# Scientific/Historical Traveling

**Rjukan and Oslo, Norway and Stockholm, Sweden**

**Glen E. Rodgers**

June 14, 2000

 As part of a family trip, my daughter Jennifer and I rented a car and drove from Nesbyen, Norway (about mid-way between Bergen and Oslo) over a mountainous highland (above the tree line much of the way) to Rjukan and then to “The Museum at Vemork” that is part of the [Norwegian Industrial Workers Museum](https://www.visitnorway.com/listings/vemork/1452/). This was formally a hydroelectric facility and is where heavy water was produced before and during the second world war. The facilities were of intense interest to the Nazi’s as part of their efforts to build an atomic bomb during the war. To keep heavy water out of Nazi hands, these facilities were attacked several times by the Allies (much of this catalogued in the film “The Heroes of Telemark”) during the war. At the Museum at Vemork there are excellent exhibits showing destroyed heavy water cells, various analytical equipment, and explaining the role of deuterium oxide as a moderator in the making of the atomic bomb.

June 15, 2000

 The whole Rodgers’ family visited the Radhuset or the City Hall in Oslo where the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded. We also saw the Fram, the polar ship that Fridtjof Nansen and Roald Amundsen used to explore both the Artic (Nansen) and Antarctic (Amundsen was the first to reach the South Pole).

June 17, 2000

 We visited the [Stadshuset (City Hall)](http://international.stockholm.se/the-city-hall) where all the rest of the Nobel Prizes are given out each year. We were very impressed by the main hall where the Nobel Prize Banquet is held, the large corridor/balcony down which the winners walk, the main stairway (especially constructed for ladies wearing high heel shoes and long gowns), the main legislative room for the Stockholm City Council (where the Nobel awardees and their spouses dine), and the Gold Room where we took a picture of the in honor of Jons Berzelius.

 Later that day we visited the Berzelius Museum housed in a small building on the grounds of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. The four-room museum houses many of his personal effects (desk, collections of various editions of his multi-volume textbook, wheelchair), a wonderful hand-crafted cabinet where he kept small items (including many samples of compounds and elements), a poster display concerning the nomenclature of the elements, a glassblowing table with its hood (part of a elemental analysis apparatus), a cabinet of platinum crucibles, and a collection of the various medals he was awarded during his lifetime. The Berzelius Museum was moved shortly after our visit.