The Surprise Speech

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The Surprise Speech

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Ladies and gentlemen, friends.

It is my pleasure to deliver a surprise presentation.

The English-speaking people are always so clever in starting with a good joke. My disadvantage is that the good tales which are also typical for this part of our country are in Norwegian, and furthermore, in the typical dialects of these northern parts, and cannot be translated without losing their special flavour. These tales are marked by spontaneous and frank openness, often slightly naive, but always direct, concrete, down-to-earth, with a lot of humour, charm and human warmth.

Today's recipient possesses all these characteristics: human warmth, charm, knowledge, and even positive naïveté—which is the core of all curiosity, the basis of all real research. Further, he is sound in his evaluation of facts against theories, and is always lucid in communication, so everybody understands what has been said.

If you should select one person among us whose description fits all these superb qualities, I think everybody's choice would go to Professor J.J. Groen—one of the founders of these conferences and the ideal psychosomaticist. He began in internal medicine, allied himself with psychoanalysis, and is relating the whole subject to the social sciences. We want very much to honor him—first by creating The Order of Arctic Psychosomatics and bestowing it upon him as the single and eternal bearer of this unique order.

As a token of our esteem and love

we want to present you with something for more everyday use—cuff links in the old Norwegian style. They symbolize the close bond which has developed between psychosomatic workers through these conferences. They also symbolize the bonds between tradition

culture and development.

Finally

from the site of this conference we present you with a statue of the King Cormorant—the typical bird of Lofoten.