



# bickels



# COIN AND MEDAL NEWS

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## FAKED S.A. MINT BOXES SOLD BY U.S. DEALER: FORMAL PROTEST TO AMERICAN OFFICIALS

A South African coin dealer will lodge a formal complaint with the powerful American Numismatic Association and the influential weekly newspaper, *Coin World*, about American dealers who are selling faked South African Mint proof sets as genuine articles.

The dealer recently received a shipment of 1954 and 1961 short sets in faked boxes. The boxes are very similar in colour and design to those issued by the Mint. The satin-lined inside lid of the fakes even have the S.A.M. monogramme boldly stamped in gold.

"I was charged normal proof set prices for the sets," the dealer said. "The only consolation is that the coins were perfect proofs. I have replied strongly to the firm which sold me the articles and we are negotiating for the return of my money and their faked sets."

A senior official of the S.A. Mint said no action would be taken as no complaint had been lodged. He was, however, very "perturbed" that someone in America was deliberately attempting to bluff the public.

He said that if there was any large-scale manufacturing of the boxes, it might harm the good name of the South African Mint as collectors who bought the fakes would attribute them to the S.A.M.



The original (left) and the faked 1961 short set shown together. The distinguishing features are easy to spot. The proper set has two brass clasps — not one press stud. The American box is slightly larger — this can be seen by comparing the lids — and the velvet is darker.

### MINT'S GREATEST JOB OVER

The South African Mint has completed its largest money-making programme when its machines struck the last cent — the final coin of a 318 million order — seven days ago.

The 63½ million one cent coins go into circulation later this month. The Mint's record effort is attributed to careful planning by its officials and hard work by the staff who daily worked two 12-hour shifts from April to December, 1965, and one 12-hour shift this year.

**BICKELS'**

**COIN AND MEDAL NEWS**

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**BICKELS VERDUIDELIK**

**MAAK DIE MUNT BLAADJIE  
TEN VOLLE TWEETALIG!**

Soms gebeur dit dat hierdie  
wenk aan ons gegee word deur  
geesdriftige munt versamelaars  
van die platteland.

Ons wil net verduidelik dat  
hierdie maandelikse koerantjie  
gereeld aan oorsese intekenaars  
gestuur word.

Hulle koop dikwels van ons  
mooi Suid-Afrikaanse munte en  
stelle en dus verdien hierdie tyd-  
skriffie boonop nog buitelandse  
valuta vir Suid-Afrika.

As ons nou elke maand 'n  
aparte Engelse en Afrikaanse  
uitgawe moet laat verskyn dan  
sal dit finansiële onmoontlik  
wees om aan te gaan met die uit-  
gee van BCMN.

Bickels is altyd bly as lesers  
aan die redakteur skrywe en ons  
waardeer ook hierdie wenk. Dit  
laat ons ten minste weet, hoe le-  
sers voel omtrent hulle maande-  
likse munt koerant.

*Die Uitgewers.*

**ZASTRON COLLECTORS!**

N.J. de Wet (P.O. Box 9, Phone 56,  
Zastron) now stocks all Bickels  
Albums, Magazines and other well-  
known accessories.

# THE COINAGE OF IRELAND

## 1928-1965

by JERRY H. REMICK

The first coins were struck for the Irish Free State in 1928. On December 21, 1948, the Irish Free State became a Republic. The coinage is on the sterling system, but it will probably change over to the decimal system in a few years.

6001 boxed proof sets were struck in 1928 and these now sell for about £25. Boxed proof sets were not struck for any other dates. A very few proof specimens have been struck for a number of different dates and denominations. Although none of these specimens have been officially released to the public, a few have been sold "unofficially". One or more specimens are known in proof condition for the following, coins: ½d. 1949, 1d. 1952, 3d. 1949, 6d. 1949, 1/- 1951, 2/- 1939, 1954, 2/6 1955.

A complete set of coins, probably excluding the farthing, is expected to be issued in 1966 for the 50th anniversary of the 1916 "Rising". A commemorative crown may also be issued.

Specimens of nearly all the coins can be located without too much difficulty. However the 1943 florin and half crown are rare. These two coins were minted in normal quantities, but there was almost no demand for them so most of them were never released and so were melted down. Probably not more than a bag or two of each denomination was released. The florin is much rarer than the half crown. There are probably from 5 to 12 specimens of the 1943 florin and from 10 to 30 specimens of the 1943 half crown in collectors cabinets.

The most common dates of the silver coinage found in EF and uncirculated condition are 1928 and 1935. Other dates of Silver coins in better than very fine condition or sometimes fine condition are difficult to locate.

The shilling, florin and half crown from 1928 through 1943 are of .750 silver and .250 copper and have been withdrawn from circulation. Less than 1% of these denominations now in circulation contain silver. From 1951 onward these denominations were made of copper-nickel.

The sixpence and threepence were made of nickel between 1928 and 1940 and since 1942 have been made of copper-nickel.

The farthing, halfpenny and penny have always been made of bronze.

All coins were minted at the Royal Mint, London, England and bear no mint mark.

The copper-nickel and nickel coins are much more resistant to wear than the silver coins and these can usually be found in very fine condition without too much difficulty.

