

● Gold Medal recipients

The Gold Medals (Founder's and Patron's Medals) originated as an annual gift of 50 guineas from King William IV. It was awarded for the first time in 1831, for the encouragement and promotion of geographical science and discovery. In 1839 the Society decided that this sum should be converted into two gold medals of equal value, to be designated the Founder's Medal and the Patron's Medal. Today both Medals are approved by His Majesty The King.

Gold Medal recipients are listed in full below:

1832

Founder's Medal - Richard Lander

For important services in determining the course and termination of the Niger

1833

Founder's Medal - John Biscoe

For his discovery of Graham's Land and Enderby's Land in the Antarctic

1834

Founder's Medal - Captain Sir John Ross

For his discovery of Boothia Felix and King William Land and for his famous sojourn of four winters in the Arctic

1835

Founder's Medal - Sir Alexander Burnes

For his remarkable and important journeys through Persia

1836

Founder's Medal - Captain Sir George Back

For his recent discoveries in the Arctic, and his memorable journey down the Great Fish River

1837

Founder's Medal - Captain Robert Fitzroy

For his survey of the coasts of South America, from the Rio de la Plata to Guayaquil in Peru

1838

Founder's Medal - Colonel Francis Rawdon Chesney

For valuable materials in comparative and physical geography in Syria, Mesopotamia and the delta of Susiana

1839

Founder's Medal - Thomas Simpson

For tracing the hitherto unexplored coast of North America

Patron's Medal - Dr. Edward Rüppell

For his travels and researches in Nubia, Arabia and Abyssinia

1840

Founder's Medal - Major Henry Rawlinson For researches in Persian Guayana

Patron's Medal - Robert H. Schomburgk

For his perseverance and success in exploring the territory and investigating the resources of British Guyana

1841

Founder's Medal - Lieutenant H. Raper

For excellent work on Practical Navigation and Nautical Astronomy

Patron's Medal - Lieutenant John Wood

For his journey to the source of the Oxus and for valuable labours on the Indus

1842

Founder's Medal - Captain Sir James Clark Ross

For his brilliant achievement at the South Pole, to within less than 12° of which he safely navigated his vessels, discovering a great Antarctic continent

Patron's Medal - Rev. Dr. E. Robinson

For his valuable work 'Biblical Researches in Palestine, Mount Sinai and Arabia'

1843

Founder's Medal - Edward John Eyre

For his enterprising and extensive explorations in Australia, under circumstances of peculiar difficulty

Patron's Medal - Lieut. J. F. A. Symonds

For his triangulation over Palestine and for his determination of the difference between the level of the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea

1844

Founder's Medal - W. J. Hamilton

For valuable researches in Asia Minor

Patron's Medal - Professor Adolph Erman

For important geographical labours in Siberia and Kamstchatka

1845

Founder's Medal - Dr. Charles Beke

For his exploration in Abyssinia

Patron's Medal - Professor Carl Ritter

For his important geographical labours

1846

Founder's Medal - Count P. E. de Strzelecki

For exploration in the south eastern portion of Australia

Patron's Medal - Professor A. Middendorff

For explorations in Northern and Eastern Siberia



1847

Founder's Medal - Captain Charles Sturt

For explorations in Australia, and especially for his journey fixing the limit of Lake Torrens and penetrating into the heart of the continent to lat. 24° 30'S, long. 138° 0'E

Patron's Medal - Dr. Ludwig Leichhardt

For explorations in Australia, especially for his journey from Moreton Bay to Port Essington.

1848

Founder's Medal - Sir James Brooke

For his expedition to Borneo, and the zeal he has shown in promoting geographical discovery

Patron's Medal - Captain Charles Wilkes, USN

For the talent and perseverance he displayed in a voyage in the Antarctic regions ... and for splendid scientific work

1849

Founder's Medal - Austen Henry Layard

For important contributions to Asiatic Geography, interesting researches in Mesopotamia, and for his discovery of the remains of Nineveh

Patron's Medal - Baron Charles von Hugel

For his enterprising exploration of Cashmere

1850

Patron's Medal - John Charles Frémont of the U.S. Topographical Engineers

For his important geographical labours in the far West of the American Continent

Chronometer Watch presented to - Rev. David Livingstone, the enterprising missionary

For his journey to the great lake of Ngami

1851

Founder's Medal - Dr. George Wallin

For his interesting and important travels in Arabia

Patron's Medal - Thomas Brunner

For meritorious labours in exploring the Middle Island of New Zealand

1852

Founder's Medal - Dr. John Rae

For his survey of Boothia undermost severe privations ... and for his very important contributions to the Geography of the Arctic

Patron's Medal - Captain Henry Strachey

For extensive explorations and surveys in Western Tibet

1853

Founder's Medal - Francis Gallton

For fitting out and conducting in Expedition to explore the centre of Southern Africa

Patron's Medal - Commander E. A. Inglefield

For his enterprising Survey of the coasts of Baffin Bay, Smith Sound and Lancaster Sound

1854

Founder's Medal - Admiral William Smyth

For his valuable Maritime Surveys in the Mediterranean

Patron's Medal - Captain Robert McClure
For his remarkable exertions ... in navigating his ship through the ice of the Polar Seas, and for his discovery of the North West Passage

