



The Royal Society of New South Wales



The original Seal of the Society was designed by Archibald Liversidge, who at the time of incorporation (16 December 1881), was Honorary Secretary of the Society. Below, is the inscription accompanying the original water-colour painting of the Seal.

*In the above seal, most of the charges have a double significance – they each represent one of the sections of the Society and have a symbolic meaning as well.*

*The retort and condenser represent the Chemical Section, the crossed pick and hammer with fossils and crystal represent the Geological and Mineralogical Section and are symbolic of the mineral resources of the Colony; the rising Sun and stars, the crest of the Colony, also represent the Astronomical Physical Section; the golden fleece is symbolic of the country's pastoral resources; the acorns and bee stand for the Botanical and Zoological Sections, and are further respectively symbolic of the small beginnings of the Society and of industry; the caduceus indicates the Medical and Sanitary Sections and also stands for commerce. The Royal Crown and Lion are charges of the Royal Arms and show the connection with the Old Country; the serpent is symbolic of wisdom and of the continuity of the Society, whilst the encircling cable and garter represents the unity of the Society as a whole.*

At its meeting on 27 April 2011, the Council adopted a proposal by Dr Donald Hector, Honorary Secretary (Editorial), to adopt the motto “omnia quaerite” (“question everything”) and to modify the seal accordingly. In June 2012, a slightly simplified style was adopted to improve its appearance in electronic media.