

TREASURE TALK

NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTH AFRICAN METAL DETECTING ENTHUSIASTS
NUUSBRIEF VIR SUID AFRIKAANSE METAALVERKLIKKER ENTOESIASTE

Second Special issue 2001 Tweede Spesiale Uitgawe



Dowsing — one of the oldest methods of search.

This Newsletter is sponsored by



Hierdie Nuusbrieff word geborg deur

Beste Leser

Goeie nuus! Ek het soveel uitstekende artikels vir ons Doculam artikel-kompetisie ontvang, dat ek verplig gevoel het om 'n tweede spesiale uitgawe van Treasure Talk te publiseer. Verskeie lesers het meer as een bydrae gestuur, en sommiges het soveel as agt inskrywings gestuur. Baie dankie daarvoor. Alhoewel die kompetisie eersdags sluit, moet lesers asseblief nie ophou om bydraes aan my te stuur nie – die toekoms van Treasure Talk hang van almal se insette af. Laat asseblief van u hoor.

Wat ons Vonds van die Jaar Kompetisie betref, moet lesers asseblief hul inskrywings vroegtydig stuur. Die kompetisie sluit vir inskrywings teen die einde van Julie.

Nogmaals dankie vir al die briewe, e-pos boodskappe en telefoonoproepe wat ek deurlopend ontvang. Dit is lekker om te hoor dat u die nuusbrieff geniet!

Dear Reader

Good news! I have received so many good articles for our Doculam competition, that I just had to publish a second special issue of Treasure Talk. Many readers have sent more than one article and some send as much as eight. Although this competition is closing for entries at the end of next month, readers must please continue sending contributions. The future of Treasure Talk depends on this.

Regarding our Find of the Year Competition, please send us your entries as soon as possible. This competition also closes for entries at the end of July.

Thanks again for all the messages, e-mails and telephone calls I receive regarding this newsletter. It is nice to hear that you enjoy it!

Regards

Pierre Nortje (Editor)

Address: Treasure Talk. PO Box 816, Durbanville 7551 South Africa.

Telephone / Fax: (021) 976-2260

E-Mail: nortjem@iafrica.co.za

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS / BRIEVE VAN ONS LESERS

Dear Pierre,

I hope that you are well and that your excellent Treasure Talk publication is still in circulation. Unfortunately, I only downloaded your e-mail off the old Acenet server recently. My new e-mail address is now: mike@berkemer.com

I am very keen to see what I have missed out and would like to know if there is anyway possible for me to receive some of the past issues I have missed out on. Please let me know how much I would need to transfer and if there are still some of these issues available.

I believe to have some interesting contributions I could make in the sense of writing some articles for you and giving you some updated news on what's happening up here with some of my new metal detecting developments. Some intensive research, developments and up to date discussions have given me some insight.

1) All about landmines and why they are so difficult and dangerous to detect and why hobby detectorists must avoid at all costs the areas where landmines are suspected (like the Caprivi Strip in Namibia, Angola and Mozambique).

2) Microprocessors in detectors: Where is modern technology taking the Hobby - what's really new and useful about these current developments.

3) Introducing: A new metal detector - made in South Africa.

I hope to have made you curious and look forward to your reply soon.

Keep well and my kindest regards.

Mike Berkemer
Alberton

Dear Pierre,

Thanks for the latest issues of Treasure Talk.

I am changing address to Nedlands, Australia, but wish to continue receiving your magazine. I have recently held meetings with Minelab in Adelaide, and was blown away at the systems they are developing! I would like to share the information with Treasure Talk once negotiations between myself (Aquascan) and Minelab are secured. Would it be possible to e-mail articles to nortjem@... in future? My e-mail from 15th March will be gcodavidson@hotmail.com

In addition please terminate my advertisements for AQUASCAN as I will only be returning in Dec 2001 and not trading in SA until then.

Best regards

George Davidson
Australia

ONS BORG



OUR SPONSOR

MORE LETTERS FROM OUR READERS / NOG BRIEWE VAN ONS LESERS

Hello to all my detecting friends,

I am forwarding this email from a friend of mine in England. He and his friends are metal detectorists and are now unable to detect because of this outbreak of foot and mouth disease. I thought all of you would like the information contained in his email. Take care and let's hope it goes away.

Mike Martin
USA

"Hi Mikey... well, the foot and mouth is taking hold with nearly 80 cases now. Tutbury is now affected, all detecting is off, but they say all cases are traceable to the original outbreak so its not spreading to unassociated areas thankfully, so I've got no finds to report and it's all getting very depressing. I'm afraid, they say it will be another 3 to 4 weeks before they see the true extent, all countryside pursuits are banned and there are £5000 fines in operation to anyone caught using farmland footpaths and walks etc"

Hallo Pierre

Ek het nie regtig gedink dat ek van jou sal hoor nie, maar toe verras jy my. Ek moet jou waarsku dat ek sommer baie vrae het en dat ek jou sal mal maak. Is jy n dealer in metaalverklikkers? Wat se masjien gebruik jy? Ek het so baie "navorsing" gedoen voordat ek gekoop het en dit was tussen die Minelab, Explorer en die Fischer. Die Explorer is baie geld en daar is te veel klagtes en baie meer geklompiseerd en nie n goeie eerste keuse nie. Mense praat van krakies rondom die "housing" ens. NEE dankie. Dit is a.g.v die Explorer dat daar n val in prys was in die Minelab Sovereign XS- 2a pro. Is jy bekend met daardie masjien?

Die versoeking is groot en my vrou wil my by die huis uitgooi. So terloops, wat is die prys vir die 1225x in rand? Wat van die CZ 7-a pro? Is daar 'n groot belangstelling in die stokperdjie? Hoe lank is jy al besig met dit? Waar detect jy die meeste? Ek het nog baie vrae, maar dit is eers genoeg vir nou. Dankie vir jou moeite en ek sal van jou publikasies waardeer. My adres hier is:

Marius Deetlefs
1308 Houchin Drive
Franklin, TN 37064
U.S.A

Praat later weer.

Marius Deetlefs

Waarom skryf van ons lesers nie aan Marius nie? – ek kan ongelukkig nie al sy vrae beantwoord nie! (Red.)

This newsletter is sponsored by :-
Hierdie nuusbrieff word geborg deur:-



Santam Ltd / Bpk



SHORT TERM INSURERS
KORTTERMYN VERSEKERAARS

Hi Pierre

I have not been involved long and I am still looking to purchase my own detector - possibly a Minelab Explorer.

My friend who introduced me to the hobby has just emigrated to Europe so I am "detectorless"

Together we found several old coins - pennies from around 1895-1897 and a few pieces of what must have been a revolver (approx .32 caliber). I have only been hunting twice but I am hooked!

I am trying to find if there are any laws in South Africa regarding Metal Detecting - Who owns the find? What happens if you found a gold nugget? Articles of archeological value - to who would you report this? Places to search. I have done some research on the net, but found nothing about local laws and places.

For the answers to these questions and other tips - looking forward to receiving your newsletter.

Regards,

John Strickland
Lonehill

ADVICO TRONIX

vir:

C.SCOPE

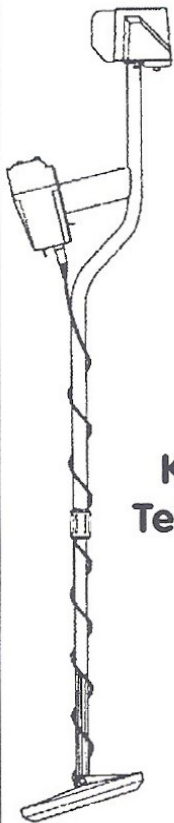
Metaalverklikkers

**Oók beskikbaar:
Pyp en Kabel
opspoorders
en Sekuriteits
Metaalverklikkers**

**Kontak: Noël Swartz
Tel/Faks: (012) 808 1268
Sel: 083 725 7371**

**Advico Tronix
Posbus 31188
Totiusdal
0134**

C.SCOPE
PROFESSIONAL METAL DETECTORS



Are you interested in books on Treasure Hunting?

A large selection of new and second hand books available. Categories include:-

- Coins/ Coin collecting
- Treasure Hunting
- Antiques
- Jewelry
- Dowsing
- Metal detecting
- Shipwrecks
- Boer war
- Uniforms
- SA History
- Gold and Silver

Why not give us a call?

Pieter (021)797 7007
Wilma (021) 592 2080

SKY ROCKS

by Owen Timmermans

Such a gorgeous morning, not a cloud to mar the deep blue sky . The very day I had been waiting for to break away from my deadly computer routine! The early news disrupted my happy thoughts. Quickly switching off the noise machine, I cast a glance at my detector — my time-machine that would whisk me away to re-live adventures of times gone by.

A loud signal! Nothing to get excited about, just a piece of ferrous material. Probably a bolt or nut of Iscor steel, or perhaps an old assegai blade of the Crocodile people that lived here before Mzilikazi set fire to their huts and killed them all. Perhaps I had found a rare piece of native iron? Doubtful, for terrestrial metallic iron occurs sparingly in some basaltic rocks. In fact large masses have only been found in a basalt in west Greenland. I was searching on a softish sandstone in the Broederstroom area. Could it have been a meteorite, a rock from outer space which had alerted my detector? A rare find of great value?

The idea brought back memories of an article I once wrote: “Such a peculiar sound” said he, looking up into the sky.

“An aeroplane diving with cut-off engines or perhaps an aerial bomb?”

The time, July 1943. World War II in full swing. A wisp of vaporous cloud suspended in the clear pale blue winter’s sky was all his searching eyes could find. Yet, the sound increased! Running for the shelter of his house, he stopped abruptly. A dull thud, a cloud of dust some short distance away betrayed the impact of an object with the earth. Fetching a spade, the man hurried towards the spot where a hole torn into the ground marked the point of collision. Digging feverishly, he recovered, much to his surprise and disappointment a stone, buried half a metre below the surface of his flower bed. Strange, it felt warm to the touch, yet some dry grass adhering to its surface had not been charred.

A rock from outer space! A meteorite had crashed on Mr.Groenewald’s plot on the outskirts of Benoni, Transvaal.

