

Kungliga Fysiografiska Sällskapet, Lund, Sweden; Kongelige Videnskabs-Selskab, Copenhagen, Denmark; Royal Society of Edinburgh, Scotland. He is an Honorary Member of the Geological Society of London, of the Geological Society of Belgium, and of the Geological Society of France, a Corresponding Member of the Geological Society of America and of the Geological Society of Finland, a Member of the Geological Society of Norway, of the Geological Society of Sweden, of the Geological Society of Denmark, of the Deutsche Mineralogische Gesellschaft, of the Geochemical Commission of the International Union of Chemistry (of which he was also President in 1957-1960), and of the Geochemical Society (of which he was also President in 1960). And finally he is a Fellow of the Indian Mineralogical Society and of the Mineralogical Society of America.

Mr. President: It is a great pleasure as well as a valued privilege to introduce my old friend and former colleague, Prof. Barth, for the award of the Roebbling Medal.

PRESENTATION OF THE ROEBLING MEDAL BY PRESIDENT MURDOCH

Thomas Frederick Weybye Barth, geologist and mineralogist, distinguished for your investigations in a wide range of subjects, notably the x-ray determination of unusual crystal structures, the course of differentiation in basaltic lavas, and demonstration of the reaction series in the alkali feldspars: it is my pleasure as President of the Mineralogical Society of America to present to you the Roebbling Medal in recognition of these achievements.

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ACCEPTANCE OF THE ROEBLING MEDAL

T. F. W. BARTH.

*President Murdoch, Dr. Tunell, Fellows, Members, Guests:*

In the first book of Confucious which was written about 2500 years ago, there is a passage saying: "Isn't it a pleasure to have friends who come from far away to visit you." This year I have been visited by thoughts and by letters from friends who live far away.

When I received the letter from our president, Dr. Murdoch, stating that you had selected me as the recipient of the Roebbling Medal, it was a message from the other side of the globe giving me a pleasant shock. After some reconsideration it occurred to me that it was not, perhaps, so much myself, as it was my teachers and friends in many lands whom the Council of the Society wanted to honor; for this, I thank you from a full heart.

It was easy for me to become a mineralogist. As a student I was fortunate to be associated with V. M. Goldschmidt in his most active period of life. I was fascinated by his genius and drank avidly from his cornucopia of new ideas in mineralogy and crystal chemistry.

Through him I was introduced to the best in German science; I lectured for two years in the department of Professor K. H. Scheumann whose wide interests and artistic abilities made a deep impression on me.

Still in my twenties, I was fortunate to receive an International Rockefeller grant (a rare dispensation at that time) to study at Harvard with R. A. Daly, Esper Larsen, Charles Palache and others. The kindness of these men and their inspired teaching kindled in me an enthusiasm and devotion to mineralogy that can never die.

To top my share of luck, I was soon accepted on the staff of the Geophysical Laboratory in Washington, D. C.—another great opportunity for me. I want to mention Dr. A. L. Day, the director of the Laboratory, E. S. Shepherd, and certainly N. L. Bowen, whose original experiments and original ideas—as we all know—were revolutionary in the development of our field of science. Many years later Bowen also brought me back to America; this time to Chicago for a few years.

And last, but not least, I should mention Dr. H. S. Washington. He was dear to my heart, and I cherish his memory most affectionately. He was a perfect gentleman, cultured, handsome, with kind, clear brown eyes, and an impressive beard. He was the finest of scholars, and he taught me, not only science and research, but also ethics, wisdom and natural philosophy.

Finally, I have had to do something on my own account. For better or for worse, I have spent most of my time in Norway. I have enjoyed field work and mapped large areas of Precambrian rocks. Compelled by my own observations I have become a SOAK, in spite of my respect for V. M. Goldschmidt, my admiration for Bowen, and my warm feelings for Esper Larsen.

In conjunction with this work, I developed the two-feldspar geologic thermometer. It may need modification and perhaps the details are more complicated than pictured by me. But the principle is right. And it has been great fun. Dr. Washington said to me: "In order to do research it is necessary to have a particularly brilliant mind, or a very high intelligence. To be able to do good research is a state of mind." I hope that through him I have acquired that state of mind.

Mr. President, I cannot find adequate words. I am grateful for the Medal, and I want to express my sincere thanks to the Mineralogical Society of America. But only to these old teachers and friends of mine, goes the honor.