

# Z.A. Republic: Witwatersrand Agricultural Society Award

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**Form:** Circular

**By:** ?

**Date:** 1897

**Ref:** Laidlaw: 0949a;

**Variations:**

Size	Metal	Mass	Value
44.3 mm	Copper-Bronze	47.4 gm	\$40

**Edge:** Plain. Thickness 3.8 mm.

**Obverse:** Draped female standing on ground, front, holding laurel wreath in her left hand over kneeling woman on the right offering of fruit. On the left, kneeling man offering wheat sheaf. Legend on a raised pebbled band above: "WITWATERSRAND LANDBOUW GENOOTSCHAP" and below between star stops: "S.A. REPUBLIC".

**Reverse:** Within wheat-ears left and right and leafy rose at the bottom, across: "TOEGEKEND (in an arc) / AAN / (space for engraving recipient's name) / 1897 (7 engraved)". Legend on a raised pebbled band above: "FLOREAT" and below between ornamental stops: "JOHANNESBURG".

This medal engraved: "G. NORTH & SON / ROLLER".

**Notes:** The Witwatersrand Agricultural Society was instituted 1894. Shows were organised in land adjacent to Milner Park in Johannesburg between 1895 and the start of the Boer War. Paul Kruger opened the first 'Rand Show' where displays of livestock, poultry, dairy products, bees, ornamental plants and trees, farming equipment, and wagons and coaches were exhibited. The Rand Show recommenced in 1907 and continues to be held annually during the Easter holidays. The venue has changed and the nature of the exhibition has become oriented towards family entertainment.

George North was a merchant in farm implements. His first store was opened in Port Natal (now Durban) in 1869. At the time of this award his organization had expanded throughout South Africa. The company G. North still exists today and their products are distributed by Northmec who are the leading supplier of farming equipment in South Africa.