

THE NEW

TREASURE TALK

MARCH 1999



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS / BRIEWE VAN ONS LESERS

Hello Pierre

I have lived in California (USA) for 11 years now although I am originally from the UK. I have also spent time in South Africa although unfortunately I never made it down to your beautiful area (Cape Town). Between 1980 and 1984 I worked at a place called Secunda in the coal mines owned by SASOL. I have a lot of fond memories of the many places I saw and the people I have met.

Back to metal detecting again Pierre, I own 2 Tesoros, a Bandito u-max and a Stingray 11. The Stingray I use under water in the Caribbean and I like it a lot. So far I have found 33 gold, 2 platinum and 3 silver rings, a 22 inch 14 K gold chain with a St Christopher and lots of coins. I have not used the Bandito much yet but it seems to be a nice unit... light, good discrimination and sensitive.

Well, I hope I did not ramble on to much ... take care and let us know if you have any good finds.

Kind regards

Colin Dunleavy
California
MALICOL@aol.com

Hi Pierre

If you need any input into the newsletter just let me know. I've been detecting now for going on 4 years. I have a GTAx1000 and a Freedom Ace. We do not hunt the beaches as often as we did in the beginning, but have found some really neat old things in the few parks here.

Did you know that there are at least ten other metal detecting forums on the internet. The main one that I post on is the CMDF - it stands for christian metal detecting forum, but you don't have to be a Christian to post on there. The address of the site is <http://www.findmall.co/popcorn/> There are just a lot of very good people on there that are more than willing to pass on good info.

Best Regards

Laura Milne
New Germany
Natal

FROM THE PRESS

THE KRUGER "SINGLE NINE" UP FOR SALE

In 1899, during the Anglo-Boer War, the Transvaal Mint needed to produce a new coinage but lacked the necessary expertise to engrave new dies. The original dies for the gold pond, manufactured in Germany, had been seized en route by the British so it was decided to strike coins using the 1898 dies and overstamp them. Subsequently the Mint produced a solitary example of a gold pond with the date indicated on the obverse, below the bust of President Kruger, by a single figure 9 applied by a punch. However, it was not put into general production because the numeral was considered too large and impinged on the bust. Instead, a much smaller punch was used to apply the numerals 99.



Actual size 22mm diameter.

The "Single Nine" coin, the greatest rarity among South African coins was formerly in the collection of King Farouk and over the years has been in the hands of various collectors in Britain and America but more recently was repatriated to South Africa. It is understood that the coin is currently on the market again, this time for the amazing sum of 7,000,000 Rand which will be a world record for a single coin. (Coin News, Token Publishing Limited, August 1998)

UIT DIE PERS

HORLOSIE TIK NOG NA SEWE JAAR IN PLAASDAM

STELLENBOSCH. Dit klink dalk soos die verhaal uit die pen van 'n advertensieskrywer, maar 'n plaaslike akademikus hét vandeeweek sy duur horlosie gevind nadat dit sewe jaar lank op die bodem van 'n plaasdam gelê het en dit werk nog.

Prof. Pierre du Toit, van die departement van politieke wetenskap aan die Universiteit van Stellenbosch, het sy Rolex-horlosie in 1985 in die dam verloor terwyl hy vir die Bergrivier-kanomarathon geoefen het.

"Ek het dadelik duiktoerusting geleen en saam met 'n vriend na die horlosie gesoek. Ons moes later tou opgooi," het hy gister gesê.

Prof. Du Toit het egter nooit vergeet van die horlosie wat hy in 1970 vir R150 gekoop het nie. Dit kos vandag sowat R8 000.

Die plaasdam is onlangs byna heeltemal leeggepomp en prof. Du Toit het besluit om sy soektog na sy Rolex voort te sit. Hy is bygestaan deur mnr. Giorgio dalla Cia, wynmaker van Meerlust en die eienaar van 'n gevorderde **metaalverklikker**.

Hulle het die horlosie uiteindelik gevind waar dit in 'n bars op die bodem gelê het.

"Behalwe vir 'n bietjie vog makeer dit niks nie. Ek het egter nie verwag dat dit sou werk nie," het prof. Du Toit gesê.

RELIC HUNTING IN HEIDELBERG (GAUTENG)

By Eric van den Berg

As the sun rose over the horizon, the campsite was already a hive of activity. Horses were being saddled, rifles checked and cleaned and ammunition pouches filled. The Somersets were armed and well prepared for the morning patrol as the Boers had raided the farm Emmasdal just outside town the previous night.

In the days of the Anglo-Boer war, Heidelberg was the capital of the old Transvaal. It was of great importance for the British to occupy and secure Heidelberg for themselves. Heidelberg was also part of the main supply route from Durban to Pretoria. Thousands of British troops were stationed in and around Heidelberg during this period as the town became the front line and focus point of attention.

