

## Aleksis Dreimanis, Recipient of the W. A. Johnston Medal for 1989

Alan V. Morgan

Volume 45, numéro 3, 1991

L'Inlandis de la Cordillère  
The Cordilleran Ice Sheet

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/032871ar>  
DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/032871ar>

[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

Éditeur(s)

Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal

ISSN

0705-7199 (imprimé)  
1492-143X (numérique)

[Découvrir la revue](#)

Citer cet article

Morgan, A. V. (1991). Aleksis Dreimanis, Recipient of the W. A. Johnston Medal for 1989. *Géographie physique et Quaternaire*, 45(3), 257–259.  
<https://doi.org/10.7202/032871ar>

# ALEKSIS DREIMANIS, RECIPIENT OF THE W. A. JOHNSTON MEDAL FOR 1989

The W. A. Johnston Medal is the highest award of the Canadian Quaternary Association and is given for professional excellence in Quaternary research. Nominations can be made on behalf of anyone with a demonstrated publication record who has contributed to Quaternary research in Canada or abroad. The nominator must be a member of the Canadian Quaternary Association and a nominee may be a researcher residing anywhere in the world. Further information on the background of the W. A. Johnston Medal is outlined in the preamble of the first award (Morgan, 1988).

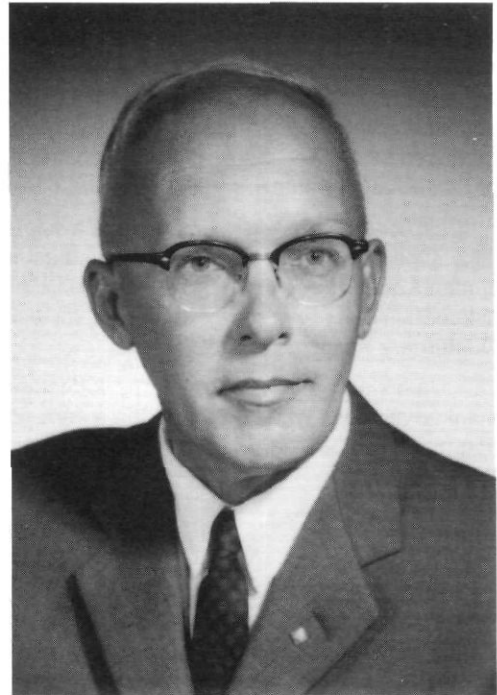
Dr. Aleksis Dreimanis was born in Latvia and obtained his early geological training at the Institute of Palaeontology at the University of Latvia in Riga. At the start of the Second World War he continued at the University as a lecturer and the equivalent of an Assistant Professor. In the closing years of the War he also acted jointly as a consultant in Quaternary mapping in the Latvian Institute of Mineral Resources. Following the cessation of hostilities Aleksis was appointed as an Associate Professor in the Baltic University at Hamburg and Pinneberg in Germany. In 1948 Aleksis moved to Canada and took up an appointment as a Lecturer at the University of Western Ontario at London.

From 1948 Aleksis played an increasingly important role in the development of Quaternary studies in Canada. In the first few years after his arrival he served as a consultant on indicator tracing, Pleistocene stratigraphy and mapping and in groundwater geology for a variety of agencies including the Geological Survey of Canada, the Ontario Department of Mines, and the Ontario Department of Planning and Development; for the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority, the Thames River Conservation Authority and various private companies. In 1956 Aleksis was promoted to Associate Professor and in 1964 to Professor at Western Ontario. From 1980 he has been an Emeritus Professor at the University.

During his four decades at Western, Aleksis has been appointed as delegate to the International Geological Congress (1960), and as one of the Canadian delegates to the INQUA Congresses in 1965, 1969, 1973, 1977 and 1982. He was responsible for co-organising the INQUA Field Excursion in the Great Lakes-Ohio River Valley (1965), and a similar excursion held in conjunction with the Montréal IGC (1972). In other areas he acted as President of the INQUA Commission on genesis and lithology of Quaternary deposits, as President on the Working Group on tills, and in Commission symposia and discussions in various parts of the world. He also acted as leader of the Canadian Working Group of the UNESCO-IUGS, International Geological Correlation Project on Quaternary Glaciations of the Northern Hemisphere between 1974 and 1984. Aleksis was made an Honorary Member of INQUA in 1987 at the XII INQUA Congress.

