both in the UK and throughout the world. In the 15 years he had been Librarian at the Scott Polar Research Institute he had achieved an amazing range of changes and improvements, but there was still more to come as the ideas continued to bubble to the surface.

First some of the facts. Born in Hitchin in 1951 he grew up in Oxford. He chose to go to Cambridge for his university education and read Geography at Emmanuel College. After graduation he decided to try teaching but that soon proved to be the wrong choice and he then trained as a librarian. Clearly finding an aptitude for this career he went first as a librarian to the Geography Department in Oxford University and then moved to Aston University in Birmingham.

Wanting a change he applied for the post of SPRI Librarian in 1989 when Valerie Galpin left,

with little hope of getting it as he knew very little about the polar regions. Presumably the other candidates knew even less and his enthusiasm carried the day. It turned out to be an inspired change of focus. William was a quick learner and soon realised that the Polar Regions had awakened a deep and lasting interest in him that made the job his life. In the 15 years he spent as Librarian and later as Keeper of the Collections he brought about major changes in the library in many areas, all ably documented by Shirley Sawtell in this volume. Perhaps his most outstanding achievement, along with the Director Dr. John Heap, was the development of the Shackleton Library, architecturally innovative and providing a wonderful working environment and much needed extra shelving for the growing collections.

Whilst all this dwells on his professional career there was a much more important and fundamental shift in his personal life. Visiting the Antarctic as a cruise ship lecturer he chanced to meet a young Taiwanese woman and fell in love. Their meeting at South Georgia, on a visit to Shackleton's grave, was remembered at his cremation service when he chose to include a passage from the poem *Prospect* by Robert Browning, Shackleton's favourite poet. With marriage in 1999, his life changed rapidly, es-

pecially when their first child Jacquie arrived. The twins Tony and John followed 18 months later. Whilst previously he had got up early in the morning to work on a book or paper, or practise his lute playing, now it was to look after the babies!

In the latter part of 2003 the cancer he thought he had fought and overcome returned with a vengeance and proved untreatable. He bore his fate with philosophical dignity and set his heart on achieving two goals before he died. The first and easiest was to see the book he had laboured over so long--*Exploring Polar Frontiers--a historical encyclopaedia*--published and available. Many others will sing its praises anyway and it has already won an award from the Alaska Library Association. Suffice it to say that even after 35 years in polar research I found a great deal in this work that I had never heard about before. In this book, written in his clean, clear and understated style, William has left a major and lasting memorial to his scholarship and passion for the Polar Regions.

The second objective was to move his family out of the house in the centre of Newmarket to live in a small village outside Cambridge. Despite his illness this also was achieved with a

(Cont. on pg. 10)

(Remembering--Cont. from pg. 9)

great deal of help from his many friends.

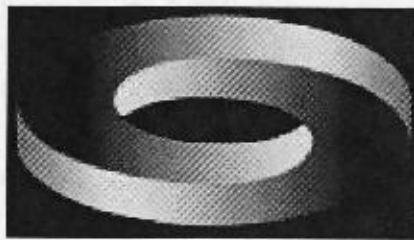
I had known William since he first came to SPRI, not least because of a shared passion for polar literature. We normally shared a room at the Colloquy (and I can therefore state with conviction that he really could snore!), we sat on committees together, we met at many social occasions, and as I am the person responsible for the BAS grant to the library we agreed a work plan on Antarctic literature each year.

In his memory the Friends of the Scott Polar have established the William Mills Library Acquisitions Fund to continue to add to what for William and many others is the best polar library in the world. A glacier flowing down into the Ronne Ice Shelf in the Antarctic was also recently named in his honour.

He was a thoughtful, kind and caring person, unfailingly polite and courteous, amusing and enthusiastic, dedicated to his family and the library and eccentric in what can only be described as a "Cambridge way"! He helped many people in his many different roles, including those he undertook for the Colloquy. We shall all miss him in many and various ways, but none more so than his young family. Our thoughts must surely go out to Dion and the children whose time with him was far too short.

I told him In February that we would be dedicating this Colloquy to him in recognition both of his many achievements and because his many friends across the world wanted to do this. He has left us with our personal memories as well as all his writings and the ideas he brought to fruition. It is a life well worth celebrating.

