

PLC 2020 in Québec City—Preparations Underway

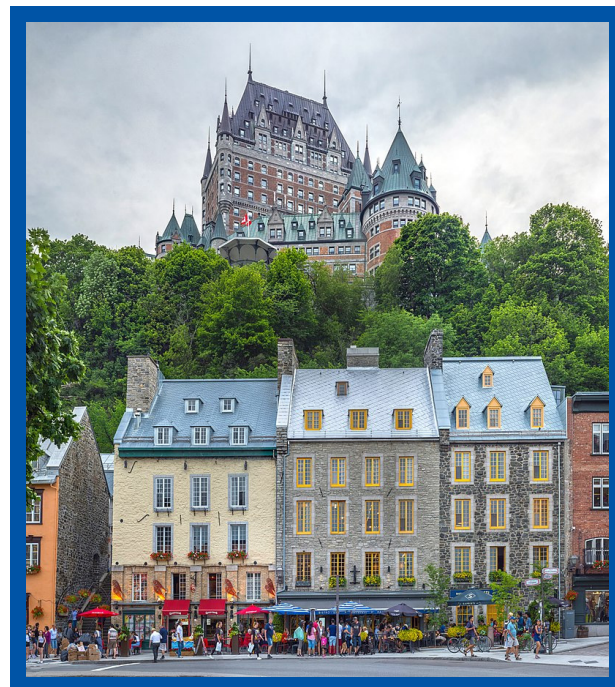
Registration & Call for Papers Open

Plans have been progressing well for the 28th Polar Libraries Colloquy, to be held 7–13 June 2020. The host committee has been working hard to offer a stimulating and enjoyable conference set in the beautiful surroundings of Québec City's Université Laval. Located in the heart of French-speaking North America, the Université Laval is the oldest French-language university in North America and one of the largest research universities in Canada.

The Colloquy theme is *Sharing Polar Cultures and Knowledge: Perspectives from Libraries and Archives*. It will showcase the captivating work of northern and Arctic researchers from various fields, with an emphasis on the significant role played by librarians and libraries in polar studies.

The discovery of Québec culture, particularly that related to Northern Québec and the Québec winter will be a focus, with sightseeing trips to magnificent [Old Québec](#), the Montmorency Forest (the world's largest teaching and research forest), the Plains of Abraham, and the [Charlevoix](#) area (one of Québec's most beautiful vacation regions).

A few of the other highlights include quality and affordable accommodations available on campus at the [Hébergement hôtelier du Service des](#)



View of Old Québec from Lower Town. Château Frontenac is visible at the top. (Photograph courtesy of The Photographer, Wikipedia, Creative Commons)

[résidences de l'Université Laval](#), and nearby at the [Hotel Universel Québec](#). Please make arrangements online through the [PLC 2020 website](#) to receive the conference discount.

The Banquet will take place at the [National Museum of Fine Arts of Québec](#), in the highly prized [Pierre Lassonde Pavillion](#) that serves as a gateway to the museum complex.

The submission deadline for papers, posters, and panel discussions is 31 January 2020. Included in the preliminary program, posted on the [PLC 2020 website](#), is a first-day workshop, "Decolonizing Metadata: Enabling Sharing of Cultures through Respectful Representation," presented by Sharon

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Preparations Underway for PLC 2020 *continued*

Farnel, Metadata Coordinator, University of Alberta Library. Conference organizers are inviting contributions relating but not limited to the following questions:

Do librarians and archivists have a significant role in sharing Indigenous and non-Indigenous northern cultures? Do they still have a real impact on the transmission of knowledge related to the polar world? How can the physical and virtual spaces of libraries and archive centres remain, in the era of information and communication technologies, essential places for sharing cultures and knowledge about the North and The Poles?

Additional information about the Colloquy, including instructions for submissions, publication of the proceedings, travel and sightseeing, and other items of interest is on the website. For any further questions, please contact co-hosts Stéfano Biondo, Joë Bouchard, and Gaston Quirion, PLC 2020 Planning Committee, Centre GéoStat, Université Laval, Québec City, at plc2020@bibl.ulaval.ca or directly at Stefano.Biondo@bibl.ulaval.ca, Joe.Bouchard@bibl.ulaval.ca, and Gaston.Quirion@bibl.ulaval.ca.

If you are interested in attending PLC but would require financial assistance, please remember that the Hubert Wenger award is available to provide a bursary for one attendee—this would cover registration plus up to \$400 (US) in travel costs. Details are at <https://polarlibraries.org/hubert-wenger-award/>.

