



bickels



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MORE LONG SETS, LESS SHORT SETS IN 1966

The number of short and long proof sets to be struck this year by the South African Mint has been radically changed. This was announced last week by a senior Mint official.

He said the scheduled number of short sets would be reduced by 5,000 from 20,000 to only 15,000. The number of long sets would be increased by the same number, from 5,000 to 10,000 sets.

Reason for the alteration is the great popularity and demand for long sets. The 5,000 sets made last year did not satisfy the market and caused prices of these sets to rocket within a few months to the R100 mark.

However, the increased mintages of long sets this year will mean lower retail prices for the sets and a slight increase in the retail price for short sets. The number of twin sets, the R1 and R2 proof gold coins, will stay unchanged at 1,000.

The Mint also announced that 10,000 R1 and 10,000 R2 gold pieces will be made for general circulation. The gold coins are proving one of the hottest items on the South African market and already tourists, collectors and gold hoarders are paying more than R12 each for last year's gold.



A striking picture of the new Ian Smith Independence Medal commemorating Rhodesia's break from Britain.

PHOTO BY DAGBREEK

Astronomical Prices for Scarce Coins

Wealthy Johannesburg coin collectors have caused a major upset in the price structure of very scarce South African coins.

A few months ago one of the much-vaunted 1931 tickeys fetched R220 on a sale and last week a 1931 2/- changed hands at R240.

Both these prices are completely disproportionate to the true value. The 1931 proofset (62 struck) is listed at R400 - or R50 a coin. On this basis a tickey (mintage 128) and a 2/- (mintage 445) should be a fraction of the price realized recently.

Another high-priced item on the market is the rare 1965 1 cent coin struck in Afrikaans with an estimated mintage of less than 300, the are already rocketing to R35 and more. Recently a collector swopped on of the cents for a 1964 Rhodesian proof set listed at R70.00!

History of Veld Ponde and Blanks

Part II

In the February issue of Bickels' Coin and Medal News, we published the first section of Mr. J.T. Becklake's history of "Veld Ponde" and "Blanks". The extract is concluded this month. The articles were taken from Mr. Becklake's "Notes on the Coinage of the S.A. Republic" printed in 1933.

Pelgrims Rust,
5th May, 1902.

Mr. Andr. Pienaar.

F.C. Johannesburg Commando.

Hon. Sir,

You are hereby directed to present General Muller, Field Commandant Andr. Pienaar, Messrs. P.J. Kloppers, jun., W. Reid, D. Graham, M. Cooney, A. Marshall, and W.H. Barker each with a medal (disc) on behalf of the Government.

We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

L.J. MEYER,

J.C. KROGH,

Members Executive Council.

"VELD BLANKS"

These blank pieces ("pond" size) in standard gold were used during the war period also, and are much sought after by collectors. They were taken from the Transvaal Mint and formed part of the famous "Kruger Millions," and are "pond" pieces in a partly completed stage of manufacture. In some instances these pieces are "marked," i.e., they have a raised rim and in others they are perfectly plain. Many of the pieces have a more or less defined circular mark on their flat surface (sometimes on both sides), concentric with the perimeter. This was produced by the "scraping" machine, which reduced the weight of "too heavy" blanks in the Transvaal Mint, and is evidence of genuineness. Its absence, however, must not be taken as evidence of any piece not being genuine, as some pieces did not require to be scraped. Other small but definite differences have been tabulated in order to make it possible to

judge of the genuineness of these blanks, and the Deputy-Master of the Mint is always pleased to examine specimens sent for inspection.

It has been frequently stated that the pieces which are "marked" (raised rims) are "Machadodorp blanks," and those which are plain, "Lydenburg blanks." Mr. Kloppers, in answering an inquiry on this point, states, in a very valuable summary of the matter, that "all the coined gold and silver, the blanks and a certain quality of 'bar gold' was removed from the Pretoria Mint just before the occupation of Pretoria by the British. This was put on the trains by which several officials, including the Auditor-General, travelled to Middelburg, and was guarded by Z.A.R. Guards. Middelburg was for about a fortnight the 'Capital.' Afterwards the Government moved on to Machadodorp, and from there to Waterval Boven, and, lastly, to Hectorspruit. In the three latter places I saw the Government on wheels myself: at Machadodorp and Waterval Boven, where I had to receive the salaries for the officials in the Noordkaap district; at Hectorspruit, when our Commandos passed through. The salaries, which were paid out to me at Machadodorp and Waterval Boven, were paid 75 per cent in 'blue backs' and 25 per cent in properly minted gold coins. At that time 'blanks' were already known, but only the officials had a few of them, and they were then regarded as curios. They had not yet been issued in payment. The last stopping place of the Government was Hectorspruit. From there the Commandos spread in different direc-

BICKELS'

