

NEWSLETTER.

EDITORIAL.

OUR PRESIDENT : MR. C. WILMOT.

There can be no more enthusiastic collector of coins than our new President, Mr. Wilmot of East London. Nor, for that matter, can there be a more enthusiastic recruiting officer for our Society than he!! The very gratifying increase in our membership in the East London area is due almost entirely to his efforts, and he has made himself the nucleus of what may well develop into a Border Branch in the not too distant future.

We feel therefore that we could have made no better choice - our only regret is that he and Mrs. Wilmot live too far from Cape Town for us to see them regularly at headquarters.

Mr. Wilmot has been in the Post Office service for many years - in fact although he has passed the "three score years and ten" he is still helping out as a "temporary post-master". He has collected coins for many years, and has gathered together a most varied, large and interesting collection of coins of the world. But he has not just accumulated - he has studied, read and thought about his collection and has taken endless trouble to improve condition and fill gaps. So while he has never been a wealthy man, and has but little "yellow metal" in his collection, he is much more deserving of the title "Numismatist" than most of the rest of us.

Like all our numismatically successful members, he is blessed with a wife who has egged him on, allowed her holidays to be devoted to his hobby and condoned the occasional dip into the "housekeeping account". We wish Our President and his Lady, many more happy years together - happy in each other and in his absorbing hobby.

NUMISMATIC CONGRESS - PRETORIA.

Our latest news is that the proposed South African Numismatic Congress is now being planned for about the middle of March 1959 - in Pretoria.

A convention fee of £1. 1. 0. is likely to be charged, and it is hoped that copies of all papers will be available to delegates in some form or another. In this connection the Transvaal Numismatic Society has asked that all papers be submitted to it by 31st December 1958.

Delegates /...

Delegates are invited to take exhibits of coins or medals - each delegate to be responsible for setting out his own exhibit. Protection and insurance cover will be arranged.

While it is most unlikely that any organised deputation from Cape Town will be able to attend this Congress, it is hoped that some of our members - particularly those resident in the Transvaal - will be able to participate. Those members interested should ask to be kept informed by the Hon. Secretary, Transvaal Numismatic Society, P. O. Box 607, Pretoria.

NEW MEMBERS :

We extend a sincere, if somewhat belated, welcome to the following new members elected since August 1957 :-

Mr. J.A. van Eeden	De Aar	26.8.57
Mr. J.C. van der Vyver	Touws Rivier	"
Mr. J. Grobler	Uitenhage	"
Mr. J.J. de Klerck v.d. Walt	East London	"
Mr. M.R. Dorrington	"	30.9.57
Mr. H.B. Berman	"	"
Mr. M.J.S. Rathbone	Durban	"
Mr. E. Kowarski	East London	21.10.57
Mr. R.V. Hill	Port Elizabeth	18.11.57
Mr. Madden Cole	East London	20.1.58
Mrs. Elaine Kirkland	"	"
Mr. G.A. Wells	"	"
Mr. C. van Zyl	"	"
Mr. J. Gartner	Australia	"
Mr. J.J. Pittman	New York	24.3.58
Mr. E.L. Green	East London	28.4.58
Mr. S. Ellis	"	19.5.58
Mr. Glen Godwin	New York	16.6.58
Mr. C. Henegan	Port Elizabeth	28.7.58
Mr. J.B. van der Vyver	East London	"
Mr. A.K. Crosbie	"	25.8.58
Mr. P.A. Evezard	"	"
Mr. E. Molinaro	Cape Town	22.9.58
Mr. E.J. Alt	East London	"

SOUTH AFRICAN COINAGE - 1956 & 1957.

Through an oversight, we find that we have not previously recorded the Union coin production figures of the South African Mint for the years 1956 and 1957. However, thanks to the Director, we are now able to make good our omission, by recording the following official figures :-

Please turn to next page.

1956.