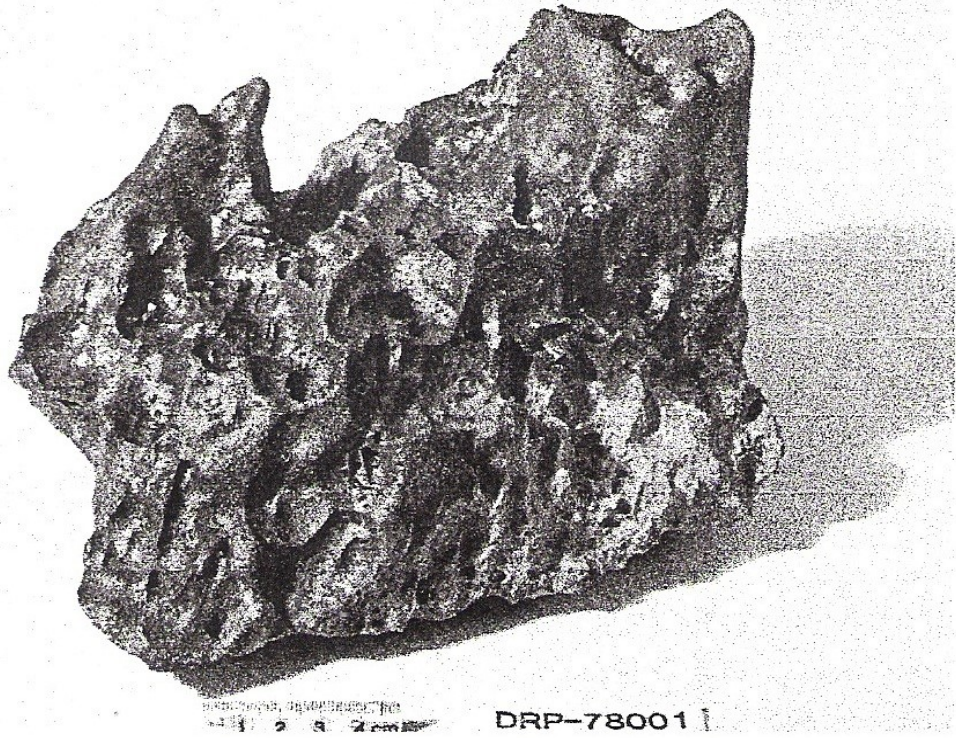
About thirty years earlier, in 1912, a Zulu woman made a statement, which, freely translated reads as follows: “While cutting grass in the vicinity of my kraal, a loud explosion reached my ears.

Of a sudden, all the hillside was filled with a deafening roar, which grew louder and louder. It seemed as though the whole hillside was tottering and falling. Then something struck the ground about five steps away. Then stones flew all around me. Uttering a cry of despair, I threw myself down on my face and waited in great fear, for this was clearly a visitation from the mighty God!

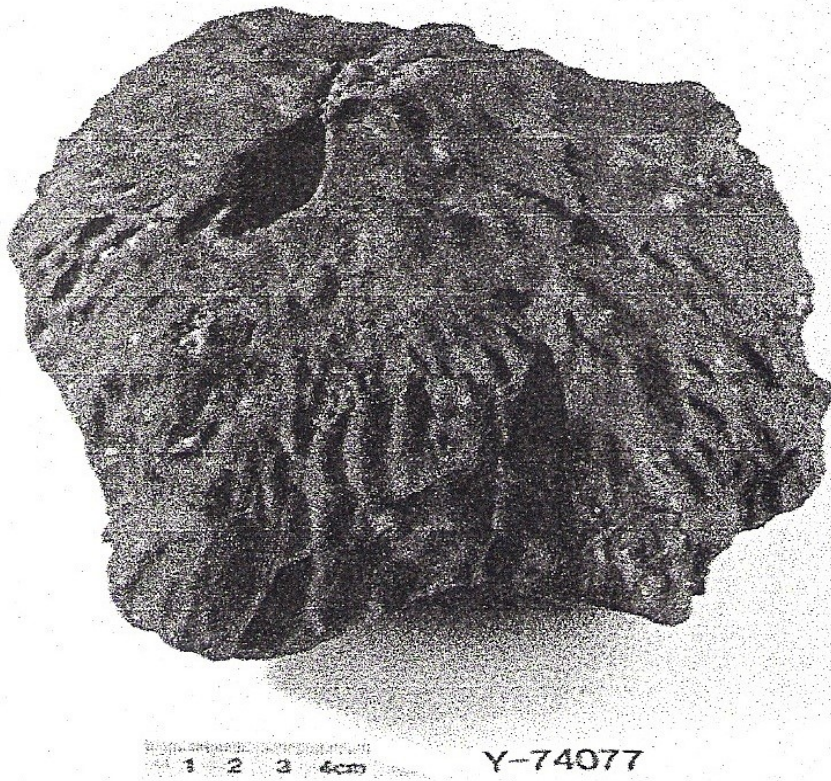
At last, as the roar as of thunder had subsided, I attempted to run away, but my strength had left me. I fell down helplessly, trembling all over my body. Getting up again, I managed to stagger home and told my people of the angry God”

Another meteorite had struck our country, this time at N’Kandle, Zululand.

The Groenewald - Benoni meteorite discussed earlier was observed in broad daylight



A Siderite. Note the small shallow depressions known as 'thumb prints'.



A 'Stony Meteorite'. Usually covered by a thin, hard, shining glazed blackish to yellowish fusion crust. As shown above, the surface often shows elongated furrows.

from a farm, 65 km west of the place of crashing.

An eyewitness remarked: "I saw a bright 'shooting star', shedding red hot drops of molten metal. Then, of a sudden, in a shower of sparks, it burst asunder, leaving behind a ghostly trail of vaporous smoke"

About 500 meteorites, larger than 10 cm in diameter annually survive this gruelling passage through the earth's atmosphere. Of these roughly 350 drop into the oceans, leaving but 150 to strike the continents. Rarely more than 5 are recovered yearly.

Meteorites are conveniently classified according to composition into siderites (irons) and stones. The siderites are made up of a nickel-iron alloy, the stones are predominantly rock forming minerals. The majority of stoney meteorites contain sufficient nickel-iron alloy to alert the metal detector.

A momentous discovery took place in the early 1920's near Grootfontein in South-West Africa (Namibia) It happened as follows: Oom Jacob Brits felt quite exhausted. He had risen early that morning, taken his gun and wandered off into the bush. A keen sportsman but luckless that day, on seeing a large black rock he set himself down with a sigh. Smoking a leisurely pipe his eyes engulfed his surroundings.

"Why should this black rock be here, all surrounded by white limestone? No other rocks like it anywhere in sight", he thought aloud.

Scratching the surface with his pocket knife, he was much surprised to find a metallic lustre.

"Is it possible that I sit on a huge block of metal? And where on earth did it come from?", he mused

The rock was subsequently identified as a siderite, a nickel-iron meteorite.

Hoba West had made its debut in the world! Sixty ton of it, by far eclipsing the Cape York meteorite which up to then had been the largest in the world and the pride of Yankee Land.

An urge to find a meteorite may be difficult to satisfy, except of course if you have witnessed the actual fall and searched for the object at once. Otherwise a metal detector is an absolute must!

A study of museum specimen would help you to make up your mind about the detector's discoveries. Siderites are of a dark reddish-brown colour, at times disclosing patches of rust. A distinguishing feature is what is commonly termed "thumb prints", small shallow depressions.

The stony meteorites are covered with a thin, hard, shining glazed, blackish to yellowish fusion crust. The surface often shows elongated furrows which are the result of the meteorite's fiery passage through the earth's atmosphere.

In pre-metal detector days only about 4% of all meteorites annually striking the continents were recovered.

These visitors from outer space are in great demand by scientific communities as the objects throw light on the origin of the universe.

When looking for lost rings, you search areas where people are likely to loose such items. A natural swimming pool would be promising. The same applies to the search

for meteorites. The South African Geological Survey has information on meteorite showers such as the following: Gibeon meteorite shower. The presence of large amounts of meteoric iron north of the Fish river was reported by Alexander (1838) and subsequent search revealed the presence of a large number of iron masses in this area. Continued research disclosed the information that several more meteorites may still be present in the area. It is expected that an extensive search would bring many more to light. The most likely places are in the Fish River Canyon. The presence of patches of burnt dolomite is a very useful indication of a buried meteorite. Several fire-balls have been observed in this area in the last century.

There are many such reports and places worthwhile investigating with your metal detector..



The 'Hoba- West meteorite. Largest in the world.

UNCHECKABLE PLACES

By Alan Miller

A friend of my ex neighbour rang me asking if I still did metal detecting. I listened whilst she anxiously asked if I could find her lost ring. I am always game for such challenges until she said that she had lost it in a farm dam near Ceres. Now this is serious distance from my home and after asking a few details told her that it was a long way to travel on the off chance of finding the ring. I told her that I would contact her in few days to see if she had the same enthusiasm after the shock of losing the item had maybe worn off. However when I contacted her three days later I asked her if she was still "attached " to the ring and she answered brightly that she would do anything to get it back.

Her story wrung the tears out of me and I couldn't really refuse. Apparently the ring belonged to her mother for a start, then she told me that she and her husband and child had been involved in a serious road accident in which they had been pulled unconscious from their burning vehicle. Only when she recovered consciousness days later did she notice the ring gone. Months later she persuaded her father to trace the remains of the burnout wreck and he found the blackened ring amongst the ashes inside the car. Now she regarded the ring as a talisman and had to have it back safely on her finger.

The following day I was driven by her husband to a murky farm dam which had the appearance of a good place to find floating bodies. I decided to check out the contents of the dam with my super magnet on a long cord and trolled around for a while to see how many coke cans and lengths of rusty barbed wire I could find. The dam was surprisingly clean. I undressed and prepared for the search after being told that the dam water would come up to my armpits and the bottom was mud. I decided that bootees, shorts and shirt would be adequate and my extra long shovel would provide stability whilst I swung my detector underwater. Fortunately the dam was provided with a small wooden jetty as the borders of the dam was dank spiky trees and thick, stinking mud and reeds.