1855

Founder's Medal - Rev. David Livingstone
For his recent explorations in Africa

Patron's Medal - Charles Andersson
For travels in South Western Africa

1856

Founder's Medal - Elislia Kent Kane
For services and discoveries in the Polar Regions during the American Expeditions in search of Sir John Franklin

Patron's Medal - Heinrich Barth
For his extensive explorations in Central Africa, his excursions about Lake Chad and his perilous journey to Timbuctu

1857

Founder's Medal - Augustus C. Gregory
For extensive and important explorations in Western and Northern Australia

Patron's Medal - Colonel Andrew Scott Waugh
For geodetical operations, as remarkable for their extent as for their accuracy, whereby [India] has been covered by triangulation

1858

Founder's Medal - Captain Richard Collison
For discoveries in the Arctic Regions

Patron's Medal - Professor Alexander Bache
For extensive and accurate surveys of America

1859

Founder's Medal - Captain Richard F. Burton
For his various exploratory enterprises, and especially for his perilous expedition with Captain. J. H. Speke to the great lakes in Eastern Africa

Patron's Medal - Captain John Palliser for the valuable results of his explorations in the Rocky mountains of North America

1860

Founder's Medal - Lady Franklin
For self-sacrificing perseverance in sending out expeditions to ascertain the fate of her husband

Patron's Medal - Captain Sir F. L. McClintock
For the skill and fortitude displayed by him and his companion in their search for records of the lost [Franklin] expedition and for valuable coast surveys

1861

Founder's Medal - Captain John Hanning Speke
For his eminent geographical discoveries in Africa, and especially his discovery of the great lake Victoria Nyanza

Patron's Medal - John McDouall Stuart

For very remarkable explorations in the interior of Australia

1862

Founder's Medal - Richard O'Hara Burke

In remembrance of that gallant explorer who with his companion Wills, perished after having traversed the continent of Australia

Patron's Medal - Captain Thomas Blakiston

For his survey of the Yang-tsze-Kiang

1863

Founder's Medal - Frank T. Gregory

For successful explorations in Western Australia

Patron's Medal - John Arrowsmith

For the very important services (in cartography) he has rendered to geographical science

1864

Founder's Medal - Captain J. A. Grant

For his journey across Eastern Equatorial Africa with Captain Speke

Patron's Medal - Baron C. von der Decken

For his Geographical Surveys of the lofty mountains of Kilimandjaro

1865

Founder's Medal - Captain T. G. Montgomerie

For his great trigonometrical journey from the plains of the Punjab to the Karakoram Range

Patron's Medal - Samuel Baker

For his vigorous explorations in the interior of Africa

1866

Founder's Medal - Dr. Thomas Thomson

For his researches in the Western Himalayas and Thibet

Patron's Medal - W. Chandless

For his Survey of the River Purus [South America]

1867

Founder's Medal - Admiral Alexis Boutakoff

For being first to launch and navigate ships in the Sea of Aral ... and for his survey of the mouths of the Oxus

Patron's Medal - Dr. Isaac Hayes

For his expedition towards the open Polar Sea

1868

Founder's Medal - Dr. Augustus Petermann

For his important services as a Writer and Cartographer

Patron's Medal - Gerhard Rohlfs

For his extensive travels in the interior of Northern Africa ... and especially for his traverse of the continent from Tripoli to Lagos

1869

Founder's Medal - Professor A. E. Nordenskiöld

For designing and carrying out the Swedish expeditions to Spitzbergen ... whereby great additions have been made to our acquaintance with zoology, botany, geology and meteorology

Patron's Medal - Mrs. Mary Somerville

Who throughout her very long life has been eminently distinguished by her proficiency in those branches of science which form the basis of Physical Geography

1870

Founder's Medal - George W. Hayward

For his journey into Eastern Turkistan, and for reaching the Pamir Steppe

Patron's Medal - Lieutenant Francis Garnier

For his extensive surveys ... from Cambodia to the Yatig-tsze-Kiang ... and for bringing his expedition to safety after the death of his chief

1871

Founder's Medal - Sir Roderick Murchison

Who for 40 years watched over the Society with more than paternal solicitude, and has at length placed it among the foremost of our scientific Societies

Patron's Medal - A. Keith Johnson

For distinguished services in the promotion of Physical Geography

1872

Founder's Medal - Colonel Henry Yule

For eminent services to Geography

Patron's Medal - Robert B. Shaw

For journeys in Eastern Turkistan, and for his extensive astronomical and hypsometrical observations

1873

Founder's Medal - Ney Elias

For his enterprise and ability in surveying the course of the Yellow River, and for his journey through Western Mongolia

Patron's Medal - Henry Morton Stanley

For his Relief of Livingstone, and for bringing his valuable journal and papers to England

1874

Founder's Medal - Dr. Georg Schweinfurth

For his explorations in Africa

Patron's Medal - Colonel P. Egerton Warburton

For his successful journey across the previously unknown western interior of Australia

1875

Founder's Medal - Lieutenant Karl Weyprecht

For his enterprise and ability in command of expeditions to Spitzbergen and Nova Zembla

Patron's Medal - Lieutenant Julius Payer

For explorations and discoveries in the Arctic regions

1876

Founder's Medal - Lieutenant Verney Lovett Cameron

For his journey across Africa from Zanzibar to Benguela, and his survey of Lake Tanganyika

