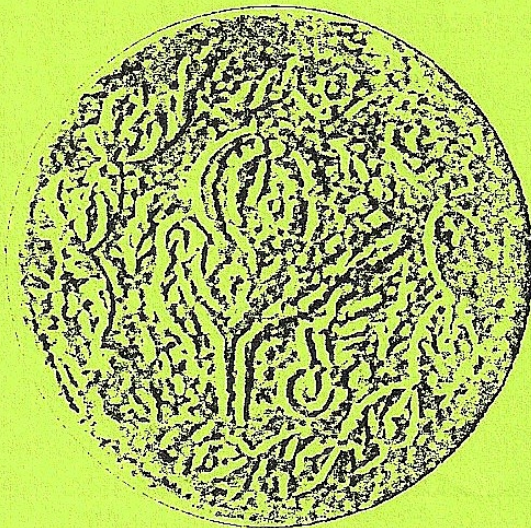


TREASURE TALK

NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTH AFRICAN METAL DETECTOR ENTUSIASTS
NUUSBRIEF VIR SUID AFRIKAANSE METAALVERKLIKKER-ENTOESIASTE

Second Summer Issue 2000 Tweede Somer Uitgawe



We have a winner! / Ons het 'n wenner!
ANDRIES SMITH of / van Bredasdorp
Well done / Goed gedaan

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR / BRIEF VAN DIE REDAKTEUR

Dear reader

The reason for this second summer 2000 edition is two fold: Firstly I want to congratulate mr Andries Smith from Bredasdorp on winning our Treasure Talk Find of the Year 2000 competition with his gold arabic coin. His prize, a Fisher 1225x metal detector, sponsored by Lukas van der Merwe of Excalibur Mining, has already been posted to him. Congratulations Andries and thank you Lukas for sponsoring the competion.

Secondly, more great news: Doculam, the official distributors of Garrett metal detectors in South Africa, in conjunction with Randburg Coin and Bickles Coins, are offering a fantastic Garrett Treasure Ace 200 to the best article published in our newsletter. The article must be of general interest and all submissions up to the closing date of 1 July 2001 will be considered. Please see full details on the back page.

A merry Christmas and prosperous new year to you all.

Beste leser

Die rede vir hierdie tweede somer 2000 uitgawe is tweeledig: Eerstens wil ek mnr Andries Smith van Bredasdorp gelukwens. Hy is die wenner van ons Treasure Talk Vonds van die Jaar 2000 kompetisie met sy goue arabiese muntstuk. Sy eerste prys, 'n Fisher 1225x metaalverklikker, geborg deur Lukas van der Merwe van Excalibur Mining, is reeds aan hom gepos. Baie geluk Andries en baie dankie Lukas.

Tweedens, verdere goeie nuus: Doculam, die amptelike verspreiders van Garrett metaalverklikkers in Suid Afrika, tesame met Randburg Munt en Bickels munte, borg 'n fantastiese Garrett Treasure Ace 200 masjien vir die beste artikel wat in ons nuusbrief gepubliseer word. Alle artikels oor ons stokperdjie wat voor 1 Julie 2001 ontvang word, sal oorweeg word vir die wonderlike prys. Sien asseblief volle besonderhede op die agterblad.

Ek wens al ons lesers 'n geseënde Kersfees en 'n voorspoedige nuwe jaar toe.

Pierre Nortje (Editor/Redakteur)

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LETTERS FROM OUR READERS / BRIEWE VAN ONS LESERS

Hello Pierre

We are so pleased that you enjoyed our tour, and that you and Lukas made some nice finds. We certainly enjoyed your company and felt that the Americans did too. We have passed your comments to Jimmy "Sierra" Normandi and he repeated that he was sorry not to have been there to meet you in person, perhaps one day you will meet.

Best regards

David and Trish Barwell
England

Beste Pierre

In die Lente-uitgawe het oom Dawie Berg van Shelley Beach geskrywe en ek haal hom aan: "Onthou dat dit nie altyd oor die vondse gaan nie, die stokperdjie behels baie meer as net dit". Ek wil byvoeg ook die mense wat jy ontmoet.

Op 9 September loop ek met my metaalverklikker langs die see by die Strand. 'n Dame kom na my aangestap en sê "Ek het jou daar uit my woonstel gesien en net kom kyk of jy nie my seun is nie." Pierre, dit was jou ma. Pragtige mens. Hoekom het jy nog nie vir haar gaan kuier vandat jy terug is van Engeland nie?

Groete

Louis Fourie
Carletonville

Louis, ter verdediging kan ek darem sê dat ek eers die 8ste September teruggekeer het van Engeland! (Intussen het ek al heelwat daar gaan kuier).

Dear Pierre

Congratulations on the nice finds you had found. I would like to receive back and future copies of Treasure Talk. Must I pay anything towards the club to join? You have a great magazine.

Yours sincerely

Mr Vernon J Bowers
Kenwyn

Dear Pierre

Just a small note to say thanks for your great newsletter. I have not had much time to detect lately as work is keeping me very busy. The little detecting that I have been able to do has been quite interesting. I spent some time in Mozambique at a small bay near Inhambane (Praia de Tofo). The sand was not very favourable for finding older items but I found a lot of coins and one ring. But it was good to get out of the Lowveld and back to a beach and on to the sand.

Speaking to some of the locals there the sand move a lot and can leave the old reefs exposed, during such times one should get some good finds as this has been a popular resort for some time and the Portuguese used it a lot. In addition to detecting there is also good diving and surfing spots. Just up from this beach is Praia de Barra where there are some old shipwrecks that may give some interesting finds. BUT it is important to communicate with the local police as they are the only law makers in the area and can give large fines if they feel like it. You can get fined \$400 for sleeping on the beach. I spent some time explaining all about metal detecting to the local police and I even let them detect around their police station for a little while as they seemed very interested. I was finally asked to give all my details on a scrap of paper and I had their approval. I feel that it is very important that when entering new areas such as this, detectorists need to leave a good impression on the local authority so that others coming later can also enjoy their co-operation.

By the way, if anyone is interested in going to Mozambique, try and get hold of old maps as there are lots of free areas where one can sleep on the coast, but these are not indicated on the current maps and many of the locals do not know about these areas. There is one at Fin de Tofo. You will find it near the monument on the point and it looks straight into a point break with some good surf.

