

Foreword

The Hans Tausen Project was originally anticipated as two separate but closely linked projects within the Nordic Environmental Research Programme 1993-1997. The letters of intent were centered on two main issues:

- 1) Drilling of an ice core through the Hans Tausen Iskappe (ice cap) at a suitable place on this fairly large high Arctic ice cap;
- 2) To investigate the dynamic aspects of the ice cap and the surrounding area in both a glaciological and a geological sense.

Shortly after the field season in 1995 the participants decided to publish several papers on the project in one volume. Not only would it be easy for the reader to find the relevant papers in the same publication, but it would also demonstrate the importance of relating the various informations obtained by the project. Alas, this kind of publication is often time-consuming as authors, referees, and editors do not always follow the time schedule. In any case, we finally succeeded in collecting a fairly comprehensive set of papers.

Mixing more recent data of the Hans

Tausen Iskappe with investigations of the post-glacial dynamics in the area is of special interest, as Peary Land is believed to be especially sensitive to global change. Amelioration of the Arctic climate conditions could have drastic effects on the local glaciers.

Our findings from the Hans Tausen Iskappe do tell a story of an ice cap which melted away during the Climatic Optimum and later started to rebuild; it has still not reached a dynamic equilibrium. In this perspective it is worth comparing our findings with those of the Northeast Canada.

The Hans Tausen Iskappe Project and the post glacial geo-glaciological history of the area is of significant interest due to the concern about global change as the data demonstrates that the area is sensitive to climate change.

Even though the project was focused on Global Change it also offered information of a more regional character, which adds to our understanding of geo-glaciological relations and to our understanding of the chemistry of the low troposphere in remote areas.

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