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CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO  
THE PHYSIOGRAPHY OF ICELAND

WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE HIGHLANDS  
WEST OF VATNAJÖKULL

BY  
NIELS NIELSEN

WITH 32 PLATES AND 9 MAPS

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KØBENHAVN  
LEVIN & MUNKSGAARD

BIANCO LUNOS BOGTRYKKERI A/S

1933

HÁSKÓLI ÍSLANDS  
ÚR BÓKUM FINNS JÓNSSONAR

## PREFACE

The material on which the present work is based was for the most part compiled on a journey in 1927, The Second Danish-Icelandic Expedition, the members of which were:—

PÁLMI HANNESSON, B. Sc. (now Rector at the Grammar School in Reykjavík).  
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NIELS NIELSEN, Ph. D.

Some of the material, however, was collected on my former journeys in Iceland in 1923 and 1924, and, though it plays no great part from the point of view of quantity, those journeys have had a particularly important bearing on the work because, through them, I had become fairly familiar with the technique of travelling in Iceland and also had formed a certain concrete view of the tasks that presented themselves when we made a start on the work in the field in July 1927. I am greatly indebted to all my companions for work well done and for their enjoyable society; I would especially extend my thanks to my old travelling companion PÁLMI HANNESSON for a collaboration which, spread over many years, has been an inexhaustible source of knowledge to me. Nor can I omit to express my gratitude for the kindness and helpfulness I have always found among the Icelandic authorities and in Icelandic homes. Mr. W. E. CALVERT has undertaken the translation in a most careful manner.

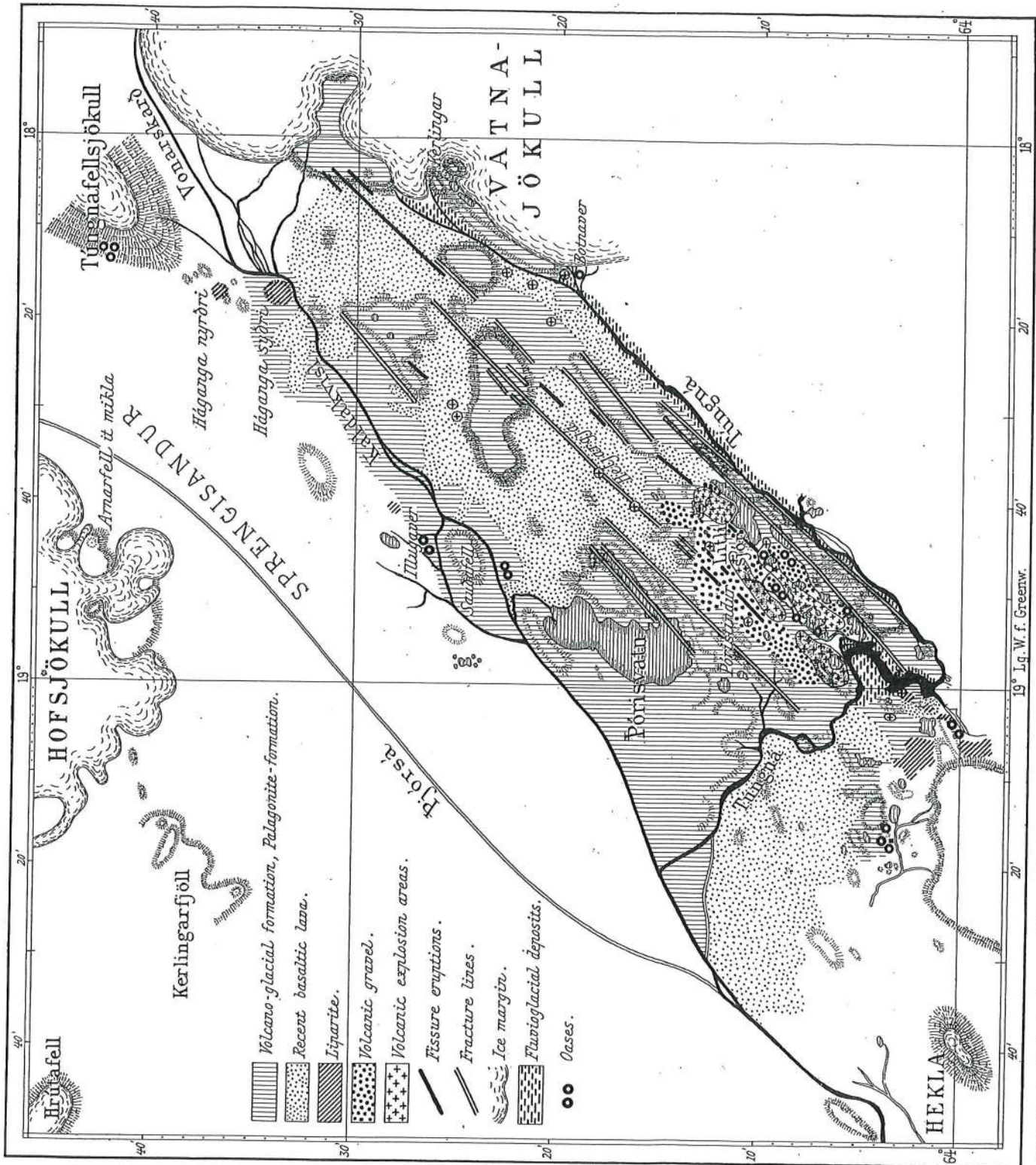
The funds necessary to cover travelling expenses were procured from grants kindly made by the Carlsberg Foundation and the Dano-Iceland Union Foundation, while the Carlsen Lange Endowment Fund, by means of its stipend to STEINÞÓR SIGURÐSSON has greatly promoted the handling of the cartographic material. The translation expenses was defrayed by the Rask-Ørsted Fund. I tender my heartfelt thanks to these institutions.

