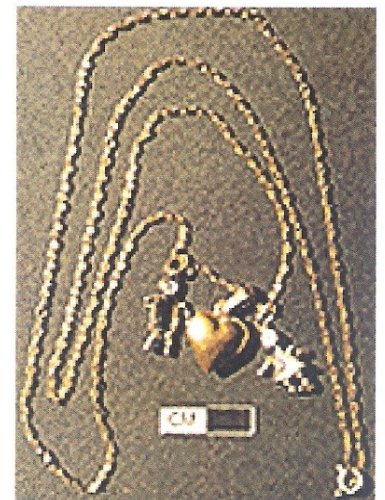


TREASURE TALK

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

Spring Issue 2000 Lente Uitgawe



THE FINALISTS IN OUR FIND OF THE YEAR COMPETITION!
DIE FINALISTE IN ONS VONDS VAN DIE JAAR KOMPETISIE!

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR / BRIEF VAN DIE REDAKTEUR

It is competition time again! In this edition, the finalists of this years' competition will be announced. There have been numerous entries and once again it will be a difficult task to select a winner. This year I have decided to do the selection a little differently from last year. I am going to ask readers of Treasure Talk to choose a winner. A voting form will be included with this edition and you are cordially invited to make your choice and send it to me before the end of August.

I will also use the voting form to update our reader's address and contact details. Next year the newsletter will only be sent to those readers who have completed the form - you are not compelled to vote for a winner, but please fill in your contact details and return them to me. If I have not heard from you by the end of August, I will unfortunately not be able to post future Treasure Talk editions to you. Please let me hear from you!

Myself and Lucas van der Merwe, the sponsor of our competition, are going to England in September to join a group of Americans where we will do some treasure hunting. Our excitement and expectations are high and I will report back in our Summer edition how we fared against the Yankies.

Dit is weer kompetisie tyd! In hierdie uitgawe word die finaliste van vanjaar se kompetisie bekend gemaak - heelwat inskrywings is ontvang en dit gaan weer kopkrap kos om 'n wenner aan te wys. Ek gaan hierdie jaar 'n bietjie afwyk van verlede jaar deur die lesers van Treasure Talk te vra om 'n wenner te kies. 'n Stembrief word by hierdie uitgawe ingesluit en lesers word vriendelik versoek om dit te voltooi en voor einde Augustus aan my terug te stuur.

Ek gaan ook die stembriewe gebruik om my adreslys van lesers op datum te bring. Die nuusbrieff sal volgende jaar slegs aan lesers gestuur word wat die vorm voltooi het - u is egter nie verplig om 'n wenner te kies nie, maar kan slegs u adresbesonderhede op die vorm aanbring en aan my terug stuur. As ek teen einde Augustus nie van u gehoor het nie, sal u naam en adres van my adreslys verwyder word vir volgende jaar se uitgawes. Laat asseblief van u hoor!

Ek en Lukas van der Merwe, die borg van ons kompetisie, gaan gedurende September maand saam met 'n groep Amerikaners in Engeland skattejag. Die opwinding loop hoog en ek sal julle in ons someruitgawe vertel hoe ons die Yankies onder die stof geloop het!

Vriendelike groete/ Kind regards

Pierre Nortje (Editor/Redakteur)

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LETTERS FROM OUR READERS / BRIEWE VAN ONS LESERS

Dear Mr Nortje

Enclosed please find my article The Unwelcome Guest. In case you are tired of my efforts, do let me know - no ill feelings. (I'll be stoned by the readers of Treasure Talk! Ed.)

News about books on treasure search - in particular information on ancient shipwrecks along South Africa's coast would interest me and many others too.

Keep well.

Owen Timmermans
Hekpoort

Hello Pierre

Ek vra verskoning dat ek nie voorheen geskryf het nie. Baie dankie vir die Treasure Talk nuusbrief. Ek is geïnspireerd met elke ontvangs. Al jou ondernemingsgees en moeite word hoogs waardeer. Baie dankie. Hou aan met die mooi werk.

Verskaf asseblief name en adresse van mede-entoesiaste hier in die Oos Rand. Baie dankie en vriendelike groete.

John Bosman
Benoni

(As daar persone is wie in kontak met John wil kom, kan hulle via Treasure Talk aan hom skryf. RED.)

Hi there Pierre

Just a short note to say thanks for the great Treasure Talk Special Bonus Issue. I feel bad that I was not able to get any article to you but I've had my hands full with work. Looks like you lot have had some good finds down there over the last few months. I am busy following up on a few possible good finds in some of the dams in this area (Low Veld), but with all the rains we have had it is slow going.

All the best and thanks again.

Alan Wright

MORE LETTERS FROM OUR READERS / NOG BRIEWE VAN ONS LESERS

Beste Pierre

Hier by Margate, Uvongo en St Michaels in Natal moet julle nie skrik as julle niks, en ek meen niks, kry nie. Hulle het 'n masjien wat die strand skoon maak hier gebruik. Die mense wou hom aan die munisipaliteit hier verkoop het. Gelukkig vir ons metaalverklikker mense was die masjien te duur en gevolglik is die masjien nie aangekoop nie. Met die demonstrasie van die masjien het hulle egter so 'n goeie werk gedoen dat daar weinig oor is om op te tel - elke strand is twee keer gedoen!

Wel die strande is leeg ... alles wat nou hier lê is nuwe goed wat nou eers verloor word. Daar was darem nog altyd so nou en dan iets wat lank gelê het en die kans is dus altyd daar om iets op te tel. Dit sal seker nou so twee of drie jaar neem voordat die strande weer "normaal" sal wees.

Ek het gehoor dat hulle nie weer die masjien gaan gebruik nie. Wel, ek hoop so, ons sal maar moet sien.

Ek woon in Shelley Beach en loop elke dag op die strand. Elke dag probeer ek 'n ander strand. Eendag vra 'n vakansieganger my in Uvongo "Oom, ek sien jy bly so in die water loop, maar jy kry niks nie." Ek sê toe "Ja, dit is so lekker om in die water te loop. Onthou dat dit nie net altyd oor die vondse gaan nie, die stokperdjie behels baie meer as net dit." Ook in Uvongo is 'n klein seuntjie van so 3 - 4 jaar oud. Ek sien hy hou my so 'n lang tyd dop. Naderhand kom hy na my toe. "Oom" sê hy "ek sien jy speel so lekker in die sandjies." Wat kon ek sê?

Soos ek gesê het, dit is nie alles werk nie!

