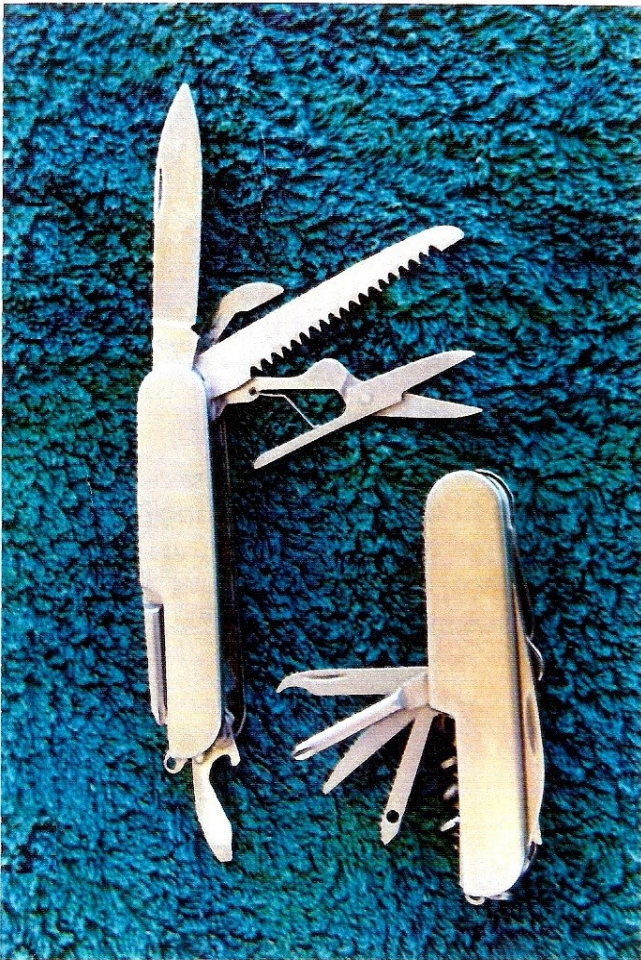


TREASURE TALK

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

Special edition 2001 Spesiale uitgawe



John en Erica Mulder van Plettenbergbaai skryf: Ons het 22 feitlik nuwe knipmesse in ons versameling. Hier is die grootste (226g) en die kleinste (4g), albei op dieselfde strand gevind. Ons het ook verskeie Swiss knipmesse, maar die een met die meeste funksies is die een van vleklose staal. Dit het 11 funksies. Wat die tweede foto betref, nee, jy het nie dubbelvisie nie, en dit is ook nie 'n kulfoto nie, ons het die twee identiese messe twee jaar na mekaar in die droë sand gevind. Dan onthou ek ook dat iemand in die Kaap eenkeer gesê het jy kry nooit twee identiese items nie, maar wat nou?!

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR / BRIEF VAN DIE REDAKTEUR

Beste leser

Soos verlede jaar, het ek besluit om weer hierdie jaar 'n spesiale bonusuitgawe te publiseer. Dit word spesifiek gedoen om lesers aan te moedig om deel te neem aan ons Vonds van die Jaar Kompetisie. Soos julle weet is daar 'n groot prys op die spel – sien ons agterblad vir meer inligting.

In die afgelope paar uitgawes van Treasure Talk het daar heelwat artikels verskyn oor strand-skattejag. Ek wil ons binnelandse lesers vriendelik versoek om ook van hulle te laat hoor. Nuus oor sg. “relic hunting” is altyd baie interresant – sien die artikels in vorige uitgawes deur persone soos Owen Timmermans, Eric van den Berg, Steve Raiguel en Mike Bull. Verdere artikels in hierdie verband word hoog op prys gestel. Laat asseblief van u hoor.

Dear reader

This special bonus issue is specifically published to encourage readers to participate in our Find of the Year Competition. A big prize is up for grabs - please see our back page for more information.

In the past few editions of Treasure Talk there were quite a number of articles relating to beach detecting. What about more articles in future on relic hunting? Readers will remember the excellent articles in past issues on inland detecting by persons such as Owen Timmermans, Eric van den Berg, Steve Raiguel and Mike Bull. Where are the many other relic hunters? Please send us your stories.

Vriendelike groete / Kind regards

Pierre Nortje (Editor/Redakteur)

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LETTERS FROM OUR READERS / BRIEWE VAN ONS LESERS

Hello Pierre

My name is Marius Deetlefs and I am currently living in Franklin, Tennessee, and will probably return to SA the end of the year. I found your name on a MD forum and was curious. What is the most popular detectors that are being used in South Africa? There are so many companies here and it can get confusing sometimes. I use a Fischer CZ 7a-Pro and it is a wonderful machine. There was a drop in price on Minelab and I am considering looking into one of those because I hear they handle mineralization better than average. Just got into the hobby here and are actually looking forward to going back to SA and use mine where I grew up.

Looking forward hearing from you.

Marius
Tennessee
USA

Hello Pierre

Sedert ek in besit is van 'n Fischer CZ20 metaalverklikker van Lukas van der Merwe het die naweek te min ure om dit te benut... Ek neem aan iemand soos ek, en waarskynlik baie lesers van jou tydskrif, sou prospekteerders wees in die geskiedenis van ons land!

Ek sal dit waardeer indien ek op die Treasure Talk tydskrif kan inteken.

Groete

Danie Human
Helderkrui

Pierre,

Thank you for your excellent newsletter, which is both informative and also a inspiration to go out and dig more holes. The photo of your and Wolf's ring collections is really great. My total of gold rings found is only 12, 3 of which were handed to their original owner. I search mainly on the beaches and coast around Port Elizabeth, and my finds for this summer holiday include the following: 1 gold ring, 3 silver rings, about R100 in change, enough sinkers to make 4 weightbelt weights and some junk jewelry. In a gully on a rocky section of coast I found a brass tap, some copper nails, a badly corroded penny, rectangular copper nails and plenty of iron.(A possible wreck site?)

Keep up the good work.

Regards

André Marais.
Humewood
PE

A fill in story.

By Detector man East London.

Well here we are again, seated in front of the keyboard, this is as close to a musical keyboard that I can get, I don't have a musical bone in my body, that's why I have a good stereo. After a nice long cycle of 55km sitting at this keyboard proves a bit tough, but I'm sure ill manage. I thought of signing up for the Argus Cycle Tour, but the folks that I would get a lift to Cape Town with might be a bit offended if out of my "Cycle Bag" came a metal detector instead of a bicycle. I would get the question "How you gonna ride that boet?" ,Then I would have to make haste to the nearest beach before I got hurt!!! You see, metal detectorists have to keep fit too, its great and healthy outdoors, but I find I need a bit more than a big dig.. Well this is definitely not a cycling article so I will proceed with the nitty gritty.

