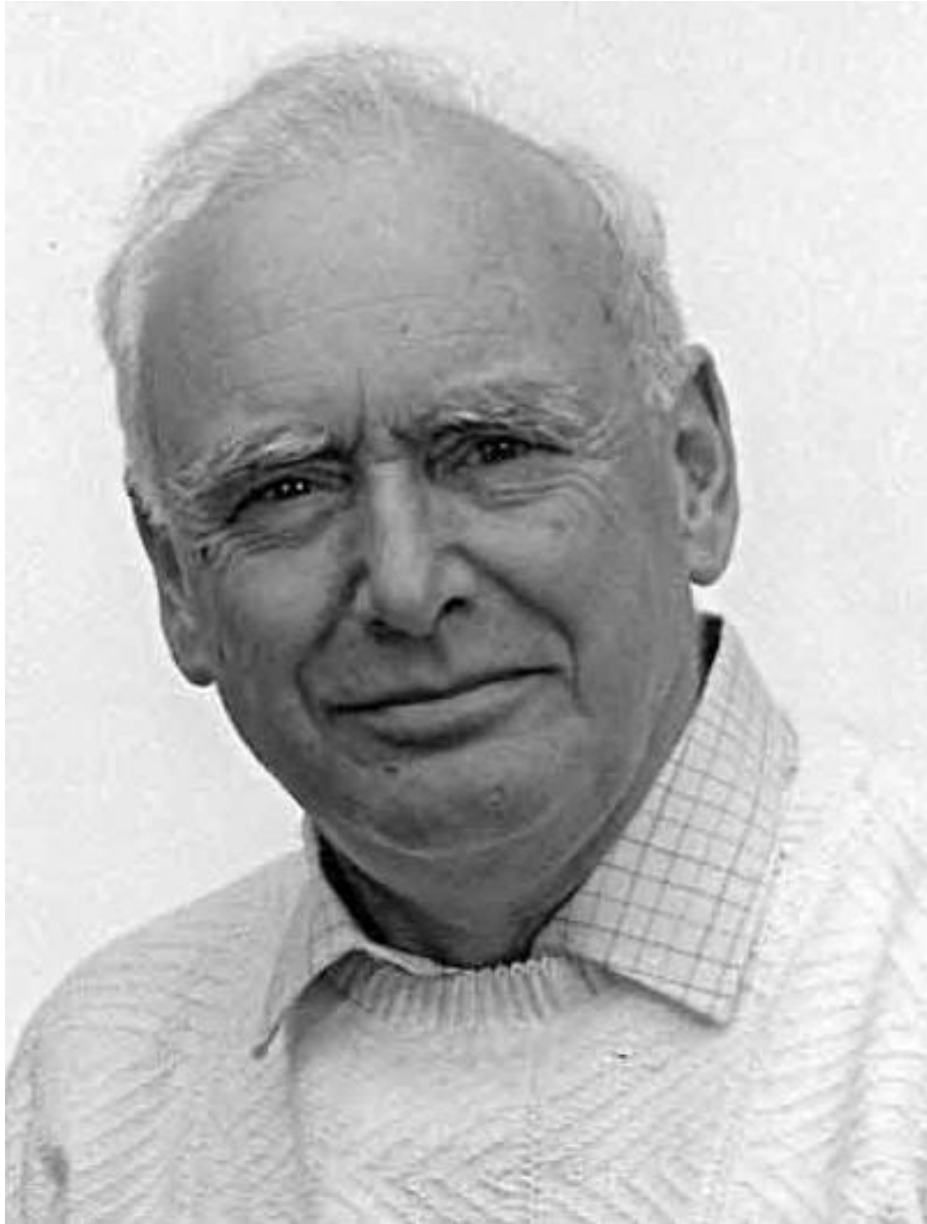


MIKE ORCHARD & WALTER NASSICHUK

Edward Timothy Tozer
1928-2010



Dr. Edward Timothy Tozer, B.A. (Kings College, Cambridge, 1948), Ph.D. (U. of Toronto, 1952) died on 26 December 2010 in Vancouver, British Columbia, at the age of 82 years. Born in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, England on 13 January 1928, Tim (as he was known to his colleagues) was relocated with his two siblings during the war to Sarnia, Ontario, where he completed high school. In 1944, he returned to England and a year later began studying geology at Kings College, Cambridge. After graduation, Tim returned to Canada as sessional lecturer at the University of Western Ontario (1948-1952) whilst undertaking PhD studies at the University of Toronto. During these early years in Canada, Tim worked with the Geological Survey of Canada as a summer field assistant for various scientists, including the famous RJW Douglas, who recognized Tim's geological prowess and enabled him to conduct his own independent research. In 1952, Tim began his full-time life-long association with the Geological Survey of Canada.

