

TREVOR LLOYD (1906–1995)



Trevor Lloyd in his office at McGill University.

Trevor Lloyd died in Ottawa on 6 February 1995, at the age of 88. For more than half a century he had been one of Canada's foremost geographers. He had gained an international reputation for his social science studies of the circumpolar world and particularly for his contributions in northern economic and political geography.

Henry Trevor Lloyd was born in London, England on 4 May 1906. His Quaker parents had come from Wales, and as a young boy he returned with them when they made their home in the Rhondda valley. Before he left school the valley had become the most economically and socially depressed part of the South Wales coal field, and his deep, lifelong concern for social justice in society clearly dated from his personal observations at that time.

He attended Bristol University, graduating with Honours in Geography and Geology in 1929. Two decades later he was awarded a D.Sc. for a thesis which he had prepared during an extended stay in Ottawa in the latter part of and immediately after the war, on "The Geography and Administration of Northern Canada." However, before this, he had already earned a Ph.D. Between 1937 and 1940 he had enrolled as a doctoral candidate at Clark University, Massachusetts, which at that time had one of the leading graduate schools for geography in North America. He submitted a thesis on "A Study of Settlement in the Red River Valley of Manitoba" and

received his Ph.D. "with the highest distinction." Windsor University (Ontario) honored him with an LL.D. in 1973.

As an undergraduate, Trevor Lloyd had been attracted to formal debating, and he quickly became recognized as a "compelling" debater on the British university circuit. His potential skills as a political activist were quickly recognized, and in 1930 he was elected president of the National Union of Students (UK). During that year he visited North America as a member of a British university debating team. Shortly afterwards he returned to Manitoba to take up a position as a specialist Geography Master, first in a private school, and later in the public schools. He had already earned a Teacher's Certificate from the University of London, and shortly afterwards he obtained a Teaching Diploma (Collegiate) from the Manitoba Board of Education.

By 1942 he was attracted to university teaching and was increasingly interested in the North. There were no suitable openings for him in Canadian universities and initially he moved to Carleton College in Minnesota, which was developing a reputation for polar studies. After a few months, he moved again, this time to Dartmouth College, New Hampshire. Trevor Lloyd had only been at Hanover for a brief period, when he was invited to join the Wartime Information Board in Ottawa; he took a leave from Dartmouth that with minor interruptions was eventually extended to four years. In the last year of the war he went to Greenland to replace Max Dunbar as Canadian consul. He had hardly been back in his Dartmouth department (of which he had become chairman) when in 1947 he returned to Ottawa for a year to be appointed Chief of the recently created Geographical Bureau. In this position, continuing the objectives of his predecessor, Diamond Jenness, he was able to encourage and support young scientists who were developing research in the Canadian Arctic and, horror of horrors for the Ottawa bureaucracy at the time, these included women as well as men.

It was in this period that Trevor Lloyd began his close ties to the newly created Arctic Institute of North America. He edited the first two volumes of *Arctic* (1948–49) and the editorial standards as well as the format he established were to remain unchanged for the next 25 years. Created a Fellow in 1948, he became a Governor in 1950. His main contribution to the Institute was maintained in the sixties when he was almost continuously a Governor and for 1967–69, Chairman of the Board. His special interest was in encouraging the expansion of the Institute's outstanding research library.

His stay at Dartmouth in the fifties was not always the happiest, as his close friend, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, who had come with his northern research collection to the Baker Library of the College, had attracted unfavorable attention from the House Un-American Activities Committee. Trevor was not implicated, but he felt bitterly the unjustness of the attacks; in his view, no student of the circumpolar world could ignore such a large part of it. He left Dartmouth in 1959 to become the first Professor of Human Geography at McGill University; three years later he became chairman of the

department, a position he held until the end of 1966. Trevor Lloyd was recognized as a first-class teacher at both Dartmouth and McGill. He never failed to convey to undergraduates a geographer's awareness of the land and sympathy for its peoples, and graduate students who were working in the North and whom he had met elsewhere, particularly at Dartmouth, came to McGill to join him.

He was fortunate in his period of tenure as McGill departmental chairman, as it coincided with a period of stability and considerable economic prosperity in the university. Under his guidance and driven by his great energy, the department doubled its size and expanded its northern research interests, which until then had been primarily in the physical environment, into social, economic and cultural fields. He revitalized the Stanstead Geography Summer School which specialized in arctic programs. He paid particular attention to the needs of schoolteachers specializing in geography and put into effect his plans to improve the quality of geography teaching in McGill's Institute of Education. With external help, he initiated a review of the map resources of the university, a consequence of which today is the large map and airphoto collection, now part of the university's Hirschfeld environmental library.

Although his contributions to his department and the university were considerable during these years, he found time for travel throughout the polar regions. His early interests in Greenland were maintained, but in addition he visited northern Scandinavia, with special emphasis on northern Norway on several occasions (he was a governor of the Canadian Scandinavian Foundation for many years) and was especially successful in establishing contacts with the northern research institutes of the USSR and in visiting northern Russia. It seemed inevitable that Trevor Lloyd would apply his northern experience to assist resource development in arctic and subarctic lands. He was consulted frequently by industry, most notably during the preliminary discussions concerning the mining of northern Ungava iron ores and the establishment of winter facilities in southwestern Greenland for transshipment to smelters in central Europe.

Trevor Lloyd took an extended sabbatical leave in 1967, which he spent in Britain, the Scandinavian countries and Russia. On his return to McGill he broadened his activities by being elected a member of Senate and becoming President of the McGill Association of University Teachers. Throughout his career he had supported national and international societies and institutions. He was President of the Canadian Association of Geographers (1957–58) and had received its award for "Service to the Profession of Geography." Many will recall his pleasure at the society's annual banquet in Saskatoon that year, when he discovered that the organizers had seated Tommy Douglas, a friend from Cooperative Commonwealth Federation days, next to him. He had been a vice president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and in 1964, Chairman of Section F, Geology and Geography. At the same time, in Canada, he was a member of the National Committee for Geography and when the 22nd International Geographical Congress met in Montreal in 1972, he supervised all national radio, TV and newspaper publicity.

When the Arctic Institute left Montreal in 1975, Trevor Lloyd felt he had lost close contact with two first-class northern libraries, the Arctic Institute's and the Baker collection. He worked wholeheartedly to develop McGill's Centre for Northern Studies and Research, and was its director in the last years before he retired in 1977. After retirement he did not remain long in Montreal, but returned to Ottawa where he continued to work for the rest of his life on Canadian northern administrative policies. He became deeply committed to founding a national Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies and became its executive director in 1980. At this time, his daughter was living in Denmark, and Trevor—who had felt a close attachment to Denmark since the early 1930s, when he was attracted to its experiments in education as well as its role in the development of Greenland—spent much of his time there.

He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and had received many honors in his lifetime, including the Hans Egede medal of the Royal Danish Geographical Society and the Massey medal of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

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