

EARTH SCIENTISTS ELECTED TO THE ACADEMIA EUROPAEA

In 2015, five Earth scientists were elected as members of the Academia Europaea (www.ae-info.org). Academia Europaea was founded in 1988 and is a European, nongovernmental association that acts as an academy and has about 2800 members. It includes leading experts from the physical sciences and technology, the Earth and environmental sciences, the biological sciences and medicine, mathematics, the letters and humanities, the social and cognitive sciences, economics, and law.



Greg Houseman is a professor of geophysics in the School of Earth and Environment at the University of Leeds (UK). Houseman researches the deformation and instability of the continental mantle lithosphere by using both computational modeling techniques and regional seismic tomography. He previously held posts at Monash University (Australia), Australian National University, and Harvard University (Massachusetts, USA).



Sean Willett is a professor of Earth surface dynamics at Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, or ETH Zürich, in Switzerland), where he works on the interactions among tectonics, climate, erosion, and sedimentation. His research makes use of forward and inverse models, as well as innovative applications of thermochronometry and geochemical proxies, working towards a better understanding of the Earth's surface.



Ülo Mander is a professor of physical geography and landscape ecology and head of the Department of Geography within the Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences at the University of Tartu (Estonia). His research interests include nutrients and carbon cycling in landscapes and ecosystems and ecological engineering (material flux controls in watersheds using constructed wetlands and riparian buffer zones). He is currently a visiting professor at the French National Research Institute of Science and Technology for Environment and Agriculture (IRSTEA) in Antony/Paris.



Klaus Mezger is a professor of isotope geology in the Department of Geological Sciences, University of Bern (Switzerland). His research and teaching center on geochemistry and cosmochemistry. His main research interests are the timing and processes of planet formation in the Solar System and the genesis and evolution of Earth's continental crust, including its metamorphic transformation.



Dimitrios Sokoutis is a professor and the director of the Tectonic Laboratory at Utrecht University (Netherlands) and adjunct professor at the University of Oslo (Norway). His research combines field studies with physical analogue modeling and builds bridges to numerical modeling. He integrates these methods to study rheological aspects of lithosphere deformation and feedback relations with surface processes.

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the last people to visit this area. We found a note from Dawes and Soper recording their discovery in a sardine tin on the summit of Kap Washington. We replaced it reverently in its tin. Perhaps it is still there, all alone. Every four days we used a helicopter to move camp and for reconnaissance. At its most distant, our tiny two-man tent was 185 km from base and for much of the expedition we were the most northerly humans on Earth, except, possibly, for those lurking in nuclear submarines under the Arctic Ocean. All the world's teeming billions down there, beneath our feet.

Real adventure arrived with a bang on Kap Washington when on the 7th August our tent blew away in a violent sleet storm. Soaked to the skin in ice-cold water at 83°33' N, in a wind that made standing difficult, conditions were less than ideal, but we managed to make a mayday call to base. After a cold 'night' (it never got dark during the expedition) spent under the groundsheet of our ruined tent, we were rescued by a brave and skilful Swiss helicopter pilot and flown to the nearest Sirius hut. There are about 50 Sirius huts in North Greenland, named after Sirius, the Dog Star. They are used by the Sirius Patrol, an elite unit of the Danish Navy that maintains Danish sovereignty in northern Greenland using two-man dog teams of up to 15 dogs. After we had slept, the pilots made us a real Swiss cheese fondue. They had all the accoutrements: the silver bowl, the heater to keep it warm and the special forks. When we returned to Kap Washington four days later to recover our gear, it was under a metre of snow. Summer was over.

During the two-month field season, we sometimes landed at Frigg Fjord on a gravel strip (FIG. 2) where previously Fränkl and Müller had landed their floatplane on the open water of 'hot-house'. Like them, my assistant and I encountered a polar wolf, solitary and rare. It walked up and down a few metres in front of us, with its nose in the air, decided we



FIGURE 3 Home, sweet home. Peter Brown at our camp on the northeast side of Lockwood Island, in the Late Palaeocene Kap Washington volcanics.

didn't smell too good, and padded off up a stream bed into the void that is Peary Land. When, as a teenager, I bought my mountaineering book at a church fête, the idea that I might experience such remote spaces led me to study geology. Never for one moment did I expect to follow so closely in the steps of these two adventurous Swiss geologists.

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