Please send me future editions of Treasure Talk and a big thank you to Santam as sponsor of the Newsletter.

All the best and thanks again.

Alan Wright
Acornhoek (in the bush)
witsrrp@mweb.co.za

MORE LETTERS FROM OUR READERS / NOG BRIEWE VAN ONS LESERS

Hi Pierre

It was certainly a pleasure meeting both Lukas and you and who knows, someday maybe Jane and I can visit your country. We hear that there is a lot of gold there in your region ... unfortunately we would have to dig a big open pit mine rather than Metal Detect the treasures.

Whenever we get settled in our new home in Colorado, you folks will be entirely welcome to visit and stay with us. Well, gotta go, hopefully this message reaches both of you... till we meet again, take care.

Jeff and Jane Martin
JMartin358@aol.com

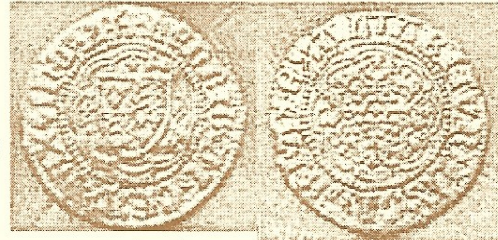
MORE PHOTOS FROM OUR TRIP TO ENGLAND

Five Gold Coins Unearthed During Summer 2000 Tour



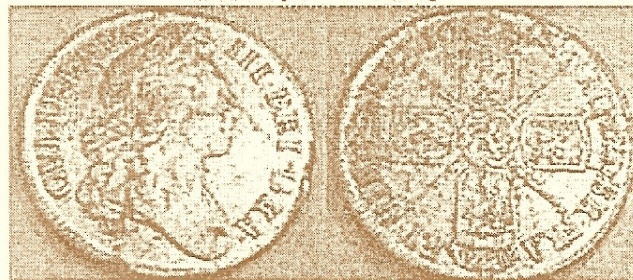
1/4 Noble of Henry V 1413-1422
found by Chet Zorecki

Photos
by
Tracy
MacDonald

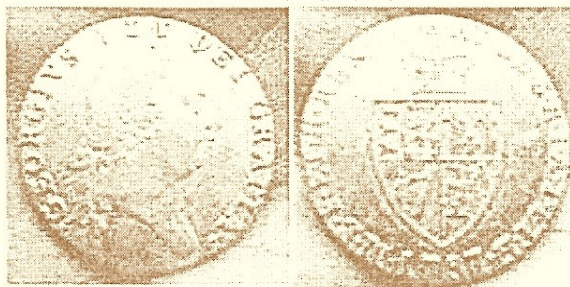


1/4 Noble of Henry VI 1422-1461
found by Errol Snyder

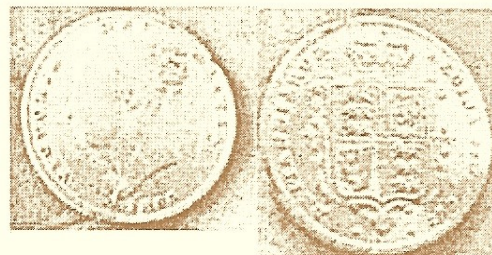
(1694 - 1702) Guinea of William III
found by Jim Blubaugh



1787 1/2 Guinea of George III
found by Rich Murphy



1855 Victoria half-sovereign
found by Walter Mahoney



How that for a start?

DANKIE LUKAS!! / THANKS LUKAS!!

**DIE BORG VAN ONS VONDS VAN DIE JAAR 2000 KOMPETISIE
THE SPONSOR OF OUR FIND OF THE YEAR 2000 COMPETITION**

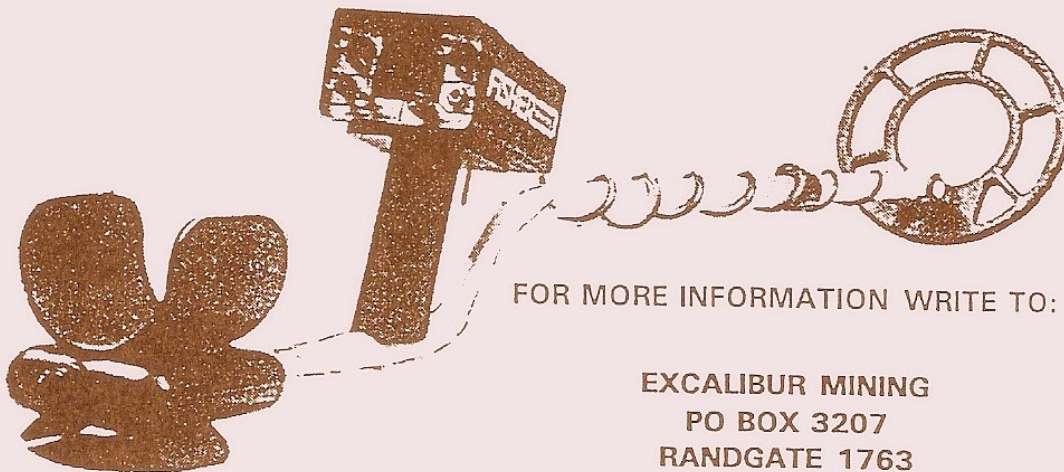
DIE WENNER WAS ... / THE WINNER WAS...