Aleksis was appointed to the Royal Society of Canada in 1979. Earlier he had helped organise the Royal Society's Conference on Glacial Till in Ottawa in 1975. Between 1974 and 1982 Aleksis was active on the American Quaternary Association, first as Councillor, and then as President (1980-1982). In the same general time frame he was involved with numerous invited lectures ranging from Penrose to local talks. He acted as an international advisor as a guest of the Polish Academy of Sciences, for the Geological Survey of Finland, for the Ministry of Education in Finland, on stratigraphic discussions in the USSR, and on many review committees in Canada. Aleksis served as Associate Editor for *Geoscience Canada* (1976-1978), and as Associate Editor for *Quaternary Science Reviews* (1981-1987).

Aleksis Dreimanis has always maintained close links with Latvia. From 1970 to 1986 he was involved as a correspondent with the Dictionary of Latvian Technical Terminology, and from 1979 as associate editor of the Technical Review Journal (for Geology). From 1973 to 1976 he was Chairman of the Commission on Technical and Natural Sciences at the Latvian Cultural



Foundation. He has made numerous visits as an invited lecturer to Riga, and to Tallin in Estonia. He was made an Honorary Member of the Geographical Society of Latvia in 1990, and, in the same year a Foreign Member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences.

Honours also abound in Canada. He received the Centennial Medal in 1967, the Logan Medal of the Geological Association of Canada in 1978, and two honorary D.Sc.'s: — from the University of Waterloo (1969) and the University of Western Ontario (1980). Elsewhere he has received the Distinguished Career Award of the Geological Society of America in 1987, the Centennial Medal of the Geological Survey of Finland (1987), the Albrecht Penck Medal of the German Quaternary Association (1988) and the University of Helsinki Medal (1990).

The list of students involved with M.Sc. and Ph.D. programmes through Aleksis's laboratory is long and impressive; over a dozen M.Sc. students and 15 Ph.D's have studied under him, and when linked together with the names of his post-doctoral students, read like part of an International Who's Who of the Quaternary. Methodologies developed by Dreimanis and co-researchers (Chittick determination of carbonates in particular), have led to considerable advances in Quaternary geology and stratigraphy, especially of glacial events in southernmost Ontario and adjacent regions in the United States. Aleksis has produced over 200 papers, notes and abstracts, a legacy which considerably enriches the field of Quaternary research. Some of these have been cited in the selected bibliography listed below.

In conclusion Aleksis Dreimanis is a quiet but extremely well respected scientist. He is admired by students and associates alike. One of his most outstanding attributes has been the praise for his kindness and understanding given to him by former students and professional colleagues. His list of accomplishments in understanding all types of glacial deposits, but particularly different tills, set standards for us all to aspire to. He is indeed a most worthy recipient of the W. A. Johnston Medal of the Canadian Quaternary Association.

In his acceptance of the W. A. Johnston Medal, and the framed citation from Dr. W. C. Mahaney, Professor Dreimanis thanked all those who had made the award possible. He was honoured and touched by the award, and expressed the view that much of the credit was due to others.

