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THE KARL JORDAN MEDAL

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Several scientific organizations have established prizes for research excellence in their respective fields, such as the Brewster Medal given for meritorious research in ornithology. Such a prize has not been offered in the past for lepidopterology, but in recognition of the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Lepidopterists' Society, Mr. A. C. Allyn offered to fund such an award through the Allyn Museum of Entomology, Sarasota, Florida. This offer was accepted by the Executive Council and the members in attendance at the Annual Meeting of the Society in San Antonio, Texas.

The award to be given by the Lepidopterists' Society in recognition of outstanding original research in lepidopterology will emphasize particularly the fields of morphology, taxonomy, zoogeography and what was once known as "natural history." These fields are the ones in the study of Lepidoptera that are currently poorly supported and not "popular"; it is hoped that the establishment of this award may encourage workers to do meaningful research along these lines. The prize will consist of an engraved silver medal of appropriate design, a \$1,000.00 cash award and travel expenses for the recipient(s) to accept the award at the particular year's Annual Meeting of the Society.

This award will be known as "The Karl Jordan Medal." There is much to recommend honoring this man in this way. Dr. Jordan was one of the original Honorary Life Members of the Lepidopterists' Society. He was active in the field for over half a century, and during this period he produced an almost unbelievable volume of work of the highest quality. He was honored by The Royal Entomological Society of London with a Jubilee Volume prior to his death, the only man in recent history so honored, attesting to Karl Jordan's preeminence among 20th Century lepidopterists, and entomologists in general. Dr. Jordan did not limit

his efforts to a single fauna, but rather worked on a worldwide basis; neither did he restrict himself to a narrow group of insects: Jordan began his career at Tring as a coleopterist, later became a lepidopterist and still later established his credentials as the world's leading authority on Siphonaptera (fleas). Finally, but by no means leastly, Karl Jordan excelled in those fields previously mentioned for emphasis in the awarding of the Medal and in general exemplifies the ideals for which The Karl Jordan Medal is intended.

The procedures and criteria for awarding the Jordan Medal are as follows:

1. An award committee will be established consisting of:
 - A. One representative to be designated by the Allyn Museum of Entomology;
 - B. The President of the Lepidopterists' Society, unless he is affiliated with the Allyn Museum of Entomology, in which case the First Vice President of the Society will be part of the award committee; and
 - C. An elected member of the Lepidopterists' Society to be known as "the Jordan Medal Representative" who will serve a one-year term and will not be affiliated with the Allyn Museum of Entomology.

In practice, the President-Elect of the Society and the Allyn Museum representative should be in consultation on a short list of nominees for the succeeding year to be presented to the Jordan Medal Representative, who will have less than six months in which to make up his mind on possible candidates.

2. The medal will be awarded only by the *unanimous* vote of the committee. This, of course, will result in the medal not being awarded in some years, but it is felt that the requirement for unanimity of the committee will be a safeguard in assuring that only work of the highest quality is awarded.

3. The award will be for original research, not for the compilation of already known facts. The judgment of where the line must be drawn between research and compilation will be left to the discretion of the committee and may be expected to change from year to year as different people are involved.

4. The award may be based upon a single piece of research or on a series of interrelated works, and the work must be at least three, but not more than twenty-five years old. This stipulation was suggested to assure that awarded work had stood the test of time and use, but it was the most controversial criterion for the award at the San Antonio meetings.

The Jordan Medal is not intended to be a career award; the Society already has such an award, Honorary Life Membership. However, this does not preclude awarding the Medal to an Honorary Life Member for a particular piece of work or for a series.

5. Jointly awarded prizes will be allowed only in instances of co-authorship, and the cash prize for that year will be divided equally between the workers or their heirs. In instances of jointly awarded prizes, duplicate medals will be presented, and travel expenses for more than one worker will be allowed.

6. No member of the Jordan Medal award committee will be eligible to receive the prize during his tenure, but will not be ineligible in succeeding years.

7. The recipient of the Jordan Medal need not be a member of the Lepidopterists' Society. It is hoped, however, that if the recipient is not a Society member that he may elect to become one.

8. Nominations for recipients of the Jordan Medal will be accepted from any member of the Lepidopterists' Society and should be sent to:

Jordan Medal Awards Committee
Allyn Museum of Entomology
712 Sarasota Bank Building
Sarasota, Florida 33577, U. S. A.

It would be helpful to the awards committee if one or more copies of the nominated works were submitted to the same address for distribution to the award committee.

The Karl Jordan Medal will be funded on a year-to-year basis for the time being. There are some problems with professional rivalry and ill-feelings associated with some of the similar prizes in other disciplines; it is hoped that lepidopterists do not become entangled in such unpleasant and unfortunate traps. Should this award show promise of encouraging workers and aiding good relationships between lepidopterists, the Karl Jordan Medal will receive permanent funding in the future. Cooperation, good relationships with fellow workers and excellence were three of the many fine attributes of Karl Jordan and must be fostered in the awarding of the prize that bears his name.