Specimens of bronze coins are often found in very fine and sometimes in extra fine or in uncirculated condition.

The high point of wear on the obverse of the coin is the frame around the harp. On the reverse side of the coin the face and details of the animals is the first point to wear. A high rim on the copper-nickel and nickel threepence and sixpence on the obverse side protects the harp from wear and the details of the animals will show wear before the frame around the harp.

Only two different inscriptions and designs have been used. From 1928 through 1937 SAORSTAT EIREAN was used on the coins and in 1939 this was replaced by ERIE with slight changes in the design of the harp. Reprinted from Spink & Son's Numismatic Circular, April, 1966

## THIRD S.A. COIN CONVENTION FOR DURBAN

The Natal Numismatic Society, Durban, will be the host for the Third South African Numismatic Convention which will be held during July, 1967.

According to the Numismatic Society's chairman, Pastor J.F. Rowlands, the Marine Hotel, Durban, has been booked for the convention from July 10 until July 15.

As the Convention is expected to attract a record number of numismatists from throughout South Africa and because the Convention will be held during the peak of Durban's holiday season, people who plan to attend the meeting are urged to book their hotel accommodation well in advance, Pastor Rowlands told Bickels Coins and Medals News.

Apart from many interesting papers which will be read, the Natal Numismatic Society has asked dealers to take tables for the purpose of displaying and selling their choice items. Already the response from dealers has been very encouraging.

There are plans afoot for the striking of a special commemorative medal to mark the Convention and although details have not been disclosed yet, officials organizing the Convention say the medal will be as attractive as that struck for the first Convention in 1960.

The Durban Society is taking advantage of the Convention to put the City on the "Numismatic Map" and members of the society are taking great pains to ensure the success of next July's meeting.

Durban interest in coins is on the up and up. Mr. A.S. Maskell reports in his secretary's report to the annual meeting that membership had climbed from 36 last year to 57 this year.



Picture shows four-coin Knights of Malta proof set which has just been released. The set of three heavy silver coins and one bronze comes in a red, leatherette box. The issue marks 400th Anniversary of the Knights of Malta.

## New Way To Swop Coins

The Transvaal Numismatic Association will introduce a novel system for members to swop their surplus coins.

At a recent meeting of the association held at Dr. Stan Kaplan's home in Germiston, members were asked to send the association's secretary a list of the coins they want before the next meeting.

The secretary will then duplicate the list of "wants" and send them out to members with the notice of the next meeting. By this system it is hoped that members will bring coins they don't need to the meeting to swop with fellow numismatists.

Dr. Kaplan spoke on "Old and Curious Coins" at the meeting. He discussed the odd shaped coins of the more primitive parts of the world. His talk was illustrated by excellent colour slides taken by Pastor Rowlands from Durban.

## Photographic Record of Coin Grades

Since the advent of photographs in our magazine, we have frequently toyed with the idea of answering the most persistent question put to us by beginners: "What do you mean by coin gradings and how do you distinguish between the grades.

No amount of writing can convey the degree of wear which a coin must have to classify it as Good or Extra Fine. Only well-produced photographs will do the trick.

This month we have taken the plunge. We selected six ideal specimens of South African halfcrowns all minted within a year or two of each other. The coins were enlarged twice the normal size and each photograph is captioned with the coin's condition and an explanation.

### A SUGGESTED EXERCISE.

Sometimes it is a little difficult to detect the differences in appearance between one grade and the next lower grade. To develop quicker sensitivity to grade differences look at say the picture of the G coin and then at the EF one. The degree of difference in wear is now seen immediately. Try to fix a visual impression of the appearance of these grades and soon you will automatically classify coins when you see them.



1. **UNCIRCULATED (UNC):** Although struck from ordinary dies and intended for general circulation, the coin in this condition has never been used as currency. It retains the brilliant (although possibly tarnished) condition as when it was struck. The slightest sign of wear will immediately down-grade the coin. It may, however, show rubbing marks from contact with other coins in the bags.

The photograph of the Elizabeth II 2/6 shows the highlighting of the bright surfaces of the coin. The nicks and dents caused by wear in the Mint bags have shown up badly in the photograph, because of the shadows cast in the hollows. The field in this coin still retains a brilliant lustre but this does not show up in the photograph.



2. **EXTRA FINE (EF):** A coin in this condition appears almost perfect. However, distinct signs of wear from circulation are detected on the high surfaces of the design. The specimen shows clear wearing on the Queen's face. The mint lustre has disappeared and although there are also dents, they are not as obvious because the surrounding edges have worn smooth by usage. The fact that the UNC coin has not had the opportunity of rounding off the edges of the "bag marks", makes its dents more noticeable.



3. **VERY FINE (VF):** There are unmistakable signs of the coin being in circulation for some time. The high points, which include the Queen's face and the lettering surrounding her, are beginning to wear. However, the coin shows no sign of serious damage.



4. **FINE (F):** The halfcrown shows considerable wear and has been in circulation a long time. The outside rim is beginning to wear down and the high points are gaining a very smooth appearance. Much of the detail on the Queen's face and hair is lost while the field of the coin has also been worn badly.



