

THE EMBLEMS, MEDALS AND MEDALLISTS OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

By JOHN HANSMAN

THE SEAL AND SIGNET

On 17 May 1823, two months after the founding of the Royal Asiatic Society, a selection of designs for the emblems of the Society was laid before Council. These had been prepared by the members Thomas Daniell, RA (1749–1840) and his nephew William Daniell, RA (1769–1837), both of whom were noted for their drawn and engraved views of India. On a single card which remains in the Society's possession, the Daniells submitted four designs for a seal of circular form. The first of these depicts a richly caparisoned elephant carrying a howdah of two compartments. A turbaned attendant sits before the howdah, holding an ankus in his right hand and a small whip in the left (Plate Ia). A second design (Plate Ib) shows a dense grove of banyan-trees beneath which stand three figures in Indian dress. The third drawing (Plate Id) depicts an Indian harrowing with an ox. In the background there is a palm tree and a view of the Jantar Mantar (astronomical observatory) erected in 1710 at Delhi by the Rajput Maharajah and astronomer, Jai Singh II of Jaipur. The fourth design (Plate Ie) shows an Indian ploughing. The background in this last drawing remains largely unfinished.

At the centre of the Daniell card there is a further rendering of the elephant device described above. This reduced version is enclosed within an octagonal frame (Plate Ic). Written faintly in pencil above the frame is the word "signet".

In December 1823 the smaller emblem showing a caparisoned elephant was chosen as the signet of the Society. On 13 February 1824 a Mr. Joseph Porter received £6.2.0 for engraving the signet in steel. This device was probably used to impress the sealing wax commonly employed on letters of that period. A surviving impression from the old signet is illustrated on Plate IIIa. A second stamp was later made from the elephant-design for impressing on paper (Plate IIIb).

The more important symbol of the Society for its first 80 years, was the banyan-tree. At a June meeting in 1823 Council decided that the tree should be depicted on the official seal. An inscription to be included in the exergue would read SOC:(IETAS) REG:(IA) ASIATICA/BRITANNIARUM. It was further agreed that an oak wreath should surround the margin of the medal within which the "Asiatic emblem" would be placed. For this project William Daniell supplied an appropriate design incorporating an elephant, which was considerably more finished than those previously submitted. The original wash drawing, preserved in the Society's archives, shows a banyan-tree within a circular frame surrounded by a wreath of palm-branches, laurel-leaves and oak-leaves (Plate IIa).

In February 1824 John Francis received £5.5.0 for engraving the banyan-tree device in brass to be used as a book-stamp. The old stamp no longer survives, but its impression is to be found on the title-pages of hundreds of books from the Society's earlier collections. This shows the elephant, banyan-trees and hills represented in the Daniell drawing; and includes, in addition, a Bactrian camel (Plate III d). A palm-tree copied from the original drawing has been placed next to the camel, thus allowing the latter to appear less conspicuous in an otherwise tropical Indian scene. The animals and trees presumably represent the Middle East and the Further East. No human figures are depicted.

Apart from the book and sealing stamps, the Society did not possess a proper seal until 1827, although proposals on this subject had been pending for some time. The Proceedings of Council for 5 November 1825 record that a Mr. Thomas Wyon, chief engraver of seals at the Royal Mint "represented the inconvenience of making the great seal of the Society applicable to the purpose of serving likewise as a die for a medal". It was accordingly the decision of Council that these two objects should be kept distinct, and that the seal should be executed for itself. A year later, in November 1826, Charles Watkin Williams Wynn, President of the Society, recommended that a "collect" bearing the Society's motto should be added to the design of the seal. The motto, QUOT RAMI TOT ARBORES, which had been chosen in 1823 in allusion to the banyan-tree, was engraved around the outer margin of the seal. On 17 February 1827 Mr. Wyon received £64.11.0 for engraving the great seal and for a press and a stand to hold it.

The whereabouts of the old seal are unknown. A reduced, engraved copy, however, was once used to emboss invitation cards, and several examples of these are preserved in the Society's archives. The engraving follows the design of the book-stamp, already described, except for the addition of the motto (Plate II b).

In 1832 the banyan-tree symbol was beautifully engraved on steel by Mr. E. Webb at a cost of £18.18.0. This matrix was used for the Society's letterhead. The design omits the camel added to the seal, indicating a close adherence by Mr. Webb to the original design of William Daniell. At the bottom of the engraving a rectangular plaque has been added which gives the foundation year of the Society in Roman numerals.

A similar, but less finely executed, wood-block copy of the 1832 engraving was produced in 1834 to serve as a vignette for the cover of the Society's new *Journal* which replaced the old *Transactions* in that year (Plate III e). The design continued to appear on the *Journal* cover until 1863, when the first numbered series of the *Journal* came to an end. In arranging for a new series, a different publisher provided a new steel-engraved vignette. This omitted the elephant and replaced the hills in the background with what appears to be a highly stylized representation of an Indian temple with peaked roofs (Plate III f). The design

survived on the cover until 1941, when it was replaced by a modern version of the old elephant symbol.