Close to a hundred years later, Mike Bull and myself were armed too. Mike with his trustworthy C-Scope 4XZ and myself with a Minelab Sovereign XS2 Pro. All this activity so long ago has made Heidelberg a detectorist's paradise.

After obtaining permission from the local town council to search on their property, Mike and I chose a site between Rensburg and Emmasdal where a British camp had been during the Boer war. Because of the "Scorched earth" policy the British had taken, the Boers were forced to replenish their supplies by stealing cattle, de-railing and robbing trains and even ambushing some British patrols. To protect their own cattle that was kept on the farm Emmasdal and also on the farm which belonged to a Mr van Rensburg, a camp was set up mid-way between the two farms.

Today there is an airfield for radio controlled planes where this camp once was. Mike chose to start his search on one of the runways and I just strolled in the direction of the distant hills on which two Blockhouses are.

Methodically swinging the coil from side to side, I soon got a good signal which according to the meter on the Sovereign indicated that I should dig. Carefully I started digging down, not directly over the pinpointed spot, but rather around it. The soil is extremely hard and I did not want to risk damaging my find. I looked to see where Mike was, and he too was already digging! At about 4 inches the soil was loose enough for me to start feeling around. Out came a beautiful brass uniform button with coat of arms and all. (Photo1, 2 and 3)

In the mean time, Mike had unearthed a 1900 One Shilling in excellent condition. (Photo 4 & 5) Mike then started searching in an outward spiralling circle from where the coin came. (After filling the hole again) Soon he was digging away again! This time it was a button like I had found.

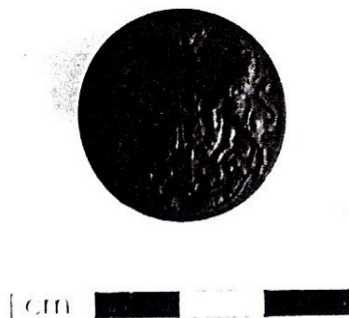
I also searched in the outward spiral pattern from where my find came. It seemed like ages before the threshold tone was broken. This time the meter reading indicated a find with the "signature" of a coin. My heart skipped a beat as I held a 1896 ZAR 2 Shilling in my hand. I was the first person to hold this coin in nearly 100 years! (Photo 6A & 6B)

Mike must have seen the excitement and came in my direction. He suddenly stopped dead in his tracks. Knowing Mike's expression, I could tell the C-Scope sang music in his ears. He started digging carefully after looking at my coin. In anticipation I waited to see what he had found. From a depth of about 7 inches came a well preserved cap badge (Photo 7). Both Mike and I were grinning from ear to ear. We had found a "hot spot"

As the day went on, our finds pouches became fuller and fuller with all sorts of interesting finds. I had also found a small badge (Photo 8 & 9) as well as a 1900 Victorian One Shilling in the same good condition as Mike's (Photo 4 & 5).

We had a wonderful day out in the open with the added bonus of good finds.

What type of day the British or Boer soldiers had, we will never know, but what I do know is that we had done no harm nor suffered any. The soldiers came and went, and so Mike and I will return to this productive site to search again for items lost 100 years ago.



a beautiful brass uniform button with coat of arms and all. (Photo1, 2 and 3)



1900 One Shilling in excellent condition. (Photo 4 & 5)



1896 ZAR 2 Shilling
(Photo 6A & 6B)



well preserved cap badge. (Photo 7)



small badge (Photo 8 & 9)



TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

TREASURE TALK TALKS TO: ANTHONY VENISH

How did I start detecting?

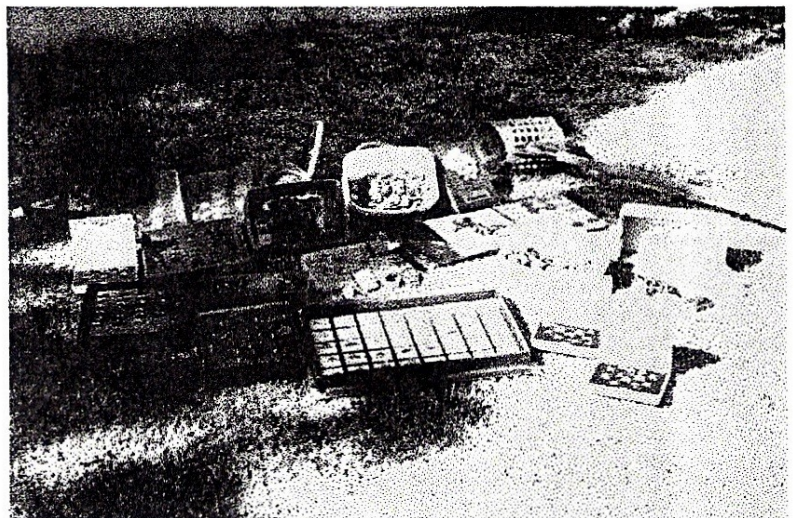
I was on holiday in Durban and I saw a man detecting on one of the local beaches. At the time, I did not know what he was doing but this he duly highlighted and I actually saw him pick up 2 gold rings. I did not need anymore tempting - I was hooked!