David Walton



submitted by David Walton:

Prospice

I was ever a fighter, so-one fight more
 The best and the last!
 I would hate that death bandaged my eyes, and forebore,
 And bade me creep past.
 No! let me taste the whole of it, fare like my peers
 The heroes of old,
 Bear the brunt, in a minute pay glad life's arrears
 Of pain, darkness, and cold.
 For sudden the worst turns the best of the brave,
 The black minute's at end,
 And the elements rage, the fiend-voices that rave,
 Shall dwindle, shall blend,
 Shall change, shall become first a peace out of pain

Robert Browning

LIBRARIAN AND KEEPER OF COLLECTIONS

William's title at the Scott Polar Research Institute was an intriguing one to many Colloquy members. What exactly does it mean? David Walton explains: "The normal appointment at SPRI is as Librarian (which is how William was first appointed), and as such the post is simply responsible for the library itself. When promoted to Librarian and Keeper of the Collections, William took on the additional responsibility for the Archives and the Museum as well, and effectively became the deputy to the Director."

THE MILLS GLACIER

On March 31, 2004, as a mark of William's achievements in the Polar world, the Antarctic Place Names Committee named a glacier the MILLS GLACIER. "This is to commemorate the contribution of Mr. William James Mills to Antarctic historical research, especially the comprehensive encyclopedia *EXPLORING POLAR FRONTIERS* that was

published by ABC-CLIO in 2003. The Mills Glacier is an Inlet in the Evans Ice Stream, which provides a route down onto the ice stream from the Fowler Peninsula, draining part of upland West Antarctica. Its location is 77 (degrees) 27' S, 65 (degrees) 37' W." William was delighted that the Mills Glacier will appear on the British Antarctic Survey Map "Antarctic Peninsula and the Weddell Sea".

*Information provided by
Shirley Sawtell*

WILLIAM MILLS LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS FUND APPEAL

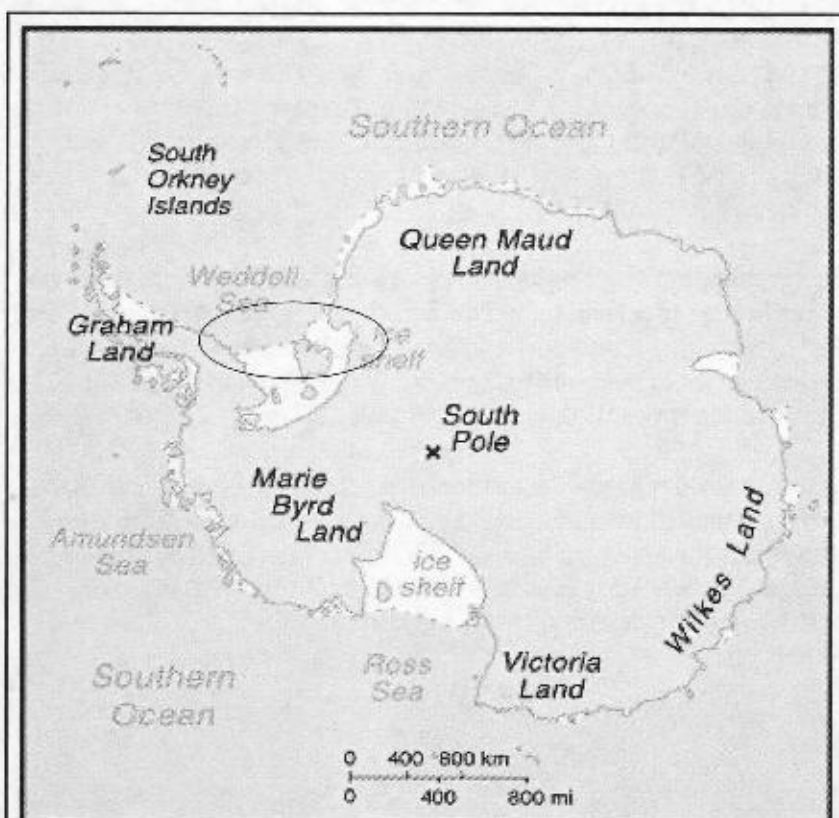
The William Mills Library Acquisitions Fund Appeal has been set up in honour of William's work as Librarian and Keeper of the Collections at the Scott Polar Research Institute from 1989 to 2004. The Fund will be a tangible acknowledgement of his contributions both to the Institute and to the many Library visitors that were helped by him. This will be an endowment fund, the income from which will be used to purchase books, periodicals and maps for the library of the Scott Polar Research Institute.