**ANDRIES SMITH VAN/OF BREDASDORP
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MORE PHOTOS FROM THE TRIP TO ENGLAND



14th Cent. Heraldic Pendant
found by
Cal Frederick



1st/2nd Cent Roman bronze figurine
found by
Ernie Weitz



Silver Celtic Unit 10BC (obverse)
found by
Ted Williams



Silver Celtic Unit 10BC (reverse)
found by
Ted Williams



14/15th Cent. Strap-end
found by
Ralph Walters

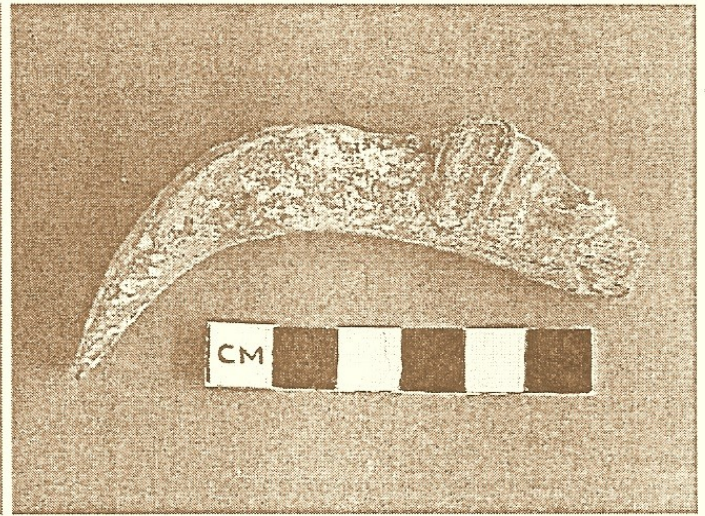


Elizabeth 1st threepence 1580
found by
George Upchurch

MORE PHOTOS FROM THE TRIP TO ENGLAND



10th Cent. Saxon Stirrup Mount
found by
John Golden



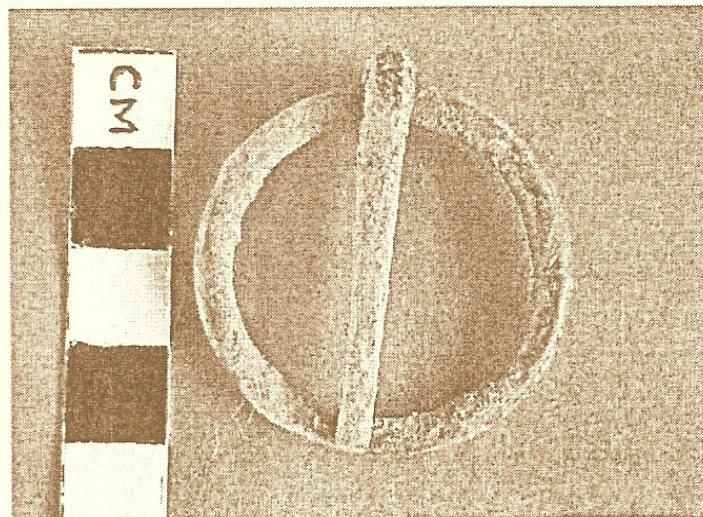
Medieval Dogs Head Spout 14th Cent.
found by
Ralph Walters



Henry III short cross penny 1216-1272
found by
Ron Steiner



Elizabeth 1st sixpence 1545-1603
found by
Cal Frederick



13th Cent. Ring brooch c/w pin
found by
Ken Hollrah



Viking coin - Eric Blood-axe penny 952-954ad
found by
Irving Smith

DIE BURGER

Saterdag 10 Junie 2000

WoonBurger Bladsy 3

Goudmuntverhale uit die dae van die Anglo-Boere Oorlog

– Martiens van Bart –



'n WARE verhaal oor die toevallige ontdekking van 'n goudskat van die tyd van die Anglo-Boere Oorlog is deur mev. Brenda Horwitz van De Aar ingestuur. Sy skryf:

In die Anglo-Boere Oorlog was die Britse magte afhanklik van die spoorvervoer tussen Kaapstad en die noorde vir die vervoer van hul proviand en ammunisie.

Aangesien lang gedeeltes van die spoorlyn deur die uitgestrekte, onbewaakte vlaktes van die Karoo gestrek het en die treine 'n maklike teiken vir die hoogs beweeglike Boere kommando's was, het die Britte blokhuse en forte opgerig om die spoorlyn en treine te beskerm .

Een van hierdie vestings was op ons plaas naby Merriman stasie in die distrik De Aar en almal daar het daarna verwys as "De Fortjie".

In 1955 het 'n ploegbaas een naweek die spoorlyn wat oor die plaas strek, gepatrolleer. Sy hond het 'n haas gewaar en hom agternagesit. In sy haas om die

hond te volg, struikel die ploegbaas oor 'n doringdraad tussen die bosse en klippe van die bouvallige vesting en skop 'n geroeste "bully beef"-blik blik raak wat vir hom taamlik swaar voel. Tot sy verbasing vind hy 21 Britse goudmunte (van 1830 tot 1877) daarin.

Hy was 'n eerlike man en het sy vonds na die stasiemeester op De Kelk stasie op die plaas geneem, maar dié meen toe die vuil munte is waardeloos. Omdat 'n sprinkaanplaag in die distrik geheers het, was beamptes van die destydse departement van landbou daar met bestrydingswerk besig. Die ploegbaas toon toe die munte aan 'n beampte wat dit as goue Victoria ponde eien. Hy bied die ploegbaas toe œ1 vir elke munt aan.

Die eienaar van die plaas, mnr. Frank Horwitz, het later by sy plaaswerkers van die vonds verneem en omdat die munte op sy plaas gevind is, het hy dit opgeëis. Net elf is aan hom besorg. Hy het 'n armband daarvan laat maak wat vandag 'n familie-erfstuk is. Ons vermoed dat die munte aan 'n Britse soldaat behoort het wat sy geld daar versteek of verloor het. Het hy in die oorlog gesneuwel of is hy terug na Brittanje? Niemand sal ooit weet nie.

Mev. Rina Steyl van Posbus 13051, Noordstad, Bloemfontein, vertel 'n verhaal wat sy by haar ma, mev. Ellen Odendaal ('n nooi Crause) gehoor het. Haar pa, Casper Andries Crause van die plaas Crauseskop, Heilbron, het as vryheidstryder aan die ABO deelgeneem.



By geleentheid het hy van sy kommando af weggeglip om te gaan kyk hoe dit met sy vrou, Catharina, en vier seuns, Chrisjan, Willem, Casper en Stoffel, op die plaas gaan. Die laatlam, Ellen, is eers in 1903 gebore.

Die seuntjies, wat op die werf gespeel het, het die huis binnegehardloop en geskree: "Pa! Pa! Ons sien die Engelse oor die bult kom!"

