

5241: GLACIERS AND ICE SHEETS: **HISTORY/ORGANIZATIONS**

First Descriptions - ALPS ; H.B. de Saussure 1770s

First geologists – J. Forbes (Phil. Trans.) 1846

- Louis Agassiz “Glaciers” (Paris) 1847

International Glacier Commission founded by Int. Geol. Congress, 1894
(F.A. Forel, President) – termini recorded

Transferred to IUGG/IAHS in 1927, merged with Commission
on Snow in 1939 → ICSI in 1948.

British Glaciological Society 1936

→ International Glaciological Society 1972

Mass balance measurements began 1946 on Storglaciaren (Tarfela).
(H W Ahlmann, C C Wallen, V. Schytt, Sweden)

World Data Centers (incl. Glaciology) established for IGY 1957-58.

International Hydrologic Decade (IHD) 1965-74 - expanded glacier
monitoring and identified need for World Glacier Inventory.

ICSI Services:

Permanent Service for Fluctuations of Glaciers (PSFG) 1959(P. Kasser)

World Glacier Inventory 1978 (F. Mueller)

combined in World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS) 1986

Glacier Mass Balance Bulletin published since 1991

“Satellite Image Atlas of Glaciers of the World; chapters A-K” R. S.
Williams Jr. and J Ferrigno (eds). 1990s –2005(?)

“World Atlas of Snow and Ice Resources” 1997. V. M. Kotlyakov (ed)

Global Land Ice Measurement from Space (GLIMS) project (USGS,
NSIDC) based on ASTER images, 1999 →.