Auroral emissions have been the object of wonder and scientific curiosity for centuries. Only during the last 150 years have these emissions, which demonstrate the capture of energetic particle from the Sun in a majestic way, been scientific investigated. The development of auroral physics has been a fascinating drama and an intellectual challenge. Today auroral physics makes headline news and represent an area of important international cooperation both scientifically and geopolitically.

Around year 1250, the Norwegian King - Magnus VI Håkonsson Lagabete first noted in his chronicles, the “Kings Mirror” or “Kongespeilet” about “the high flames” in the night sky. Since then, several Norwegians have made their important contributions to solving the puzzle regarding what we now call the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights.

At Andøya Rocket Range in Norway, at 69 degrees north, we have launched sounding rockets investigating the aurora since 1962. To make the most out of all the infrastructure used during sounding rocket campaigns, ARR in 2001 established a subsidiary that let students use the equipment as part of training courses in physics, engineering and electronics. This subsidiary is known as NAROM, or Norwegian Center for Space Related Education. Over 1500 students from high school to PhD-level use these facilities every year.

How can we use the history of Norwegian auroral descriptions and scientific achievements to tempt even more, and younger students to take up science?