

SA

TREASURE

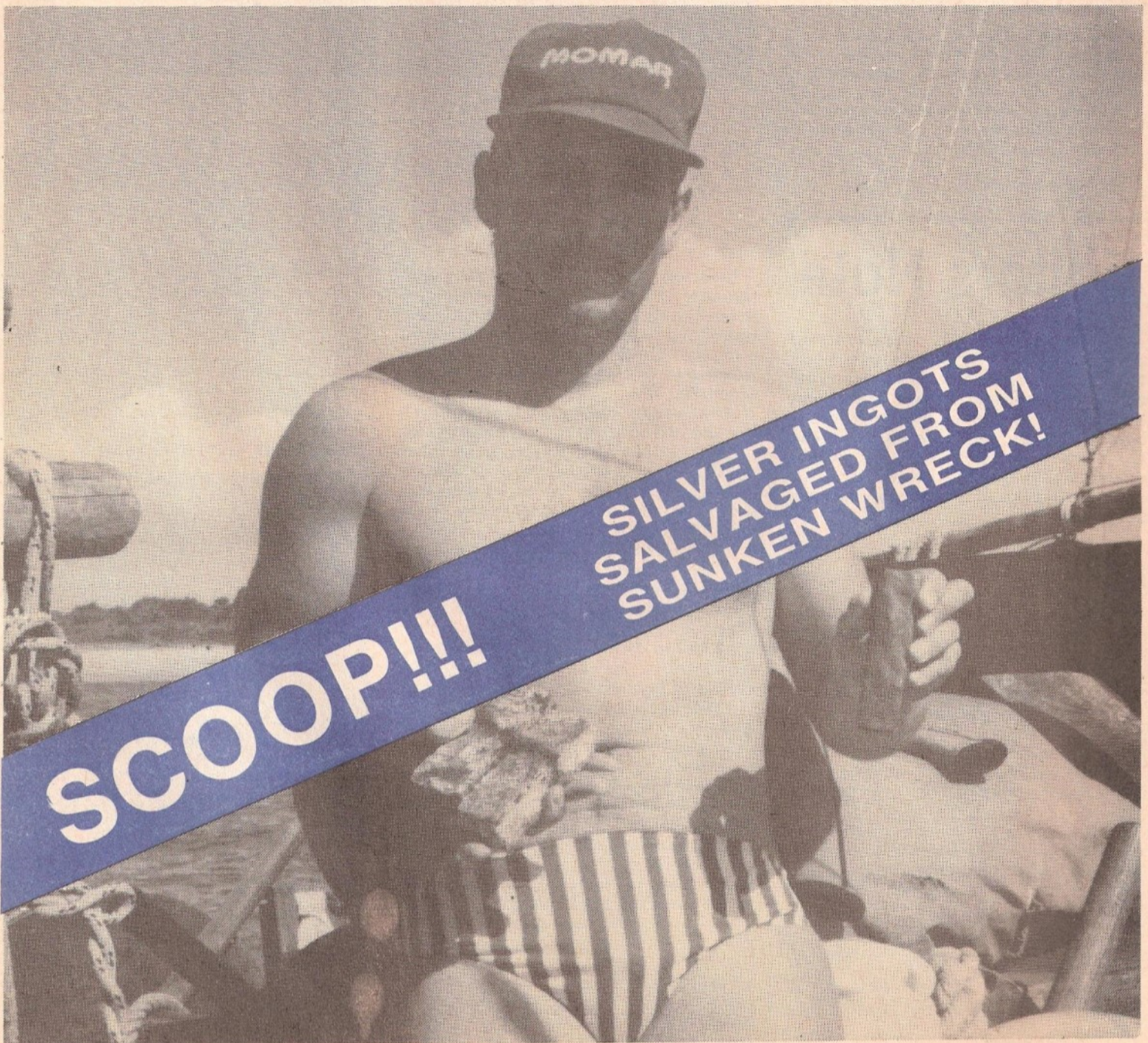
YOUR GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL SEARCH AND RECOVERY

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**SILVER INGOTS
SALVAGED FROM
SUNKEN WRECK!**

SCOOP!!!

FULL STORY AND PICTURES - PAGE 7

SA TREASURE

YOUR GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL SEARCH AND RECOVERY

Publisher: E. Beaton Esq.
Editor: J.H.R. Harris

Contents

Treasure Hunting - What's It All About	Pg. 2
Relics Of the Anglo Boer War	Pg. 3
Don't Scoff	Pg. 5
Bottle Digging	Pg. 6
Scoop The Bredenhof Bullion	Pg. 7
Test Report - The ADS 7	Pg. 10
Beachcombing	Pg. 11
Book Review	Pg. 12
SA's Coin King!	Pg. 14

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Editors Note

The introduction of S.A. Treasure to the adventurous South African market is meant to stimulate interest and excitement in our country's history and heritage. At the same time it will be shown that treasure and relic hunting can also be extremely profitable. Over the next few issues we will be examining in depth various sites and methods of exploiting them to maximum advantage.

The most important thing of all to remember is that our heritage and country is precious - So **DON'T** help to deface or destroy it!! - Digging areas **must** be left in the same condition in which they were found, - eg. fill up your holes! Don't dig on National monument sites and **always** but **always** ask the farmer or landowners permission before embarking on a project!

Treasure and relic hunting is one of the more enjoyable and healthy hobbies and is well within the range of most of our pockets.

Let us know how you are doing by dropping us a line together with photos - Who knows, your find could feature in the next issue!

Happy Hunting



John Harris
Editor



What could it be? - You never know until you find it!

Treasure Hunting - What is it all about

Mention the words treasure and treasure hunting and most people immediately think of some pirates' hoard of gold and silver coins buried on a lonely island, the finding of which is reserved for the wealthy or the eccentric.

At one time this may have been true, but the introduction of metal detectors gave a whole new meaning to these words. Treasure is now accepted as anything that has value to someone and does not necessarily have to be worth a King's ransom.

The pirates' hoard is still treasure, but so are modern coins which have been lost or buried, relics from bygone days, precious metals in their raw state, jewellery that is hidden or lost and even old bottles command respectable prices and are most certainly classed as treasure.

Although treasure hunting has always held a fascination to people over the centuries it was not always that easy to uncover without a very accurate map or a chance find. That is until the introduction of the metal detector with its electronic eye that could scan beneath the surface of the ground and give off a signal whenever metal was encountered.

It wasn't long before people realised the potential of this instrument and soon a whole new hobby had been created - treasure hunting - or "TH'ing" as it is often referred to. Because of the relatively low cost of the instrument and its extreme accuracy it meant that treasure hunting was no longer

reserved for the select few. Anyone with an adventurous spirit and the yearning to find his share of treasure could participate in this exciting new hobby.

Today people from all walks of life participate in this hobby - artists, mechanics, accountants, housewives, businessmen, retired people, backpackers, the list is endless.



Mysterious gateways to the past.

Relics Of The Anglo Boer War 1899-1902

By Dr. O.E.B. Timmermans

The Anglo Boer War of 1899 to 1902 ranks among the so called forgotten or minor wars of the world history, but few incidents of this nature have had a more profound effect on the future cultures and fate of a nation than this troubled time.

Britain expected the war to be over within six months at the most! In actual fact it lasted another two years after the fall of Pretoria.

How did the Boers manage to continue the struggle against such a formidable enemy, being outnumbered 6:1?

They invented guerrilla warfare, they used what was cheap and at their disposal - rocks, koppies, ridges, mountains and above all plain common sense of which the Boers had plenty. The majestic Magaliesberg range became their greatest ally.

Those of us who make use of that magic wand - the electronic metal detector - will find trips to the Magaliesberg interesting and rewarding.

During a search which consisted of roughly 500 trips spread over a period of 32 months, the author discovered over 100 sites of battles, skirmishes, garrisons and camps. Many of these are found near passes affording to men easy passage across the mountain range, such as Hornsnek, Silkaatsnek, Commandonek, Breedtsnek and others. Extensive fighting took place in all these areas.

Towards the end of the war, block-houses and sangars built by the British controlled these neks, and treasure hunters climbing the range will easily find their ruins.

