

## **In Memory of John Hollin---1930-2016**

### **John T Andrews**

John arrived in Boulder and INSTAAR in the summer of 1978. As it turns out this was in the midst of a “constitutional crisis” at INSTAAR, which I will not dwell on further. However, it is important to note that Pat Webber, who became the Director of INSTAAR in 1978/? emailed me in November to say that he found John an important individual as he led INSTAAR out of the troubles. In subsequent years I remember that John and Martha were designated to draw up and define the INSTAAR by-laws, which by-and-large still rule the governance of INSTAAR.

John and I were both “northerners” although John in going to Oxford was venturing far-afield. We both loved the English Lake District--- I because I come from the edge of the LD and John spent many years at Eskdale at the Outward Bound school—the area where I did my Honours thesis on a 175 cc motor bike. John had several meals with Martha and myself including one rather traumatic Thanksgiving where we had just learned that my mother had collapsed and taken to the nearest hospital---25 miles away. In his last summer I visited John once a week at Manor Care and was always struck by his strength of character and uncomplaining approach to life--- possibly due in part to having lived through part of the WWII blitz on London before he was evacuated. Regrets---for some reason that I cannot explain---as far as I remember I never had John give a lecture to my Glacial Geology class---for which was more that qualified.

I am going to read a few extracts from letters that we have received about John. We will probably have the full contents loaded onto the INSTAAR www site although no firm decision has been reached.

**Miles Rucklidge, Lancaster, UK**

I write this as John's oldest friend; I and my wife Margaret would have wished to have been with you today but sadly age and illness prevent us travelling so far.

John was born on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 1930 in Derby, the only child of Archie and Edith Hollin. John's father was an electrical engineer at the power station and in 1943 moved to a similar job in Halifax, Yorkshire. It was here that I first met John as we were both at the same school. At school he was known as 'Cherub' on account of his angelic face! On leaving school John spent two years in National Service in the army in Austria, where he learnt to type, ski and learn German.

John was the organiser of the 1951 expedition and the leader in 1955 and so was his interest in glaciology and ice surges born. In 1955 I was expedition cook, boatman and handyman. I know John has been writing up the results from this expedition for many years, I don't know if he ever finished.

Following graduation John had no career planned – a characteristic that was to stay with him for the rest of his life. So he took a job as an instructor at the Outward Bound Mountain School at Eskdale in the English Lake District. The warden there was John Lagoe and John formed a lifelong friendship with him and his wife Joan. It is highly appropriate that their son Jonathan is with you today and can represent all of John's UK friends.

John was a great friend and we shared many adventures together. Margaret and I are going to miss him very much.

**George Denton:**

I learned to appreciate the great wisdom and wit of John T. Hollin in the 1960's, when both of us were graduate students at Yale, before he transferred to Princeton. He taught all of his fellow graduate students a great deal about Quaternary problems and it was almost as if there as another faculty member in the student group, one with a great insight into how the ice-age world worked. Of particular

note, he had just published a paper in the Journal of Glaciology considered by many, including me, to be transformational. In this paper he argued persuasively that variations in the area of the Antarctic ice sheet during ice-age cycles was determined by the changing level of the surrounding sea, in turn controlled substantively by the waxing and waning of northern ice sheets..

I remember John as a wonderful, warm, witty, respectful, and extremely intelligent scientist who will be greatly missed.

**Peter Clark:**

John was a true inspiration to me as a PhD student at INSTAAR. He was kind, thoughtful, and always helpful when I struggled with some aspect of glaciology. He told me the story of how in the 1970's, the CIA investigated the possibility that the Soviets would detonate nuclear bombs on Antarctica in order to cause inundation of much of low-lying Western Hemisphere countries while leaving much of the land-locked USSR high-and-dry.

John was a visionary, and it was an honor and privilege to be able to know this gentle person from whom I learned so much.

**Peter Worsley/David Bowen (UK):**

To me John was a very engaging character, modest in the extreme, charming, well informed and someone who one instantly one took a liking to. An abiding memory was his habit of constantly taking notes during conversation.

They got on like a house on fire (with his daughter) and the conversation drifted into the topic of Arthur Ransome, the author of the Swallows and Amazons books which are mainly set in the English Lake District. It turned out that they were both avid fans and John revealed that in his youth he had drawn his own map of the fictional north country lake setting using clues in the texts.

Of course his mobility was restricted but his mind was 100%. He was anxious learn first-hand what was happening in the British Quaternary scene and we talked for several hours over a range of Quaternary related issues particularly the vexed topic of intra Anglian – LGM glaciations. Clearly his heart still longed for the UK Quaternary and the Quaternary Research Association in particular.

**P. Thompson Davis**

John Hollin was perhaps the most magnanimous person I have ever known. I am sorry that I cannot be in Boulder for his celebration-of-life service on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

I have maintained a research affiliate status at INSTAAR for the past 30+ years, making at least a trip or two each year to Colorado, which until very recently always included a stop at INSTAAR, where John was the person I would most likely see first. John confided in me about his MS during an AMQUA field trip in August 1984 that I led into Arapaho cirque, in which he had to stop at the base of the steep headwall at the head of Silver Lake valley; his physical limits that day were a disheartening experience for both of us,

Rest in peace, my friend.

Eulogy given by John T. Andrews on 12/1/16  
for John T. Hollin Memorial Celebration at INSTAAR