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tions, General Botha with his men went to the north, and the others, chiefly under General Ben Viljoen, went along the railway towards the east. A certain sum of money, partly in 'blue backs,' partly in gold, was distributed amongst the generals for their commandos; the Government, which travelled north with General Botha, retaining the remainder and the bar gold. It is possible there were some 'blanks' amongst the money given to General Botha, but I do not think so. There were none in the money handed to General Viljoen. I never saw 'blanks' while I was with General Viljoen, and would certainly have seen them if they had been there then. Only afterwards when the stock of minted gold was exhausted were the blanks issued. There cannot have been many of them. They were probably exchanged at some discount with buyers who still had money in their possession. They were also used to pay for sheep and grain obtained from farmers, though most of the payments were made in 'blue backs' only. The 'blanks' could not be used to buy provisions from the natives, they would not accept them, and at that time were shy of any pounds, except those 'with the horse on it' (St. George and the Dragon). There can, therefore, be no question of either Machadodorp or Lydenburg 'blanks' - at Machadodorp none were paid out, although some officials may have secured a few. After the departure from Hectorspruit the Government

(Concluded on Pages 6 & 7)

RHODESIAN COIN PRICES

This is the last in the series of Mr. Jerome H. Remick's prices of Rhodesian coinage. The review originally appeared in the American-publication, World Coin, and since it has been published regularly in Bickels Coin and Medal News during the past few months, there has been a notable increase in the number of collectors of Rhodesian coinage.

HALF-CROWN

DATE	MINTAGE	UNC.	E.F.	V.F.	F.	V.G.
1942	2,000,000	6.30	3.50	2.10	1.20	.77
1944	800,000	6.30	3.50	2.27	1.40	.94
1946	1,400,000	6.12	3.50	2.27	1.40	.94
1947	6,000,000	7.70	4.02	2.45	1.57	1.05
1948	800,000	5.42	2.27	1.57	.87	.59
1949	1,600,000	4.72	2.10	1.40	.87	.59
1950	1,200,000	5.42	2.10	1.40	.87	.59
1951	3,200,000	3.85	1.92	1.22	.80	.52
1952	2,800,000	3.85	1.92	1.22	.80	.52
1954	1,200,000	4.20	2.45	1.57	1.05	.70
1955	1,600,000	2.27	1.40	.94	.59	.42
1956	160,000	2.45	1.57	1.05	.70	.52
1957	2,400,000	1.92	1.05	.70	.52	.35

ONE CROWN						
1953	123,500					
Lettering on edge right side up.		9.45	5.42	2.45	1.22	.94
Lettering on edge upside down.		9.45	5.42	2.45	1.22	.94

SOUTHERN RHODESIA

DATE	ISSUE CASED	MINTAGE	RETAIL PRICE
1932 2/6 - 3d.	yes	496	R262.50
1937 2/6 - 1d.	no	40	R386.00
1953 5/-	yes	1,600	
Lettering on edge right side up			R 87.50
Lettering on edge upside down			R 87.50
Case with two crowns (3 copies known)			R402.50

RHODESIA & NYASALAND

DATE	ISSUE CASED	MINTAGE	RETAIL PRICE
1955 2/6 - 1/2d	yes	2,000	R129.50

RHODESIA

1964 2/6 - 6d	yes	2,048	R 94.50
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HOW RARE IS THE 1963 RHODESIAN 6d.?

Asks S.E. Edwards.

Is the 1963 Rhodesian 6d a rarity? Some people say that it is and that it falls into the same class of rarity as the 1959 S.A. crown.

What the newspapers like to call "informed sources" in Rhodesia say that the only five £100 bags of 1963 Rhodesian 6d. were issued to the commercial banks just a few days before the old Federation coinage was recalled in May 1965. Of these five bags, so the story goes, only one was opened and distributed to the public. The other four, it is claimed, were returned unopened to the Reserve Bank in Salisbury and from there sent to the Royal Mint in London to be melted down. Of the £100 of 1963 Rhodesian 6d distributed to the public, the vast majority is believed to have been returned to the Reserve Bank with the other S. Rhodesian and Federation coins, which were recalled at that time and these have all been sent back to London for melting down.

If this is true, then only 4,000 of the 1963 Rhodesian 6d ever got into circulation, and most of those were promptly taken right out again. Suppose all 4,000 are in collectors' hands this is still a very small issue, in fact much less than the 1959 S.A. crown. The writer would be interested to learn if readers can corroborate this story or if they have found the 1963 Rhodesian 6d to be relatively plentiful. If the rarity of the 1963 Rhodesian 6d is confirmed, then Mr. Jerome H. Remick's recent pricing of this coin @ \$0.45 unc. will have to be sharply up-graded!

Mr. Remick's excellent catalogue of Rhodesian coins published in "World Coin" (and reproduced in "Bickels' Coin and Medal News") omits mention of two Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland coins which should have been included, namely the 1964 1/2d and the 1964 3d. Presumably this was due to the assumption that, as the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland was dissolved at midnight on 31st December 1963, no Federation coins were minted bearing the date 1964. It is not known why these dates were in fact struck. Maybe the Royal Mint had already struck them late in 1963 but before the final decision was made to disband the Federation. In any event, Federation 1/2d and 3d bearing the date 1964 have been issued to the public, and these coins are still circulating. There is no record of a 1964 Federation 1d having been struck or issued. (Concluded on the following page)

PRICE TRENDS: SOUTH AFRICAN SIXPENCE

No more coin trends will appear in this magazine. From the second week of this month, Bickels "NUMISTAT", a pocket-book sized publication will give a concise listing of all South African coin prices. Those coin prices which preceded the sixpence will be updated and every coin from the 1/- to proof sets will be listed in the Numistat.