They can expect to find military buttons, large and small, Lee-Enfield cartridge casings, an occasional Lee-Enfield cartridge, donkey shoes, heel plates ex soldier's boots, brass and iron buckles and of course the famous or perhaps infamous food tins. These are identified by the large mass of solder used in their manufacture.

Another interesting relic is the forged steel tent peg, interesting because of its excellent workmanship, date and name of manufacture punched into its surface.

A metal detector is quite essential because most relics are buried under one to two inches of soil. In the Damhoek area the author was lucky enough to find several Lee-Enfield cartridge casings where they had fallen during a skirmish over 80 years ago.

One treasure hunter, digging a hole next to the ruins of a block-house on top of the Magaliesberg near the Hartebeespoort dam discovered an ammunition box. It contained over 500 Lee-Enfield cartridges. The cordite, when ignited with a match still burns, but the cartridges failed to fire when tried in a suitable rifle.

The Boers were equipped with an assortment of rifles such as the Mauser, Martini-Henry and the

into the head. It denotes Cordite MKII throughout. Cordite was of course the new smokeless propellant of that time.

The headstamp also provides identifying marks of the manufacturers. The letter K stands for Kynoch, R & L for Royal Laboratories, Woolwich etc.

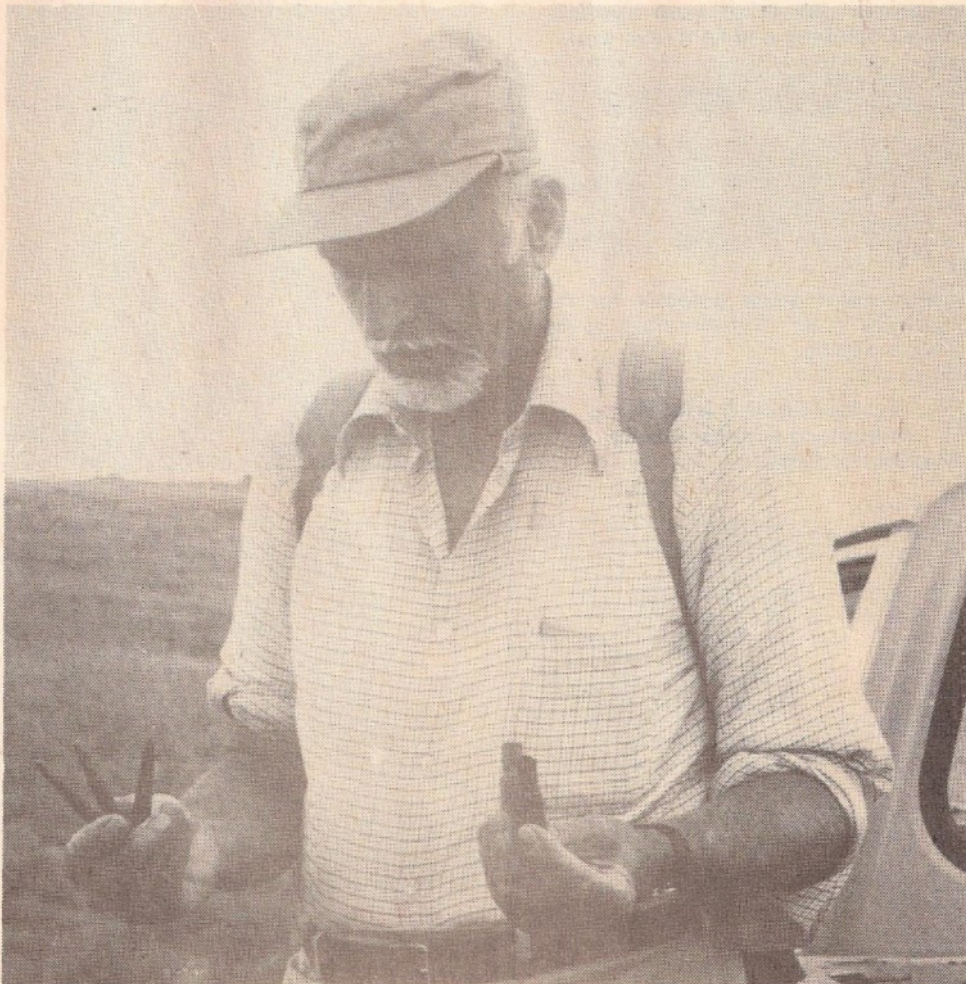
Mauser casings always give the date and many of the Martini-Henry and Guedes do so too.

It is very disappointing that after all these years, the author has found neither Victorian nor Z.A.R. coins on these war sites.

Perhaps this is not so strange in the case of the Boer Republic currency as the Boers were always on the move and carried little money, but the British had large garrisons and camps and after all the average trooper of which there were tens of thousands all earned one Royal shilling a day.

Austrian Guedes. It is not so easy to find casings of these rifles and very difficult to locate any unfired cartridges in the Magaliesberg area because the Boers were short of ammunition and took great care not to waste any.

Lee-Enfield casings show no date but can be identified by the CII stamped

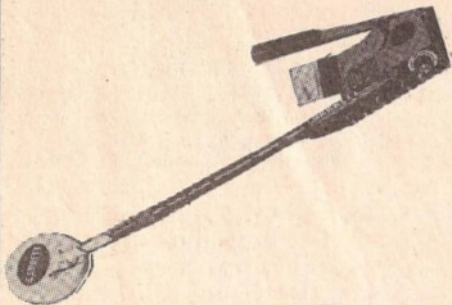


The Author holding several live cartridges and cases found on one of his many excursions.



