

A Symposium in Honour of Aleksis Dreimanis

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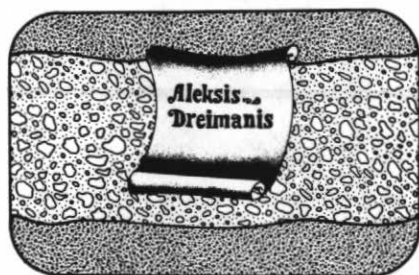
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A Symposium in Honour of Aleksis Dreimanis

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Introduction: A Tribute to an Outstanding Canadian Geoscientist.

A symposium was held at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, on October 10, 1980, to commemorate the "official retirement" of Professor Aleksis Dreimanis from the Geology Department. This collection of papers honours his enormous contribution to Quaternary and glacial geology and comprises the written papers of that symposium, which were orally presented around a central theme of "Quaternary geology applied to modern and future earth and environmental sciences". Papers were invited from Canadian experts to cover a range of pertinent topics stressing economic and environmental applications. Prof. R.P. Goldthwait, a world-renowned American Quaternarist, provided an historical perspective for the others.

This collection summarizes views at a critical time when man has become the dominant agent of change of the Earth's surface. It is perhaps timely to review and assess Quaternary research and land use strategies before irreparable environmental damage occurs, if it has not already.



It is also appropriate that this commemorative volume, which honours one of Canada's most distinguished geoscientists, is published by Geoscience Canada. Aleksis Dreimanis, FRSC, D.Sc. (h.c.) (Waterloo, 1969; Western Ontario, 1980), Mag. rer. nat. (Riga, Latvia), was born at Riga in 1914 and came to Canada from a displaced persons' camp in Germany in 1948 to teach geology at the University of Western Ontario. Since then he has received the highest academic laurels, published over 150 scientific papers, and held important positions in various national and international committees and associations. He is currently President of the American Quaternary Association, of the INQUA Commission on Lithology and Genesis of Glacial Deposits, and of the Canadian work group of the IGCP project on Glaciation of the Northern Hemisphere. He is a Fellow of the Geological Association of Canada, the Royal Society of Canada, the Geological Society of America, and has received the GAC's Logan Medal, and an Ontario University Teaching Award.

Aleksis is still very active. He remains a prolific writer (as evidenced by his paper in this volume), continues to teach and supervise graduate and postdoctoral research (as Professor Emeritus at Western), has increased his committee, speaking, and teaching engagements around the world, and is even tackling new research problems as well as completing ongoing ones.

Credit is due to Bill Fyfe, Gordon Winder, Jackie Ainge, Karin Lootsma, Joan Crockett, Lynn Willmore, Bruce Broster, Bob Stewart, Michel Lamothe, Michel Parent, and Terry Day for their assistance in making the symposium a success. D.F. Eschman (University of Michigan) reviewed all manuscripts.

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