Copenhagen, October 1930.

NIELS NIELSEN.

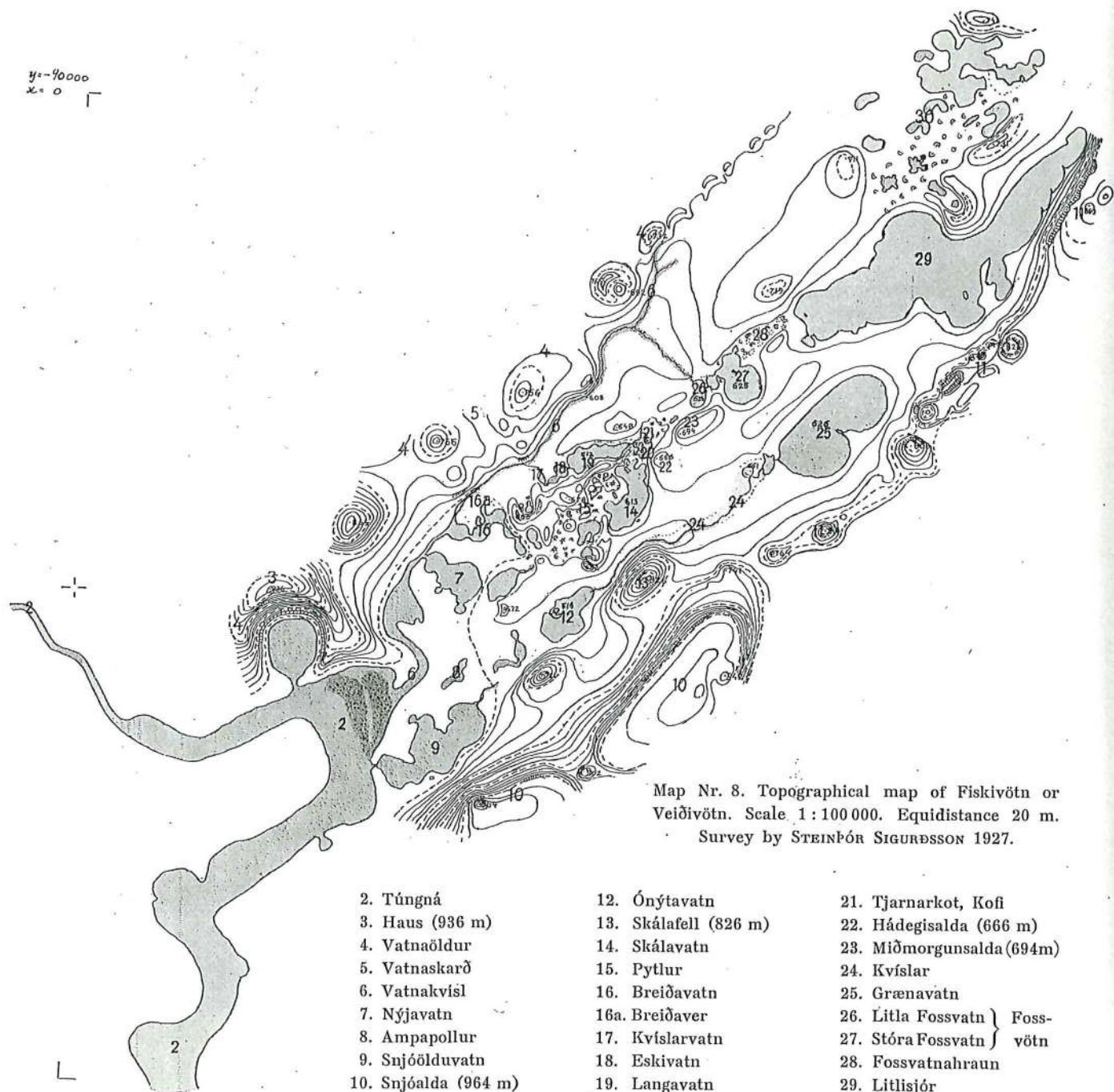
## CONTENTS

	Page
Preface .....	185
A. The Landscape west of Vatnajökull .....	187—272
1. Situation and History of Discovery .....	187—189
2. Topographical Conditions .....	189—195
3. Principal Features of the Structure of Iceland .....	195—204
4. Volcanism in the Highlands west of Vatnajökull .....	204—236
a. The Háganga Region .....	205—214
b. The Fiskivötn Area .....	214—233
c. Volcanism in Landmannafrjettur .....	233—234
d. Hágöngur .....	234—236
5. The tectonic conditions .....	236—241
6. Subaerial denudation .....	241—245
7. The æolic processes .....	245—251
8. Hydrographical conditions .....	251—267
a. The Rivers .....	254—260
b. Lakes and Marshes .....	260—267
9. Annual cycle of denudation .....	267—269
10. The Oases .....	269—272
B. Iceland's Volcanism and Tectonics in the Light of the Wegener Theory .....	273—283
1. Types of Volcanic Landscapes .....	273—275
2. The Tectonic Disturbances .....	275—277
3. Tectonics and Volcanism .....	277—281
4. The Tectonics of Iceland and the Alpine Foreland .....	281—282
5. Iceland and the Wegener Theory .....	282—283
Bibliography .....	284—286