Tim's early research in Canada focussed on non-marine molluscs, but his interest became firmly focussed on the Triassic System (~250-200 million years ago) after meeting his mentor Frank McLearn, a leading authority on the Triassic and its ammonoids who retired the year Tim joined the survey. In 1953, Tim undertook fieldwork in Yukon and British Columbia, but it was as an Arctic geologist that he came into his own. Tim was a pioneer in the modern era of exploration in the Arctic Archipelago. He was the first to conduct geological studies from the joint Canada-US weather station at Mould Bay, the westernmost of a network of stations built to monitor weather and radio signals shortly after Winston Churchill's famous "Iron Curtain" speech in 1946 when he expressed concerns about Stalin's intentions in the high Arctic. In 1954, Tim, then 26 years old, began an arduous 6 months of field work in the western Arctic, first using sled dogs in temperatures of minus 35 degrees, and later on foot. In the following year, Tim was attached to Operation Franklin, a major air-borne mapping operation that resulted in the interpretation of the geology of more than 260,000 square kilometres of the Arctic Archipelago. During 1958, Tim and his colleague Ray Thorsteinsson pioneered the use of light aircraft on over-sized low pressure tires to complete the mapping of the islands. It was an extraordinary success and after flying 300 hours in a single engine Piper "Super Cub", they had mapped an area comparable to the size of Vancouver Island and had ushered in a new era of transportation for research in Arctic terrains.

During 10 years of Arctic exploration, Tim assembled hundreds of Triassic ammonoid collections from the Sverdrup Basin. He then turned his attention to British Columbia, and in 1960, he undertook a hair-raising expedition on the mighty Liard River: he later spoke about entire uprooted trees floating past his simple raft 'like battleships'. In 1964, he visited the Peace River Valley to build on McLearn's legacy and shortly thereafter he began his long association with his American counterpart Norm Silberling, with whom he developed an ammonoid-based chronology for the Triassic. By 1967, Tim produced his classic publication, *A Standard for Triassic Time*, which thrust him into global prominence.

Tim then began to travel the world to visit all the important localities for Triassic ammonoids, and all the important collections assembled before and during the 20th century. While studying those collections and meeting all the key Triassic specialists in the world, he mastered his subject and had become a key player himself. His fascination with the personalities of 19th century Triassic studies gave Tim's research a depth that few achieve – a view of the people behind the science. His scholarly masterpiece – the so-called 'pink book' for which a GSC 'Miscellaneous

Series' publication was created, lays out the unfolding drama of *The Triassic and its ammonoids: The Evolution of a Time Scale*. By the early 1990s, Tim had described, classified, and explained the age relationships of all the 256 genera of Triassic ammonoids known from Arctic and Western Canada. More than 130 publications showcased his extraordinary scholarship and his global comprehension of the Triassic System and elevated him to a high pinnacle of achievement and leadership in the history of Triassic studies. His monumental 1994 monograph on *Canadian Triassic ammonoid faunas*, the largest paleontological volume ever produced by the GSC (663 pages including 148 fossil plates), revised and laid out the taxonomic foundation for his global correlation standard.

Tim's research excellence was recognized many times by his contemporaries: Medal of Merit of the Alberta Society of Petroleum Geologists, 1962; election to the Royal Society of Canada, 1966; Royal Geographical Society Medal, 1969; Willet G. Miller Medal, 1979; and the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal, 2002. In 1989, Tim received the Elkanah Billings Medal, awarded by the Geological Association of Canada for lifetime achievement in paleontological research, and in 1993 he was made a Member of the Order of Canada for contributions "to our knowledge of the stratigraphy and structure of the Arctic Islands and the physical and biological state of our earth during the Triassic Period". The extraordinary high regard in which Tim is held by scientists around the world is clearly displayed by comments submitted to a guestbook that was made available when his bereavement was announced.

Tim was an unpretentious soul. He loved the camaraderie of the field camps where, over the decades numerous companions would relish his stories and yarns. A kind and generous man, yet strong in defence of his hard fought knowledge and opinions, he was never mean-spirited, and his dialogue was always laced with chuckles, hearty laughter and often praise for his 'opponent's' achievements. Pre-deceased by Ruth, his wife of almost 50 years, he leaves behind a son Paul, and daughter Sally. A scholarship has been established at the University of Toronto in Tim's name.

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(Author's title given as of the time of writing)