Patron's Medal - John Forrest
For his numerous successful explorations in Western Australia

1877

Founder's Medal - Captain Sir George Nares
For having commanded the Arctic Expedition of 1875/6, during which ships and sledge parties reached a higher Northern latitude than had previously been attained

Patron's Medal - The Pundit Nain Singh
For his great journeys and surveys in Tibet and along the Upper Brahmaputra, during which he determined the position of Lhasa and added largely to our knowledge of the map of Asia

1878

Founder's Medal - Baron F. von Richthofen
For his extensive travels and scientific explorations in China

Patron's Medal - Captain Henry Trotter
For services to Geography which resulted in the connection of the Trigonometrical Survey of India with Russian Surveys from Siberia

1879

Founder's Medal - Colonel N. Prejevalsky
For successive expeditions and route-surveys in Mongolia and the high plateau of Northern Tibet

Patron's Medal - Captain N. V. J. Gill
For important work along the Northern frontier of Persia

1880

Founder's Medal - Lieutenant A. Louis Palander
For his services in connection with the Swedish Arctic Expeditions in the Vega

Patron's Medal - Ernest Giles
For his explorations and surveys in Australia

1881

Founder's Medal - Major Serpa Pinto
For his journey across Africa ... during which he explored 500 miles of new country

Patron's Medal - Benjamin Leigh Smith
For important discoveries along the coast of Franz-Josef Land

1882

Founder's Medal - Dr. Gustav Nachtigal
For his journeys through the Eastern Sahara

Patron's Medal - Sir John Kirk
For unremitting services to Geography, as a naturalist, as second-in-command to Dr. Livingstone, and as H.M. Consul-General at Zanzibar

1883

Founder's Medal - Sir Joseph Hooker
For eminent services to scientific Geography

Patron's Medal - E. Colborne Baber
For scientific works during his many exploratory journeys in the interior of China

1884



Founder's Medal - A. R. Colquhoun
For his journey from Canton to the Irrawadi

Patron's Medal - Dr. Julius von Haast
For his extensive explorations in the Southern Island of New Zealand

1885

Founder's Medal - Joseph Thomson
For his zeal, promptitude and success during two expeditions into East Central Africa

Patron's Medal - H. E. O'Neill
For his 13 journeys of exploration along the coast and into the interior of Mozambique

1886

Founder's Medal - Major A. W. Greely
For having so considerably added to our knowledge of the shores of the Polar Sea and the interior of Grinnell Land

Patron's Medal - Guido Cora
For important services as a writer and cartographer

1887

Founder's Medal - Lieutenant-Colonel T. H. Holdich
For zeal and devotion in carrying out surveys of Afghanistan

Patron's Medal - Rev. G. Grenfell
For extensive explorations in the Cameroons and Congo

1888

Founder's Medal - Clements R. Markham
In acknowledgment of the value of his numerous contributions to geographical literature ... on his retirement from the Secretaryship of the Society after 25 years' service

Patron's Medal - Lieutenant H. Wissmann
In recognition of his great achievements as an explorer in Central Africa

1889

Founder's Medal - A. D. Carey
For his remarkable journey in Central Asia during which he travelled 4750 miles through regions never visited by an Englishman

Patron's Medal - Dr. G. Radde
For a life devoted to the promotion of Scientific Geography

1890

Founder's Medal - Emin Pasha
For the great services he rendered to Geography during his twelve years' administration of the Equatorial Province of Egypt

Patron's Medal - Lieutenant F. E. Younghusband
For his journey from Machuria and Pekin to Kashmir, and especially for his route-surveys and topographical notes

1891

Founder's Medal - Sir James Hector
For investigations pursued as Naturalist to the Palliser expedition

Patron's Medal - Dr. Fridtjof Nansen
For having been first to cross the inland ice of Greenland ... as well as for his qualities as a scientific geographer

1892

Founder's Medal - Alfred Russel Wallace
The well-known naturalist and traveller and co-discoverer with Charles Darwin of the theory of natural selection, in recognition of the high geographical value of his great works

Patron's Medal - Edward Whymper
For his route-map and detailed survey among the Great Andes of the Equator

1893

Founder's Medal - Frederick Selous
In recognition of twenty years' exploration and surveys in South Africa

Patron's Medal - W. Woodville Rockill
For his travels and explorations in Western China and Tibet

1894

Founder's Medal - Captain H. Bower
For his remarkable journey across Tibet, from west to east

Patron's Medal - Elisée Reclus
For eminent services rendered to Geography as the author of Nouvelle Géographie Univerelle

1895

Founder's Medal - Dr. John Murray
For services to physical Geography, especially oceanography, and for his work on board the Challenger

Patron's Medal - The Hon. George Curzon
For travels and researches in Persia, French Indo-China, the Hindu Kush, and Pamirs

1896

Founder's Medal - Sir William MacGregor
For services to Geography in British New Guinea, in exploring, mapping and giving information on the natives

Patron's Medal - St. George Littledale
For important journeys in the Pamirs and Central Asia

1897

Founder's Medal - P. Semenov
For his long-continued efforts in promoting Russian exploration in Central Asia

Patron's Medal - Dr George M. Dawson
For exploration in the North West Territories and Alaska