Casper het haastig gegroet en op sy perd Fluit gespring. Sy vrou gee hom daarop 'n vrugtefles met honderd goue ponde daarin. Die fles het egter in 'n leegte geval en Fluit het dit stukkend getrap. Die goue ponde het in die gras weggerol.

Casper kon nie daarna soek nie, want hy moes voortjaag om voor die Tommies te bly. Hy is wel later in die oorlog gevang en na Ceylon verban.

Die soldate het die plaashuis afgebrand nadat Catharina toegelaat is om haar naaimasjien, 'n sakkie mieliemeel, 'n medisynekissie, 'n paar komberse en 'n klompie klere te vat en met die hulp van die seuntjies op hul wa onder die bloekombome te pak. Die geskokte moeder en kinders moes toekyk hoe hul huis afgebrand word. En toe kom die volgende skok-aankondiging: "Sorry, Madam, orders are orders. I also have to burn this wagon."

Catharina en die kinders moes toe verbouereerd hul laaste besittinkies van die wa haal en eenkant staan en toekyk hoe ook hul wa aan die brand gesteek word. Die soldate het ook haar naaimasjien, die mieliemeel en die ander goed in die vuur gegooi en die vrou en kinders na 'n konsentrasiekamp in Oos-Londen weggevoer.

Ná die oorlog het Casper per skip teruggekom, in Oos-Londen aan wal gegaan en na sy gesin in die konsentrasiekamp gaan soek. Hy het die twee jongste seuns een Sondagoggend in hul tent gevind. Nadat hulle besef het dit is hul pa, het die jongste, klein Stoffel, na die kerktent gehardloop, agter in die deur gaan staan en die diens tot stilstand geskree met: "Ma, Chrisjan, Willem, kom, Pa het gekom!"

Die gesin is op 'n oop beestrok na Heilbron terug. Daar het hulle 'n geleentheid met 'n ossewa na hul afgebrande plaas gekry.

Casper het by hul aankoms sy vrou en seuntjies omarm, gebid en gesê ondanks hul omstandighede loof hulle God en is hulle dankbaar dat hulle almal nog leef en saam terug op hul plaas kan wees. En toe hulle na die munte gaan soek het, het hulle 99 in die leegte gevind!

"Omdat Oupa sy geld ná die oorlog gevind het, kon hy by sy dood vir elke kind 'n plaas nalaat Dennewoud, Delville, Chicago, Crauseskop en Mooifontein, bekende plase in die distrik Heilbron.

Beste leser van Treasure Talk...

Skryf vir ons 'n artikel in Afrikaans asseblief!

BRITISH CAP BADGES



1. The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster), raised in 1686, granted its badge by William III and its title by George I.
 2. Lincolnshire Regiment. Raised in 1685 by James II, received its title in 1687, and became a 'Royal' regiment in 1702.
 3. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey), raised in 1681 to punish Tantler, part of the dowry of Charles II's queen.
 4. Royal Army Chaplains' Department (Christiansburg) the motto 'In this Sign Conquer' is attributed to Constantine the Great.

5. The Berkshire Yeomanry has as its badge the White Horse of Uffington, a prehistoric landmark on the Berkshire Downs.
 6. Royal Regiment of Artillery, formed in 1719 under the old Board of Ordnance, whose arms included three cannons.
 7. The 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own), raised as dragoons in 1715, becoming hussars in 1849 after escorting Prince Albert on his way to marry Queen Victoria.
 8. The 14th County of London Regiment (London Scottish), raised in 1856 from

Scotsmen killed in London.
 9. Royal Warranted Regiment, raised in 1673 for Dutch service, coming onto the English establishment in 1688.
 10. Queen's Royal Regiment, raised in the Boer War, crest and motto are those of the Clan Fraser, of which Lord Lovat was chief.
 11. Australian Commonwealth Military Force, worn by all Australian personnel.
 12. Royal Armoured Corps, formed in 1938 from the Royal Tank Corps and mechanized cavalry regiments.

This interesting piece on British Cap Badges was received from Deon Michael Esterhuysen from Fishhoek. Readers will remember that Michael was one of our finalists in our Find of the Year 2000 Competition. His entry was a badge from the Royal Regiment of Artillery – see picture number 6.

GOLD MONEY AT THE CAPE IN THE DAYS OF THE DUTCH EAST INDIA COMPANY

By A S Rogers (SANS 31/7/47)

How thoroughly in the old days the church at Cape Town carried out the Christian injunction of giving to the poor was emphasised by O. F. Mentzel in one of his interesting books of reminiscences of life at the Cape in the mid-eighteenth century. In the course of his remarks he mentioned that at the communion services, at which collections for the cause of charity were made, "the more wealthy burghers quietly slipped whole piles of ducats under the napkins that covered the vessels."

This reference to ducats is an interesting indication of the prominent place once occupied in the highly mixed currency of the Cape by the coin which originated in the age of chivalry, the coin which Chaucer and Shakespeare have enshrined in literature by their allusions to it—the gold ducat. Ducats and double ducats were issued by several European countries, including the Netherlands. Of so high a reputation was their quality that the term "ducat gold" was used for generations to express superior worth.

Mentzel has other allusions to ducats in his writings. One of them is tragic. It is contained in his account of the wreck of the ship "De Vis" near Cape Town one night in 1740. The vessel was wedged between rocks and it was impossible to reach her in a boat, but a stout cable having been successfully adjusted between ship and shore, crew and passengers were hauled to safety, two at a time, travelling in a great copper cauldron. Between 100 and 150 men had been rescued in this manner when, wrote Mentzel, an accident occurred. The steward of "De Vis," accompanied by his assistant and a boy, climbed into the cauldron. The steward had a lot of money on board and had filled his pockets with ducats, thereby very materially increasing his weight. The combined load was too heavy. One of the iron rings of the cauldron broke and the occupants were precipitated into the sea. The rope was at once slackened to enable them to seize it and support themselves. This the assistant and the boy did and were saved, but "the steward, weighed down by the gold in his pockets, sank like a stone and was drowned." A contemporary painting of the wreck is in the South African Public Library at Cape Town.