The Friends of SPRI are launching this Fund with an initial target to raise 50,000 British pounds sterling. The PLC Steering Committee, on behalf of PLC members, approved a contribution of 100 pounds.

Contributions (payable to the University of Cambridge) should be sent to:

The William Mills Library
Acquisitions Fund Appeal
c/o The Friends Secretary
Scott Polar Research Institute
Lensfield Road
Cambridge CB2 1ER
United Kingdom

*Information provided
by Shirley Sawtell*



"The Mills Glacier is an Inlet in the Evans Ice Stream, which provides a route down onto the ice stream from the Fowler Peninsula..."



OFFICE OF POLAR PROGRAMS

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

4201 Wilson Boulevard
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

June 7, 2004

Mrs. Dione Mills and family
Cambridge, United Kingdom

Dear Mrs. Mills:

During his career as Librarian and Keeper of Collections at the Scott Polar Research Institute, William James Mills greatly advanced access to arctic and antarctic information, areas of key significance to the National Science Foundation.

In close cooperation with the Library of Congress and later the American Geological Institute, William Mills made the Library of the Scott Polar Research Institute by far the most potent international collaborator in the U.S. Cold Regions Bibliography Project. This joint approach brought the NSF-supported effort to a completeness that otherwise would not have been possible.

An indication of his perseverance and thoroughness was his initiative to reach back in time and digitize entries in the retrospective Antarctic Bibliography that the United States Navy had compiled in 1951. Bringing this overlooked tool online completed our two nations' quest for worldwide access to Antarctica's research literature spanning the centuries from earliest times to the present.

Published research literature is the irrefutable measure of scientific progress. William Mills made a highly significant contribution to gaining bibliographic control of the polar research literature. With thanks for his work and sadness at his passing, I enclose on behalf of the National Science Foundation an award to William James Mills for his valued contributions to the United States Antarctic Program.

Sincerely,

Karl A. Erb
Office Director

Beware of polar bears with knives

My goodness, what talented polar bears they have on Baffin Island! I'm referring to your article of Dec. 23 ("Quebec man honoured for fighting off polar bear").

The article states: "A Quebec man was awarded a Carnegie Medal for bravery yesterday for saving two friends by fighting off a polar bear that was mauling them with a pocketknife two years ago on Baffin Island."



Perhaps this was just an editing oversight, and that it was really the Quebec man who had the knife. We should all be more careful with language. It seems to me anything is acceptable these days.

*Barbara Martin
Otterburn Park*

This newspaper clipping was given to us by PLC Honorary Member Nora Corley Murchison. She found it in the Montreal Gazette. Unfortunately, we have no date, but suspect it was late 2003 or early 2004.

BRITISH POLITICIANS SUPPORT OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING

After an exhaustive investigation with many witnesses and pages of written evidence, the Select Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Commons has come out in favour of changing the present system. Their report, *SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS: FREE FOR ALL?*, which is published at www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/science_and_technology_committee.cfm makes 82 recommendations, covering a wide field from the effectiveness of peer review to the system of legal deposit for electronic journals. They accept that the public should have a right of access to research funded from public monies. They believe that the author-pays system can be both viable and effective but that problems with societies etc. still need to be sorted out. There is a great deal of interest in the two volumes. For anyone wanting to keep up to date with this rapidly changing field, hard copy is available at The H.M. Stationery Office.

Contributed by David Walton

PLC TO MEET IN ROME IN 2006

Rome is getting ready to welcome Polar librarians!

The 21st Polar Libraries Colloquy will be held in Rome, Italy on May 8-12, 2006.

The hosting organization is the Italian Antarctic Program, a national research program borne in 1985 with the aim of carrying out research activities in Antarctica and of promoting polar sciences all over the Country.

To achieve these aims the Italian Antarctic Program built national and international networks with the organizations involved in polar regions and in this sense its Library is one of the most active tools. For this reason PNRA (Programma Nazionale di Ricerche in Antartide) is honoured to host the network of the PLC's members and is working to do this in the best way.

Inquiries and suggestions should be addressed to:

Silvia Sarti
Italian Antarctic Program
Library
Via Anguillarese, 301
00060 S. Maria di Galeria (RM)
Tel: (+39) 06 3048 6498
Fax: (+39) 06 3048 4893

Silvia Sarti

CHANGES IN HBC ARCHIVES

After almost 13 years as Head, Research & Reference, in the Hudson's Bay Company Archives, Archives of Manitoba, I felt I'd had more than enough of answering other people's questions! So as of October 2003 I have assumed new responsibilities as Head, Public Programming. My (selfish) goal is to do more of what I like doing. I am involved in coordinating and giving tours, in giving talks about the HBC Archives, in presenting papers at conferences, and generally making the archives better known. I have even been called on, at what seemed like the last minute, to appear on a radio phone-in show as an expert on genealogy. I continue to assist researchers whose projects - for example, books or web sites - require an in-depth knowledge of the records.