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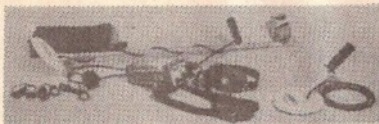
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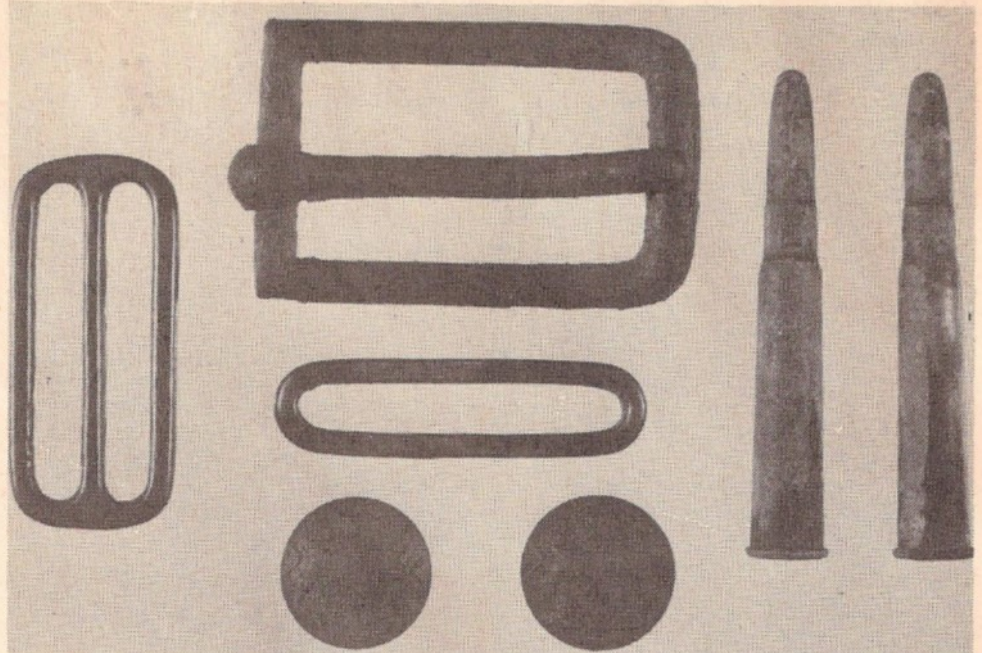
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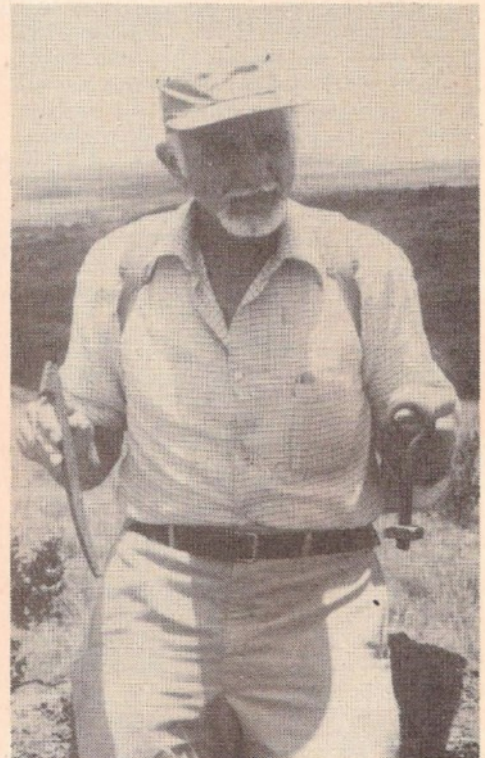
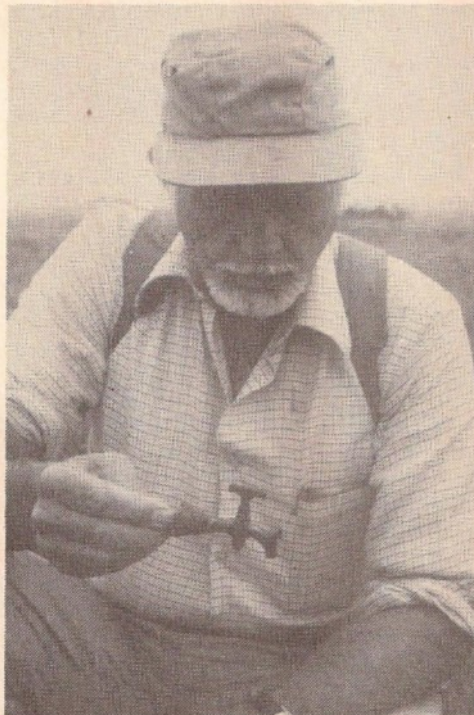
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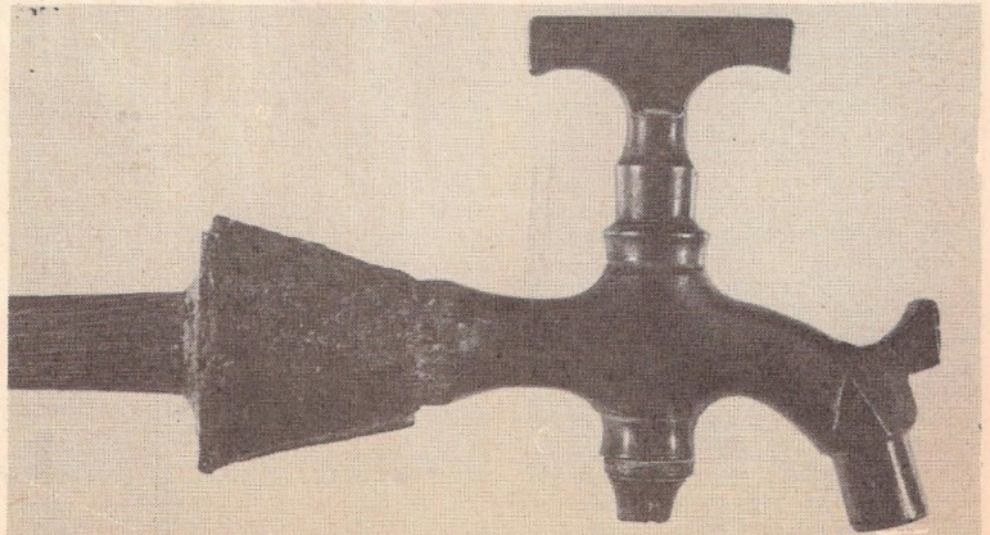
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Bullets, belt buckles and buttons.



Tent peg and eyebolt from the Magaliesburg Theatre of the war.



A rare find! - A brass barrel tap used by the military in the field.

Before you scoff at the idea of buried treasure and write it off completely, consider the following instances of treasures that have been uncovered over the years without the aid of the sophisticated instruments that are available today. Then consider also some of the treasures that still await recovery and are within easy reach of the modern metal detector. Would you say no to a tin full of gold and silver coins?

Is The Bowker Silver Still There?

If you are still sceptical about the idea of buried treasure, pause for a moment and consider some of the extraordinary finds that have been uncovered in South Africa over the decades. Bearing these in mind, one cannot dismiss the possibility of thousands of rands worth of treasure that has managed to elude treasure seekers to date, scattered deep beneath South African soil.

Ours is a young country compared to most other nations of the world, and yet a country that can boast a rich and colourful history: from the earliest trading ships wrecked along our coasts, to the costly silverware hastily buried by Dutch families fleeing from raiding tribes, to the vast amounts of money mislaid in the chaos of the

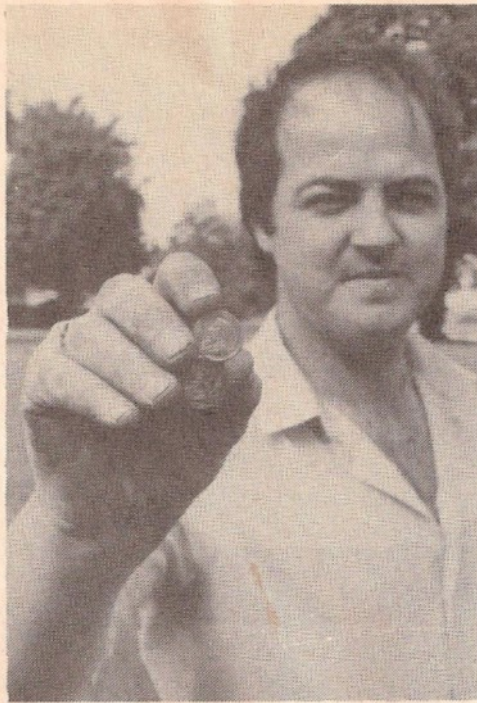
Where Did Francis Fynn Bury His Ivory Hoard?

Anglo-Boer War, the land beneath our feet has become a fascinating treasure trove.

It is every treasure hunter's dream to discover lost hoards of gold: for many, this dream has come true. In 1911 two workmen laying down the foundations of the Union Buildings on Meintjies Kop, Pretoria, uncovered two boxes filled with gleaming gold bars. As a reward they were granted half the value of their find.

Sixteen pounds' worth of gold Kruger pounds were uncovered by two blacks at Harrismith in 1949; a cooking pot crammed with Kruger gold and Victorian sovereigns was dug up at Louis Trichardt in 1951; Early in World War II a Pietermaritzburg gardener started turning over golden sovereigns and half sovereigns with his spade.

Booty from mine thefts in and around Johannesburg has often come to light years after the crimes were forgotten. A lump of amalgam worth well over a thousand pounds was dug up in the garden of the mine it was stolen from, whilst on the old Geldenhuis mine site, a curious schoolboy turned over a stone and



Solid Gold! - Two Kruger Gold Pounds found just 10cm under the soil

the treasure with the help of a farm labourer who was seen changing a Kruger sovereign in the town?

Then there is the legend of the Bowker silver that was buried in an

**1 Gold Pound Yesterday
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antbear hole in the Albany district shortly before the homestead was looted and burned - the tree marking the spot was indistinguishable among the scourged lands. And there was ivory. Somewhere along the banks of a Zululand river Henry Francis Fynn buried an enormous hoard of ivory.

And The Soldiers Never Got Their Pay!

When he returned 25 years later, he failed to locate the spot.

Treasure hunters of the past had no aids in their quest for buried treasure other than legends and tales like these and no equipment other than forks and spades. The 20th century has seen the birth of the electronic treasure hunter equipped with sophisticated metal detectors that scan the earth using electromagnetic fields. The earth can

DON'T SCOFF

!!!

found himself staring at a bar of gold.

So far we have only discussed the finds, but what of those buried treasure legends handed down from father to son? What actually happened to the bags of British military wages that were allegedly hidden up the Hattingspruit koppie when the Boers attacked, and were never heard of again? Did "Wilde" Steyn really forget where he hid his gold Kruger pounds during his years of being a British prisoner of war, or did his son uncover

The Gardiner Found The Gold!

no longer conceal its treasures from this electronic searcher; treasure hunting is no longer restricted to the dedicated explorer.