	Specimens.	Selected Crowns.	Circulation Pieces.	Total number of Pieces.
£1	508			508
10/-	508			508
5/-	1,700	2,200	100,000	103,900
2/6	1,700		2,436,687	2,438,387
2/-	1,700		2,549,244	2,550,944
1/-	1,700		2,141,660	2,143,360
6d.	1,700		1,772,000	1,773,700
3d.	1,700		6,188,898	6,190,598
1d.	1,700		4,386,683	4,388,383
½d.	1,700		1,302,874	1,304,574
¼d.	1,700		1,284,885	1,286,585
			TOTAL :	22,181,447

Specimen Sets

11 coin sets (£1, 10/- & 5/- to ¼d.)	...	350
2 " " (£1 & 10/-)	...	158
9 " " (5/- to ¼d.)	...	1,350

1957

	Specimens.	Selected Crowns.	Circulation Pieces.	Total number of Pieces.
£1	560			560
10/-	560			560
5/-	1,130	1,600	154,347	157,077
2/6	1,130		2,136,672	2,137,802
2/-	1,130		2,507,209	2,508,339
1/-	1,130		790,835	791,965
6d.	1,130		3,288,370	3,289,500
3d.	1,130		1,892,606	1,893,736
1d.	1,130		3,971,389	3,972,519
½d.	1,130		3,023,955	3,025,085
¼d.	1,130		3,064,361	3,065,491
			TOTAL :	20,842,634

Specimen Sets

11 coin sets (£1, 10/- & 5/- to ¼d.)	...	380
2 " " (£1 & 10/-)	...	180
9 " " (5/- to ¼d.)	...	750

1958 Specimen Sets.

During March 1958, the Director of the Mint informed us that the following 1958 Proof and "Selected" coins had already been minted :-

11 coin sets	350
2 " "	150
9 " "	600
"Selected" Crowns	1,500

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PENNY : REVERSE DESIGN.

The question was recently asked whether the ship shown on the reverse design of the South African Penny was Van Riebeeck's flagship, the "DROMMEDARIS". My immediate reply was that it was not, as I thought it was a ship of later design and considerably greater tonnage.

In order, however, to be able to give an authoritative answer, I put the question to the Director of the S. A. Mint, and, as his answer will be of general interest, I quote his reply hereunder :-

"I have to inform you that we do not possess records to prove that the ship on the penny and halfpenny is in fact an exact replica of the Drommedaris.

'The Mint's records reveal that the ship is merely a Dutch East India Merchantman under sail and is indicative of the Netherlands trading days with the East in olden times, and thus a link perpetuating the old connection of the Cape with the Dutch East Indies."

F.K.M.

The "1877" Bar to the SOUTH AFRICA GENERAL SERVICE
MEDAL - 1877-79.

(Dr. F. K. Mitchell)

Gordon, in "British Battles and Medals", challenges the authenticity of this Bar. This challenge has, as was perhaps deliberately intended, stimulated investigation of the problem and I set out hereunder the further information which I have collected, and which, I make bold to say, establishes the authenticity of this rare bar beyond any reasonable doubt.

Gordon writes, on Page 203 of his Second Edition, as follows :-

"1877. The advance against the Galekas did not start until 26th December 1877, so that this bar is particularly rare. Regiments present :
 Albert Burghers; Bowker's Rovers (74); Fort Beaufort Burghers (60).

' I know /...

' I know of the following five medals with this bar and quote the unit as given on the medal. I am aware that the Cape Mounted Rifles were not formed at the time and that only one of these units is mentioned above as having been present : Pte. A. Freeman, P.A.V.G.; Tpr. J. Pentland, Bowker's Horse; No. 422 Pte. J. Hennetz, 88th Foot; No. 1572 Pte. J. Timperley, 90th Foot; Lieut Vononheim, Cape Mounted Rifles.

' The Royal Mint supplied bars with this single date to the War Office, but I have only traced the above two awards to Imperial troops. "

He adds a footnote :-

" I can find no authority for the issue of this bar. The General Order No. 103 of 1st August, 1880, which authorized the issue of the medal, makes no mention of it, but states that one bearing the dates 1877-8 would be awarded for service against the Galekas between 26th September 1877 and 28th June 1878.

' Though a few bars with the single date "1877" are in existence, it would seem that they are unofficial."

