

DEAD MAN'S PENNY or WIDOW'S PENNY

A commemorative plaque for relatives of men and women whose deaths were attributable to the war.

Competition Instructions for the Memorial Plaque –

- design either round or rectangular
- if circular diameter to be 4½ inches
- if rectangular, 5 inches x 3⅔ inches
- relief models in wax or plaster
- symbolic figure to be included
- inscription: “He died for Freedom and Honour”
- space for the name, initials and military unit

Winner of design -
Edward Carter Preston
(1894-1965), founder of
the Sandon Studies
Society, Liberty
Buildings, School Lane
in Liverpool

Britannia is facing to her left, holding a laurel wreath in her left hand over the box where the commemorated serviceman's name was to be placed. In her right hand she is holding a trident. To represent Britain's sea power two dolphins face Britannia on her left and right sides. A lion stands at Britannia's feet, facing to the left with a menacing growl. A very small lion, with his head facing to the right is underneath the larger lion's feet, biting into a winged creature representing the German Imperial eagle. “He died for freedom and honour” are written around the margin of the circular plaque.

THE SCROLL ACCOMPANYING THE DEAD MAN'S PENNY

A commemorative scroll came with the bronze plaque

The scroll was on high quality paper, 11 x 7 inches

The text was in calligraphic script beneath the Royal Crest - followed by the name of the commemorated serviceman

He whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom.

Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten.

King George V asked to be included in the scroll wording - hence "at the call of King and Country".

From 1919 and for several years after the end of the Great War there were over 1,000,000 plaques and scrolls sent to next of kin.