1898

Founder's Medal - Dr Sven Hedin
For important exploring work in Central Asia

Patron's Medal - Lieutenant R. E. Peary, USN
For explorations in Northern Greenland, and especially for discovering the northern termination of the Greenland ice



1899

Founder's Medal - Captain G. L. Binger
For valuable work within the great bend of the Niger

Patron's Medal - Fernand Foureau
For continuous exploration in the Sahara

1900

Founder's Medal - Captain H. H. P. Deasy For exploring and survey work in Central Asia

Patron's Medal - James McCarthy
For great services to geographical science in exploring and mapping all parts of the kingdom of Siam

1901

Founder's Medal - HRH The Duke of the Abruzzi
For his journey to the summit of Mount St. Elias, and for his Arctic voyage in the Stella Polare

Patron's Medal - Dr. Donaldson Smith
For memorable journey across the unknown parts of Lake Rudolf and the Omo

1902

Founder's Medal - General Sir Frederick Lugard For persistent attention to African Geography

Patron's Medal - Major Molesworth Sykes
For journeys in Persia and for the support given by him to native explorers

1903

Founder's Medal - Douglas Freshfield
In recognition of his valuable contributions to our knowledge of the Caucasus

Patron's Medal - Captain Otto Sverdrup
For important discoveries in Jones Sound and for the important part he played as captain of the Fram during Dr. Nansen's famous expedition

1904

Founder's Medal - Sir Harry Johnston
For his many valuable services towards the exploration of Africa

Patron's Medal - Commander Robert Scott
For services as leader of the National Antarctic Expedition, and for his great sledge journey to 82° 17'S

1905

Founder's Medal - Sir Martin Conway
For explorations in the mountain regions of Spitsbergen

Patron's Medal - Captain C. H. D. Ryder
For his survey of Yunnan and his work in connection with the Tibet Mission

1906

Founder's Medal - Alfred Grandidier
The veteran French savant who for forty years has devoted himself to the exploration of Madagascar, and for his monumental work on the island in 52 large quarto volumes

Patron's Medal - Dr. Robert Bell

Who during forty-five years of field work has mapped an immense area of Canada previously unknown

1907

Founder's Medal - Dr. Francisco Moreno
For extensive explorations in the Patagonian Andes

Patron's Medal - Captain Roald Amundsen
For his daring voyage for the purposes of research in the region of the North Magnetic Pole, and for his first accomplishment by any vessel of the famous North-West Passage

1908

Founder's Medal - Lieutenant Boyd Alexander
For his three years' journey across Africa from the Niger to the Nile

Patron's Medal - HSH The Prince of Monaco
For oceanographical studies off the coast of Spitsbergen

1909

Founder's Medal - Dr. M. A. Stein
For his extensive explorations in Central Asia, and in particular his archaeological work

Patron's Medal - Colonel M. G. Talbot
For the large amount of excellent survey work done by him on the Afghan frontier and in the Sudan

1910

Founder's Medal - Colonel H. H. Godwin-Austen
For geographical discoveries and surveys along the North-eastern frontier of India, especially his pioneer exploring in the Karakoram

Patron's Medal - Dr. William Spiers Bruce For explorations in the Arctic and Antarctic

1911

Founder's Medal - Colonel P. K. Kozioff
For explorations in the Gobi desert, Northern Tibet and Mongolia

Patron's Medal - Dr. J. B. Charcot
For his important expeditions to the Antarctic, during which he conducted investigations of high scientific value in geology, meteorology, magnetic conditions and biology

1912

Founder's Medal - Charles M. Doughty
For his remarkable exploration in Northern Arabia, and for his classic work in which the results were described

Patron's Medal - Douglas Carruthers
For important expeditions to Ruwenzori, Turkestan, Arabia and Mongolia

1913

The Founder's Medal was not awarded, but an inscribed casket was presented to Lady Scott containing the Patron's Medal and the Special Antarctic Medal awarded to her late husband.

Patron's Medal - The late Dr. E. A. Wilson
For his excellent work in the study of the zoology of the Antarctic ... and for his skill as an artist

1914

Founder's Medal - Professor Albrecht Penck

For his advancement of almost every branch of scientific geography, and in particular his idea of an International map of the world on the millionth scale

Patron's Medal - Dr. Hamilton Rice

For his meritorious work on the head waters of the Orinoco and the Northern tributaries of the Amazon

1915

Founder's Medal - Sir Douglas Mawson

For his conduct of the Australian Antarctic Expedition which achieved highly important scientific results

Patron's Medal - Dr. Filippo de Filippi

For his great expedition to the Karakoram and Eastern Turkestan

1916

Founder's Medal - Colonel P. H. Fawcett

For his contributions to the mapping of South America

Patron's Medal - Captain F. M. Bailey

For explorations on the border of India and Tibet ... and especially for tracing the course of the Tsang-po- Brahmaputra

1917

Founder's Medal - Commander D. G. Howarth For explorations in Asiatic Turkey

Patron's Medal - Brigadier-General C. G Rawling For explorations in Western Tibet and New Guinea

1918

Founder's Medal - Gertrude Bell

For her important explorations and travels in Asia Minor, Syria, Arabia and on the Euphrates

Patron's Medal - Commandant J. Tilho

For his long-continued surveys and explorations in Northern Africa

1919

Founder's Medal - Colonel E. M. Jack

For his geographical work on the Western Front

Patron's Medal - Professor William Davis

For his eminence in the development of Physical Geography

1920

Founder's Medal - H. St. John B. Philby

For his two journeys in South Central Arabia

Patron's Medal - Professor Jovan Cvijic

For his distinguished studies of the geography of the Balkan states and other parts of Europe.