DATE	QUANTITY MINTED	UNC.	E.F.	V.F.	F.	V.G.	G.
1892	28,300	4.75	3.25	2.75	1.00	.50	.25
1893	95,530	4.00	2.75	2.00	.75	.40	.20
1894	168,000	2.75	1.75	.90	.50	.20	.10
1895	178,640	2.75	1.75	.90	.50	.20	.10
1896	205,480	2.50	1.50	.75	.40	.15	.10
1897	220,000	2.50	1.50	.75	.40	.15	.10
1923	209,110	7.50	6.00	5.00	2.50	1.00	.50
1924	325,610	6.00	4.75	3.00	1.50	.75	.50
1925	79,231	15.00	11.00	8.00	4.00	2.25	1.00
1926	721,606	5.00	3.75	2.75	1.25	.50	.25
1927	1,547,788	3.00	1.75	.90	.50	.25	.10
1929	783,885	5.00	3.75	2.75	1.25	.50	.25
1930	448,267	5.50	4.00	3.00	1.40	.60	.25
1931	4,805	25.00	20.00	15.00	10.00	7.00	4.00
1932	1,524,910	3.00	1.75	.90	.50	.25	.10
1933	2,818,595	2.00	1.00	.75	.40	.15	.10
1934	1,518,864	3.00	1.75	.90	.50	.25	.10
1935	573,485	5.00	3.75	2.75	1.25	.50	.25
1936	627,046	5.00	3.75	1.25	.50	2.75	.25
1937	1,695,727	3.00	1.75	.90	.50	.25	.10
1938	1,724,621	3.00	1.75	.90	.50	.25	.10
1939	30	ONLY PROOFS					
1940	1,628,759	3.00	1.75	.90	.50	.25	.10
1941	2,262,732	2.00	1.00	.75	.40	.15	.10
1942	4,935,792	1.25	.75	.50	.10	.05	-
1943	3,776,139	1.50	.95	.50	.10	.05	-
1944	219						
1945	648,296	3.50	3.00	2.75	2.00	1.50	.75
1946	290,593	6.00	4.25	3.00	1.50	.90	.40
1947	578,487	4.00	3.00	1.90	.75	.40	.25
1948	2,267,371	2.00	1.00	.75	.40	.15	.05
1949	197,088	8.00	6.75	5.00	2.00	1.00	.50
1950	2,122,187	2.00	1.00	.75	.40	.15	.05
1951	2,604,192	2.00	1.00	.75	.40	.15	.05
1952	3,971,636	1.50	.75	.60	.25	.10	-
1953	3,976,416	1.50	.75	.60	.25	.10	-
1954	2,199,547	1.50	.75	.60	.25	.10	-
1955	1,971,887	1.75	.90	.75	.40	.15	.10
1956	1,773,701	1.75	.90	.75	.40	.15	.10
1957	3,289,500	1.50	.75	.60	.25	.10	-
1958	1,173,016	1.75	.90	.75	.40	.15	.10
1959	261,823	8.00	6.50	5.00	2.00	1.00	.50
1960	1,589,923	1.50	.75	.60	.25	.10	-
1961	1,486,168	1.50	.75	.60	.25	.10	-
1962	4,191,643	.75	.50	.25	.10	-	-
1963	8,057,541	.50	.25	.10	-	-	-
1964	3,583,279	1.00	.60	.20	-	-	-

It should be remembered that S. Rhodesia and Federation ½d, 1d and 3d have not been withdrawn in Rhodesia, Malawi or Zambia. At the time of writing these denominations still circulate in the three territories.

The above underscores the fascination of numismatics. A collector never knows when a rarity may appear in the numismatic firmament and there is always the possibility that such a rarity may be in his collection.

WAAR KOM ONS GELDSTUKKE SE NAME VANDAAN?

Pennie, Dubbeltjie, Oulap.

deur FRIKKIE PRINS

Drie name, maar een en dieselfde ou muntstukkie. Die woord *pennie* kry ons van die Engelse *penny* wat op sy beurt van die Ou-Engelse *pening* en Middel-Engelse *peni* kom. *Pennie* het ook verband met die Nederlandse *penning* en die Duitse *Pfennig*.

Die oorsprong van die woord is onseker. Daar is mense wat dit in verband bring met *pand*, en ook met *pan* in die sin van panvorming of 'n voorwerp wat in 'n pan gemaak is. Ander weer probeer dit in verband bring met die Latynse *pannus* (lap stof) met verwysing na 'n vroeëre gewoonte om stowwe as ruilmiddel te gebruik.

Die afkorting *d.* vir *pennie* kom van die Latynse *denarius*, en hierdie *denarius* van die Romeine, met die beeld van die keiser daarop, is die penning waarvan ons in die Nuwe Testament in die Bybel lees (Matth. 22).