By 1898 the old circular press-seal of the Society seems no longer to have been operative. This is indicated by the fact that a trust deed executed by the Society in that year is sealed with a wax impression of the old octagonal-framed elephant-signet of 1824. On 25 May 1900, the Rules Committee recommended that the design of the elephant-signet be adopted as the common seal of the Society. The proposal was accepted by Council in April 1901. The old hand signet continued to be used as an official seal until about 1910, when a new great seal which impressed the elephant symbol on paper was provided. This retained the octagonal frame of the signet in preference to the circular form of the banyan-tree device of the first seal.

As noted above, the banyan-tree continued to be used as a printer's block on the cover of the Society's *Journal* until 1941. It also appeared from time to time until 1936 as an embossed device on invitation cards. It survives today only in the design of the Triennial Gold Medal discussed below.

An early example of the decorative use of the banyan-tree emblem is found on a menu-card of a banquet given for Indian princes by the Society on the occasion of the coronation of Edward VII in 1902 (Fig. 1). The card also displays, from left to right, emblems of the Orders of the Indian Empire, Star of India, and Crown of India – the latter incidentally being reserved for royal princesses and other ladies.

In 1923 a member of Council, Mr. Perceval Yetts, designed a new elephant symbol. This was only loosely based on that of the original signet. The howdah underwent considerable modification and the elephant was represented as walking rather than standing (Plate IIIc). The revised design was used for the first time on invitation cards for the Society's centenary dinner in 1923. It was further employed on cards for a reception given by the Society in celebration of the coronation of George VI in 1937. Finally on the recommendation of Professor Yetts, the design was adopted for the cover of the *Journal* in 1941. Thus the elephant, after having been banished from the banyan-tree on the cover in 1865, had now banished the banyan-tree.

In 1972 the present writer designed a new letterhead for the Society showing the Yetts elephant-signet surmounted by a crown and printed in India red on a vellum-coloured paper. The Society's name and address were in black. The elephant-signet without the crown was used on invitation cards for the visit of Her Majesty The Queen and H.R.H. Prince Philip to the Society's rooms during the 150th anniversary celebrations in 1973 (Fig. 2). In the same year G. K. Payne Esq. ARIBA., a Fellow of the Society, drew a new elephant closely based on the original 1823 Daniell design. This was used on the menu card for the Society's sesquicentennial dinner held at Merchant Taylors Hall in September 1973 (Plate VIb), but has not been otherwise adopted.



Fig. 1. Menu card for the Society's Coronation Banquet (1902), incorporating, above, the design of the original Great Seal.



THE PRESIDENT & COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY
request the honour of the Company of

at the Society's 150th Anniversary Reception & Exhibition
on Monday 19th February at 56 Queen Anne Street

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
and
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH
have graciously consented to be present

RSVP to the Secretary
Lounge Suits

5.45 p.m.
Cars at 8.00 p.m.
Please bring this card

Fig. 2. Invitation-card for the Society's 150th Anniversary Reception, incorporating the Yetts cartouche.

THE ORIENTAL TRANSLATION COMMITTEE MEDAL AND THE ROYAL MEDAL

On 17 December 1825 the question of securing a medal to be awarded by the Society was introduced in Council. It was decided to ask Mr. Wynn, the President, to take "such steps as he may think proper to obtain from His Most Gracious Majesty our patron such marks of encouragement as he has been most graciously pleased to extend to other Societies which have been honoured by his royal Patronage". The President, however, hesitated to act. In February 1826 he advised Council "he thought it expedient to suggest that such an application to His Majesty should be, for the present, postponed". The matter of providing a medal then rested until 1828. In that year the Oriental Translation Fund was founded under the auspices of the Royal Asiatic Society for the purpose of financing the translation and printing of Oriental works in English. The Society issued a prospectus to promote the scheme and set up a committee to administer it. George IV agreed to become Patron and within a few years an impressive list of subscribers had been secured. These included besides the King, the Kings of Belgium, the Netherlands, France, and Naples, the Grand Duke of Tuscany, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Wellington and numerous other British peers. Subscriptions were £10 and £5 per year. The

translation of works began at once and the first volumes were issued by the Committee in 1829.