This Bar is not recorded by Hastings Irwin or Johnson, but is mentioned by Jocelyn (p. 165) and Taprell Dorling (p. 63). Mayo (v.2, p. 603) notes that there was no die at the Mint.

Gordon's statement that "the advance against the Galekas did not start until 26th December 1877" is not historically correct. In fact, the Battle of Guadana was fought on the 26th of September 1877. This was followed closely by the Battle of Ibeka and on 12th October, Kreli's Kraal was destroyed. Considerable fighting took place during the remainder of that year, including the Battle of Umzintzani which was fought on the 2nd of December, and there were in fact a significant number of casualties amongst the Cape forces engaged.

When it is borne in mind that there had been over three months of war by the 31st December 1877, that a number of men were killed or severely wounded during that time, and that in any event men of the volunteer Burger units only signed on for three months and had the right then to turn round and go home to their farms if they felt they had had enough, it can readily be accepted that a significant number of men may have given sufficient service to qualify for the medal subsequently granted for the campaign, and yet not have served after 31st December 1877.

What Bar would such men receive with their South Africa General Service Medal?

Let us look at the relevant General Order No. 103 of 1st August, 1880 :-

Please turn to next page.

"General Order of Field-Marshal H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge ... 1st August, 1880, No. 103.

"I. The Queen, in consideration of the arduous duties performed, and the successful conclusion of the operations referred to in the next paragraph, has been graciously pleased to command that a medal be granted to Her Majesty's Imperial Forces, and to such of Her Majesty's colonial Forces, European or Native, as were regularly organised and disciplined as combatants, whether raised by the Colonial Government or by the General Officer Commanding.

"II. The medal will be granted to the Forces employed against -

(a) The Galekas, Gaikas, and other Kaffir tribes, from the 26th September, 1877, to the 28th June, 1878, inclusive.

(b) Against Pokwane, from the 21st to the 28th January, 1878, inclusive.

(c) Against the Griquas, from the 24th April to the 13th November, 1878, inclusive.

(d) Against the Zulus, from the 11th January to the 1st September, 1879, inclusive.

(e) Against Sekukuni, from the 11th November to the 2nd December, 1879, and including the troops that were stationed at Fort Burghers, Fort Albert Edward, Seven Mile Post, Fort Oliphants, Fort Wheeler, and in Sekukuni's Valley.

(f) Against Moiroisi's stronghold.

"III. Her Majesty has also been pleased to approve of a clasp being attached to the said medal, on which will be indicated the year or years in which the recipients of the medal were engaged in the late wars, thus -

	<u>Year on Clasp</u>
For operations against the Galekas, etc.	1877-8
For operations against Pokwani and the Griquas	1878
For operations in the Zulu and Sekukuni campaigns respectively, or both	1879
For operations as specified in paragraph II, in 1877-8-9	1877-8-9
For operations as specified in paragraph II, in 1878-9	1878-9

the principle being that the year or years on the clasp cover all the operations in which the recipient may have been engaged in such year or years.

"IV. Those troops employed in Natal from the 11th January to the 1st September, 1879, but who never crossed the border into Zululand, will be granted the medal without clasp.

"V. /...

"V. The medal will be that granted by Her Majesty to commemorate the successful termination of previous wars in South Africa; and those officers, non-commissioned officers and men, who are already in possession of this medal, will, if they have been engaged in the operations referred to in paragraph II, receive the clasp with the year or years inscribed thereon in accordance with paragraph III"...

It is true that no bar "1877" is specifically mentioned in this order but Paragraph III seems clear enough: "... on which will be indicated the year or years in which the recipients of the medal were engaged in the late wars the principle being that the year or years on the clasp cover all the operations in which the recipient may have been engaged in such year or years." It is submitted that an officer at the War Office, faced with an application for the medal from a man who served only during 1877, could, in terms of this regulation, not do otherwise than award the date bar "1877" alone. There can be no other logical interpretation.

It is submitted, therefore, that this bar is provided for in the regulations, albeit indirectly. If in addition, Gordon's statement that "the Royal Mint supplied bars with this single date to the War Office" is accepted, little doubt remains.