I'm also working with colleagues on revamping the tours we give to school groups and on the HBCA web site. During the summer of 2004 an archival intern, Heather Pitcher, is developing a resource kit for teachers, using HBCA records about Aboriginal people. This is something new and really exciting for us..

Marcia Stentz is now the Head, Client Services.

*Anne Morton
Hudson's Bay Company
Archives*

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Information about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, including wildlife, habitat, and travel. Contains documents related to oil and gas exploration, such as site maps and assessments, as well as conservation plans. From the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

<http://arctic.fws.gov/>

Lessons from the Land: A Cultural Journey Through the Northwest Territories

"Lessons from the Land is an interactive, multimedia web exhibit designed to take visitors on virtual journeys of the NWT's [Northwest Territories] traditional Aboriginal trails." Covers topics such as birchbark canoes, fishing, caribou hunting, and cemeteries. Includes a teacher's guide. Available in English, French, and Dogrib. Searchable. Developed by Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife, Canada.

<http://www.lessonsfromtheland.ca/>

*George Smith, Alaska State Library
Friday Bulletin 4-2-04*

Polar Libraries Colloquy
General Membership Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2004

This Colloquy was dedicated to the memory of William Mills, long time PLC secretary/treasurer and dedicated member. The meeting began with the reading of two letters relating to William, and his contributions to PLC. The first was the letter from PLC to Scott Polar Research Institute accompanying the PLC donation of 100£ to the William Mills Fund. This fund was established to purchase key volumes to help complete the library's collection - an objective dear to William's heart. The second was the response from the Director of the Scott Polar Research Institute.

Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the 2002 Membership Meeting were accepted as published in the Polar Libraries Bulletin.

Treasurer Report - June 2004

Accounts

Business Premium Account	50097217	£3,628.45
Community Account	20092207	£ 285.98
Business Reserve Account	90075132	£5,580.32
Total - 2004		£9,494.75

Major Transactions

Income:

PLC 2002 conference income:	£1,570.52	(£1,395.73 of this had been advanced from PLC treasury)
PLC 2002 auction income:	£ 914.37	

Expenditures:

PLC 2004 conference advance:	£1,302.33
Wenger Awards (3):	£ 722.82
Donated to the William Mills Fund:	£ 100.00

Bulletin expenses:

Issue #52-53 (double issue)	£106.49
Issue #54	£ 91.06
	£197.55

Membership

Paid members -	23
Non-paid members -	69
Honorary members -	4

Future treasurer reports will look different. There is at present no interest-income advantage in maintaining three different bank accounts. So the three existing accounts will be merged into one checking account in the near future. It would also be more cost effective to set up a US Dollar account. This would save bank fees every time we deposit dues paid in US Dollars, and every time we issue a US Dollar check to pay for the Bulletin or provide Wenger Awards. This new account will be set up in the near future.

Betty Galbraith explained that for financial reasons it had been decided to keep the treasury in Barclays Bank in Cambridge, UK. With the treasurer in the United States, this necessitated a position of assistant treasurer to do the banking. William Mills had previously agreed to fill this position. With his illness and death, Christine Phillips and David Walton stepped in to solve problems and fill this roll. Betty thanked them for their efforts in difficult circumstances. As of this Colloquy, David Walton will continue to act as assistant treasurer, with Christine Phillips as backup.

Betty presented a proposal that the membership/subscription rate be raised from 5£ per year to 10£ per year. This would be the first increase in dues since the inception of the organization. The increase was necessary in order to have more flexibility in the budget, and to undertake new projects. It was intended that the present subscription rate be used until

flexibility in the budget, and to undertake new projects. It was intended that the present subscription rate be used until the end of 2005. In the spring of 2006 the new subscription rate would go into effect, and the Euro and US dollar amounts would be set. The dues once set will not fluctuate with exchange rates. The proposal passed unanimously.

Betty presented a proposal that the membership period change from annual to biennial. This move would save the expense of sending out renewal forms every year. With a subscription level this minimal, we needed to cut costs as much as possible. The membership period would start each conference year. The next membership period would be 2006/07. The new biennial dues would be 20£, in keeping with the membership increase already voted in. The Motion passed unanimously.