Vriendelike groete

Oom Dawie Berg
Shelley Beach

Hi Pierre

I was given your address by André Marais. I saw a message he'd posted in a newsgroup a while ago and contacted him to ask if he knew of anyone in SA who is into metal detecting/treasure hunting. He said that you produce a newsletter on the subject. I'm keen to learn more about what's happening in SA on the subject so any info you can provide would be most welcome.

Thanks

Tim Jackson
tim@micro-delta.com

TREASURE HUNTING AND METAL DETECTING, FOR THE BEGINNER.

by: Clarence Coetzer.

So you want to go Treasure Hunting? or is it metal detecting? Have you decided on your type of target? The type of machine you intend using? Are you going to use a B.F.O., T/R, an I.B., or a pulse induction machine? Do you want a motion type or non-motion? Is a discriminating machine or a non-discriminator the one for you? Are you aiming at Beachcombing or are you chasing historical artifacts from old ruins and ghost towns? Are you going to be a coin shooter or a cache hunter and looking for the Kruger millions? Before you can start any of these pursuits you have to go back to basics, as I shall endeavour to explain.

As you can see from the above pre-ambule, you have many decisions to make and there are a great number of choices, which can trap the unwary or in experienced "player".

The first thing to remember is that Treasure Hunting IS Metal Detecting. All those wonderful things made of yellow and white metal, with shining stones in them, in circles, chains, flat discs with embossing on them and many other beautiful, precious things ARE ALL METAL! So are beer bottle tops, pull tabs, aluminium foil, champagne cork retainers and, lately, small aluminised containers for very personal purposes, and as metal, are also detected.

Your choice of metal detector will depend on the type of target you aim to locate, the type of terrain over which you will work and the amount of money you can spend.

The first thing to remember is that a metal detector is in fact a type of radio transmitter and receiver. You will see in the specifications of the machines offered that the operating frequency (the number of times the oscillator resonates per second) is what controls depth, sensitivity and stability of the machine. V.L.F. (very low frequency) machines usually have greater depth capabilities and are not bothered by "black sand" or sand with deposits of Titanium dioxide, rutile and Zirconium dioxide as the of Beat Frequency Oscillator type of machine are. The V.L.F. machine can either be of the Induction Balance type, where two coils are "balanced" against each other to a "null" or zero beat and are very sensitive, or of the Transmit/Receive type, where three coils are also balanced against each other, to a null and are also pretty sensitive. Many of the Garrett machines fall into this category.

Your B.F.O. detector is very basic, with the

2 oscillators running at anything from 70 Kilohertz to 500 kilohertz, the highest frequencies being used in the old underwater machines, but they were never really happy on the beaches, or in black sand or mineralised soil, unless they were fitted with a Faraday Shield, or screened from the interference. The V.L.F. machines usually operate at anything from 5khz to 25khz and the I.B. and T/R units at 60 to 90 khz.

Pulse Induction detectors are the "Rolls Royce" of detectors, provided that you have bought a reputable make. They are a fairly new development, having been developed in the 1940's, as a result of wartime mine disposal requirements. World War 2 mine detectors were mainly Induction Balance machines (I have one) but the old B.F.O. units were also used. Modern mine detectors use the Pulse induction system and those made by Barlows in South Africa have 4 coils in the search head. The PI is biased towards ferrous materials (iron) but also has the ability to detect anomalies or differences such as cavities or apparent cavities where non-metallic mines have been secreted.

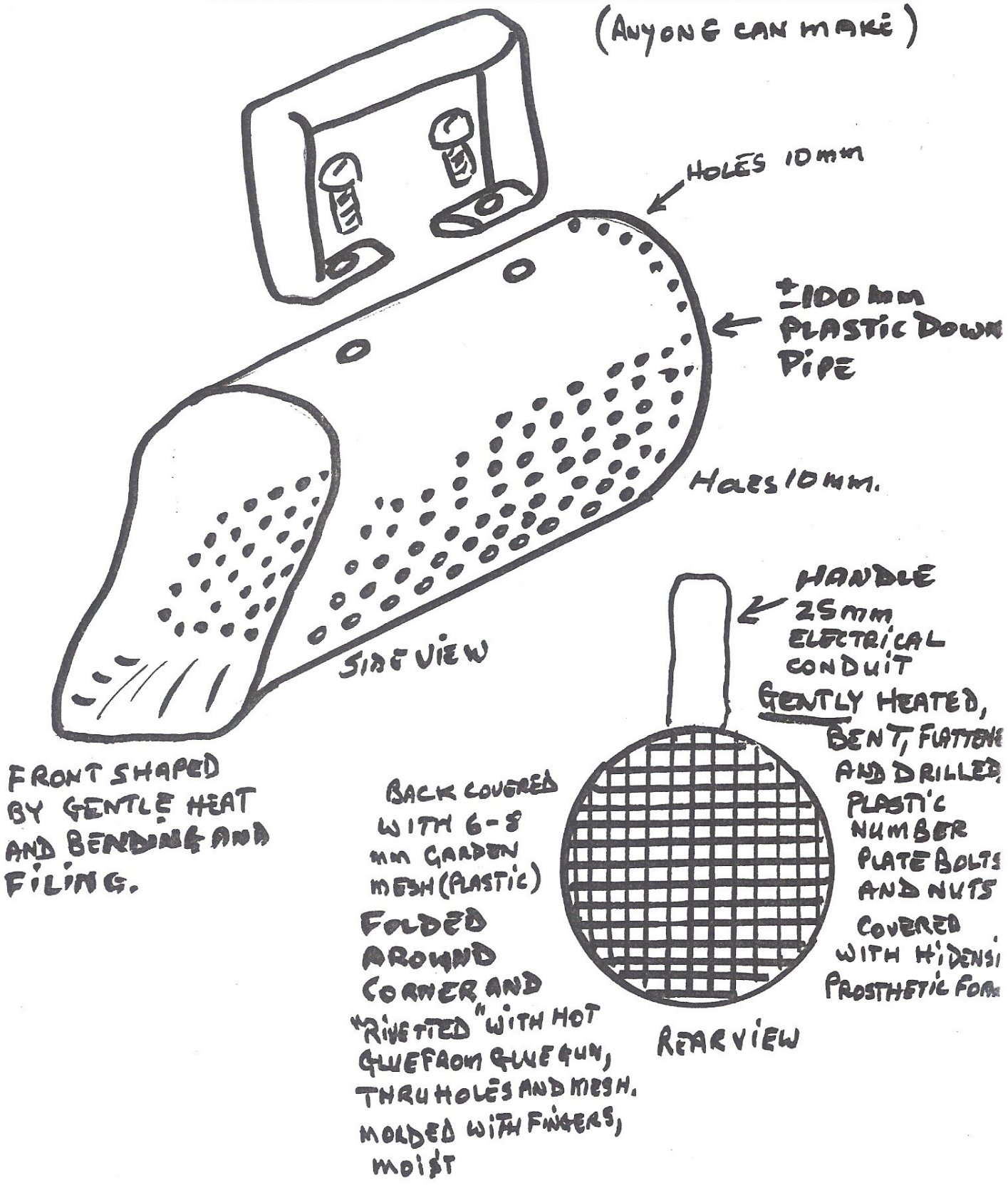
The machine runs at anything from 100hertz to 5khz and it sends out a timed pulse of about 400 volts for around 60 milliseconds, switches off and listens for the "echo" or return pulse caused by the decaying voltage in the search coil. During this period and over a period of about 6 milliseconds, a minute voltage is caused by any metal in the range of the coil. This voltage is "read", decoded and translated into a signal.