To clinch the matter, I consulted the Medal Rolls for Colonial Units at the Public Records Office, London (W.O.100 Vols. 48 and 49). These volumes obviously do not contain the complete rolls, but the following numbers of the single bar "1877" were found and can be accepted as the minimum number awarded to Colonial Units :-

Aliwal North Mounted Volunteers	22
Bowker's Rovers	67
Cape Mounted Rifles	1
Prince Alfred's Guard Rifle Volunteers	27
Fort White Mounted Volunteers	5
Grahamstown Volunteer Horse Artillery	1
Frontier Armed & Mounted Police	1
	124
Total :	124

In addition to those medals recorded by Gordon, I know of the following medals with the single date bar "1877" :-

- Pte. T. Murray P.A.G. Rifle Vols. (Mitchell Collection
verified P.R.C., London)
- Pte. H.F. McLachlan P.A.G. Rifle Vols. (Cairncross Collection)
- Tpr. J. Kemp Bowker's Rovers (Mitchell Collection
verified P.R.O., London)
- Tpr. Searle Bowker's Rovers (Africana Museum, Johannesburg
44/314. ex Laidler Collection)
- Tpr. J.C. McCall Aliwal N. Mtd. Vols. (South African
National War Museum,
Johannesburg).

To sum up, specimens of the S. A. General Service Medal with this rare bar exist; some at least are correctly recorded on the official rolls; the bars were supplied by the Royal Mint; the original Order contains authority for their award.

The defence rests!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING EXHIBIT : SOME AFRICANA NUMISMATIC RARITIES.

Dr. Mitchell delighted the meeting by putting out a small but very select display of "Africana Rarities" - coins, war medals and commemorative medals. In a brief address he stated that he had tried to put out on two trays some of the more elusive items of Africana Numismatics - coins of the early Cape, South African Republic and Union Coins; South African War Medal rarities; and a few Commemoratives. He briefly indicated the reasons for classing each item as scarce.

Because of the great interest that this display evoked, and in the hope that the appreciation of the members present might be shared by Country members, Dr. Mitchell was persuaded to allow a brief catalogue of this exhibit to be prepared as follows :-

A : EARLY CAPE COINS

1. Ducatoon of the Dutch East India Company (V.O.C.) Province of Westfriesland, 1728, E.F.
2. Ducatoon, V.O.C., Province of Holland, 1739, V.F.
3. Three-gulden pieces, V.O.C., of the provinces of Westfriesland, Gelderland, Utrecht and Zeeland, all E.F., the first three dated 1786, the last 1789.
4. "Scheepjes-gulden", Batavian Republic, 1802, V.F.
5. Golden "Ruiter", 14 gulden, Province of Zeeland, 1760, E.F.
6. Golden "½ Ruiter", 7 gulden, Utrecht, 1760, E.F.

B : Z.A.R.

7. Kruger Ponde, Double and Single Shaft, and ½ Pond (D/S) of 1892, in Mint state.
8. Kruger ½ Pond, 1893, V.F.
9. Burgers Ponde, Coarse and fine beard, each dated 1874 and E.F.
10. Kruger "Sammy Marks" Gold tickey, 1898, Mint state.
11. "Veld Pond", 1902, E.F.

12. /...

B : Z.A.R. (Cont'd.)

12. Kruger Silver Proof set, 1892.
(5/- double shaft, 2/6, 2/-, 1/-, 6d. & 3d.)
13. Kruger 2/6, 2/-, 1/- and 1d., 1893, E.F. to F.D.C.
14. ? Kruger blank half-crown. (Dr. Mitchell indicated that there was no real evidence that this really came from the Staatsmunt).

C : ORANGE FREE STATE.

15. Pattern Crown, in silver, 1887, F.D.C.

D : UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

16. Sovereign George V, 1924, F.D.C.
17. Sovereign George V, 1932, F.D.C.
18. Halfcrown, 1931, non-proof, E.F.
19. Florin, 1925, almost E.F.
20. Florin, 1931, Proof, F.D.C.
21. Shilling, 1931, V.F.
22. Shilling, 1939, Proof F.D.C.
23. Sixpence, 1931, non-proof, E.F.
24. Sixpence, 1939, Proof F.D.C.
25. Threepence; Mimosa Wreath, 1925, V.F.
26. Farthing, 1930, E.F.
27. Farthing, 1938, E.F.