How long have I been detecting?

I have been detecting for about 12 years and have never looked back, as some people begin the hobby but never seem to master the art of detecting. They then give up because they don't have the patience and are not finding much.

Is it an expensive hobby and are you still enjoying it?

Let's say any sport is expensive, and this one is no exception at the beginning, but if you work hard at it, it makes its money over and over again. Not only that, it gives you hours of enjoyment, as you never quite know what you will find next, and when you see that very old coin or the glint of a gold ring.....need I say anymore, the heart seems to do a flip. In fact when we first started I didn't own a car but I possessed a metal detector!!!! and I would go on my bike and detect in the parks and at open spaces.



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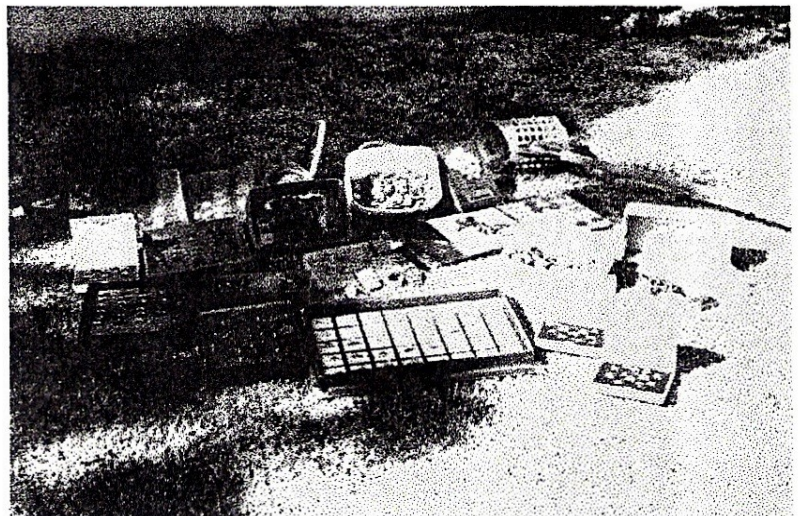
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How many machines do you own?

Five. A wonderful thing happened to us while we were In Durban on holiday, which enabled me to buy my second machine. We only had the one and I desperately wanted another. I was told by my wife that I could either enjoy my long stay at Durban or I could buy the detector and cut our holiday short. This I was not prepared to do. So with a heavy heart I took the old freedom ace the following morning and went detecting on my own. I found a diamond ring that was worth R3.000 [that's talking about some years ago] and I promptly bought my second machine. Thus my wife enjoyed the long holiday and I enjoyed my new detector.

How many hours do you give to the hobby?

I try to go whenever I can. Fortunately for me, my wife detects as well, so the household chores that I need to do are slightly overlooked. I do get caught in the long run but as long as I bring the gold back...I seem to gain a bit of sympathy.

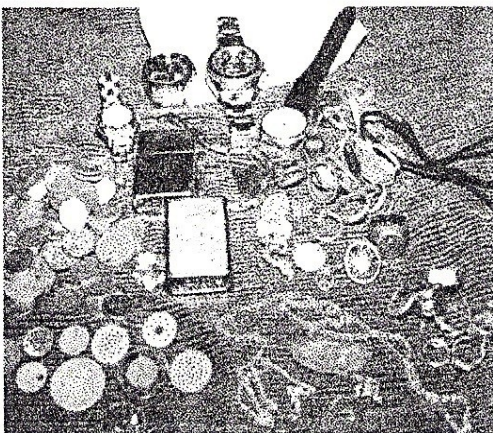
Where do you do it?

I go to all the beaches, there is no specific beach although one does have favorites. I have also detected with a few other detectorists, at the Battle of Blouberg and we picked up a few old coins.

What is your favorite find?

I would like to have said it was this big cluster diamond ring, but sadly to say it has not been found, but I have found a five shilling coin in perfect condition on the beach. My oldest coin has been a cartwheel penny dated 1797.

my finds in three weeks



What is your most unusual find?

We were detecting and we found this bag of medicines and syringes. We duly advertised the find but it remained unclaimed.

On a final note, I would like to say that detecting is a wonderful way to get close to Mother Nature, as she has so much to offer. It never ceases to amaze me what treasures she upturns for the detectorists.

