

THE SOCIETY OF DYERS AND COLOURISTS

SOCIETY MEDALS AND AWARDS

The Medals Committee of the Society is responsible for recommending to Council potential recipients of Society medals and awards. The awards are to be seen as a recognition of service either to the Society or the industry. Traditionally the awards are made for exceptional service or contribution to the Society or to the tinctorial and allied industries or to education. There have been some awards which covered both these areas of the society and the coloration industry. At this moment in time there are the following awards for consideration annually.

- The Perkin Medal, for discoveries of work of outstanding importance in connection with the tinctorial sciences.
- Honorary Fellowship, to distinguished persons who have achieved outstanding distinction in science, technology, industry, general scholarship or education.
- The Medal of the Society of Dyers and Colourists, as a recognition of exceptional service to either the Society or in the interests of the tinctorial and allied industries, or both. The medals are awarded at Gold, Silver and Bronze levels.
- The Centenary Medal awarded for the best review paper in the Society's publications.

Guidelines for Recommendations

All members of Council, including regional representatives, are invited to make recommendations for the first three types of award, in writing to the Honorary Secretary, giving as much supporting evidence as possible. The Publications Awards Committee makes the recommendation for the Centenary Medal.

Experience has shown that potential recipients of the Perkin medal and Honorary Fellowship are usually of sufficient calibre that they and their work are well known to, and appreciated by, most members of the Medals Committee and Council. Thus, any recommendation of an appropriate person, after some necessary checking and verification, is usually accepted. Nevertheless, these awards are regarded as so prestigious that they are not made lightly or frequently.

Recommendations for the award of a Medal of the Society cover much broader spectrum and here it might be useful to indicate the kind of categories of nominee encouraged by Medals Committee.

Service to the Society

- An outstanding single contribution to the work of the Society, related to a particular activity. The activity, as with all medals awards, may be to do with Headquarters, Regional and/or International operations.
- Devoted service over many years on Headquarters and/or Regional committees.
- A period, or periods, of office e.g. Chairman, Secretary, etc. at Headquarters and/or Regional level.

There are no hard and fast rules as to the award of Gold, Silver and Bronze medals relative to the type of service being recognised. Each nomination is judged on its own merits and is, therefore, very dependent on the quality of information supplied to Medals Committee. In recent years, the committee has tried to encourage the nominations of those people who have worked hard for the Society over many years, perhaps in the less glamorous roles on which our organisation depends.

Traditionally the Bronze Medal has been awarded for "enthusiastic service" principally at region level, usually for more junior members this is regarded as an encouragement. The Silver Medal was often awarded at regional level for regional officers who led the regions' activities. It has always been understood that an award is only made once for a particular area of society activity and that at least seven years elapses before another award is made, unless it is awarded for a different activity. It is rare for the Gold Medal to be awarded solely for regional activities.

Service to the Industry, including Education

- An outstanding, single contribution to the coloration or allied industries, which may be of a technological or educational nature.
- Prolonged valuable contributions to the industry in the technological or educational area of the total coloration and allied industries.

Here again, each nomination is judged on its own merits and it should be stressed that Medals Committee is particularly keen to receive nominations for service to the industry, be they of a national or international origin. Nominees are not required to be members of the Society.

General

Nominations should be sent to the Honorary Secretary and should list all the nominee's contributions. It is the Medals Committee who make the assessment of the final award. Whilst not wishing to proliferate unduly the number of awards made each year, which could only have a devaluation effect, Medals Committee is anxious to ensure that those who truly deserve recognition of service, receive it. There have been cases where a long serving but currently active member has been overlooked so vigilance is needed.

The highest honour that the society can bestow is the invitation to become President and the award of any other award is deemed to be unnecessary.

Where an award is made and the recipient already has a medal in another field then a bar is awarded. There are also precedents in that a further award is made in the same field for continuing outstanding contributions.

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