

Message from the former President of the Foundation, Prof. Hermann Debrunner

After 42 years of commitment to the Jungfrauoch I resigned on December 31, 1999 as President of the International Foundation HFSJG and as Director of the High Altitude Research Stations Jungfrauoch and Gornergrat. I started my work at the Jungfrauoch in 1958 as a young student installing and running a cosmic ray detector in the frame of my diploma in physics. In 1959 I became part-time assistant to Professor Alexander von Muralt, my predecessor as President of the Foundation HFSJG, and it was my duty to support and intensify the relations between the administration HFSJG in Bern and the custodian of the Jungfrauoch Research Station, Mr. Hans Wiederkehr. Returning from a working stay at the Alfvén Group of the Royal Technical Institute at Stockholm I was nominated in 1969 as Director of the Research Station Jungfrauoch. In 1973 I had the honor to follow Professor Alexander von Muralt as President of the Foundation HFSJG. The time I spent in managing the foundation as well as the research stations at Jungfrauoch and Gornergrat was great. I had the possibility to meet numerous illustrious scientists from all over the world and to become familiar with unique experiments that had to be carried out at high altitudes. These experiments covered all fields of modern sciences. It was a pleasure for me to help realize so many successful projects in medical research, Earth sciences, astronomy, astrophysics, and material sciences at Jungfrauoch as well as at Gornergrat. I also appreciated the ideal and material support I always received from the delegates of public institutions in the member countries of the HFSJG Foundation for maintaining and extending our research stations. Most important, however, were the numerous friendships I could establish and which, I hope, will continue in the future. I thank all of you for taking me as I was and for presenting your sympathy to me.

It was not hard for me to part from Jungfrauoch and Gornergrat. With Professor Gustav Andreas Tammann, Astronomisches Institut of the University of Basel, as new President of the Foundation HFSJG, and Professor Erwin Flückiger, Physikalisches Institut of the University of Bern, as new Director of the research stations at Jungfrauoch and Gornergrat, the future of the Foundation HFSJG and its unique research stations is ensured. A further guarantee that the management of the Foundation HFSJG will continue to go smoothly is our secretary, Mrs. Louise Wilson, and our custodians at the Jungfrauoch research station, Mr. Hansruedi and Mrs. Therese Staub-Späti. Thus, I am convinced that the Foundation HFSJG and the research stations at Jungfrauoch and Gornergrat are also today in the position to look forward into an interesting and promising future.

Bern, February 2001

Hermann Debrunner