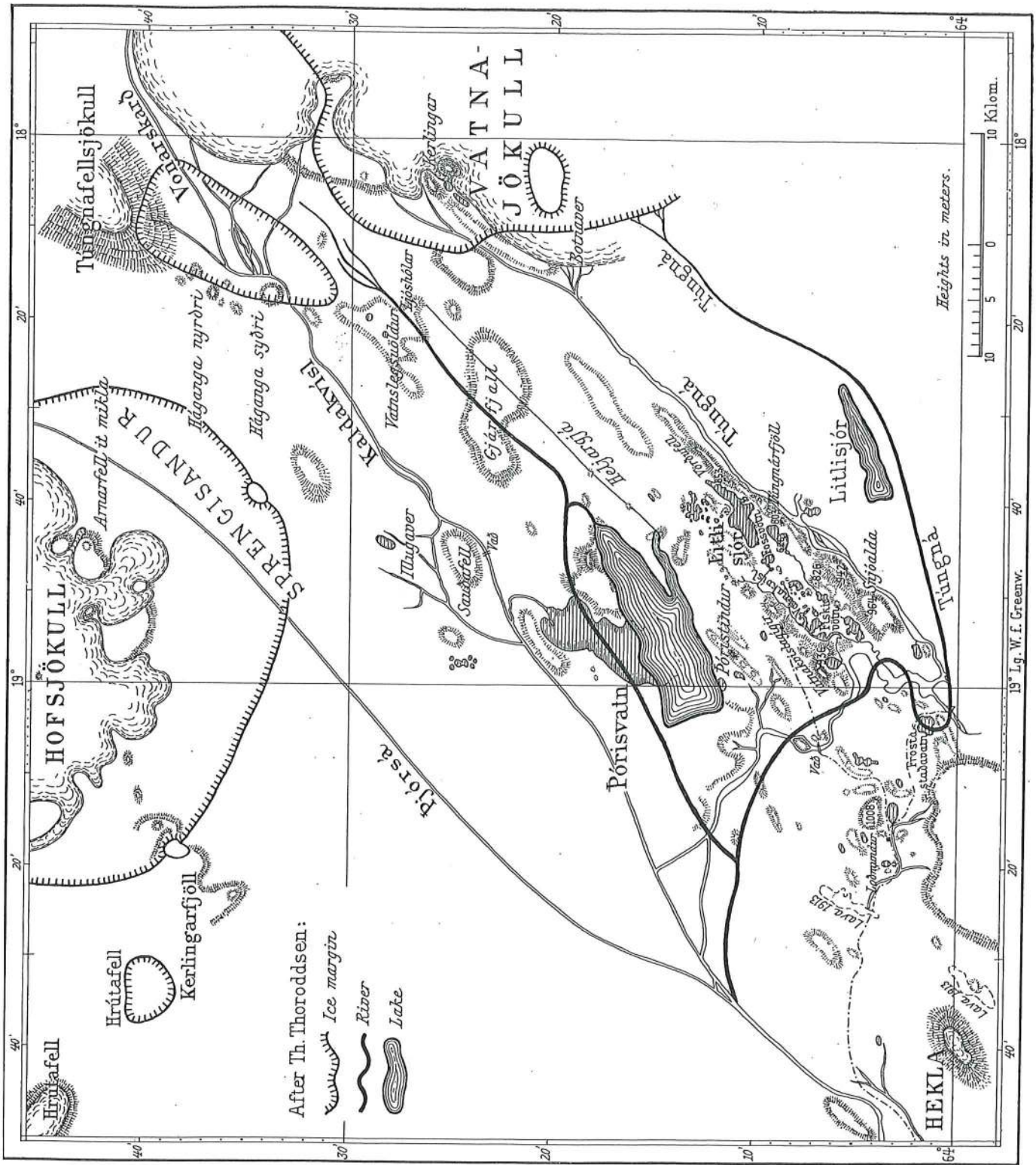
Map Nr. 1. Geological map of the region West of Vatnajökull. Topographical survey by STEINÞÓR SIGURÐSSON, geological survey by NIELS NIELSEN. Scale 1 : 500 000.

y = -40000  
x = 0



Map Nr. 8. Topographical map of Fiskivötn or Veidivötn. Scale 1:100 000. Equidistance 20 m. Survey by STEINÞÓR SIGURÐSSON 1927.

- |                         |                       |                            |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 2. Túngná               | 12. Ónýtavatn         | 21. Tjarnarkot, Kofi       |
| 3. Haus (936 m)         | 13. Skálafell (826 m) | 22. Hádegisalda (666 m)    |
| 4. Vatnaöldur           | 14. Skálavatn         | 23. Miðmorgunsalda (694m)  |
| 5. Vatnaskarð           | 15. Pytlur            | 24. Kvíslar                |
| 6. Vatnakvísl           | 16. Breiðavatn        | 25. Grænavatn              |
| 7. Nýjavatn             | 16a. Breiðaver        | 26. Lítla Fossvatn } Foss- |
| 8. Ampapollur           | 17. Kvíslarvatn       | 27. Stóra Fossvatn } vötn  |
| 9. Snjóölduvatn         | 18. Eskivatn          | 28. Fossvatnahraun         |
| 10. Snjóalda (964 m)    | 19. Langavatn         | 29. Lítlisjór              |
| 11. Snjóöldufjallgarður | 20. Tjaldvatn         | 30. Hraunvötn              |



Map Nr. 9. Main topographical features of the region West of Vatnajökull as drawn by STEINÞÓR SIGURÐSSON compared with THORODDSEN'S map of the same region.