

In appreciation of curator Gunnar Raade on the occasion of his 50th birthday

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When I became the Chairman of the Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names (CNMMN) of the International Mineralogical Association (IMA) on 1 January 1983, Gunnar Raade already was the member of the CNMMN for Norway. We had met previously at a meeting, but I didn't really get to know him until we started working together on the CNMMN. In this short tribute to Gunnar, I would like to share some of my feelings towards him.

Gunnar is, in my opinion, one of the stronger as well as one of the most conscientious members of the CNMMN. In the almost twelve years that I have been Chairman, I cannot remember a single vote which he missed. Let me explain what this means for those of you who do not know what membership on the CNMMN entails. Every month I send a memorandum to each of our members. Within the memorandum are reports on the last voting including all the comments made by the members. Attached to the memorandum are abstracts of the latest new mineral proposals and names upon which the members are required to vote and comment. They must send their votes and comments to me within about sixty days of the date on which I mailed the memorandum. So far as I can remember, Gunnar has never missed one of my deadlines.

His comments are exceptionally good and constructive and are sure to be appreciated by the proposers of the new minerals. There is no doubt in my mind that some of his comments probably have improved some of the final descriptive papers of new minerals. Gunnar seems to give as much attention to proposals by other people as he gives to his own scientific work. I have read many new mineral descriptions over the years and can say that without exception any description which bears the name of Gunnar Raade as an author ranks near the top of the perfection

scale.

What I wrote about his work with the CNMMN applies specifically to that part which I handle – new minerals. I know from speaking with the CNMMN's Vice-Chairman, Dr. E. H. Nickel, that Gunnar is as diligent with the matters handled by him – redefinitions, discreditations and revalidations. So far, I have written only about Gunnar the mineralogist; what about Gunnar the person? Everybody I know who has had the pleasure of meeting Gunnar thinks highly of him. He is a quiet person who doesn't shout about how important he is, but as we get to know him we realize what a fine person he is. What better compliment can you give to a person than to say: «You are always welcome in our house». My wife and I certainly feel this way about Gunnar.

Norway has a long history of mineralogy and has been the home of many great mineralogists. Gunnar has earned a rightful place among these famous people. I am writing this tribute during the Winter Olympics being held at Lillehammer. The other night I watched one of the events and was pleased to see all the Norwegian spectators waving Norwegian flags as one of their countrymen competed. If we were to hold a Mineralogical Olympics, I would expect to see many Norwegian flags being waved in honour of Gunnar Raade.