E : MILITARY MEDALS.(a) Campaign Medals

28. South Africa General Service 1853 to "J. Macpherson. Catley's Rifles (sic. Should read "Catty's"). This unit of about 100 European Levies was raised in Cape Town. Only two names from this unit appear on medal roll at Public Records Office, London.
29. SAGS 1877-79, Bar 1877 to "Tpr. J. Kemp, Bowkers Rovers". Very rare bar. Only 124 of these bars on medal rolls at P.R.O. London.
30. Cape of Good Hope General Service, two bars "Transkei" and "Basutoland" to "Tpr. T. Murray. GRAAFF REINET BURG".

E : MILITARY MEDALS. (Cont'd.)(a) Campaign Medals

31. Cape of Good Hope General Service, two bars "Basutoland" and "Bechuanaland" to "Capt. H. Westbrook Leach's Rifles".
32. B.S.A. Co's medal for Mashonaland 1890 with two bars "Mashonaland 1890" and "Matabeleland 1893" to "Tpr. Enright, G.D. - B.S.A.C.P."
33. B.S.A. Co's medal for Matabeleland 1893 with two bars "Rhodesia 1896" and "Mashonaland 1897" to "1762 Troopr. P. Hennings. B.B. Police."
34. "Johannesburg Vrijwilliger Corps" medal with "Vierkleur" ribbon and two bars, "Swazieland Expeditie 1898" and "Jameson Inval en Revolutie te Johannesburg 1895-1896".
35. Queen's South Africa Medal with eight bars, "Belmont; Modder River; Relief of Kimberley; Paardeberg; Driefontein; Johannesburg; Diamond Hill; Wittebergen;" to "Tpr. F.G. Love. Damant's Horse".
36. King's South Africa Medal, No bar, to "Condr. J.H. Sell, A.S.C."
37. Cape Copper Company's Medal, in Silver to "C.A. JONES". (In group of three, with B.S.A. Co., Rhodesia 1896 to Tpr., M.R.F., and Q.S.A., no bar, "Capt. C.A. Jones. Namqld T.G.")
38. Suppressed Kimberley Siege Medal - "To the Gallant Defenders etc."
39. Africa General Service bar "Somaliland 1902-04" to "4 Tpr. C.J. Dryer. Som: Bur: C." (The Somali Burger Corps was a unit of about 100 men raised in the Transvaal at the end of the Anglo-Boer War - South Africa's first Expeditionary Force).
40. Natal Rebellion, 1906, without bar to "Tpr. G.W. Clyne, 1st Greytown Res."
41. Southern Rhodesia Service Medal 1939-45 - unnamed as issued.

(b) Decorations.

42. Sir Harry Smith's Medal for Gallantry, 1851 named "J. Hassall".
43. Unnamed Sir Harry Smith Medal, different reverse die.
44. British Empire Medal, King George VI, to "C.E.R.A. ----- S.A.N.F."

E : MILITARY MEDALS. (Cont'd.)

(c) Long Service Medals.

45. Colonial Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, Cape of Good Hope, Queen Victoria, to "723. 2/C1: Sgt. T. Reardon, Cape Mtd. RIF:"
46. Meritorious Service Medal, Cape of Good Hope, King Edward VII, to "Regimental Sergt. Major 2. Reardon Cape M.R." (sic)
47. Colonial Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, Natal, King Edward VII to "Sergt. R.J. Kelly Natal Police".
48. Permanent Forces of the Empire Beyond the Seas Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, King George V to "187 Cpl. R. Nell. S.A.M.R."
49. Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, Union "Staande Mag", King George VI to W.O.II. ----- "Q" S.C.
50. Efficiency Medal, Union of South Africa, King George VI, with bar, to "S/Sgt.----- I.C."
51. Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Long Service Medal, King George VI, to "S/A ----- S.A.N.F.(V)".

F : COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS.