Membership Drive

David Walton announced that the steering committee had decided a membership drive is needed to bring in new librarians from a wider range of institutions. We need to design a new leaflet for mailings. The Steering Committee will work on this. Current members were charged to recruit new members.

Newsletter

A written report of the activities of the Polar Libraries Bulletin during 2002-04 was distributed. The Editors announced that contributions are needed for the newsletter. These can be news notes, new publications of interest to polar librarians, projects that libraries have undertaken, as well as articles. Everyone was asked to contribute. The goal is to increase the size and timeliness of the Bulletin. The next Bulletin will be published in August 2004.

Ottawa Colloquy

Julia Finn announced that this colloquy has been successful: with 67 delegates (compared to 59 in Copenhagen), 35 papers, 3 panels, and 3 posters. The conference will come out in the black, and hopefully return the advance of \$2,000 US to the PLC treasury.

Thanks were extended to Julia Finn, Joanne Noel, and Elise Chodat for their work planning and coordinating this fine conference.

Joint IAMSLIC/PLC conference in Hobart

IAMSLIC has set up one day of their 30th annual conference as joint meeting with PLC. Wednesday, September 8, 2004 will be titled Polar and Oceanographic Information in the 21st Century. Papers will be presented in the morning, followed by an afternoon tour of the Australian Antarctic Division. The closing date for abstracts is July 9, 2004. Registration will be \$100 Australian for one day or \$400 Australian for the week.

Future Colloquies

Sylvia Sarti presented the proposal from the Programma Nazionale di Ricerche in Antartide (PNRA) to host the 21st Colloquy. They plan to meet in Rome, May 8-12, 2006. The invitation was accepted with enthusiasm. No North American venue offers for the 2008 conference had been received.

University of the Arctic Project

The University of the Arctic has asked for our help in establishing a circumpolar network of virtual reference materials. These would be used by researchers and students in the Arctic. After discussing this request, it was decided that the members of PLC are well equipped to assist the University of the Arctic. What we need is clarification of what they see the project entailing. One person should act as point person, to keep the project rolling on our end, and keep lines of communication open between the two organizations. Sandy Campbell volunteered to act as the discussion liaison to the University of the Arctic, in the Steering Committee Meeting that followed the General Membership Meeting.

Steering Committee Election

The following people were elected to the 2004-06 PLC Steering Committee: Berit Jakobsen (Norway), Marcel Brannemann (Germany), David Walton (UK), Judy Tripplehorn (US), and Sandy Campbell (Canada)

Vibeke Sloth Jakobsen (chair) and Betty Galbraith (secretary/treasurer) continue on the Steering Committee.

Ex-officio members are: Silvia Sarti (21st Colloquy planner), Cathie Innes-Taylor and Nancy Lesh (*Bulletin* editors)

Resolutions

A resolution giving Honorary Life Membership to Martha Andrews, for her role in the Colloquy since it's inception was passed by acclamation.

A resolution requesting the membership to consider establishing a "William Mills Prize for Polar Literature" was passed. In the Steering Committee Meeting that followed, Betty Galbraith volunteered to coordinate discussion on the form the prize will take, the guidelines and process for submitting and evaluating titles, and how the prizewinner would be selected.

Two resolutions requesting that every effort be made to continue indexing of polar information for PolarInfo was passed. One copy will go to the Canadian Circumpolar Institute and the other will go to Margaret Law, Associate Director for Science and Technology and Health Sciences, Cameron Library.

A resolution commending the efforts of the conference planning committee on an excellent colloquy was presented and passed by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted
Betty Galbraith

Polar Libraries Colloquy Steering Committee Meeting Minutes June 8 & 9, 2004

June 8 attendees: David Walton (chair) and Betty Galbraith (secretary/treasurer), Berit Jakobsen, Ronald Inouye, Silvia Sarti, Cathie Innes-Taylor, Vibeke Sloth Jakobsen, Julia Finn

June 9 attendees: Vibeke Sloth Jakobsen (chair) and Betty Galbraith (secretary/treasurer), Berit Jakobsen, Marcel Brannemann, David Walton, Judy Tripplehorn, and Sandy Campbell, Silvia Sarti, Cathie Innes-Taylor

Finances

Betty Galbraith provided a printed report of current balances of June 1, 2004, and major expenditures during 2002/04.

