



Western Cape Numismatic Society

Third Quarterly Meeting - September 2024

Report by Luthando Prinsloo

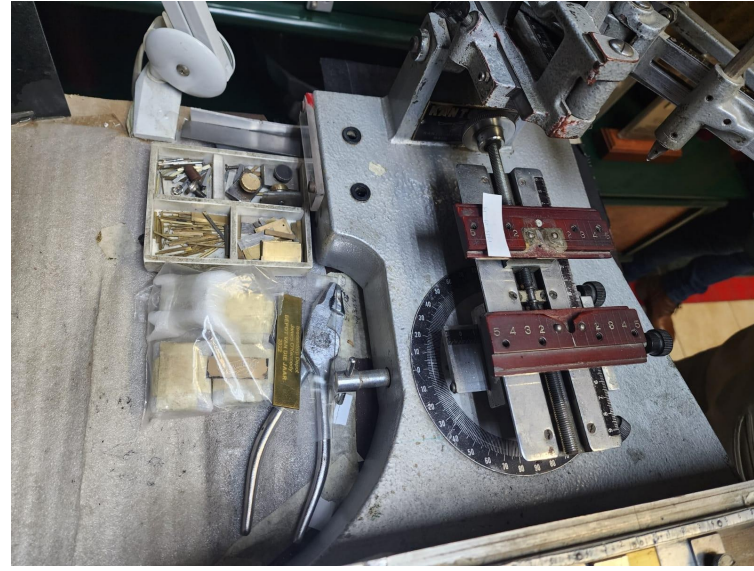
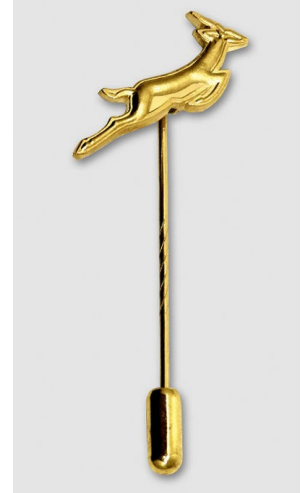
Saturday afternoon, September 28th saw our Society Members, under the leadership of WCNS President Waldo Human and Secretary Pierre Nortje, visiting The Cape Mint in Cape Town. We combined our third quarterly meeting with this memorable visit. The Cape Mint is part of the Pagliari group, founded almost seventy years ago by Mr Mauro Pagliari, and is the oldest of two privately owned mints in South Africa.



We were graciously received by the numismatically acclaimed Natanya van Niekerk along with long-standing employees Mark Trout and Peter Steyn, as well as Health and Safety Officer Chanelle van Heerden. Having dispensed with the required industrial safety briefing and indemnities, we were led on a most interesting tour through the facility. From the display and commemoration rooms, and accompanying commentary, it was clear from the outset that this is a world-class mint! That impression was confirmed as we proceeded through the well-equipped machine shop. We noted the contrast between the old pantographic die engravers and modern CNC (Computer Numerical Control) engraving machines, and closely heeded the value of a small, professional operation, where manual work is still done with artisanal pride and quality.



Our coin blood was satisfied by the press display, demonstrating the striking of some pieces. We were told, that the bank of presses, including the 750-ton 'big brother', are old but exceptional machines and not available in South Africa. Much too quickly our visit drew to a close, but with an unexpected surprise. We were each gifted with a beautiful Springbok pin, a most fitting South African symbol and good omen for the Springbok vs. Argentina rugby test match that was to follow an hour later.



Our appreciation to all for organising a great visit and hope that this is the start to a meaningful numismatic relationship!