

On January 11, 1831, the Council resolved unanimously that the first Wollaston Medal be given to William Smith. To this was added the proceeds of the 'Donation Fund' presented to him at the annual general meeting on February 18.¹

On this memorable occasion Professor Sedgwick, the president, before delivering his Address, announced from the Chair the adjudication of the 'Wollaston Prize,' and acclaimed the appreciation of William Smith :

His great and original works are known to you all, and I might well refer to them for our justification, and without any further preface place the prize in his hand, offering him my hearty congratulations. But since his arrival in London, within the last few hours, he has given me a short account of his early discoveries, and has shown me a series of documents of no ordinary interest to this Society and important to the correct history of European geology. I should ill perform my present task were I to withhold this information from you. . . . [Of this the president gave a stirring and interesting account. In his concluding remarks he said :]

I for one can speak with gratitude of the practical lessons I have received from Mr. Smith ; it was by tracking his footsteps, with his maps in my hand, through Wiltshire and the neighbouring counties, where he had trodden nearly thirty years before, that I first learnt the subdivisions of our oolitic series, and apprehended the meaning of those arbitrary and somewhat uncouth terms, which we derive from him as our master, which have long become engrafted into the conventional language of English geologists, and, through their influence, have been, in part, also adopted by the naturalists of the Continent.

After such a statement, Gentlemen, I have a right to speak boldly, and to demand your approbation of the Council's award—I could almost dare to wish, that stern lover of truth, to whose bounty we owe the 'Donation Fund'—that dark eye, before the glance of which all false pretensions withered, were once more amongst us. And if it be denied

¹ The medal unfortunately was not ready at this meeting, but on June 20, 1832, it was handed to Smith by Murchison in the Theatre of the University of Oxford during the second meeting of the British Association. *Rep. Brit. Assoc. for 1831 and 1832*, p. 99.