52. Opening of the Pretoria-Delagoa Bay Railway, 1895, Large Silver Medal.
53. Anglo-Boer War, burning Boer homestead, bronze.
54. President M.T. Stein, O.V.S. Reverse Lion. Large silver medal.
55. Pretoria Centenary, 1955, Andries Pretorius, Marthinus Wessels Pretorius and D. van der Hoff. Struck for the Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk. Large Silver Medal.
56. Siege of Beaconsfield Schools Medal, 1900.
57. Royal Visit, 1947 - large silver medal presented by King George VI for personal service.

REVIEW"DE NUMMIS" Number 2.Journal of the Transvaal Numismatic Society.

Despite the fact that nearly a year has been allowed to pass since it came from the printers, we would be lacking in courtesy to our sister Society, and failing in our duty to our own members, if we did not pay at least a belated tribute to "De Nummis II".

Beautifully printed and profusely illustrated, this booklet is a great credit to the Transvaal Numismatic Society, and deserves a permanent place on the bookshelf of any collector of South African coins. It contains ten excellent articles which together form a most useful addition to South African Numismatic literature. We strongly advise each of our members to secure a copy, to read it, and to enjoy it.

Of particular importance is an excellent and well illustrated article by Dr. H.M. Stoker on the latest South African coin discovery - the hitherto unrecorded Single-shaft Z.A.R. half-pond of 1892. Equally valuable is the excellent illustrated article by our old friend and ex-President, Mr. J.T. Becklake, on "The Veld Pond and its Counterfeits". These counterfeits today evoke as much interest as the genuine specimens and the detailed description and illustration of no less than four different types of counterfeit, will serve as a most valuable reference.

To the Editor, Dr. Felix Machanik, we extend our warmest congratulations. May "De Nummis III" follow shortly!!

Copies are available at 8/6d., post free, from the Secretary, Transvaal Numismatic Society, P.O. Box 607, Pretoria. Don't delay. Send for one NOW!!

F.K.M.

THE ISRAEL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

The following letter has been received from the Israel Numismatic Society. Will any member able to assist please contact that Society direct?

"CORPUS NUMMORUM PALAESTINENSIIUM"

The Israel Numismatic Society continues the publication of its Corpus Nummorum Palaestinensium. The first two volumes of the Corpus: "The Coins of Aelia Capitolina" and "The Coins of Caesarea Maritima" have appeared in 1956 and 1957.

The following four volumes will be devoted to the Jewish series :

III /...

- "III - "The Coins of the Hasmonean Dynasty"
- IV - "The Coins of the Jewish War" (66 - 70 AD)
- V - "The Coins of the Bar-Kokhba War" (132 - 135 AD)
- VI - "The Coins of the Herodian Dynasty"

The Israel Numismatic Society endeavours to base its Corpus on the registration of the greatest possible number of existing specimens of the various coins and, therefore, requires the cooperation of all collectors who have coins of these series in their possession.

We would be very much obliged if these collectors would be kind enough to send us their names and addresses to enable us to contact them with the aim to include in the Corpus the coins in their possession, which will be published under their names, unless they wish otherwise.

The Israel Numismatic Society,
Tel-Aviv, Israel, POB 392. "

JOHANNESBURG VRIJWILLIGER CORPS, 1894 TO 1899,
AND ITS MEDALS.

(Contributed by D.R. Forsyth with numismatic amplification
by F.K. Mitchell).

Act 17 of 1894 when published in the "Staats Courant" on 19th September, 1894, authorised the establishment of volunteer units in the Zuid Afrikaanse Republiek and out of this the Johannesburg Vrijwilliger Corps was born.

Records regarding the Corps are untraced or non-existent and except for some details gleaned from the minutes of the first meetings prior to the establishment of the Corps and certain correspondence that passed between the Commanding Officer, Commandant van Diggelen, and the Commandant Generaal, P.J. Joubert, little is known of its history.

The most tangible link with this interesting early Transvaal unit is provided by the few specimens of a medal which have survived, but little is known about the circumstances of its award, whether it was official, semi-official or private, or how many were struck.

The Johannesburg Vrijwilliger Corps medal is a large circular bronze medal, 46.8 m.m. in diameter and weighing (without suspender) 48.42 grams.