5. **VERY GOOD (VG):** This term together with the lower grade (GOOD) are misnomers. The grade is more accurately called "Poor". The high points are nearly flat; rim dents are evident and the coin has the "very well worn" look. To be classified as VG, the lettering must be clearly distinguishable.



6. **GOOD (G):** The absolute minimum condition for a collector's item. Everything has been worn and the details on the Queen's head are non-existent. A coin in worse condition than this is not fit to remain in a collection (unless it is a specimen of a rare date).

## WAAR KOM ONS

## GELDESTUKKE SE NAME VANDAAN?

## Pond, Kroon, Halfkroon

deur FRIKKIE PRINS

*Pond* het 'n baie lang geskiedenis. Dit loop deur Nederlands, ook as *pond*, Engels as *pound*, Ou-Hoogduits as *pfundt*, tot by Goties as *pund*. Dit is ontleen aan die Latynse woord *pondo* wat naas 'n ander Latynse vorm *pondus* bestaan het. Dit was oorspronklik 'n gewigsmaat, waarvoor die Latynse *libra* ook gebruik is. *Libra pondo* was dus 'n *pond gewig*. Dit is ook aan *libra* wat die pond die afkorting £ te danke het, asook die *lb* vir die gewigsmaat.

Die *pond* was vroeër jare die naam van 'n rekenmunt in baie lande van Europa en ook in die Ooste. In Holland was daar verskeie soorte ponde, onder andere, die *pond Vlaamsch*, die *pond Hollandsch* en die *koopmanspond*.

Ons lees ook in die Bybel van 'n pond ('n 60ste deel van 'n talent), vgl. Lukas 19:13 waar die man van hoë geboorte aan sy tien diensknegte elkeen 'n pond gegee het met die opdrag om daarmee handel te dryf.

Die woord *pond* word ook gebruik om die name van ooreenstemmende eenhede in baie ander tale te vertaal, soos *funt*, *libbra*, *libra*, *livre*, *pfund*, ens.

*Kroon*. Ons het die benaming *kroon* vir 'n muntstuk daaraan te danke dat daar oorspronklik 'n kroon op verskyn het. In Engeland was dit aanvanklik 'n goue munt wat bekend was as die *crown of the rose* en wat in 1526 deur koning Hendrik VIII laat slaan is. Die huidige Engelse kroon het 'n waarde van vyf sjielings sedert dit die eerste keer in 1551 vrygestel is, as 'n silwermunt.

Die *kroon* kom in baie ander tale voor, bv. as *coroa*, *couronne* en *krone* (as goud) en *écu*, *koruno* en *kroon* (as silwer).

*Halfkroon* is natuurlik die helfde van 'n kroon. Dis interessant om daarop te let dat dié muntstuk oorspronklik van goud geslaan is.

Die woord *pond* vir 'n geldeenheid is by ons aan die verdwyn. Soos ook *halfkroon*, of die goeie ou *twee-en-ses*, en die *kroon*. *Pond* vir gewig sal seker bly tot ons eendag na die tiendelige stelsel oorslaan wat gewigseenhede betref.

Soos ons in vroeëre artikels gesien het, het die name van geldstukke vir hulle 'n plek verower in baie spreekwoorde. Nou wonder 'n mens wat gaan word van „daar is as op jou toon; jy skuld my 'n halfkroon!“.

WAAROM VER  
ONS MUNTE.....

Dit is miskien vreemd dat 'n amateur hom verwe uitgegee word 'n rubriek soos hierdie vol te hou, maar ek b versamelaars is amateurs en ons gebruik die deskundiges sien van albums, leesstof en skaars munte wat ons nie op

'n Versamelaar wat sy versame- ling opbou deur die hele spulletjie net so by die handelaar te gaan koop, is geen amateur versamelaar nie en ek skryf ook nie vir hulle nie. Hulle sien die hele doel van die saak mis en hulle verloor 99% van die plesier en voldoening wat die vind van 'n langgesogte muntstuk aan die ver- samelaar gee.

Maar dit moet net so sterk be- klemtoon word dat die persoon wat munte bymekaar maak met die doel om dit aan die hoogste bieder te gaan verkoop op die eerste die beste ge- leentheid, ook nie 'n versamelaar in die regte sin van die woord is nie.

Natuurlik kan 'n versamelaar munte koop en verkoop maar dit moet die bysaak en nie die doel wees nie.

Nouja, nou sal u vra waarom dan al die moeite as daar nie geld uit te maak is nie? Ek het al in die verlede gesê wat my beskouings is, maar dit kan nie kwaad doen om dit te herhaal nie.

