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In Memoriam

Professor Sir Nicholas Shackleton (1937–2006)



Professor Sir Nicholas Shackleton of the University of Cambridge died February 24, 2006 at his home in Cambridge, England. Among the most famous Quaternary/ Tertiary paleoceanographers and paleoclimatologists of his era, Shackleton revolutionized Quaternary geochronology and paleoclimate studies through his meticulous isotopic investigations of deep-sea sediment cores and his collaborative work on the role of astronomical (Milankovich) variations as the primary "pacemaker" of climate change during the glacial ages.

Shackleton became active in the International Union for Quaternary Research beginning with the Paris congress in 1969, shortly after receiving his Cambridge Ph.D. Years later, he was elected vice president and then president of INQUA and was instrumental in furthering its interdisciplinary, international research programs.

Shackleton served for 30 yr on the editorial board of *Quaternary Research*, providing perceptive comments on a long succession of submitted manuscripts. His own 1973 paper in QR (volume 3, number 1, pp. 39–55) on Pacific marine isotopic temperatures and paleo-ice volumes, coauthored with Neil Opdyke, is likely the most cited paper in the journal's history.

A foreign associate of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, among the many other honors he received were the Crafoord Prize of the Royal Swedish Academy, a knighthood for service to the earth sciences, the Ewing Medal of the AGU, the Royal Medal of the Royal Society of London, and the 2005 Blue Planet Prize, which he received shortly before his death.