Evidence of the popularity of the ducat among travellers, owing to its universal acceptance and its convenient size and value, is found in the vivid description by the famous French traveller Le Vaillant of the blowing up of the merchantman "Middelburg" in Saldanha Bay in 1781 to save her from falling into the hands of the British, with whom the Netherlands were then at war. Practically all Le Vaillant's worldly goods and possessions were on board the "Middelburg," as well as a collection he had assiduously gathered together as a naturalist. He saw the explosion from the shore and was in despair. "What was to become of me," he wrote, "having no other resources but my fusee, ten ducats in my purse and the thin dress I wore?" Fortunately he soon found a generous friend who rescued him from his predicament.

The Dutch ducat was the size of a modern shilling, but thinner. Its value at the Cape varied from time to time. At the close of the seventeenth century it was 8s. 4d.; in Mentzel's days, 8s. 9d., and under the English régime in 1800 and again in 1806 it was officially fixed at 9s. 6d.

It was a coin of pleasing appearance with its familiar figure—for the same type prevailed throughout two centuries or more—of an armour-clad knight, sword in one hand and a bundle of arrows in the other, and its Latin motto signifying "Little things grow through concord." The double ducat was a facsimile on a larger scale. Nearly all the ducats which circulated at the Cape were probably of this variety, though there must have been a few also of the rare Java ducats which were specially struck for the Dutch East India Company in the middle of the eighteenth century. These were very Oriental in appearance, the inscriptions being in Arabic.

Another gold coin which for very many years had a world-wide currency and a high reputation for quality was the Venetian sequin, which ranked at the Cape at exactly the same value as the ducat.

The Venetian sequin was also a coin good to look upon and the figure of Christ within a pointed oval which always appeared

on one side appealed widely to religious sentiment. On the other side was a representation of the Doge of Venice receiving a standard at the hands of St. Mark, the patron saint of the city.

Apropos Venetian sequins an interesting South African episode may be recalled. Away back in the sixties of the last century several European families living in East Pondoland went down to an attractive spot on the coast, previously chosen, for a camping-out holiday. One of the girls of the party, while exploring near the water's edge, chanced to find a golden coin. The discovery caused excitement in the camp and the next morning everyone was down on the beach hunting for treasure trove. Several hundred coins were found altogether, many of them gold, and they were shared among the picnickers. The find was made at the spot on the Pondoland coast close to which lie the remains of the "Grosvenor" East Indianman wrecked in 1782.

The coins then picked up are probably for the most part now widely dispersed, but the writer was once shown eight of them, which had been handed down to a descendant of one of the picnickers. Of the eight two were Venetian sequins.

An impressive gold coin, as heavy as a small handful sequins and suggesting opulence and magnificence, was the Spanish doubloon which circulated at the Cape until a century or so ago. Like the piece-of-eight, also Spanish, it was a coin of the widest repute. It was in some respects the gold counterpart of that famous silver piece, their weights being identical and their designs during a long period being somewhat similar, including the Spanish king's head and the lions and castles of Leon and Castile. The doubloon, however, was more ornate, having the distinction of its heraldic shield of arms being girt around by a representation of the insignia of the famous knightly Order of the Golden Fleece.

The Cape currency also included the quarter, the eighth and the sixteenth of the doubloon, all charming coins in appearance. Very dainty-looking was the sixteenth, known as the coronilla, or "little crown," which was worth 5s. at the Cape.

A favourite design on European gold coinages which persisted from the Middle Ages for centuries onwards was that of an armed and mounted knight, adapted probably from the coins of ancient Rome, on which the Emperor was often represented on horseback overcoming his enemies or triumphantly entering a captured city. In France this type of coin was called the "cavalier"; in Scotland it was known as the "rider," and similarly in the Low Countries as the "ryder." Naturally Netherlands "ryders" were used at the Cape. They were beautiful coins nearly as large as modern florins, though not so thick. Officially they were known as fourteen gulden pieces and their value was £1 3s. 4d. Here is a description of one in perfect state, which lies before the writer:

Covering the greater part of the field of the coin is a charging horseman, helmeted and armour-clad, with sash flying in the wind and sword raised aloft to strike. An inscription in abbreviated Latin around the horseman indicates that the piece is "golden money of the United Provinces of the Netherlands."

On the other side of the coin is a crowned shield on which appears the Lion of the Netherlands carrying the sword and the bundle of arrows which are wielded by the knight on the Dutch ducat. Above the crown is the date "1751"; on the sides of the shield the denomination "14 Gl." is noted and around is the inscription in Latin "Little things grow through concord," which characterises the ducat.

There were also half "ryders" or seven gulden pieces, exactly like the larger coins, except in size and denominational indications.

An adaptation of the old song "I'd rather have a guinea than a one-pound note" would doubtless have been popular in Cape Town—had it been known—in the days of the Napoleonic wars, when guineas were actually jingled beneath the shadow of Table Mountain and paper money—in rix-dollars—was not in the best of odour. The imaginary guinea of today, as everyone knows, stands for 21s., but at the Cape in 1800 the value of the actual coin was officially fixed at £1 2s. At an early stage of its century and a half of history the guinea in England was worth as much as 30s. The last guineas were coined in 1813, after which sovereigns took their place.



Photo from SESA Vol 3 (NASOU)

Gold coins of the 17th-19th centuries. 1. Rider of fourteen guilders (1763), West Friesland: obverse. 2. Half-rider of seven guilders (1760), Holland: obverse. 3. Rider (1760), Zeeland: reverse. 4. Ducat (1768), Utrecht: obverse. 5. Double ducat (1654), Holland: obverse. 6. Ducat (1808) of Louis Napoleon, King of Holland: reverse. Note inscription 'Eendragt maakt magt' – Unity is strength – which was the device of the South African Republic (Transvaal) and is now in its Latin form, that of the Republic of South Africa. 7. 'Spade' guinea (1790) of George III: obverse. 8. Sovereign (1817) of George III: reverse. 9. Louis d'or (1786) of Louis XVI of France: obverse. 10. Doubloon or eight escudos (1780) of Charles III of Spain: obverse. 11. Ducat of Lodovico Manin, Doge of Venice: obverse. 12. 'Johanna' of 6,400 reis (1750) of John V of Portugal: obverse. 13. Star pagoda (English East India Co., c. 1790): obverse. 14. Koban (Japan). 15. Pagoda of Alangir II of Hindustan. 16. Mohur struck at Murshidabad for E.E.I.C., c. 1790. 17. Two pagodas (1810), E.E.I.C., Madras: obverse. 18. Half-mohur (1820), E.E.I.C., Madras: obverse. 19. Mohur of 15 rupees (1820), E.E.I.C., Madras: obverse.

