

Bo Svensén, *Ärans och minnets valuta: Svenska akademiens minnespenningar 1786–2009*. Svenska akademiens handlingar från år 1986, 40 (Stockholm: Svenska Akademien, 2010)

[p. 274:]

1922

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*Peter Forsskål*

**Forsskål, Peter**, natural scientist, explorer (1732–1763)

OBVERSE: “his image and name” (SAH).<sup>1</sup> — Inscriptions: along the rim PETRUS FORSSKÅL NAT(us) MDCCXXXII ‘Peter Forsskål born 1732’ • on the field LIBERTATE LIBERTAS TUENDA ‘liberty must be defended with liberty’ (SAH).

REVERSE: “a grave under a palm tree in the desert” (SAH).  
Inscription: INVESTIGATOR ARABIÆ IUVENIS MORTE ABREPTUS MDCCLXIII “states [...] that he was prematurely seized by death during a research trip to Arabia” (SAH).

Forsskål was a Linnean disciple. He participated in an expedition furnished by the Danish government to the Orient, and which visited Egypt in 1761 and in 1762 arrived in the then completely unknown *Arabia felix* (‘the blessed Arabia’ = Yemen), where he perished under the harsh climate conditions (illustrated by the emblem on the reverse).

The inscription on the obverse alludes to the dissertation with the title *De libertate civili* (also in Swedish version: *Tankar om Borgerliga Friheten*), which Forsskål without print permission published in Uppsala in 1759 and which was confiscated for being injurious to the realm’s form of government, liberty and security. At one point in this

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<sup>1</sup> Svenska Akademiens Handlingar = The Proceedings of the Swedish Academy.

publication, which forms a critique of the Hat Party's concept of liberty, Forsskål maintains that it is better that the population may "utter its discontent with pens rather than other weapons" and that "liberty must thus be preserved with liberty" (the memorial publication,<sup>2</sup> p. 211).

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[p. 275:]

ARTIST: Erik Lindberg.

SIZE: Ø 45 mm.

LITERATURE: Wahlstedt 1, pp. 22 f.; Boström, p. 59;

Ehrensverd 2, pp. 123 f.

MEMORIAL PUBLICATION: Henrik Schück in SAH 1886:34, pp. 85–575.

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<sup>2</sup> Quoted from the edition in the proceedings of the Swedish Academy. Separate edition: Henrik Schück, *Från Linnés tid. Peter Forsskål* (Stockholm: Norstedts, 1923).