1921

Founder's Medal - Vilhjalmur Stefansson

For his distinguished services in the exploration of the Arctic Ocean

Patron's Medal - General R. Bourgeois

For his long and eminent services to Geography and Geodesy



1922

Founder's Medal - Colonel C. K. Howard-Bury
For his distinguished services in command of the Mount Everest Expedition

Patron's Medal - E. de Kovan Leffingwell
For surveys and investigations on the coast of Northern Alaska

1923

Founder's Medal - Dr. Knud Rasmussen
For exploration and research in the Arctic regions

Patron's Medal - The Hon. Miles Cater Smith
For explorations in the unknown interior of Papua

1924

Founder's Medal - Ahmed Hassanein Bey For his journey to Kutara and Darfur

Patron's Medal - Commander Frank Wild
For his long services to Antarctic exploration.

1925

Founder's Medal - Brigadier-General C. G. Bruce
For lifelong geographical work in the exploration of the Himalaya ... and his leadership of the Mount Everest Expedition of 1922

Patron's Medal - A. F. R. Wollaston
For his journeys in Central Africa and Dutch New Guinea

1926

Founder's Medal - Colonel E. F. Norton
For his distinguished leadership of the Mount Everest Expedition, 1924, and his ascent to 28,100 feet

Patron's Medal - Sir Edgeworth David
For his work on the Funafuti atoll and for his leadership of the first ascent of Mount Erebus

1927

Founder's Medal - Major Kenneth Mason
For his connection between the surveys of India and Russian Turkestan, and his leadership of the Shakshagam Expedition

Patron's Medal - Dr. Lauge Kock
For his very remarkable six years' exploration of Northern Greenland

1928

Founder's Medal - Dr. Tom Longstaff
For long-continued geographical work in the Himalaya

Patron's Medal - Captain G. H. Wilkins
For his many years' systematic work in Polar Regions, culminating in his remarkable flight from Point Barrow to Spitsbergen

1929

Founder's Medal - Francis Rennell Rodd
For his journeys in the Sahara and his studies of the Tuareg people

Patron's Medal - C. H. Karius

For his crossing in Papua from the Fly River to the Sepik

1930

Founder's Medal - F. Kingdon-Ward

For geographical exploration, and work on botanical distribution in China and Tibet

Patron's Medal - Carsten E. Borchgrevink

For his pioneer Antarctic Expedition, which was first to winter in the Antarctic, to travel on the Ross Barrier and to obtain proof of its recession

1931

Founder's Medal - Bertram Thomas

For geographical work in Arabia and his successful crossing of the Rub al Khali

Patron's Medal - Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, USN: "for his expedition to the Antarctic ... and for his flights over both North and South Poles".

1932

Founder's Medal - Henry George Watkins

For his work in the Arctic Regions, especially as leader of the British Arctic Air Route Expedition

Patron's Medal - HRH The Duke of Spoleto For work in the Himalaya

1933

Founder's Medal - J. M. Wordie For work in Polar explorations

Patron's Medal - Professor Erich von Drygalski

For researches in glaciology in the Arctic and Antarctic

1934

Founder's Medal - Hugh Ruttledge

For his journeys in the Himalayas and his leadership of the Mount Everest Expedition, 1933

Patron's Medal - Captain Ejnar Mikkelsen

For exploration in the Arctic and his work in Eskimo resettlement in Greenland

1935

Founder's Medal - Major R. A. Bagnold

For journeys in the Libyan Desert

Patron's Medal - W. Rickmer Rickmers

For long-continued travels in the Caucasus, culminating in his leadership of the Alai-Pamir Russo-German Expedition in 1928

1936

Founder's Medal - G. W. Murray

For explorations and surveys in the deserts of Sinai and Eastern Egypt, and his studies of the Badawin tribes

Patron's Medal - Major R. E. Cheesman

For explorations and surveys of the Blue Nile and Lake Tana

1937

Founder's Medal - Colonel C. G. Lewis

For surveys in Iraq, Syria and the Irrawaddy Delta, and for his work on the Afghan and Turco-Iraq Boundary Commissions

Patron's Medal - Lincoln Ellsworth
For his work in developing the technique of aerial navigation in the Polar regions, culminating in his successful flight across the Antarctic

1938

Founder's Medal - John Rymill
For the valuable scientific work of his British Grahamland Expedition

Patron's Medal - Eric Shipton
For his most distinguished record of mountain climbing

1939

Founder's Medal - Arthur M. Champion
For his surveys of the Turkana Province (Kenya) and the volcanoes south of lake Rudolf

Patron's Medal - Professor Hans Ahlmann
For exploration and glaciological studies in the Arctic

1940

Founder's Medal - Mr. and Mrs. Harold Ingrams
For exploration and studies in the Hadhramaut

Patron's Medal - Lieutenant Alexander Glen
For his expeditions in Spitsbergen and North east Land

1941

Founder's Medal - Captain P. A. Clayton
For his surveys in the Libyan desert, and his application of his experience to desert warfare.