Alan V. MORGAN  
Canadian Quaternary Association

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Dreimanis, A., 1949. Interglacial deposits of Latvia. *Geol. Foren. Forhandl.* 71: 525-536.
- Dreimanis, A. and Reavely, G. H., 1953. Differentiation of the lower and the upper till along the N. shore of L. Erie. *Journal of Sedimentary Petrology*, 23: 238-259.
- Dreimanis, A., 1956. Steep Rock iron ore boulder train. *Proceedings of the Geological Association of Canada*, 8(1): 27-70.
- 1957. Stratigraphy of the Wisconsin glacial stage along the northwestern shore of Lake Erie. *Science*, 126: 166-168.
- 1957. Depths of leaching in glacial deposits. *Science*, 126: 403-404.
- 1958. Beginning of the Nipissing Phase of Lake Huron. *Journal of Geology*, 66: 591-594.
- Dreimanis, A. and Terasmae, J., 1958. Stratigraphy of Wisconsin glacial deposits of Toronto area, Ontario. *Proceedings of the Geological Association of Canada*, 10: 119-135.
- Dreimanis, A., 1959. Rapid microscopic fabric studies in drill-cores and hand specimens of till and tillite. *Journal of Sedimentary Petrology*, 29: 459-463.
- 1959. Measurements of depth of carbonate leaching in service of Pleistocene stratigraphy. *Geol. Foren. Forhandl.*, 81: 478-484.
- 1960. Tills of Southern Ontario. In *Soils in Canada*. Royal Society of Canada Special Publication No. 3, 1961, p. 80-96; 2nd edition 1965, 3rd edition 1968.
- 1962. Quantitative gasometric determination of calcite and dolomite by using Chittick apparatus. *Journal of Sedimentary Petrology*, 32: 520-529.
- 1964. Lake Warren and the Two Creeks interval. *Journal of Geology*, 72: 247-250.
- MacClintock, P. and Dreimanis, A., 1964. Reorientation of till fabric by overriding glacier in the St. Lawrence valley. *American Journal of Science* 262: 247-250.
- Goldthwait, R. P., Dreimanis, A., Forsyth, J. L., Karrow, P. F. and White, G. W., 1965. Pleistocene deposits of the Erie lobe, p. 85-97. In *The Quaternary of the United States*. Princeton University Press (also translated in Russian).
- Dreimanis, A. and Karrow, P. F., 1965. Southern Ontario: Guidebook for Field Conference G. Great Lakes — Ohio River Valley. INQUA, p. 90-110.
- Dreimanis, A., Terasmae, J. and McKenzie, G. D., 1966. The Port Talbot Interstade of the Wisconsin Glaciation. *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*, 3: 305-325.
- Westgate, J. A. and Dreimanis, A., 1967. Volcanic ash layers of recent age at Banff National Park, Alberta, Canada. *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*, 4: 155-161.
- Dreimanis, A., 1967. Mastodons, their geologic age and extinction in Ontario, Canada. *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*, 4: 663-675.
- Dreimanis, A. and Vagners, U. J., 1969. Lithologic Relation of Till to bedrock, p. 93-98. In H. E. Wright, Jr., Quaternary geology and climate. National Academy of Science, 1701.
- Dreimanis, A., 1970. Rock breakage as related to some engineering and geologic processes. *Proceedings of the 22nd Canadian Soil Mechanics Conference*, Rept. No. 67: 88-93.
- 1970. Are marine fossils in the Quaternary deposits a sufficient evidence for marine deposition? *Baltica*, 4: 313-322.
- 1972. Quaternary geology in Canada. *Earth Science Reviews*, 8(1): 142-144.
- Terasmae, J., Karrow, P. F. and Dreimanis, A., 1972. Quaternary stratigraphy and geomorphology of the Eastern Great Lakes region of southern Ontario. Guidebook of Excursion A-42, International Geology Congress 24th Sess., Montréal, 75 p.

