

Adjacent to this crevasse were several other much larger ones which were reported as being up to 100 ft. (30.5 m.) wide. Unfortunately, no depth measurements were made on any of these very wide crevasses, but some of them may possibly be over 85 ft. deep.

WESTON BLAKE, JR.

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Weston 93, Mass., U.S.A.  
22 May 1955

In reply to a communication Mr. Blake wrote further:—

In reply to your request for total depths of the ice in the crevassed areas near the margin of the ice cap I can say that the ice is usually about 1000–1500 ft. (305–457 m.) thick in these localities. Ice-depth measurements were made at several of these crevasses in 1953 by both seismic means and gravimeter surveys, and the results obtained coincided almost exactly. Further depth measurements were made in 1954 (including some in the vicinity of the largest—the 25 ft. wide, 80 ft. deep one I mentioned), but unfortunately I have not seen the results of this work. Neither do I have any temperature data on the crevasses.

It is to be noted that the possible existence of deeper crevasses in this area is not excluded. *Ed.*

*Le premier emploi de la photogrammétrie*

CHER MONSIEUR,

Dans le très intéressant article publié par le *Journal of Glaciology*, Vol. 2, No. 15, 1954, p. 306–12, M. le Professeur Finsterwalder fixe en 1913 le premier emploi de la photogrammétrie pour le levé de tout ou partie d'un glacier en dehors des Alpes. Cette indication n'est pas exacte: Alfred de Quervain, dans son premier voyage au Groenland en 1909, a déjà appliqué la méthode photogrammétrique à la topographie de l'effluent de l'Inlandsis, le Grand Karajak, dans le district d'Umanak. Au cours de l'Expédition Suisse transgroenlandaise, dirigée par de Quervain aussi, j'ai appliqué en 1912 la photogrammétrie terrestre d'une part au levé du front de l'Eqip Sermia et d'autre part à celui de l'extrémité du Sermeq Kujatdleq un autre effluent de l'Inlandsis, se terminant sur terre ferme, dans la même région. Je me suis alors servi précisément de la chambre photographique construite à Munich par le mécanicien Sedlbauer, suivant l'inspiration et sous le contrôle du regretté Sébastien Finsterwalder, l'éminent glaciologue, père de notre collègue Richard Finsterwalder.

Je crois utile de préciser ce début de l'emploi de l'application de la photogrammétrie à l'étude des glaciers polaires.

Veillez recevoir, cher Collègue, mes bonnes salutations.

Commission Helvétique des Glaciers (S.H.S.N.),  
Lausanne, le 21 juin 1955

P.-L. MERCANTON

## OBITUARY

PHILIPS CHRISTIAN VISSER, 1882–1955

H. E. DR. PH. C. VISSER was born at Schiedam and, in his early manhood, spent some years with the family business in that town. At the age of twenty he made his first acquaintance with high mountains and soon became an enthusiastic mountaineer. In 1913 he was made a member of the Alpine Club in London.

In 1914 he took part in an expedition to the Caucasus, but the First World War put a stop to such expeditions and soon after his return he became Secretary to the Netherlands ambulance in Russia. In 1919 he was appointed Secretary to the Netherlands Legation in Stockholm. In 1931

he became Netherlands Consul-General in Calcutta and in 1938 Minister to Turkey. In 1945 he headed the Netherlands Legation in South Africa and in 1948 he was appointed to the important post of Ambassador to the U.S.S.R.

Dr. Visser received many honours including the Gold Medal of the Société de Géographie and the Back Grant of the Royal Geographical Society; he was also an honorary member of many mountaineering clubs. He was the author of many works, some of general or political interest, but mostly on glaciers and mountaineering.

Between 1921 and 1935 he led four expeditions to the Karakoram and his account of that part of the world, written in conjunction with his first wife (*Wissenschaftliche Ergebnisse der Niederländischen Expeditionen in den Karakorum und die angrenzenden Gebiete in den Jahren 1922, 1925, 1929-30 und 1935*, Bd. 2, Glaziologie: Leiden, E. J. Brill) ranks as one of the earlier classics of the modern glaciology.

#### CARLO SOMIGLIANA

CARLO SOMIGLIANA, Professor Emeritus of the University of Turin, died on 20 June 1955 in his ninety-sixth year. Somigliana was internationally renowned as a mathematician and physicist and his contributions to theoretical glaciology were of considerable importance and interest.

He developed a theory of glacier flow with the aim of finding a relationship and therefore a formula which would serve to determine the thickness of a glacier by means of its surface movement. The retreat of the Rodano Glacier, on which observations of surface speed had previously been carried out by Swiss glaciologists, enabled Somigliana to calculate the value of the effective coefficient of viscosity of the glacier ice by means of the formulae of his theory and his knowledge of the profile of the valley bottom. The coefficient appears in the formulae themselves. Somigliana's formula has been widely applied, even recently, to determine the thickness of many glaciers. Direct evidence obtained by other methods has confirmed its practical value.

Somigliana was the founder and President of the Comitato Glaciologico Italiano and for many years was its leading spirit. Much of his glaciological work was published in the Bulletin of that Society during the 1930's but his famous "Sulla profondità dei ghiacciai" appeared in *Rendiconti della R. Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei* as early as 1921.

## GLACIOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS ON SOME OF THE OUTLET GLACIERS OF SOUTH-WEST VATNAJÖKULL, ICELAND, 1954

By CUCHLAINE A. M. KING and J. D. IVES  
(University of Nottingham)

(Continued from Vol. 2, No. 18, 1955, p. 563-69)

### Part II: OGIVES

**ABSTRACT.** Observations and measurements of ogives on Morsárjökull, Svínafellsjökull and Falljökull are given and discussed. The problems associated with the smaller ogives on Svínafellsjökull and the ridges below the ice falls are considered.

**ZUSAMMENFASSUNG.** Beobachtungen und Messungen der Ogiven auf Morsárjökull, Svínafellsjökull und Falljökull sind angegeben und besprochen. Die mit den kleineren Ogiven auf Svínafellsjökull verknüpften Probleme und die Grate unter den Gletscherbrüchen werden erwogen.

FURTHER observations were made of the ogives on Morsárjökull<sup>6</sup> and those on Svínafellsjökull were also examined during 1954. Skaftafellsjökull does not appear to have any ogives, probably because its gradient is not nearly so steep as that of the other two glaciers. Reference to the ogives of Falljökull will be made briefly. These glaciers are shown in Fig. 1 (Part I, p. 564).