Dubbeltjie (of somer *duwweltjie*, soos die ou mense gesê het) was 'n ou Hollandse silwermuntstuk met die waarde van twee stuiwers. Dit was dus 'n dubbele stuiwer. Die dubbeltjie is gedurende die bewind van die Hollandse Oos-Indiese Kompanjie aan die Kaap gebruik, maar is na die Engelse besetting grotendeels vervang deur die Engelse koperpenne met die kop van George III daarop. Hierdie penne, wat van 1800 tot 1826 aan die Kaap in omloop was, het ook die waarde van twee stuiwers gehad en is dus ook *dubbeltjie* genoem. Verder het dit 'n verhewe rand gehad en is toe die *cart wheel penny* of die *dikoulap* genoem.

Soos die meeste van ons ouer muntname kry ons *oulap* ook van die Hollanders; in die geval van *oude lap*, wat gebruik is in die sin van iets wat min werd is.

'n Interessante uitdrukking wat vroeër deur die kleurlinge aan die Kaap gebruik is, is *in die dikoulap se dae*, d.w.s. in die goeie ou tyd, of die dae toe dinge nog goedkoop was.

Wat uitdrukkings betref, het die penne vir ons nie eintlik iets nagelaat nie. *Dubbeltjie* het behoue gebly in 'n dubbeltjie in die armbeurs gooi (ongevraag saampraat of 'n geringe bydrae lewer.) *Oulap* hoor ons nog soms in 'n *oulap twee maal omkeer* (baie suinig wees) en iets vir 'n *oulap en 'n bokstert verkoop* (spotgoedkoop verkoop).

BEPALING VAN WAARDE VAN

In die vorige artikel het ek probeer om lesers aan die gedagtes in verband met die bepaling van die waarde van muntstukke te stel.

In die eerste plek is ons amateurs. Ons probeer nie wins maak nie, intendeel ons probeer ons vriende aanhelp en daardeur onself help. As ek dus gelukkig genoeg is om 'n orige muntstuk te hê wat my vriend nie het nie en hy het weer iets orig wat ek nie het nie, dan doen ons mekaar oor en weer 'n guns en ons is albei gelukkig en tevrede. Partymaal is dit bietjie meer ingewikkeld, maar as ons die beginsel van "geen wins" in gedagte hou, sal daar altyd 'n basis tussen vriende gevind kan word.

Wat ek eintlik wou sê hierbo, is dat daar 'n ere kode tussen versamelaars moet wees om te gee en te neem op die beginsel dat dit saliger is om te gee as om te ontvang.

Ek het dit beproef en kan u die versekering gee dat dit werk. Ek het baie gegee maar ek het meer gekry. Ek kom nog net 12 Suid-Afrikaanse muntstukke kort na minder as 'n jaar wat ek begin versamel het. Ek het daarbenevens so baie vriende gemaak en so baie plesier gehad dat ek eintlik dubbel moes gegee het om te betaal vir wat ek ontvang het. Ek het nog nooit meer vir 'n munt-

stuk gevra as wat ek d betaal het nie.

Voorlopig volstaan ek en wil ek graag vriend d wie se brief elders versk vraag in verband met die k kasie van munte beantwoor

Miskien moet ons be die verskille tussen "P S.S. en UNC., E.F. en V.F

Proefmunte is spesie handel en gepoleer voor slaan word. Dit word nooit teer of met ander munte g nie en het 'n eenvormige, syagtige voorkoms selfs a met 'n vergrootglas bes

UNC. daarenteen is g munte wat in sakke saa ander munte na die banke v is en onderskep is deur ve laars voor dit in sirkula kom het. Dit het 'n perfekt koms maar toon sogenaamd merke", d.w.s. klein amp sigbare skrapies en happie geen slytasie nie.

E.F. weer, is munte sirkulasie was, wat net slytasie toon maar wat eweredige glans behou en 100% ongeskonde is.

V.F. is die naam w gee aan munte wat slytas

(Continued from Page 2)

wandered with the Commandos from one district to another, and it would be impossible to say in which district and when the blanks were used for payment. Then towards the end of 1901 the Government, after its wanderings, came to Steenkampsberg,

where I visited them; there definitely no coined pieces 'blanks'; the Government 'blue backs' (printed at Pi and some bar gold. After I printed 'blue backs' at Rest and made bar gold

N N MUNTIE

DEUR AMATEUR VERSAMELAAR

ink te sit en dit het geslaag. Laat ek nou my by die ruil daarvan tussen amateurs op skrif voor of oppervlakkige skrape of merke het en wat nie meer die gewenste glans het nie. Deur die vergrootglas sal u duisende klein skrapies en merkies sien wat vir die blote oog amper onsigbaar is.