The obverse shows the Arms of the Republic, complete with Eagle, flags and motto, and below, "ZUID AFRIKAANSCH REPUBLIEK".

The reverse/...

The reverse has a central oval panel, 22 m.m. in its greatest (horizontal) diameter, in which is the name of the Corps in three lines: "JOHANNESBURG VRIJWILLIGER CORPS". Surrounding this panel is a larger ornamental panel surmounted by a single flower (? a lotus) and surrounded by a wreath of ? laurel. Around the circumference is the inscription "COMMANDANT V. H. CORPS LUITENT KOL: S.H. VAN DIGGELEN". In the exergue "1894-1899", and the Maker's mark, "Begeer, Utrecht".

A bronze ring suspender, 1.65 m.m. in diameter, passes through a hole in a spherical bronze knob, 7 m.m. in diameter, fused to the top of the medal.

The Ribbon, the Transvaal "Vierkleur", is 39 m.m. wide, and consists of four vertical stripes of equal width, from left to right bright grass-green; scarlet; white; and deep sky-blue.

Two bronze bars, the width of the ribbon, are made to slip over the ribbon :-

- (i) " JAMESON INVAL EN
REVOLUTIE TE JOHANNESBURG. (8.3 m.m. wide).
— 1895—1896 — "
- (ii) " SWAZIELAND EXPEDITIE " (7 m.m. wide).
— 1898 — "

The medal is unnamed.

The Africana Museum, Johannesburg, has two of these medals, one with both bars, the other with No. (i) only. In the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, is a medal with both bars. A fourth medal, with both bars, is in Dr. Mitchell's collection. In addition, a few specimens of the medal without knob, ring, ribbon or bars, are known - Krugerhuis Museum, Pretoria; Lt.Col. Knobel's collection; one recently sold in Johannesburg; one believed to be in Germany. These latter pieces may be late re-strikes.

The Johannesburg Vrijwilliger Corps were not actually with the troops which captured Dr. Jameson, but a mounted Company of the Corps formed the escort on the night ride via Krugersdorp to the gaol in Pretoria. Doornkop, scene of the capture, is near Johannesburg, some 18 miles to the West of the City. The little memorial there commemorates the action on the 2nd January, 1896, when 26 men of both sides fell and Jameson's abortive invasion came to its end. The narrow gorge, where he is believed to have been captured, is close by, but how the Boers succeeded in compelling him into that narrow valley could form an interesting subject for debate by present day military strategists, amateur or professional.

A second medal to this Corps is also known - probably a prize medal for shooting or some other military accomplishment. It is known to us in bronze and was also probably struck in silver. Size 32.5 m.m.

Obverse : An open wreath, half oak, half ? laurel, very similar to that found on the majority of the pattern pennies of the Cape, O.F.S. and Transvaal. Within the wreath, in one curved and three straight lines :

" JOHANNESBURG
VRYWILLIGER
CORPS
1896 "

(Note the substitution of the "IJ" of the previous medal by "Y").

On either side of the knot of the wreath, the Maker's mark "BEGEER" and "UTRECHT".

Reverse : A simple open wreath of ? laurel, the area within the wreath being left blank, apparently for an inscription. (The medal here described has no inscription).

... ..

Is there anyone amongst the readers of the Newsletter who has information, however trivial, relative to the Corps or to the medals? Has any reader seen any reference to the Corps apart from the information contained in Major Tylden's book "The Armed Forces of South Africa"? If so, please write at once to D. R. Forsyth, P. O. Box 9682, Johannesburg.

WANTS :

- (1) Correspondence welcomed from any collector interested in exchanges :-

A. W. Stander, P.O. Box 8188,
Causeway, Salisbury,
S. Rhodesia.

- (2) Union coins in choice condition - purchase or exchange :-

D. McDonald, 38 Nel Street,
Roodepoort; Tvl.

- (3) Military medals and decorations urgently wanted by

F. K. Mitchell, P.O. Box 1073,
Cape Town.

Hon. Editor

Dr. F.K. Mitchell,
P. O. Box 1073,
CAPE TOWN.