In the year of its foundation the Translation Committee established a Committee Gold Medal to be awarded to scholars who produced outstanding translations. The design for the medal, reproduced in Plate IVa from an engraving, shows Britannia seated, holding a spear and shield. At her side, to the left, reposes a lion with a curious expression. Flanking this central device and beginning at the left of the medal are depicted a pagoda, a Chinese and an Indian holding an open scroll. Continuing to the right, past Britannia, there is a European in academic dress with hands extended, a Turk with an open book, and lastly a pyramid and a sphinx. A motto chosen by the Committee, *EX ORIENTE LUX*, appears above these figures and the words *ORIENTAL TRANSLATION FUND* are included on the reverse of the medal. Each medal was to contain four ounces of gold at a cost of £30. A die was made early in 1829 by a Mr. Thompson, who received £60 for this service. The Committee also ordered a facsimile of the medal to be made "from which a representation of it may be printed in the copies of the works intended for subscribers". This vignette was placed at the centre of an ornamental title page, the decoration of which included a florid, lilac-coloured frame (Fig. 3). Until the death of King George IV the names of subscribers were individually printed on the title pages of their separate copies of the volumes issued.

On 6 July 1829 it was communicated to the Translation Committee that "His Majesty has been graciously pleased to order two gold medals of the value of 25 guineas each to be placed at the disposal of the Oriental Translation Committee annually for the encouragement of the object of the institution". The Royal Asiatic Society thereby received indirectly, through the Committee which it sponsored, the mark of royal favour for which the Society had hesitated to ask in 1826.

In June 1830 the Committee awarded one of the Royal Medals to the Rev. S. Lee (1783–1852), Professor of Arabic at Cambridge, for his translation of the travels of Ibn Baṭṭūṭa (1829). A second Royal Medal was presented to J. F. Davis (1795–1890) for his translation of a Chinese literary text, *Han Kung Ch'iu* (*The sorrows of Han*). At the same time Major David Price (1762–1835), translator of the *Memoirs of Jahangir*, received one of the Committee's Medals.

In April 1831, after the death of George IV, the Oriental Translation Committee ordered that the inscription on the Royal Medal be altered from *Ex Oriente Lux* to read *Societas Libris Orientalibus Vertendis Sub Auspiciis Guilielmi IV*. A few weeks later it was decided to substitute *E Munificentia Guilielmi IV* for the less enthusiastic *Sub Auspiciis Guilielmi*. Major Charles Stewart (1764–1837) received the first of these new Royal Medals in October of the same year for his translation of the *Memoirs of Timur* (1830).

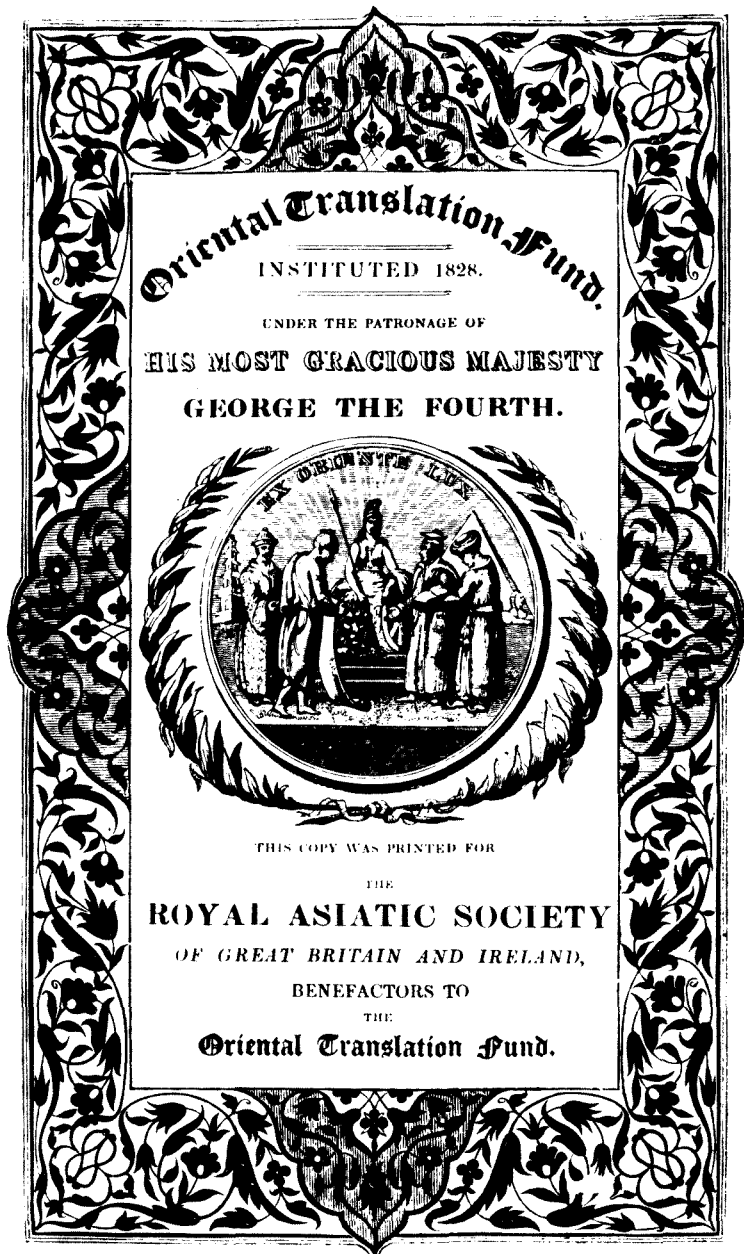


Fig. 3. Title-page of the Oriental Translation Fund series (1829), reproducing the design of the Royal Medal.