As I was about to enter the warm soupy water the Husband said to me "Oh, I forgot to mention there are lots of LEECHES in the water". There was a long silence as I stared at his face and considered this duplicity and guile to get me in this morass. I bit the bullet and entered the turgid liquid and immediately sank to my bootee tops in warm, vampire-infested mud. I took the proximity instructions from the husband and waded up to my chest through the dam with a feeling akin to floating in space and waiving my detector carefully underwater whilst balancing myself with the shovel. One of the things I have learned from searching for lost items is to carefully ignore searching the exact place where they say the thing was lost.

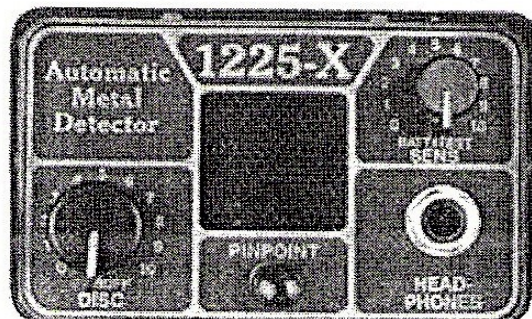
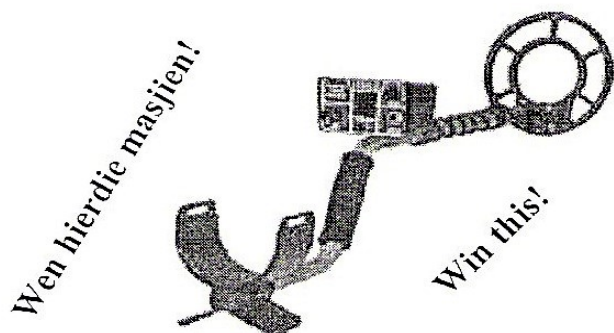
I did oblige him this time by searching the alleged area, thereby sinking up to my chin on an uneven bottom. After an hour and recovering odds and ends I was well and truly away from the 'loss site' and being shouted at, telling me I am in the wrong place. I knew I was in the right place because I found the ring, which was so heavy I could have detected it from Australia. I came paddling back and climbed out of the water to reveal that every square centimetre of my exposed skin had several leeches attached, quite painlessly I might add. Thank goodness I was wearing underpants.

The husband said its quite alright as they wash off easily and thank goodness they did but I felt that they had perhaps reached uncheckable places. I engaged the husband in a lengthy conversation and dried and dressed myself for a good while just to punish him for not telling me about the leeches earlier. When I had decided that he was now a little despondent on the none retrieval of his wife's ring, I reached into my pocket and asked him if he had seen one of these before. The smile of jubilation I received was enough to make it all worthwhile.

The next day whilst sitting in my chair I felt something on my neck. Yes, it was one desiccated leech. I am still wondering where it had been hiding...

DEAR READER / BESTE LESER

SKRYF IN VIR ONS TREASURE TALK VONDS VAN DIE JAAR
KOMPETISIE. SIEN AGTERBLAD VIR VOLLEDIGE BESONDERHEDE.



The Fisher 1225-X metal detector is light, tough, easy to use, selective and deep seeking. Great for coin and relic hunting. It goes just as deep as other more expensive detectors and has powerful discrimination and ground-reject circuits -- yet it costs substantially less.

**ENTER OUR TREASURE TALK FIND OF THE YEAR COMPETITION.
SEE BACK PAGE FOR FULL DETAILS**

BUYING AND SELLING SOUTH AFRICAN COINS

RANDBURG COIN – MUNT

(Founder member of SAAND)

We buy almost everything and will pay the best price!

Coins, Medals, Krugerrands and Diamonds

Postal Address : P O Box 2434
Randburg 2125

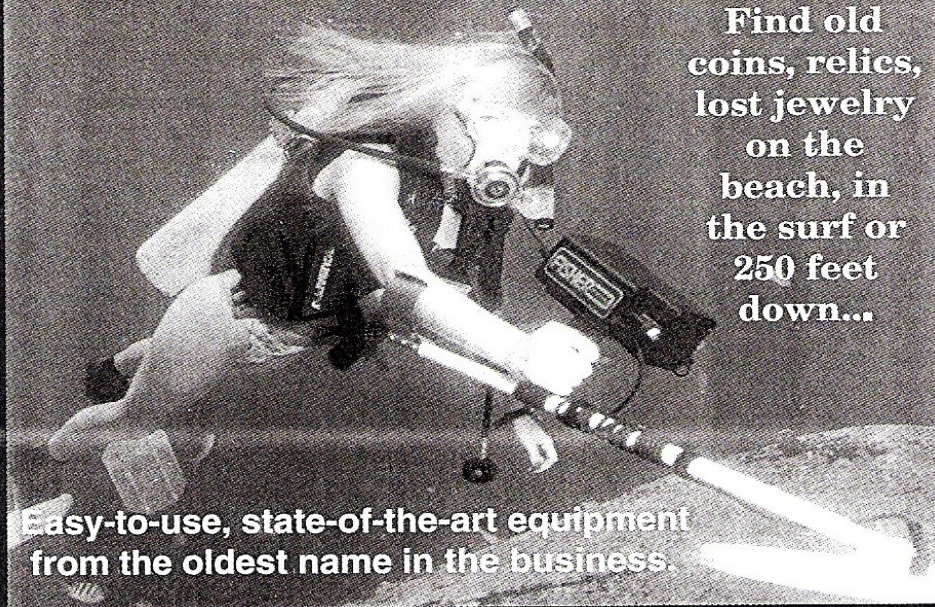
Tel: (011) 7892233/4

Fax: (011) 886 6404

E-Mail: randcoin@iafrica.com

Compilers of the South African Coin and Banknote Catalogue

UNDERWATER METAL DETECTORS



Find old
coins, relics,
lost jewelry
on the
beach, in
the surf or
250 feet
down...

Easy-to-use, state-of-the-art equipment
from the oldest name in the business.

For more information write to

FISHER m-SCOPE
FISHER RESEARCH LABORATORY

Excalibur Mining
P O box 3207
Randgate 1763

Or phone

Sole Distributor: Lukas van der Merwe 011: 9543962

Agents: Cape Town : Wolfgang Roux Tel. 021: 9765466

East London : Clarence Coetzer Tel. 043: 7264603

Natal: Dawie Berg Cell. 0824751016

Bickels

COINS AND MEDALS PTY) LTD

JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY!!!!

Tel: (011) 833-1343/4 or Fax: (011) 834-2980
Cell: 082-445-1461

We buy and sell the following items at very competitive prices!

Krugerrands

All gold and Silver coins

War Medals & Medallions

Banknotes

Jewellery & Diamonds

We also sell Laboratory Certified Diamonds

Contact **Rick Liggett**

P O Box 61002 Marshalltown 2107

Absa Building 3rd Floor 76 Market Street Johannesburg 2001

STRANDE WAT WEGSPOEL / KRISMIS WAT KOM EN GAAN (JOHN MULDER)

Wanneer jy begin skatte jag op die strand kom jy gou agter hoe belangrik dit is om te soek waar die strand wegspoel want dit vermenigvuldig jou fondse.

Ons wil ook almal graag vooruit weet of die sand "op" of "af" is, veral as ons vër moet ry om by die strand uit te kom, want dit is 'n groot teleurstelling om tot daar te ry net om te sien die sand is op en dan na 'n uur weer huistoe te gaan sonder enige fondse.

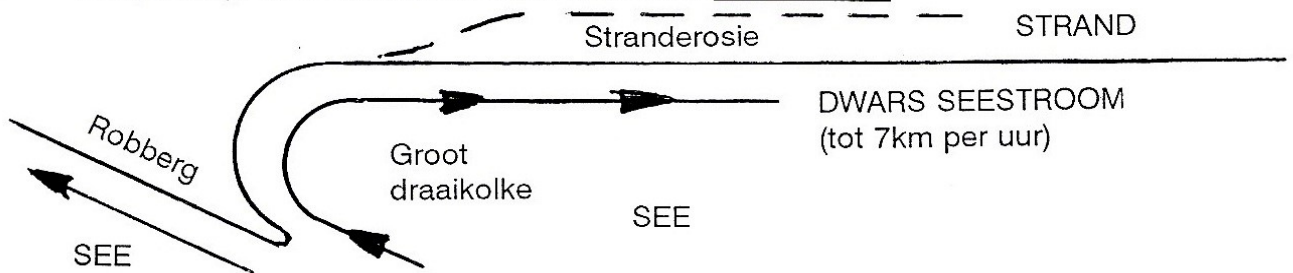
Dan is daar ook die groot opgewondenheid as jy die dag by die strand kom en onverwags tot jou verbasing is dit Krismis - al die sand is weg, die strand lê vol skulgruis en klippe, en so tussen die munte wat jou masjien vir jou uitwys tel jy sommer af en toe iets met die oog op. Dan wonder jy wat het nou eintlik gebeur om hierdie voorspoed te bring?

STRANDEROSIE is 'n ingewikkelde en amper geheimsinnige proses van sand- en waterbeweging:-

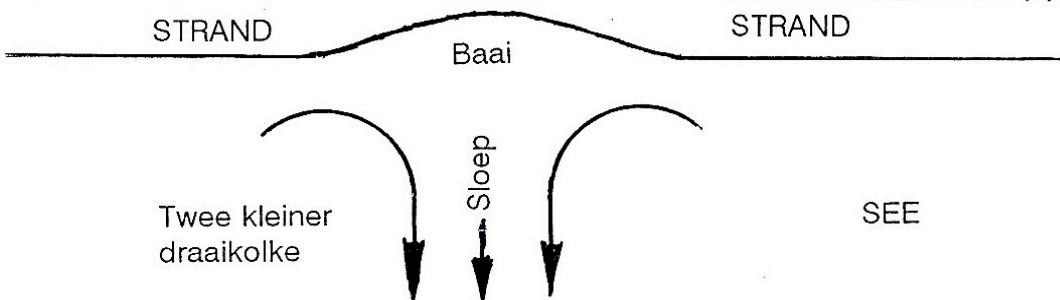
- Daar is 'n beperkte sandvoorraad en oënskynlik onbeperkte bergingsruimte vir die sand wat weggevoer word.
- Jy kan sien waar dit was, maar nie waarheen dit is nie.

In die algemeen en in vereenvoudigde vorm is daar twee hooftipes stranderosie wat maklik onderskeibaar is deur die rigting van die seestrome:-

A) Verspoelings wat veroorsaak word deur sterk dwarssstrome.