Towards the end of December our family got a puppy, a golden Labrador, Jesse, now Detector man will use any excuse to get to the beach, I say to my good lady, "Love, don't you think that Jesse could use a walk on the beach.....Say.....Nahoon?" Well, we contact the folks who we got Jesse from, as they are good friends of ours and they rock up in their new double cab.....mmmm, so we ride in style, Four adults, three kids two detectors and a partridge in a pear tree, down to the beach...oh, did I forget the doggy, yes her too. Now my friend Lawrence has never even held one of these machines in his life, the second machine is the same as the first one I built, but for some reason it doesn't QUITE work as well as the first, so we get set up and I give him a quick demo on how to use the Earthworks 2000. After about three minutes I dig my first bottle cap, which are incidentally very common on Nahoon beach.....Lots and lots of Charles Glass fans seem to find that beach particularly inviting to throw their tops away, well never fear, the cleanup crew is on the prowl and we soon root out a champagne cork cage, seems people get thirsty on this beach. Lawrence is up ahead and walking at quite a pace, but occasionally bends to scratch something out the sand. I look up and see that the weather is changing slightly, the clouds lurk and promise a mizzle (cross between mist and drizzle) Jesse is in her element, the three kids are supposed to be watching her, but they have taken to the dunes, now Jesse has given up chasing them, I suppose it's a bit difficult if your legs are only four inches long.....she kind of heels behind me and now and again goes for my search coil..beep!!! um...I feel a bit silly actually bending down to this signal `cos it only seems to beep when Jesse goes for the search coil....he he he, DOG TAG!!!! Around Jesse's collar. So there are disadvantages of being a good "parent" to your dog....

Well the precipitation arrived and threatened to destroy my Earthworks 2000 so I made for the bakkie. Lawrence was enjoying himself greatly and by this

time was also making his way back to the truck. Whew! I wipe the rain off my brow and pack all the dirties in the back including the kids. Hey its amazing how kids are, they can take a clean situation and make a gigantic mess. Well I suppose that's their job. Back home we compared notes, Lawrence beat me, he had found about seven coins and myself only five. That gold still evades me...(I test my machine on my wife's engagement ring every now and then to make sure my machine sees gold) maybe its also so that my machine can get a whiff of what it smells like and seek it out soon. Its been a bit quiet of late here on the detecting scene, due to the wind and the rain (I'm not DIE HARD YET) and have yet to go shortly again.

Until then I will leave you with something I have been pondering on for a short while

The Detectorists prayer.

*The detector is my friend,
I shall not want.
It maketh me to kneel beside good signals,
It restoreth my faith in good technology
It leadeth me beside still waters and beaches
And yeah though I walk though parks and schoolgrounds,
I will see history unearthed,
I shall never fear.
My coin tub runneth over,
Thy balance and thy beeps they comfort me.
Surely good signals and finds
Shall follow me all the days of my life
And shall dwell in detectors bliss forever.*

Detector Man.
East London.

Well guys and gals, it's been great being able to contribute again, hope you enjoy reading the magazine.

Thanks Pierre for the publication.

Brett Cockcroft
Detector Man.

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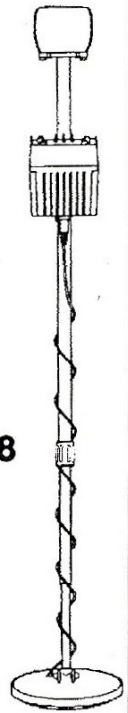
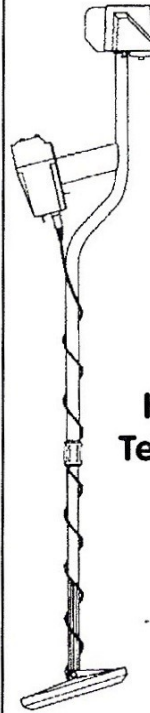
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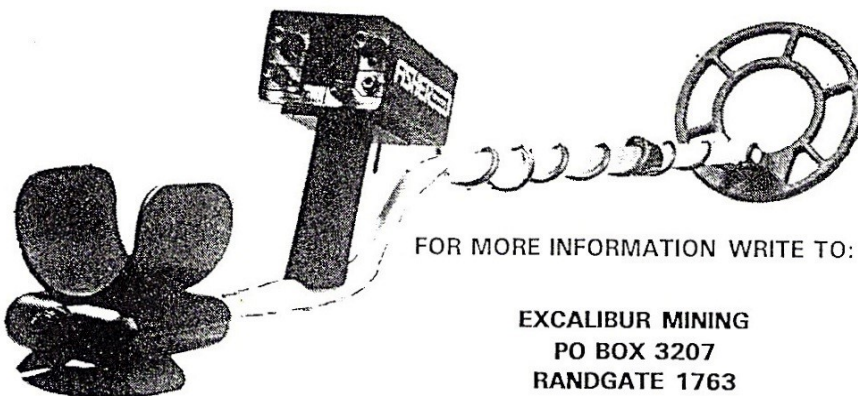
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NATAL: Dawie Berg (Sel. 0824751016)

OP DIE STRAND : DEEL 3 (Ken jou Masjien)

Deur Dawie Berg



Dit is vakansie en ek en my seun het een oggend by Margate strand gestop. Dit is nog nie eens ses uur nie, maar dit is die beste tyd vir ons skattejagters. Ons sien daar is al 'n paar mense op die strand, ook sien ons vier ander mense met metaalverklikkers op die strand. My seun is van mening dat ons liever na Uvongo of 'n ander strand moet gaan. "Nee" sê ek "hier is genoeg vir ons almal..."

Nadat ons die ander vier mense met hul verklikkers vir 'n rukkie dop gehou het, sê ek vir my seun "ons kan maar ons verklikkers uithaal, hulle loop soos gekke". Hy kyk my verbaas aan, volgens hom sien hy niks verkeerd met die manier waarop hulle loop nie. "Kyk net mooi" sê ek, "kyk hoe vinnig swaai hulle hul verklikkers, let ook op hoe vinnig loop hulle en hoe hoog hou hulle die instrumente van die sand af".

Enige moderne metaalverklikker kan 6 duim of 15cm diep gaan – selfs die kleinere masjiene soos die Fisher 1225x of die Garrett Ace 200. Maar dan moet jy hom net nie drie tot vier duim bokant die grond swaai nie – want so soek jy dan net twee duim onder die grond. En dan kla mense nog dat hul niks kry nie! Jy sal wel hier en daar 'n paar munte kry, maar glo my die meeste geld sal jou verlore wees. Onthou die meeste van die geld lê meer as twee duim onder die grond; ek sou sê die meeste is tussen twee en vier duim diep. Die meeste geld wat tydens die vakansie verlore raak, lê nie veel dieper nie. Waar mense speel en spring – daar lê die geld dalk dieper, ons het al geld uitgehaal wat baie diep was, maar soos gesê is die meeste binne bereik van metaalverklikkers. So,

wanneer jy met jou metaalverklikker loop, hou hom so naby as moontlik aan die grond, en jou vondste sal maklik verdubbel. Onthou ook om by die end van jou swaai nie jou spoel op te lig nie – hou hom plat op die grond, want net daar lê dalk die wonderlikste vonds! Ai, as julle maar net weet hoe lekker kry ek as die klomp hier op Margate so vinnig sien loop, gits, dit is mos nie ‘n wedloop nie.

