

Hugh D. Lilly 1923 - 1966

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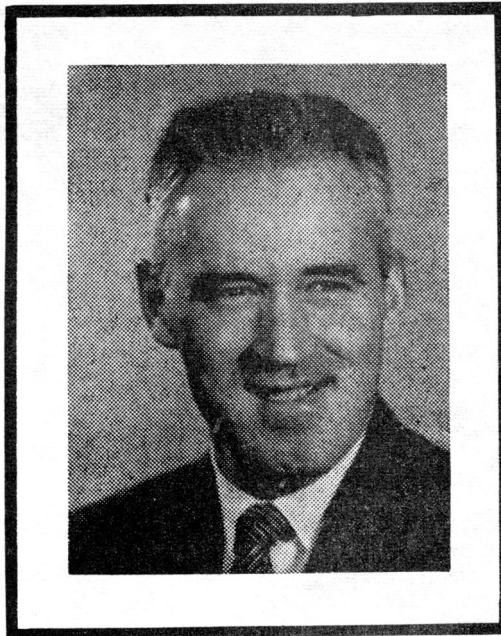
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Hugh D. Lilly
1923 - 1966

Professor Hugh D. Lilly of the Department of Geology, Memorial University of Newfoundland, and a Corresponding Editor of this journal, lost his life in a road accident on the evening of 16th September, 1966, while on his way to visit his students in Western Newfoundland. The following tributes to his memory express the sense of shock felt throughout the region at the loss of a most characterful and able friend and colleague.

From Dr. G.M. Story, Public Orator of Memorial University of Newfoundland:

The risk of sudden death was no stranger to Professor Hugh Lilly. Yet when, by accident, death came, it brought shock at the tragic cutting short of the career of a brilliant young teacher, scientist and soldier, and grief at the loss of a remarkable and lovable man.

As a scientist, his underseas geological and ecological exploration and research was at one pragmatic in its immediate focus, and scientifically exciting; and it was conducted with a calm boldness and an unconventional simplicity which commanded the startled respect of scientific colleagues and the admiration of a lay public. As a teacher, he was unusual in his freshness of mind and approach and in his consuming passion for his subject, and his ability to convey that passion to his students. He was

a devoted Newfoundlander, a storehouse of knowledge and of rich and illuminating anecdote; and his varied experience of many lands, in peace and war, made him a most refreshingly different academic. It is hard now to think of the University without his enlivening and quickening presence. For his colleagues and friends - and all who knew him were his friends - will feel the loss of a man remarkable for his indomitable courage, his restless enterprise and imagination, and the gaiety, warmth and humanity of a rare companion.

To his bereaved family and relatives the University offers its profound sympathy, and with them mourns an irreparable loss.

From Dr. W.D. Brückner, Department of Geology, Memorial University:

Professor Lilly's contribution to the work of Memorial University's Department of Geology was remarkable: after an adventurous career as a soldier and exploration geologist he joined the Department in 1959 as a candidate for the Master's degree and completed his programme of studies in the spring of 1961 having written a thesis on the geology of a region in West Newfoundland. Already during this period, he applied and developed his teaching skills in the role of a demonstrator, and immediately afterwards he became a faculty member to teach courses in Mineralogy, Petrology and Structural Geology, but above all in Introductory Geology, in which he was particularly successful. Another of his favourite topics was the Geology of Newfoundland, as he knew this province like no other member of the profession. The geological show that he transmitted to his students, and the devoted attention he gave to all their questions and problems will long be remembered.

While at Memorial University, Professor Lilly's research efforts were concentrated initially on the geology of West Newfoundland where he had been working already in earlier years. However, another field attracted him more and more: the exploration of the sea floor around the Island as far as it could be surveyed by diving. He gained experience in this underwater work first in a mapping project in Notre Dame Bay and then applied his skills during several expeditions to shoals of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland and in submarine surveys of both geological and biological interest mainly along the West coast of the Island.

He was about to proceed to a comprehensive analysis of the Appalachian belt in Newfoundland, but this was not to be.

Many of Professor Lilly's results have been recorded in his publications and in numerous unpublished reports and manuscripts. His colleagues now have the sad task to save from his notes and collections whatever else may still be interpreted and understood.

From Dr. B.R. Pelletier, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, on behalf of colleagues:

With shock and a deep sense of personal loss, we learned of the tragedy of Hugh Lilly's death. So recently was he with us, at the Geological Association of Canada meetings in Halifax and participating in the field trips of mid-September, that news of his death reached us as incredible. Yet he has gone, and although he has left us many fine mementoes of his work in Newfoundland we are still deprived of the man and his contribution to come. Hugh was a native son who loved his land well, as was shown in the work already carried out, but his major work was yet to see print. His knowledge of Newfoundland was to form part of a major research project to advance him on a burgeoning career upon which he was embarking. As many of his friends knew, he was preparing to study in England under Professor Percy Allen of Reading University, but all these plans have come to nought.

Hugh Lilly was a man of many loves, his great love of country notwithstanding. We shall remember Hugh for the warm humanity in the man; the fact that he was there to serve and to guide, and to show us a happier, simpler philosophical way of living. Many times we have met and many times we have said out cheerful farewells. This then is our final good-bye to our beloved brother Hugh, and a very simple token of sympathy to Mrs. Lilly and her children, which we extend to them in their grief as we all know that the loss of a loved one is truly unconsolable.

Bernard Pelletier; Grant Bartlett; David Benson; Peter Carr; William Gilles; Alan Grant; Lewis King; Kate Kranck; Douglas Loring; James Marlowe; Michael McMullen; Brian MacLean; Gustavs Vilks; and Frances Wagner.

Publications of Hugh D. Lilly

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- 1964. Possible "Taconic" klippen in Western Newfoundland: American Journal of Science, v. 262, p. 1130-1135.
- 1965a. Submarine examination of the Virgin Rocks area, Grand Banks, Newfoundland: preliminary note: Geological Society of America Bulletin, v. 76, p. 131-132.
- 1965b. (With A.F. Williams) The nature and origin of the High Shoal topography of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland: Memorial University of Newfoundland Geology Report n. 3, 44 p.
- 1966a. Submarine surveys on the Great Bank of Newfoundland and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence: Maritime Sediments, v. 2, no. 1, p. 12-14.
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