B) Verspoelings wat veroorsaak word deur sterk seewaartse strome (rip currents).



Die faktore wat hierdie prosesse in bedryf hou is energiebelaaide branders, seestrome en sandhelling. Die tempo van die proses is direk eweredig aan hierdie faktore, en die sand verskuif in die rigting waarheen die water vloei.

Sand moet ook agter die branders verwyder word om plek te maak vir verdere sandverwydering vanaf die strand, anders vind ophoping plaas en die wegspoelaksie word beëindig. Soortgelyks as die seestroom eindig, sal die proses ook eindig.

IN DIE PRAKTYK, soos op die strand, is die proses egter meer kompleks

Hier veral is niks konstant nie en wissel die tempo van die proses gedurigdeur a.g.v. vele faktore:-

- DIE WEER en die getye is die hoof faktore
- Draaikolke en seestrome agter die branders
- Die grootte en frekwensie van branders
- Spoed en rigting van branders
- Rotsriwe en strandlynkontoere

In hierdie omstandighede sal selfs die beste blikbrein nie weet wat om te verwag en hoekom die strand op sekere plekke wegspoel. Soveel te meer ons, want sommige van hierdie invloede is onsigbaar en die oorsprong van die onsigbare faktore is dikwels ook ver verwyderd van die plek waar hulle effek gesien word. Dit is waarom die strand soms teen ons verwagting oopmaak of toemaak.

SO, WANNEER IS DIT KRISMIS?

DIE WEER

Ons hou die TV weervoorspellings dop vir sterk laagdrukstelsels wat ooswaarts om die suidkus beweeg en neem veral kennis van waarskuwings teen 6m deining wat daarna volg.

Hierdie diep laagdrukstelsels veroorsaak stormagtige seetoestande wat heersende seestrome ontwig en die hoë deining bring uitermate aggressiewe en energiebelaaide branders strand toe.

Tropiese siklone wat ver suid langs die ooskus afbeweeg tot teenoor die Natalse Noordkus kan ook abnormale groot deining sower suid as P.E. veroorsaak (laas in 1968 het 6m branders aan P.E. se kus uitgeloop en dit was angswekkend, die deining op die oop see was ongeveer 10m.) (Sien JAWS in National Geographic, Appendix).

DIE BRANDERS

Hierdie besonder aggressiewe branders se werking is soos 'n laaigraaf wat sand op treintrokke laai en die seestrome agter die branders is die trein wat die sand moet wegry. Daar moet 'n wisselwerking wees tussen die laaigraaf en die trein om die proses in stand te hou.

Om 'n idee te kry van die tempo waarteen branders sand kan wegspoel maak ons 'n eenvoudige berekening:-

- Die frekwensie van branders is in die omgewing van een elke 9 sekondes, m.a.w. 7 per minuut, 420 per uur, en 10 000 per dag.
- As elke brander slegs 'n halwe millimeter sand verwyder, dan sal die sand met 5 meter sak oor 24 uur. Oor 'n afstand van 100 meter strand is dit 'n trein vol sand.
- Die frekwensie van die branders kan verkort tot 4 sekondes en dan kry jy 20 000 per dag en dan werk daai laaigrawe volspoed. Die voorste brander se terugvloei (backwash) val saam met die agterste brander se terugtrek (draw) en dit verdubbel die spoed van die water seewaarts, dikwels so erg dat hulle bots.
- Soorteglyke verhoogde aksie volg wanneer die branders mekaar inhaal en bo-op mekaar breek, as of hulle wil saamstaan in die aanval op die strand (dumpers).

As die branders egter die sand see-in spoel en die seestrome voer hierdie treinvrag sand nie weg nie, dan hoop dit op agter die branders en belemmer verdere branderaksie om meer sand van die strand af te verwyder. Hierdie toestand kom algemeen voor op reguit kuslyne en in uiterste omstandighede word dit sigbaar as lang sandbanke ("bar") parallel met die strandlyn net agter die branders. 'n Kanaal dieper water ontstaan dan tussen die sandbank en die strand (kom dikwels voor by Kings Beach, Port Elizabeth). Hierdie sandbank veroorsaak dan dat die deining verder weg van die strand breek en verminder die branderaksie wat op die strand uitgeoefen word en so eindig die erosie.

Verder weet ons ook uit ondervinding dat wanneer die TV weervoorspelling waarsku teen 6 meter hoë deining wat ooswaarts langs die kuslyn sal opbeweeg, dan kan groot strandverspoelings oor lang afstande langs die kus voorkom, soos van Plett na P.E. of George na Plett, en selfs het dit al voorgekom vanaf Mosselbaai tot P.E. afhange van hoe intens en hoe langdurig die deining volhou. Hou dit in gedagte en gaan kyk volgende keer wat jy op aangrensende strande kan uithaal (verwys Swartvlei vorige Treasure Talk).

Daar kan ook in sekere omstandighede en weens lokale faktore verspoelings oor kort afstande op die strand voorkom, 'n halwe kilometer of selfs korter. Dit is gewoonlik die gevolg van:-

- Kanaalvorming reg vanaf die strand deur die branders see toe, wat vir die deining 'n oop pad skep om sy energie ongehinderd tot op die strand te bring ("rip currents").
- Kusmere of riviere wat tydens vloede draaikolke en dwarsstrome op die omliggende strande kan veroorsaak.

DRAAIKOLKE IN DIE SEE ("SIKLONE")

Hierdie draaikolke is soos "SIKLONE" in die see en kan oor lang afstande en met groot verwoesting voortbeweeg totdat hulle uiteindelik uitgewoed raak.

Ons is al vertrouwd met die weersverskynsel van s.g. afsnylaagdrukstelsels d.i. wanneer 'n laagdrukstelsel oor die Boland inbeweeg en agter die bergreekse ooswaarts oor die binneland beweeg, soms met katastrofiese gevolge - soos by Lainsburg destyds.

Hierdie selfde verskynsel kom in die oseaan voor wanneer groot draaikolke tot teenaan die kuslyn beweeg en in die groot baaie soos Algoabaai of Plettenbergbaai vasgevang word. Dit veroorsaak langdurige systroom aksies.

Dit kom in Algoabaai voor en gebeur wanneer die seestroom deur Kaap Receife gekaap word, en deur Robberg by Plettenbergbaai. Ek vermoed dat stormsterk suide winde soortgelyke draaikolke in Valsbaai kan vasvang.

Ons moet die omvang en die energie van die draaikolke in die see nie onderskat nie - wanneer hulle toeslaan is dit 'n totale aanslag. As voobeeld kan ek net meld dat Robbergstrand so 9 jaar gelede totaal weggespoel het oor 'n afstand van ongeveer 5 km en 'n strandwyte ongeveer 100 meter, en dit het binne die bestek van 'n paar weke gebeur. Dit was nie treinvrage sand nie, eerder berge van sand.

Lookout Strand het ook in Maart 1997, d.i. vier jaar gelede, begin wegspoel en toe het ons nog nie 'n metaalverklikker gehad nie, maar die Krismis was so vol persente dat ons weke lank elke dag tot soveel as R240 somer met die oog opgetel het en dit het aanleiding gegee dat ons destyds 'n metaalverklikker gekoop het. Eintlik kon jy destyds met hoogwater die munte vinniger met die oog optel as met die metaalverklikker, en dit gebeur selde. Jy het elke aand gedink jy sal more wakker word en besef dit was alles net 'n droom.

Hierdie wegspoelaksie het etlike maande geduur en was ewe misterieus sonder wind en sonder storm see, maar wel met sterk ooste deininge op kort volgfafstande en ook met sterk dwarsstrome, so sterk dat Erica eendag met hoogwater amper seetoe gesieur is.

Volgens my waarnemings sedert 1980 vind hierdie groot wegspoelaksies by Plett met gereelde tussenposes van 5 to 8 jaar plaas en kan ons die volgende een oor 'n jaar of 3 te wagte wees.

Ek het informante by die verskillende ver-afgeleë strandoorde met wie ek kontak maak om uit te vind wat op daardie strande aangaan en hulle weet van "sand op" en "sand af", walletjies, skuinsstrande, skulpgruis en klipgruis, en rotse wat oopspoel. Met net een telefoonoproep is dit dan so goed asof ek self op die strand staan om te sien wat aangaan.

Vir verdere verwysings en aanvullende inligting raadpleeg 1). FIELD GUIDE TO EASTERN AND SOUTHERN CAPE COASTS - sien veral bladsye 49; 50; 53 ; 59; 180 en ook die satelliet infra-rooi fotos (PLATE 6) t.o.v. seestrome en draaikolke. 2). National Geographic Vol. 194, No. 5 van November 1998 - MAUI'S MONSTER WAVES, waar klein branders 6½ meter hoog is, en sy groot broers 20 meter hoog is, die sg. JAWS, so groot soos TSUNAMIS. Die fotografie is soos IMAX. Kyk op www.nationalgeographic.com.

ITAKE THAT GOLD

by Owen Timmermans

Gold! A magic word – on reaching man's ears increases beats of hearts and pressures of blood. It calls for action – urging discovery and possession.

So it was for thousands of years. The gold and jewelled coffin of Tut-Ank-Amon, boy Pharaoh of ancient Egypt as well as the gold treasures of Aztecs and Incas of Central and South America are living evidence of the throbbing truth of this desire.

The lure of gold reaches even further down the steep ladder of history to Greek mythology, to Jason and his Argonauts sailing in search of the magic fleece of the winged ram – a treasure hunt for skins of sheep heavily laden with gold dust recovered from rivers turbulent in times of flood.

Fifteenth century Europe was in the grip of gold hunger. Portugal had long since seized the advantage in opening up rich commercial contacts with West Africa rich in gold.. Europe needed gold for coinage and a great variety of articles of luxury. Spain looked with envy at Portugal's riches!

1492 — Columbus discovers a new world, a world yellow with gold.

Portugal strikes it rich in Brazil, 1696, where Portuguese colonizers find vast deposits of high grade gold ore in the Minas Gearas, a mineral rich area in the dense Brazilian jungle. Next gold discovered in western California (1848) at the confluence of the Sacramento and American rivers. A major discovery echoing the world over. Next Australia comes on the scene as gold digger Hargraves discovers extensive deposits in a tributary of the Macquarie river in New South Wales.

