

## PARIS GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

THIS Society is instituted for the purpose of contributing to the advancement of geographical sciences; it promotes and encourages travels in unknown countries; proposes and adjudges prizes; corresponds with learned societies, travellers, and others engaged in geographical inquiries; and publishes a collection of memoirs, original narratives, series of questions relative to science, and engraved maps.

Foreigners are admitted on the same footing as natives.

The number of members is unlimited. Every friend of science, at whatever distance he may be from the place where the Society is established, may become a Member.

Subscribing Members must be introduced by two Members of the Society, and pay an annual contribution of thirty-six francs, exclusive of twenty-five francs payable on delivery of the diploma.

Honorary Members are received, who enjoy all the advantages of Subscribing Members, on payment of a sum, the minimum of which is fixed at 300 francs.

A Central Commission, composed of thirty-seven Members, named every five years, acts and directs in the name of the Society, and exercises the power of naming foreign correspondents, who are chosen from among those persons who have communicated memoirs, maps, charts, or other geographical works, and who have solicited the title of Correspondent. The number of these is limited to eighteen.

The Central Committee assembles twice a month; and the Society holds two general meetings every year, (in the months of March and November,) in order to distribute adjudged prizes and to propose new ones; to hear a report of the proceedings of the Society, and to pass the accounts.

All the Members of the Society may be present at the monthly meetings, where they have a deliberative voice, and communicate whatever they may have learnt in their travels, or in the learned Societies of which they are Members, relative to discoveries and the science of geography in general.

Every Member receives, free of expense, the *periodical bulletin*, intended to make known the proceedings of the Society, and the progress of discoveries; they are also entitled to receive, at half price, the volumes of memoirs, and the maps published by the Society.

Members will also have the exclusive enjoyment of the Library, and of the Collections formed by the Society. They are all admitted as competitors for the prizes, excepting those who compose the

the Central Commission, or who made part of it at the time the prizes were proposed.

Members have the right of exhibiting, in a place belonging to the Society, such objects of curiosity as they may have collected in their travels, as well as works and maps of their own production. They have also the privilege of circulating advertisements of their works with the correspondence of the Society.

Commercial and nautical men, Members of the Society, who may wish to combine geographical researches with their private undertakings, will receive instructions and other assistance from the Society.

At its commencement, in 1821, the Society already consisted of nearly 300 Members, native and foreign, of every rank and condition. The highest legal powers of France, and of other countries, take pride in lending it their generous support. It solicits enlightened men, of every quarter of the globe, to co-operate in its labours, the ends of which are, at the same time, the advancement of geographical science, and the well-being of the human race. The Society entreats all friends to science to second its labours, as well by their correspondence, as by making known its proceedings through the medium of periodical works published at their respective places of residence, and to communicate to the Society such maps and unpublished narratives as may merit a place in its volumes of memoirs, or in its periodical bulletin.

In 1828, the Society proposes prizes to the amount of 18,400 francs, independent of the annual prize for the most important discovery, and the sum (40,925 francs) already collected for the encouragement of travels into the interior of Africa; for which subscriptions are open at the office of the Society at Paris, Rue Dauphine, No. 36.

#### PRIZES OFFERED FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF TRAVELS IN AFRICA.

##### *Voyage to Timbuctoo, and the Interior of Africa.*

To procure, 1st, positive and exact observations respecting the position of Timbuctoo, the course of the rivers that run in its neighbourhood, and the commerce of which it is the centre. 2nd, The most satisfactory accounts of the countries comprised between Timbuctoo and the lake Tchád, as well as of the direction and the heights of the mountains which form the basin of Soudan. The Society requires a manuscript narrative, with a geographical chart, founded on astronomical observations. The traveller will endeavour to study the country, with a view to the chief points connected with physical geography. He will observe the nature of the ground; the depth of the wells, their temperature, and that of their sources; the width and rapidity of the rivers; the colour and limpidity of their waters, and the productions of the countries which they irrigate.