The illness and death of William Mills, assistant treasurer, resulted in some problems related to the banking. David Walton and Christine Phillips stepped in to change the signatory authority on the PLC accounts and clear up banking issues. As a result, it was decided that the association will always have two authorized signers on the accounts. David volunteered to fill the role of assistant treasurer, with Christine as backup.

An evaluation of the current PLC accounts revealed that at present there is little value in maintaining three separate



accounts. Interest rates have dropped to the point that we are not getting enough income to justify the extra paperwork and effort of transferring money from one account to another. It was decided to merge the funds into one account. Meanwhile the bank charges for exchanging money is a significant draw on our limited funds. Every time we paid for the Bulletin, we paid a fee to issue a US Dollar check. Every time we received dues in US Dollars we paid a fee to convert it to Pounds Sterling. It was therefore decided to set up a US Dollar account at Barclays. Dues in US funds would be deposited, and checks drawn without the exchange fees. These banking changes will be completed after Colloquy.

Membership Dues and Bulletin Subscriptions

Our account balances and income are too small for the organization to take on any projects that involve significant expenditures of money. In fact, if we were to have a series of conferences that did not pay for themselves, and drew on our reserves, we would be in serious financial straits. For this reason the treasurer recommended an increase in the dues rate. The dues had not been increased in the life of the organization. Also we were discussing plans to increase the size and frequency of the Bulletin. The current income level could not support this. It was decided to increase the dues from 5£ per year to 10£ per year. The increase in dues would take effect in 2006. This increase in dues would be presented to the membership at the General Membership Meeting.

The treasurer was concerned that the organization does not look up the exchange value of US Dollars and British Pounds Sterling each year to calculate dues in each currency. It was decided that the problems of calculating the exchange rate and notifying the membership were prohibitive. The association will continue to set a firm membership rate in each currency. The treasurer will calculate the rates for each currency at the time that new dues take effect. That dues rate will continue for each until the membership changes the dues rate at a General Business Meeting.

At present we accept dues in US Dollars and British Pounds Sterling. It was decided that the association will now take dues in Euros.

The treasurer recommended that we change the membership from yearly to biennial. This would save the expense of sending out membership renewal letters in the years between conferences. Since the renewal forms sent out with the Bulletin were not successfully bringing in renewals, this could become a significant expense in materials and international postage. This change in the membership period would be presented to the membership at the General Membership Meeting.

The treasurer noted that we have persons attending conferences that never join the organization. She suggested that future conferences include a paid member rate, and a nonmember rate. The nonmember rate would include the conference fee plus membership rate for two years. Many organizations have member and nonmember conference rates, so this would not be considered unusual. By making these people members for two years, they would have an opportunity to see why it would be to their advantage to continue membership. The steering committee decided to do this.

Membership Drive

The Steering Committee was concerned that many of our older librarians were retiring and their replacements were not joining PLC. They discussed the reasons why this was happening and how to counteract the trend. It was decided to undertake a membership drive. A new membership leaflet will be created, for recruiting new librarians, and David Walton will call on our members to approach potential members and extol the virtues of PLC membership.

2004 Colloquy in Ottawa

Julia Finn reported that this is going to be a successful colloquy. There were 67 delegates (compared to 59 in Copenhagen), 35 papers, 3 panels, and 3 posters. The conference was expected come out in the black, and hopefully return the advance of \$2,000 US to the PLC treasury.

Joint IAMSILIC/PLC conference in Hobart

IAMSILIC set up one day of their 30th annual conference as joint meeting with PLC. Wednesday, September 8, 2004 will be titled Polar and Oceanographic Information in the 21st Century. Papers will be presented in the morning, followed by an afternoon tour of the Australian Antarctic Division. The closing date for abstracts is July 9, 2004. David reported that some of the people that would normally have come to this conference were going to Hobart instead.

2006 Colloquy in Rome

The Programma Nazionale di Ricerche in Antartide (PNRA) offered to host the 21st Colloquy. They plan to meet in central

Rome, May 8-12, 2006. Sylvia Sarti presented the proposal to the membership at the Business Meeting.