En nou daardie plus en minus tekens wat ons bysit by die klasifikasie. Daarmee gaan dit seker ook maar of jy kyk met 'n kritiese of minder kritiese oog. Ek sal 'n bepaalde muntstuk as 'n goeie V.F. beskou en dit V.F. plus noem en u sal hom weer beskou as 'n E.F. wat 'n bietjie te veel merke het, maar nog 'n goeie glans het en dit E.F. - noem. En ons mag albei reg wees afhangelende van die omstandighede. Ons is seker maar geneig om minder krities te wees hoe ouer en skaarser die muntstuk word.

Ons strewe almal maar na die verbetering van ons versameling en daarom die gretigheid om te ruil vir iets beter en selfs 'n goeie prys te betaal by 'n handelaar vir 'n muntstuk in goeie toestand.

Onthou ek is 'n amateur en deskundiges kan miskien verskil van my beskrywing. Laat van u hoor as u menings oor die saak wil lug.

BRIEWE VAN ONS LESERS

Die Redakteur.

Ek wil u graag geluk wens met u maandelikse muntbulletin wat vir die muntversamelaar nie alleen interessante en belangrike gegewens bevat nie, maar ook gunstig vergelyk met die beste oorsee. Ek wil egter ook die hoop uitspreek dat dit later volkome tweetalig sal word.

Die artikel van Amateur Versamelaar het ek baie interessant gevind. By die uitruil of aankoop van muntstukke, is die toestand van so 'n muntstuk 'n baie belangrike faktor en in sekere gevalle selfs die oorwegende. Om die toestand van 'n muntstuk vas te stel is bepaald nie altyd maklik nie en by grensgevalle kos dit soms baie kopkrap om te besluit of dit nou 'n E.F. - of 'n V.F.+ is. Vir die leek maak dit geen sin nie en hy kan ook nie begryp dat 'n muntstuk in 'n E.F. toestand miskien R100 kan werd wees, maar in 'n V.F. toestand miskien nie eers R50 nie. Ek sou graag voorstel dat Amateur Versamelaar vir ons vertel watter faktore hy in aanmerking neem by die bepaling van die toestand van 'n muntstuk.

Daar is 'n saak wat my totaal dronkslaan; ek het 'n 1929 halfkroon by 'n vriend geruil wat in alle opsigte oënskynlik identies is met ander 1929 halfkroon, maar wanneer hierdie halfkroon geklank word, het dit nie die kenmerkende helder metaalklank van ons ou silwergeld nie, maar 'n dowwe, amper loodklank. Selfs die gesig en kleur is dieselfde as die ander en die groot mate van slytasie wat aanwesig is verraai niks behalwe 'n pragtige silwer oppervlak wat so tipies is van ons ou 800-silwer muntstukke. Is dit moontlik dat dit 'n vervalsing kan wees of kom hierdie afwykings by die 1929 halfkroon wel voor?

Dit is interessant om die afwykings van ons nuwe niekelmunte op te merk; ek het bv. 'n 10c. stuk gevind wat skeef gemunt is op sy kruiskant en gevolglik heeltemal uit fatsoen is, en verskeie 5c. stukke wat aan die een kant dunner is en identiese hapmerkies vertoon. Daar is ook 20c. stukke wat variasies toon.

P.J. de Jager, OTTOSDAL.

(Sien Amateur Versamelaar se antwoord)

BICKELS' MANY WELL-KNOWN COIN ACCESSORIES, INCLUDING COIN AND CROWN ALBUMS, COIN SETS AND COIN AND MEDAL NEWS, ARE NOW BEING SOLD BY THE BOOKMARK, 57, BROAD STREET, DURBAN. TELEPHONE 63930.

ere were Z.A.R. 'Veld-Ponde' that you know. These were the only coins ever made on the veld during the war. No 'blanks' were ever made, except at Pretoria."

From this very interesting statement of Mr. Kloppers it is clear that

the issue of the "rimmed" and the "plain" blanks cannot be ascribed to any one particular town or district, and that the terms "Machadodorp Blanks" and "Lydenburg Blanks" are misleading, as they have no definite meaning.

In the above notes no mention has been made of "blank" half-ponde and "blank" pennies. "Blank" half-ponde have been noted once or twice only in correspondence and in the Press, but no opportunity has occurred of inspecting one.

THE STORY BEHIND THE VICTORIA CROSS AND HOW IT WAS MADE

In recent years more and more imitation Victoria Crosses, the most prized British War medal, offered to dealers and collectors. Many of the forgeries are extremely clever and require have been knowledge of the medal itself to detect suspicious characteristics.

The Medal Collector - A Guide to Naval, Military Airforce and Civil Awards by Stanley C. Johnson contains a fascinating history of the V.C. and its manufacture by a British firm.

Queen Victoria, shocked by the injuries of men who served at Alma, Inkermann and Balaklava and who appeared before her at a medal parade in May, 1855, was determined to devise a medal to be awarded for exceptional bravery.

She master-minded all the details for the medal. The Prince Consort was responsible for the design and the Queen chose the inscription "For Valour". The magnitude of the task Queen Victoria set herself was huge for it is no simple matter to plan a medal, worth very little, but so highly sought after that men willingly gave their lives.