He will make observations on the climate, and endeavour to determine, in different places, if possible, the declination and inclination of the magnetic needle. He will endeavour to observe the different races of animals, and to make some collections of natural history, especially of fossils, shells, and of plants. In his observations of the people, he will take care to examine their manners, ceremonies, costumes, arms, laws, religions, food, and diseases; the colour of their skin, their characteristic physiognomy, and nature of their hair; as well as the different objects of their commerce. It would be desirable also to compile a vocabulary of their idioms, compared with the French or some other European language; to take detailed drawings of their habitations, and the plans of towns, wherever it is in his power to do it. A sum of 9,025 francs, independent of the subscription open for the same object, will be given to the first traveller who shall penetrate to Timbuctoo by the way of Senegal, and fulfil the conditions above mentioned.

*Travels to the West of Darfour.*

The countries situated between Darfour and the central lake of Africa, or the lake Tchâd, may be considered as totally unknown to Europeans. A sum of 500 francs is offered as the foundation of a prize of encouragement in favour of the first traveller who, setting out from Darfour, shall penetrate to the banks of the Misselad, and determine the source and mouth of this river, and who shall describe with exactitude the mountains which are situated in the intermediate space.

A prize of equal amount will be given to the person who, setting out from the banks of the Misselad, or from the town of Ouard, the residence of the Sultan of Bargou, shall penetrate as far as the lake Tchâd, and who, having observed the principal rivers which run in this space, shall have procured information of the origin, course, importance, and general direction of these rivers, such as Bahr-Koulla, (or Goulla?) Bahr-Dago, Bahr-el-Ghazel, the branches or the presumed contributory streams of the river Shary.

*Geography of Russia,—A Golden Medal of the value of 500 francs.*

For an analysis of geographical works published in the Russian language, and which have not hitherto been translated into French. The author will be expected to select the statistical works of most recent publication patronised by the Government, and which relate to regions the least known; without, however, excluding any other sort of work, and especially memoirs relative to geography in Russia of the middle age.

The memoirs must be left at the office of the Central Commission, before the 31st of December, 1828.

*Prize of encouragement for a Voyage of Discovery in the Interior of Guyan,—A Golden Medal of the value of 7000 francs.*

To explore the unknown parts of French Guinea; to determine the position of the sources of the river Maroni, and to extend the researches as far as possible to the west, in the direction of the second parallel of north latitude, and following the line of separation of the waters between the Guyanas and Brazil.

The traveller will ascertain the geographical positions and the level of the principal points, according to the most scientific methods, and will collect materials for a new and correct map. The Society also recommends to him to compile vocabularies of the different nations.

The work must be left at the office of the Central Commission, before the 31st of December, 1828.

*Prize of encouragement for Travels in the Southern part of Caramania, a country of Asia Minor,—A Golden Medal of the value of 2,400 francs.*

The Society understands, by the southern part of Caramania, these countries to the south of the chain of Mount Taurus, which formerly bore the names of Lycia, Pamphylia, and Cilicia. A description is required to be given of all the cities, towns, and villages, that may be found in the valleys formed by the *contee-forts* of Taurus. Many of these are very high: the traveller will measure their height barometrically, and penetrate into the chain of the Taurus which commands them, and of which it will be equally necessary to measure the highest summits. He will examine the nature of the ground, and ascertain if this chain of mountains does not consist of a succession of platforms, like those of the Cordilleras in America. He will also follow the course of the rivers, observing whether they have undergone much accretion at their mouths. The Society requires a manuscript and detailed relation, made by the author from personal observation, and accompanied with a geographical chart, on which he will trace his route.

The relation must be transmitted to the office of the Central Commission, before the 31st of December, 1828.

*American Antiquities,—A Golden Medal of the value of 2,400 francs.*

The object of this prize is to obtain a more complete and exact description than is at present possessed, of the ruins of the ancient city of Palenqué, situated to the north-west of the village of Santo-Domingo Palenqué, near the river Micol, in the country of Chiapa, ancient kingdom of Guatemala, and designated by the name of Casas de Piedras, in 'The Memoir of Captain Antonio del Rio,' addressed to the King of Spain, in the year 1787. The traveller will give pictorial views of the monuments, with plans, sections,

and principal details of the sculptures, and will notice particularly the bas-reliefs representing the adoration of the cross, as seen engraved in the work of Del Rio. It would likewise be important to observe the analogy between these different edifices, considered as productions of the same art and of the same people. With respect to geography, the Society demands, first, particular maps of the districts in which these ruins are situated, accompanied with topographical plans: these maps must be constructed according to the most correct principles; second, the real height of the principal points above the sea; third, remarks on the natural appearance and the productions of the country.

