

Book Review

Norsk Mineralbok

By Torgeir T. Garmo and Rune S. Selbekk.

Published by Fossheim Steinsenter, Lom, Norway, 2017, 351 pp.

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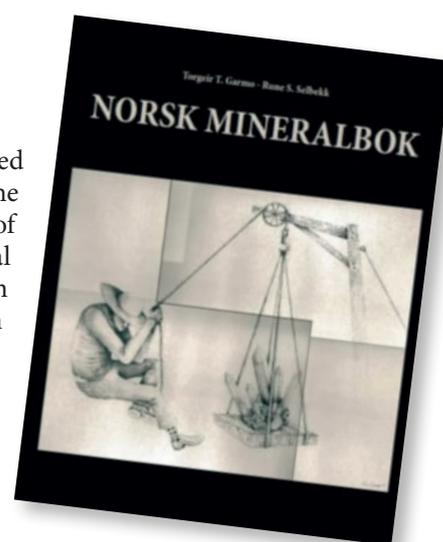
The relationship between amateur mineralogists (mineral collectors) and professional mineralogists (including museum curators) is often problematic. At worst it is a fight over private vs public access to Nature's riches; at best it can be a fruitful collaboration in which both interests benefit. During my own time (1973-1980) as Curator of Mineralogy at Mineralogisk-Geologisk Museum, University of Oslo I was introduced to Torgeir Garmo of Lom, already then a leading figure in the amateur-geology milieu in Norway. With his help and guidance, the Museum was able to build a rapport with the amateur community that greatly enhanced the Museum's collections and our knowledge of Norway's mineral deposits. Today, the Museum's collections are in storage awaiting refurbishment of the building. Garmo's collection, housed in the Fossheim Steinsenter in Lom, thus is the largest and most systematic display of Norway's mineralogy; it also is open without charge to the public.

The newly published *Norsk Mineralbok* is by Torgeir Garmo and Rune Selbekk, who was Curator at the Museum until his recent untimely death. Like Torgeir,

Rune worked tirelessly to raise the public awareness of geology in general and Norwegian mineralogy in particular; he will be greatly missed.

The book distills Garmo's lifetime work, and builds on his *Norsk Steinbok* (1983, with 3 later editions). Selbekk's (2010) own *Norges Mineraler* contains a comprehensive reference list of scientific articles on each species, and is complementary to the new volume.

Norsk Mineralbok contains a good introductory section that covers the basic aspects of mineralogy – definitions, crystallography, mineral chemistry and more – but the bulk of the book is devoted to color photographs of mineral specimens (380 photos in 306



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pages), ordered systematically by mineral groups. The specimens are mainly from Garmo's own collection but are supplemented by excellent examples from other collectors. While many of the specimens are truly beautiful, these are not just perfect "display" specimens; they are selected to show the minerals as they are found in nature, with an emphasis on the illustration of mineral parageneses, processes and crystal forms. Each is accompanied by a technical description and a list of important localities, with paragenetic information and/or history. In some cases, several pages are dedicated to images and explanations of variants, special crystal forms or different parageneses. For example, the section on quartz covers 9 pages; calcite and fluorite each are given 5 pages and rutile 4. This layout and level of detail make the volume a resource for professional geologists as well as for advanced collectors.

The book is handsomely presented on photo-quality paper in 28 x 21 cm format, with excellent photography, mainly by Geir Garmo. It includes an alphabetic list (by L.O. Kvamsdal) of all IMA-approved minerals found in Norway up to 1. December 2016, with key localities, and a list of minerals originally described from Norway (83 at last count), with their type localities. There also is an excellent glossary written in layman's terms.

The text is in Nynorsk (or Viking-norsk; Garmo, *pers. comm.*) but should be readable by anyone with some knowledge of Scandinavian languages, and the illustrations speak for themselves.

References

- Garmo, T., 1983, 1989, 1995, 2003. *Norsk Steinbok*. Universitetsforlaget/Gyldendal.
Selbekk, R.S. 2010. *Norges Mineraler*. NGU-Tapir –Fagbokforlaget.