In die eerste plek die plesier en afleiding wat dit gee. Die sakeman

wat moeg huistoe gaan vind o- ning en verfrissing in sy ve- ling. Dit gee verder bevr- aan die ingebore versame- wat by meeste van ons teen- is, of dit nou vuurhoutjies of ou bottels is. Derdens lee- spaar. In plaas van lekkers o- drank te koop met sy sakke- Jannie of Sannie nou liewer- petroljoggie en ruil die nuwe- ou geld en sit dit weg. In die- vertel ek graag die storie- nefie van my wat nou 14jaar- en wie se ma by my gekla- hy sy geld mors op onbenul- Ek het hom in muntversa- laat belangstel en nou het- 'n paar maande al 'n pragti- sameling Suid-Afrikaanse- waarop enigiemand trots ka- Maar nou is sy pa en ma ne- interesseerd en hulle het oo- versamel en sy klein bro- ook. Sy pa het vir Kersfees v- 'n Album persent gegee en- gaan voor die wind.

Maar vierdens is dit 'n be- met aantreklike kapitaal

## Sovereigns Or Half-Sovereigns

## Which Should You Collect

Many collectors wonder whether they should collect sovereigns or half sovereigns. It is well known that half sovereigns were minted in considerably smaller numbers than sovereigns. It is not so well known that half sovereigns wear much more than sovereigns.

Shortly after the S.A. Mint was opened in 1923, the Mint conducted an investigation into the life of sovereigns and half sovereigns. Two hundred sovereigns and one hundred half sovereigns were selected at random for each year from 1871 up to the War years. Eventually about 9,000 sovereigns and about 4,000 half sovereigns were individually weighed with the greatest possible

care. The results were surprising.

It was found that the mean life of a sovereign was 23 years. It was meant that up to 23 years a majority of sovereigns would probably prove to be current beyond that period the weight would probably be below weight.

On the other hand, it was found that the mean "life" of half sovereigns was only 7 - 8 years.

# RSAMEL

DEUR AMATEUR VERSAMELAAR

dig om in 'n blad wat deur deskundiges skou dit as noodsaaklik want die meeste ar net om ons in te lig en ons te voor- ander manier kan bekom nie.

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daaraan verbonde. Ek merk dat 'n handelaar 'n volle stel Suid-Afrikaanse pennies teen R30,00 adverteer, terwyl die afsonderlike pennies baie minder werd is. Die feit dat die stel vol is maak dit waardevol.

En moenie dink daar is nie meer van die ou munte te kry nie. As u net hard genoeg probeer sal u dit nog vind.

Maar ten slotte gee dit ons bevrediging om iets van ons eie kultuur-skatte te versamel, om meer te wete te kom van ons geskiedenis om ons aan ons tradisies te bind en om weg te kom van die langhaar kultuur wat teer op niksdoen. Dit hou ons konstruktief besig.

En nou weer 'n beroep om bydraes te skryf vir die blad om sodoende ons kultuurskat te bewaar en te ver-ryk.

Ek het aan die Redakteur voorgestel dat hy bydraers vergoed indien hy daarvan gebruik maak volgens 'n vasgestelde skaal in die vorm van munte of uitrusting wat u nog nie het nie. Miskien stem hy toe.

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by S.E. EDWARDS

viously the wear of half sovereigns was much greater than of sovereigns in fact almost exactly three times that of sovereigns. It was for this reason that the S.A. Mint discontinued the striking of half sovereigns after 1926.

When it is taken into consideration that much fewer half sovereigns were minted in the first instance and that their wear is so much greater than sovereigns, it can safely be said that half sovereigns in good condition must obviously be much scarcer than sovereigns. Thus it would appear that they are a better buy at today's prices and that half sovereigns (in first rate condition) have a much better investment potential than sovereigns.

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## PRESENT DAY EQUIVALENTS OF £1 STERLING IN PAST AGES.

The enormous literature dealing with past events abounds with monetary references. It is therefore of interest for the general reader to have some notion as to how much a sum of money at a given date in the past would have been worth by the standards of today.

So very different are modern social and economic conditions from those existing in mediaeval times that any attempt to relate money values over the centuries has been held to be meaningless and misleading. No doubt this is true up to a point, but the records of prices and wages that are available show that by any general standards a penny in the year 1400 was worth a great deal more than a penny is today though nothing like, say, a thousand times as much. If that much can be said with certainty then it is worthwhile to attempt to arrive at some intermediate figure, however rough, which will give some sort of guide and therefore be better than nothing at all.

When the unit of currency of one country is compared with that of another the theoretical gold (or perhaps silver) content of the units usually determines their relative values. In considering the purchasing power of a given currency over a lengthy period, however, the precious metal content of the unit cannot be taken as a satisfactory measure. One pound sterling, for instance, contained 113 grains of pure gold both in 1819 and 1890, but in the latter year the pound would have bought about twice the quantity of commodities in general use as it would have in the former. Similarly, 100 grains of pure silver in 1675 had about one third the purchasing power as compared with 1475.

The real value of a unit of currency lies in the quantity of goods and services it can command, but whilst the fall in the real value of the pound sterling in recent times is painfully obvious, it is not possible to give a precise numerical expression of that fall. The difficulty lies in the fact that the prices of various goods and services do not rise and fall to the same extent or at the same time. The cost of buying a modest house with vacant possession, for example, can be something like eight times as high as that of the same house, in 1939, but the controlled rent of a similar house has hardly risen at all in comparison. Subsidies, duties, technical advances, new sources

of supply and a host of other factors can alter price relativities.

