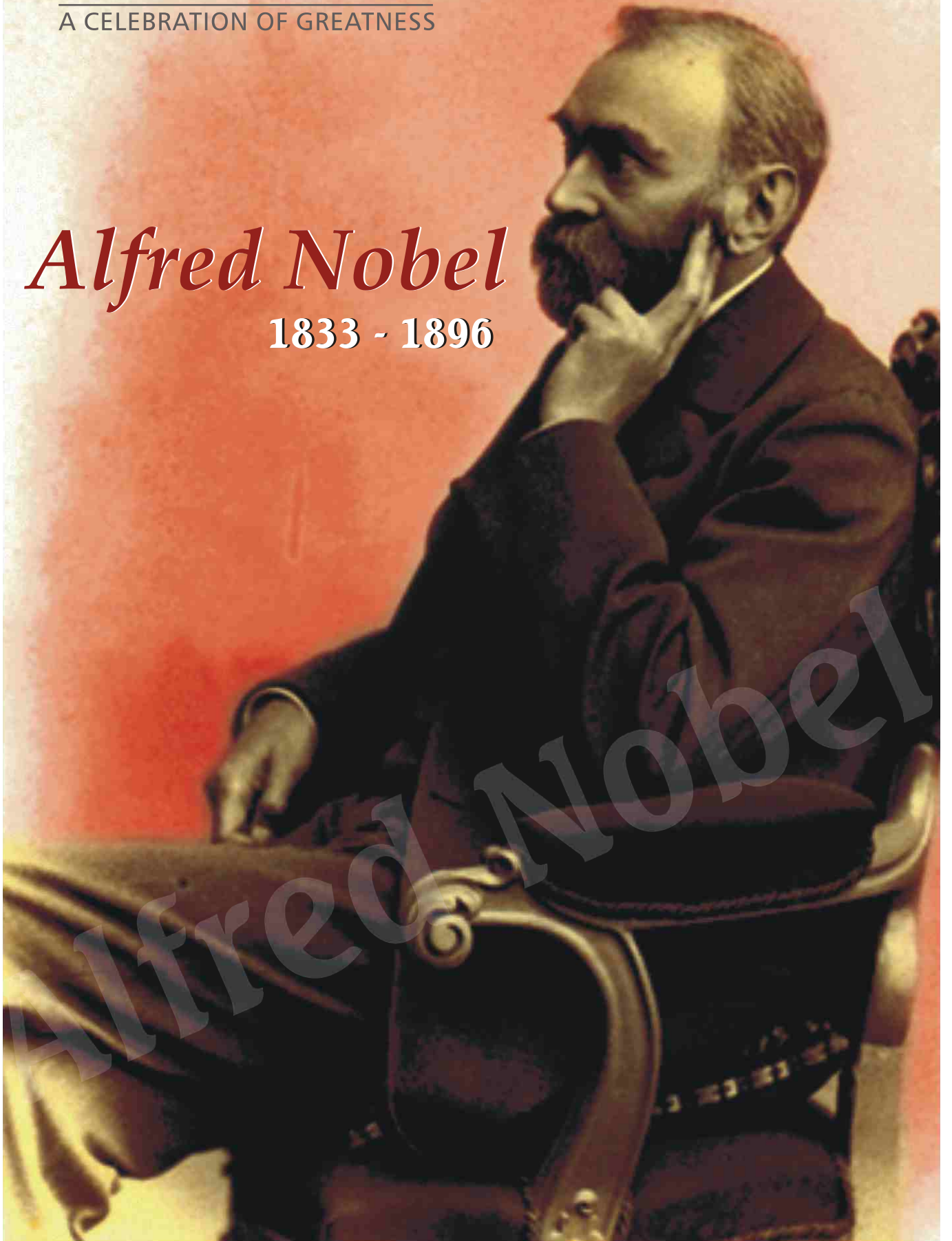


LARGER THAN
LIFE

A CELEBRATION OF GREATNESS

Alfred Nobel

1833 - 1896



INTRODUCTION

Alfred Bernhard Nobel was a **Swedish chemist, engineer, innovator, armaments manufacturer and the inventor of dynamite. He owned Bofors, a major armaments manufacturer**, which he had redirected from its previous role as an iron and steel mill. In his last will, he used his enormous fortune to institute the **Nobel Prizes**.

BIRTH AND EARLY YEARS

Alfred was **born in Stockholm on October 21, 1833**. He was the third son of Immanuel Nobel and Andriette Ahlsell Nobel. In 1842 Nobel's family moved to St. Petersburg, Russia where he obtained his education. He traveled widely as a young man, becoming fluent in five languages. **Nobel was interested in literature and wrote novels, poetry and plays in his spare time.**

DYNAMITE

In the 1860s he began **experiments with nitroglycerin in his father's factory**. He tried many ways to stabilize this highly volatile material. He discovered that a mix of nitroglycerin and a fine porous powder called kieselguhr was most effective. He named this mixture **dynamite, and received a patent in 1867**.

He **set up factories around the world to manufacture dynamite** and other explosives. The construction and mining companies, and the military ordered large quantities of this relatively safe explosive. **Sales of dynamite brought Nobel great wealth**. His other **chemical research provided valuable information on the development of artificial rubber, leather, silk and precious stones**. Nobel later **invented more powerful explosive than dynamite. Gelignite** (blasting gelatin). He patented it in 1876. He also **invented smokeless powder Ballistite**.

THE NOBEL PRIZES

In 1888, when Nobel's brother died, a newspaper mistakenly published an **obituary of Nobel that emphasized the fact that he had invented things that blew up and killed people**. Nobel, not wanting to be remembered in that way, **pledged his wealth toward the betterment of humanity**.

On November 27, 1895, at the Swedish-Norwegian Club in Paris, Nobel signed his last will and testament and **set aside the bulk of his estate to establish the Nobel Prizes, to be awarded annually without distinction of nationality**. In his will he directed the establishment of a foundation to award annual prizes for achievement in **chemistry, physics, literature and efforts toward international peace**.

DEATH

He **died on December 10, 1896** at Sanremo, Italy. **He left 31 million kronor (4,223,500 USD1896~103,931,888 USD2007) to fund the prizes**. It was five years after his death that the **first Nobel awards were handed out, in 1901**. The Nobel foundation had been set up to organise and structure the awards. Since their inception the **Nobel prizes have come to be recognised as the highest honour a person can receive in a particular area of study**.

Although Alfred Nobel made an important discovery as a scientist, that of dynamite, and used his powers as an industrialist to produce and then sell the product, he should be **best remembered for his legacy**. Through his will, outstanding artists, scientists and humanitarians alike have been able to push through their invaluable work for the good of humankind.

Quotes

If I have a thousand ideas and only one turns out to be good, I am satisfied.



Home is where I work and I work everywhere.



My dynamite will sooner lead to peace than a thousand world conventions. As soon as men will find that in one instant, whole armies can be utterly destroyed, they surely will abide by golden peace.