

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor,

Journal of Glaciology

SIR,

"Fox Glacier", Yukon Territory, Canada

Though unable to refer to the report of the Woods Yukon Expedition of 1935 and unenlightened by the enigmatic footnote on p. 363 of the paper by Crossley and Clarke (1970) on "Fox Glacier", I have the impression that this and other nearby glacier names originated recently and informally, and have not received the approval of some authority having jurisdiction over geographic names. At least one other Fox Glacier is probably better known to glaciologists already. We cannot do much about duplicated place-names of long usage and in many cases the danger of confusion is negligible, but there does appear to be a case against casual adoption of new names which not only introduce duplication but may also cause confusion because writings about them will be in similar scientific contexts, even if the places are oceans apart. Sensing a rather reluctant use of quotation marks by the authors and fearing that they may be omitted in future by official sanction or habit, may I urge that some more original alternative be sought for the permanent name of this glacier?

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11 January 1971*

MAXWELL GAGE

REFERENCE

Crossley, D. J., and Clarke, G. K. C. 1970. Gravity measurements on "Fox Glacier", Yukon Territory, Canada. *Journal of Glaciology*, Vol. 9, No. 57, p. 363-74.

SIR,

Unauthorized names of glaciers

The Editors of the *Journal of Glaciology* have shown me Professor Maxwell Gage's (1971) letter and have asked me to comment on it. I share Professor Gage's views about the casual use of unofficial place-names in published reports. This has been a frequent problem for those who wish to refer to features in newly mapped regions, but it is no solution to put unauthorized place-names within quotation marks; this usually does not make them any easier to identify. So far as I can determine from published official records, "Fox Glacier" in Yukon Territory has not been approved by the Canadian Board on Geographical Names; nor does it appear in any official gazetteer or map and is consequently difficult to locate. There is already a well-known Fox Glacier in the Selkirk Range of British Columbia with which it can be confused.

There is really only one proper procedure in these cases and, if authors do not follow this, I think it is up to Editors to guide them with a firm hand. Reports should use only names that have been officially approved by the appropriate administrative authority for the region. If these names are inadequate for special purposes, anyone is free to propose new ones to the administrative authority (in this case the Canadian Board on Geographical Names). Authors should not expect to receive immediate official blessing for new names; place-name authorities have to solve many problems which are not always apparent to authors. If official sanction for a new name has not been received in time for the publication of some observation, the proposed new name should not be published. It is usually not difficult to substitute a suitable description of the locality which can then be re-identified later.

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1 April 1971*

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REFERENCE

Gage, M. 1971. "Fox Glacier", Yukon Territory, Canada. *Journal of Glaciology*, Vol. 10, No. 60, p. 409. [Letter.]