Best wishes—and looking forward to seeing you in Québec!

—Your Hosts

PLC 2020 Planning Committee

Centre GéoStat, Université Laval, Québec City, Canada

C'est un rendez-vous!

Come discover the legendary hospitality and contagious *joie de vivre* of the province of Québec!



Old Québec. (Photograph courtesy of PLC28 and Wikipedia, Creative Commons)

In Memoriam: David W.H. Walton (1945–2019)

Professor David W.H. Walton, a leading member of the Polar Libraries Colloquy, died on 12 February 2019 following a heart attack.

David was involved with PLC for many years, first attending in the 1980s. He was an active participant of meetings, not least as a very memorable auctioneer. As our treasurer for many years, he was a key figure in keeping the Colloquy running, and was made an honorary PLC member in 2016 for his years of service.

Unlike many of our members, David was a research scientist rather than a librarian. He joined the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) as a terrestrial biologist in 1967 and wintered at South Georgia, remaining at BAS as a researcher for over four decades before he retired as head of the Environment & Information Division.

He was a prominent and widely respected figure in the Antarctic community, both in science and in policy fields. He led the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) Group of Specialists on Environmental Affairs and Conservation, represented SCAR at the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings (where he also edited the annual reports), and, for his many contributions over the years, was awarded the SCAR Medal for International Scientific Coordination in 2006. He continued to be active after his retirement; in 2017, 50 years after he had first travelled South, he led the Antarctic Circumpolar Expedition as their chief scientist. At the time of his death, he was advising the GLACE follow-up expedition to circumnavigate Greenland in the summer of 2019.

David was also active as a publisher and editor. He founded the journal *Antarctic Science* in 1989, remaining as its editor-in-chief and a frequent editorial writer, and he published many books on polar history, as well as writing several of his own on Antarctic research.

He was a commanding presence in the Colloquy, as indeed he was in the wider polar community—an inexhaustible source of expertise, experience, and enthusiasm, and we will all miss him greatly as a colleague and as a friend.

—**Andrew Gray**
Former BAS Librarian
University College London, UK
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—Read the [SCAR obituary](#) published 13 February 2019. The obituary appearing in *The Polar Journal* (vol. 9, iss. 1) includes excerpts of reflections from the scholarly community.



David Walton, PLC auctioneer extraordinaire!
(Photographs courtesy of S. Campbell)





PLC Treasurer's Report

At the 2018 Polar Libraries Colloquy in Rovaniemi, we took in £540 from the auction, and £640 from memberships. The PLC paid £250 for miscellaneous conference expenses, and £360 on the Wenger Award scholarship. Since then, we have spent £700 on travel attendance expenses to the UArctic meeting (a higher than usual amount), £100 on the PLC website, and £400 for the 2018 Mills Prize. We have also taken in £165 in membership dues from members who did not attend in Rovaniemi. Finally, the Steering Committee voted to make a charitable donation of £400 in memory of Professor David Walton, whose recent death was a great shock to us all. (The sums mentioned have all been converted into sterling, so are a bit approximate.)

In U.S. dollars, this is a total income of \$1750, against outgoings of \$2900. As you can see, we have spent more than we raised, including a substantial one-off donation, but given the state of our reserves, this is not a major concern. As of the end of March 2019, our net assets, including outstanding debts, were approximately \$21,000, down from \$22,400 at the time of the 2016 PLC.

Our reserves are sufficient to keep the Colloquy running for many years to come, even at a deficit.

Indeed, we could potentially think about whether we should spend more money. We have a lot in reserve, more than we practically need, and perhaps it would be better used in the community than sitting in a bank account. For example, we recently raised the amounts offered for the Mills Prize and Wenger Award. If you have thoughts for how best to use our funds, please do get in touch with me or the Steering Committee.

One final note—we have had some minor banking problems affecting some dollar cheques for membership paid in 2018. I am working on tracing them, but it looks like they were never cashed by the bank, have not been returned to me as invalid, and have not been returned to the issuers. It is possible they simply got lost in the system and will turn up eventually! If you are wondering what has happened to your cheque, rest assured I have credited you as a paid-up member, even if the bank is taking its time to send me the funds.