University of the Arctic Project

The University of the Arctic asked for our help in establishing a circumpolar network of virtual reference materials. Researchers and students in the Arctic would use these. We do not know the full parameters of this project, and our role in it. The steering committee felt it was the type of project that we should be involved with. The Steering Committee supports this project. David Walton presented the proposal at the General Membership Meeting, and the organization is interested in pursuing this project. Sandy Campbell volunteered to act as discussion coordinator, and PLC liaison with the University of the Arctic

PLC Archives

Both the Explorer's Club and the University of Alaska have inquired about housing the archives of PLC. Betty Galbraith asked where the records of PLC are currently housed. Some of them are at the University of Alaska Archives, but we discovered that we do not know where the rest of them are. We need to talk to the remaining founding members (Nita Cooke, Nora Murchison, and Martha Andrews) to find out. Cathie Innes-Taylor offered to start this location effort.

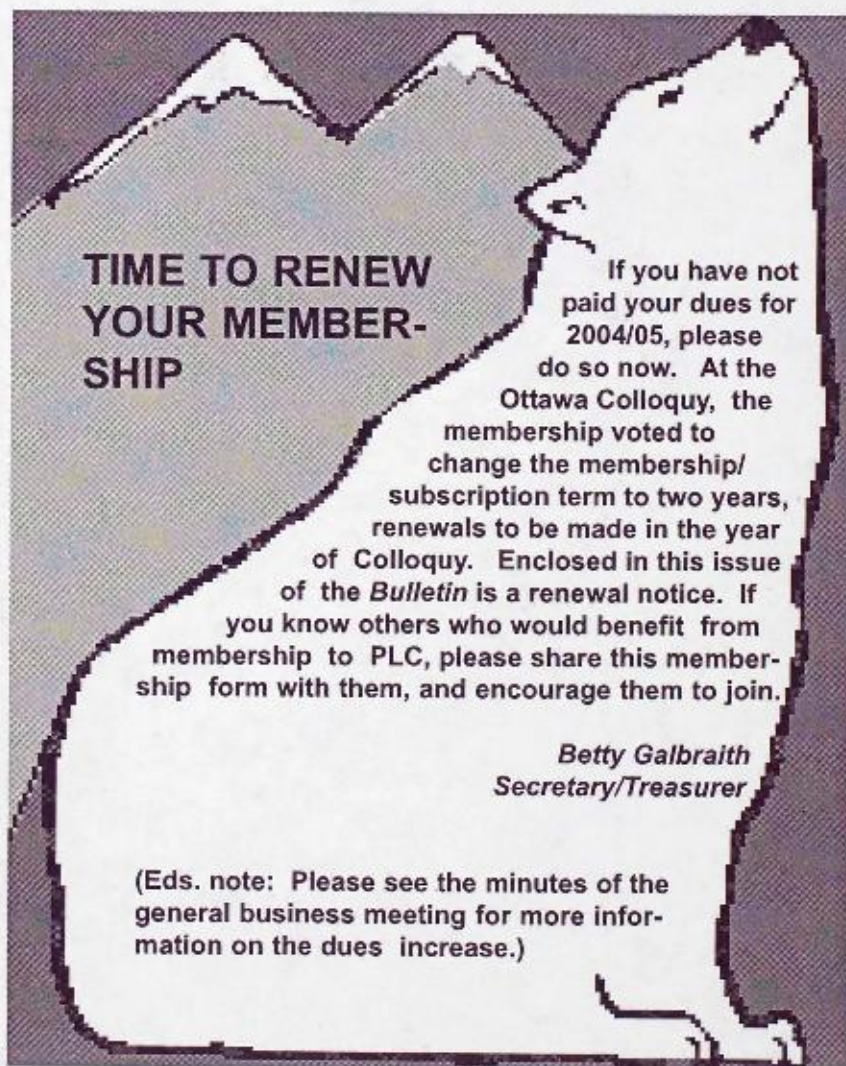
PLC Websites

We need a major redesign of the PLC website and PolarLink. Cathie Innes-Taylor and Sandy Campbell will check with their organizations to see if they would be willing to host the website. They will also check on personnel to do the work.