Nevertheless, a very good idea of changes in the purchasing power of money can be obtained from price index numbers of one sort or another. Basically the idea is that the price of a given quantity of a commodity or group of commodities is calculated at a given date (or an average taken over a period) and this is represented by the number 100. The price of the same quantity is recalculated at intervals, and if at a later date what could have been obtained originally for £50 then costs £75 the index is said to stand at 150. Any index of this kind used to measure the cost of living, hence the general value of money, has the weakness that no person buys exactly the same kinds and quantities of goods stipulated in the index. Some sort of continuing measure is necessary, however, and the various indices in use are sufficient for most purposes in the short term.

Over a long period and for more than one commodity an index is not a reliable gauge. Items originally included in a cost of living index, for example, may fall into disuse and others, non-existent or unimportant at the time the index was commenced, may become of consequence. The cost of electricity was of even less significance in 1850 than is the cost of candles today. Further, records of prices, while very adequate over the last two centuries, get decidedly sketchy further back especially as qualities are not indicated and even weights and measures are unreliable, they not having been standardised till fairly recent times. Moreover, before the canals ushered in the era of modern inland communications there were considerable local and seasonal price variations as goods could not easily be moved from one market to another.

The most comprehensive price series available over the centuries is that of wheat which, as the main constituent of bread, is of singular importance.

To be continued next issue.

# HISTORY OF THE TRANSVAAL—LOURENCO MARQUES RAILWAY MEDALS

BY P.R. MULLER

It is fitting to give a few interesting facts about the historic Railway line from Lourenco Marques to Pretoria. Stephanus Johannes Paulus Kruger, State President of the Zuid Afrikaanse Republiek achieved the ambition, for which he and his predecessors had striven for so ardently and patiently, on January 1, 1895, when the railway line was opened for public transport.

From that memorable day the railway line has linked the Transvaal with Lourenco Marques and has played a very important role in the transport and development of our country.

Long before there was any thought of the Witwatersrand goldfields and before the annexation of the South African Republic by Great Britain, the need for a trade route to the seas was realised. As early as 1870 a concession for the construction of a suitable railway from the Portuguese boundary to the Republic was requested by Messrs. O.W.A. Forssman and A.J. Munnick. They failed, however, to comply with the request to submit further details and no further action resulted.

During February, 1872, Mr. G.P. Moodie submitted a memorandum in connection with the building of a railway line between Delagoa Bay and Klipstapel. This concession was approved by the "Volksraad" on March 11, 1873. But in 1874 the State President stated that Moodie's concession had expired without any progress being made.

On October 27, 1874, a Commission was appointed by the Volksraad to consider the question of a railway line to Delagoa Bay. On November 4 of that year a report was prepared and twelve days later the Volksraad decided to send President Burgers to Europe to discuss a concession with the Portuguese Government and also to negotiate for a loan of £300,000.

President Burgers sailed for Europe in February, 1875, after purchasing a concession from Mr. G.P. Moodie for the building of a railway line on Portuguese territory for £5,000 and concluded a commercial and railway agreement with Portugal on December 11, 1875. In Amsterdam, on January 24, 1876, he tried to raise a loan of £300,000 but only £93,833 was subscribed.

After further attempts to establish the railway line, a deputation consisting of





President S.J.P. Kruger and Messrs. S.J. du Toit and N.J. Smit left for Europe to discuss important political matters as well as the building of a railway line with the British Government.

Eventually on June 25, 1890, the Volksraad approved an amended concession which stipulated that the railway line from Delagoa Bay to Pretoria must be completed by January 1, 1895. The Company concerned was the Nederlandsche Zuid Afrikaanse Spoorweg Maatschappij which later became known as the Z.A.S.M.

On October 20, 1894, the railway line was completed. On November 2, 1894, the State President honoured the company by tightening the last bolt on the railway line at Wilgeriver. The first passenger train ran on November 18, 1894.

The ceremonial opening of the railway line took place in Pretoria on July 8, 9 and 10, 1895. Pretoria was literally clad in festive garb. On invitation from the Z.A. Republic, representatives from Governments and Railways from all parts of the world visited Pretoria. Special trains were to run to Lourenco Marques where Men-of-War from several European countries were present. From June to September, 1895, every Burger of the Z.A. Republiek was given an opportunity of travelling to Delagoa Bay at Government expense.

To mark the great occasion, a number of attractive medals and a commemorative book containing attractive photographs of bridges, rivers and other interesting places were given to those present.

To the important people present the Commemorative book and Silver Medal (44 MM) were given. The presentation was made on behalf of the Nederlandsche Zuid-Afrikaansche Spoorweg-Maatschappij and signed by the directors.

The following is a description of the various medals issued:-

- (1) The Silver Medal (44 MM) has the bust of President Kruger facing left on the obverse and the inscription "Opening van den Delagoabaai Spoorweg". Below the bust in small letters appears "J.P.N. MENGER P." The reverse: a winged wheel without flange on a railway line with thunderbolts issuing from a cloud, sun's rays and date "1895" above. Below in small letters "J.P.N.M.P." and the inscription "Nederlandsche Zuid-Afrikaansche Spoorweg Maatschappij."
- (2) A similar medal in lead, but with a flanged wheel.
- (3) and (4) Similar medals in copper, one with a flanged wheel and one with a plain wheel without flange.

