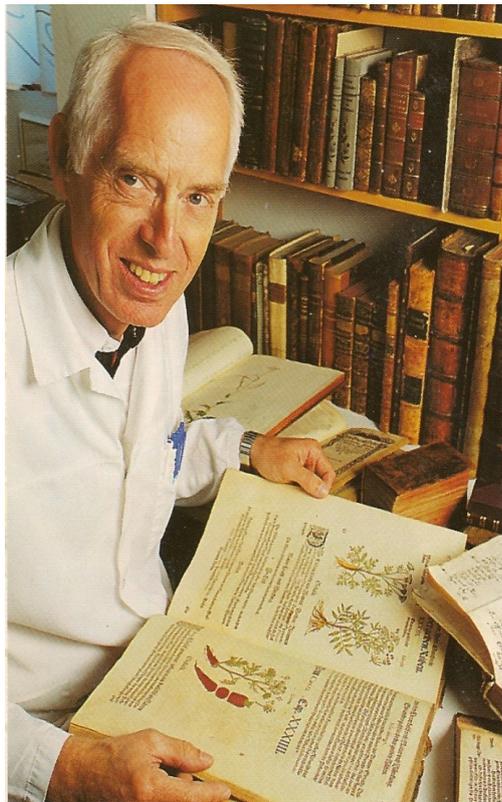


**KJELL-ERIK ANDERSEN,  
PHARMACIST,  
BIBLIOPHILE, AND  
PHILANTHROPIST**  
*By*  
***Rolf Klevstrand and Mathis  
Gundersveen***  
***Norsk Farmasihistorisk Museum  
Oslo, Norway***



In 1995 four hundred years of pharmacy in Norway was celebrated in Bergen, the old Hansa city. A special exhibition attracted attention. A pharmacist exhibited old, rare books on drugs and other topics. (Figure 1)

His name was *Kjell-Erik Andersen*. He ran a pharmacy and a production unit for liquid preparations. Earlier in his career he had been a drug inspector and Norwegian representative in the Committee of Officials within the Pharmaceutical Inspection Convention.

He must have been a talented young man. He was fond of music and played the cello and other instruments, and he was a sportsman. Twenty years old he was selected to the All-Norway team in athletics for a match with Sweden, and he won the competition in running long jump.

As a student he started collecting books. The first one was a book on Norwegian pharmacists, bought in a sale for NOK 3. This interest followed him through his manhood, and he became a real *bibliophile*. He was voted in as one of the 33 members of the exclusive Bibliophile Club in Oslo. For a period he was the chairman of the club.



Figure 1

In 1996 the board of the Pharmacy Museum in Oslo appointed a committee to take care of the books of the museum, with Kjell-Erik as the natural leader. The task was to establish a library based on books given to the museum, in cooperation with the librarian of the Norsk Folkemuseum (Folklore Museum). During the last years the committee consisted of three senior pharmacists, Kjell-Erik and the authors.

In the beginning of 2010, however, Kjell-Erik was taken seriously ill and died, 67 years old. Before his death he had decided to donate his book collection to the Norwegian Pharmacy Museum. He had only one condition: The collection should be kept as a unit, open to researchers.

The collection consists of 2 035 books and other objects. He had registered on his computer where and when the book had been printed, from where it had been acquired, the price he had paid, and other information.

In an interview he had expressed his will to use a good economic surplus to invest in valuable books. He followed his program. His notes tell that some of the books had been bought at really high prices, and they may be called jewels. An example is a Danish herbal by Henrick Smid (or Smit), printed in Copenhagen 1557.

