

# En mineralhistorisk godbit!

Roy Kristiansen

I første del av dette århundre næres det liten tvil om at professorene W. C. Brögger (1851-1940), Norge og A. Lacroix (1863-1948), Frankrike (se bilde) var blant de aller fremste mineraloger i verden, og disse to herrene sto i jevnlig kontakt med hverandre. Begge hadde i store trekk samme interesseområde.

For mange år siden, dengang Lotte Thiis var bibliotekar i biblioteket, Min. Geol. Museum, Oslo, ble det ved opprydding funnet en del "rask", d.v.s. kopier av brever, trykksaker o.l. Riktignok ikke mye, men det skulle egentlig kastes.

Lotte Thiis spurte allikevel om det kunne være av interesse, og ved nærmere gjennomgang så absolutt!

Bl.a. var det et brev signert V. M. Goldschmidt - det var jo OK å ta vare på! Likeledes en original mineralhandlerliste fra Emile Bertrand, Paris 1878 (han med bertranditen!).

Men gjevest var en kladd av et brev skrevet til Professor A. Lacroix - av W.C. Brögger personlig -

riktignok ikke signert - men helt uten tvil hans håndskrift. Og - ved nærmere gjennomlesning av brevet viste det seg å være et meget interessant historisk dokument!

A. Lacroix hadde nemlig gjennom mange år arbeidet med et stort verk om Madagascar's mineralogi, "Mineralogie de Madagascar", og første bind forelå i 1921 - ytterligere to bind kom 1922-1923 - et flott og imponerende verk - som neppe mange har

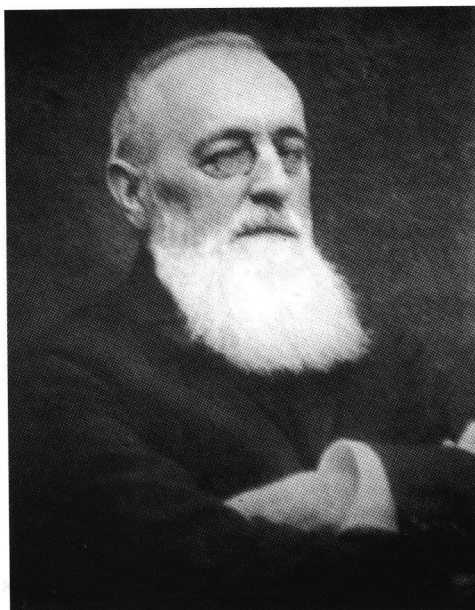
privat! Således er brevet fra Brögger til Lacroix faktisk den aller første kommentar til verket!

Jeg har ingen motforestillinger mot å gjøre andre delaktig i innholdet i dette brevet, i

sin helhet slik det foreligger fra Brøggers hand. Et unikt og morsomt dokument med historisk sus! God fornøyelse. Jeg gjør oppmerksom på at det enkelte steder kan være mistolkninger av Brøggers håndskrift. Originalen er slett ikke like lesbar alle steder!

Takk

Lotte Thiis takkes hjertligst for at hun i sin tid gjorde meg oppmerksom på brevene. Karin Askø Karlsrud, Fredrikstad, takkes for skrivearbeidet.



A. Lacroix (1863-1948)

Prof. A. Lacroix  
My dear friend!

24/4.1922

The time is flying! Several months have already vanished since I received your magnificent work "Mineralogie de Madagascar" Tome I.

I was just at that time very busy, and had not sufficient hours spared to spend on a thorough study of your voluminous and

very comprehensive work; also in the months following I was always forced to put off again to go on with your sizeable volume and I had only time left now and then to dip into it and to admire the extremely fine plates, and the enormous number of figures etc.

And so it has come, that first now in the Easter holidays I have found time sufficient for a continuous study of this superb proof of your quite exceptional working power and productivity. I see that your work is the result of studies during 25 years, but when I recall all your numerous other works

and papers published during these 25 years, and further what time your official duties as director of your museum and as "secretaire perpetual" of the academy of science - must have demanded - it is plainly incomprehensible, that it has been possible for you at that time to finish also this your standard work on the mineralogy, petrology and geology of Madagascar.

I understand that this work has been also for yourself one of your main life-works, and I congratulate you heartily, that you have lived to see ready from your hand this impressive result of never interrupted studies during 1/4 of a century.

At the same time I express to you my warmest thanks for your kindness to send me a copy of this your last main work.

Of great interest for me is at first your description of the minerals from different alkali rocks, especially your thorough investigations of the Na-amphiboles: Barkevikite, Laueite, Imerinite, Richterite and Torendrikite. I think some of these your new amphiboles may be discovered also in the Kr.region and still more interesting peg-

dik.min.  
Of interest for me in looking into the mineralogical part of your work has especially the great number of rare minerals from pegmatitic dikes common with corresponding Norwegian occurrences.