Ek het nog nooit ‘n boek oor metaalverklikkers gelees wat nie uitdruklik sê dat jy ten minste jou spoel ‘n kwart of helfde van die volgende swaai weer moet oorgaan nie. Ek wil amper sê dat as jy net twee van die dinge hierbo sou leer, is jou kans soveel beter – as dit dan daar is sal jy dit beslis kry!

Wat nog belangriker is, leer jou verklikker ken. Sekere mense sê hul verklikker gee net een klank, maar ek kan jou waarborg dit is nie regtig so nie. Met die tyd sal jy agterkom dat silwer, as voorbeeld, ‘n skerper klank gee. ‘n Proppie of “pultab” gee weer ‘n krap geluid. En so begin jy al minder gemors uit te haal en geniet jy jou stokperdjie soveel meer.

Ek gebruik die Fisher CZ7 en ai, wat ‘n masjien is dit nie? My seun het die veel goedkoper 1225X, maar raai wie het aanvanklik die meeste uitgehaal? Natuurlik hy! Maar na ‘n paar maande haal ek twee keer meer as hy uit. In die begin het hy alles uitgehaal, toe word hy lui. Hy kla by my dat sy verklikker nie reg werk nie. Ek gee hom toe my duurder masjien om mee te werk terwyl ek sy kleiner masjien gebruik. Die eerste keer haal ek toe drie keer meer as hy uit. Volgens hom was ek maar net gelukkig, en stel voor dat ons die volgende dag na ‘n ander strand toe moet gaan. Weer wen ek hom! Ons ruil toe maar weer masjiene en ek hou hom toe goed dop – hy probeer nie sy masjien verstaan nie. Nadat ek hom op sy foute gewys het, het sy vondste amper verdubbel. Vandag maak dit nie saak waar hy soek nie, op gras of die strand, as daar silwer is sal hy dit vir jou sê voordat hy dit uithaal. Nou stel hy nie eers belang in ‘n duurder masjien nie.

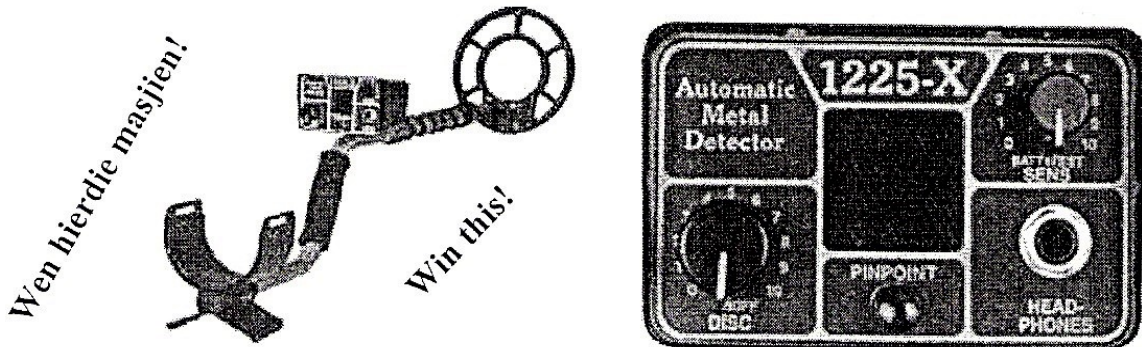
Dit is lekker om die Fisher CZ7 of nuwe Minelab Explorer te hê, maar ons het mos nie almal die geld vir hierdie duurder masjiene nie. Ook wil almal nie noodwendig met hierdie duurder masjiene begin nie.

Ek het self oorspronklik met ‘n kleiner masjien begin. Ek het besef dat ek baie van die stokperdjie hou en het nogal baie geld gekry. Toe koop ek ‘n duurder masjien en die vondste het toegeneem, deels oor die masjien, maar ook weens ervaring. As jy gelukkig is, is jou masjien na ‘n paar goeie vondste betaal, en as dit goue ponde is, natuurlik nog vinniger! Ek besoek ook parke en skole, en ‘n voordeel, teenoor strande, is die goeie toestand waarin vondste na vore kom. Een vakansieganger hier by ons soek byvoorbeeld vakansies slegs in karavaanparke, en volgens hom doen hy baie goed.

As jy net ‘n paar van die dingetjies onthou wat ek hier geskryf het, sal dit net beter en beter met jou gaan. En as jy hulle nie uithaal nie, is hulle dalk verlore vir altyd. Ek sê altyd hulle is so bly dat ek hulle uithaal – hulle lag eintlik so van die lekkerkry...

DEAR READER / BESTE LESER

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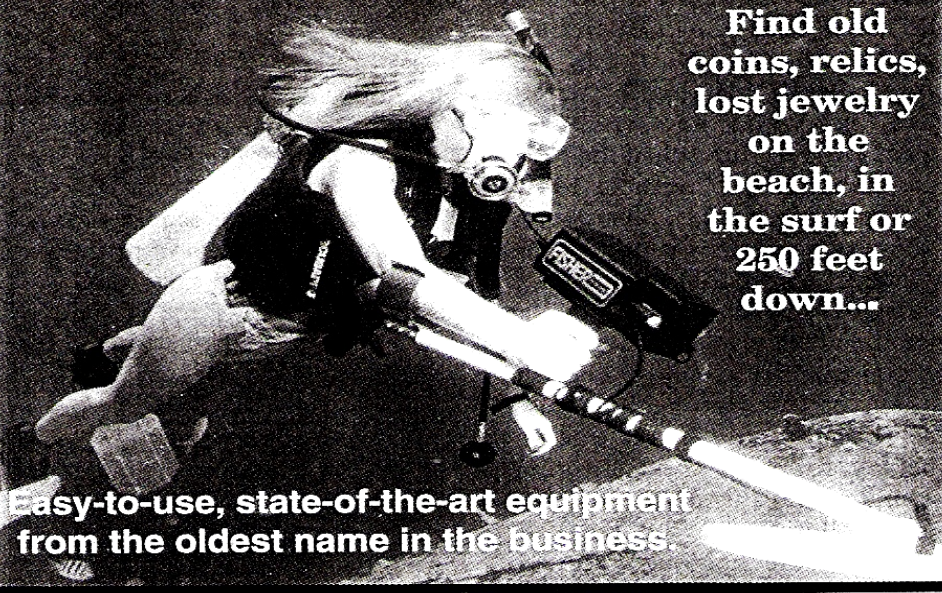
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SUBMISSION TO TREASURE TALK

FROM JOHN AND ERICA MULDER

OTHER TREASURES - FOUR SHORT STORIES (ONE WITH A STING IN THE TAIL)

Treasure hunting is a most relaxing and absorbing pastime. When you are there on the beach enjoying the fresh air and sunshine, it is only you and the anticipation of the next signal, and the occasional side shows which momentarily distract your attention and concentration:-

- The people you meet and what they said.
- What else you saw and found.

Sometimes the memories of these side shows outlast those of the treasures you found.

Here are four such experiences, the last of which bounced back on me.