The world of metal detecting has a place for men, women and children from every walk of life - those people who know that their share of the treasure beneath the earth is only a signal away.



Two superb examples of SA's missing millions! (Left) A well preserved Gold Pound, and (Right) a very rare Kruger "Kaal Pond", unminted Gold Discs valued today at over R2000,00 each!

The Kruger Millions Where? Where? Where?



Mike Conradie with his finds, some of them a collectors dream!

How To Get Started In Bottle Digging

before you leave. Finding suitable dumps for digging relies on research. There are many ways of researching and each person develops his or her own method. The first thing to do is try and remember those rubbish dumps you used to play on as a kid. Remember the bottles you used to pot at with your catapult, the glass marbles you found? If you can remember this you already have your first site.

Listening to older people often reveals dumps that are long forgotten. Municipal officers are another source of possible sites, especially the engineers department. During excavation work for laying pipes and cables, dumps are often uncovered. Similarly civil engineering firms often uncover dumps while building roads or laying foundations for new buildings.

Every town and city have had and still have a dump site. Many mines, factories, farms and campsites are also likely areas for dump sites. Pay a visit to the library as it is a host of information to the bottle digger. River banks were often used as dumps and should not be overlooked. Keep your eyes and ears open for events that can lead to further dumps, ask other diggers, research and work together.

The proper tools make finding and retrieving bottles much easier. These are a spade, shovel, rake, garden fork and a custom made digging tool. The custom tool consists of a 1 metre length of steel rod, preferably spring steel, ± 1 cm. in diameter with a handle on one end and a slightly sharpened point on the other. This is used to probe for bottles.

There are two methods of working a dump. The first is for a dump that has not been opened and the other for one that has.

Once an unopened dump has been located, select a promising site by probing with the steel rod, with practice it is possible to tell when glass has been struck.

Dig a vertical hole until the bottom of the dump is reached. Exercise care in order not to break any bottles during the excavation. As the hole deepens layers of ash and earth will be seen, it's in the ash layers that the bottles are to be found.

The deeper the hole gets the more difficult it becomes to remove the earth and this is where a bucket and rope come in handy. The hole will require widening as it becomes deeper to avoid the walls from collapsing. If you feel that it is not possible to go further without a cave in then fill in the hole and start another one.

No two holes are the same. One may yield hundreds of bottles while the other will be dry, if you hit a dry hole you just have to try again at another spot. Perseverance in this hobby yields large dividends. Once a hole has played out refill it to avoid people or animals from falling in and sustaining injuries. This is particularly important

• Continued on Page 13

Bottle digging is a fast growing hobby that attracts people from all walks of life. Some people do it for the pleasure of collecting old bottles while others do it for profit. Old bottles command good prices at flea markets, auctions and at antique shops, some of the rarer types fetching hundreds of Rands.

Getting started in the hobby is easy, all that's needed is an old dump site, readily available tools, lots of elbow grease and some common sense. Digging for bottles can be as safe or as dangerous as you decide to make it. Mike Conradie, a dedicated and successful bottle digger, has sound advice to offer any one contemplating this interesting hobby.

- 1) Obtain permission from the landowner before starting a dig.
- 2) Digging for bottles can be extremely dangerous, so caution and alertness must be exercised at all times.
- 3) Do not dig alone, where possible a digging party must consist of at least two people.
- 4) A compact first aid Kit can come in handy for blisters, and any cuts from rusty metal or broken glass. Serious diggers should consider having a tetanus injection. Precautions against snake and insect bites should also be taken.
- 5) Don't drink and dig. Alcohol and digging don't mix.
- 6) Wear comfortable protective clothing. A one piece overall, gloves and sturdy footwear are good protective items.
- 7) Take along enough clean water for drinking and washing any possible wounds.
- 8) Historical sites and National Monuments must be left as they are.
- 9) Tidy up the area


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YOUR GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL SEARCH AND RECOVERY

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The Bredehof Bullion

The Dutch East India Company, commonly called V.O.C. (Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie), sent out hundreds of ships in the 17th and 18th century to trade in the East. This giant conglomerate despatched vast fortunes in gold and silver around the African continent and through the perilous Indian Ocean to the company's headquarters in Batavia.

The V.O.C. was divided into six chambers: Amsterdam, Zeeland, Rotterdam, Delft, Hoorn and Enkhuizen.

In September 1752 the Dutch Council of Seventeen of the V.O.C. ordered the Chamber Zeeland to send the "Bredehof" via Ceylon to Bengal. The "Bredehof", built in 1746 was a vessel of 136 feet and 800 ton. The voyage to Bengal would be the third and last of the "Bredehof" to the East Indies. In the year 1752 the Chamber Zeeland not only lost the "Wapen van Hoorn", but also the famous "Geldermalsen". In the year 1753 the Chamber would suffer another loss: the "Bredehof".

The ships "Kasteel van Tilburg" and "Zuiderburg" of the Chamber Amsterdam were also sent to Bengal. The three ships left Holland at separate times, carrying with them bar silver, gold ducatoons and copper

Duiten to the value of 1,100,000 Guilders. This specie was split among the three ships.

The "Bredehof's" cargo manifest was listed as 14 vaatjes with copper duiten and 30 chests with silver and gold. This was made up of 29 chests of bar silver, valued at 300,000 guilders, and the chest of 5,000 gold ducatoons, valued at 25,000 guilders. The silver was set apart for Bengal to be minted into silver Rupees. The alloy of the silver bars was 11 penn.: 20 gr. and means 98.6% pure silver. One bar weighed 8 mark or 1,96 kilo. The value of one bar was about 208 guilders. Therefore the total value of the silver bars carried by the "Bredehof" in 29 chests (50 per chest, making 1450 bars), was approximately 301,600 guilders. The total weight of bar silver was approximately 2842 (1450 x 1.96 kilo).

The "Bredehof" sailed from Zeeland on December 31st. 1752 and arrived at the Cape on April 11th. 1753. Of the 260 men on board the ship, six were dead and nine were sick. At the Cape the "Bredehof" loaded 38 tons of wheat and some wine for Ceylon. Two weeks later she sailed from the Cape, but never reached the port of destination.

some cargo, ballast and lastly the cannons overboard. This was still not enough. They then set out the life boat and barge to drop the two anchors and tried to winch the ship off the reef. The despair was complete when the anchors parted and the boat and barge drifted ashore. They were then left to the mercy of the elements. A gale was blowing from the South East and the waves were breaking right over the ship.

On the 8th June the Quartermaster left with 20 others on the life-boat and sailed to shore. On the 11th June the ship started breaking up. At that moment the Captain and ships council decided to throw overboard 14 chests of silver through a hole made by the ruddertrunk in the stern. They did not mark the spot with any buoys, as the chests lay in 3 fathoms of water and could be seen easily from the surface.

The boat returned to the "Bredehof" to collect some of the crew. Pieter Bakker, the first mate, and two sailors managed to swim through the monstrous waves and were picked up by the boat. After another abortive attempt to rescue some of the crew, the lifeboat sailed to the Commore Island in the Mocambique Channel.

The Captain and the rest of the crew made rafts and sailed to the shore. He carried with him the gold ducatoons in five bags. On shore they found the barge, which had run aground. They also found the Quartermaster, murdered on the beach. Later one of the bags with gold was stolen, but most of it was recovered. In three separate groups, less than 200 men, they started making their way northwards towards Mocambique.

Two and a half months later they arrived at the settlement having suffered heavy casualties. Half of them

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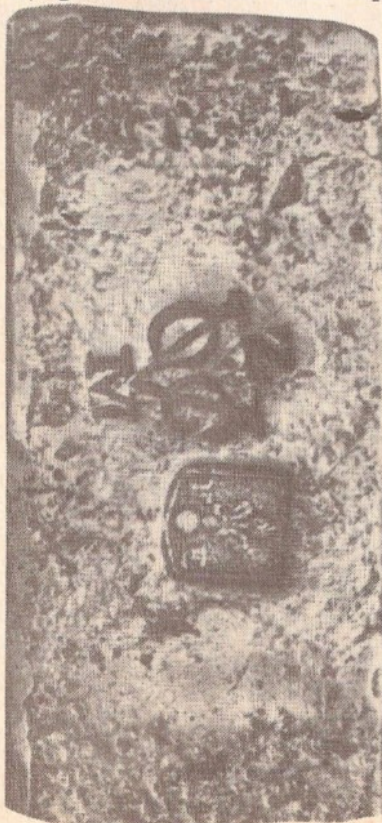
The History

In calm conditions, but as a result of treacherous counter currents, the "Bredehof" was wrecked on a reef 13 miles from the east coast of Africa and about 120 miles south of Mocambique, the Portuguese settlement on the African coast. This tragedy took place on June 6th. 1753.