BY
ANTHONY VENISH



WITH SOME OF MY DETECTING FRIENDS: BACK ROW FROM LEFT: Shaun Engler, Pieter Bender, Odette (my wife) FRONT ROW FROM LEFT: Wolfgang Roux, Pierre Nortje, myself, Andy Naudé

IS JOU VONDSTE VOORSPELBAAR?

'n Mens hoor dikwels dat wat ons stokperdjie so lekker maak, is die feit dat jy nooit weet wat jou volgende vonds gaan wees nie. Maar is dit werklik waar?

Om elke keer as jy 'n sein kry, presies te weet wat dit gaan wees, sal jy sekerlik 'n metaalverklikker benodig wat volgens my kennis, nog nie bestaan nie. Tog is daar 'n manier waarop jy met 'n redelike mate van sekerheid toekomstige vondste kan voorspel.

Ek, soos sekerlik baie ander entoesiaste, hou nougeset rekord van al my vondste. Na gelang die getal munte wat ek vind toeneem, neem die ander items, bv. ringe, vanselfsprekend ook toe. Maar bly die verhouding tussen die getal munte en getal ringe, as voorbeeld, dieselfde met verloop van tyd? Die antwoord is beslis ja! Ek moet darem byvoeg dat ek altyd met dieselfde masjien soek en hoofsaaklik langs die seekus(te) my soektogte onderneem.

Ek gee vervolgens 'n uiteensetting van die getal munte wat ek per item vind. :-

<i>TIPE FONDS</i>	<i>MUNTE PER ITEM (Gebaseer op my eerste 2500 munte)</i>	<i>MUNTE PER ITEM (Gebaseer op my daaropvolgende 2500 munte)</i>
<i>"Interessante" item</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Ou SA-munt (Pre 1965)</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>95</i>
<i>Buitelandse munt</i>	<i>216</i>	<i>201</i>
<i>Juweliersitem</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Goud/Silwer item</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>67</i>
<i>Ring</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>63</i>
<i>Kostuum ring</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>201</i>
<i>Silwer ring</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>112</i>
<i>Goue ring</i>	<i>467</i>	<i>483</i>

Alhoewel die getal munte per item in die twee kolomme verskil, is daar nogtans 'n opmerklike ooreenkoms. Wat sekere items betref, het ek gedurende die eerste tydperk "beter" gedoen, en wat ander betref, weer swakker, maar die verhoudings bly tog redelik konstant. Gebaseer op bogenoemde inligting, kan ek dus met redelike sekerheid die getal, en tipe, items voorspel wat ek in die toekoms gaan vind. Die geheim is dus dat ek bloot my muntvondste moet opstoot, en die "goodies" sal gevind word, en wel in 'n redelik voorspelbare mate.

A LAST WORD /'N LAASTE WOORD

I do hope that you all enjoyed the first issue of our newsletter. I promise to make an effort to improve with each issue. But to do so I need to be assisted with letters, articles, photographs and any other interesting snippets which may have bearing on this wonderful hobby of ours. For those of you, and I include myself, who struggle with spelling and grammar, fear not, help is at hand and articles and letters will be corrected if necessary.

On behalf of us all I would again like to thank Santam Ltd for their sponsorship. Let us support those who support us.

In closing thank you for at least reading to the last page. Most metal detectorists are more interested in detecting than reading for recreation! Be it as it may, I look forward to your response, comment and advice to improve the newsletter. Please let me know of other enthusiasts who would also like to receive our newsletter.

May there be signals aplenty revealing great finds!

Till next time ...

Pierre Nortje

.....

Ek hoop julle het hierdie eerste uitgawe van ons Nuusbrief geniet. Van my kant belowe ek om te poog om met elke uitgawe te verbeter op die vorige. Maar dan het ek almal se hulp nodig met briewe, artikels, foto's en enige ander insette, al is dit ook slegs koerantuitknipsels oor relevante aspekte van ons wonderlike stokperdjie. Vir dié van julle wat soos ek sukkel met spelling en taalgebruik, moenie bekommerd wees nie - ons het die hulp van 'n naamlose persoon wat alle artikels en briewe (op versoek) sal redigeer.

Ek wil dan ook net weer 'n groot dankie sê aan Santam Bpk vir die borg van hierdie nuusbrief. Kom ons ondersteun dié wat ons ondersteun!

Ten slotte dankie dat julle ten minste tot by die laaste bladsy gelees het - baie skattejagters is jeukerig om in die veld te kom en leeswerk is selde boaan die lys van ontspanning. Hoe ook al, ek wag vir julle bydraes, raad en kommentaar om ons nuusbrief te verbeter. Laat my ook asseblief weet van ander persone aan wie ek die nuusbrief kan stuur.

Sterkte met die skatte en seëninge met die seine!

Tot volgende keer ...

Pierre Nortje

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