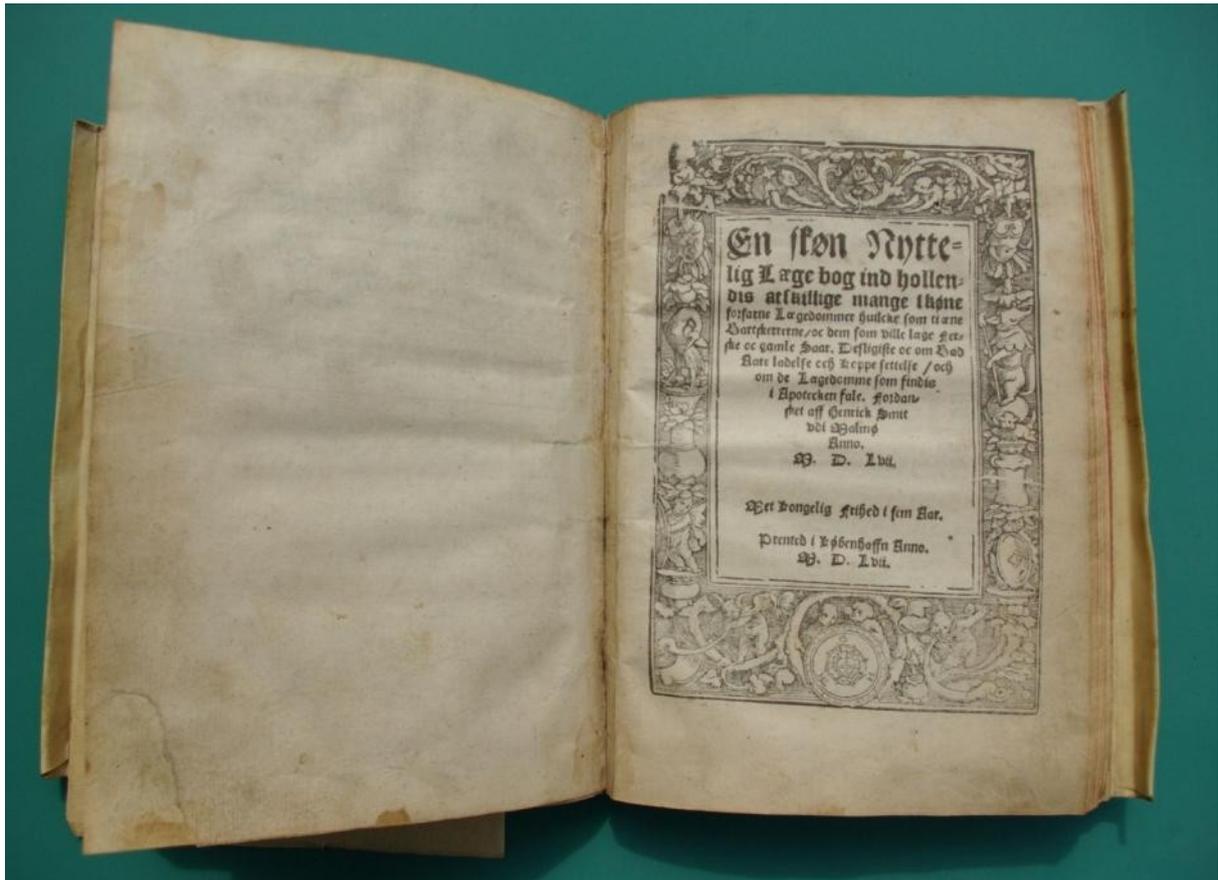
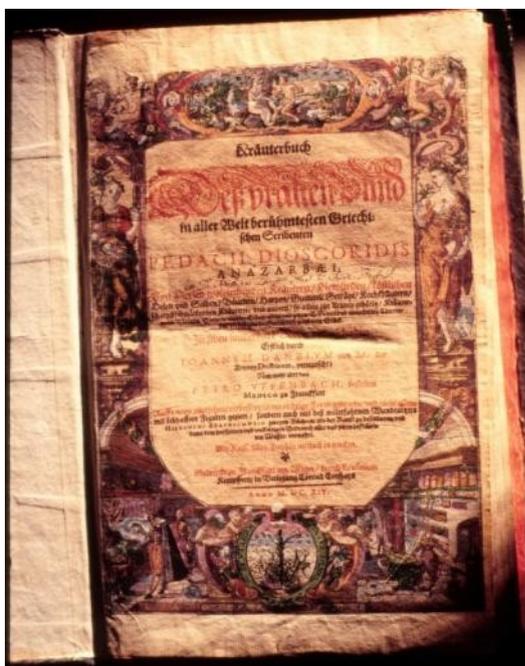


Figure 2

The frontispiece has a long title, beginning with “A beautiful, useful medical book ...” At the end of the title he admits that it had been “fordansket” – danishized – by him, without telling what the original was. According to Kjell-Erik the book is important for the history of pharmacy, as it has the first list of drugs in Denmark.