There are numbers of guineas still to be found in South Africa, many of them pierced and worn smooth through long years of dangling on waistcoat fronts; but there are many more of the brass imitation guineas with which after the real coins had become obsolete as currency England was flooded from the factories of Birmingham and elsewhere. Quantities of them have in the course of years found their way to this country. These imitations were used as card counters. There were many varieties—in regard to minor details—and some of them, especially when gilded, bore a close resemblance to genuine guineas.

The French louis d'or also, a gold piece with a wide currency, including South Africa, had a history presenting some interesting parallels to that of the guinea. It was an aristocratic coin and first came into existence in 1640 when the French currency was reformed under Louis XIII, after whom the coin was named. It endured like the guinea for about 150 years and was followed by the democratic twenty-franc piece, as the guinea was by the pound—the plebeian term for the sovereign.

The louis d'or were handsome coins and readily distinguishable from other foreign gold, even to the illiterate, by three heraldic lilies of France within an oval.

"Occasionally," wrote Mentzel in 1783, referring to his South African experiences many years before, "one sees at the Cape a gold coin which in the East Indies equals ten rix-dollars (then 40s.) if stamped, and eight rix-dollars (then 32s.) if unstamped. On account of its elongated shape it is not very popular." This mysterious coin was the Japanese "koban," a thin piece of gold, three inches long, an inch and a half wide, and of oval form. It bore Japanese inscriptions and symbols, and when counter-stamped with a lion, the typical emblem of the Netherlands, was officially admitted to the currency of the Dutch East India Company's possessions.

There is no record, however, of the popularity of a certain other gold coin which once adorned the currency of the Cape ever having been questioned. That coin was the fascinating Johanna of Portugal. It was the size of a modern half-crown, but nothing like so thick. "Joes," as they were fondly termed in most of the British Colonies, represented, in Portugal, where they belonged to the "dobra" series, 6,400 reis each, or about 36s., but they were sometimes assessed higher than that elsewhere. In Ireland, in 1765, they were ordered by proclamation to pass current for 40s.; that was their worth in Canada later, and the same value was adjudged to them at the Cape by Sir David Baird in 1809. Previously, however, in 1782, the Dutch authorities had considered 8½ rix-dollars (34s.) was sufficient, and in St. Helena at one time they came down to £1 13s. 3d.

Although the writer has found no trace of the official recognition in South Africa of another Portuguese coin—the moïdore (money of gold)—it was so extensively current in Western Europe and in the New World that numbers of them must have reached the Cape. It was rated in English money at 27s.

The Cape being in such close touch with India and the East generally, it was natural that numbers of Oriental coins should find their way to this country, apart from those officially struck for the Dutch East India Company, of which the Java ducats have already been mentioned. The official coinages also included gold Java rupees, and their divisions issued at different periods between 1766 and 1798. These gold rupees, which were struck from the same dies as the silver rupees, had only one Occidental characteristic and that was the date. But the gold coins of Native Indian princes, including mohurs, also came to the Cape in considerable numbers and were accepted as currency.

Some of these were crude in design and irregular in shape; others were highly finished coins with milled edges. The writer has before him a mohur of 1786 of the type of which the value at the Cape was officially fixed at £1 17s. 6d. Its grandiloquent legend, which is in Persian characters, reads: "Defender of the Mohammedan Faith, Reflection of Divine Excellence, the Emperor Shah Aulum, has struck this coin to be current throughout the Seven Climes. Struck at Moorsshedabad in the year 19 of his fortunate reign."

It was mentioned above that the writer had seen a number of coins, relics of the "Grosvenor" East Indiaman. Three of them were queer little objects resembling gold buttons rather than pieces of money. They had been converted into shirt studs, after being picked up on the Pondoland coast. These tiny coins belonged to the famous Indian numismatic family, the pagodas, which originated centuries ago. Each of the shirt studs bore a representation of the god Swami on one side, and on the other there was a five-pointed star which gave this type of money the name of "star pagodas."

No doubt star pagodas were familiar enough at the Cape, but the coin which was officially recognised in this country and the value of which was fixed at 7s. in 1782 and at 8s. in 1806 was the pagoda, a piece of gold not quite so large as a half-sovereign. It had a representation of a pagoda on one side and of the god Swami on the other.

When the writer considers the extraordinary variety of the gold pieces which were current at the Cape from the time of the advent of Van Riebeeck until the British sovereign was installed, he is irresistibly reminded of the diversity of Old Flint's collection described in Robert Louis Stevenson's great buccaneering romance "Treasure Island." Readers may turn to the last chapter to refresh their memories. There is it written:

"I (the boy hero of the story) was kept busy all day in the cave, packing the minted money into bread-bags.

"It was a strange collection . . . English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Georges and Louises, doubloon and double guineas, moïdores and sequins, the pictures of all the kings of Europe for the last hundred years, strange Oriental pieces, stamped with what looked like wisps of string or bits of spider's web . . . nearly every variety of money in the world must, I think, have found a place in that collection; and for number I am sure they were like autumn leaves, so that my back ached with stooping and my fingers with sorting them out."

Well practically all the varieties of gold pieces in that famous hoard of fiction were once current at the Cape.

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I had a great deal of fun with the metal detectors that I built. It was a great educational experience (or learning curve as it is expressed in these modern times). The old B.F.O. machines were capable of differentiating between ferrous and non-ferrous materials and with experience, you even tell different metals. It was with these machines that I found that glazed clay pipes, "oudag" (Strandloper pottery) and certain rocks gave readings, which could be interpreted. Remember, clay has metallic salts in it and when fired they take on the magnetic field of the area they are in. I experimented with search coils varying in size from 50mm in diameter to one metre oval coils a la "Big Foot". The machines were none too powerful, but lots of fun.