Patron's Medal - Dr. Isaiah Bowman
For his travels in South America and for his great services to the science of Geography

1942

Founder's Medal - Freya Stark
For her travels in the East and her account of them

Patron's Medal - Owen Lattimore
For his travels and studies in Central Asia

1943

No medals awarded.

1944

No medals awarded.

1945

Founder's Medal - Dr. Charles Camsell
For his contributions to the geology of the North

Patron's Medal - Sir Halford Mackinder
For his long and distinguished service in the advancement of the science of Geography

1946

Founder's Medal - Brigadier Edward A. Glennie
For his work on geodesy in India and his contributions to mapping in the Far East

Patron's Medal - Inspector Henry A. Larsen, RCMP

For his achievement of the North West Passage from both west to east and east to west

1947

Founder's Medal - Brigadier M. Hotine
For research work in Air Survey ... and for his cartographic work

Patron's Medal - Colonel Daniel van der Meulen
For exploratory journeys in the Hadhramaut, and his contributions to the geography of Southern Arabia

1948

Founder's Medal - Wilfred Thesiger
For contributions to the Geography of Southern Arabia and for his crossing of the Rub al Khali desert

Patron's Medal - Thomas H. Manning
For exploration and survey work in the Arctic

1949

Founder's Medal - Professor L. Dudley Stamp
For his work in organising the Land Utilisation Survey of Great Britain and his application of Geography to National planning

Patron's Medal - Professor Hans Pettersson
For his leadership of the recent oceanographical cruise in the Albatross

1950

Founder's Medal - George F. Walpole
For contributions to the mapping of the Western Desert of Egypt

Patron's Medal - Professor Harald Sverdrup
For contributions to polar exploration and for oceanographic investigations

1951

Founder's Medal - Dr. Vivian E. Fuchs
For his contributions to Antarctic exploration and his research as leader of the survey 1948-50

Patron's Medal - Dr. Donald Thomson
For geographical exploration and studies in Arnhem land

1952

Founder's Medal - H. W. Tilman
For exploratory work among the mountains of East Africa and Central Asia

Patron's Medal - Paul-Emile Victor
For contributions to Polar exploration and for his geophysical investigations of the Greenland Icecap

1953

Founder's Medal - P. D. Baird
For explorations in the Canadian Arctic

Patron's Medal - Count Eigil Knuth
For exploration in Northern Greenland ... and for his contributions to Eskimo archaeology

1954

Founder's Medal - Brigadier Sir John Hunt Leader of the British Mount Everest Expedition

Patron's Medal - Dr. N. A. Mackintosh
For research and exploration in the Southern Ocean

1955

Founder's Medal - Dr. John K. Wright
For services in the development of geographical research and exploration

Patron's Medal - Commander C. J. W. Simpson
Leader of the British Expedition to North Greenland

1956

Founder's Medal - John Giaever
Leader of the Norwegian-British-Swedish Antarctic Expedition, for contributions to Polar exploration

Patron's Medal - Charles Evans
For contributions to Himalayan exploration

1957

Founder's Medal - Professor Ardito Desio
For geographical exploration and surveys in the Himalayas

Patron's Medal - Sir George Binney
For contributions to Arctic exploration ... the pioneer use of the air survey technique ... and to the development of the university exploring expedition

1958

Founder's Medal - Dr. Paul A. Siple
For contributions to Antarctic exploration and research

Patron's Medal - Sir Edmund Hillary
For Antarctic and Himalayan exploration

1959

Founder's Medal - Commander W. R. Anderson, USN
For the first trans-Polar submarine voyage in command of USS Nautilus

Patron's Medal - Sir Raymond Priestly
For services to Antarctic exploration

1960

Founder's Medal - Phillip G. Law
For Antarctic exploration and research

Patron's Medal – Professor Theodore Monod
For geographical exploration and research in the Sahara

1961

Founder's Medal - Dr. Mikhail M. Somov For Antarctic exploration and research

Patron's Medal - Dr. John Bartholomew
Editor 'The Times Atlas of the World', for contributions to cartography

1962

Founder's Medal - Captain Erwin McDonald, USN
For coastal explorations in the Bellingshausen Sea (Antarctica)

Patron's Medal - Tom Harrison

Government Ethnologist and Curator Sarawak Museum, for explorations in Central Borneo

1963

Founder's Medal - Capitaine Jacques-Yves Cousteau For underwater exploration and research

Patron's Medal - Dr. Albert P. Crary For Antarctic research and exploration

1964

Founder's Medal - Dr. L. S. H. Leakey

For palaeographical exploration and discoveries in East Africa

Patron's Medal - Dr. Thor Heyerdahl

For geographical explorations in the South Pacific Ocean

1965

Founder's Medal - Dr. E. F. Rootes

For Polar exploration and research, with special reference to the Canadian Arctic