Your B.F.O., T/R, and I.B. machines all read by a change in frequency; in the beat frequency the frequency will rise for ferrous and drop for non-ferrous materials, or vice versa, and the T/R and I.B. will have a tone which will rise when the target is detected. In the case of these three types the magnetic field from the search coil sets up eddy currents in the surface or skin of any metal, metallic object, foil or even baked clay or certain ceramic materials and this is detected by the circuitry in the machine as an imbalance and your target is "seen".

A very important point to remember is that the magnetic field (that's what it is) from your search coil, is cone shaped or conical. Even if the coil is oval, you get a stretched cone and a square coil gives a square cone, so when "sweeping" or working, the sweeps must overlap - you should "sweep" the area being searched with the search head a constant height (1cm) above the ground and parallel with it, and overlap at least 3 times, i.e. 1/3 rd the diameter of the coil, to avoid missing targets. Remember that the bigger the search head does NOT necessarily mean more scores, in fact you are likely to lose out on small objects except those very close to the surface.

A. SIMPLE NON METALLIC SAND SCOOP.

(ANYONE CAN MAKE)



Lawrence Kopf.
14/3/2000.

Search coils are a matter of preference. I personally prefer "SPIDER" or open coils, fitted with coil covers or protectors but for some machines the old "solid" or closed types are the only ones available. At any rate, a coil cover is a must. Your open coil is easier to handle in water - it has less resistance and is less likely to want to float and you can sometimes get it into places where a closed coil will not go.

Motion machines are machines which are simple for beginners to use - they do not need pre-tuning and it is a case of "switch on and go", the machine sounding off or signalling when a target has been detected. There is usually no sound or tone at all while in this mode, until a target is reached. The non-motion machine needs to be tuned before it can be used and needs further tuning from time to time.

Discrimination or non-discrimination is the big question. Discrimination is an asset when working mineralised soil, black sand areas, places where there are a lot of pull tabs, bottle tops and such rubbish. However, if you tune out pull tabs, etc., with the new coins we currently have in circulation, we would miss most of them. The old Imperial coins were not too bad to work with a discriminator but the new coins are rejected most of the time.

If you are looking for the BIG ONE, you need a cache hunter, such as the Gemini 3, which is Transmit/receive machine, having a radio transmitter mounted horizontally on a shaft behind the operator, and a receiver on the same shaft, in a vertical plane ahead of him. The rear box transmits a signal down into the ground and any disturbance caused by metal large enough in the ground induces a signal into the receiver mounted in front. The range of this unit is very large as compared with the conventional machine, but the targets need to be that much bigger. This is how Dr. Fisher's first M-scope worked.

All that has gone before is very confusing, even for us older detectorists or t'hers. As I wrote before, one of the most important, if not the most important issue, is the amount of money you can spend: not necessarily what you want to spend. Look at your options: Beach combing needs a V.L.F. or discriminating detector. Your run of the mill machines CAN be used on some beaches, but get very upset when wet sea sand and salt water are around. So for beach, use your VLF, discriminator or one with a discrimination option. You will need the same machine for black sand and mineralised areas, like the Karroo, etc., and for site such as old homesteads, where wood-and-iron houses stood and there is rust a-plenty.

The right machine for beach in my opinion, is a

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Pulse induction unit. You would and should dig every target, and you'll dig up a lot of junk, but you will find good keepers. It will work in water, black sand, but will be hell in mineralised areas and littered areas.

It would be nice if you could use two machines for artifact hunting: a PI for finding the deep targets and a discriminator to see if it is worth digging. This is a good way of working if you can afford it.

A good machine for one to buy, if one is just wanting to try out our hobby but does not want to spend too much, and will still be able to find good targets, is the FISHER 1212X. It is good value for money and the natural progression would be a FISHER 1225X or 1235X. An excellent entry level machine.

An important aspect of our hobby is research. To go out, buy a machine and go to the nearest beach with no plan in mind, nor an idea of what the area has been used for in the past, or where people have congregated over the years, is like trying to drive a motor vehicle with no steering system. Check the area out! See where people sunbathe, swim, picnic. Look at the paths and pathways, the change houses. Check for the sand pits, the tidal swimming pools and other swimming baths. Look for old schools, military installations, BUT DO NOT TRESPASS. DO NOT INTERFERE WITH PEOPLE ON THE BEACHES. RATHER WORK AFTER THE BEACHES HAVE CLEARED OF VISITORS. ALWAYS OBTAIN PERMISSION TO WORK A SITE, PREFERABLY IN WRITING.

Tools needed for the beach are simple. Some people dig with their hands - STUPID! what if there is broken glass under the sand? Make a sand scoop out of a piece of plastic down pipe of about 100mm diameter, with a piece of 25mm conduit suitably bent for a handle and dozens of 6mm holes in it and a piece of plastic mesh of about 6mm glued to the back end with the front end cut away at about 45 degrees. The handle must be bolted in place with plastic numberplate bolts. It works well.

For other places, use a screwdriver to find the target and then carefully excavate it. You can use a small hand trowel, but REMEMBER TO CLOSE ALL HOLES PROPERLY. YOU DO NOT WANT TO FACE A CIVIL LAW SUIT. DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, WORK ON THE SITE OF AN HISTORICAL MONUMENT. DO NOT JEOPARDISE OUR HOBBY.