Unfortunately, the volume of Proceedings of the Oriental Translation Committee for the period extending from early 1832 until mid-1836 has not survived in the archives of the Society. It is therefore unknown if further Royal or Committee Medals were awarded. Certainly, none are recorded in the Proceedings from the last half of 1836 onward, and the published reports of the Royal Asiatic Society between 1832 and 1836 do not record any presentations during those years. This was a period when the Translation Fund had already expended a large part of its resources on translations and for printing. Moreover, the subscription list had levelled off by 1832, and was thereafter to decrease. Possibly the Committee had decided that the money used for the medal could be put to better use in supporting the main aims of the Fund.

We have been unable to locate any Translation Committee or Royal medals which may still survive. At present, therefore, as far as is known, the engraving of the medal used in volumes published by the Committee between 1829 and 1831 provides the only illustrated record of this earliest award to be associated with the Royal Asiatic Society.

Following the death of George IV the expensive personalized pages used for the volumes supplied to subscribers of the Fund were discontinued. In 1831 the Committee ordered a vignette depicting a new emblem to appear on the title pages of all subsequent publications. This device showed a sun rising brilliantly from a calm sea and was meant to symbolize the motto *EX ORIENTE LUX* which was engraved beneath it (Plate IVb). A frame of palm branches surrounded the emblem, and this design appeared in most of the later volumes issued by the Committee. The Oriental Translation Fund lapsed in 1865, but it was revived by the Society in 1891. The old emblem of a rising sun did not appear on the title pages of this further series of publications, although it was later to be incorporated in the design for the Public School Medal to be discussed in a later section of this paper.

THE TRIENNIAL GOLD MEDAL

After the discontinuation of the Royal, and of the Oriental Translation Fund Committee medals in about 1831, no further awards of a similar kind were offered in association with or by the Royal Asiatic Society for over 60 years. However, by 1887 it was brought to the notice of Council that since the title of Honorary Member was limited to foreign scholars, the Society had no way of honouring eminent British Orientalists. Ten years later, in February 1897, this omission was corrected when Council agreed to commemorate the 60th year of the reign of Queen Victoria by the awarding of a Jubilee Gold Medal to a British scholar who had made an outstanding contribution to the field of Oriental research. A committee, formed under the direction of Mr. (afterwards Sir) A. N. Wollaston, chose a design for the medal. It was agreed that the banyan-tree



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b



c

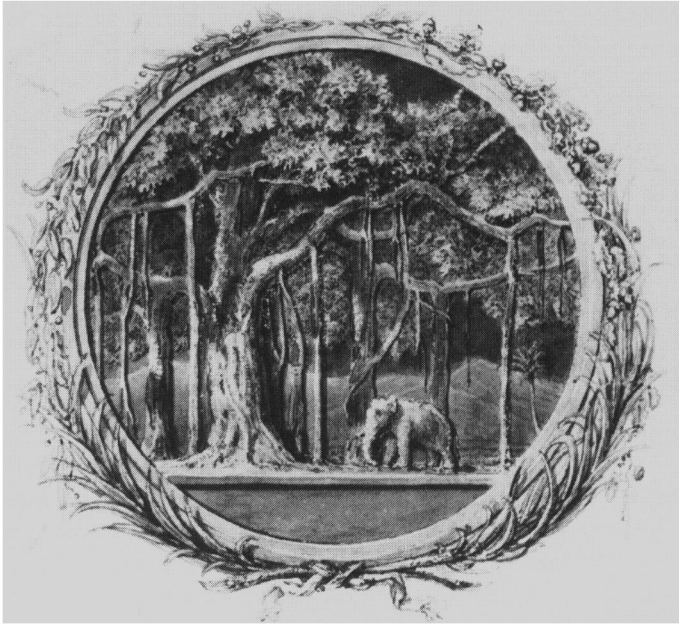


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e

(a), (b), (d) and (e) Four designs for an emblem of the Royal Asiatic Society by Thomas and William Daniell (1823). From drawings in the possession of the Society. Actual Size.
 (c) Sketch by the Daniells for the signet of the Society.



a



b

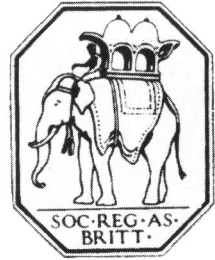
(a) Design by William Daniell for a Great Seal of the Society (1823). (b) Enlarged reproduction of an embossing stamp representing the Society's first Great Seal, and used on stationery and invitations (1827). Cf. Fig. 1.