What about the dark continent? African gold had been known for centuries, principally from West Africa. Southern Africa made its contribution too. The Land of Punt where the ancient Pharaohs dispatched their ships to collect ivory, spices and gold is thought to have been situated at the mouth of the great Zambezi river.

To many, Southern Africa was the Biblical Ophir, Land of Gold, and the actual discovery of a number of ancient native gold workings in the far north was sufficient incentive to induce several adventurous die-hards to brave the wild, dangerous, malaria-ridden regions in their unquenchable thirst for the yellow metal.

Then it suddenly happened! Gold discovery — at Eersteling, between Naboomspruit and Pietersburg (1871) , Pilgrimsrest (1872), Kaapsche Hoop (1874), Barberton (1884), the Main Reef Leader of the Rand conglomerates (1886) and a host of smaller deposits all over the Transvaal.

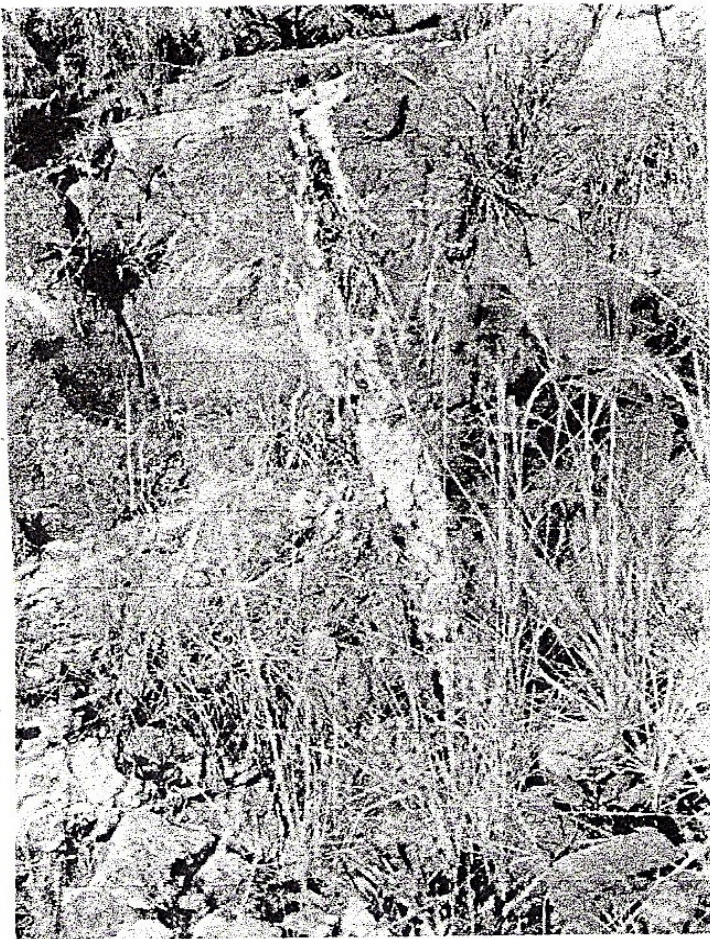
Prospectors tramped and rode across the lofty ranges of the Witwatersrand always in a hurry to reach the promising gold belts of the north and east Transvaal.

An Australian digger Henry Lewis was an exception – he decided to prospect Suikerboschfontein and Koesterfontein and discovered gold – the Central gold Fields on a hill called Blaauwbank, just west of Magaliesburg. Next, gold was discovered on the other side of Blaauwbank, on what is now called Goud Koppie where gold occurred in eluvial paddocks as well as in honeycombed quartz veins. It is found as small, coarse irregular nuggets of a dull metal.



Gilding the Fleece

Pegged sheepskins were once used to catch gold particles from fiercely rivers cascading down mountain slopes



The ore mined consisted of quartz veins impregnated with gold



Fully equipped prospector searching for gold nuggets and black sand concentrations

There still stands a most picturesque old stamp-mill, lest we forget the past!. Similar occurrences of gold are found all along the Witwatersberg range which stretches from east of Pretoria right down to Boons in the West Transvaal. Numerous small mines once extracted the precious metal.

Reports tell us that the Monte Christo gold Mining Company worked the Scheerpoort deposit in 1911. In 1910, the Hartebeestfontein gold Mining and Platinum Syndicate worked the humble deposit at Martina siding.

There's still gold to be found! An elderly widow who lived in the foothills of the Magaliesmountains in the Hartbeesspruit area, told me how her late husband always knew how to keep the pot boiling. Whenever a severe drought destroyed their crops and livestock, he would pack his pick, shovel and pan and disappear into the mountains. A day or two later he would return. Carefully taking the tobacco out of his pouch, he would turn it over, allowing tiny nuggets of gold to roll onto the white table cloth.

When asked where he had found them – he would laugh and whisper... 'my bank'.

The early gold rushes were peopled by adventurers, farmers, tradesman, unemployed -- -- largely persons lacking the knowledge so essential to find, never mind recover the gold. It's therefore quite likely that the waste rock and tailings dumps they left us still contain values. Looking inside rocks and boulders was beyond their capability. YOU CAN, provided you are the lucky owner of a good low frequency TR discriminating metal detector, the VLF/TR.

Another promising place to look for gold is the foot wall of old mines. All the ore, on their way to the crusher and concentrating plant had to pass there and it's quite possible that high grade ore fell off the ore carts, getting eventually covered by waste rock as mining progressed further into the mountain.

In most instances, as was the case along the Witwatersberg range, a number of small mines treated their ore in one common reduction works. Ox-wagons were used for transport. Now take your VLF/TR machine and examine the old tracks carefully. Rich ore may well have dropped off the ox-wagons!.

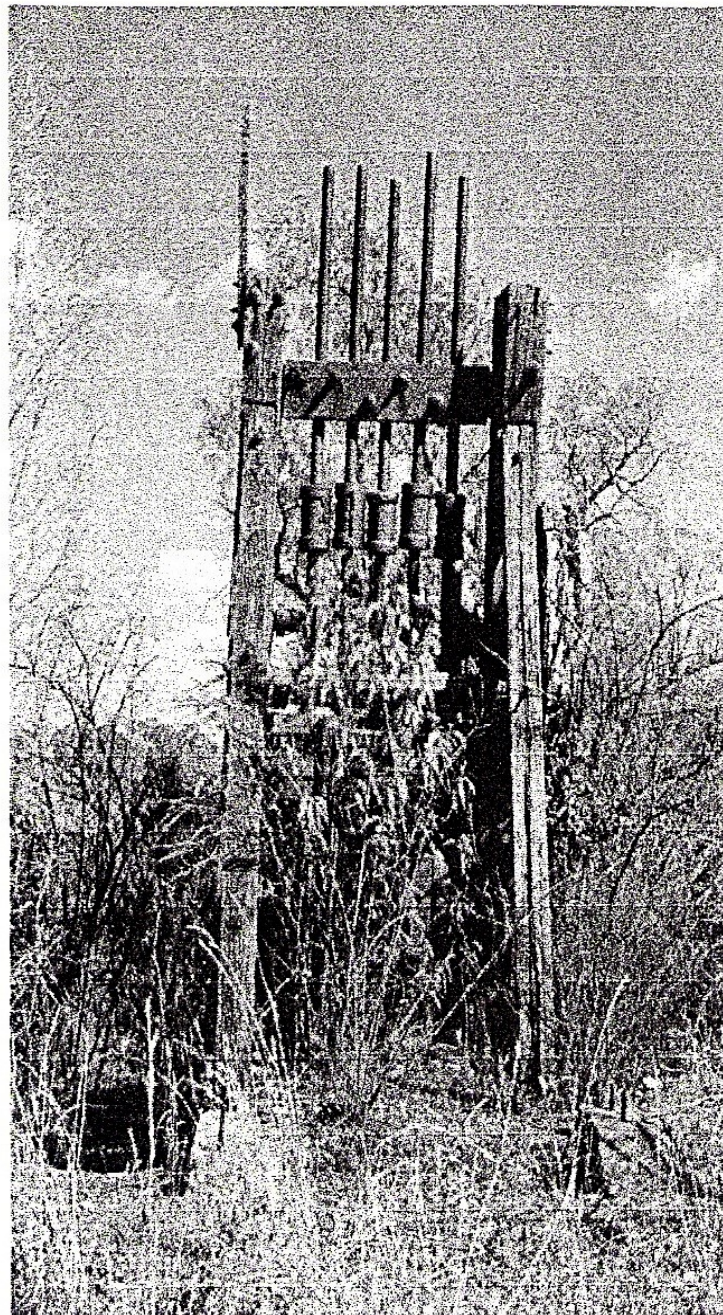
Now imagine the following scenario. You are investigating a small river into which an old-time reduction works dumped its tailings. Your machine gives a positive reaction. Fortunately, you are carrying a modern plastic prospector's pan into which you scoop some of the sand. Test it with your detector! If positive, pan the sand in the river.

Over the centuries the steel gold pan has served prospectors well. It has however many draw-backs. Some years ago a scientifically designed green plastic prospector's pan was placed on the market. It is equipped with 90-degree angle gravity gold traps. The precious metal simply can't escape once caught behind the gravity traps. With this pan you can quite successfully pan dry material in the desert, far away from water. Provided the gold is not too fine as dust covered fine dry gold is almost impossible to identify.

South Africa is cursed by a law which prohibits the possession of unwrought gold.

Some time ago a friend of mine after buying a parcel of mixed goods at a local auction, found a small, green painted paperweight amongst the items he had purchased. On picking it up he was struck by its heavy mass. A metallurgist by profession he determined its specific gravity. 18.3 was the value. This told him in no uncertain terms that in his hand he was holding an object cast in pure gold.

Being a law-abiding citizen, he took the paper weight to the gold-branch of the police. For weeks he was shadowed and interrogated by its members, until after several weeks he received a sum of money representing 75% of its gold value. The balance was kept by the state as the incident was officially regarded 'treasure trove'.