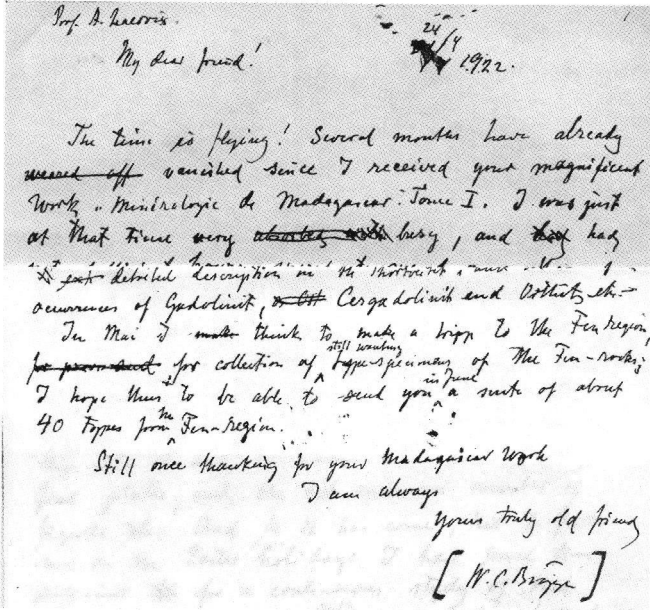
So for instance the minerals of the isomor-

phic group rutil, ilmenorutil, struverit, zircon, malacon, thorit. I feel here the want of our Alvite, a proportionally common mineral on our Norwegian occurrences, however, hitherto incompletely investigated. On the other side, in Norway the thorianit is still wanted.

As to the wanting of the gadolinit it is remarkable that also a number of other (Y, Er) silicates of the Norwegian granite peg.dykes: hellandit, thalenit, kainosit and others.

Y-minerals Cer-Yttrfluorit are hitherto discovered. Also Xenotim, yttritanit, - so common in Norway seems to be rare on Madagascar".

Very interesting is the appearance of the whole company of the Niobates, Tantalites



and Titanates of our granitic pegmatite dikes: Columbit, Tantalite, Euxenit (Polykras), Samarskit, Yttrotantalit, Priorit, Blomstrandin, Fergusonit.

Your Ampangabeit seems to me nearly related to the Norwegian Samarskit from Aslaktaket by Moss.

Your beautiful group Betafit and Samiresit is hitherto wanting on our Norwegian dikes; probably we will find this group represented also in Norway by a more thorough investigation of our feldspar-mines. Very interesting is the discovery of the rare minerals Hambergit and Thortveitit, both of them hitherto only known from Madagascar and Norway.

I see that you have also in Madagascar represented beautifully and richly the Cephosphate monazite so common in Norway.

As to the rare silicates it is strange, that our Be-silicates: Phenakite, Bertrandite and Gadolinit are hitherto not found in Madagascar, especially as you have a so splendid representation of beryl.

They will surely later be discovered. In the whole, your thorough investigation of the gran. pegm. min. of Madagascar has proved a very near agreement with our Norwegian gran. pegmatites and also with the North American granite-pegmatite minerals, - a beautiful proof of the law-directed paragenesis of the mineral-company of the granitic pegm. on the whole, as proved in my discussions of the question 33 years ago

(Zeitschr. Krist.etc. Vol. XVI, I, p.205-214).

Apropos pegm.min., it will perhaps interest you, that a second part of my work is now in the press, and will be sent you within a month. I have only written a paper on the twins of the hellandite. Th. Vogt has a paper on the Thalenit, and Schetelig and detailed description on the Thortveitit, and on Norwegian occurrences of Gadolinit, Cergadolinit and Orthit etc.

In May I think to make a trip to the Fen region for collections of still wanting type-specimens of the Fen-rocks, I hope thus to be able to send you in June a suite of about 40 types from the Fen-region.

Still once thanking for your Madagascar work, I am always yours truly old friend  
(W.C. Brögger)

#### **Abstract.**

Several years ago I received some old letter-drafts from a former librarian at the Min.-Geol. Museum in Oslo, actually intended for the dust-bin ! However, among the "garbage" was a very interesting historical document - a handwritten draft addressed to late Prof. A. Lacroix, and written by late Prof. W. C. Brögger ! The content is mainly devoted to a personal comment of the first volume of A. Lacroix's great work: "Mineralogie de Madagascar", volume 1. I find this historical record so interesting that I do not hesitate to share the complete content with the public.



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