

CLIVE HOLLAND (1946–2000)

Clive Holland, archivist, polar historian, and polar encyclopedist, died in Cambridge on 15 September 2000 after a lengthy illness. The following incident indicates the high esteem in which he was held by someone well qualified to evaluate his contribution as a polar historian and encyclopedist. During a visit to Western Canada in 1986, Clive was a dinner guest of Arctic historian, radiologist, and ornithologist Dr. Stuart Houston and his wife Mary in Saskatoon. Long before the dangers of smoking had made the habit generally socially unacceptable, the Houstons had made their home a “smoke-free zone,” and this rule was rigidly enforced. But in view of the Houstons’ enormous respect for Clive (a heavy smoker), he was granted the very special dispensation of being able to smoke in their living room, but only if he sat on the hearth and exhaled up the chimney!

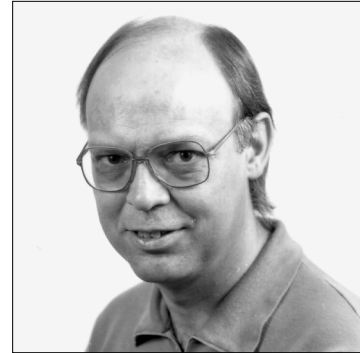
Born at Bramhall, Cheshire, (near Stockport) on 13 December 1946, Clive Holland read Modern Languages at Cambridge University (Downing College), graduating in 1968. His excellent command of French and German (to which he later added a reading knowledge of Russian, Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian) would stand him in good stead in his later career.

Clive joined the staff of the Scott Polar Research Institute as historical research assistant in 1968, and by 1975 was filling the roles of archivist, deputy librarian, and museum curator, all three of which posts he held for a decade until his resignation to pursue his polar historical interests full-time. Towards the end of his life, he was appointed librarian at Wulfson College, Cambridge.

During his early period with the Scott Polar Research Institute, Clive (in collaboration with Dr. Alan Cooke) produced one of the three monumental compendia that really represent his life’s work. This was *The Exploration of Northern Canada, 500 to 1920: A Chronology*, published in 1978 (originally published in installments in *Polar Record* over the three-year period 1970–73). Over the years, this work has been a godsend to Arctic historians working in the Canadian Arctic. A comprehensive roster of individuals involved, a thorough bibliography, and an index complete the book.

Four years later, as a by-product of his work as archivist at the Scott Polar Research Institute, Clive published his *Manuscripts in the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge, England: A Catalogue*. Here the manuscripts are arranged alphabetically by author, each entry providing a brief outline of the contents. An index to the manuscripts, listed by expedition and arranged chronologically, is appended. This catalogue is an essential tool for any polar historian, quite apart from its crucial role in the use of the Scott Polar Research Institute collection. One can only regret that no attempt appears to have been made to update the work since Clive’s resignation from the Institute.

Clive’s third magnum opus, namely his *Arctic Exploration and Development, c. 500 B.C. to 1915: An Encyclopedia*, published in 1994, outshines the earlier two. This volume,



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which uses the same format and system as the earlier *Chronology*, expands on the latter to embrace the entire circumpolar Arctic. It is here that Clive’s command of languages came into its own. His coverage of the intricacies of the exploration of the Russian Arctic is impressively comprehensive and unique. The amount of work involved in compiling the brief summaries of each expedition’s activities is utterly staggering, and the meticulous cross-referencing of participants and sources is truly impressive. And if this were not enough, at the time of his death Clive had partially completed an extension of his *Encyclopedia* to cover the period 1916–50.

But these compendia did not represent the sum total of his publications. He was author (or co-author) of eight articles in *Polar Record* or *Arctic*, and author of 14 entries in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*. He also published a popular work, *Farthest North: The quest for the North Pole*, and edited Sir Clements Markham’s *Antarctic obsession: A personal narrative of the origins of the British National Antarctic Expedition, 1901–1904*.

In his youth Clive was a keen cricketer, playing both at home and for his college, and he also rowed in Downing College’s First Boat. Later in life he became a golfer. He was a keen lifelong supporter of both Stockport and Manchester City soccer clubs. He would stress that his club was not the better-known (and vastly more successful) Manchester United, contending that to be a City supporter demanded extra qualities of dedication and the ability to maintain hope in the face of frequent disaster!

Although in his later years Clive became withdrawn from the polar academic community, he will not be forgotten. His three polar compendia are unlikely to be superseded soon—if ever.

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