Another jewel is a German translation of a herbal by Dioscoridis with the title “*Kraüterbuch dess uralten und in aller Welt berümtesten Griechischen Scribenten Pedacii Dioscoridis.*”

Figure 3



The collection shows that Kjell-Erik had a special interest in books related to great Scandinavian scientists. The Swedish botanist *Carl von Linné* is represented with 13 books, and the collection also includes 12 dissertations written by his students. (Figure 4)

The collection also contains books about the Danish pharmacist, chemist and physicist *Hans Christian Oersted*. In 1820 he published his discovery of *electromagnetism* in 6 different languages. Figure 5 shows a facsimile of his publication produced in Copenhagen in 1920. This means that the collection may be of interest to studies of history of science.

The formation of *Kjell-Erik Andersen's Collection* is still in its early phase. His widow and friends hope that it will be an asset to the study of history of pharmacy and of other sciences.

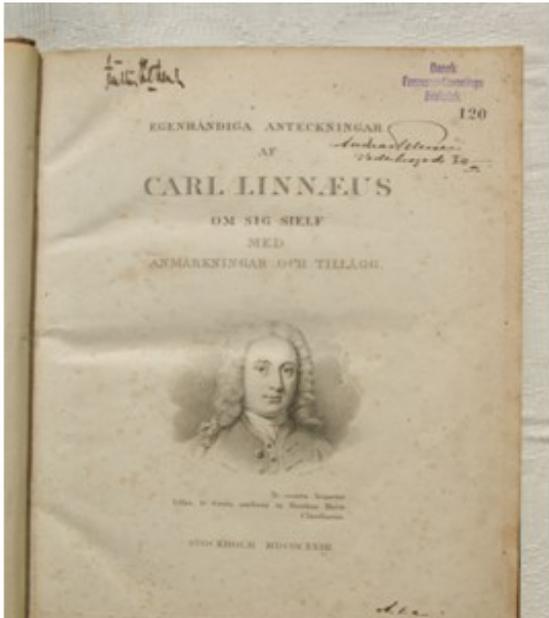


Figure 4

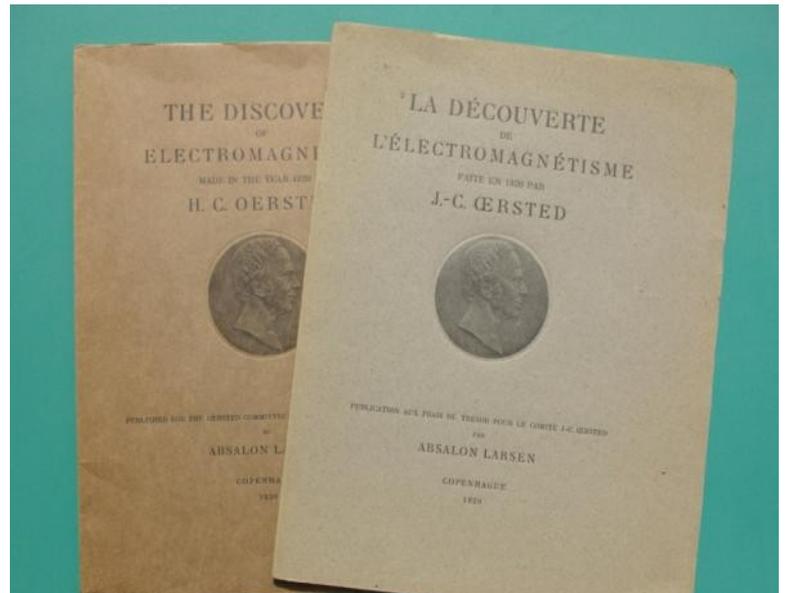


Figure 5