WELCOME TO OUR GREAT HOBBY OF TREASURE HUNTING. GOOD LUCK AND I HOPE THAT THIS WILL HELP YOU CHOOSE THE CORRECT MACHINE FOR YOUR NEEDS. THERE ARE MANY MAKES AND TYPES OF METAL DETECTOR ON THE MARKET AT ALL KINDS OF PRICE. SOME HAVE INHERENT MANUFACTURING FAULTS, OTHERS ARE VERY GOOD. SOME ARE CHEAP AND OTHERS EXHORBITANTLY EXPENSIVE. YOU CHOOSE THAT WHICH SUITS YOU, BUT IF YOU NEED TECHNICAL HELP, PLEASE TELEPHONE ME FOR ANY ADVICE I CAN GIVE.

'n Brief van John en Erica Mulder van Plettenbergbaai...

BUFFELSBAAI SPOEL WEG

Oor die afgelope drie jaar het ek en Erica die strande by Plettenbergbaai goed skoongemaak en moes noodgedwonge na nuwe goudvelde soek.

Op 13 Julie 1999 besluit ons om na die minder bekende Buffelsbaai te gaan en ontdek toe dat die strand besig is om weg te spoel.

In die volgende twee maande het ons Buffelsbaai op 28 dae besoek en R1 539 se munte uitgehaal sowel as 10 goue juwele (1 diamant), 14 silwer ringe, 24 ander silwer juwele, 2 horlosies en een pêrel. Die pêrel is ongeveer ertjie grootte en monteer aan 'n baie klein stukkie metaal soos deel van 'n oorbel.

Die beste fonds was 'n goue armband van 16 gram 9 kt ter waarde van R2 800,00. Die strand het geleidelik weggespoel oor 'n tydperk van ongeveer 3½ maande en teen einde Oktober weer begin toespoel.

Die beste geld fondse op agtereenvolgende dae:-

6 Augustus	-	95,05
9 Augustus	-	111,35
12 Augustus	-	<u>211,53</u>
		R417,93

Dit kon seker baie meer gewees het as ons elke dag gaan soek het, en ook al die fondse was met laagwater in nat sand waar daar 'n laag los klippe net onder die oppervlak is en dit is harde werk. Jy kan slegs 'n paar uur per dag grawe voordat jy moeg word en die gety begin inkom.

Op 13 Augustus toe die R211,53 uitgehaal is was ons so moeg dat ons die Fisher impulse op die parkeerterrein vergeet het waar dit verdwyn het en die SA Polisiediens met goeie speurwerk dit eers die volgende dag aan ons kon terugbesorg. Baie dank SAPD Knysna vir uitstekende speurwerk (die instrukment is by Santam verseker).

Die samestelling van die R211,53 van 12 Augustus is soos volg:-

<u>R5</u>	<u>R2</u>	<u>R1</u>	<u>50c</u>	<u>20c</u>	<u>10c</u>	<u>5c</u>	<u>2c</u>	<u>1c</u>
17	28	30	35	71	61	38	24	18

In totaal 329 munte en saam met 'n paar oorsese munte en 6 juwele en vele hoeke, sinkers, ysters, botteltops, pulltabs, seker 500 items altesaam vir die dag - slawerny, met dank aan my vrou Erica, die "digger" van die dag.

THE UNWELCOME GUEST

By Owen Timmermans

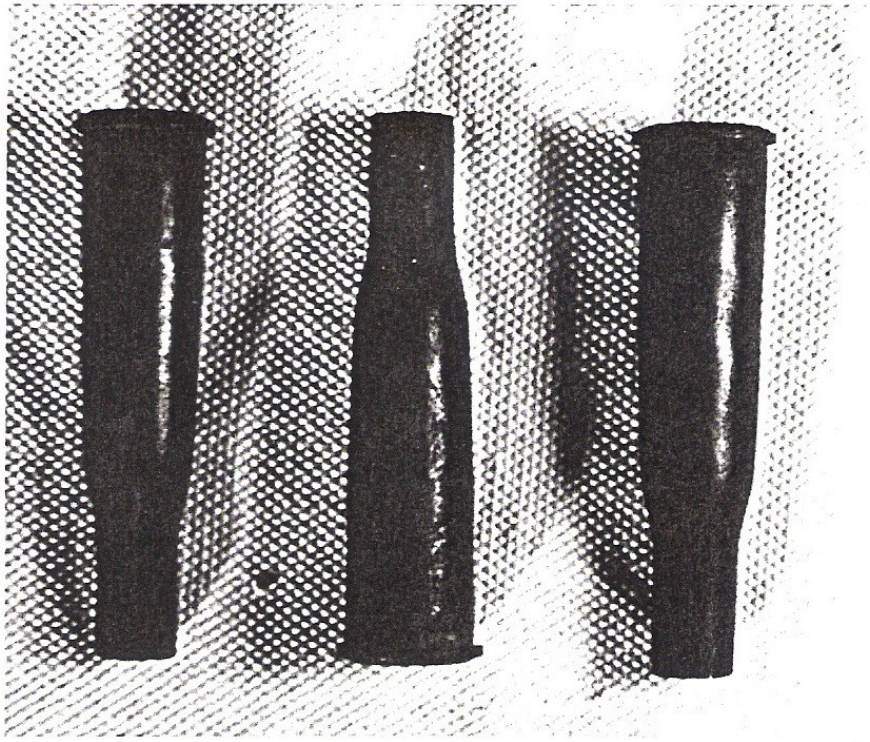
In June 1983, while on a survey of sites important to a study of the Anglo-Boer war, I visited the shores of the Hartebeespoort dam. I was told that on the eastern section, south of Schoemansville once stood a depot of the English armed forces. A severe drought had lowered the level of the dam -- ideal conditions for a metal detector search. And did we find metal! More than ten kilograms of fisherman's lead sinkers of all descriptions filled our bags after a few days search. Besides the lead sinkers we also discovered dozens upon dozens of bullets -- R1 ammunition dating back to World War II when this area was training ground to a tank corps. Of the once presence of the British depot there was little evidence -- just a few corrosion destroyed Lee-Enfield cartridges and cases. Disappointing? Yes, perhaps it was for lead sinkers have little historical value. At R1,80 per kg the scrap value is not so exciting either.. Lead is ugly and poisonous too! But perhaps we should not be too hard on lead for it has played an important roll in the eternal search for the magic formula of turning base metals into gold. From the days of ancient Egypt up to the present this search has never ended. Or has it? A Russian scientist who emigrated to Israel early in 1980 revealed that he had been working on a successful Soviet project to turn lead into gold. The gold was however so radioactive that no man could handle it safely. Enough of that though! Let's come down to earth. Lead could be of historical value -- in the shape of bullets -- of which we found a profusion in places where skirmishes had once taken place.

