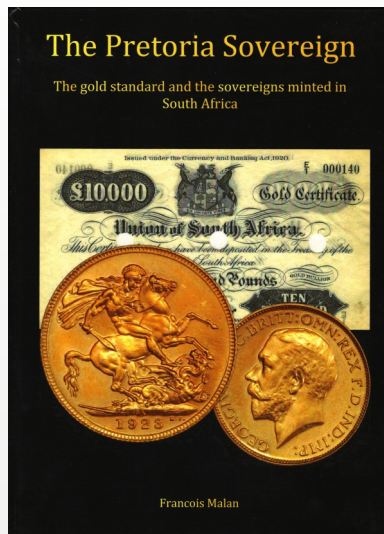


Western Cape Numismatic Society - Book Review



The Pretoria Sovereign

Author: Prof. Francois Malan

151 Pages, Hardcover

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The sovereign gold coin was an important method of payment in the South African economy for many decades. It was used during the Great Trek, the diamond rush in Kimberley, the gold rush on the Witwatersrand, the Boer war, World War I and the Great Depression.

It is therefore surprising that not more South African coin collectors show an interest in collecting the sovereign series. Almost no dedicated numismatic literature on the sovereigns and half-sovereigns struck at the Pretoria Branch of the Royal Mint is available. This book, according to the author, was compiled to fill this gap.

The Pretoria Sovereign - The gold standard and the sovereigns minted in South Africa is an excellent read and provides a comprehensive overview and documents the coinage history of the South African sovereign and half-sovereign, which are often difficult to locate. Excellent graphics and colour coin photography augment the text. The book should appeal to both general readers and collectors as well as providing a leading reference in academic, numismatic and public libraries.

Of special interest is the author's usual thorough research of the numbers minted of the scarce 1923 and 1924 issues. Up till its publication, past numismatists have been struggling to get the facts right, but one can now safely assume that Prof. Malan has put this issue to bed.

This book is a must for everyone that is interested in this fascinating period of our numismatic history, including foreign collectors of the series. It would come as no surprise if this book cause an upsurge in the collection of these beautiful coins. The numismatic fraternity in both South Africa and internationally, owns Francois Malan all the accolades due to him.

Well done sir!



[Western Cape Numismatic Society](#)
e-mail: wcnumsoc@gmail.com