

## Memorial of Gunnar Kullerud November 12, 1921–October 21, 1989

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Gunnar Kullerud was born in Odda, Norway. He met his wife-to-be, A. Joan Reading, while on a trip to the United States from Canada, and they were married a year later on March 29, 1947. They had five children. Unfortunately, following a protracted illness that began in the middle 70s, Joan died. Gunnar was subsequently remarried to Ruth Foster, the widow of Joseph Foster, professor of chemistry, on November 27, 1981.

As a youth, Gunnar lived a vigorous and active life. Among other adventures, as a young teenager he sailed a small boat from his home in Norway to England and on his father's instructions returned home the same way. He was a middle-distance track star of considerable renown and actually planned to represent Norway in the 1940 Olympic Games. He studied opera and seriously considered a career in that field. Unfortunately, he had to defer these and other plans at the outbreak of World War II. It is likely that if the war had not intervened, he may not have chosen geology as his profession. His experiences in the war brought him into many remote areas of Norway, where he developed a deep love for the land.

In 1939, while the Hitler-Stalin pact was in force, he volunteered for the Finnish army and served against the invading Russians. Following the Nazi occupation of Norway, he joined the Norwegian underground and overtly fought against the occupiers of his homeland. He played an important part in several major battles against the Nazis in the northern part of Norway and helped several individuals escape to Sweden. Eventually, he went to England, where he joined the Norwegian Air Force, being stationed first in England and then in Canada. He was a bomber pilot and flew a number of sorties into Nazi Europe.

Gunnar received his formal education at the Technical University of Norway, where he received his Ph.D. in 1948. He was a postdoctoral fellow and a research associate at the University of Chicago from 1948–1952. He received a D.Sc. from the University of Oslo in 1954. From 1954–1970 he was a senior staff geochemist at the Geophysical Laboratory in Washington. He came to Purdue in 1970 as a full professor and served as department head of the Geoscience Department for six years. He remained on the faculty until his death, just two and a half weeks before what would have been his 68th birthday.

He was a prolific researcher. During his career he wrote more than 300 technical research papers and 30 chapters in books on a variety of subjects, including phase equi-



libria of mineral systems, economic geology, meteorites, moon rocks, coal chemistry, and X-ray analytical methods. He was a coeditor of *Mineralium Deposita* for 20 years and served on the editorial board of *Chemical Geology* for more than 15. He was a fellow of the Geological Society of America and of the Mineralogical Society of America and a member of some ten professional and honorary societies. He was a visiting professor at 15 universities and research establishments abroad, including ones in Australia, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Japan, Norway, the People's Republic of China, Poland, Taiwan, and West Germany. In addition, he presented numerous invited talks and colloquia at some 100 universities and research institutes in 20 countries and was a consultant

to mining companies and research laboratories in a number of countries.

His honors were many. In 1964 his colleagues named the newly discovered mineral kullerudite ( $\text{NiSe}_2$ ) in his honor. He received the Andre H. Dumont Medal from the Geological Society of Belgium in 1965, was elected a member of the very prestigious Cosmos Club in 1968, and became a member of the National Academy of Science of Norway in 1977. He received an honorary doctorate, Doctor Technicus Honoris Causa, from the Norwegian Institute of Technology in 1982, and was elected a member of the Royal Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters in 1983. He was an honorary collaborator of the Division of Meteorites of the Smithsonian Institution, a member of the President's Advisory Committee at the University of Toronto from 1967–1970, was appointed a member of the Argonne National Laboratory Energy Advisory Board in 1975, and was named an alternate Purdue representative to the United States Committee of the World Energy Conference in 1974. He is cited in more than a dozen biographical works, including *Who's Who*, *International Who's Who*, *Dictionary of International Biography*, and *Notable Americans*. Very recently he was honored by being asked to write a biography of V. M. Goldschmidt, the founder of modern geochemistry, on the centennial of his birth. Gunnar was engaged in this task when he succumbed to his final illness.

He is survived by his wife Ruth; his five children, Finn, Bjorn, Kari Dalton, Marit Sue Best, and Ingrid; by his three stepchildren, Ann Lohn, Gregory M. Foster, and Michael C. Foster; by his seventeen grandchildren, and by his twin sisters, Aud Lie and Liv Bauck, who live in Norway.

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