—**Andrew Gray**, PLC Treasurer
University College London, UK

Report from the PLC Chair

Greetings from the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge. Since last year's very successful Colloquy in Rovaniemi, the PLC Steering Committee continues to meet at three monthly intervals via videoconference. In doing so, our aim is to ensure we can expect similarly high standards from forthcoming Colloquies. The next one (PLC28) will be held in Québec City in June 2020. Regular meeting updates from Joë Bouchard and Stéfano Biondo of the Centre GéoStat, Bibliothèque de l'Université Laval, who form part of the team responsible for organising PLC28, leave the Steering Committee in no doubt that Québec will be an exciting destination and that we can look forward to a stimulating and well organised meeting at l'Université Laval.

Looking further ahead, we are also delighted to have received a formal invitation from the Directors

of UiT The Arctic University of Norway and the Norwegian Polar Institute offering to host PLC29 in Tromsø in the summer of 2022. UiT is the third largest university in Norway and the northernmost university in the world. Further details, such as the Colloquy theme, will become available in the coming months ahead of the Steering Committee's recommendation on the venue, which will be made to members at the business meeting in Québec.

Meanwhile we continue to strive to make digital copies of past PLC proceedings available; currently we have digital copies of most proceedings available on the website back to 2002.

—**Peter Lund**, PLC Chair
Librarian, Scott Polar Research Institute
University of Cambridge, UK



In Memoriam: Nancy Cummings Liston (1950–2019)

Nancy Liston, a longtime member of the Northern (now Polar) Libraries Colloquy, passed away suddenly at her home in New Hampshire on 27 September 2019. She had a long and distinguished career beginning in 1968 as Librarian at the U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL), which had the largest library in the U.S. devoted to cold regions research. In 2010, she retired as CRREL's Division Chief of Library Science and Knowledge Transfer Branch.

One of Nancy's greatest accomplishments was overseeing the Cold Regions Bibliography Project in an interagency agreement between CRREL and the Library of Congress. The result was the *Bibliography on Cold Regions Science and Technology* and the *Antarctic Bibliography*, the first interactive bibliographic databases of cold regions to become searchable on a commercial system. The bibliographies were published by CRREL with funding from the U.S. National Science Foundation and other sources, and were prepared at the Library of Congress under Geza Thuronyi and staff. (Now hosted by the American Geosciences Institute, these two bibliographies and the U.S. Permafrost Alert Program are available online as the subscription-based [COLD database](#). —Editors' note.)

I first met Nancy at Logan International Airport in Boston in 1978. We were en route to the 7th Northern Libraries Colloquy in Paris, where she demonstrated the (first) online version of the *Cold Regions* and *Antarctic Bibliographies*. Also on the plane with us was a full complement of Roman Catholic nuns on their way to the Vatican to meet the new Pope, John Paul I (who served barely a month, from 26 August until his death on 28 September 1978). It was a very quiet flight to Paris, and we wondered later if the nuns managed to get a second trip since the new Pope died after only 31 days in office.

As noted in [her obituary](#) from the Stringer Funeral Home in Claremont, New Hampshire, Nancy was fully involved in raising a family with her husband, Ronald Liston (1926–2010). She would often bring one of the children to a Colloquy or to related meetings. Son Robin would curl up in a blanket at the side of the room, judging our performance by



Nancy Liston, 9 September 2019, Perkins Cove, Ogunquit, Maine. (Photograph courtesy of M. Andrews)

falling asleep before the rest of us! At the 16th PLC in Anchorage in 1996, I went with Nancy and two of her sons to see the Anchorage Glacier Pilots baseball game. The last meeting where I saw Nancy was at the 19th PLC in Copenhagen in 2002 where she brought the whole family, including Ronald and all three children.

After Nancy retired from CRREL in 2010, we met only occasionally. But just this fall, on 17 September, when my husband John and I were travelling on the East Coast, she drove from Hanover, New Hampshire, to Ogunquit, Maine, to have lunch with us at Barnacle Billy's on Perkins Cove. We recollected past experiences and people and enjoyed a good meal. Nancy was planning further travel adventures, and we agreed to try to meet next year in September 2020 and take in a play at the Ogunquit Playhouse. When she left John and me after lunch, she was headed off to visit her son in the Portland (Maine) area. Having just seen her, I was shocked and very saddened to hear that Nancy died on 27 September, just ten days later. She will be very much missed by all of her PLC colleagues.