The story became quite fascinating when, out of desperation, the captain and the ship's council decided to throw overboard this vast fortune in bar silver, to eliminate plundering by the rest of the crew and by "other nations".

One can imagine the concern shown by the Dutch Council of Seventeen when the first survivors arrived back in Holland and told them of this dreadful story. It is evident that the Council was desperate to salvage as much as possible of the bar silver.

Whilst interviewing two survivors from the wreck the Council was told of the utter desperation the crew faced. In the early hours of the morning on June 6th the ship drifted on a dangerous reef. To lighten the ship they jettisoned



Top view of Silver Ingot.



Bottom view of Silver Ingot found as part of the Bredehof Bullion.

• Continued from Page 7

died on this difficult journey. Four survivors of the "Bredenhof" went back to the reef where the ship wrecked, but could not see anything of the vessel any longer.

In the Portuguese fort of Mocambique, Captain Jan Nielsen of the wrecked ship "Bredenhof" placed the gold ducatoons in safe custody with the Portuguese Governor. The survivors managed to catch a lift on Portuguese ships to Brazil and then on

The First Salvage Attempt

The group with the first mate Pieter Bakker, managed to get a lift on the Swedish ship "Prins Karel" from the Commore Islands to Surat in India.

In January 1754 the "Jonge Suzanna" was sent from Surat to Mocambique to collect crew members of the "Bredenhof" and to see if any of the chests with silver were salvaged. Pieter Bakker was sent back on the "Jonge Suzanna" to show the way and to point out where the precious chests with silver were. This salvage vessel arrived at the scene of the wreck on the 5th March 1754, eight months after the tragic event. A day before, they met a Portuguese vessel, whose captain informed them that their trip was in vain as other Portuguese ships had already searched for the "Bredenhof" and now nothing of the wreck could be seen. In spite of this information they sent out a small boat to search the reef. The sea was exceptionally clear and they could see everything on the bottom. They saw an anchor and some cannons, but no sign of the chests with silver. They suspected that everything recoverable, including the silver bars, must have been salvaged. They looked no further and made their way to Mocambique to collect the survivors of the "Bredenhof". In Mocambique they heard that the survivors already sailed with the Portuguese ships to Brazil. The "Jonge Suzanna" sailed back to Surat where she arrived in June 1754.

to Holland. Captain Nielsen died as the "St. Franciscus", on which he sailed as a passenger, approached the Southern tip of Africa, Cape Agulhas. Before he died he gave the log book of the "Bredenhof" to Pieter Rossenauw and Pieter Williamszoon. It was these two men, who suffered such terrible hardships, who reported to the Council of Seventeen.

The Second Salvage Attempt

The first survivors of the "Bredenhof" arrived in Holland in June 1754. The "Heren XV11", were unaware of the salvage expedition of the "Jonge Suzanna" from Surat. The Council decided to send a salvage vessel from the Cape, especially to recover as much of the silver bars as possible. The instructions to the Captain of the "Schuilenberg" was to proceed with the first favourable winds to the site of the wrecking of the "Bredenhof" and to bring up the chests of silver, cannons and anchors.

If he was able to salvage at least two or more chests of silver he was to sail to the Cape. If he found less than that he was to sail to Madagascar and trade for slaves.

On the 22nd of April 1755, almost two years after the wrecking of the "Bredenhof", the "Schuilenberg" left the Dutch settlement at Cape Town. There was already considerable confusion as to where the ship went down. According to the instruction they were to sail to Latitude 20 degrees 10'. This was 200 miles south of the original site where the "Bredenhof" had gone down.

On board was Pieter Roosengaw and Jonasz, two survivors from the "Bredenhof", who were sent to the Cape for this salvage expedition. When the "Schuilenberg" arrived at the latitude indicated they informed the Captain that this was the wrong area.

Having spent a considerable amount of time in the vain search for the wreck, they decided to head northwards to Mocambique. They interviewed some

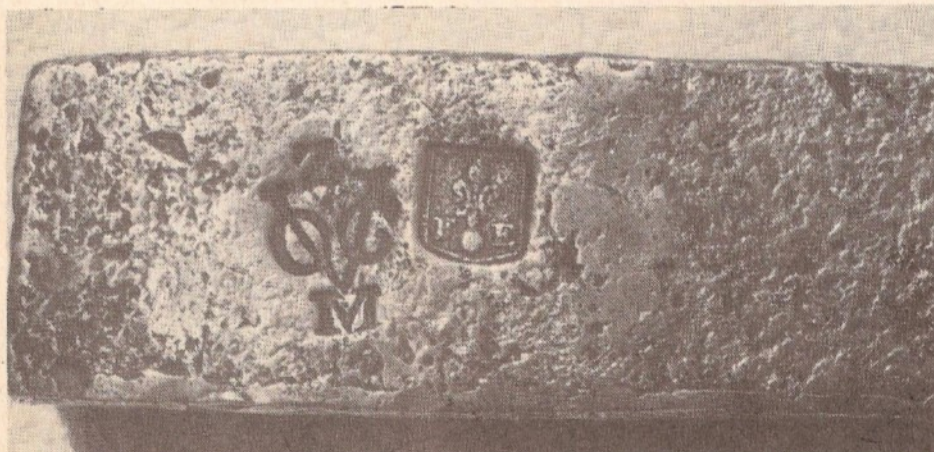


Treasure! Every boy's

Portuguese captains and found them evasive. They also noted that the Portuguese charts of the area greatly differed from their charts. There they heard many stories about the "Bredenhof".

The Portuguese accused the natives of salvaging and stealing the silver bars. They implied also that the first salvage expedition from Surat recovered four chests of silver and the great anchor. The ships council of the "Schuilenberg" suspected that both the natives and the Portuguese had brought up everything of value. Having heard of the salvage expedition of the "Jonge Suzanna" they decided that a longer stay at the coast of Mocambique was unnecessary. They continued to Madagascar and successfully traded for slaves.

The "Schuilenberg" eventually arrived back at the Cape on the 7th of January 1756 and a detailed report of the unsuccessful salvage expedition was sent to the Council of Seventeen in Holland.



Enlarged section of Ingot showing clearly the mint stamp and the insignia of the Dutch East India Company.



...ns?) dream come true.

ferrous metals underwater, when a huge wave appeared out of nowhere. The wave tilted the inflatable boat, threw all of us overboard, and completely swamped the boat. We all feared for our expensive electronic equipment and managed to climb on board again and inch our way out of the dangerous swells. Fortunately we were able to save and salvage most of our equipment and we were able to restore it again to working condition. The very next day we received a signal from our magnetometer. The water unfortunately was far too dirty to see anything on the bottom and we had to wait another 3 days before the water cleared. Within 10 minutes of entering the water the first shriek of victory was heard. Tommy, one of the divers, found a small sliver of silver in the middle of a shallow sandy gully lying there, all by itself, for over 200 years. Nothing else was found in this immediate vicinity, but we knew we were on the right track".

A short while later they found a small anchor and the biggest surprise of all, hundreds of Silver Ingots lying on top of large flat rocks and in shallow sandy gulleys. A short distance away a huge block of silver ingots fused together and weighing over 120 kilos. A little further another chest of silver with 50 ingots fused together.

"We lay down a grid of bright yellow rope and started surveying and charting the area. We were surprised at the lack of cannons and anchors and were being plagued by dirty water and very strong currents: The tidal difference is 3 to 4 meters. We found another cannon and a large quantity of copper coins, Duiten, all marked 1752 and from the Zeeland mint scattered all over the place. A few blocks of iron pig ballast were found, some lead sounding weights and a pewter plate lying next to one of the cannons.

We were now worried about the lack of cannons in the area and, what about the anchors that had been thrown off to enable the survivors to winch the stricken vessel out of her perrilous position?"