The Society also requires that researches should be made into the traditions relative to the ancient people to whom the erection of these monuments is attributed, with other observations on the habits and customs of the natives of the country, and a vocabulary of the ancient idioms. It will be necessary particularly to inquire into the traditions of the country relative to the age of these edifices, and to endeavour to discover, if it is well established, that the figures designed with a certain degree of correctness are anterior to the conquest.

The memoirs, maps, and drawings, must be left at the office of the Central Commission, before the 31st of December, 1829.

*Oceania*.—*A Golden Medal of the value of 1,200 francs.*

To discover the origin of the different people who are spread over the islands of the Great Ocean, situated to the south-east of the continent of Asia, by examining the difference and the points of resemblance that exist between them and other nations, with regard to configuration, physical constitution, habits, usages, civil and religious institutions, traditions, and monuments; by comparing the elements of the different languages, relative to the analogy of words and grammatical forms; and by taking into consideration the means of communication afforded by geographical positions, predominant winds, currents, and state of navigation.

The memoirs must be left at the office of the Central Commission, before the 31st of December, 1829.

*Prize of encouragement for a Journey to Ancient Babylon and Chaldea*.—*A Golden Medal of the value of 2,400 francs.*

To visit and describe the whole country which extends from the extremity of the Persian Gulf to the heights of Hit and Bagdad, along the course of the Euphrates and Tigris, between the mounts Zagros and the deserts of Arabia, and to prepare a map, in which the traveller's itinerary must be traced, indicating the distances passed over. The author will give such plans as may serve to illustrate his memoir, and add to his relation the particular delineations which may be calculated to make it intelligible: among others,

those of the old and new Bagdad, the ruins of Babylon, giving the dimensions of the principal monuments that still exist; as well as those of the ruins of Selaucie and of Ctesiphon, of the famous Pallacopas, and of the works constructed in the neighbourhood, together with drawings of the inscriptions.

It is also desired that he should survey the chain of mountains which run to the east of the Tigris, the height of the mountains in his route, the level of the course of the Euphrates and the Tigris, as well as their respective velocity.

The memoir, and documents relative thereto, must be left at the office of the Central Commission, before the 31st. of December, 1829.

*Annual Prize for the most Important Discovery,—A Golden Medal of the value of 1000 francs*

Is offered to the traveller who shall have made and communicated to the Society, in the course of the year 1828, the most important discovery in geography.

He will besides receive the title of *Perpetual Correspondent*, if he is a foreigner, or that of a *Member*, if a Frenchman, and he will enjoy all the advantages which are attached to this title.

A discovery of this kind not being made, a medal of the value of 500 francs will be granted to the traveller who, during the same year, shall have addressed to the Society the most recent, and, at the same time, the most useful, notices or communications. If a foreigner, he will be inscribed on the list of candidates for the place of *Correspondent*.

*The Society has offered many subjects of Prizes, of the value of 2,500 francs, for the Geography of France.—General Conditions of the Competitions.*

The Society requests that the memoirs be written in French or Latin. Nevertheless, it allows to competitors the facility of writing their works in English, Italian, Spanish, or Portuguese.

The memoirs of competition for the prizes must be written in a clear and distinct manner.

The author must not name himself, either in the title or the body of the work.

Every memoir must be accompanied by a device, and a sealed letter, enclosing a copy of the device, and the name and the address of the author.

The memoirs will remain in the archives of the Society; but the authors will be permitted to take copies of them.

Every person who deposits a memoir for competition is invited to take a receipt for it.

All communications sent to the Society must be post-paid, and addressed, under cover, to *M. le Président, à Paris, rue et passage Dauphine, No. 36.*