

The Swedish title “Strövtåg på Bohusläns sockertopp” (ISBN9789163320163) can be translated to “A ramble on the sugarloaf of Bohus County”. It might sound to be of only local interest but at a closer look the reader will get a surprise and realise that the book is about our earth. To make this as interesting as possible we have described a specific and unique geological intrusion that created the islands of Älgön and Brattön (nature reserve) on the Swedish west coast 900 million years ago. We have used the name “sugarloaf” because it is a similar calcium rich intrusion of magma (norite) that created the more well-known sugarloaf in Rio de Janeiro. The book is an introduction to geology by limiting our description to what you can observe with your eyes on these islands. We here link knowledge about plate tectonics and other dynamic geological events to chemistry of rare plants and even medical geology. Complicated things such as the periodic system and ionic transport in the root with shift of hydrogen with calcium and magnesium are described with the intention to make it understandable even for laymen. Hardness of water depends on where (in gneiss or norite) you drill your well on the islands and have consequences on risk of cancer and heart disease. We mention human activities including non-profitable farming in the 70-ties and a temporary quarry exporting beautiful stones of norite for buildings and gravestones. The Klondike like and short industrial period in the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when oil was extracted from herring and exported to illuminate the streets of Paris is described. It is a guide book for the visitor (or those who travels in a chair at home) with several maps. The many beautiful pictures in the book will hopefully impress English speaking geologists as well as foreign laymen without reading the text, but there is a tight and important bond between what is written and what is shown on photos and paintings. The experts might know the English geologists Stern and Piper who made some research on the islands in the eighties. I have written this educational book together with professor of geology Jimmy Stigh and Hans Årebäck, whose thesis we here try to popularise. The thesis with the complicated title “Petrography, geochemistry and geochronology of mafic to intermediate late sveconorwegian intrusions: the Hakefjorden Complex and Vinga intrusion, SW Sweden” was published in 2001. I am a retired physician, associated professor of medicine and interested in painting. With this background I have after reading the thesis tried to make geology interesting stepping from my paintings or what you see watching the rocks and then step by step using scientific curiosity to explain. The painter in me wonders what he is painting and asks the two geologists. There is a plea to admit several perspectives while watching rocks and mountains – a scientific geological perspective as well a parallel artistic perspective which the painter Cezanne said about his mountain St Victoire. I have also included the story about Linnaeus who once sailed close to these unique islands and failed not landing there. He lost a chance to make some geological discoveries that I hope modern readers of the book will do. When we with great admiration guide Linnaeus himself from his Systema Nature to the fantastic periodic system we also try to take along the reader who feels he or she is another Linnaeus full of curiosity.

Best wishes

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