- Mörner, N. A. and Dreimanis, A., 1973. The Erie Interstade. *Geological Society of America Memoir* 136: 107-134.
- Dreimanis, A., 1973. Mid-Wisconsin of the Eastern Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Region, North America. *Eiszeitalt, u. Gegenwart*, 23/24: 377-379.
- 1976. Tills, their origin and properties. In R. F. Leggett ed., *Glacial Till*. Royal Society of Canada, Special Publication 12: 11-49 (reprinted 1977 and 1980).
- 1976. The relation between the distance of drift transport and the lithology of till (discussion), p. 225. In W. Stankowski, ed., *Till — its genesis and diagenesis*. University A. Mickiewicza, Poznan Ser. *Geografia* Nr. 12.
- 1977. Late Wisconsin glacial retreat in the Great Lakes Region, North America, p. 70-89. In W. S. Newman, B. Salwen (eds.), *Amerinds and their paleoenvironments in northeastern North America*. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 288.
- 1977. Magnetic, physical, and lithologic properties and age of till exposed along the east coast of Lake Huron: Discussion. *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*, 14(9): 2171-2175.
- 1977. Correlation of Wisconsin glacial events between the eastern Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Lowlands. *Géographie physique et Quaternaire*, 31(1): 37-51.
- Raukas, A., Mickelson, D. M. and Dreimanis, A., 1978. Methods of till investigation in Europe and North America. *Journal of Sedimentary Petrology*, 48(1): 285-294.
- Dreimanis, A., Hutt, G., Raukas, A. and Whippey, P. W., 1978. Dating methods of Pleistocene deposits and their problems: 1. Thermoluminescence dating. *Geoscience Canada*, 5(2): 55-60.
- Dreimanis, A., 1979. The problems of Waterlain Tills, p. 167-177. In Ch. Schlüchter, ed., *Moraines and Varves*. A. A. Balkema, Rotterdam.
- Gwyn, Q. H. J. and Dreimanis, A., 1979. Heavy mineral assemblages in tills and their use in distinguishing glacial lobes in the Great Lakes Region. *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*, 16: 2219-2235.
- Dreimanis, A., 1980. Quaternary studies in Poland. *Quaternary Research*, 14, (2): 271-273.
- Hicock, S. R., Dreimanis, A. and Broster, B., 1981. Submarine flow tills at Victoria, British Columbia. *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*, 18: 71-80.
- Dreimanis, A., 1982. Two origins of the stratified Catfish Creek Till at Plum Point, Ontario, Canada. *Boreas*, 11(2): 173-180.
- 1982. Commission's Activities During the Inter-Congress Period 1977-1982, p. 5-11. In C. Schlüchter, ed., *INQUA — Commission on Genesis and Lithology of Quaternary Deposits*. ETH — Zurich.
- 1983. Synchronism versus Diachronism. In *Ice-Marginal Fluctuations During Late Wisconsin in North America*. Project 73-1-24 Quaternary Glaciations in the Northern Hemisphere, Report No. 7: 73-80.
- Gravenor, C. P., von Brunn, V. and Dreimanis, A., 1984. Nature and classification of waterlain glacial sediments, exemplified by Pleistocene, Late Paleozoic and Late Precambrian deposits. *Earth Science Reviews*, 20: 105-166.
- Hicock, S. R. and Dreimanis, A., 1985. Glaciotectonic structures as useful ice-movement indicators in glacial deposits: Four Canadian case studies. *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*, 22: 339-346.
- Dreimanis, A. and Schlüchter, Ch., 1985. Field criteria for the recognition of till or tillite. *Paleogeography, Paleoclimatology, Palaeoecology*, 51: 7-14.
- Dreimanis, A., 1987. Commission on genesis and lithology of glacial deposits (C-2). Report for the period 1982-1987, p. 71-78. In Ch. Schlüchter, ed., *INQUA Report on activities 1982-1987*. ETH — Zurich.
- Dreimanis, A., Hamilton, J. P. and Kelly, P. E. 1987. Complex subglacial sedimentation of Catfish Creek till at Bradville, Ontario, Canada, p. 73-87. In J. J. M. van der Meer, ed., *Tills and glaciotectonics*. A. A. Balkema, Rotterdam.
- Albino, K. and Dreimanis, A., 1988. A time-transgressive kinetostratigraphic sequence spanning 180° in a single section at Bradville, Ontario, p. 11-20. In D. G. Croot, ed., *Glaciotectonics*. A. A. Balkema, Rotterdam.
- Dreimanis, A., 1988. Tills: Their genetic terminology and classification, p. 17-83. In R. P. Goldthwait and C. L. Madsen, ed., *Genetic classification of glacial deposits*. A. A. Balkema, Rotterdam.
- Hicock, S. R. and Dreimanis, A., 1989. Sunnybrook drift indicates a grounded early Wisconsin glacier in the Lake Ontario basin. *Geology*, 17: 169-172.
- Dreimanis, A., Liivrand, E. and Raukas, A., 1989. Glacially redeposited pollen in tills of southern Ontario, Canada. *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*, 26.