Old "Sandy croft " Stamp mill — Retired and Forgotten.

doculam

OFFICIAL AGENTS OF GARRETT PRODUCTS IN SA

STEP INTO THE WORLD OF ADVANCED
HI-TECH TREASURE HUNTING

PURCHASE A GARRETT PRODUCT, INTERNATIONALLY
RENOWNED FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE, RELIABILITY,
SERVICE & SUPPORT

JOHANNESBURG
(011) 886 9412

DURBAN
(031) 201 2092

PORT ELIZABETH
(041) 487 3336

CAPE TOWN
(021) 551 8142



order on-line

www.doculam.co.za

e mail : info@doculam.co.za

GARRETT
THE WORLDS FINEST METAL DETECTORS

TREASURE HUNTING: CLEANING, PRESERVING AND DISPLAYING YOUR FINDS

by CLARENCE COETZER

Okay, so we have been detecting for some time and have accumulated a heap of coins, rings, costume jewellery, bits and pieces of metal, iron, and even some nice looking stuff such as silver and gold rings, ear rings and chains, even St. Christopher's. We have made no real attempt to clean this lot other than to maybe rub them with a piece of cloth to try to give them a shine. Or maybe we have just started out in metal detecting and would like to clean our finds correctly. Well, this is how I go about it. It is not necessarily the correct way, but I believe that it is as close and makes no difference.

Before we start on washing, cleaning or doing anything else with our finds, be they coins or artefacts, we must be sure that anything with a "patina", in other words, a chemical coating coloured green, bluish-green, blue, bronze-brown, brown, dark brown or blackish on the object, will surely tell us that the object is usually of copper or bronze base or even silver and will lose any potential or intrinsic value if subjected to an acid or even an alkaline cleaning process. Abrasives should also not be used. Collectors like them that way! This "discoloration" is in fact a chemical coating of carbonates and other chemicals originating in the ground or where-ever. This forms a protective layer over the metal of the object and on modern bronze sculptures it is desirable and is reproduced artificially and with secret formulae to give the "aged" look.

Silver does not develop a patina, only chemical coatings of sulphides and the like form which make the silver article turn black, but neither of these is a desirable feature and should be removed if they cause too much disfigurement. Gold does also not develop a patina. Very poor grades of gold, i.e. 9 carat, in certain conditions can become discoloured and can be cleaned.

Starting with COINS, I separate all the different types at the start, i.e., old pre 60's silver and copper coins into separate lots, 1st generation decimal coins into silver, nickel, copper and bronze lots and the later generation decimal coins into nickel and the "bronze" and "copper" coins - these are only steel slugs with copper and "bronze" coatings, all for cleaning separately.

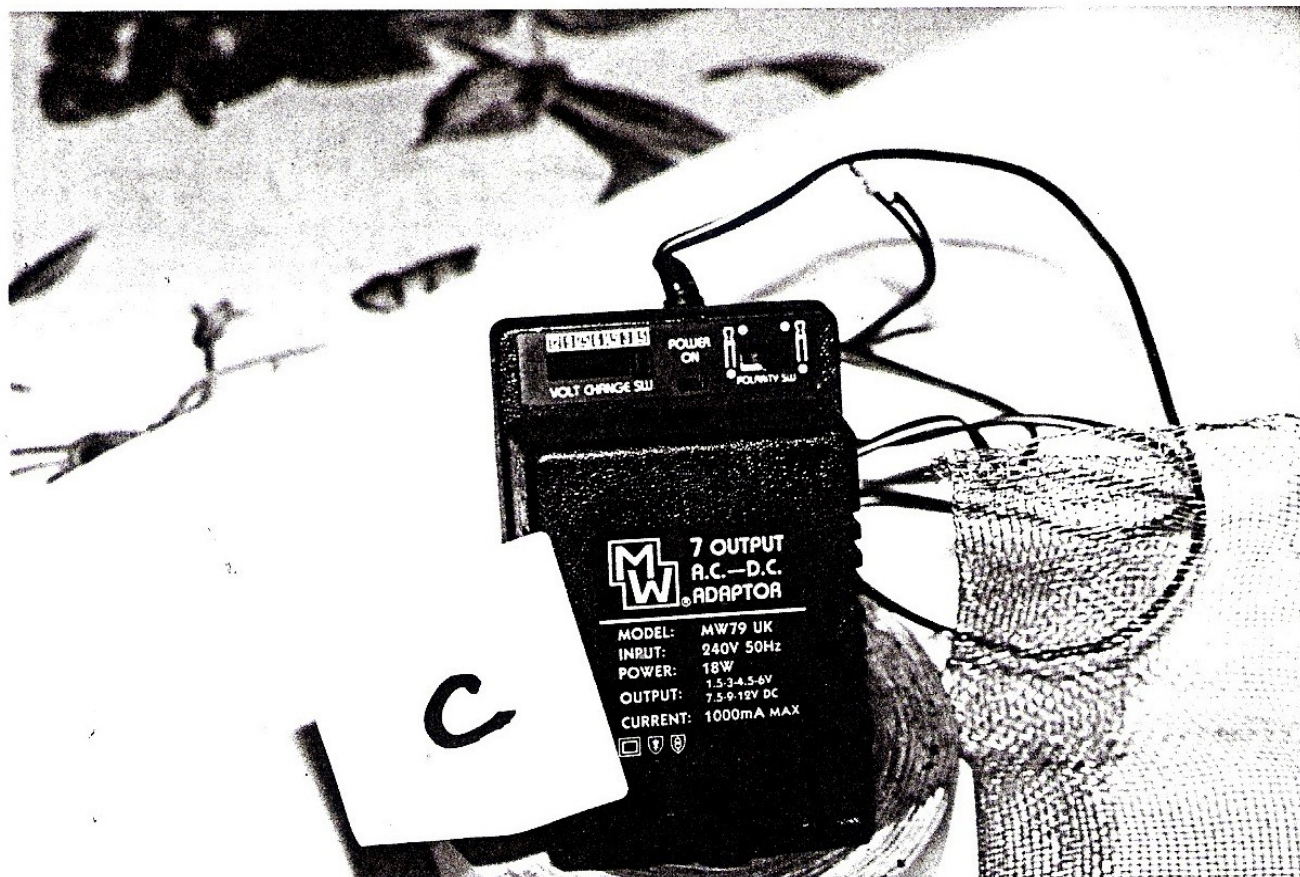
Before any cleaning takes place the coins should be checked to see if they have any numismatic (collector or monetary) value, with careful handling and perusal, in conjunction with a catalogue from places such as Bickels or Randburg Coin, or a local numismatic club. Coins with a collector's value should be carefully handled - NEVER rub them in their "dirty" state or polish with anything other than a piece of soft flannel AFTER they have been cleaned, or HAVE THEM CLEANED BY A PROFESSIONAL. It is always wise to have a catalogue of coins, (and coin magazines are available) and these can be obtained from a number of sources such as the "KILO" or BULK bookshop or the BOOKBARGAINS type of shop at reasonable prices.

Starting point for coin cleaning (and any other find, especially if it comes from the sea) is, in my opinion, to let your find simmer at a low temperature on a stove in lots of water and a little liquid dish washer for a couple of hours. The reason for this is to boil out the salts and other impurities, which may have soaked, into the metal. DO NOT DO THIS IF THERE IS A STONE SET IN THE FIND. Remember, your low value gold and some silvers have other metals to alloy them and give them bulk and these include copper, nickel, zinc and others, and those 9 carat gold items become very brittle if they have been in the sea for any length of time, so handle with care. They can shatter if dropped. Once the simmering has taken place, the coins should be cleaned enough to see what they are and how they should be handled. A lot of the dirt and gunge will have come away during this process.

Silver coins should be cleaned by electrolysis, which is basically passing a direct polarised electric current through the coin, which drives off any contamination. In other words, a "reverse plating" effect, with the article to be cleaned as the cathode (or negative pole) instead of the anode (positive). The system uses a variable voltage rectified transformer (as used to replace batteries in calculators and similar electrical and electronic equipment) with a voltage output variable from 1,5 or 3 volts DC in steps up to 9 or 12 volts DC at about 300 to 1000 milliamperes of direct current output, some with switchable polarity reversing capability, and are available from various electronic component suppliers from about R40.00 to R90.00, depending on the model. I use a plastic ice cream container, 1 litre or bigger, for a tank into which I place a piece of stainless steel mesh of about the same size as the bottom of the container, but bent so that only $\frac{3}{4}$'s covers the bottom and the other $\frac{1}{4}$ extends above the top of the dish. This is connected to the NEGATIVE ("-") or black lead of the power supply and the POSITIVE ("+" red or black with a white stripe) lead is connected to an old stainless steel spoon or scrap stainless steel metal or mesh. The external electrical connections to the mesh and spoon must be above the level of the tray. The items to be cleaned are placed on the mesh and nicely spread out. THE TWO ELECTRODES (mesh and spoon) MUST NOT TOUCH OR THE POWER SUPPLY WILL BE DAMAGED.