(5) A Silver medal (32 MM) which was also issued to school children. The obverse is similar to the Kruger halfcrown bearing the bust of President Kruger. The reverse across the centre, "Juli 1895". Around the edge is written "Spoorweg Feesten - Pretoria."

(6) Similar to No. 5, but a different reverse die was used. On one the "Juli 1895" is in line with S and N of "Spoorweg Feesten" and on the other medal the "Juli 1895" is in line with the P and E.

(7) The final medal of this very interesting set of medals is one which was issued by the City Council of Pretoria in July, 1945 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of this Railway. The medals were numbered on the edge and were issued to certain interested people. The obverse bears the flanged wheel and the reverse, the Pretoria City Coat of Arms.

Last July the railway was 70 years old and in less than five years it will be one century ago that the first concession for the building of a track from the Portuguese boundary to a suitable place in the Z.A. Republiek was requested by Messrs. O.W.A. Forssman and A.J. Munnick.

REPRINTED FROM THE MARCH ISSUE OF THE NATAL NUMISMATIC QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER.

## Reader's Letter Warns of Sets on Sales

When is a proof set not a satisfactory and perfect proof set? The other day I learnt the answer to this question the hard way, when I bought what I thought was a bargain at a sale. This experience may save readers of your magazine from the same unwise step.

My arrival at the auction sale was delayed and when I got there the sale was in progress. A proof set which I wanted rather badly came up for auction minutes later and I did not have a chance to examine the coins.

The bidding stopped well below what I was prepared to pay and I was delighted that I managed to pick up a bargain. So I thought! When I had collected and paid for my set, I went home, still feeling most pleased with myself.

It was only when I sat down and carefully examined each coin under a lamp that I observed fine scratches and two heavy black dots on the one silver coin. I saw that one side of the larger gold coin facing the velvet had a small but distinct dent on the edge. The other coins were in order as far as I could see although there was a finger print on one of the copper coins.

I showed the set to a friend who is an expert numismatist and he told me that in his opinion the flaws on the three coins would definitely reduce the value of the set. Two dealers confirmed this.

Of course, I then realized why the set did not fetch the more or less average price for this date. It was my own fault for buying without seeing but perhaps I still did not overpay for my proof set. However, I certainly did not buy a bargain.

OVERKEEN AMATEUR

(Our readers are advised to always examine coins for serious blemishes before buying - whether they buy sets from dealers, auctions or private collectors. It must be noted however that hair-splitting perfectionists who claim that tarnish, natural toning and certain other normal marking are unwelcome on a coin, do not know the difference between a blemish or a flaw resulting from damage to the coin and the natural changes that occur to the metal. Do any other readers have hints on to make "good buys" on auctions. - Editor)

# PRICE LIST

## BICKELS' COINS AND MEDALS

GROUND FLOOR SHOP AT 151 JEPPE ST., (off RISSIK ST.)

LIST 115  
MAY, 1966  
Valid to end of May 1966 only  
(Cancels all previous lists)

Arthur Bickel  
Richard Bickel

P.O. Box 10690,  
Johannesburg.  
South Africa.  
Phone: 834-8210.

- NOTES: 1. PAYMENT: Please send either cheque, money order or postal order.  
2. All items offered are subject to being unsold or in stock at time order is received.  
3. NEXT LIST: June, 1966.  
4. OVERSEAS AND FOREIGN:  
\$1 U.S.A. = 70 cents S.A. or R1 S.A. = \$1.40 U.S.A.

E.&O.E.

### SOUTH AFRICAN PROOF SETS (in original case of issue)

#### SHORT SETS (WITHOUT GOLD)

646.	1943	per set	(104 minted)	R380.00
647.	1944	per set	(150 minted)	275.00
648.	1945	per set	(150 minted)	275.00
649.	1946	per set	(150 minted)	275.00
650.	1947	per set	(2600 minted)	80.00
651.	1948	per set	(1120 minted)	120.00
652.	1949	per set	(800 minted)	145.00
653.	1950	per set	(500 minted)	215.00
654.	1951	per set	(2000 minted)	50.00
655.	1952	per set	(3500 minted)	42.00
656.	1953	per set	(2000 minted)	52.50
657.	1954	per set	(2275 minted)	60.00
658.	1955	per set	(2250 minted)	58.50
659.	1956	per set	(1350 minted)	107.50
660.	1957	per set	(750 minted)	147.50
661.	1958	per set	(625 minted)	150.00
662.	1959	per set	(560 minted)	195.00
663.	1960	per set	(1860 minted)	60.00
664.	1961	per set	(4391 minted)	27.50
665.	1962	per set	(2300 minted)	50.00
666.	1963	per set	(2525 minted)	37.50
667.	1964	per set	(13000 minted)	25.00
668.	1965	per set	(+ 20000 minted)	37.50
669.	1965	VIP set	(120 minted)	250.00
670.	1966	per set	(Not available until later in the year)	28.50