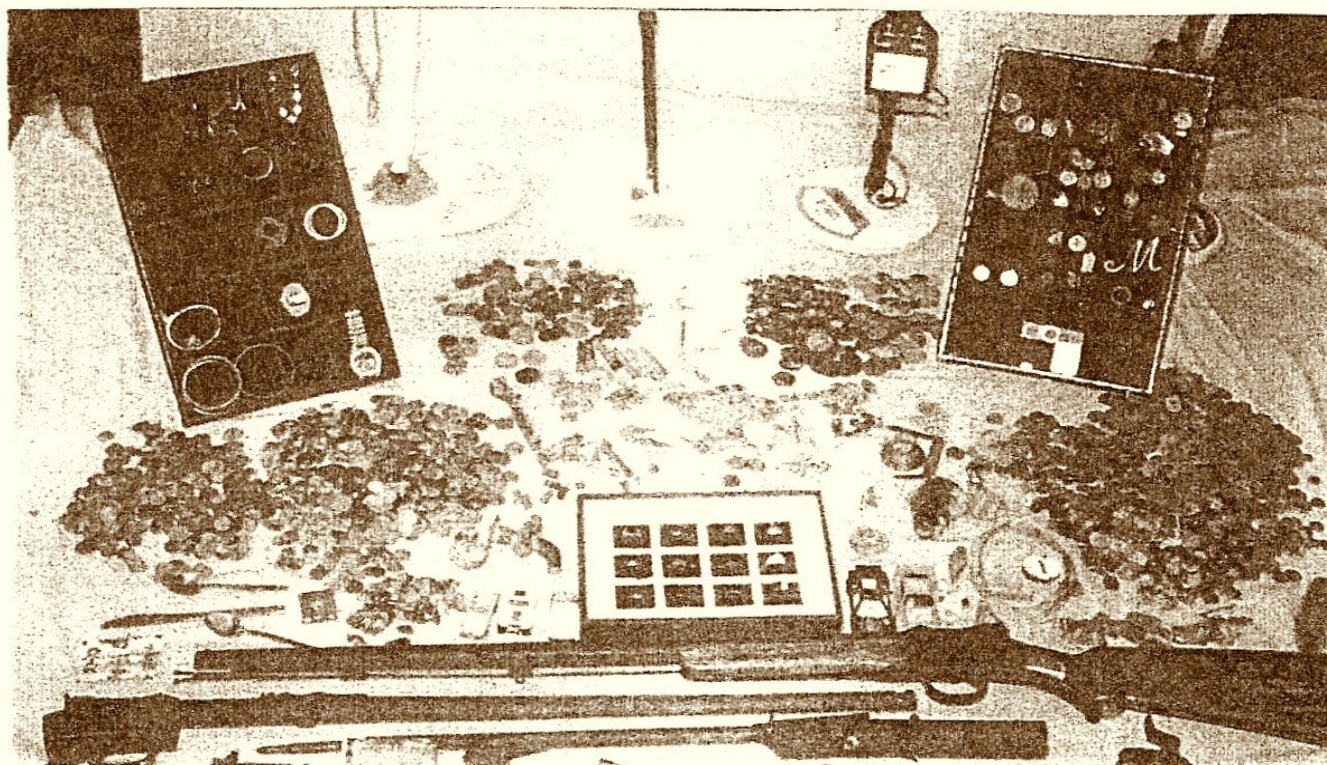
I was told by a friend in the Post Office that Metal detectors needed to be licenced - what a shock! A letter to the Post Master Generals Office brought a reply that we were allowed 6 to 10 milliwatt of power and frequencies between 150 to 180 kilohertz. I will not make any further statement on that, except that those detectors were legal.

The Induction Balance and Transmit-Receive machines were a little more difficult to build. These used a double D coil with an overlap and the difficult part was to tune the coils to a "null". This meant setting up the coils on a piece of timber, metal free, at least one and a half metres above the ground and connected to the machine and test equipment, while wearing pt shorts and nothing with metal and being barefoot. A great feeling of achievement when it was tuned in.

One of the tricks I pulled on the B.F.O. units was to add an extra tuner. They usually had a fixed oscillator and a variable oscillator - the fixed oscillator was made to slide as well and you were always in a position to tune out bad soils or sea sand.

Near King Williamstown is Fort Murray, built in about 1842 and in use for about 35 to 40 years. It is situated near the Buffalo River and after all this time still stands and is now an Historical Monument. It was built along the lines of a "post", that is in the form of a square, with a gate to south and another to the north, and with loop holes for defensive purposes from its three and a half metre high walls. Near it is the ruin of an old hotel. It is rumoured that there is or was a tunnel between the two sites which are about 200 metres apart. I have wanted to investigate by using a soil resistivity meter, but because of the build up of indigenous population in the area it is not safe to do so.

I had prospected the old hotel site in 1971/2 with the old B.F.O. and found many Schneider, Martini-Henry and other doppies, pieces of lead water piping and bits of metal from various things. These old hotels were built at anything from 10 to 25 mile intervals, depending on the terrain, which would make it an easy one day drive for the old Transport Rver in his Ossewa, and they and their ruins remain all over the country, just waiting to be discovered and searched. Ask for permission first, though. Lots of History there.



Close up of some of our finds. The guns came out of the ground in King Williams Town in 1976 - 2 x Martini Henry style Scholefield and Goodmans, and a no. 3 Quackenbush air gun - Andrew rebuilt one of the S&G guns to photographs in a museum - after about 76 years in the ground it now works!

On one particular day, when my elder son was about a year old I tired of scratching in the old hotel and sneaked across into the fort. I wandered around with the unit in my hand and dug up an old axe from about nine inches deep after a good signal. That went to the regional museum. Then came a monster lock, probably off of one of the main gates. A while later I got a metallic reading from an area that had been paved with flat river stones. I carefully removed the stone and found that there was still a signal. I scratched very carefully, not knowing what was hiding in the sand and at about six inches started uncovering a cash box. It was one of those old, black boxes with the gold and red painted scrollwork, and it was old, very old. I was about to lift it out when my wife called that people were coming, so everything went back into the hole! The new bunch of visitors did not seem to want to leave and as it was dusk we had to go home. I went back a month later to get my Treasure, and IT WAS GONE. There was no sign that it had ever been there! No rock, even!