BRONZE CASTING

The first official intention of creating the medal was issued in a War Office Proclamation on February 5, 1856. The proclamation's 15 articles explained how it would be awarded and for what type of deeds. The V.C. consists of a Maltese Cross cast in bronze with the Royal Crest in the centre and the wording "For Valour" underneath.

The Cross was to be suspended from the left breast by a blue ribbon for the Navy and a red ribbon for the Army.

The Cross is cast in bronze (and not struck as so many people believe) and when it leaves the mould it has the appearance of a golden piece. Highly skilled workmen then spend hours chasing the surface. When the detail has been

properly set in relief, the medal is then coated with a dark lacquer.

The ribbon is threaded through the slot clasp and a brooch pin is fixed to the upper end of the silk. Specimens are always kept in stock by the makers and engraved when they are awarded.

CRIMEAN GUNS

The earliest V.C.'s were cast in metal obtained from bronze guns taken from the Russians in the Crimea. However, Chinese guns supplied the metal for the 1914-18 decorations.

The exacting work of manufacturing the medals rests in the hands of Hancocks & Co., London. This firm attempted to strike the Crosses by dies but these broke and cracked when they came into contact with the medal's tough steel.

It was not until 1902 that the granting of posthumous awards was allowed. King Edward VII decreed that relatives of men from whom the medal had been withheld because they died in battle or soon after could come claim the awards.

The first man to win the coveted award was Charles David Lucas, mate on the H.M.S. Hecla, who, on June 21, 1854, during a sea battle in the Crimean War, hurled an unexploded shell overboard and prevented the almost certain death of his comrades. Soon after, six Army personnel were given V.C.'s for storming the Alma. Second-Lieutenant W.B. Rhodes-Moorhouse was the first airman to win the Cross when he piloted his aircraft to his home base despite mortal injuries gained during a bombing raid.

CIVILIAN V.C.'s

A number of civilians have also been given V.C.'s. Many of them were decorated after the Indian Mutiny when they fought for Britain.

In 1911 native officers and men of the Indian Army were allowed to win the medal and it was in the 1914-18 War when Sepoy Khudadad was decorated after manning a machine gun when his fellow soldiers had been killed.

The blue ribbon for the Naval V.C. has been discontinued and now all recipients wear the Cross suspended by a crimson ribbon.

Sale of the medal is forbidden except after death. The V.C. measures 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide and weighs 434 grams. Chasing and finishing may cause a slight variation but the margin is insignificant. Forgeries are usually wider and the weight is seldom the same. Brass and iron are mostly used by forgers and when either of these are lacquered they present a fair appearance. The best way to authenticate a medal is to demand the citation and send the medal to Hancocks asking them to certify the V.C. as genuine.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Subscribers to Bickels Coin and Medal News who wish to have their monthly copies sent to a different address must send 25 cents to cover the cost of making new address plates. Each new subscriber has plates made free of charge.

PRICE LIST

BICKELS' COINS AND MEDALS

GROUND FLOOR SHOP AT 151 JEPPE ST., (off RISSIK ST.)

LIST 113
MARCH, 1966
Valid to end March 1966 only
(Cancels all previous lists)

Arthur Bickel
Richard Bickel

P.O. Box 10690,
Johannesburg.
South Africa.
Phone: 834-8210.

- NOTES: 1. PAYMENT: Please send either cheque, money order or postal order.
2. All items offered are subject to being unsold or in stock at time order is received.
Where applicable, please order by number.
3. NEXT LIST: April, 1966.

This month our price list assumes a different format. We have grouped together material of which we have obtained small quantities of stock. The item may be listed again on the following months price list. Prices are subject to change from month to month. Under STOCK LINES readers will be able to locate a variety of coins, medals, sets, etc. of which we have more than just one in stock. When stocks are exhausted, the item will be dropped from the list.

Our "SPECIALS" this month are for many collectors who are unable to collect the full range of a particular series or denomination. We offer "COMBINATION SPECIALS" at attractive prices.



SOUTH AFRICAN PROOF SETS in original case of issue

WHILE STOCKS LAST — THE BUYS OF THE YEAR.
STERLING/DECIMAL COMBINATION SPECIALS
(one of each)

SHORT SETS (without gold)

310	1951 and 1961 (the two sets)	R 75.00
311	1952 and 1963 (the two sets)	77.50
312	1954 and 1964 (the two sets)	75.00

Any one of the foregoing combinations
plus a 1965 set

313	(the three sets)	107.50
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LONG SETS (with gold)*

E. & O.E.

314	1952 and 1963 (the two sets)	120.00
315	1953 and 1964 (the two sets)	130.00
316	1952 and 1965 (the two sets)	150.00
317	1963 and 1965 (the two sets)	160.00

SOUTH AFRICAN PROOF-LIKE SS CROWNS SS = Specially select i.e. prooflike finish

318	1948 and 1961 (the two)	R 36.00
319	1954 and 1962 (the two)	60.00
320	1960 and 1963 (the two)	27.50

SOUTH AFRICAN UNCIRCULATED CROWNS Genuinely uncirculated Crowns

321	1947 and 1962 (the two)	R 15.00
322	1948 and 1963 (the two)	8.75
323	1949 and 1964 (the two)	9.75
324	1960 and 1962 (the two)	12.00

SPECIAL:

324a	BICKEL'S SOUTH AFRICAN CROWN ALBUM- Upholstered De Luxe Red Leatherette and Gold Cover with transparent polythene pockets showing date and quantities minted for each Crown	R 3.95
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SOUTH AFRICAN UNC SETS — SELECT MINT ISSUE

The Set consists of a prooflike Crown SS =
(Specially Select) and all the currency issues
of minor coins in uncirculated condition -
50c, 20c, 10c, 5c, 2½c (Silver); 1c, ½c (Bronze).