#### LONG SETS (WITH GOLD)

671.	1952	per set	(12000 minted)	R 62.50
672.	1953	per set	(3000 minted)	95.00
673.	1954	per set	(875 minted)	140.00
674.	1955	per set	(600 minted)	162.50
675.	1956	per set	(350 minted)	360.00
676.	1957	per set	(380 minted)	330.00
677.	1958	per set	(360 minted)	360.00
678.	1959	per set	(390 minted)	385.00
679.	1960	per set	(1500 minted)	120.00
680.	1961	per set	(3139 minted)	92.50
681.	1962	per set	(1544 minted)	105.00
682.	1963	per set	(1500 minted)	75.00
683.	1964	per set	(3000 minted)	57.50
684.	1965	per set	(5000 minted)	95.00
685.	1966	per set	(Not available until later in the year)	67.50

### SOUTH AFRICAN PROOF-LIKE SS CROWNS SS = Specially select i.e. prooflike finish.

686.	1953	each		R 19.00
687.	1954	each		40.00
688.	1955	each		25.00
689.	1959	each		132.00
690.	1960	each		12.50
691.	1961	each		16.00
692.	1962	each		22.50
693.	1963	each		10.00
694.	1964	each		6.00

### SOUTH AFRICAN UNCIRCULATED CROWNS Genuinely uncirculated crowns.

695.	1947 each	R 6.00
696.	1948 each	7.50
697.	1949 each	8.50
698.	1958 each	8.00
699.	1960 each	3.50
700.	1962 each	10.00
701.	1963 each	3.00
702.	1964 each	3.00

**SOUTH AFRICAN UNC SETS - SELECT MINT ISSUE.**  
The set consists of a prooflike Crown SS = (Specially Select) and all the currency issues of minor coins in uncirculated condition - 50c, 20c, 10c, 5c, 2 c (Silver) 1c, ½c (Bronze).

**PRE-DECIMAL ¼d to 5/-**

703.	1948 per set	R 87.50
704.	1949 per set (no shilling)	64.00
705.	1958 per set	36.00
706.	1959 per set	147.50
707.	1960 per set	31.00

**DECIMAL SERIES - ½c to 50c**

708.	1961 per set	R 22.50
709.	1962 per set	33.00
710.	1963 per set	18.00
711.	1964 per set	15.00

**COIN ALBUMS**

**SOUTH AFRICAN CROWN ALBUM**

712. Upholstered De Luxe Red Leatherette and Gold cover with transparent polythene pockets showing date and quantity minted for each crown. R 3.95

**UNIVERSAL COIN ALBUM**

713. This is undoubtedly the finest all purpose Album for different coins on the market. Upholstered Leatherette red and gold cover; the inside has 144 transparent polythene pockets for coins from the Crown size down to the smallest coin. R 5.75

**S.A. VOL. I. DE LUXE ALBUM**

714. This volume (from 1923 to 1946) is the product of many months of research and experiment. It houses a complete collection of South African Coins - (All the coins from ¼d to 5/- are spaced together on one half a page). The compartments have been tailored to fit the size of the coin, and a listing of quan-

titles minted appears for each date (all denominations). Two dates are allocated to a page and it is thus possible to locate all coins of a particular date at a glance. Handsome dark brown and gold leatherette cover with transparent polythene sheets. Album complete, per Vol. R 8.75  
Registered Design 167/66.

**S.A. VOL. II. DE LUXE ALBUM**

715. (1947 to 1970). Identical to the above in appearance and construction, except that this album has three different configurations.

- a) For 1947 to 1960 series
- b) For 1961 to 1964 series
- c) For 1965 to 1970 series

Album complete, per Vol. R 8.75  
Registered Design 164/5/6/66.

NOTE: In addition to the dark brown PARIS CALF binder, both volumes are also available in WHITE PIGSKIN leatherette.

**SOUTH AFRICA ..... STOCK LINES**

716.	Farthing	1924	UNC	R 3.50
717.	Farthing	1928	UNC	3.85
718.	Farthing	1931	UNC	3.10
719.	Farthing	1932	UNC	3.30
720.	Farthing	1941	UNC	3.10
721.	Farthing	1954	UNC	.60
722.	Farthing	1959	UNC	.75
723.	Farthing	1960	UNC	.75
724.	Halfpenny	1960	UNC	.50
725.	Half Cent	1961	UNC	.25
726.	Half Cent	1964	UNC	.10
727.	Half Cent	1964	PROOFLIKE	.50
728.	Penny	1960	UNC	.40
729.	Cent	1961	UNC	.15
730.	Cent	1964	UNC	.10
731.	Cent	1964	PROOFLIKE	.75
732.	Tickey	1947	UNC	1.75
733.	Tickey	1959	UNC	.25
734.	Tickey	1960	UNC	6.25
735.	2½ Cents	1961	UNC	1.50
736.	2½ Cents	1962	UNC	7.00
737.	2½ Cents	1963	UNC	4.50
738.	2½ Cents	1964	UNC	5.50
739.	5 Cents	1963	UNC	.25
740.	5 Cents	1964	UNC	.25
741.	10 Cents	1961	UNC	.75
742.	10 Cents	1963	UNC	.45
743.	2 Shillings	1960	UNC	2.50
744.	20 Cents	1961	UNC	.75
745.	20 Cents	1963	UNC	.50
746.	20 Cents	1964	UNC	.50

