

THE GOLDEN MEDALLION

In the minutes for December 2, 1890 Chas. W. Ranzow, the Secretary, produced a list of Golden Medallion winners from 1870 to 1890. The Golden medallion was the predecessor to the Senior and Junior Medals of today. Ranzow stated that the list was produced from previous minutes. This list is reproduced here with the same abbreviations and spellings he used. The books that still exist do not go back to 1870, though apparently this competition did. 1870 was also the year that the range at Schuetzenpark was dedicated: that would have been a reasonable time to begin something new such as a season-long contest, but it will take more research to confirm that that was when the first season long events took place.

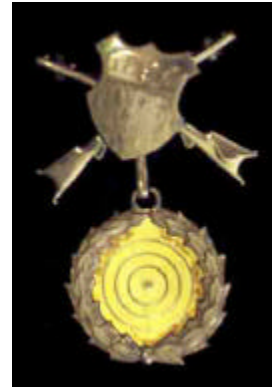
Year	Winner	Rings
1870	H. Buck	292
1871	L Schmidt	341
1872	L. Lorenzen	373
1873	H. Buck	363
1874	H. Berg	335
1875	H. Berg	357
1876	Theo. Martens	373
1877	B. Otto	377
1878	Dr. J. W. Cowden	380
1879	Emil Berg	403
1880	Chr. Burmeister	389
1881	J. B. Meyer	413
1882	C. F. Meyer	410
1883	Jul. Hasler	429
1884	J. F. Bredow	428
1885	H. F. Moeller	451
1886	Ed. Berger	410
1887	Sam. Hoffmann	418
1888	Chas. W. Ranzow	368
1889	W. H. Regenitter	352
1890	E. Berg	391

Some of the winners of the Golden Medallion after 1890 can be found in the minutes. The following top scores and winners of the golden medallion and their scores have been found.

	Top Score	Golden Medallion	
1891			
1892	E. Berg	462	
1893	J. M. Killian	382	J. M. Killian 382
1894			O. B. Schmidt 391
1895	Chas. W. Ranzow	455	Frank Bredow 375
1896			Chas J Schutter 401

The contest was then as it is today for the junior and senior medals; three shots each shoot, with no re-entry. Scores were accumulated through the season and the high total won. The monthly contest was the Ehrenscheibe or Honor Target. According to the bylaws a member could make up the previous month's honor target. The winners received a Golden Medallion. According to the bylaws of 1875 as translated by Munson, the winners of the golden medallion could only win the award once every 10 years: having won the award, a schuetzen was not eligible to win the award again until 10 years later. This rule must have been adopted in 1875, as there are two repeat winners before that time that violate that rule. The only repeat winner after 1876 was Emil Berg, who won in 1879 and 1890.

The picture shown is of the Golden Medallion awarded to OB Schmidt in 1894. The full size of the medallion is approximately 1-¾ inches tall. The shield at the top is deliberately tipped slightly to one side. The year "1894" is engraved on the top part of the shield. The medallion pins behind the shield and crossed rifles. The records of the association indicate that the cost of this medallion was \$7.



As interesting as the list are some of the notes by Ranzow following the list. He states that the contests before 1879 were conducted on a ½-inch ring target, and that the scores after that year were recorded on a 5/8-inch ring target. The Schuetzen target that we use today at 200 yards has ¾ inch rings, as did the German ring target of the late 1800's. The German ring target of the 1800's though, had a 12-inch black, which would have included the 18 ring. The black on the targets we now use at 200 yards is smaller: it goes out to the 21(?) ring. According to *The Rifle* (A monthly magazine) from 1888, the ¾ inch ring target was in use by the German Vereinen at that time and had been in use for some years. It may have been that the Davenport Schuetzengezellshaft used different targets than other Vereinen, or perhaps a special target for the Honor event. It also may have been that a smaller ring target was used to compensate for the shorter distance used at the time by the DSG. Before 1892 the Schuetzenpark range was 170 yards while the standard distance was 200 yards. Proportioning for distance from a ¾ inch ring target at 200 yards, a ½ inch ring target would have overcompensated; a 5/8-inch ring target would have been very nearly correct. The maximum score for all three targets was 25 per shot.

Ranzow also notes that the scores from 1870 to 1887 were made in 7 monthly shoots and those after 1887 were done in 6.