Recognition of local explorers

Let us never forget what has been done for geography by the faithful band who restored to us all that it was in their power to bring of our lost friend, and who rescued his priceless writings and maps from destruction.

Sir H Bartle Frere, President of Royal Geographical Society, giving an obituary notice of David Livingstone at the Anniversary Meeting on 22 June 1874

Before the conclusion of the proceedings, the President announced that the Council had that day unanimously decided that medals should be given to the servants of Dr. Livingstone who had come to England, and that a special silver medal should be struck, to be given to all who accompanied the Doctor in his last great expedition.

The Rev. Horace Waller then led up to the President Chuma and Susi, two of Dr. Livingstone’s followers. To each of whom the President gave a bronze medal.

Speaking on behalf of the two recipients, the Rev Mr Waller thanked the Society for the gift. These faithful companions of Livingstone were able, he said, to give an intelligible account of every river and mountain and village in the regions they had passed through; and such aid as they could give was of the first importance to Mr. Livingstone in preparing the work on which he was now engaged.

Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society, Anniversary Meeting, 22 June 1874