

A MEDALLIC HISTORY OF
THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY

by
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O.M.S.A. Monograph no. 4

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Illustrations by
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Bronze Medallion

The Bronze Medallion, instituted in 1892, requires proficiency in basic life saving and artificial respiration techniques and is used as a standard of achievement throughout the British Commonwealth. The award emphasized swimming and life saving skills and is designed to demonstrate that the recipients have the necessary physical strength and stamina to effect body contact rescues. In 1933 a bar system was introduced for holders of the Bronze Medallion to maintain their proficiency by means of subsequent re-examination.

a) First design - 1892 - 1904

- Medal - Bronze, circular, 32 mm diameter, claw and ring suspension.
- Obverse - Rescuer towing victim through water, head only above surface, shore in the distance. Around outer edge the words "The Life Saving Society - Established 1891".
- Reverse - Around the outer edge the words "Quemcumque Miserum Videris Hominem Scias" with the words "Awarded to" in the centre and a space for the recipients name and the date.



Bronze Medal First Design

1892 - 1904

b) Second design - 1904 - about 1914

Medal - Bronze (gilt appearance) circular, 32 mm diameter, claw and ring suspension.

Obverse - As for the first design but words around edge read "Royal Life Saving Society - Established 1891".

Reverse - As for first design



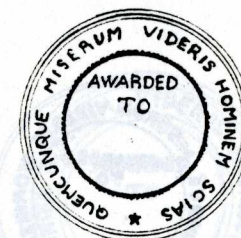
Bronze Medallion Second Design
1904 - about 1914

c) Third design - about 1914 - 1923

Medal - Bronze, circular, 30 mm diameter, fixed ring suspension.

Obverse - As for second design, but contours of shore outline are different.

Reverse - As for first design.



Bronze Medallion Second Design
1904 - about 1914

d) Fourth design - 1924 - 1928

- Medal - Bronze, circular, 30 mm diameter, fixed ring suspension.
- Obverse - As for third design but the bodies of the rescuer and victim can be seen.
- Reverse - As for first design.



Bronze Medallion Fourth Design

1924 - 1928

e) Fifth design - 1929 - 1937

- Medal - Bronze, circular 33 mm diameter, fixed ring suspension.
- Obverse - As for fourth design.
- Reverse - As for first design.

Note: Some medals of fourth and fifth designs were issued with a milled rim



Bronze Medallion Fifth Design

1929 - 1937

f) Sixth design - 1937 - 1955

- Medal - Bronze, circular, 33 mm diameter, fixed ring suspension.
- Obverse - Upon a circle with the words "Royal Life Saving Society" is superimposed a boat hook and oar crossed, tied with a centre knot of rope. An outer circle carries the words "Quemcunque Miserum Videris Hominem Scias".
- Reverse - Around the outer edge the words "Royal Life Saving Society Established 1891" with the words "Awarded to" in the centre and a space for the recipients name and the date.

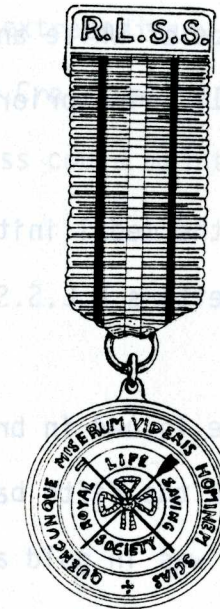


Bronze Medallion Sixth Design

1937 - 1955

g) Seventh design - 1955 - current

- Medal - Bronze, Circular, 26 mm diameter, fixed ring suspension.
- Obverse - As for sixth design.
- Reverse - Plain for numbering or name of recipient and date.



Bronze Medallion Seventh Design

1955 - current