

North Iceland Glacier Inventory – 1973

In 1972 the Young Explorers' Trust (Samband ungra könnuða) evolved a North Iceland Glacier Inventory Scheme in the belief that the activities of some visiting expeditions could usefully be directed towards a long-term project that might in due course yield useful information. In consultation with Sigurjón Rist (Orkustofnun) and Helgi Björnsson (Raunvísindastofnun) it was decided to try a pilot scheme to compile an inventory of the ice masses in Tröllaskagi. This project will follow the recommendations of the International Commission of Snow and Ice (ICSI) as later implemented by Norges Vassdrags- og Elektrisitetsvesen and the Inland Water Directorate of Canada. The Inventory process will follow four stages:

Stage I: Location and indexing of all perennial snow and ice masses from existing maps and air photographs. 106 have been located in Tröllaskagi (see map). Some of these are rock glaciers.

Stage II: Ground reconnaissance to report on accessibility, state of the ice etc., and to erect 'jöklamerki'.

Stage III: Ground mapping of selected glaciers at 1 : 5,000.

Stage IV: Repeated measurements and mapping at regular intervals.

The Trust recognises that the results obtained in any one season will be varied in quality and will endeavour to standardise and improve the work by careful pre-expedition training. A manual for field survey work in North Iceland has been published and copies are lodged with Orkustofnun, Jöklarannsóknafélagið, Rann-

sóknaráð, Landsbókasafn Íslands and Náttúrugripasafnið á Akureyri.

The first parties visited the area in 1973 to work on Gljúfurárjökull, Bægisárjökull, Thverárjökull and Teigadalsjökull. For the moment their reports are filed at the headquarters of the Young Explorers' Trust but an annual progress report will be submitted to the Editor of 'Jökull'. Because of the heavy snow in 1973 all the groups had difficulty in locating ice boundaries so that any mapping must be regarded as tentative only.

Gljúfurárjökull: (Uppingham School. Leader: A. E. Land) The report describes landforms and problems encountered in establishing control points for survey. One of the existing 'jöklamerki' was found to have collapsed. The other could not be found at all.

Bægisárjökull: (Edinburgh University. Leader: F. Frölicher) Weather conditions restricted results to the construction of four levelled profiles up and across the glacier.

Thverárjökull: (N. E. Essex Technical College. Leader: D. J. Bowden) The glacier snout was found to be extremely steep and snow covered. Two 'jöklamerki' were constructed, also a base line and a levelled profile. The glacier was not considered suitable for further study by similar groups.

Teigadalsjökull: (Creighton School. Leader: P. D. Lintin) A map of the area in the immediate vicinity of the snout was made and tied in to the existing 'jöklamerki'.

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