They continued surveying the area and 5 days later and 15 miles away were able to complete the story on the "Bredenhof".

They received another reading from the magnetometer and went down and found a big clump of 13 iron cannons lying in a depression in the reef. It was obvious that, once the "Bredenhof" was trapped in the crater on the reef, no amount of winching could get her off. A little further out to sea they found the main anchor broken at the stem. This was a very strange site especially when one considers how particular the early Dutch were in the construction of ships and anchors; this anchor should not have broken. The Dutch used to test the strength of a newly forged anchor by hoisting it up with a block and tackle and dropping it on a cannon. Unless the anchor survived the exercise without a crack, it would not be sent out to sea.

They found more copper duiten marked 1752 as well as some iron pig ballast blocks.

"We searched the area thoroughly and no silver ingots were found. It made us wonder who it was that was able to salvage the chests soon after the wrecking. Was it the natives who were able to dive down and pick up the silver or was it the old Portuguese captains who plundered the wreck?"

"One thing is for sure, part of the wreck drifted off and snagged 15 miles away and our modern day salvage team was able to pick up part of the silver cargo and copper coins. We intend going back to the area and completing the excavation of the wreck.

The Third and Successful Salvage Attempt

A Cayman Islands company contracted with Captain Klaar to set out and salvage and "Bredenhof". The salvage team set out on a Chinese Junk on 29 May 1986, having carried out extensive research.

They were greatly troubled by the confusion surrounding the incident and the accusations made about the subsequent salvage attempts. However they felt sure that there was still a chance of finding some silver lying amongst the bones of the wreck.

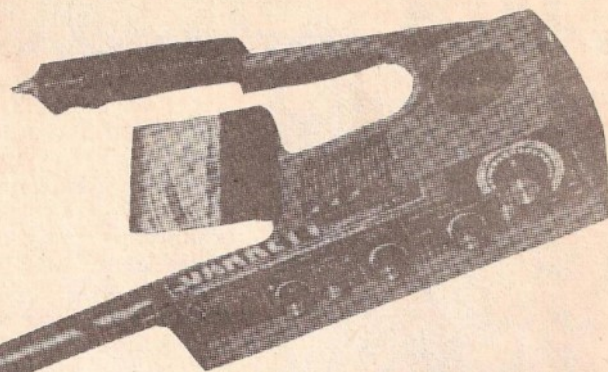
They decided to survey all the offshore reefs in the area. After checking one area and having found nothing, they moved off to the next likely area and, within a very short period of time, they nearly had to abandon the entire expedition.

"We had been using a sophisticated magnetometer, which is able to detect



The "Maria Jose", A Stout Chinese Junk used by the team to locate the treasure.

The Garrett Master Hunter 7



Advanced Detection System

- a breakthrough
for modern
treasure
hunters



The introduction of the Garrett Master Hunter 7 ADS metal detector has set new standards in the metal detector industry. Universal capabilities, extreme detection depth, ease of use and accurate target identification systems are amongst its unique features.

The Garrett Master Hunter 7 ADS is the answer for all those people who don't want limitations placed on their treasure hunting by their equipment. Advanced metal detector design ensures that the 7 ADS excels at all treasure hunting activities, beachcombing, coin hunting, relic hunting, cache hunting and prospecting.

Using the Garrett Master Hunter 7 ADS is extremely easy. The new automatic ground elimination



circuitry has made the operation of this sophisticated metal detector so easy that even a complete novice can operate it successfully. This allows the user to concentrate on the search while the metal detector does all the adjustments required to keep itself perfectly tuned. In fact many beginners start finding coins on their first outing, something that can take weeks or months to accomplish on detectors that do not have this feature.

This circuitry works equally well inland over highly mineralized soil or on wet beach sand that normally plays havoc with metal detectors. The lack of this feature has caused much disappointment when improperly adjusted metal detectors have cost

their owners literally thousands of Rands as they walked right over articles they were searching for.

The Coin Alert and classification meter accurately determine if the metal detector has found treasure or junk, thus saving many hours of wasted time digging up worthless items.

As soon as a coin, item of silver or refined gold is detected the Coin Alert responds with an unmistakable bell tone, that produces a ringing or echo effect. This system has proven so successful it has been dubbed the sound of money.

Other items of lower conductivity produce a normal short sound. As these form the marginal targets the classification meter is used to determine the desirability of the target.

The meter classifies targets according to their conductivity, low conductivity items like nails and pulltabs read out on the left hand side of the meter while high conductivity items read out on the right hand side of the meter. This meter is accurate enough to enable even the type of coin to be indicated.

The depth of coins can be measured before digging, the depth is indicated on the meter. This information can be important as careless probing can result in a scratched coin thus losing much of its value.

There is also a trash elimination control mounted on the panel that allows the metal detector to be set so that it does not give a reaction when it passed over the particular item that it has been set to eliminate. This control is variable and can be set from full acceptance of all metals to the elimination of nails, bottle tops, pull tabs, aluminium coldrink tops and other junk items.

Finding coins and other valuables is easier than it sounds. When the detector is switched on it automatically checks the batteries, a flick of the handle mounted Master Control switch to the right and the automatic ground elimination circuit is operative, and the search is on. From now on all operations are conveniently controlled by the Master Control switch that is located in the end of the handle within easy reach of a persons thumb.

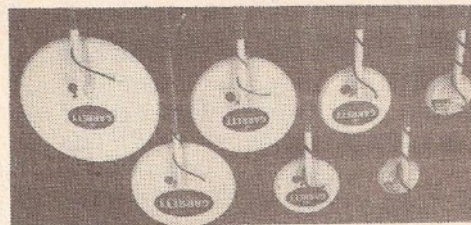
When a sound is received it will either be the Coin Alert sound which

means you start digging or it may be the normal audio sound. In this case a glance at the meter will tell you if it's worth digging. Should you want to measure coin depth hold the handle switch to the left as you take one sweep over the target, the depth will be indicated on the meter. The last step before digging is pin pointing, this allows you to zero in on the object, hold the coil over the target and momentarily press the Master Control switch in the handle to the left and release, the previously wide sound has now diminished to a pin point making the location of the object easy.

Of course during your search, objects that had been set to be eliminated via the trash elimination control on the panel will not cause any sound reaction when they are scanned over. The meter however still works, indicating the different objects as you scan over them.

The automatic ground elimination mode has proven extremely successful for coin hunting, beachcombing and light relic work.

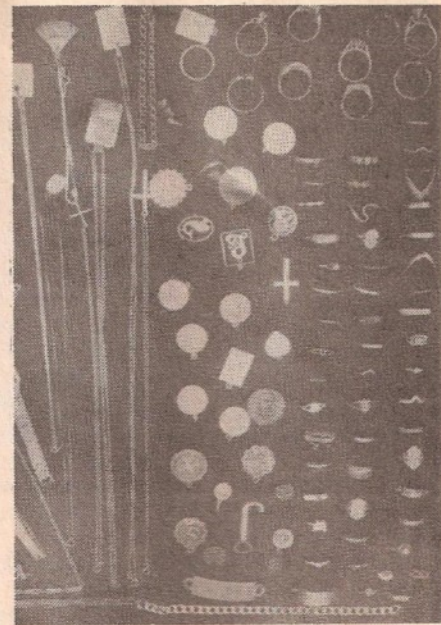
When it comes to searching for caches, relics and alluvial gold which require extreme depth penetration, the manual all metal very low frequency mode is used. A flick of the Master Control switch to the left activates this mode which is capable of finding objects to depths of 4 metres with the optional depth multiplier attachment. Before searching in this mode the metal detector is first set to eliminate the ground mineralization via a control on the panel.



Although the Garrett Master Hunter 7 ADS comes standard with a 7 1/2" coil it has the ability to accept a complete range of interchangeable waterproof coils from 3 1/2" dia. to 14" dia. to suit all types of treasure hunting applications.

Whether you are a serious treasure hunter or beginner the universal capabilities, extreme depth, ease of use and accurate identification systems of the Garrett Master Hunter 7 ADS metal detector will prove themselves invaluable as you seek out your treasures.

Beachcombing - The Bank Is Always Open!



A vast fortune in money, jewellery, watches and other valuables totalling hundreds of thousands of Rands are waiting to be recovered from beaches. Over the decades the beaches have become an underground bank which is growing larger with each holiday season.

