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MEDALS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

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The Royal Society of Tasmania was formed on the 14 October, 1843, under the name of "The Botanical and Horticultural Society of Van Diemen's Land," and its first President was the Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony, Sir John Eardley Wilmot. On the 12th September, 1844, it was announced that Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, had signified her consent to become Patron of the Society, and that its designation "should thenceforward be the Royal Society of Van Diemen's Land, for Horticulture, Botany, and the Advancement of Science." The Society was the first "Royal Society" formed outside of the United Kingdom.

In 1855 the name of the Colony of Van Diemen's Land was changed to Tasmania,

and the Society then became "The Royal Society of Tasmania for Horticulture, Botany, and the Advancement of Science." In 1911 the Society was made a body corporate by the name of "The Royal Society of Tasmania" with perpetual succession. The Northern branch was formed at Launceston on 26 September, 1853.

The Tasmanian Museum and the Botanical Gardens were both originally part of the Society but were transferred to the Crown at the end of 1885.

The Society has issued four medals. All have been struck by Stokes Limited of Victoria.

1 ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA MEDAL

Oval shaped, 63 x 45mm. The first six were struck in silver, while the current medals are struck in bronze.

Obverse: Thylacine (Tasmanian "Tiger") in centre of map of Tasmania. Above, crown; below, 1843. Around rim THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA and 4 dots.

Reverse: Plain except for the inscribed name of the recipient.

Persons awarded this medal to date are:—

- 1927 L. Rodway
- 1930 Clive Lord
- 1934 H. H. Scott
- 1935 Dr. A. N. Lewis
- 1940 Dr. W. E. L. H. Crowther
Prof. V. V. Hickman
- 1970 D. L. Serventy
- 1976 Dr. Donald Martin
- 1978 Dr. M. R. Banks
- 1982 Dr. Grote Reber

This medal was established on the 9 May, 1927. To be awarded by the Society on a recommendation from the Council in recognition of prolonged research of high merit by Honorary Life, Life, or Ordinary Members of the Society.





2 ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA CENTENARY MEDAL

Bronze: 63 mm diameter.

Obverse: Crown, above ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA. Below, FOUNDED 14 OCTOBER, 1843.

Reverse: Eucalyptus branch with five leaves and two gum nuts on it. Top left, 1843 above 1943. Below, AWARDED TO.

This medal was awarded to Professor Eric Ashby and to Dr. George Mackaness on the occasion of Centenary Celebrations of the Society in October, 1943.

Silver-plated copies sold to members of the Society.



3 R. M. JOHNSTON MEMORIAL MEDAL

Bronze: 54 mm diameter. Design from a photograph by Stokes & Sons.

Obverse: Facing bust of R. M. Johnston. Around rim ROBERT MACKENZIE JOHNSTON.

Reverse: AWARDED TO above centre. Around the rim ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA. THE R. M. JOHNSTON MEMORIAL MEDAL.

Established 9 March, 1920.

The income from the Fund to be used as follows:

- (a) to purchase medals additional to the six already acquired. The "R. M. Johnston Memorial Medal" to be presented annually or biennially to a lecturer chosen by the Council to deliver the "R. M. Johnston Memorial Lecture."
- (b) the remainder of the income to be used for the purchase of books for the Society's Library, each book to bear an appropriate book-plate.

Persons awarded this medal to date are:—

- 1923 Sir T. W. Edgeworth David
- 1925 Prof. F. Wood Jones
- 1929 Dr. R. J. Tillyard
- 1934 Prof. W. J. Dakin
- 1937 Sir David Rivett
- 1946 Prof. L. H. Martin
- 1948 Prof. T. Griffith Taylor
- 1950 Prof. J. T. Wilson
- 1957 Prof. F. Walker

- 1959 Sir Edmund Hillary
- 1977 Prof. S. R. Carey
- 1983 Dr. A. G. Fenton

Robert Mackenzie Johnston (1844-1918) statistician and scientist, was born at Inverness, Scotland, the son of a crofter, and educated at the Andersonian University, Glasgow, where he studied botany, geology and chemistry.

He emigrated to Australia in 1870 and joined the accountant's branch of the Launceston and Western District Railway. In 1881 he organised a new statistical department and became Government Statistician and Register-General. He was the author of numerous scientific, natural history and statistical works. With the coming of Federation, Johnston was able to assist greatly with the special problems of finance, and he originated the scheme of per capita payments by the Commonwealth to the States that was eventually adopted. He died at Hobart on 20 April 1918.



4 CLIVE LORD MEMORIAL MEDAL

Bronze: 57 mm diameter. Designed by Capt. D. Colbron Pearse.
Curator of Art, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

Obverse: Waist length bust of C. E. Lord on raised line, facing left; 1889-1933 below. CLIVE ERROL LORD on left.

Reverse: AWARDED TO in field, followed by the inscribed name of the recipient.
ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA — THE CLIVE E. LORD
MEMORIAL MEDAL around the rim.

Established 2 July, 1934.

The income from the Fund to be used for the following purposes:

- (a) to provide a Memorial Medal every three years to a lecturer chosen to deliver the "Clive Lord Memorial Lecture."
- (b) to provide a certificate and books to the value of \$20 (to be known as the "Clive Lord Memorial Prize").
- (c) to purchase books for the Royal Society's Library, each book to bear an appropriate book-plate.
- (d) to allow the Council in its discretion to use the income of the Fund to defray any expenses connected with the Lecture, Medal or Prize.

Amount of original Fund, £200 (\$400)
(Balance remaining after provision of a die of the Memorial Medal and a Memorial Tablet in the Tasmanian Museum).

Persons awarded this medal to date are:—

1936 Prof. L. F. Giblin
1939 Prof. J. B. Cleland
1947 Dr. H. Thompson
1951 Prof. J. Burke
1958 Mr P. G. Law
1960 Emeritus Prof. V. V. Hickman
1966 Dr. W. M. Curtis
1973 Dr. W. Bryden
1977 Dr. E. R. Guiler
1983 Mr N. J. B. Plomky

Clive Errol Lord (1889-1933) was the eldest son of Octavius Lord, of Hobart, and a direct descendant of David Lord, one of the earliest settlers in Tasmania. After being educated at Hutchins School, he entered a well known firm of architects and engineers of Hobart, and following the completion of his articles he set up practise as an architect on his own account.

In 1917 he was appointed Director of the Tasmanian Museum, a position he held until his death on the 15 July, 1933. Clive Lord, even from his school years, had always shown a marked interest in Tasmania's natural history, attending with his father in 1904, the meetings of the recently formed Tasmanian Field Naturalist Club. In 1911 he became Honorary Secretary of that organisation. He was one of the leaders who secured a national Park for Tasmania, and later the scenic reservation of the Lake St. Clair — Cradle Mt. area. The author of several books on Tasmanian vertebrate animals he was honoured by being elected to a Fellowship of the Linnean Society in recognition of his work in the field of natural science. He was a foundation member of the Hobart Rotary Club.