Now mix two teaspoons of kitchen salt in one litre of hot water and pour over the contents of your dish, or double the volumes if a bigger tank is used. Set the voltage for 6 volts and switch on. Bubbles will come from the electrodes and any dirt, scale, oxides, sulphides or impurities will simply drift off. You may have to step up the voltage setting if the reaction is very slow - the more metal there is, the slower it goes, and in some cases,

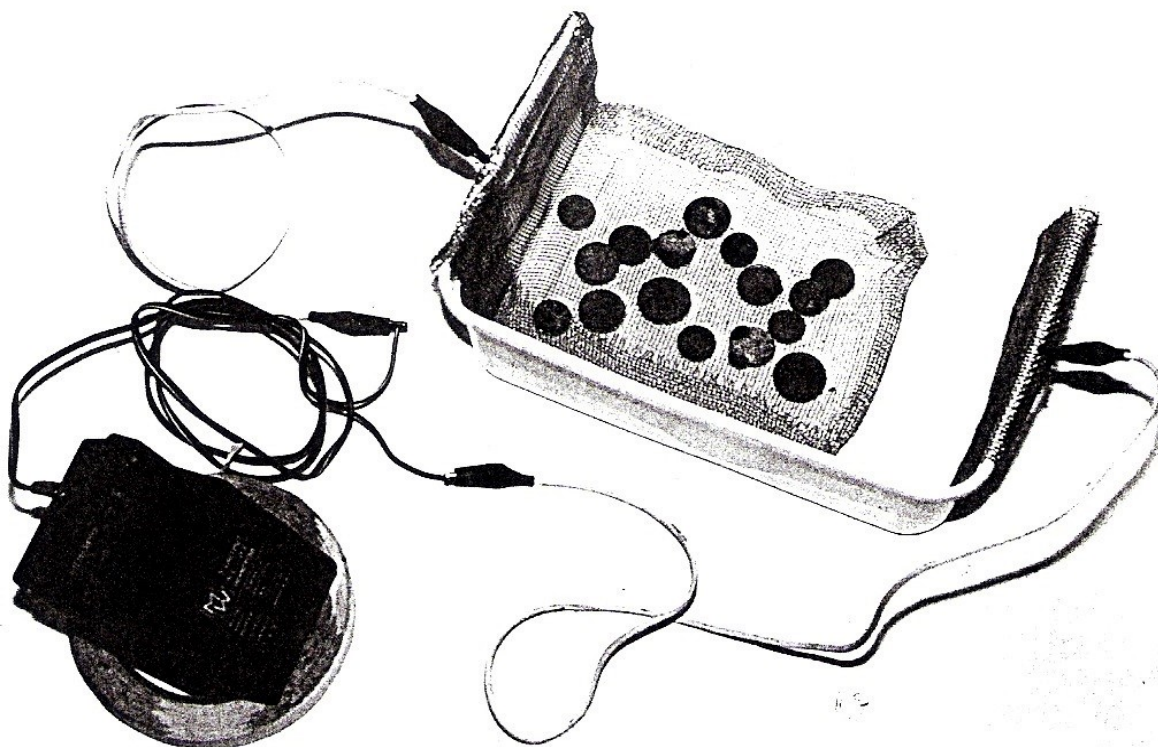
ELECTROLYSIS PROCESS



The Power Supply



A) Ace Cream container. B) Bottle of Salt. C) Power Supply. D) Cathode mesh. E) Anode Mesh. F) Cathode fly lead. G) Anode Fly Lead



All set up and ready to go. Note that anode and cathode leads reversed but can be switched either physically or by reversing polarity switch on power supply

turn it down if the reaction is too vigorous. **WARNING! THE GAS COMING OFF IS NOXIOUS, SO DO NOT INHALE IT! CHLORINE GAS CAN and WILL damage the tissue of your lungs.** When the process is completed, the coins should be removed from the bath and carefully washed once more in warm, soapy water and polished with a clean, dry piece of flannel. Any scratches or blemishes will spoil the coin and reduce its value.

Another way of cleaning these coins is to use a similar bath - **IT MUST BE NON METALLIC** - with a piece of clean, non anodised aluminium cut to fit the bottom, and a mixture of two (2) tablespoons of SODA ASH (as used to neutralise the acidity of swimming pools), to a litre of hot water, to be poured over the coins which have been laid out neatly on the plate, and left for a couple of hours, checking all the while, and later turning the coins over to get a 100% all-over clean, after which a good washing in fresh water and buffing as before. Sometimes the reaction takes just minutes, **SO MONITOR IT CAREFULLY.** WASHING SODA, NOT CAUSTIC SODA, can also be used in this process and is obtainable from your pharmacy. A mix of one dessert spoon per litre of hot water is acceptable. I have heard of people wrapping their silver finds in aluminium foil and immersing in a washing soda solution for several minutes and getting excellent results in the cleaning stakes. Try it, you may like it. Incidentally, an enamelled dish with no chips can also be used for the above process and has the advantage of being able to be heated to speed up the process. Or by soaking for a few hours in a 50/50 mixture of vinegar and hot water. This is okay if the coins are not too important. This is particularly good for the clad coins, i.e, the "bronze" and coppers, of all types, especially if the condition is poor. It can also be used for the silver and nickel if their condition is bad, but keep different metals separate as you get metallic cross-plating and if copper and another metal are mixed, everything comes out copper coloured.

A good brushing with a suitable brush such as a toothbrush or nailbrush can work wonders. A soft nylon toothbrush, a nailbrush, a natural bristle brush and even a brass suede shoe brush can be used successfully. Your lower grade coin or artefact can also be cleaned with an ordinary rubber or eraser. I have used the eraser specially made for typewriters before the "correction fluids" and tapes were invented. This was sometimes presented as a pencil-like object of wood with a coarse

rubber core which was sharpened as a normal pencil would be, or a similar object with a paper skin and a thread to "cut" back the outer skin to allow the correct amount of rubber to protrude. I am not sure if these are still available from stationers.

The electrolysis method can be used for all types of coin with excellent results. The less valuable coins can benefit from tumbling, where a lapidary stone tumbler (gemstone polisher) or "barrelling machine" can be used, with the correct grits and polishing stones and a "like new" polished finish can be obtained, but will be worthless to the collector. The method is to place a number of coins, etc, in the barrel together with about one quarter of its volume in polishing grit or sand and fine, smooth stones and about half with water and a dash of dishwashing liquid. Let the process go on for about 2 to 3 hours, when you check for progress. Later less abrasive "grits" such as walnut shell and crushed maize can also be used on for better, smoother finishes, especially on finer metals. This is done dry. I personally have not tried tumbling. Be warned that this process can erode away detail from metal objects such as engraved detail on badges, etc., and will most certainly spoil anything with colour or enamelled finishes. A system I used many years ago while I was working as an industrial chemist was to use a chemical called AMMONIUM ACETATE to clean metals. This came as a crystalline salt to which water was added to make a solvent for lead oxide and it cleaned gold, silver, copper and brass beautifully.

The article to be cleaned was soaked in the solution for a while and then washed in fresh water and buffed with a soft cloth to a beautiful shine. Some of the modern jewellery cleaners seem to contain these chemicals. I have experimented with Hydrochloric Acid (pool acid) on a couple of occasions to clean silver coins and also the pure copper and the "clad" or coated coins like the new decimal copper and bronze varieties, with mixed results. The acid cleans silver beautifully but removes metal. The clad coins react badly - the surface metal, if the coin is left in the acid for too long, is removed. However, a quick dip and wash can make them look good again.

Remember, acids are extremely dangerous to work with, especially the concentrated solutions. ALWAYS WEAR SAFETY GOGGLES AND RUBBER GLOVES AND VERY CAREFULLY ADD ACID TO COLD WATER WHEN DILUTING IT, BY DRIBBLING THE ACID DOWN THE INSIDE OF THE PLASTIC OR GLASS CONTAINER INTO THE WATER AND THEN STIRRING CAREFULLY. DO NOT SPLASH. ACID IS CORROSIVE AND MUST NOT BE SPLASHED OR SLOSHED AROUND. The Hydrochloric Acid method is used on coins or items of no numismatic or collector value as the acid removes the surface layer of the metal and can, although it cleans very nicely, thin the item down. The coin or item is placed in a plastic bath and left for a very short while, after having first been "boiled" in fresh water and liquid soap and washed in fresh running water. DO NOT LEAVE FOR TOO LONG! After the acid treatment the coin must be neutralised by washing in an alkaline solution, i.e., bicarbonate of soda in water. It is then dried and buffed with a piece of clean flannel cloth.

For preservation, a coating of clear lacquer or the special material that the museums use could be sprayed on (INCRALAC). Silver and Copper coins can be treated in exactly the same way. REMEMBER TO KEEP THE DIFFERENT METALS SEPARATE FROM EACH OTHER. In the case of copper clad coins and the bronze clad coins, (remember there is a steel slug like a washer in the centre and it has only been surface plated with that metal), these rust just like ordinary steel in the sea and on the seashore and develop lumps of red rust on the surface. This can be scraped away and the coins (separated, please) can be treated with the Hydrochloric acid as for silver. However, these coins after a short while CAN and DO discolour and take on the hues of the rainbow very quickly.

A suggestion would be to dump them into a container containing light oil such as liquid paraffin, illuminating paraffin or thinned down new engine oil after treatment. Remember to keep them covered until such time as you want to dispose of them, when they should be drained and rinsed in a solvent such as petrol, and got rid of quickly. OLD ENGINE OIL CONTAINS ACIDS! I most certainly would not use any acid stronger than Hydrochloric acid.

A couple of methods I have read of but have yet to try are the following: - In cases of light corrosion where the surface has not responded to the boiling and electrolysis treatment, try soaking in a small basin of olive oil, NOT cooking oil; it is full of all sorts of junk. Try cleaning with a soft brush after about a week. With medium corrosion, a few days in Worcestershire sauce might do the trick - it is very slightly acidic. I am not too keen on this idea. With bad corrosion that will not

respond to the above methods I was told that if the coin is pushed into a potato for a week or so and then treated by one of the other methods, you should succeed.

Your semi and non-valuable coins which you intend keeping can also be polished with a chrome polish as can be bought at an automotive supply dealer such as Midas, once they have been cleaned, but this devalues them. I have seen these then mounted and framed for display purposes, under glass. Some people advocate spraying their finds with clear lacquer after cleaning, but I do not advise it. On the cheap ones it could be okay. YOU find the method, which suits YOU, best for cleaning and preserving your coins.

Cleaning jewellery is no different really to cleaning coins. Gold will invariably come out of the ground or sea looking bright and shiny, except in a case where it has been in the presence of iron which has rusted and stained the surface. Out of the ground, it might be dirty and muddy. Clean it with care but soak first in warm, soapy water for a few hours. From the sea, remember what I said - boil gently for a while to get rid of the salts, etc. If there are rust stains, make a solution of kitchen salt 1 teaspoon and citric acid 1 teaspoon in a cup of warm water and soak for a couple of hours. A teaspoonful of lemon juice can be used in place of the citric acid.

Oxalic acid can also be used where rust stains are present on gold or silver or other places where the stain would disfigure the object. Gentle rubbing with a soft cloth in the solution should eliminate the stain. NEVER USE AN ABRASIVE SUCH AS VIM, etc. This applies to silver too. Silver sometimes comes out of the sea and sand as bright as the day it was made, and I have also seen coins come out of the sand and water bright blue. Having them come out black and encrusted with sand is also fairly common. In the first case just wash gently with warm, soapy water. In the second case, electrolysis helps to make it like new again.