Patron's Medal - Professor Lester C. King

For geomorphological exploration in the Southern Hemisphere

1966

Founder's Medal - Professor E. J. H. Corner

For botanical exploration in North Borneo and the Solomon Islands

Patron's Medal - Dr. G. Hattersley-Smith

For glaciological investigations in the Canadian Arctic

1967

Founder's Medal - Claudio and Orlando Vilas Boas

For contributions to exploration and development in the Mato Grosso

Patron's Medal - Professor Eduard Imhof

For contributions to cartography

1968

Founder's Medal - Dr. W. Brian Harland

For Arctic exploration and research

Patron's Medal - Professor Augusto Gansser

For geological exploration and mapping in the Himalaya

1969

Founder's Medal - Rear Admiral Rodolfo N. M. Panzarini

For services to Antarctic exploration and research and to international co-operation in Antarctic science

Patron's Medal - Drs. R. Thorsteinsson and E. T. Tozer

For contributions to exploration and economic development in the Canadian Arctic

1970

Founder's Medal - Walter William Herbert

For Arctic and Antarctic exploration and surveys

Patron's Medal - Dr. Haroun Tazieff

For volcanological research and exploration

**1971**

Founder's Medal - Sir George Deacon
For oceanographical research and exploration

Patron's Medal - Dr. Charles Swithinbank
For glaciological research and exploration

1972

Founder's Medal - Rear Admiral G. S. Ritchie
For hydrographical charting and oceanographical exploration

Patron's Medal - Dr. M. D. Gwynne
Leader, the RGS's South Turkana (Kenya) Expedition

1973

Founder's Medal - N. L. Falcon
Leader, the RGS's Musandam [North Oman] Expedition
For contributions to the geographical history of the Persian Gulf region

Patron's Medal - Professor E. H. Thompson
Professor of photogrammetry and surveying, University College London

1974

Founder's Medal - Christian J. S. Bonington
For mountain explorations

Patron's Medal - Gordon de Q. Robin
For polar research and exploration

1975

Founder's Medal - Sir Laurence Kirwan
For contributions to the geographical history of the Nubian Nile valley and Eastern Africa, and for services to exploration

Patron's Medal - Dr. J. P. Kuettnner
For explorations of the Earth's atmosphere and oceans

1976

Founder's Medal - Dr. Brian B. Roberts
For Polar exploration, and for contributions to Antarctic research and political negotiation

Patron's Medal - Rear Admiral Sir Edmund Irving
For services as Hydrographer of the Navy and for his encouragement of exploration

1977

Founder's Medal - Professor Michael Wise
For economic Geography, and for his contributions to international understanding in geographical teaching

Patron's Medal - Professor Kenneth Hare For discoveries in Arctic Geography

1978

Founder's Medal - Major-General R. Brown For services to the science of map-making

Patron's Medal - Professor Mieczyslaw Klimaszewski
For his contributions to geomorphology and international understanding in Geography



1979

Founder's Medal - Dr. David Stoddart
For contributions to geomorphology, the study of coral reefs and the history of academic Geography

Patron's Medal - Robin Hanbury-Tenison
For leadership of scientific expeditions, including the Mulu Expedition, and for his work on behalf of primitive peoples

1980

Founder's Medal - Professor William R Mead

Patron's Medal - Professor Preston James

1981

Founder's Medal - Professor Keith J Miller

Patron's Medal - Professor Valter Schytt

1982

Founder's Medal - Mr Michael Ward FRCS

Patron's Medal - Mr Douglas Warren CMG

1983

Founder's Medal - Sir Peter Scott CBE DSC

Patron's Medal - Commander John Young NASA

1984

Founder's Medal - Sir Ranulph Twistleton-Wykeham-Fiennes Bt

Patron's Medal - Professor Pierre Gourou

1985

Founder's Medal - Mr David Attenborough CBE FRS

Patron's Medal - Walter Smith CB OBE

1986

Founder's Medal - Mr Timothy Severin

Patron's Medal - Professor Peter Haggett

1987

Founder's Medal - Dr Anthony Laughton FRS

Patron's Medal - Professor Richard J Chorley

1988

Founder's Medal - Professor Peter Hall FBA

Patron's Medal - Mr Nigel de N Winser

1989

Founder's Medal - Dr Monica Kristensen

Patron's Medal - Professor Keith Clayton CBE


1990

Founder's Medal - Dr John Hemming

Patron's Medal - Dr Richard Leakey

1991

Founder's Medal - Professor Andrew Goudie

Patron's Medal - Dr Helge and Dr Anne Stine Ingstad

1992

Founder's Medal - Professor Alan Wilson

Patron's Medal - Dr Martin Holdgate CB

1993

Founder's Medal - Professor Kenneth Gregory

Patron's Medal - Colonel John Blashford-Snell MBE

1994

Founder's Medal - Professor Ronald Cooke

Patron's Medal - Professor Ghillean Prance FRS

1995

Founder's Medal - The Earl of Cranbrook

Patron's Medal - Professor David Harvey

1996

Founder's Medal - Professor John Woods CBE

Patron's Medal - Professor John Thornes

1997

Founder's Medal - Professor Sir Tony Wrigley

Patron's Medal - Professor David Rhind

1998

Founder's Medal - Professor Robert Bennett

Patron's Medal - Dr David Drewry

1999

Founder's Medal - Professor Mike Kirkby

For contributions to the development of process-based and modelling approaches in geomorphology