a



b



c



d



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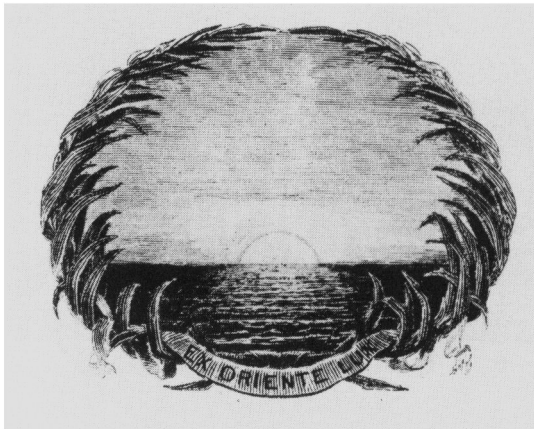


f

(a) Wax impression from the Society's steel signet (1823). (b) An old book-stamp of the Society inspired by the signet. (c) The elephant emblem designed by Professor Perceval Yetts (1923), and used on the title-page of the *Journal* from 1941. All slightly enlarged. (d) Brass book stamp (1824). (e) Wood-block copy of the Society's banyan tree seal, used as a cover vignette on the *Journal* of the Society from 1834 to 1863. (f) Vignette used on the Society's *Journal* between 1863 and 1941.



a



b

(a) Enlarged engraving of the Royal Medal awarded by the Oriental Translation Fund (1830–1), from the title-page in Fig. 3. Here the wreaths are an addition. (b) Rising-sun vignette from a title-page of the Oriental Translation Fund series (1831).



a

(a) Lead pattern for the Society's Gold Medal, 1897–. The banyan-tree design is based on William Daniell's drawing of 1823 (cf. Plate IIa). Diameter 5.5 cm.



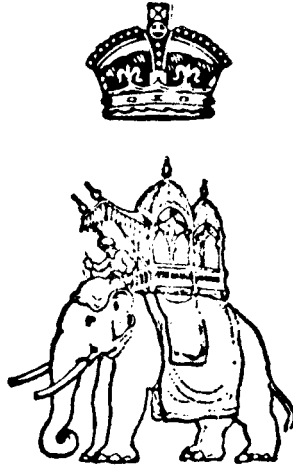
b

(b) The Society's Public School Medal, awarded 1904–1929. The rising-sun design symbolizes the motto *EX ORIENTE LUX*. This unissued specimen is in bronze. Diameter 3.5 cm.



a

(a) Lead pattern for the Society's Richard Burton Memorial Medal, 1925—. Diameter 5.5 cm.



b

(b) Design (derived from Daniell's sketch) of an emblem for the Society's *Journal* title-page and letter-head, drawn by G. K. Payne Esq, A.R.I.B.A. (1973).

emblem should form its basis. For this new version of an old symbol, the committee discarded the rather vague representation of an Indian temple used for over 30 years in the banyan tree vignette on the cover of the Society's *Journal*. They chose instead a splendid view of the 10th-century Kandariya Temple of Śiva at Khajuraho, Chaturpur, in Central India (Plate Va). A proposal to use the motto of the Oriental Translation Fund, EX ORIENTE LUX, was considered, but rejected as not suitable for a medal. The committee favoured the Society's own motto QUOT RAMI TOT ARBORES, and this was approved by the Council. The name "Royal Asiatic Society" was to be spaced around a laurel wreath on the reverse. Council engaged the firm of Pinches to make the dies. The first medal was struck in 22 ct. gold at a cost of £22. On the actual medal we find the longer formula ROYAL · ASIATIC · SOCIETY · OF · GREAT · BRITAIN · AND · IRELAND.

In 1898 the Society launched an appeal for funds to finance the cost of the new medal. By the end of 1899 nearly £300 had been subscribed. Meanwhile, on 25 May 1898 Lord Reay, the President of the Society, presented the first of the medals to Professor E. B. Cowell, the eminent Sanskrit scholar. The medal is dated, however, to 1897, the Jubilee year. Since then, up to 1984, the Triennial Gold Medal had been awarded 29 times. This includes a unique double presentation made in 1915 to Mrs. Agnes Smith Lewis and her twin sister Mrs. Margaret Dunlop Gibson, for their editing and translation of Syriac texts. A special presentation of the medal was made to Sir Gerard Clauson by Her Majesty The Queen at a reception held in celebration of the Society's 150th Anniversary in 1973. A complete list of medallists is given at the end of this paper.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS GOLD MEDAL

In October 1901 the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society agreed to invite a number of Indian Princes to support the Jubilee Gold Medal fund which, as described above, had been established three years earlier. This new appeal was organized on behalf of the Society by Mr. H. A. Sim of the Madras Civil Service. Thirteen chiefs and gentlemen of South India responded with contributions totalling £1270. Some of the Princes' letters, finely embossed, are preserved in the Society's archives.