KEURBOOMSTRAND - September 2000

There are a few rock outcrops on the beach where people usually gather and consequently present good hunting territory.

It is my habit to walk around these rocks swinging the detector coil close to the rocks. I had noticed a few locals watching me in their usual puzzled expression, but paid no further attention to them.

When I arrived at the car where Erica was waiting, she told me the locals had approached her enquiring whether I was blind - must have been the white shaft of the metal detector and my style of walking around the rocks.

KINGS BEACH P.E.

Late one afternoon in October 2000, when in P.E. I was searching Kings Beach when about 6 or 7 people had arrived on the beach after sunset. When they had finished ball games and it was nearing darkness they gathered in a group about 50m from the waves watching me as I was searching the wet sand.

One lady left the group and started walking in my direction. I thought she was heading towards the water, but when she approached me I expected to hear the usual questions.

What a surprise when she in all seriousness enquired - "Is it safe to cross here?" (landmines?)

LOOKOUT BEACH - PLETT - December 2000

Early one morning there was this young wife with her two toddlers on the beach giving me the usual enquiring stare as I worked the wet sand where occasionally the water would rise to my knees.

Eventually she could contain her curiosity no longer and came up to me enquiring - "What are you catching?"

When I told her I was searching for coins she replied - "No, seriously, what are you catching?"

This question and answer sequence was again repeated after which she appeared convinced I would not tell her what I'm catching.

HOW TO CATCH A FISH WITH A FISHER - HAROLDS BAY - March 2001

A story of the fish that really did not get away - it happened at low tide at Harolds Bay.

The answer to this question must be obtained from the lady on Look Out Beach with her children.

This is not a fisherman's tale - it really happened at low tide at Harolds Bay Beach.

I was approaching some isolated rock outcrops on the beach on my way to the surf, and when I looked up I could not believe my eyes - there on top of a rock about the size of an upright 44 gallon drum (with no water in sight) was lying this fish, a 2kg Cape Salmon, fresh out of the sea with its gill plates breathing air.

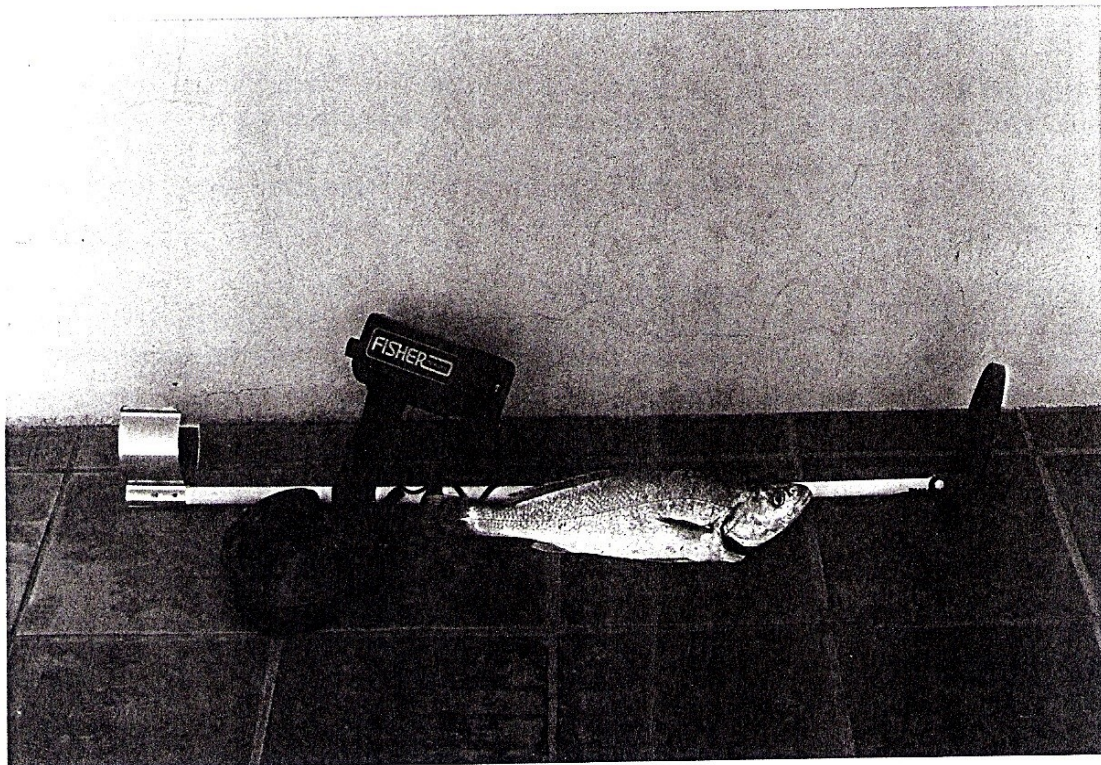
My first thought was it must have been put there by a nearby angler, so I looked around but saw nobody. Also no fish eagles or sea otters. My next thought was that it must be a lost catch with a line snagged on the rock - but there was no line.

The next moment the fish started jumping and was about to fall off the rock onto the sand below and be carried away by the shallow water surging in from the next wave.

How the fish really got itself on top of that rock remains a mystery, so perhaps the lady with the toddlers was right after all - you can catch a fish with a metal detector.

Speculation - when I gutted the fish I found two small sardines in its gills so this is what may have happened:-

- On this day there was a heavy surge in the surf, at times moving the water line 30 - 40 metres up and down the beach.
- The fish may have landed on top of the rock when it jumped clear of the water in pursuit of the sardines during a previous surge of a wave but at that speed it should have bounced over the other side of the rock which is less than a metre wide at the top, and the sides of the rock are vertical down to the sand.
- So the mystery remains.



SUBMISSION TO TREASURE TALK

FROM JOHN AND ERICA MULDER

IF PIGS COULD FLY - OR SWIM

(Humewood, Port Elizabeth, Monday 27 March 2001)

We went to P.E. expecting to repeat the excellent finds of our previous visit of late February, but to our disappointment by some mysterious wave action, all the coins and jewellery of Kings Beach had suddenly totally disappeared.

So we went to the new pier at Humewood, opposite the casino where I found the gold chain with the price tag still attached and where we saw the most unexpected sight ever on a beach.

To the amazement and amusement of everybody, a lady had brought her big black pet pig to the beach on a leash - for a stroll on the sand and a splash in the water.

Suddenly the two treasure hunters with their metal detectors were no longer the main attraction.