Comité *ad hoc* d'évaluation des manuscrits proposés à *Géographie physique et Quaternaire*, en 1991

- John T. Andrews (University of Colorado)  
 James Begét (University of Alaska)  
 Weston Blake, Jr. (Geological Survey of Canada)  
 Arthur Bloom (Cornell University)  
 Peter T. Bobrowski (B. C. Min. of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources)  
 Andrée Bolduc (Commission géologique du Canada)  
 Derek Booth (University of Washington)  
 Michel Bouchard (Université de Montréal)  
 Melinda Brugman (Environnement Canada)  
 Michael Church (University of British Columbia)  
 James Clark (Calvin College)  
 John J. Clague (Geological Survey of Canada)  
 Peter Clark (Oregon State University)  
 John P. Coakley (Canada Centre for Inland Waters)  
 Les C. Cwynar (University of New Brunswick)  
 P. T. Davis (Mount Holyoke College)  
 Jean-Claude Dionne (Université Laval)  
 Jean-Marie M. Dubois (Université de Sherbrooke)  
 Arthur S. Dyke (Geological Survey of Canada)  
 David J. A. Evans (King's College London)  
 Mark M. Fenton (Alberta Research Council)  
 David Fisher (Geological Survey of Canada)  
 Pierre Freyet (Université de Paris VII)  
 Robert J. Fulton (Geological Survey of Canada)  
 Pierre Gangloff (Université de Montréal)  
 Robert Gerath (Thurber Consultants Ltd)  
 Robert Gilbert (Queen's University)  
 Thomas D. Hamilton (U.S. Geological Survey)  
 David G. Harry (Geological Survey of Canada)  
 Bernard Hétu (Université du Québec à Rimouski)  
 E. J. Hickin (Simon Fraser University)  
 Claude Hillaire-Marcel (Université du Québec à Montréal)  
 Hannu Hyvarinen (University of Helsinki)  
 Lionel E. Jackson, Jr. (Geological Survey of Canada)  
 Roger King (University of Western Ontario)  
 Rudy W. Klassen (Geological Survey of Canada)  
 Jean-Pierre Lautridou (Centre de géomorphologie du CNRS)  
 Vic Levson (Geological Survey of British Columbia)  
 Glen M. MacDonald (McMaster University)  
 Pierre Mandier (Université Lumière de Lyon II)  
 S. Brian McCann (McMaster University)  
 Gifford H. Mille (INSTAAR, University of Colorado)  
 Marcel Moussette (Université Laval)  
 Gerald Osborn (University of Calgary)  
 Michel Parent (Commission géologique du Canada)  
 Alain Plouffe (Commission géologique du Canada)  
 Victor K. Prest (Geological Survey of Canada)  
 Gilbert Prichonnet (Université du Québec à Montréal)  
 Vern N. Rampton (Terrain Analysis and Mapping)  
 Charles Raymond (University of Washington)  
 James C. Ritchie (University of Toronto)  
 Michael C. Roberts (Simon Fraser University)  
 Cyril Rodrigues (University of Windsor)  
 Robert Rogerson (University of Lethbridge)  
 June M. Ryder (University of British Columbia)  
 Noralf Rye (University of Bergen)  
 Charles T. Shafer (Geological Survey of Canada)  
 David Sharpe (Geological Survey of Canada)  
 William W. Shilts (Geological Survey of Canada)  
 Denis A. St-Onge (Commission géologique du Canada)  
 Bjorg Stabell (University of Oslo)  
 Harold Svensson (University of Copenhagen)  
 Fiorenzo Ugolini (University of Washington)  
 Charles Tarnocai (Agriculture Canada)  
 Sandy Vanderburgh (Simon Fraser University)  
 Jean-Serge Vincent (Commission géologique du Canada)  
 Richard Waitt (U.S. Geological Survey)  
 Brent Ward (University of Alberta)  
 Michael Wilson (University of Lethbridge)  
 Ming-ko Woo (McMaster University)