By late 1902, however, the Council had determined that funds already received in Great Britain were adequate to support the financing of the Triennial Gold Medal. It was therefore resolved that interest derived from the donations to the Madras appeal be divided equally between a fund for School Medals and a fund for the publication of research monographs. The medal would be given yearly to a boy from a Public School who submitted the best paper on an oriental subject chosen by a committee of Council.

A medal committee recommended that the new schools' award should be smaller in size than the Society's gold medal. The symbol of a sun rising from the Eastern sea, first used by the Oriental Translation Fund, was to form the design (Plate Vb). The old Oriental Translation Fund motto EX ORIENTE LUX, rejected for the Triennial Gold Medal, was revived for the School award. The reverse of the medal showed a laurel wreath, and was inscribed with the words: * ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY * INDIAN EMPIRE SCHOOL MEDAL. In 1905, when some members of Council expressed reservations about this wording, it was decided that in the "Society proceedings and official papers the prize should be known as The Royal Asiatic Society Public School Medal". The medal was originally of gold and measured 3.5 cm. in diameter. When first awarded it cost £4.17.6. To judge however by the surviving specimen illustrated here – which remains unissued – the last few examples were struck in bronze. Initially only students at Eton, Harrow, Winchester, Rugby, Charterhouse, Westminster and Merchant Taylors' School were entitled to compete for the prize, but in succeeding years this list was gradually increased to include nearly all of the public schools in Great Britain. Lord Reay, President of the Society, awarded the first medal to W. N. Ewer of Merchant Taylors' School at the 1904 Annual General Meeting.

A new trust deed and schedule for the medal competition was approved in 1907. This provided for an award of a book-prize to the boy from each competing school whose essay was adjudged of a high standard and the best of those of his school. The boy who submitted the best essay of all would receive the gold medal. Each book awarded was to be provided with a book plate on which the following words would appear. "Royal Asiatic Society School Prize founded by the generosity of H.H. the Raja of Cochin, the Maharaja Gajapati Rao, the Raja of Parlakimedi and other Chiefs and gentlemen of Southern India". The emblem of the Society, as represented on the book plate, showed a stylized banyan tree, the trunk of which was surrounded by a crown (Fig. 4). The general design of the plate is reminiscent of the school of William Morris.

With the exception of the years 1924 and 1927, the Public School Gold Medal was awarded annually from 1904 to 1929. However the number of boys who entered the competition had never been large and in 1929 Council revived the question of altering the terms of the trust which governed the prize fund. A look at the records showed that out of 88 schools elected to compete for the School Prize in the 1920s, an average of about four boys sent in essays each year. This implied a lack of interest in the essay competition and indicated it had not succeeded in its primary objective, that of stimulating an interest in the Indian Empire amongst boys at the Public Schools. An interview arranged by members of Council with officials of the Ministry of Education in 1930 resulted in the following recommendations being made by the Ministry: "That the subject of the essay be made more popular and less difficult. Such subjects as

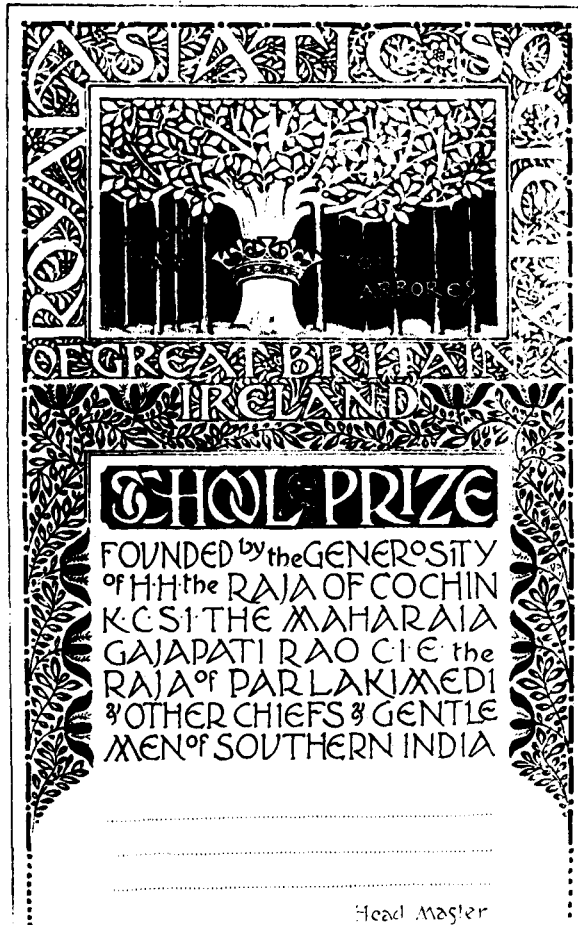


Fig. 4. Book-plate for the Society's Public School Prize, 1904–1929.