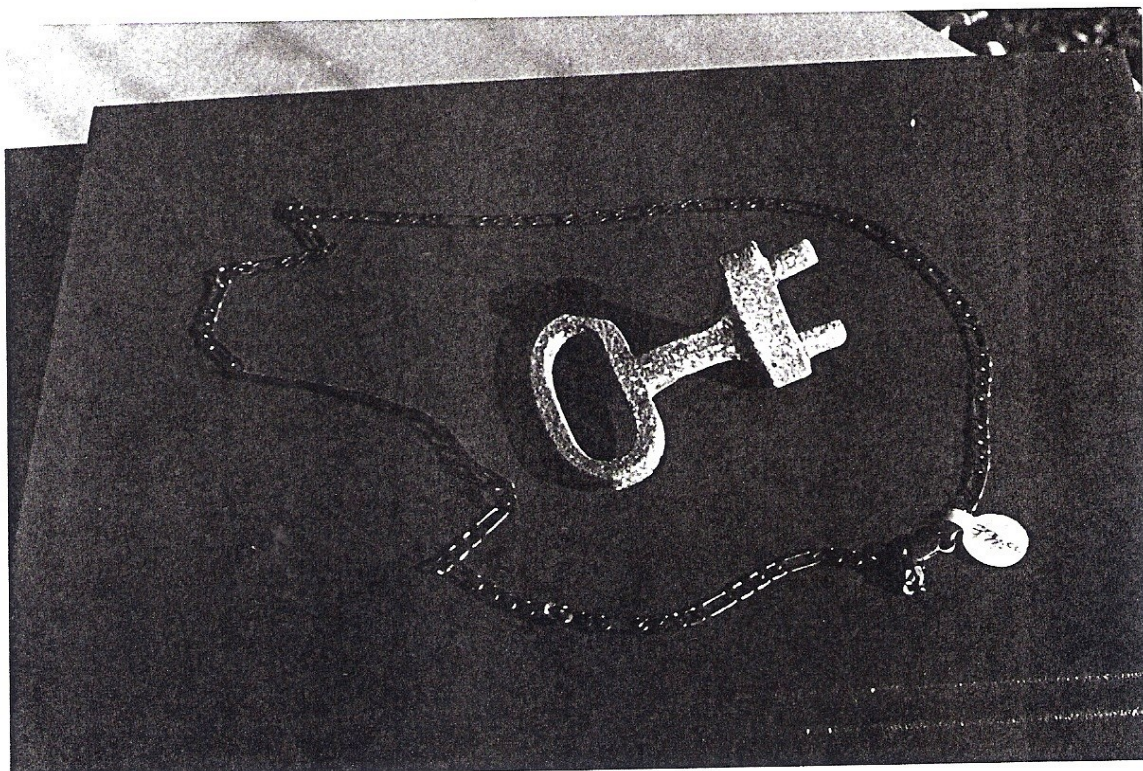
WAT IS DIT?

Die onbekende item op hierdie foto is naby die wrak van die vissersboot op Buffelsbaaistrand gevind:

- Dit lyk of dit 'n sleutel van 'n soort kan wees, met die twee punte wat in gaatjies sou pas om iets oop en toe te draai of los/vas te draai. Dit is gemaak van gegote brass.

Enigiemand wat weet wat dit is kan my asseblief skakel/faks by 044 533-2117.

- Die foto toon ook die goue ketting met die juwelier se prysmerk nog steeds daaraan vas (R899) ten spyte dat dit so lank in die see was dat die 9kt goud reeds ligbruin geword het.



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BEGINNERS GELUK

Deur Marius le Roux

Een middag laat het ek en my veertienjarige seun met ons Minelab Musketeer XS langs die strand by Mosselbaai gaan stap. Nadat ons 'n sinker of twee opgediep het, kry ons 'n goeie sein in 'n rotsskeur naby die seekant. Ons begin toe die klippies en skulpgruis met groot moeite tussen die nou rotsgleuf los te wikkel. Met die jare het die kleinerige klippies en skulpies 'n byna ondeurdringbare laag tussen die rotse gevorm. Ons kom toe met veel gesukkel op 'n ou een sent muntstukkie af, maar die helder sein is steeds daar!

Na 'n rukkie kon ons net-net die geriffelde randjie van 'n groterige, gelerige muntstuk tussen die vasgesakte klippe waarneem. "Dit moet daardie goue een wees wat ons al so lank soek!" sê ek opgewonde en ons probeer met mening van die klippe los te wikkel maar te vergeefs. Volgens statistieke het daar vroeër jare heelwat seilskepe in hierdie omgewing gestrand. Ten einde raad, gaan haal ek die wielmoersleutel in die motor.

Daar is nog heelwat mense op die strand en ons probeer so min as moontlik aandag trek met ons pogings om die kosbare muntstuk los te kry. "Pa maak gou, die see kom in!" por my seun my bekommerd aan terwyl die branders naby ons begin breek.

Uiteindelik na veel gesukkel kry ons die klippe met behulp van die moersleutel los gewikkel. My seun vryf die waardevolle vonds tussen sy vingers, terwyl ek angstig elke beweging dophou. Skielik is daardie vonkel in sy oog nie meer daar nie. Ek neem die munt by hom en hou dit teen die son. Dit is komplete asof ou Jan van Riebeeck vir ons knipoog vanuit die 1961 brons een sent stuk met die afbeelding van die ossewa aan die anderkant!

By die motor kyk ons terug. Die gety kom in. Teen die laat middagson breek 'n goue brander oor die rotsskeur. "All that glitters is not gold, miskien volgende keer!" sê ek vir my seun terwyl ek die metaalverklikker versigtig met 'n droë doek afvee...

WISHES DO COME TRUE!

By Andy Naude

When I bought my first metal detector three years ago I would never have thought that it would lead me to such an interesting hobby, that it would in fact become my favorite past time. I had been diving for many years and was to some extent at the forefront of diving in the Western Cape, with our dive team being of the first to be doing extended range diving on shipwrecks in the Western Cape. This meant total dedication to the sport and diving to depths of between 54 and 60 m on just about every weekend. This type of diving takes an incredible amount of preparation and planning, some refer to it as stopwatch diving, but is more commonly referred to as technical diving. The preparation for a dive on Sunday would start on Mondays with the correct mixtures being filled and Saturday afternoons would be spent getting all the gear together, packed and neatly tied with cable ties. This would be to ensure that nothing would get stuck on the wreckage and damage equipment or cause entrapment, both of which could be fatal. The risks are many and the margin of error must be almost zero. A diver who suddenly runs out of air at such depth risks a burst lung, as the pressurised air he has been breathing expands during a rapid ascent to the surface.

For the main air supply I would use two 12-L cylinders filled with air which I carried on my back. For decompression I used a 6-L cylinder strapped to my right hand side with a 50% Nitrox mixture (a blend of air and Oxygen to assist in shortening the decompression stops and assist with the outgassing of Nitrogen). For lifting I would use a 4-L on my left filled with air to inflate the lift bags which would carry the recovered item to the surface. From the boat we had a 100-L cylinder filled with 80% Nitrox for further decompression which we would use for our final stop before returning to the surface.

Our dives would generally be for approximately 20 minutes at a depth of between 54 and 60 m. The decompression time for these dives would be approximately 40 minutes, giving us a total dive time in the region of one hour. With water in the Cape being as low as 6 – 7 Deg Celsius all this diving was done in dry suits. This was pretty exciting stuff as all our dives were on shipwrecks, some which had never been dived before. So I would have been quite shocked if you had told me that I would give this up for shallow water diving, where often my cylinder would be sticking out of the water and my dive time between 2 1/2 to 3 hours. Well this is what happened when I first started using my first underwater machine in the shallow waters off our coastline.

