

AWARDS OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

LORD RONALDSHAY made the presidential address at the anniversary general meeting of the Royal Geographical Society on May 28. At its conclusion he presented the medals and announced the other awards for the year:

The Founders' Medal—the highest recognition of the society—he said, was awarded this year to a distinguished Danish explorer, Mr. Knud Rasmussen, for his scientific exploration of Greenland and the American Archipelago, which he had been carrying on with unabated zeal and with marked success over a period of more than twenty years. The son of a Danish missionary in North Greenland, Mr. Rasmussen included amongst his achievements the famous journey in 1912 across the inland ice of North-West Greenland to the opposite coast and back, one result of which was to show that Peary Land was a part of the mainland, the supposed Peary Channel being a fjord only. A further journey, planned in 1916 and undertaken in 1917, with an investigation of possible Eskimo migrations by the extreme north of Greenland as one of its objects, produced no trace of any such migration. This negative result, however, was accompanied by positive results of value in the spheres of botany, zoology and geology, thanks to the labors of his companions, Wulff and Koch, while all the great fjords along the north of the coast of Greenland were mapped. The expedition was carried out amid great difficulties and hardships. Since 1921 Mr. Rasmussen had embarked upon a prolonged expedition of the American Arctic Archipelago with a view to carrying out a systematic ethnological investigation of those regions—a project which he had evolved some eleven years before. The expedition was still in the field and was not expected to return before next year.

The society's other gold medal was awarded to the Hon. Miles Staniforth Smith for what the president described as a remarkable journey into the interior of Papua made in 1912, when Mr. Smith was administrator of that territory. It was, he said, especially fitting that the exploration of the inaccessible hinterland should have been carried through by an eminent citizen of the Australian Commonwealth.

The other awards were: The Gill Memorial.—To Captain Augiéras, who has traveled extensively in North-West Africa since 1913, with a view to lifting the veil from the little-known stretches of the Sahara.

The Murchison Grant.—To Captain A. G. Stigand, who had a long period of government service in Africa. In 1910 he became a resident magistrate for Nagamiland, and the particular piece of work which had earned for him the award was an admirable map of that country.

The Cuthbert Peek Grant.—To Mr. Frazer and Mr. Odell, the surveyor and the geologist of the Oxford expedition to Spitsbergen in 1921.

The Back Grant.—To Mr. B. Glanvill Corney, writer on geographical subjects and editor of four of the volumes of the Hakluyt Society.

AN OUT-OF-DOORS MUSEUM FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

AN anonymous donor has purchased for the University Museums, University of Michigan, a tract of land comprising 120 acres in Missaukee County, Michigan, for museum purposes. To this area has been added, by deed from the Department of Conservation to the university, 240 acres of tax homestead lands in two parcels, one of eighty acres and another of 160 acres. The eighty acres adjoins the original 120 acres, making a tract of 200 acres, which is close to the 160 acres. It is expected that the two tracts can easily be united in the future if this is considered advisable.

The whole tract has been deforested, but not cleared of the second growth and it is the site of many remarkable Indian earthworks, including two large circles, many Indian mounds and hundreds of pits. The principal purpose of the gift is to preserve the Indian remains and to make possible their detailed study by the Museum of Anthropology. The area is also to serve as a sanctuary for native animals and plants and as a place where experimental field studies may be carried on by the Museum of Zoology.

The earthworks will be restored after exploration and roads will be opened to the more conspicuous ones, so that tourists may inspect them under proper restrictions. In other words, the preserve will be an out-of-doors museum in the broadest meaning of the term museum, since it will preserve and exhibit the Indian remains and wild life and at the same time provide facilities for research.

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