

Goldschmidt: More than Just a Conference Name - New Insights, New Relevance.

ROBERT MARC FRIEDMAN

University of Oslo

Presenting Author: r.m.friedman@hf.uio.no

Victor Moritz Goldschmidt (1888-1947) is remembered for his seminal contributions towards establishing modern geochemistry and crystal chemistry. While working primarily in Oslo and Göttingen, he and his collaborators' interdisciplinary research helped transform largely descriptive fields of inquiry into theoretically-sophisticated disciplines. In this talk I will bring into focus two themes:

Goldschmidt, a highly-gifted disciplinary entrepreneur, combined an incessant quest for new basic knowledge with a commitment to contribute practically to society. He grasped the *interdependence* of these two goals, both of which informed his ambitious research agendas. His career, unfortunately, also serves as an illustration of how intolerance and bias, pettiness and envy in an academic community can harm even a brilliant researcher. In his short career, he accomplished more than most scientists dare to dream of achieving, yet he never quite managed to attain one of his life-long goals: to be fully accepted and treated as a Norwegian.

It remains to be seen whether the University of Oslo will offer a public apology for its shameful treatment of him and his memory. The talk will be based on new historical research that compliments Brian Mason's 1992 biography.