

Editor's notes

With the death of Christoffer Oftedahl on 24 May 1982, Norwegian geology has lost one of its few *polyhistor*s – a specialist in several branches. Oftedahl was also a master at making far-reaching syntheses from the most diverse observations. His contributions to volcanology, ore-formational theory, tectonics and regional mapping helped to build up our present understanding of many fundamental concepts. Innumerable are the students and colleagues who have been inspired by his engagement to the natural sciences and their place in our ever-changing society – whether they met him as researcher, state geologist, professor or public speaker. Oftedahl was a co-editor of this journal and, until he fell ill around Christmas 1981, the president of Norsk Geologisk Forening.

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In connection with the conferring of degrees on Trondheim University doctoral graduates for the period 1972–1982, which took place in September 1982, eight degrees of *doctor honoris causa* were awarded. Among the recipients were Senator William Fulbright, whose work for the exchange of scientists between the United States and other countries has been of importance for Norwegian geology, and Professor Gunnar Kullerud, a long-time member of Norsk Geologisk Forening and contributor to our journal. Kullerud graduated as a mining engineer in Trondheim in 1947 and received his *dr. philos.* degree at the University of Oslo in 1954. He was honoured with the title *doctor technicae honoris causa* for his work with sulphidic and oxidic ore minerals. Today's level of knowledge of these minerals' behaviour under different P-T conditions is to an important extent due to his work, and is fundamental for the understanding of ore-forming processes and for the metallurgical handling of different ore types. Kullerud's thesis was published in this journal in 1953: "The FeS-ZnS system. A Geological thermometer". His guest lecture, given in Trondheim on 3 September 1982: "New methodology and some results from applied mineralogy" will be presented in the near future.

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The critical situation of many a Scandinavian mining company is explicable in terms of low metal prices on the world market, rapidly increasing costs of labour and transport and also the fact that many ore bodies are small and of low grade. The individual companies' search for new mineable ores has only occasionally been successful over the last few years. Some new prospects are, however, of great interest – like the gold-bearing veins in the Bindalen granite and the molybdenum distribution in some of the Oslo-graben intrusives. There is also an expanding interest in industrial minerals.

A new type of organisational structure for mineral-resource inventories and prospecting is forming in this country. Local (county) or national (state) authorities go hand in hand with private or state-owned industrial enterprises to accomplish "total inventories" of the resources of whole regions. This may include everything from metallic ores, industrial minerals and sand and gravel to the preparation of recreation areas, "national parks" and game reservation. Some of the Norwegian counties have attached geologists to their staff. In some areas the newly established *Distrikthøgskoler* (regional technical colleges) have contributed to the inventory work in their respective regions – mainly through their expertise on the delicate interplay between agriculture, forestry, topography and climate. Several co-operative programmes aiming at a "total basic inventory" are under development/accomplishment: Nord-Gudbrandsdal, started 1972, final report expected this year; Finnmark 1982-1992; and Nord-Trøndelag to be started next year. An even larger regional project joins the geological surveys of Finland, Sweden and Norway in a substantial effort to make an inventory of the mineral resources of the Arctic part of our countries: the *Nordkalott* project (north of the 66th parallel) which runs from 1980 to 1986 and is sponsored and partly financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers. All the results from that project will be made available to the public as soon as they are reported.

For reasons of competition, prospecting often requires a very careful handling of new information. Large-scale activities of the above type,

involving different official and private institutions on many levels, merit, however, and perhaps also claim a more open reporting than usual. This is certainly a challenge for reporters, whether their background is that of the scientist or that of the journalist; both these professions

must adapt to each other's methods of work. Within the framework of this journal's traditional scope we look forward to seeing results from these resource inventories in our columns.

G.J.