Beachcombers have been dipping into this bank beneath the sands for years, retrieving coins, rings and much more. Some beachcombers retrieve so many coins that they no longer count them but weigh them instead. Coins are not the only things being retrieved, watches, chains, rings and other valuables are also found in abundance.

Beachcombing is not new, its been practiced for years by people using little more than their eyes to spot the wealth as it becomes uncovered by wind and sea. The problem with this method is that for every item picked up there are countless more just out of sight beneath the sand.

The guardians of this bank, the sand, wind and sea, do not give up their wealth easily. To be successful requires the right combination which includes choosing the right beach, the right equipment, knowing how to use the equipment and being prepared to persevere.

Choosing a beach is not that difficult. It's really just a matter of finding out which ones are the most popular, the more popular a beach the better your chances are.

Beaches that are serviced by vendors encourage people to take money to the beach to spend, so that these beaches generally have more coins lost than on beaches where no such service is offered.

Swimming patterns change and this can also influence the finds that are made. A beach that is deserted today may have been very popular decades ago. These older beaches can offer more because they have been searched less and also produce older finds.

The choice of a metal detector is

critical as it is imperative to be able to work both the dry and wet sand areas for the greatest success. The dry sand does not present much of a problem and most detectors can be made to work this area, it is the wet sand however that produces the greatest problem. The reason being that when the beach sand becomes wet, as between the high and low tide mark, it is conductive and makes operation of a metal detector extremely difficult if not impossible unless the metal detector is of a type that can ignore this ground effect.

The two types of metal detector that can do this most successfully are the new automatic ground eliminating metal detectors and the pulse induction type. The new automatic ground cancelling detectors such as the Garrett Freedom Ace contain the very latest technology and have proven themselves to be highly successful on the beach, often outperforming far more expensive equipment.

The popularity of these detectors can be appreciated when total strangers to beachcombing start finding coins and other valuables on their very first outing. One Durban beachcomber who decided to buy one of these detectors recovered the cost of the machine within a year with the items he found.

The other advantage of this type of detector is that it can also be used successfully for other treasure hunting activities such as coin and relic hunting.

Perseverance plays a major role in the results that are achieved. Contrary to what some people may tell you beachcombing is not a get rich quick hobby. There are those who have been fortunate and struck it lucky almost on the first time out but don't bank on doing the same. It's been proven time and again that consistency is the key.

One persistent beachcomber had only a few cents to show for four consecutive evenings searching, enough to convince many to give up. The next night he was down at the

beach again when he hit the jackpot, four rings in the space of a few minutes.

When people hear of these success stories they find it hard to believe that the beach can keep producing coins and jewellery year after year.

The secret is that more people come to the beach every year and together with the shifting sands and tides, objects are being continuously covered and uncovered. The more people go to the beach the more that is lost. When you think about it there are many ways in which coins and jewellery are lost. You more than likely have lost something at the beach yourself.

Loose change can fall out of a pocket when a handkerchief or keys are removed from the pocket, they can also get lost when people change or make a purchase from a beach vendor. The sand being soft, there is no sound to alert the person to the lost items. Playing games on the beach is another cause of lost items. Suntan oil causes many rings to easily slip off fingers adding to the many lost items on a beach.

Choosing the right time of day is also important. Most people go in the early morning or evening when it's quiet and they won't get disturbed. Going during a hot day with lots of people on the beach is not good planning. Most of the area you want to search is covered with sunbathers, and trying to work in between everyone is not considered very good manners. Notwithstanding the fact that the beach inspectors will ask you to leave the beach.

Any valuable items like gold and diamond rings that are found should be handed in at a police station. If they are not claimed within three months the articles becomes the property of the finder.

If you decide to open an account at the beach remember to use the right combination - research, equipment, perseverance and a respect for other peoples use of the beach and you will always find the bank open.

The Advanced Handbook on Modern Metal Detectors

The Advanced Handbook of Modern Metal Detectors is the most comprehensive book available on metal detectors. The demand for this book has been so great that it is already into its second printing scarcely a year after being released.

Its 544 pages contain 31 chapters, 12 tables, 50 illustrations and 150 photographs that cover just about everything anyone needs to know about metal detectors.

Everything from the history to the operation and selection of metal detectors for every possible application is covered in a thorough yet easy to understand style that encourages even the non technically inclined person to learn more about their detector.

One of the strengths of the book is that it deals with the principles on which metal detectors operate rather than any particular brand of detector.

Do you know what to look for when you buy a metal detector? or the best way to operate it? Just turn to chapter 22, How to Choose and Use The Correct Metal Detector, and chapter 23, Operator: Know Your Metal Detector. The advice contained in these two chapters alone are worth many times the value of the book.

If you want to know how a metal detector works, how ground minerals affect metal detectors, how a metal detector can tell whether a buried object is trash or treasure its all in the book. It also explains the basic principles of metal detector operation, their advantages and disadvantages and which are best suited for which application. This information is important in choosing a metal detector

for a particular task as it could mean the difference between success or failure.

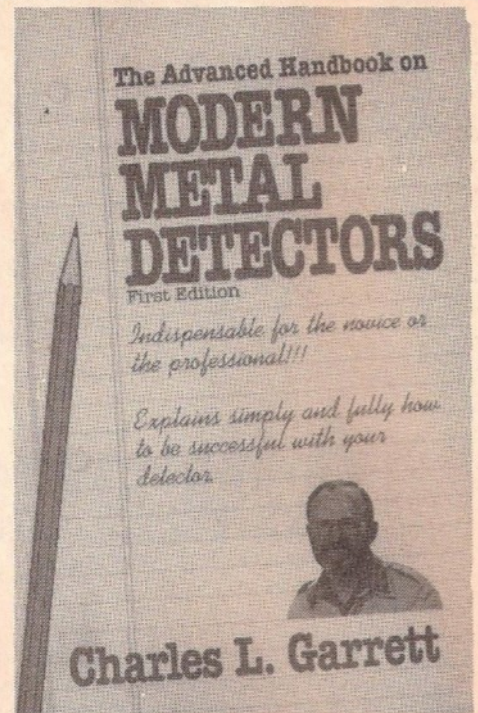
What ever your use for a metal detector, be it coin hunting, beachcombing, relic hunting, cache hunting or prospecting. The Advanced Handbook on Modern Metal Detectors will give all the necessary information on setting and using your detector for maximum performance.

If you already own a metal detector there are many aspects of your detector that are explained that you will never even find in your operators manual. Irrespective of the kind of detector you operate the principle on which it operates is fully covered.

Audio threshold and correct ground elimination are two aspects that are critical to metal detector operation, and yet it is right here that so many detector users come unstuck. If these controls are not set correctly you could walk straight over a fortune and not know it. Its the information dealing with such important principles of metal detector operation that make this book so valuable.

In South Africa there are many people who are looking for caches of money, much of which was buried during the Boer War and is today worth a small fortune.

These caches are often buried deeply and in ground that makes their detection difficult. When there is hundreds of thousands or maybe even millions of Rands are at stake you can't afford wasting time on the wrong equipment. The chapters on the VLF Metal Detector Short Course and Metal Detector Searchcoils could save cache



hunters a fortune before they even start searching.

Whatever your reason for using a metal detector and irrespective of how long you've been at it, The Advanced Handbook of Modern Metal Detectors will help you understand how your instrument works and contribute greatly to your enjoyment of your hobby.

This book is highly recommended to everyone who has an interest in metal detectors.

R19,95

How To Successfully Choose And Use A Modern Metal Detector

The Advanced Handbook on
MODERN METAL DETECTORS
First Edition

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Explains simply and fully how to be successful with your detector.



Charles L. Garrett

Beachcombers, coinhunters, wreck divers, security personnel, relic hunters, prospectors, cache hunters - Modern Metal Detectors is for everyone who is thinking of buying a metal detector or already owns one.

Modern Metal Detectors is full of practical information that is essential to the successful operation of metal detectors. Here is a small sampling of how you can benefit.

- Increase your finds with the correct searchcoil overlapping technique that is illustrated on Page 356.
- Do you know what to look for when choosing a metal detector? read the 7 selection checkpoints on page 329 and avoid costly mistakes.
- One of the most common scanning mistakes that causes finds to be missed is illustrated on page 354, do you make the same mistakes?
- Should you operate your detector with a slight audio threshold or silent? pages 164 and 165 tell you what you need to know.
- Are you using the correct searchcoil? The Searchcoil Selection Chart on page 140 will tell you in an instant.