My parents were living on a small-holding near Mooiplaas at about the same time. My friend Lionel and his mother Mrs. Brown had introduced me to dowsing and using the forked stick. On one afternoon on the farm, my youngest brother Barry and I decided to try the forked stick or dowsing rod. As a starting point we decided to look at the newly drilled

borehole, which was not performing. There were no willow trees around so we went to the "four-corner" berry bush and selected a suitable twig. We trimmed it to size and started out. I blindfolded Barry and let him use the Y - stick. He found that the drillers had missed the main water stream by about one metre, so full flow could not be achieved. We then set off around the farm. I divined a pit with a snake curled up at the bottom! Barry then found a spot at which he said we should dig. I tried and found a strong "pull" at the same place. We started to dig, and what did we find? A cash box, old fashioned, with gold and red painted scrollwork! We were busy digging it out when my mother called us urgently, telling us to drop every thing as she needed our assistance. Much muttering later, after taking "sightings" and markers, we went inside. There was no chance to go back that evening so first thing next morning we were back, spade and all. THERE WAS NO SIGN OF WHERE WE HAD DUG THE NIGHT BEFORE! Our markers were nonexistant! We paced off from where WE imagined the markers to have been, but NO CASHBOX! Where did it go? We found out later that that had been the place where the previous owner had been found dead after having suffered a heart attack.

The next time I uncover a cashbox or ANYTHING for that matter, it stays uncovered.

This self same small holding was of great interest. There was what appeared to be a sloop or furrow along the top of the ridge running through the place, following the contours. With my little B.F.O. I uncovered a dustcap from the front wheel-bearing of a 1918 Buick (I think). While climbing up the bank of the dam wall I found something hard in my hand - a British general service button, 1835 - 45. At the far end of the farm where the sloop crossed flat rocks, were deep ruts. This "sloop" was the old wagon road to the Transkei in the 1800's! And those ruts were cut by wagon rims. At one particular spot in a field the plough would bounce out of the ground, almost as if it was being pushed up. I went there with my detector and found a white gold ring, the style of which said it dated back to the late 1700s and was probably lost by some one living there. I found that that portion was extremely rocky. A visit to the local library showed a map drawn in 1867 with the old wagonroad and a farm house on the site where I found the ring. A year later my brother in law ploughed a two metre long puff adder out of the same spot!

Enough for now and more yarns another time.

regards,

CLARENCE.

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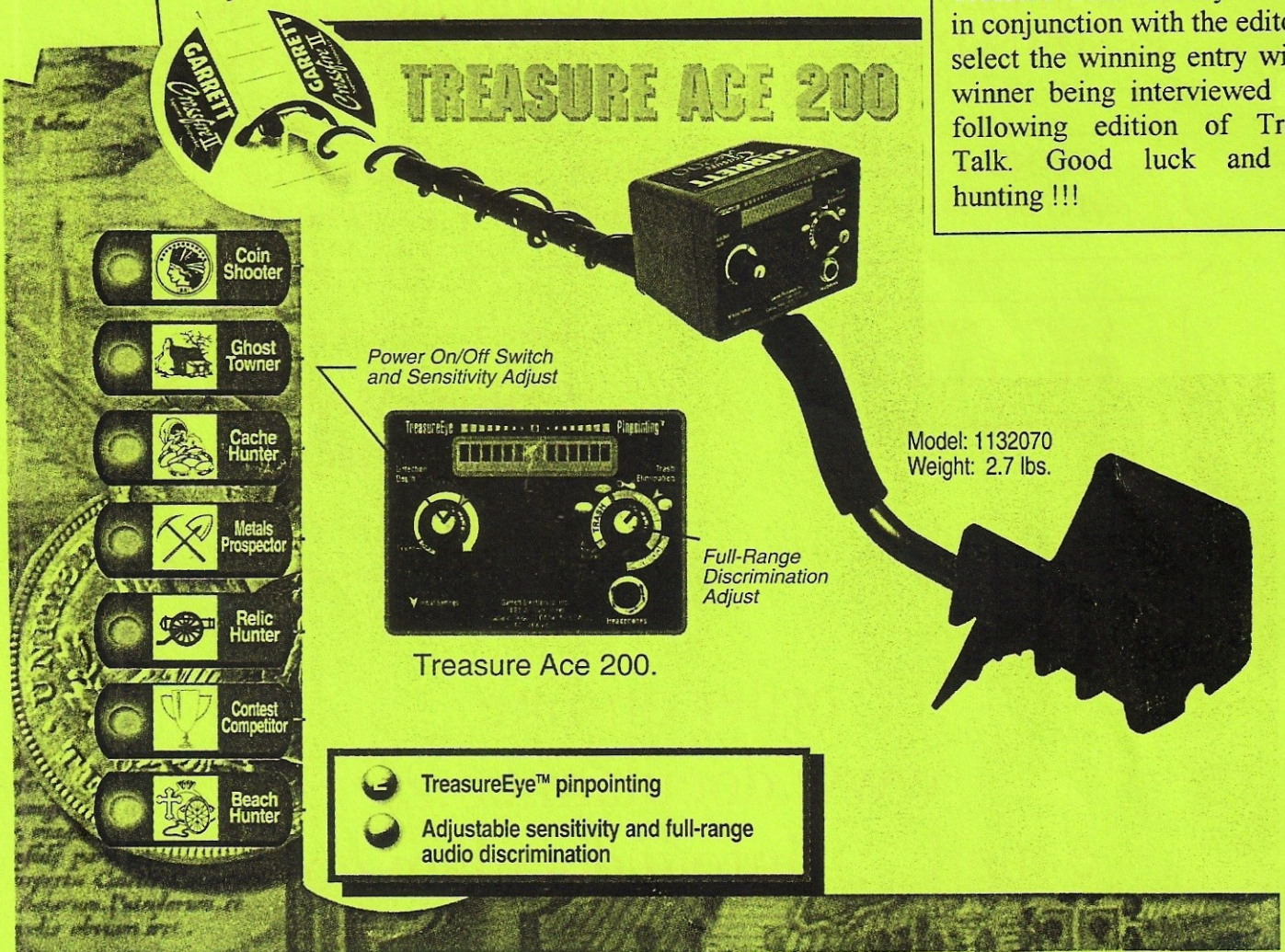
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