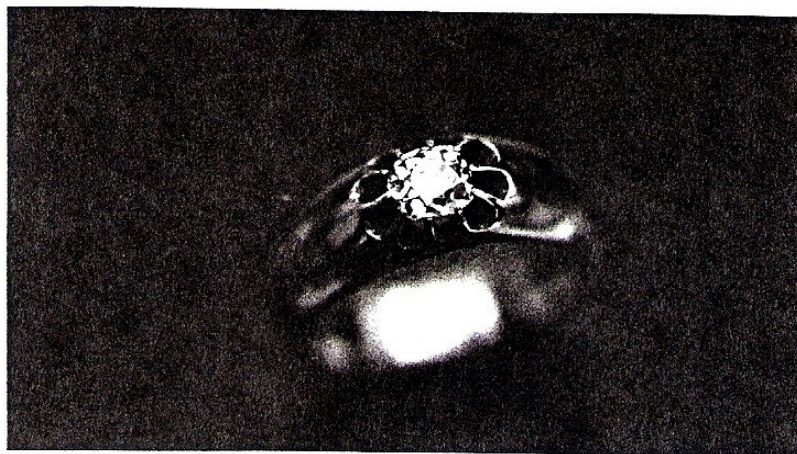
It took me three months to find my first gold ring. I found this after much frustration from finding coins and pull-tabs. This ring was found while walking on the beach near Simons Town. I had it checked out by two jewelers before I could

One of the most peculiar finds for 2000 was a ring I believe to be 21ct, which was simply marked "XXI" on the inside and set with a old cut, some times referred to as a rose cut, diamond of between .4 - .5 ct. These diamonds were cut by hand and therefore very unevenly faceted. When I found it I thought it was brass with a cubic and the ring spent the week-end in the junk box until a jeweler friend of mine identified it as being a diamond. (See photo)

Old Rose Cut
Diamond.
Approx. .4 - .5 ct

Set in 21 ct
Gold

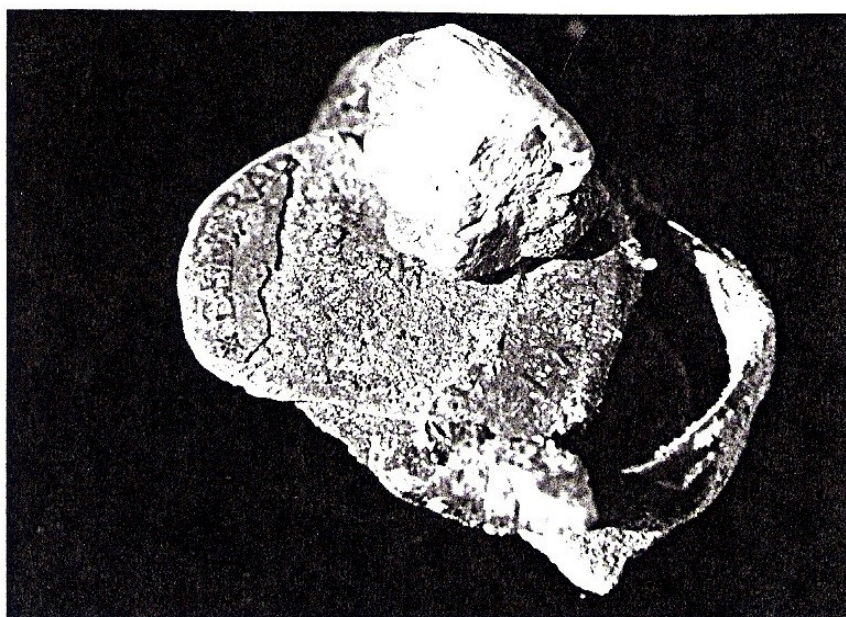
Circa 1900



One of my most coincidental finds in recent months was a mixed signal. I had decided that it was most probably a pull-tab or one of the older nickel coins, both of which sometimes give mixed signals. As I fanned away the sand I eventually saw green corrosion and thought that I had found a coin. I fanned some more and saw the large old 1c piece, circa 1961, in the hole. The coin was corroded onto a bit of rock. On closer inspection I saw that between the rock and the 1c piece was a gold mans signet ring. Who says our hobby has no surprises? (See photo below)

Who Says
Our Hobby
Has No
Surprises ?

Gold Ring
Corroded
Between
Coin and
Stone.



With the change to my new machine with notch discrimination the rate of gold ring recovery increased and for the past year I have found 142 gold rings, bringing my total to-date to 222, but number 200 was a story on its own.....

But allow me to tell you the story. On the first day of December 2000 I needed 12 gold rings to bring my total to 200 (this was my target to reach by the end of 2000). It was going fairly well and by Friday 15th I still needed four to reach my goal. That evening I was discussing my wish list for the following day with my family, it was going to be my first Saturday off in a very long time as I had been working long hours for the previous couple of months.

My first wish was to be able to sleep late, a luxury I was not used to. The second wish was to go diving and to find four gold rings, not so easy - the most I had ever found on one dive was three. My third wish was to return home, have two beers and sleep for an hour before I attending my son's cycle race that afternoon at three. My last wish was to be able to relax in front of the fire that evening with a glass of good red wine and a feeling of contentment.

I managed to sleep until seven the morning, which is late by my standards. It was the perfect day, a warm summers day in Cape Town with a gentle South Easter blowing, the tide would be high at 10:00 am so off I went on my little diving expedition.

The spot that I had chosen was one that I had had an eye on for some time, and could only be dived at high tide, so the timing was perfect. I had chosen this spot as I had found a small concentration of a few rings in the wet sand while walking on the beach and had thought that there could be more if only I could get into the water when the sea was reasonably flat and the tide was in. I arrived at my destination and took a quick look around, every thing seemed to be OK; the sea was slightly bumpier than I would have liked, but what the heck, how bad could it really be?

I entered the sea at a spot that I considered to be safe, the water was warm and the visibility was about 1 to 1,5 m, which I consider to be very good. As I started going deeper I became aware of a ground swell that would make the dive more uncomfortable and make me hold on with all I could every couple of minutes. But like I said, what the heck!?

I finally reached the spot where I wanted to be, I was getting signals all over the place, but these turned out to be mostly sinkers, so I decided to make full use of the detector's discrimination. I turned the discrimination knob to "1" to cut out ferrous metal and was only digging the medium tones on my machine. The reason I sometimes do this is that there are times that I consider my self very privileged to be able to dive in a particular spot and today was one of those days. I was not going to waste this opportunity on digging sinker which give a high pitched signal!

