

"Among various plans for the encouragement of effective travel, especially among the younger men, Professor Davis early proposed that a medal should be awarded from time to time to some person whose record of travel or exploration should be deemed unusually worthy of recognition. Accordingly, in April, 1906, the Fellows appointed a committee consisting of Edward J. Holmes, chairman, Townsend W. Thorndike, and Robert Walcott, to prepare and submit designs for a suitable medal. In this the committee had also the helpful cooperation of R. C. Sturgis, Jr. The committee at once requested suggestions for a suitable design from the members, at the same time having in view its use as the Club's seal."

The Medal was first presented at the Annual Meeting of the Club held at the University Club, 270 Beacon Street, Boston, on May 18, 1906. The speaker that evening was Professor Solon I. Bailey of Harvard College Observatory. His talk was entitled "A Journey made in 1905 from Arequipa, Peru, over the Andes to the Headwaters of the Amazon." Sixty members were in attendance. The recipient of the Medal was WILLIAM BROOKS CABOT (*For explorations in Labrador*)

The *History of the Harvard Travellers Club* (1933) noted that "Cabot's remarkable canoe journeys along the coast and up the rivers of eastern Labrador, his meeting with the Indians of the interior, and other incidents of several summers' travel, much of it alone, are set forth in his book, *Northern Labrador*."



Prepared for the 739th Meeting, February 12, in the Centennial Year of the Harvard Travellers Club 2002.



The Seal of the Harvard Travellers Club

"... a design was adopted showing a pilgrim in oldtime costume, with his staff in his hand and his wallet slung over his shoulder, surmounted by the word "Peregrinantur"—"they wander in foreign lands." Our pilgrim is walking along the shore of the sea, which appears in the background, bounded on the right by steeply conventional peaks, the mountains of his desire, toward which his face is set. A lonely flower blossoming at his feet on the edge of the strand, and a wheeling dolphin, the fish that is the friend of man, thrusting its head above water, symbolize the flora and fauna, while a distant caraval is significant of travel by sea. At that time, travel by air had not been thought of, so no symbol is included!"

—From the *History of the Harvard Travellers Club*, 1933.



The Club Seal as it appeared for the first time in the fall of 1907.



The Club Seal as it appears today.



An early, more detailed version of the Club Seal which was incorporated into a bookplate for the Club Library which was established in 1914 and originally housed at the Harvard Club. With the opening of the Institute of Geographical Exploration in Cambridge, the over 400 volumes were moved there and accommodated in "...modern bookcases in the Club's room..." Alas, only a few titles remain from the collection which was otherwise dispersed.