After the Jameson raid General Joubert ordered 36000 British Martini-Henry single shot rifles which fired black powder charged cartridges. He had also ordered 6000 Austrian Guedes rifles. More than a decade earlier, the British service was issued with the small-bore magazine rifle, the Lee-Enfield which fired smokeless propellant cartridges. President Kruger was aware that Germany had excellent rifles too -- the Mauser small bore magazine rifle which fired well designed ballastite filled cartridges. He ordered 37000 Mausers. These used the famous military cartridge, the 7x57 mm designed by Paul Mauser in Germany in 1892. Judging by the numbers of different rifles used, it can be expected that the Lee-Enfield bullets would be most numerous -- then the Mauser -- next the Martini-Henry and last the Gueddes. And that is exactly what we experienced.

Most of the Lee-Enfield cartridges and cases found by us carried the mark II. The bullet of the mark II cartridge has a mass of 13,92 grams, is round-nosed and cast in a lead-antimony alloy (2% antimony). To ensure that the bullet is not deformed by the heat and pressure of flight it is enclosed within a tough, yet fairly soft envelope of a copper-nickel alloy. Several envelopes found by us had parted with their core. They were ripped open, probably as a result of grazing a hard object such as a rock. We found a great number of these MK II Lee-Enfield bullets. The calibre of the Lee-Enfield is 0,30 inch or 7,69 mm. Of the bullets found, some were in such a good state of preservation that the British broad arrow which signifies Government property, was clearly visible, embossed on the lead at the bottom of the bullet -- a circular portion of the base of the bullet is not covered by the envelope.

All bullets examined were somewhat lighter than the 13,93 grams specified -- except for one.

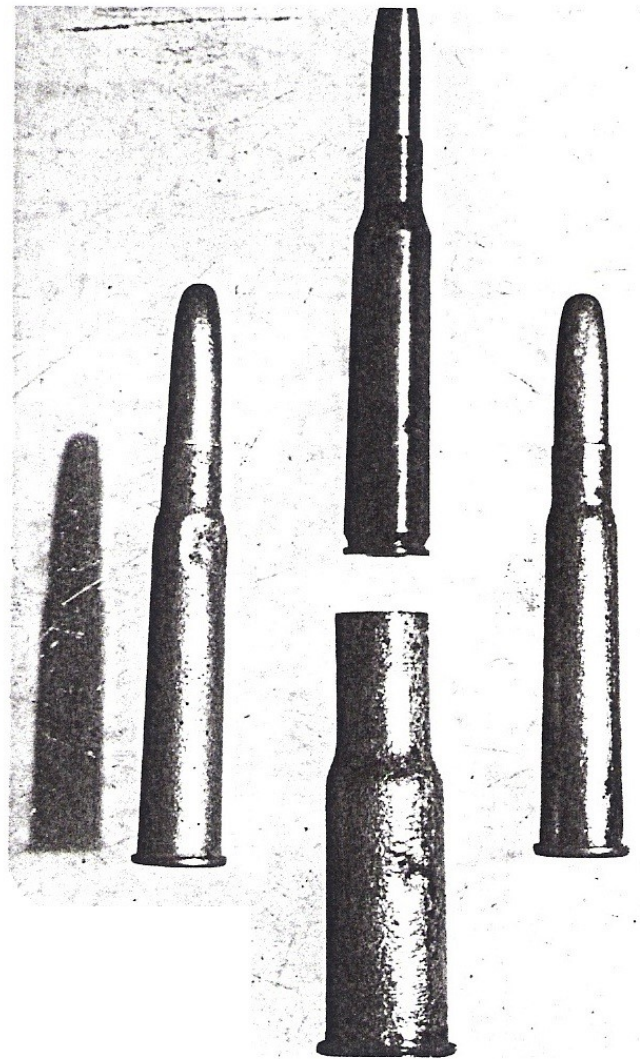
On 17th October 1899, a new cartridge was introduced for use in the British Service rifles. This was the cordite -- .303-inch S.A. Ball cartridge MK V. It differed from MK II in that the bullet was hollow nosed. Other experimental cartridges, all hollow nosed, which lead up to the introduction of the MK V were the MK III and MK IV. Although by a Hague convention, the hollow nosed bullet was outlawed, the British



Three Gueddes cartridge cases.



British 15 pounder shrapnel shell case.



Mauser cartridge, two Lee-Enfield cartridges and Martini-Henry cartridge case.

must have made use of these in South Africa, for we found two MK III and two MK V's casings. It is quite remarkable that we should have found casings of the MK III as, according to official reports these never went into general production and only small numbers were ever made.

We found a number of Mauser bullets. The military bullet for the 7x57 mm cartridge is enclosed in a nickel envelope and weighs 11,2 grams. There exists a heavier bullet which forms part of the 8x57 mm cartridge. These bullets weigh 14,64 grams. Two of the Mauser cartridges which we found were fitted with soft nosed (explosive) bullets.

After the Mauser, the Martini-Henry was the most often found bullet. The Martini-Henry, a .450-inch rifle used two types of bullets. The one had a mass of 31.10 grams, the other weighed 26,57 grams.

We noticed that even after most careful cleaning, the colour of the Martini-Henry bullets were not always that of pure lead. This may well be due to the excessive addition of hardening agents to the molten lead in home-cast bullets. The off-colour in home-cast bullets may also be due to other metals picked up during smelting of impure lead ores.

At the outbreak of the second war of independence the Transvaal had 4700 Guedes rifles, the Free State 4450. The Guedes was an 8 mm rifle. The bullet was hardened by alloying the lead with 2% antimony, it was cylindrical, round-nosed and enclosed in a cupro-nickel envelope. Never did we find any of the 8 mm bullets fired by this popular rifle.

Of musket balls we did find a number in widely separated places/ Three of these, in sound condition, weighed 30,0 - 30,9 and 31,0 grams. One brittle bullet had cracked and lost about 30% of its mass. An excellent example of the use of excessive hardening agent. These lead balls take us back to the time of the 'Ou Sanna' and 'Brown Bess', both 11-bore muskets which lived in times rife with all manner of exciting adventure. The 'Ou Sanna' was the principal firearm of our Voortrekkers.

Wherever we discovered accumulations of cartridge cases indicating that a skirmish had once taken place there, we usually also picked up lead spheres, all of about the same mass, 12,8 grams. Our first impression was that these were musket balls but we soon realized that we were on the wrong track. No! ... we were finding the famous or perhaps infamous grapeshot, lead balls used as shrapnel in British shells. Records have it that in the Anglo-Boer conflict, British 15 pounder guns fired 166548 shrapnel shells. As each shell was loaded with 200 lead balls, the British showered 33309600 lead balls onto our country. No wonder we found plenty of evidence. These shrapnel bullets were designed to weigh 11,07 grams each. Earlier models used slightly larger bullets at 12,97 grams each.