Some of
The
Thirty
Four
18 ct
Gold
Rings
Found
In the
Past
Three
Years



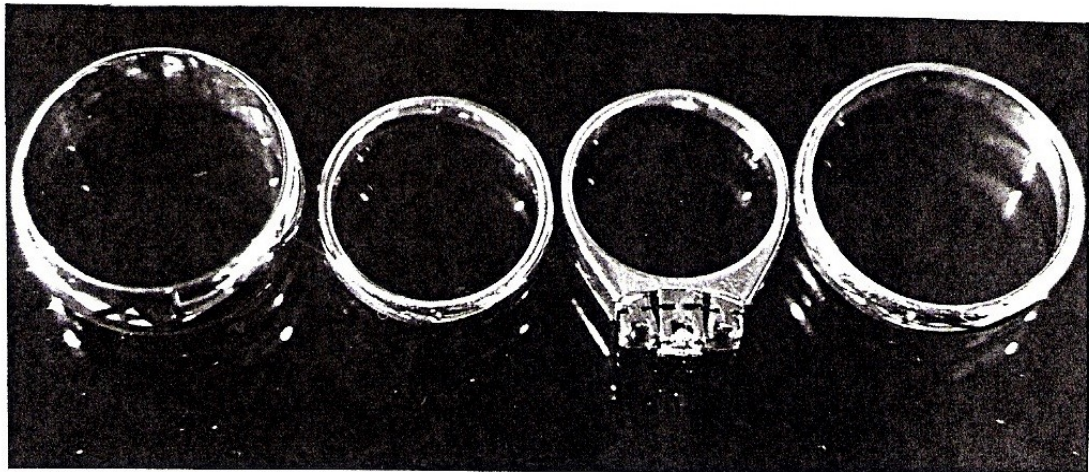
On the medium tones I still found some small sinkers and a few of the older series of coins, one of which was an old R1 coin, - these still excite me. The other was an old 2 1/2 shilling. I soon received yet another medium tone signal, by this time the adrenalin had subsided and I thought that it was just another sinker or coin – wrong, it was a 4 gram 9 ct gold ring – “Good”, I said to myself, as I placed it in the bag. A few more signals and just as I was settling down again yet another medium tone signal. This signal came from a crevice approximately 100 mm x 300 mm. After clearing most of the sand and small stones I could see the ring and recognized the colour of the 18 ct gold, the thinish band made me curious so I carefully waived away some more sand. When I am diving and hear a medium tone I say to my self, “If this is gold – don’t touch”. This is my way of savoring the moment..... to try to capture it in my memory. My instinctive reaction is to grab, so I need to slow down. By this time the ring was fully exposed and I could see the small diamond (.12 ct) and the two small, also approximately .12 ct Emeralds on either side of the diamond. This time I said, “Very nice, this one is a keeper”, as I put it into my bag.

I could not forget about my four wishes that I had spoken about the previous night. The first had come true, the last two were easy, but so much depended on my second wish – to find my 200th ring! How much longer could my luck continue? The rest of the dive was going reasonably well, the tide was now in and I remember hearing something that sounded a bit like a 747 taking off and it became very dark for a few seconds. I held on to the rocks and remember thinking, “What the” Then I realized that it was a wave that had decided to break just above my head. Then came the next promising medium tone and low and behold my third ring. It was a 9 ct gold ring of 5,4 grams. “Not bad”, I said trying to sound as modest as I could, with a bit of chuckle as this one went into the bag.

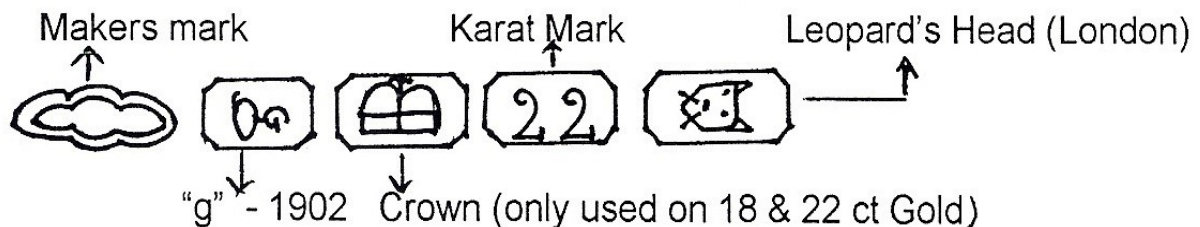
I thought I had just about cleared out all the medium signals in the area and was starting to dig the odd high tone as I still had plenty of air left in my cylinder and

was in no rush to get out of the water. Then it came, the medium tone, surely this could not be another gold ring? I fanned the sand away and saw only rock and a small amount of sand. There was a flat rock at the bottom and two others made a right angle on top of it. I fanned some more, but I could still see no object, I thought it must be a ghost signal, but decided to make sure the flat rock was clean before I moved on. Once the water cleared I could see the glitter of the butter yellow gold, I knew it was 18 ct! The small band was stuck beneath the one rock, I gently eased it out with my knife until it lay safely in the palm of my hand. – “Wow”, I said, (actually I think I said something else which I’d rather not repeat here). I could not believe that I had found my 200 th ring! I looked at my pressure gauge – 80 bars left in my cylinder. I could dive for at least another 45 – 60 minutes, but I wanted to treasure that moment. So I switched off the detector and headed back to shore. “Get out while you are ahead”, I thought, I did not believe that that dive could get any better!

Four
Rings in
One Dive !
Two 9 ct,
One 18 ct
With
Diamond
And Two
Emeralds
And my
First 22 ct !



Once back on terra firma, dressed and dry, I went to rinse of the goodies, and was in for yet another suprise. I was wrong about the forth ring being 18 ct, it was in fact a 22 ct ring made in London in 1902, beautifully hallmarked and all. I tried to convey my feeling of excitement to the four life savers who had been watching with some curiosity, but I think I lost it some where when the one said, “Is that really gold?”



Needless to say the rest of my day went exactly as I had planned, Lady Luck had done her bit and the rest was up to me, except that I may have had one or two more than I had planned. I could not have wished for a better day and a more memorable way of finding number 200! You see wishes do come true!

DOUBLE GOLD

By Alan Miller

Last Winter I received at home a telephone call from a frantic husband whose wife had lost a valuable ring in the sea on the Atlantic West coast a couple of days earlier and "Would I please help out"

I met the gentleman and we went to the approximate scene of the loss. I was immediately aware that there was a very stormy sea running and there was a meter deep ledge out of the edge of the shore line on an incoming tide.

He pointed out a position well into the breakers and I was suddenly aware I had only a vest, shirt, shorts, booties and my trusty cap to protect me.

The gentleman then told me that he had in fact tried to look for the ring with a metal detector which he had hired but he had become infuriated with all the beeps and to over come this he had taken off his ring, buried it and attempted to hear what a ring sounded like. He then shamefacedly told me that he lost this as well !

I said goodbye to the man and spent a good while looking at the waves and scouring patterns of the sea and then began to detect. My very first signal after a few minutes extracted the gentleman's ring about 8 meters seaward to his indication between waves and where I suspected it would have been dragged. An excellent start at about 11.am.

Fortunately the sun was kind as I was battling to keep my footing against a constant battering against the stormy sea and a cooling body. My saving grace was the very little metallic pollution but every signal was a wake up call and a task to dig between the water around my waist.