Asoka, Akbar and Hyder Ali were too ambitious and meant nothing to the average schoolboy. Too much was expected in the way of reading and a wider choice of Oriental subjects was recommended and also more than one subject might be set". The Council, however, saw a need for a more fundamental change. They decided that in the future the competition should be open to university undergraduates only, and that a prize of £20 and a diploma should replace the medal. Competitors could choose from at least two subjects.

Regulations for the University Prize Fund were drawn up in 1932 and the first prize under the new scheme was awarded the following year. In 1939 Professor Perceval Yetts designed a certificate to be presented with the prize.

This displayed the “walking” elephant symbol of 1923, printed in blue, which two years later was also to appear in black-and-white on the cover of the Society’s *Journal*. The prize was increased to £50 in 1968 and thereafter was to be awarded biennially. In 1979 Council increased the prize to £100.

During the 25 years in which the Royal Asiatic Society had sponsored the now discontinued Public School medal competition, Eton College and Merchant Taylors’ School each won the award five times, Denstone College thrice, and Nottingham High School twice. The medal was awarded once to Harrow, Rugby, Marlborough, Shrewsbury, Westminster and other schools.

THE SIR RICHARD BURTON MEDAL

On 12 April 1921 the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society agreed to found a Richard Burton memorial lecture, in commemoration, that year, of the 100th anniversary of Burton’s birth. A noted explorer and linguist, Burton had been a member of the Society from 1869 until his death in 1890. A fund was established to finance the lecture (we may suppose a fee was to be offered) and by 1923 a modest £60 had been subscribed. It was decided in March 1923 to use part of this fund for a Burton Medal. This would be awarded to the person chosen to deliver the lecture, which was to deal with Burton, his travels, or some such cognate subject of exploration. The presentation and lecture would take place triennially.

The medal, designed in 1924 by the firm of Pinches, shows a profile of Burton cast in high relief (Plate VIa). A painting of 1872 by Sir Frederick Leighton, now in the National Portrait Gallery, served as a model. An inscription extending around the margin of the medal reads · SIR · RICHARD · F · BURTON · K · C · M · G · 1821—1890 and then in Arabic *al-hājj ‘Abdullāh*. Burton had assumed the name ‘Abdullāh while travelling in disguise through Sind, and later during his pilgrimage to Mecca in 1853. *Al-hājj* is a direct reference to the latter occasion. An inscription on the reverse reads RICHARD BURTON MEMORIAL MEDAL. The medal was to be cast in silver and gilded. In practice those chosen to give the Burton lecture were also naturally expected to have undertaken exploration and research in the East, and more particularly in close association with local people, or in difficult circumstances. The earlier medallists lectured on themes associated with Burton. Later recipients have more often discussed their own fields of Oriental research. The first medal was awarded to the explorer of Arabia, H. St. John Philby, in 1925. A list of all Burton medalists to 1981 is given below.

GOLD MEDALLISTS

1897 E. B. Cowell (1826—1903). Sanskrit scholar, translator and editor of numerous texts.

- 1900 Sir E. W. West (1824–1905). Pahlavi philologist, editor and translator of Zoroastrian Pahlavi texts.
- 1903 Sir William Muir (1819–1905). Biographer of Muḥammad and historian of the Caliphate.
- 1906 Rev. G. U. Pope (1820–1908). Scholar of Tamil and other South Indian languages.
- 1909 Sir G. A. Grierson (1851–1941). Philologist and administrator in India. Compiler of the *Linguistic Survey of India*.
- 1912 J. F. Fleet (1847–1917). Epigraphist and writer on the ancient history and antiquities of India.
- 1915 Mrs. Agnes Smith Lewis (1843–1926). Syriac scholar and Eastern traveller; translator, with her sister Margaret (see below), of Syriac and Arabic texts.
- 1915 Mrs. Margaret Dunlop Gibson (1843–1920). Translator of Syriac Christian texts (with her sister Agnes).
- 1918 V. A. Smith (1848–1920). Historian, wrote *Early history of India* and edited *Cambridge history of India*, Volume I.
- 1922 Professor H. A. Giles (1870–1935). Lexicographer and linguist of Chinese, also wrote on Chinese history and literature.
- 1925 Rev. A. H. Sayce (1869–1933). Professor of Assyriology at Oxford, translator and editor of Babylonian and Assyrian texts; wrote on Mesopotamian history.
- 1928 Professor D. S. Margoliouth (1858–1940). Editor and translator of Arabic texts, writer on Islam and Arabic literature.
- 1932 Sir Aurel Stein (1862–1943). Archaeologist and explorer in Central Asia, Swat, Baluchistan, India and Persia.
- 1935 Sir Denison Ross (1871–1940). Professor of Persian, and first Director (1916–1937) of the School of Oriental Studies, University of London.
- 1938 Professor R. A. Nicholson (1865–1940). Translator and editor of Arabic and Persian texts, authority on Islamic mysticism.
- 1941 Professor F. W. Thomas (1867–1956). Philologist of Sanskrit, Pali and Tibetan, author of Buddhist and Hindu studies.
- 1944 Sir John Marshall (1876–1958). Director General of Antiquities in India (1902–1931), excavator of Mohenjo-daro, Taxila and other important sites.
- 1947 Sir Richard Winstedt (1878–1963). Philologist and lexicographer of the Malay language, compiled Malay dictionary, wrote on the literature and history of Malaya.
- 1950 Dr. L. D. Barnett (1871–1960). Sanskrit scholar, writer on Indian history, Keeper of Oriental Printed Books and Manuscripts, British Museum.
- 1953 Sir Ralph Turner (1888–1983). Sanskrit philologist and lexicographer, compiler of Nepali and Indo-European dictionaries, second Director (1937–1957) of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