The third case is extremely difficult, because the coin or piece of jewellery, be it a chain or whatever has this hard crust around it and you cannot get the electric current to make contact and flow. I try to chip a corner of the crust away, exposing a bit of metal, and then set it on the cathode in such a way that the exposed spot contacts the mesh, or affix a tiny crocodile clip to the newly exposed metal and the cathode. Current will then flow and the crust will either fall apart or sometimes come off with a whole side, leaving a reversed image of the coin, etc., but the find is generally of little value.

Brass and copper "jewellery" can be treated in the same way as for the noble metals and can be made to look rather nice. Just remember, if you tumble polish any jewellery DO NOT TUMBLE ANYTHING WITH STONES SET IN THEM. However, I would lacquer the base metal items for fear that they would soon corrode. Remember, if any medallions you have found show no signs of Hallmarks (special codes put on by manufacturers, showing dates of manufacture and other important details) etc., they should still be treated with care. Many are made of base metals such as pewter and other aluminium type metals, and are easily damaged, even by gentle brushing and polishing. I have had good results with electrolysis and the use of a soft paintbrush and an ultra soft toothbrush, brushing in warm, soapy water, washing in fresh water and drying well.

From time to time I have found iron and steel items, rusted to blazes, and looking beyond redemption. Ferrous materials seem to really soak up the acidic and alkaline salts from the ground and sea. Archaeologists, especially of the marine variety, soak ferrous and non-ferrous artefacts in tanks of de-ionised water, where possible, to try to leach out the salts in the metal and the process lasts for years. They start with concentrated water of the variety where the find was made and gradually reduce the concentration by adding fresh de-ionised water until only pure water remains, and there it lies for another couple of years. This process can last for many years. I believe that using my simmering or boiling process can speed this up to several hours on small items. Possibly adding a dash of bicarbonate of soda during the simmering process can also help rid the iron of chlorides. Again thorough washing in fresh water and careful drying, even dipping in clear lacquer afterwards could be necessary.

A maritime cannon is of course a different kettle of fish (have YOU found one recently?). Most Naval cannons were made of cast iron and others were made of something called Naval Bronze, which most people call brass. It is actually a superior grade of bronze, which includes between 7 and 11 percent Silver making them extremely valuable. This material becomes porous and brittle after long immersion in seawater and is difficult to preserve, as "bronze disease" can set in. The iron item is boiled gently and then brushed and cleaned (the bronze item too), if necessary using

electrolysis to complete the job (small items). Once the item is cleaned and dried, using a hair drier, and is warm, it can be dipped into a hot solution of paraffin and carnuba wax (in equal proportions), removed and the excess wax allowed to drip off, helped by means of the hair drier. It is now water, atmosphere and rust proof and should not rust, provided that it was completely dried.

Ferrous and brass items can also be preserved by coating with clear lacquer. If you should find a piece of an old wooden ship (as I found a piece of the Atalaya, which is about 360 years old), the procedure would be as follows: Wash and soak in warm, soapy water, then simmer for a couple of hours to get the salt out, allow to dry naturally, either in a bed of Sphagnum moss (from some gardening supply store) or damp cottonwool over a period of several weeks, or force dry GENTLY in the stove warmer drawer for several hours. Then use the wax method to preserve it. If the wood has come out of the sea or a river or damp earth it could also be coated with a urethane type varnish.

I understand from articles I have read that there are many chemicals available for cleaning and preserving finds, all readily available in the United Kingdom. There the soil is very poor due to the chemicals used in agriculture, but very few of us, except for those trained in the use of them, should use them. They are:

SODIUM HEXAMETAPHOSPHATE - used for removing "crusts" or encrusted deposits.

SODIUM SESQUICARBONATE - removes chlorides from iron, copper and its alloys. It is a combination of washing soda (sodium carbonate) and bicarbonate of soda (sodium bicarbonate)

BENSOTRIASOLE - prevents bronze disease.

INCRALAC - special lacquer spray.

MICROCRYSTALLINE WAX - matt finish wax protection.

EDTA - treatment for iron corrosion.

And then there are fibreglass pens to rub the encrustation from coins, etc.

Prices quoted on the above ranged around the 8 pounds Sterling per lot plus post and packing, so they would be very pricey, anyway. We must remember that the British climate is not kind to their "lost" articles, hence the need for the ordinary man to be able to do his own cleaning. I do not know if all of these products are available in the R.S.A., but I do know that EDTA is used as an indicator in Laboratories.

Displaying your finds is another story. If you want to display your finds, (and who does not want to?), there are a number of ways in which you can do it. You can place the coins in special Mylar holders made for the job - obtainable from antique dealers, hobby shops, stationers and numismatic clubs, or buy those beautiful little display cases especially made for coins. Remember that these should be kept in a dry atmosphere (if they are valuable) in the presence of silica gel or any other desiccant, to obviate the possibility of future corrosion. NEVER use vinyl pockets as they can react with some metals.

Rings and jewellery can be displayed in Jeweller style display cases and can add so much interest to your collection, especially if "black light" or ultra-violet light can be employed to bring out the shine. The so-called "GRO-LUX" lights as used in fish tanks can be used too. The velvet lined ring trays and bracelet boxes can be bought from some Jewellers who have up-graded their fittings and fixtures. They may even give you a tray or two if you put your case to them in the correct way.

This is a very brief overview of a subject which is as wide as the horizon, and on which many books have been written. While I am not an expert on the subject, I am passing on at least some of my experiences in this field, which may be beneficial and of use to our friends out there. I have deliberately stayed away from subjects such as bone, leather, glass, gilt or gilded items, enamelled items, pewter and lead. I dealt only briefly with wood, because the average South African is extremely unlikely to come into contact with such subject matter in the run-of-the-mill metal detecting environment in his homeland.

My advice is; should you come across such a find, get the correct people involved in the restoration and preservation of the object concerned - it will make you feel better to know that it has been treated correctly and you will get recognition for it. DO NOT GET IN THE WAY OF OR STEP ON THE TOES OF THE AUTHORITIES! GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR EFFORTS! Please note that I cannot be held responsible for the failure of any of these cleaning methods should they fail, as they will be carried out without my supervision.

TWAALF GOUE RINGE IN TWEE DAE

Deur Steph van Rooyen

Ek en Johan het gedurende Donderdag en Vrydag (10 en 11 Mei) die volgende items op Hartenbos se hoofstrand gevind:-

5 Nege karaat goue ringe plus 3 nege karaat goue ringe wat baie lank onder die sand moes gewees het, aangesien dit baie bros was en gebreek het. Nog 'n nege karaat goue ring met vermoedelik 'n klein diamant plus drie agtien karaat goue ringe met witgoud waarvan een 'n blou steen het. Verder 'n nege karaat goue ketting met tweeling sterreteken en die boonste helfde van 'n nege karaat goue ring.

Wat silwer juweliersware betref is die volgende gevind:- drie fyn silwer kettings, drie klein silwer kruisies, 2 silwer plaatjies met 'n protea en die Voortrekkermonument. Laasgenoemde is op verskillende dae gevind en kon deel wees van dieselfde armband. Twaalf silwer ringe is ook gevind.

Wat ouer munte betref, het ons ongeveer 60 silwer munte (Tiekie tot Halfkroon) en 70 koper munte (Oortjie tot Pennie) gevind. Ongeveer 550 moderne munte is ook opgetel te same met drie Medical Alert plaatjies met kettings van vlekvrue staal. Ook is 'n klomp sinkers, geroeste metaal en ander "onwelkome" vondste gevind.

Baie van die munte en ook 'n goue seëling is onder die klippe in 'n steenfondasie gevind wat net soms sigbaar is. Ek het tot 40 munte in van die gate gekry waar dit onder die fondasie ingespoel het. Baie munte is ook teen die paaltjies gekry wat verhoed dat die duine wegspoel.

In die voorafgaande twee-en-'n-half jaar kon ons slegs 4 goue ringe vind. Ek het egter nog 3 goue ringe tussen my "scrap" gekry aangesien ek onbewus was dat 9 karaat goud so erg aanslaan. Dit gebeur ook seker selde dat meer goud as silwer gevind word.

Naby dieselfde plek het ons 'n paar maande gelede sowat 600 munte gekry met net een silwer ring om te wys vir al die grawe.

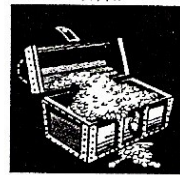
Groete

Steph en Johan

Hartenbos



TREASURE TALK COMPETITION! / KOMPETISIE!



FIND OF THE YEAR / VONDS VAN DIE JAAR

Treasure Talk has decided to launch our third Find of the Year competition. The first prize will be a FISHER 1225X METAL DETECTOR, sponsored by Excalibur Mining, the sole importers and distributors of Fisher metal detectors in South Africa. All finalists will receive certificates.

Treasure Talk het besluit om ons derde Vonds van die Jaar kompetisie te loods. Die wenprys is FISHER 1225X METAALVERKLIKKER geborg deur Excalibur Mining, die alleen-verspreiders van Fisher metaalverklikkers in Suid Afrika. Sertifikate sal aan alle finaliste toegeken word.

RULES OF THE COMPETITION	REELS VAN DIE KOMPETISIE
<p>1. The item must have had been found in the past 12 months within the borders of South Africa with a metal detector.</p>	<p>1. Die item moes oor die afgelope 12 maande binne die grense van Suid Afrika met 'n metaal-verklikker gevind gewees het.</p>
<p>2. The entry form – included with this newsletter – must be completed and sent to us <u>before August 2001</u>.</p>	<p>2. Die inskrywingsvorm - ingesluit by hierdie nuusbrieff - moet volledig voltooi word en ons <u>voor Augustus 2001</u> bereik.</p>
<p>3. A photo or photo copy of the find is not compulsory, but will be very highly appreciated!</p>	<p>3. 'n Foto of fotokopie van die vonds is nie verpligtend nie, maar sal baie waardeer word!</p>
<p>4. You can submit as many entries as you like.</p>	<p>4. Daar is geen beperkings op die getal inskrywings per persoon nie.</p>
<p>5. The winning entry and runners up will be decided by the editor and will be published in our newsletter later this year.</p>	<p>5. Die wen-inskrywing en troospryswenners sal deur die redakteur aangewys word en in ons nuusbrieff later hierdie jaar gepubliseer word.</p>