Finally about six in the evening I was in a state of exhaustion and shivering seriously, I watched the Red Sun about to touch the horizon and decided to call it a day, when a screech in my earphones made me dig frantically between waves and there lying amongst the sand in my shovel was this beautiful butter gold ring which I quickly checked to see if the stone was still attached. The enormous rock was glinting sandily back at me. "Got you you B.....d " said I and carefully packed it safely away.

The satisfaction kept me warm although I had to spend the next day in bed with flu symptoms but I rang the Gentleman and announced the finding of his signet ring and after a suitable hesitation TOLD HIM THE GOOD NEWS. I heard in the back ground a whoop of joy from his wife.

I went to the Gentleman's office, subsequently. His wife was ecstatic and said she hadn't slept since losing it and couldn't sleep after it was found and had telephoned all her friends before and after the event.

I had a pleasant time explaining about metal detecting and the finding of the rings and casually mentioned that I was saving up my finds to finance a trip to visit a friend overseas for a detector holiday.

Finally I rose to leave and the gentleman handed me an envelope and they both thanked me profusely.

At home I opened the envelope and a note on the back of the cheque said "Enjoy your trip to visit your friend, This should take care of your ticket"

And it did! Beautifully.

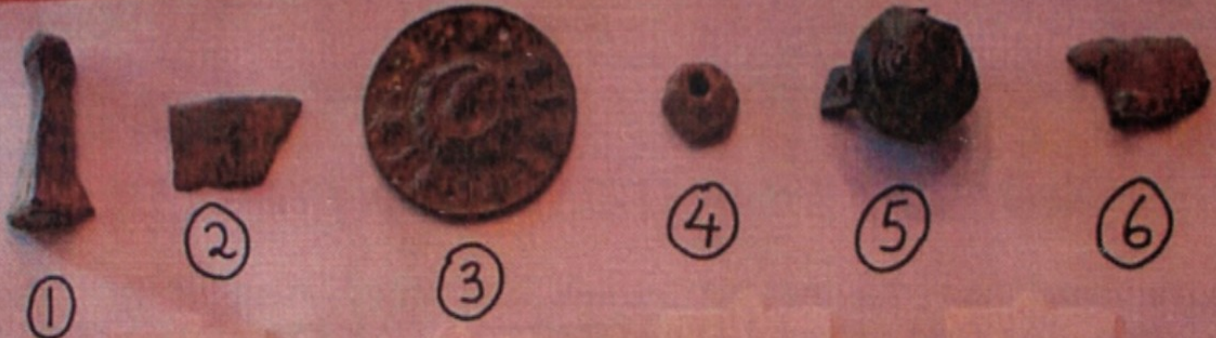
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MY FINDS FROM ENGLAND / MY VONDSTE VAN ENGELAND

Deur Pierre Nortje

My vondste van Engeland – sien my artikel in die Somer 2000 uitgawe van Treasure Talk - het uiteindelik via 'n Britse Museum op 10 April 2001 in Suid Afrika gearriveer. Hier is 'n uiteensetting van my vondste gedurende vier dae se soek in Norfolk (Die afkortings PM, MED, LMED ensv. dui op “post medieval”, “medieval”, “late medieval”, ensomeer.)

1. ?EPM. cast copper alloy skillet or ewer leg. Triangular section leg with slightly sloping top. Part of vessel still attached at top. Leg tapers down to an everted rounded foot. L.60mm. Possibly 16th century.
 2. LMED. Cast copper alloy vessel rim fragment. Simple everted rim. Vessel wall very thin. Probably late medieval.
 3. PM. Gilded cast copper alloy bridle mount. Circular bossed at center. Intricate molded decoration. A hooded/helmeted figure appears within a circular field on the top off the boss. The sides of the boss are decorated with flowers and scrolls. The flange is decorated with alternating foliate heads and double acanthus motifs. Opposed holes in flange for attachment pins. Diameter 67mm. 17th century.
 4. MED. Sub-conical cast lead weight/spindle whorl. Slightly rounded base. Large central circular perforation with some subsequent damage around the top. Diameter of base circa 25mm. H 15mm. Weight = 35g. Probably medieval.
 5. PM. Large cast copper alloy pellet bell. Plain top above central rib. “Sun –burst” pattern below rib. Base marked HR. Letters placed in semi-circles and flanked by circles. Large irregular angular suspension loop. Damage to base and pellet missing. Maker not known. Diameter circa 38mm. 18th – 19th century type.
 6. LMED. Small fragment of cast copper alloy bell. Flat top with part of a square section semi circular suspension loop. Sides tapering gently from top but mostly broken away. Probably late medieval.
 7. Roman Coin: Sestertius. Trajan. 98 – 117 AD.
 8. Roman Coin: Hadrian Dupondius. 117 – 138 AD
 9. Roman Coin: Antoninimus. Debased Silver. Postumus. 259 – 268 AD
 10. Roman Coin: AE3. Constantine I. Trier Mint. 293 – 306 AD
 11. 17th century Dutch Doit coin from Zeeland (Duit in Afrikaans).
 12. MED. Fragment of cast copper alloy annular brooch. Flat section. The hoop appears to be decorated with a bold double-line chevron pattern, parts of which are filled in with blocks of rocker design. A well-defined molded radial ridge was probably one of a pair forming a pin seat opposite the pin swivel point. 18mm x 10 mm. 14th century. CF Margeson – Norwich Households fig. 7 no. 60.
 13. MED. Small fragment of a gilded sheet copper alloy openwork ?mount. One corner possibly complete with multiple notches around edge. Delineated internally by a single ?punched line. Other edges possibly incomplete. At least three holes in the center field. There also appears to be some molded decoration although very indistinct and incomplete. Gilded on upper surface. 22mm x 16 mm. Probably 13th – 14th century.
 14. MED. Cast and filed copper alloy ring. Flat section. Casting seams remaining on inside and outside. Diameter 23mm. Probably medieval.
 15. ?MED. ?Beaten sheet copper alloy decorative pendant/spangle. Heavy damage around the edge. Circular with a slightly dished profile. Single small attachment hole close to edge. There appears to be a random pattern of pellets on the concave side. Diameter circa 23mm. Although similar in appearance to spangles of early Saxon date, the condition of the alloy possibly indicates a late Saxon or early medieval date.
 16. Farthing token : Norwich : dated 1670 / 17. William 111 (1694 – 1702) halfpenny./ 18. 2 x George 11 (1727 – 1760) halfpennies / 19. 2 x George 111 (1760 – 1820) halfpennies / 20. Victoria halfpenny dated 1863 / 21. Edward V1 farthing dated 1907 / 22. 2 x unidentifiable coins (silver shilling (?) and copper penny) / 23. Military button (George Rex) / 24. 2 x Thimbles / 25. Lead musket balls / 26. 2 x Buckles / 27. 2 x Lead weights / 28. Assortment of miscellaneous metal items / 29. Buttons by the dozen!
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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</u> August 2001.</p>	<p>2. Die inskrywingsvorm - ingesluit by hierdie nuusbrieff - moet volledig voltooi word en ons <u>voor</u> Augustus 2001 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 troosprysweners sal deur die redakteur aangewys word en in ons nuusbrieff later hierdie jaar gepubliseer word.</p>