STERLING/DECIMAL COMBINATION :

325	1960 and 1961 (the two sets)	R 49.50
326	1960 and 1962 (the two sets)	59.75
327	1960 and 1963 (the two sets)	43.50
328	1960 and 1964 (the two sets)	40.00

328a BICKELS UNIVERSAL COIN ALBUM :
 This is undoubtedly the finest all purpose Album for different coins on the market. Upholstered Leatherette red and gold cover; the inside has 144 transparent polythene pockets for coins from the Crown size down to the smallest coin.

R 5.75

SOUTH AFRICA: STOCK LINES:

329	Farthing 1924	UNC	R 3.40
330	Farthing 1928	UNC	3.30
331	Farthing 1932	UNC	3.00
332	Farthing 1937	EF+	3.50
333	Farthing 1939	UNC	3.00
334	Farthing 1941	UNC	3.00
335	Farthing 1954	UNC	.50
336	Farthing 1959	UNC	.75
337	Farthing 1960	UNC	.75
338	Half Penny 1954	UNC	6.00
339	Half Penny 1960	UNC	.50
340	Half Cent 1961	UNC	.25
341	Half Cent 1964	UNC	.20
342	Half Cent 1964	PROOFLIKE	.50
343	PENNY 1947	UNC	4.75
344	PENNY 1948	UNC	1.50
345	PENNY 1949	UNC	1.00
346	PENNY 1960	UNC	.40
347	CENT 1961	UNC	.15
348	CENT 1962	UNC	.35
349	CENT 1964	UNC	.10
350	CENT 1964	PROOFLIKE	.75
351	TICKEY 1947	UNC	1.75
352	TICKEY 1959	UNC	.25
353	TICKEY 1960	UNC	6.25
354	2½ CENTS 1961	UNC	1.50
355	2½ CENTS 1962	UNC	7.00
356	2½ CENTS 1963	UNC	4.50
357	2½ CENTS 1964	UNC	5.50
358	5 CENTS 1961	UNC	.45
359	5 CENTS 1962	UNC	.30
360	5 CENTS 1963	UNC	.25
361	5 CENTS 1964	UNC	.25
362	10 CENTS 1961	UNC	.75
363	10 CENTS 1962	UNC	.75
364	10 CENTS 1963	UNC	.45
365	20 CENTS 1960	UNC	2.50
366	20 CENTS 1961	UNC	.75
367	20 CENTS 1963	UNC	.50
368	20 CENTS 1964	UNC	.50

Z.A.R.

MOST DATES 1d to £1.0.0. (except Scars dates) in stock.

WORLD PROOF AND PROOFLIKE MATERIAL:

369	BRITIAN 1953 CORONATION PROOF SET FDC	
370	BRITIAN FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN PROOF CROWN FDC	R 55.00
371	MALAWI 1964 PROOFSET FDC	6.00
372	SOUTH ARABIAN FEDERATION 1964 PROOF SET FDC	18.00
373	ZAMBIA 1964 PROOFLIKE CROWN FDC	9.00
374	RHODESIA 1964 PROOFSET FDC	6.00
375	BERMUDA 1964 PROOFLIKE CROWN FDC	77.50
376	RHODESIA 1953 PROOF CROWN FDC	11.50
377	SOUTH AFRICA 1947 PROOF CROWN FDC	57.50
378	CANADA 1965 PROOFLIKE SET FDC	45.00

R 55.00

6.00

18.00

9.00

6.00

77.50

11.50

57.50

45.00

R6.50

WORLD UNC SETS AND UNC COINS:

379	RHODESIA UNC Set in wallet 1964	
380	ZAMBIA UNC Set in wallet 1964	R 2.25
381	MALAWI UNC SET in wallet 1964	2.00
382	U.S.A. KENNEDY ½ Dollar UNC 1964	2.50
383	BRITAIN 1965 UNC CHURCHILL CROWN	2.00

one for 1.75
two for 3.00

A VERY VERY SPECIAL SPECIAL

384 Not often do we get a scoop on a few scarce coins. We were fortunate in obtaining a few SUID AFRIKA COPPER ONE CENT PIECES 1965 IN AFRIKAANS - EF/UNC only R 25.00
 Between 200-300 of these coins were minted. They were struck for the people whose job it was to convert the vending machines from the large 1 cent to the small 1 cent. That is all we can say. Let us see which numismatists can spot a bargain.