- 1956 Professor W. Perceval Yetts (1878–1957). Professor of Chinese archaeology, University of London; authority on Chinese bronzes.
- 1959 Sir Archibald Cresswell (1880–1974). Historian of Islamic art and architecture, author of major studies on Islamic monuments of the Near and Middle East, Egypt and North Africa.
- 1962 Professor Vladimir Minorsky (1877–1966). Russian imperial diplomat in the Middle East. Editor and translator of Arabic, Persian and Turkish texts.
- 1965 Professor G. H. Luce (1889–1979). Epigraphist and philologist of Pali and Old Burmese, wrote on the history, art and antiquities of Burma.
- 1968 Sir Hamilton Gibb (1895–1971). Arabist, writer on Islam and Arabic history and literature.
- 1971 Sir Harold Bailey, Philologist of Sanskrit and Iranian languages, the major contributor in decipherment of ancient Khotanese, editor and translator of Khotanese texts, compiler of the Khotanese dictionary.
- 1973 Sir Gerard L. M. Clauson (1891–1974). Altaic scholar and lexicographer, compiler of the dictionary of Old Turkish.
- 1977 Professor W. Simon (1893–1980). Chinese philologist. Author of studies on archaic Chinese grammar, and corresponding Tibetan and Chinese words.
- 1984 Professor Sukumar Sen (1900–). Indian philologist. Has written on Bengali language and literature and on Middle Indo-Aryan.

BURTON MEMORIAL MEDALLISTS

- 1925 H. St. John Philby (1885–1960). Noted writer on Arabia. Explored much of Central and South Arabia.
- 1928 Sir Harold MacMichael (1882–1967). Civil Secretary to the Sudan Government; author of *A History of the Arabs in the Sudan*.
- 1931 Bertram S. Thomas (1892–1950). Explorer of Southern Arabia. First European to cross Rub' al-Khālī desert.
- 1934 Freya Stark, travelled in Southern Arabia, visited Assassin strongholds in the Elburz Mountains, Iran. Author of *The Valley of the Assassins*.
- 1937 Sir Arnold Wilson (1884–1940). Explored and mapped large areas of South-western Iran. Writer on Iraq, Iran and the Gulf.
- 1940 Major (later Sir) John B. Glubb, first commander of the Arab Desert Legion, Transjordan.
- 1943 W. H. Ingrams (1897–1973). Traveller and explorer in Southern Arabia, author of numerous books of Oriental travel.
- 1947 Colonel and Mrs. D. L. R. Lorimer (d. 1962 and 1949). Resided in Persia and Mesopotamia. Lorimer published linguistic studies on Eastern Iranian languages including Pashto, Dumaki and Wakhi.

- 1952 Miss G. Caton Thompson, directed archaeological excavations and travelled in Egypt and Arabia.
- 1963 C. J. Edmonds (1889–1979). Administrator and traveller in Persia and Iraq, author of studies on the language and culture of the Kurds.
- 1966 W. P. Thesiger, explorer and traveller in Ethiopia, South Arabia and Southern Iraq, author of *Arabian Sands* and *The Marsh Arabs*.
- 1969 Brigadier S. H. Longrigg (1893–1979). Military Governor of Eritrea, author of *Four Centuries of Modern Iraq* and other historical studies.
- 1973 Professor Mary Boyce, scholar of Pahlavi and the Zoroastrian religion, lived among the Zoroastrians in Iran, author of successive volumes of *A history of Zoroastrianism*.
- 1978 W. G. Archer (1907–1979). Administrator in the Santal district of India, authority on Santal literature, and on Punjab painting.
- 1978 H. T. Lambrick. (1904–1982). Administrator and traveller in Sind; author of books on the history and historical geography of the province.
- 1981 Professor R. B. Serjeant, Arabist and traveller in the Hadramaut and the Yemen.