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NOTES ON THE FÅHRAEUS MEDAL

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Last year, Holger Schmid-Schönbein initiated the idea of the Fåhraeus Medal, to be awarded at the European Conferences on Clinical Hemorheology, and secured financial support for this Award from Laboratoires Hoechst, Paris La Défense, France.



FIG. 1  
Portrait photograph of Robin Fåhraeus (1888-1969)

Upon Schmid-Schönbein's suggestion, Laboratoires Hoechst asked L. Alcopley to design the medal. One side of the medal contains a portrait made from a photograph of Robin Fähræus, while the other side was made after a drawing by Mr. L. Alcopley. The medal was coined in silver and has a diameter of about 7.1 cm and a thickness of approximately 0.6 cm.



FIG. 2

Design of Fähræus Medal by L. Alcopley presenting an artist's view of hemorrheology.

In 1963, I asked my friend, the late Robin Fähræus to send me his portrait photograph for the frontispiece of the book 'Symposium on Biorheology', which I edited and dedicated to him. He replied that he asked his wife to select this photograph which Mrs. Robin Fähræus then sent to me (1) for the book published in 1964.

Upon my advice, the portrait photograph (Fig. 1) was selected by the firm Hoechst for one side of the medal. However, to my regret, my advice was taken only in part, because it was my recommendation to have this portrait photograph reproduced by a process of etching or engraving, as it can be readily done. Instead, it was sculptured from this portrait photograph. This side of the medal has the following inscription: "FÅHRAEUS MEDAL, LONDON, 1981. PRESENTED TO PROFESSOR SHU CHIEN", with the sculptor's name P. JAVAUDIN in lettering.

The other side of the medal, made from Alcopley's drawing, 24 x 18 cm in its original size, constitutes the design of the Fåhraeus Medal (Fig. 2). L. Alcopley's signature is placed near the periphery inside the circular area in the left lower quadrant. In a letter to Georges A. Marcel of Laboratoires Hoechst, L. Alcopley wrote the following: "The drawing suggests the circulation, the red blood cell and its deformability and, in its central part, the heart. Of course, in the drawing all this is suggestive and in no way simulates or is meant to describe either the heart, the red cell, its deformability or the circulation". As recommended by L. Alcopley, the drawn areas in his drawing appear somewhat elevated on this side of the Medal.

#### REFERENCE

1. COPLEY, A.L. Preface. In: Proceedings of the Fourth International Congress on Rheology. Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, 26-30, August 1963. Part 4. Symposium on Bio-rheology. A.L. Copley (Ed.). New York - London: Interscience Publishers - John Wiley & Sons, 1964, p. V.