Patron's Medal - Doug Scott, CBE

For contributions to mountaineering and the knowledge of mountain regions

2000

Founder's Medal - Professor Brian Robson

For contributions to urban geography and geographical perspectives to urban policy

Patron's Medal - Sir Crispin Tickell GCMG KCVO

For contributions to promoting the understanding of global environmental issues in governmental and wider public arena

2001

Founder's Medal - Professor William Graf

For contributions to research on dryland river processes, and the interactions of science and public policy

Patron's Medal - Reinhold Messner

For contributions to mountaineering and mountain regions

2002

Founder's Medal - Bruno Messerli

For contributions to mountain research and the public awareness of mountain issues

Patron's Medal - Dr David Keeble

For advancing knowledge in economic and industrial geography'

2003

Founder's Medal - Professor Mike Goodchild

For contributions to geographical information science

Patron's Medal - Harish Kapadia

For contributions to geographical discovery and mountaineering in the Himalayas

2004

Founder's Medal - Professor Leszek Starkel

For advancing international understanding of palaeohydrology and geomorphology

Patron's Medal - Sydney Possuelo

For contributions to Brazilian people's rights and explorations in Amazonia

2005

Founder's Medal - Professor Sir Nicholas Shackleton

For research on Quaternary palaeoclimatology

Patron's Medal - Professor Jean Malaurie

For a lifelong study of the Arctic and its peoples

2006

Founder's Medal - Professor Derek Gregory

For international leadership of research in human geography and social theory

Patron's Medal - Professor Jack Ives

For his role internationally in establishing the global importance of mountain regions

2007

Founder's Medal - Professor Roger Barry

For international leadership of research on climate and climate change

Patron's Medal - Professor Paul Curran

For international development of geographical science through remote sensing and earth observation

2008



Founder's Medal - Professor Julian Dowdeswell
For the encouragement, development and promotion of glaciology

Patron's Medal - Professor Jesse Walker
For the encouragement, development and promotion of coastal geomorphology

2009

Founder's Medal - Dr Alan Baker
For contributions to historical geography

Patron's Medal - Professor Lord Nicholas Stern
For contributions to climate change policy

2010

Founder's Medal – Professor Diana Liverman
For encouraging, developing and promoting understanding of the human dimensions of climate change

Patron's Medal – Jack Dangermond
For promoting geographical science through the development of Geographical Information Systems

2011

Founder's Medal – Professor David Livingstone OBE
For the encouragement and promotion of historical geography

Patron's Medal – Dr Sylvia Earle
For the encouragement, development and promotion of ocean science and exploration

2012

Founder's Medal – Professor Charles Withers
For the encouragement and development of historical and cultural geography

Patron's Medal – Alastair Fothergill
For promoting globally the understanding of the world's environments

2013

Founder's Medal – Professor Keith Richards
For the encouragement and development of physical geography and fluvial geomorphology

Patron's Medal – Michael Palin
For the promotion of geography and geographical education

2014

Founder's Medal - Professor Geoffrey Boulton
For the development and promotion of glaciology

Patron's Medal - Hans Rosling
For the encouragement and development of the public understanding of geographical data and influencing decision makers across the world

2015

Founder's Medal - Professor Michael Batty CBE
For development and promotion of the geographical science of cities

Patron's Medal – Paul Theroux
For the encouragement of geographical discovery through travel writing

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2016

Founder's Medal - Professor Michael Storper
For scholarship and leadership in human and economic geography

Patron's Medal – Bob Geldof KBE
For raising global public awareness and challenging the causes of inequality in Africa

2017

Founder's Medal – Sir Gordon Conway KCMG FRS
For the enhancement and promotion of agricultural development in Asia and Africa

Patron's Medal – Lindsey Hilsum
For promoting the understanding of global conflict and equality

2018

Founder's Medal – Paul Ian Rose
For scientific expeditions and enhancing public understanding

Patron's Medal – Professor Yadvinder Malhi FRS
For world leading studies on the impact of climate change on tropical ecosystems

2019

Founder's Medal – Professor Trevor Barnes
For sustained excellence and pioneering developments in the field of economic geography

Patron's Medal - Dame Fiona Reynolds
For her contribution to environmental protection, conservation and the preservation of the British landscape

2020

Founder's Medal - Professor Heather Viles
For her excellence in establishing the field of biogeomorphology

Patron's Medal - Michael Jones
For his contribution to the development of geospatial information

2021

Founder's Medal – Andy Eavis
For significant contribution in leading speleological expeditions, exploring and recording some of the largest caves in the world for over 50 years

Patron's Medal – Dr Rita Gardner CBE
For widespread advancement of Geography across all its sub-disciplines through her Directorship of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)

2022

Founder's Medal – Sir David Hempleman-Adams
For enabling science through expeditions, and inspiring younger generations of geographers

Patron's Medal – Professor Dame Jane Francis
For her contributions to the earth and environmental sciences



2023

Founder’s Medal – Andrew Mitchell
For his lifetime’s contribution to protect tropical rainforests and combat climate change

Patron’s Medal – Professor Felix Driver
For his contributions to the Society and historical geography

2024

Founder’s Medal – Dr Vanessa Lawrence CB
For outstanding contributions to the Society and to the promotion of geography in the UK and internationally

Patron’s Medal – Stephen Venables
For his lifetime’s contribution to geographical discovery in the high mountains of the world