747.	10 x 1966 Silver R1 Afrik.			R 12.50					
748.	10 x 1966 Silver R1 Eng.			12.50					
749.	Bag of 1000 1964 UNC 1 Cents			30.00					
<b>South Africa.. Special Proofs</b>									
750.	Farthing	1947	PROOF	R 2.25	776.	Sixpence	1949	PROOF	15.00
751.	Halfpenny	1947	PROOF	5.25	777.	Sixpence	1949	PROOF	15.00
752.	Penny	1947	PROOF	8.90	778.	Sixpence	1949	PROOF	15.00
753.	Tickey	1947	PROOF	5.50	779.	Halfcrown	1949	PROOF	45.00
754.	Sixpence	1947	PROOF	8.25	780.	Farthing	1950	PROOF	1.50
755.	Shilling	1947	PROOF	37.00	781.	Farthing	1950	PROOF	1.50
756.	Halfcrown	1947	PROOF	40.00	782.	Halfpenny	1950	PROOF	1.50
757.	5/- (Crown)	1947	PROOF	40.00	783.	Penny	1950	PROOF	1.65
758.	Sixpence	1948	PROOF	4.25	784.	Tickey	1950	PROOF	2.50
759.	Sixpence	1948	PROOF	4.25	785.	Tickey	1950	PROOF	2.50
760.	Sixpence	1948	PROOF	4.25	786.	Sixpence	1950	PROOF	4.00
761.	Sixpence	1948	PROOF	4.25	787.	Sixpence	1950	PROOF	4.00
762.	Sixpence	1948	PROOF	4.25	788.	Sixpence	1950	PROOF	4.00
763.	Shilling	1948	PROOF	47.50	789.	Sixpence	1950	PROOF	4.00
764.	Farthing	1949	PROOF	2.00	790.	Farthing	1951	PROOF	2.00
765.	Farthing	1949	PROOF	2.00	791.	Farthing	1951	PROOF	2.00
766.	Halfpenny	1949	PROOF	1.75	792.	Halfpenny	1951	PROOF	1.75
767.	Halfpenny	1949	PROOF	1.75	793.	Halfpenny	1951	PROOF	1.75
768.	Halfpenny	1949	PROOF	1.75	794.	Penny	1951	PROOF	1.50
769.	Halfpenny	1949	PROOF	1.75	795.	Tickey	1951	PROOF	1.75
770.	Penny	1949	PROOF	2.00	796.	Sixpence	1951	PROOF	4.00
771.	Penny	1949	PROOF	2.00	797.	Sixpence	1951	PROOF	4.00
772.	Penny	1949	PROOF	2.00	798.	Shilling	1951	PROOF	8.00
773.	Tickey	1949	PROOF	4.75	799.	2 Shillings	1951	PROOF	14.00
774.	Tickey	1949	PROOF	4.75	800.	Halfcrown	1951	PROOF	11.00
775.	Sixpence	1949	PROOF	15.00	801.	5/- (Crown)	1951	PROOF	37.50
					802.	Farthing	1952	PROOF	2.00
					803.	Halfpenny	1952	PROOF	1.75
					804.	Penny	1952	PROOF	1.35
					805.	Halfcrown	1952	PROOF	9.00

## OUR MAY FOREIGN PROOF SET SPECIAL

### DOUBLE OR TRIPLE COMBINATION SPECIALS

Pursuing our policy of offering subscribers of this magazine a "really good buy" whenever possible, we have turned our attention this month to the fascinating field of foreign proof sets. Many of our readers will find that they are treading new ground and will be wondering whether they should branch out into the extended field of foreign proof sets. This is a decision each individual must make for himself. All we can do is give a description of the set and then leave it to you.

#### A) 1964 MALAWI PROOF SET - (Retail Price R18.00)

21,000 sets struck by the Royal Mint - all coins are proof and individually wrapped). The set comes in a green leatherette case, velvet lined in green, and contains the Malawi 2/6, 2/-, 1/-, and 6d. The obverse has the head of Dr. Hastings Banda - the reverse side shows attractive designs of different animals, plants etc.

#### B) 1964 SOUTH ARABIAN FEDERATION PROOF SET - (Retail Price - R9.00)

A most beautiful little set - leatherette case, velvet lined - 4 proof MIL coins struck by Royal Mint.

#### C) KNIGHTS OF MALTA PROOFSET - (Retail Price - R12.50)

The striking of these four proof coins is of a very high standard. Beautiful artistic design in silver and bronze commemorating 400 years of existence of the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem. The set comes in a crimson red leatherette case - plush red lining inside. Each coin individually wrapped.

SETS A, B AND C	(the three sets)	R30.00
	(Saving R9.50)	
SETS A AND B	(the two sets)	R22.00
	(Saving R5.50)	
SETS A AND C	(the two sets)	R25.00
	(Saving R6.00)	
SETS B AND C	(the two sets)	R18.50
	(Saving R3.00)	