Case shot was also available to these 15 pounder B.L. guns. This operated much like a very large shotgun cartridge. These bullets weighed 13,35 grams each.

Most active relic hunters end up with heaps and heaps of bullets of various ages. Except for the initial thrill of discovery such relics are quickly stored away in out of the way corners. Old bullets may deserve better treatment. The early pioneer voortrekker in search of lead for his bullets often made use of outcrops of lead ores. Lead smelted from such ores often contains silver and gold values and it is perfectly feasible for a number of bullets, especially the large round musket balls to have high silver and/or gold values.

Where would such gold and silver bearing lead deposits occur in South Africa. There are quite a few, two of which the author visited.. Kromdraai and a smaller deposit close to the Hartebeespoort dam.

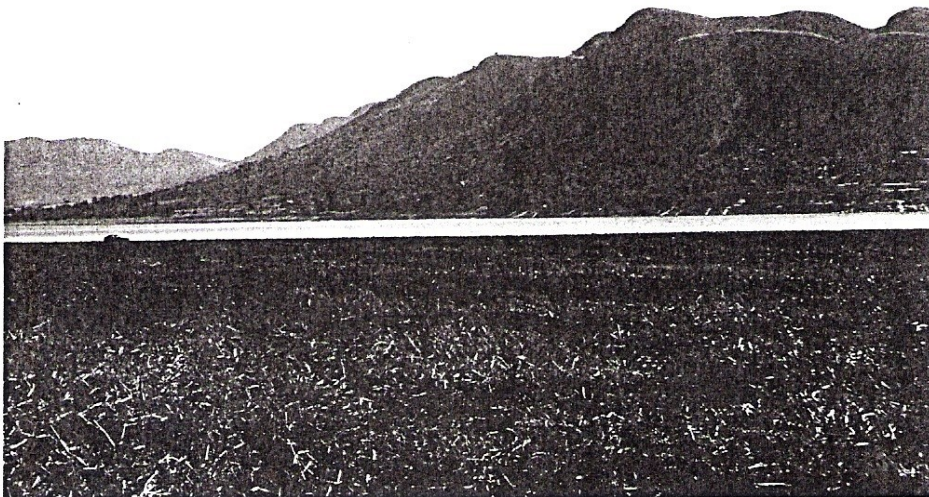
In 1881, Johannes Minnaar found payable gold in the hills on the farm Kromdraai,

sixteen kilometers north of the present town of Krugersdorp. Phenomenal rich surface deposits were found. Some of these were made up of gold and silver rich lead minerals.

A very long time ago, as a young man, I read in a commemorative book on the Boer War published in Holland, of certain Boers who cast a number of bullets in a high gold-lead alloy. 'They want our gold, well we'll let them have it!' was their motto. For years I found it hard to believe this story as it was common knowledge that during the greater part of the war the Boers were in dire financial straits. But recently I read a report on a British officer, a geologist by profession, who was wounded in a skirmish with the Boers. ...A scientist, and of an inquisitive nature, he had the bullet which put him in hospital, analysed. The assay report had him jubilant for it reported that the bullet was 80% silver, balance lead.

Many decades after the Anglo-Boer conflict, someone bought a farm along the Hartebeespoort dam -- Johannesburg road. Much to his surprise he found an old mine shaft on his property -- and not far from it in the long grass lay hidden numerous bullets which on analysis were found to be rich in silver. Further investigation proved the mine to have rich deposits of silver bearing lead minerals.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



Hartebeespoort dam. Due to severe drought large areas usually submerged could be searched.



Silkaat's Nek.

Ons jaar 2000 / Our year 2000

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TREASURE TALK VONDS VAN DIE JAAR KOMPETISIE**

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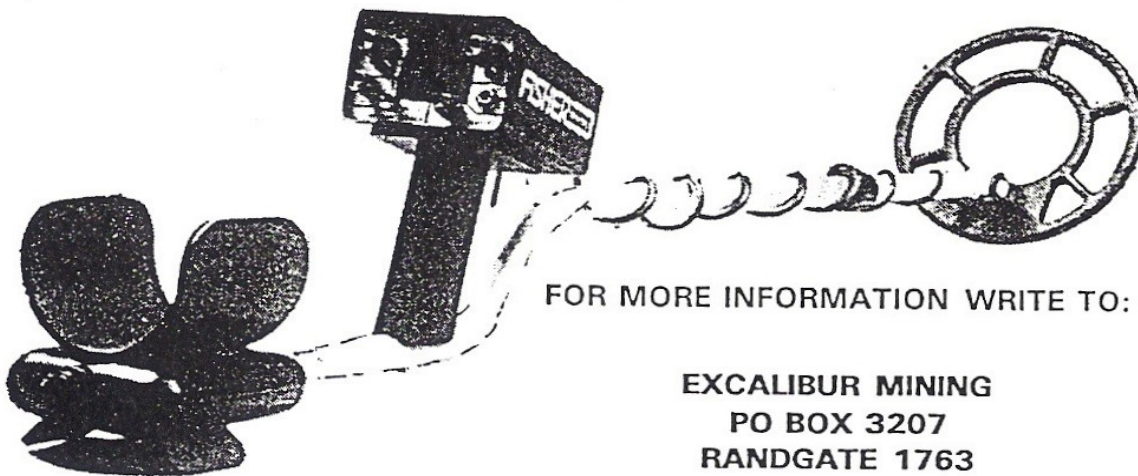
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TREASURE TALK FIND OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

TREASURE TALK VONDS VAN DIE JAAR KOMPETISIE

THE FINALISTS!

DIE FINALISTE!

- A. John Bosman from Benoni : Three entries:-
A1 Four wheel animal drawn cart 1919 license plate
A2 Bicycle license 1933
A3 Porcelain & Silver Pendant
- B. John Mulder van Plettenbergbaai: Laguiole Knipmes
- C. Andrew Coetzer from East London: Mans dress/signet ring, hallmarked BIRMINGHAM 1863, 15 ct gold.
- D. Andy Naudé from Stellenberg: Two lead seals circa 1778
- E. Mike Bull from Springs: Ladies gold necklace consisting of 700-mm gold chain, gold heart shaped locket, and two miniature gold figures.
- F. Wolfgang Roux from Sonstraal: British George 111 Half-Guinea Gold Coin dated 1798 set in a clasp.
- G. Peter Batchelor from Durbanville: A modern South African two-cent piece dated 1991, but without the first 1 in the date, thus reading 991.
- H. Tjaart Theron van Caledon: Hollandse koper Duit gemunt deur Provinsie Zeeland, gedatèer 1684.

