Start of Norwegian glaciological research on Svalbard and in Kongsfjorden
Olav Orheim, formerly Norsk Polarinstittut

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The Svalbard name catalogue show the origin of the names. Primacy is the leading principle.

Svalbard has > 1100 glaciers >1 km². More than 830 are named.

Personal names are mostly non-Norw., i.e. those were the first to visit.

Few glaciers were named because research was done on them.

Initial Norw. glacier studies:
Gunnar Isachsen, 1906-10
Adolf Hoel 1907-1925 + +
Valter Schytt at Maudheim, 1951.
A direct line in mass balance studies from Ahlmann/ Sverdrup to Schytt to Liestøl.
Valter became the first non-UK President of IGS.
Olav Liestøl never sought international positions.
Olav Liestøl, 1916-2002

Studies at University of Oslo interrupted by WWII. Cand real in 1946.
Engaged by prof. Werenskiold in 1947 to work at UnivOslo.
From 1948 full time glaciologist at Norsk Polarinstittutt.
In parallel, part time position teaching glaciology at UnivO.
By retirement in 1986 had advised approx. 100 students,
including Jon Ove Hagen and myself.
(I held similar position in Bergen from 1985, so UnivBergen students
have had me – and now Atle Nesje – as advisor.)

Characteristics: extremely good observation ability,
very solid on glacier physics.
As a person modest, gentle, kind.
Some central publications - he was sole author on all:

1963: Et senglasialt breframstøt ved Hardangerjøkulen. NP Årbok 1962
1967: Storbreen glacier in Jotunheimen, Norway. NP Skrifter 141
1977: Pingos, springs and permafrost in Spitsbergen. NP Årbok 1975
1958: Radio Luxembourg offered ≈1000€/kg for what would remain of 3 tons ice brought from Arctic Circle to equator without refrigeration. Glava involved Liestøl as advisor. Truck also carried 300 kg medicines to Albert Schweitzer’s hospital, Lambaréné. Worldwide press corps, crowds of spectators in European cities. Crossing Sahara the truck repeatedly got stuck. On arrival ice block had lost only about 11% of its original weight. (Radio L. retracted offer before start!)
Field work on Svalbard in 1967

First to Ny-Ålesund. Very different in those days – few people. Many houses still in use – now upgraded.

Bea Taylor (Alt) and I started up mass balance measurements on Midtre Lovénbreen and remeasured Austre Brøggerbre where Liestøl had put in balance stakes the year before.

I thereafter went to Finsterwalderbreen. In those days Liestøl went to Svalbard only every other year.
Transport into the field by Signalhorn and then by small boat to shore. Some field parties stayed in tents, others in huts. Snowmobiles for glacier work were not available the year we were there, but the soft snow was! Much walking and carrying.
Always a lot of drilling, and long walks with heavy backpacks.
One day we were suddenly visited by 20 Russians, arriving in a large helicoptre. In the 1960ies the Russians kept a close watch on everything that went on, and had much heavier logistics on Svalbard than we Norwegians. The group consisted both of real glaciologists and «others». I do not have a photo of that visit, but here is one from Barentsburg, probably 1980. From the right governor Grøndahl, 2 Russian «something», dr. Yevgeni Singer, who led the Univ. Moscow scientists.
More on Liestøl:
Rolling stones
Hunting
Chased at Slettebu
Can we learn from gender analysis from Svalbard glacier names?

Of the ≈ 300 person named: 268 males, and 31 females, assuming all surnames to be of males. None are of female glaciologists (or f. scientists in general) - few such in the early days when most names were given!

Some female names have a curious background:

Anne-Mariebreen – Tore Gjelsvik
Mettebreen – Harald Major
Nataschabreen – Thor Siggerud
Ragna-Mariebreen – Thore Winsnes

All wives – literally embracing their husbands!
Finally, a couple of my more curious links to these senior people:
Orheim-Liestøl link in four generations
My link to Valter via Colin.

Thank you for your attention!