William Mills Prize

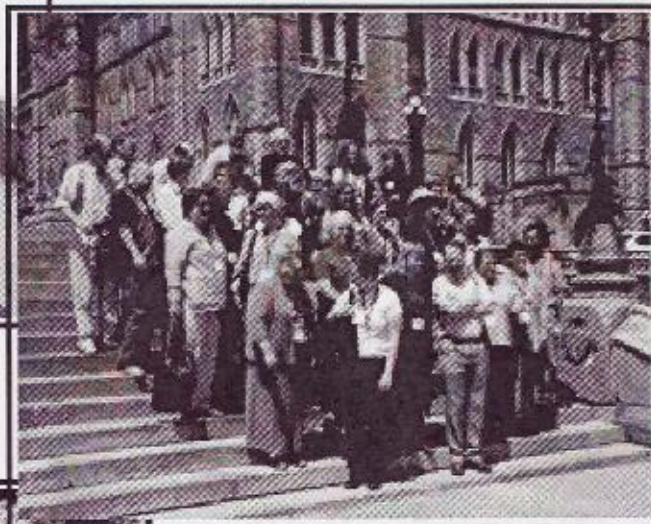
Dennis Stephens presented a resolution requesting the membership to consider establishing a "William Mills Prize for Polar Literature", at the General Membership Meeting. It was passed after discussion. The membership charged the steering committee to look into the process and issues, and make a recommendation at the next colloquy. In the Steering Committee Meeting that followed, Betty Galbraith volunteered to coordinate discussion on the form the prize will take, the guidelines and process for submitting and evaluating titles, and how the prizewinner would be selected.

Respectfully Submitted
Betty Galbraith, PLC Secretary





David Walton, Chair of
PLC 2002-2004



Let's get together for a photo

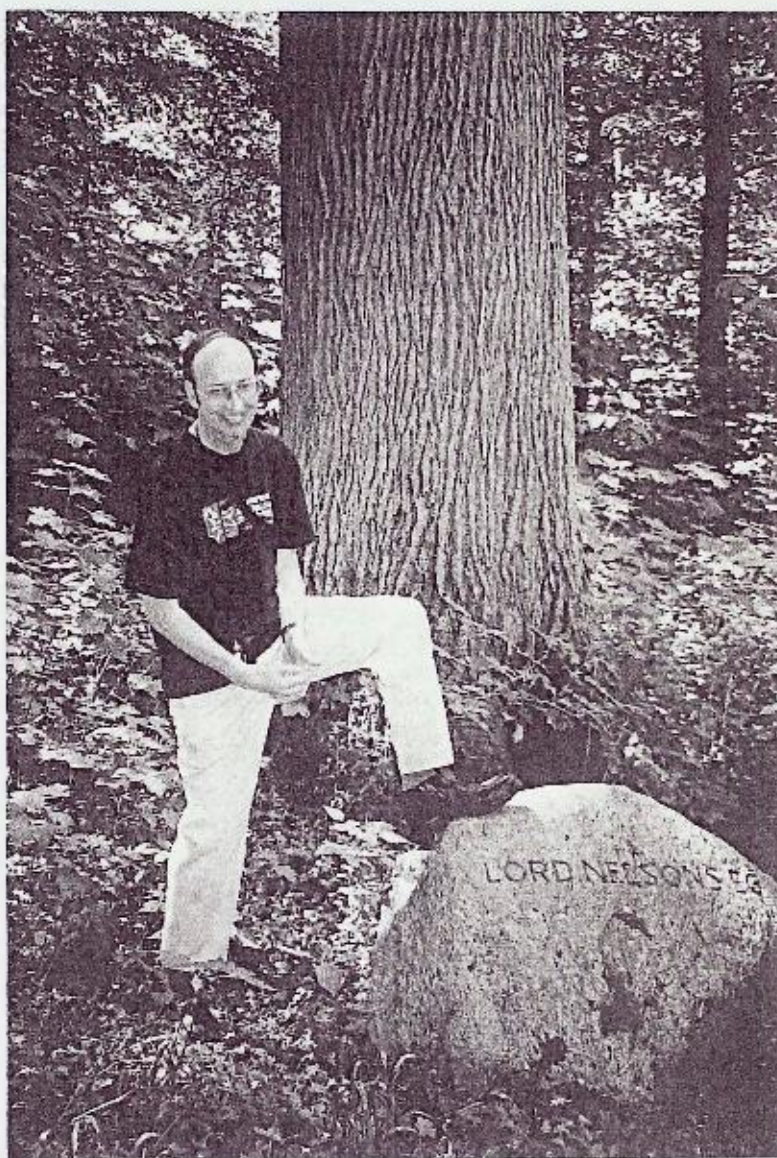


Enjoying a warm, sunny summer day on the grounds of the Governor General's house in Ottawa

Silvia Sarti, Organizer for the 2006 Colloquy, and Vibeke Sloth Jakobsen, PLC Chair



All photos were taken by Marcel Brannemann, with thanks from the Bulletin editors



William James Mills
1951 - 2004