MISCELLANEOUS:

385	HOLLAND 6 Stuivers approx. 1690 F/VF	R 3.75
386	WEST FRISIAE 2 Stuivers 1759 VF-	4.50
387	HOLLANDIA 1 Stuiver 1 x 1739 1 x 1764 VF-	Pair 3.75
388	GELDERLANDIA 1 Stuiver 1785 EF-	4.50
389	ZEELANDIA 1 Stuiver 1791 EF	4.50
390	EARLY NETHERLAND CAPE COINS (silver) 1/16 Scheepjasgulden EF+	5.00
391	ANGOLA 50 Centavos 1923 2/~ size EF	1.85
392	SAUDI ARABIA 1 Ryal EF+ 1935	1.50

393	EGYPT 20 Piastres Aswan Dam Crown 1964 UNC	7.50	396	BRITISH GUIANA Colonies of Essequibo & Demarara 1813 GEO III Token VF- (Copper)	5.50
394	HOLLAND Large gold medallion 22 ct. half-crown size Engagement of Princess Beatrix FDC	35.00	397	JAGERSFONTEIN Water Token Municipality 3 gall.	4.50
395	HOLLAND small 6d size gold medallion of H.R.H. Princess Beatrix and fiance 22 ct. gold FDC	11.50	398	BRITIAN - GEO. III Cartwheel 2d 1797 VF Large copper coin	5.00

RHODESIAN INDEPENDENCE MEDAL

The obverse of the medal bears a profile of the Rhodesian Prime Minister. The reverse design symbolises Rhodesian industrial, agricultural and electrical power.

Conceived to raise funds to help combat total British and world-wide economic sanctions, the medal was designed by Rhodesian artist, Trevor Wood. This 1½-inch medal of Rhodesian copper commemorates that country's dramatic break from Britain and seizure of independence on November 11, 1965.

Mr. Ian Smith's head is surrounded by the lettering "Rhodesian Independence - November 11, 1965." The reverse is divided into four with the wording: "WE STAND BEHIND YOU."

The cow and tobacco plant illustrate agriculture. The mining gear symbolises Rhodesia's mineral wealth; the power pylon the country's industrial stability, and the lion, strength and determination.

Struck in pure copper relief, the medal is supplied in a superior velvet-lined leatherette case.

• A COLLECTOR'S PIECE •

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Handsome dark brown and gold leatherette cover with transparent polythene sheets. Album complete per volume R8.75

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UNIQUE CHANCE!**

Attractive transparent polythene set of East Africa Unc. coins 1/- 1952; the 1957 5 cent piece which has been replaced by the Swahli 5 cent piece; 1 cent, also discontinued. The set will become scarce - **Only R1.50**

Sets of six uncirculated Bahrain coins - 3 cupro-nickel and 3 copper - from this oil-producing state. **Per set R2.00**

Four 1965 cupro-nickel New Zealand coins - the reverses depicting the country's wild life, native art (the 1/- shows a Maori hunting) **Offered at - R1.75**

**South Africa's First Bilingual Catalogue
out This Month**

SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST BILINGUAL COIN CATALOGUE WITH PRICES IN RANDS AND CENTS BICKELS NUMISTAT WILL BE ON SALE THIS MONTH. THIS POCKET-SIZED, EASY-REFERENCE COSTS ONLY R1.50.

IT WILL BE THE COUNTRY'S FIRST BILINGUAL BOOK GIVING COMPLETE PRICES AND STATISTICS OF ALL SOUTH AFRICAN COINS.

IN ADDITION TO THE PRICES WHICH HAVE ALL BEEN ARRANGED IN DENOMINATIONS (ONE DENOMINATION A PAGE) FOR EASY REFERENCE - THERE IS AN INTRODUCTION IN ENGLISH AND AFRIKAANS WHICH DISCUSSES COIN PRICES, DETERMINING THE MARKET PRICE AND THE FREQUENCY OF PRICE CHANGES. THE PRICES PRIVATE COLLECTORS SHOULD PAY IS ALSO MENTIONED.

THE NUMISTAT INCLUDES A COMPREHENSIVE SECTION EXPLAINING THE GRADINGS OF COIN FROM PROOF THROUGH TO UNCIRCULATED (UNC.), EXTREMELY FINE (E.F.), VERY FINE (V.F.), FINE (F), VERY GOOD (V.G.) AND GOOD (G). THESE ARE THE GRADINGS WHICH ARE PRICED IN THE NUMISTAT.

THERE IS ALSO A SECTION, AGAIN IN BOTH LANGUAGES, WHICH DEALS WITH COIN CARE.

EACH DENOMINATION FROM FARTHING TO GOLD COINS IS LISTED. THERE IS ALSO A PAGE ESPECIALLY FOR PROOF SETS PRICES.

THE NUMISTAT WILL BE ON SALE FROM MARCH 21 AT BICKELS COINS AND MEDALS (PTY.) LTD. THE NUMISTAT CAN BE OBTAINED BY SENDING R1.50 TO BICKELS AT P.O. BOX 10690, JOHANNESBURG.