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on farms. The farmer won't be impressed if his prized animals have to be put down because of your negligence.

Dumps are sometimes opened by brick companies requiring the ash for their manufacturing process.

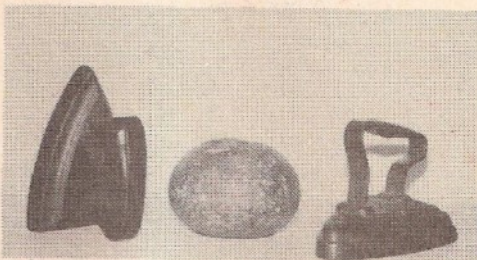
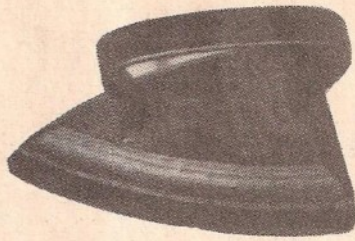
Digging this type of dump is much easier as you can start at ground level. Select your spot and dig into the face of the dump, creating a hole of approximately a half a metre deep by a half a metre high.

Do not try to go more than a metre at a time into the wall of the dump as the weight above the hole could cause it to cave in on top of you, remember safety is the rule. Having dug a safe distance into the dump and retrieved any bottles present the next step is to start caving in the hole in a controlled fashion. Stand clear of the hole you have just dug and start loosening the earth above the hole. This is the easy part of finding bottles as the earth falls to the bottom of the hole revealing bottles as you work your way to the top of the dump. Once the top is reached, clear the rubble taking extra care to remove the broken bottles and rusty metal as far away as possible from the work place. It pays to start as close as possible to the original ground level as this is where the oldest bottles will be found.

When a bottle is located the ash which can be extremely hard must be carefully removed until the bottle is loose, then and only then remove the bottle by hand. Many valuable bottles have been broken by not loosening them properly, much to the disappointment of the finder.

Bottles of all shapes and sizes are to be found, some are valuable and others quite common. The different types of bottle to be found include marble stoppered bottles, many with embossing on the side, stoneware ginger bottles, beer bottles, earthenware casks, different coloured poison bottles, ink bottles of different shapes, the old familiar caster oil bottle, coconut oil, and wine bottles to name a few.

Bottles are not the only finds made while digging a dump. Pot lids, clay



Not only bottles are found but also examples of pre-electricity days come out of the most unlikely places!

pipes, porcelain dolls, glasses, copper licence disks and other odds and ends are also to be found.

During the last 11 months Mike has accumulated over 250 bottles, although he says the greatest excitement occurs when objects you don't expect to find in a dump are unearthed. Like the two American Airforce buttons, 1913 bicycle licence, the back of a fob watch and silver spoons that have come to light.

Anyone wanting to find out more about the hobby should investigate purchasing "Bottles and Bygones" by Ethleen and Al Lastovica, a book dealing with dump digging in South Africa.



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Dave Banfield - South Africa's Coin King



DAVE BANFIELD'S interest in treasure hunting goes back almost 40 years - to his school days, when he would watch the sea surrendering lost treasures back on the shore. At the time of the spring tides, Dave and his schoolmates could be found outside their school, running down the steep incline, in the hope of retrieving shiny coins, bullets and other war remnants before the waves washed them back.

Some time later, after the war, an advertisement for surplus army mine detectors attracted Dave's attention and he bought himself his first detector. Unfortunately no instruction

booklet or maintenance manual were supplied and therefore, not being able to operate the machine to its full potential, Dave gave up after three months, greatly discouraged.

His instinct for treasure hunting lay dormant for more than 20 years after that, only stirring again after he befriended a dealer in metal detectors who sold him a variety of books on the subject. Fully informed this time, Dave bought a Garrett ADS2 - and never looked back.

"At first I searched for relics from 'old Durban'," said Dave, "but I found

so many coins that I decided to put together a collection of old pre-1961 sterling coins."

Not limiting his treasure hunting to the coast, Dave went inland to places where major events in South African history took place. He visited the scene of the siege of Ladysmith three times and uncovered a wealth of old army badges, buckles, helmet spikes, bullets and "swaggerstick" tips.

Dave has since purchased a Garrett Master Hunter 7 ADS with which he is reworking all the parks with great success. A third metal detector also joined the team and has been modified to work in lagoons and tidal pools.

To fellow treasure hunters and park attendants alike, Dave is known to be a very neat worker. "I don't like making big holes," he said, "and I always make sure to replace the grass so that the area looks undisturbed." He expressed concern over the state that some metal detector users leave the parks, saying that such irresponsibility gave metal detecting a bad reputation.

Coming into contact with a number of different people during his treasure hunting in parks, Dave has had some comic experiences: "One little old lady though he was cutting the lawn," relates his wife, Joan, "and the two of them had quite a discussion on the merits of weeders!" Another two old ladies were overheard as saying he was a fisherman "listening for worms", while during the recent drought, many people thought he was prospecting for water.

While some treasure hunter's purpose is to make their metal detectors pay for themselves, Dave pursues his hobby for the pleasure of it alone. He gives away most of the items he recovers to family and friends and many a female family member boasts one of Dave's special "tickie bracelets".

Sometimes he has even been able to



A brisk mornings work reveals coins old and new plus the added bonus of old jewellery and medallions.

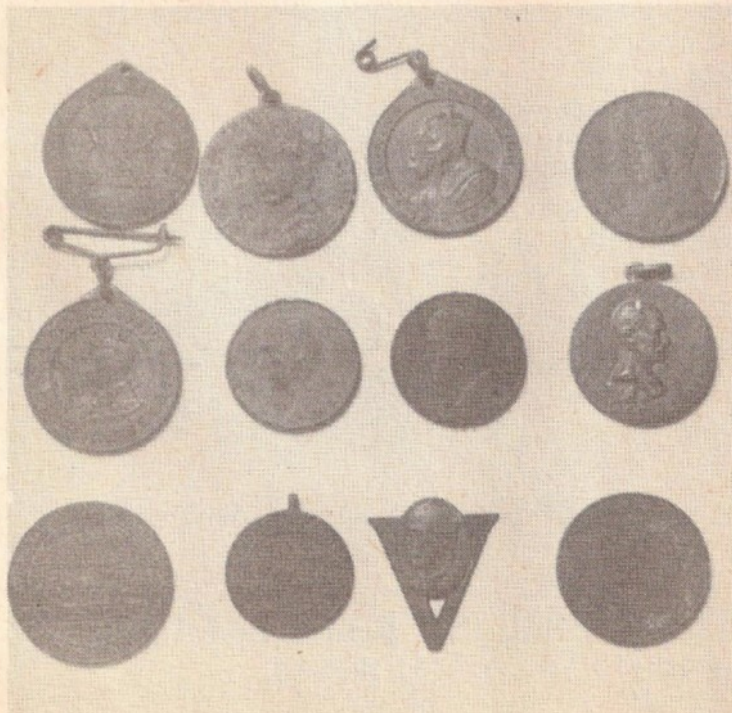
trace the owner of some item of value: finding a silver identity disc in a park one day, Dave looked up the name and address in a telephone directory and rang the number listed. The startled owner told him the disc had been lost about 40 years ago when he was four years old. As it was wartime, all children had to wear identity discs and the owner remembered his mother punishing him for having lost it. The parent was still alive and the owner took much pleasure in telling her he had retrieved the disc - 40 years later!

Besides the attraction of a treasure hunt, Dave finds metal detecting an

outdoor occupation that the whole family can participate in. His wife Joan's participation extends slightly further: "I go through a bottle of stain remover a week, trying to clean his grimy clothes after a day of digging in the sand," she says with a wry smile.

And what, beyond the normal treasure hunter's instinct, motivates Dave to work park after park, month after month?

"My ambition is to have a collection of coins made from every type of metal minted," he says. "I'm almost there, but one piece is still missing - that shining gold sovereign!"



A collection of old interesting medallions from Baden-Powell to Roberts of Kandahar.



An assortment of Bric-a-Brac found during the search for coins.

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