Please vote for a winner! Stem asseblief vir 'n wenner!

A Voting form is included with this issue - please vote
'n Stembrief word ingesluit met hierdie uitgawe – stem asseblief

FINALIS(T) A

Name: John Bosman from Benoni

Entry: A1: Four wheel animal drawn
cart 1919 licence plate.
A2: Bicycle Licence 1933.
A3: Porcelain & Silver Pendant.

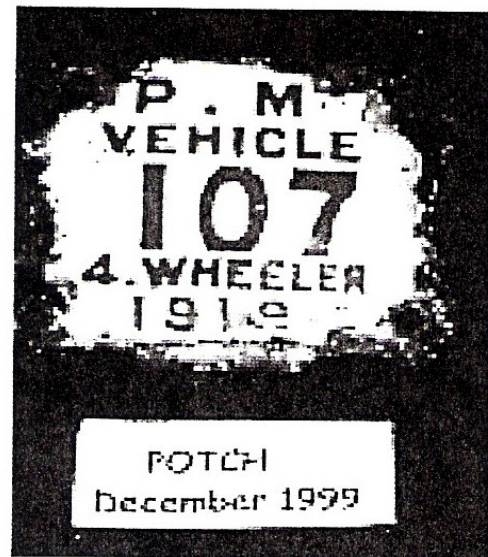
Detector used: Garret Master Hunter 7.ADS

Where and when it was found:
(Short background)

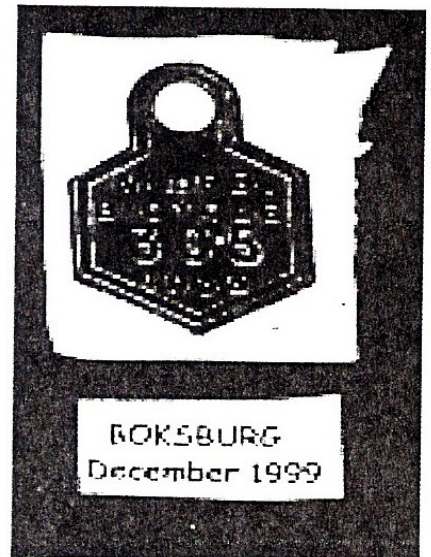
A1: Four wheel animal drawn cart 1919 licence plate:
Licence plate found 100 mm deep in open veld which was a dumping site south of Potchefstroom. Gesaghebbendes sê die vierwiel-lisensieplaat is 'n perd of donkie wa sin. Nogal 'n gebakte emalje. 'n Opgewonde vonds onder die grond sowat 4 duim diep. Nog in goeie toestand na 81 jaar en dit in moeder aarde bewaar. Ek wonder wat het van die wa geword?

A2: Bicycle Licence 1933: The disc was found 75 mm deep in open veld opposite the Boksburg railway station. Die 1933 fietsplaitjie is in munt toestand. Die metaal is 'n mengsel van brons en koper.

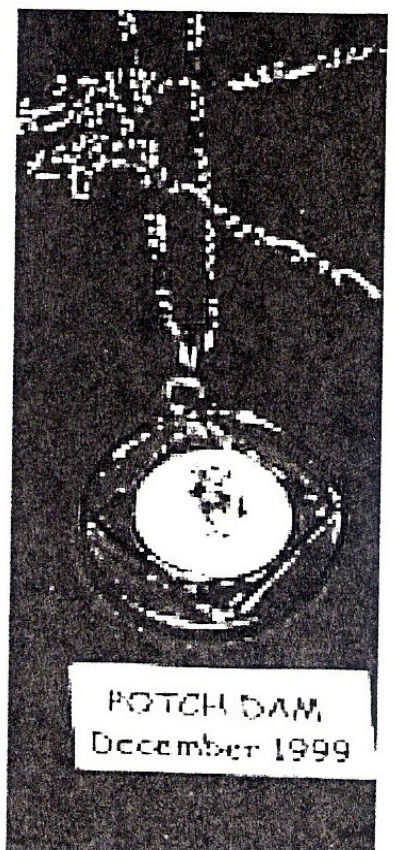
A3: Porcelain & Silver Pendant: The pendant was found in long grass at the Potch dam. Die porselyn-silver hangertjie het geen skriftelike tekens agter op nie. Dit is in munt toestand. Ek was so opgewonde toe die lang dik gras hierdie waardevolle vonds oplewer. Ek wonder wat was dié kêrel se houding van die verlore geskenk? Nou ja, ons kan die gedagtes laat rol oor enige vonds!



A1.



A2.



A3.

FINALIS(T) B

Naam: John Mulder van Plettenbergbaai

Inskrywing: Laguiole Knipmes

Masjien wat gebruik is: Fisher Impulse

Waar en wanneer item gevind is:
(Agtergrond tot fonds)

Eerste toeval - Sondag 27 Junie 1999 Stap ek en my vrou Erica met metaalverklikkers op die strand en 'n man kom vra of ons 'n knipmes opgetel het. Hy klink ernstig en sê iets van 'n beloning en dat ons die mes by die restaurant kan inhandig. Hy weet egter nie waar hy dit verloor het. Look Out Strand is ongeveer 1 km lank en 100m wyd met laagwater. Hy het op die nat sand rivier toe geloop en voor die duin op die droë sand terug restaurant toe.

Ons deel hom mee dat dit onmoontlik is om na die mes te soek as ons nie weet naastenby waar hy geloop het en waar hy dit kon verloor het, maar as ons dit toevallig optel sal ons dit aan hom besorg. Hy verduidelik toe hoe die mes lyk.

Tweede toeval - Donderdag 1 Julie 1999 verskyn die plaaslike koerantjie "What's New" en toevallig sien ons 'n klein beriggie "pocket knife lost on beach - reward cell" Ons bespreek die beriggie en ly af dat dit moontlik die man is wie met ons op 27 Junie by die strand gepraat het en dat dit seker 'n baie spesiale mes moet wees - waarom anders is hy so ernstig om dit terug te kry. Ons besef egter dat dit 'n onbegonne taak is om daarvoor te gaan soek.

Derde toeval - Vrydag 2 Julie 1999 word ek wakker met die voorgevoel en oortuiging dat as ek vanoggend die mes gaan soek sal ek dit kry.