—**Martha Andrews**, Retired PLC Member
Boulder, Colorado, USA



News from the Scott Polar Research Institute

- SPRI is very pleased to report the arrival of an Arctic Information Specialist to work in the Library. Eleanor Peers joined us in this role in July 2019. In a previous position at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Peers carried out research in Yakutsk and Buryatia and is fluent in Russian. She will be well placed to develop our extensive Arctic collection of books and other library materials and to support researchers interested in the Russian North.
- Surprisingly my Polar Library work took me to Wells-Next-The-Sea on the Norfolk coast in May 2019. Several boxes of donations were offered; “they need a good home,” said Thom Borthwick (pictured), owner of The Old Station Pottery and Bookshop who, on the death of Bryan Sage, had acquired his working papers and books. Keen on wildlife, Bryan was BP’s first ecologist and worked on the Alaska pipeline. I loaded boxes containing around 300 documents fitting SPRI’s collection development policy into the Geography Department’s rather muddy fieldwork 4x4 (or “twin cab ute” to use the phrase I realise I picked up during my time in New Zealand). Then, sustained by fish & chips eaten from their wrappers on the harbour-side, I transported the documents back to SPRI. We featured some of them in our Open Cambridge Event in September 2019.

—Thanks to **Peter Lund**, SPRI Librarian, for these items.



Peter Lund and bookseller Thom Borthwick. (Photograph courtesy of P. Lund)

News from the Byrd Polar & Climate Research Center

A symposium, *Women in Antarctica: Celebrating 50 Years of Exploration*, was presented by the Byrd Center this past fall, 17–18 October 2019, to honor the first all-women research team in Antarctica, led by Dr. Lois Jones. This team of four women from The Ohio State University made polar history when they voyaged to Antarctica in 1969. This symposium celebrating the 50th anniversary examined women’s past, present, and future in science, research, discovery, and leadership. To view the list of presenters and video recordings

of the sessions, including a presentation by Eileen McSaveney entitled “The Only Tent with Curtains in the Antarctic,” and a panel discussion with Amy Leventer, Gretchen Hofmann, Amelia Shevenell, and Marilyn Raphael concerning “Polar Research in the #metoo Era: Gender Balance, Diversity and Sexism in the Antarctic,” go to the symposium’s webpage [Women in Antarctica](#).

—Thanks to **Laura Kissel**, Polar Curator, Byrd Polar Center, for this item.

New Publications

Oosten, Jarich, and Barbara Helen Miller, eds. 2018. *Traditions, Traps and Trends: Transfer of Knowledge in Arctic Regions*. Edmonton: University of Alberta Press.

"The transfer of knowledge is a key issue in the North as Indigenous Peoples meet the ongoing need to adapt to cultural and environmental change." In essays written by eight contributors, "experts survey critical issues surrounding the knowledge practices of the Inuit of northern Canada and Greenland and the Northern Sámi of Scandinavia, and the difficulties of transferring that knowledge from one generation to the next."

The multidisciplinary essays reflect the continuing work of the Research Group Circumpolar Cultures co-founded by Oosten in the Netherlands in 1995 to promote joint research on cultures of the circumpolar North. They "offer fresh understandings through history and across geography as scholars analyze cultural, ecological, and political aspects of peoples in transition."

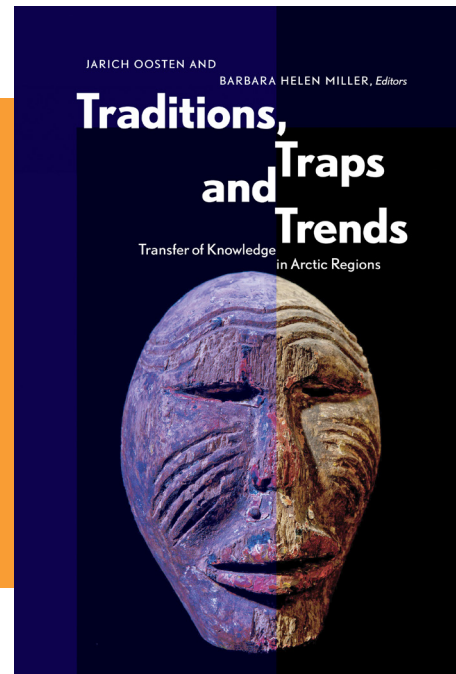
The Introduction gives "brief but insightful histories of the case-study regions in Greenland, Canada (Nunavut and Labrador), and Norway. While their brevity may perhaps not be satisfying for historians of these areas, the historical summaries are informative and valuable for general readers in setting the context of the chapters that follow. ...The book contains some wonderful black-and-white photographs of elders as they attempt to preserve and transfer Indigenous knowledge and the values that inform it to the younger generation, as well as photos of some of the museum artifacts discussed in [the book's chapters]."

"*Traditions, Traps and Trends* will provide...inspiring reading for students of the Arctic and of Indigenous knowledge.... An important work for students and scholars in anthropology and ethnography, as well as everyone interested in the Circumpolar North, it will also appeal to a general audience, especially those fascinated by the mystique of the Arctic."

This work stands as a "fitting legacy" for Jarich Oosten who died in 2016 at the age of 71 as the book was nearing publication. He was emeritus Professor of the Department of Anthropology at Leiden University and the author of many influential and highly regarded publications. Co-editor Barbara Helen Miller is an independent scholar whose work focuses on Traditional Healing practice. She is the editor of the 2015 *Idioms of Sámi Health and Healing*, also published by the University of Alberta Press.

—Quoted and adapted from the [publisher's announcement](#) and from a [2019 review](#) by Leslie A. King that appeared in *Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine Research*, vol. 51, iss. 1, pp. 173–175.

For more about the life and scholarly influence of Oosten, whose contributions to Arctic research focus on the Inuit, read [In Memoriam: Jarich Gerlof Oosten](#) by Frédéric Laugrand, *Université Laval*. Published in *Études / Inuit / Studies in 2016*, vol. 40, iss. 1, pp. 235–250, it includes both reminiscences and a list of his publications.





New Publications *continued*

Rae, John. 2019. *John Rae, Arctic Explorer: The Unfinished Autobiography*. Edited by William Barr. Edmonton: University of Alberta Press.

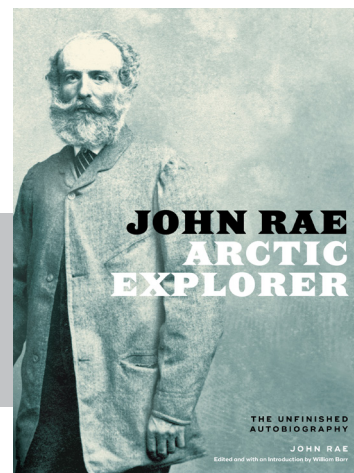
"John Rae is best known today as the first European to reveal the fate of the Franklin Expedition, yet the range of Rae's accomplishments is much greater. Over [the course of] five expeditions, Rae mapped some 1,550 miles (2,494 kilometres) of Arctic coastline; he is undoubtedly one of the Arctic's greatest explorers."

Born in the Orkney Islands in 1813, Rae studied medicine at Edinburgh University before transferring to the Royal College of Surgeons. He graduated in 1833 at the age of just 19 and, urged by his father, signed on as ship's surgeon on the HBC ship *Prince of Wales* bound for Hudson's Bay. He was to return that same year, but the ship became iced in, forcing him to overwinter. Rae discovered an affinity for the Arctic and learned local hunting techniques and other cold climate adaptations from the First Nation people in the area. This knowledge would serve him well during Arctic expeditions he led between 1846 and 1854. When Rae returned with the news of what happened to the Franklin

Expedition, he was pilloried in the press. Lady Franklin ensured Rae was written out of the history books; it is only now that he is being rediscovered.

"*John Rae, Arctic Explorer* is an annotated version of Rae's unfinished autobiography...based on Rae's reports and correspondence—including reaction to his revelations about the Franklin Expedition. Barr's meticulously researched...presentation of Rae's life and legacy is an immensely valuable addition to the literature of Arctic exploration."

—Quoted and adapted from the [publisher announcement](#) and from a [2019 review](#) by Tom Muir that appeared in *The Mariner's Mirror*, vol. 105, iss. 3, pp. 365–366.



Polar Libraries Bulletin
Spring & Fall 2019, Issue 81
ISSN 1944-1177

Formerly entitled *Northern Libraries Bulletin* when first published in 1972, the *Polar Libraries Bulletin* reflects the name change of the Northern Libraries Colloquy to the Polar Libraries Colloquy, as approved at the June 1988 biennial meeting.

The *Bulletin* is published twice yearly in the Fall and Spring. Members of the Polar Libraries Colloquy receive the *Bulletin* as part of their membership. Personal dues are £20 or US \$35 for a two-year period. Institutional dues are the same. Please mail to PLC Treasurer: Andrew Gray, Polar Libraries Colloquy, c/o Library, British Antarctic Survey, High Cross, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0ET. Questions regarding membership may be sent to him at andrew@generalist.org.uk.

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PLC Homepage: <https://www.polarlibraries.org>
Polar & Cold Regions Library Resources: A Directory
<http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/resources/directory/libraries/>



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