Erica wou my nog oortuig dat ek my tyd sal mors maar ek regverdig die soektog met die idee dat al kry ons nie die mes, dan kry ons darem vars lug en miskien 'n paar munte.

Nou moet ek herhaal dat die strand ongeveer 1km lank is en 100m wyd was op daardie datum en dat ons die afgelope paar dae die "hotspots" gefynkam het vir munte en juwele sonder enige teken van die mes.

Ons het afgespreek dat ons die lengte van die strand op die nat sand sou loop rivier toe en dan terugkeer oor die droë sand, vir wat dit werd mag wees.

Met die aankoms by Look Out Strand stap ek reguit oor die droë sand, tot in die water, waar dit ±20cm diep is en waar die mense gewoonlik swem met hoogwater, hopende dat ek moontlik juwele daar sal kry.

Vierde toeval. Op hierdie oomblik skakel ek die Fisher impulse aan en laat sak die spoel onder die water. Onmiddellik kry ek 'n sein soos van 'n groot stuk metaal - soos 'n sinker.

My eerste reaksie was dat ek nie nou lus het vir die moeite om die sinker onder die water uit te grawe en ook in die proses nat te spat, maar as ek dit nie nou uithaal dan pla dit my weer more, so ek beter maar grawe en klaarkry.

Met die tweede skep toe die gat in die sand ongeveer 10cm diep is gewaar ek die "sinker" in die skepblik en spoel dadelik die sand uit om die sinker uit die blik te haal. Groot was my verbasing toe ek 'n knipmes in die blik sien wat aan die man se beskrywing voldoen, en ongeskonde is ten spyte van 'n week in die water. Dit moet van goeie staal gemaak wees.

Nou moet ons uitvind of dit werklik die verlore mes is, en die antwoorddiens van die selfoon in die koerantjie deel ons mee dat die eienaar uitstedig is, en ons laat 'n boodskap dat hy sy mes kan kom haal.

Toe hy terugskakel het hy ons nie onmiddellik erken uit die vorige Sondag se ontmoeting op die strand nie en kon nie dadelik verstaan hoekom ons so seker kan wees dat dit sy mes is, maar hy belowe in elk geval om te kom kyk - hy sê die beloning is R100.

Groot was sy verbasing toe hy sy mes erken en betaal graag die R100 beloning.

Op ons navraag hoekom die mes so spesiaal is sê hy slegs dat hy dit by 'n kollega in Frankryk gekry het. Hy is 'n wynboer en was daar op besoek.

Vyfde toeval. Etlike weke later blaai ek deur 'n Kanadese Gereedskapkatalogus en my aandag word getrek deur 'n advertensie van 'n knipmes wat baie bekend lyk, en toe besef ek dat dit presies lyk soos die mes wat ons opgetel het, en toe verstaan ons waarom dit so 'n waardevolle mes was naamlik dat dit 'n replika is van 'n mes wat aan Napoleon se naam gekoppel is.

Die Statistieke. Ek het uitgewerk dat die strandgebied van 1 km by 100m 'n area van 100 000 vkm beslaan en in aggeneem dat 'n metaalverklikker spoelkop van 8 duim deursnee ongeveer 25 keer in pas op 'n vkm, dan het jy 'n kans van 1 in 2.5 miljoen om 'n spesiale fonds te maak op hierdie strand.

Die Wonderwerk lê daarin dat ek die knipmes gevind het die eerste keer dat ek die metaalverklikker aangeskakel het. Dat ek enigsins die mes gevind het is dus voorwaar 'n wonderwerk, nog te meer dat ek so 'n voorgevoel gehad het.

Hiermee die verwysing vir die beskrywing van die knipmes soos verkry uit Lee Valley Tools se katalogus en waarvoor die nodige toestemming vanaf hulle president, Mnr Lee, verkry is.

The Laguiole Knife

The residents of Laguiole in France maintain that Napoleon gave them the exclusive right to make this knife because of their bravery in battle. The residents of Thiers (the knife capital of France) disagreed, so these knives, with the decorated back and the traditional bee as a thumb rest, have been made in both places since. The shape and decoration are highly traditional. The only components used in the knife are 440 stainless steel, brass, and rosewood.

The classic shape fits the hand beautifully. Because of its size (8" open, 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ " closed), it was even used as a dinner knife by travellers in earlier times. Rich in history, this is a delightful knife to own and use.



FINALIS(T) C

Name: Andrew Coetzer from East London

Entry: Mans dress/signet ring, hallmarked BIRMINGHAM 1863, 15ct gold, valued at R4 500.00, maker still to be ascertained, negligible wear.

Detector used: Fisher Impulse PI

Where and when it was found:
(Short background)

Found on Orient Beach, near wreck of Russian ship "Orient" (1911) and where at least 18 wrecks have occurred in the recorded history of East London (160 years). It was 8 - 10 inches (200 - 250 mm) deep in wet sand. Was this ring, with the initials SM, owned by Sammy Marks?



FINALIS(T) D

Name: Andy Naudé from Stellenberg

Entry: Two lead seals circa 1778

Detector used: Fisher CZ 20

Where and when it was found:
(Short background)

The two lead seals were found while detecting at a swimming beach in Cape Town. These seals were identified as linen seals which were used to mark the rolls of linen which was being returned from the East.

They are similar to those found on the Colebrook which sunk on 24 August 1778. The larger of the two seals (38mm) bears the inscription V E I C 4 and the smaller seal (26mm) U E I C 4. I am told that in Old English the U and the V are interchangeable. The letters stand for United East India Company. At first I thought that they were seals to some old bank bags, so I searched the area again and again, but to no avail.



FINALIS(T) E

Name: Mike Bull from Springs

Entry: Ladies gold necklace consisting of 700 mm gold chain - gold heart shaped locket - and two miniature gold figures called "gem people".

Detector used: Beach Scan P.I. - Pulse Power Developments.

Where and when it was found:
(Short background)

Found on the 14th of May 2000 at Scottburg Beach at Durban south coast. Found during low tide, below a sandy ledge created by rough sea.

Our recent 4 day trip to the south coast of Durban was first class. I managed to get quite a few hours detecting. The finds consisted of a nice gents watch still in working order. I bought a new strap and am wearing it at the moment. A nice silver ring, along with dozens of coins of different sorts was also found. But my best find was the gold necklace, of which I am sending a photograph for the next contest. I am sure that you "Beach Boys" find the articles quite often, but you must appreciate that we battle to find the goodies up north, especially after all the rain - even the elephants get lost in the long grass! So the trip to the coast is appreciated.



FINALIS(T) F

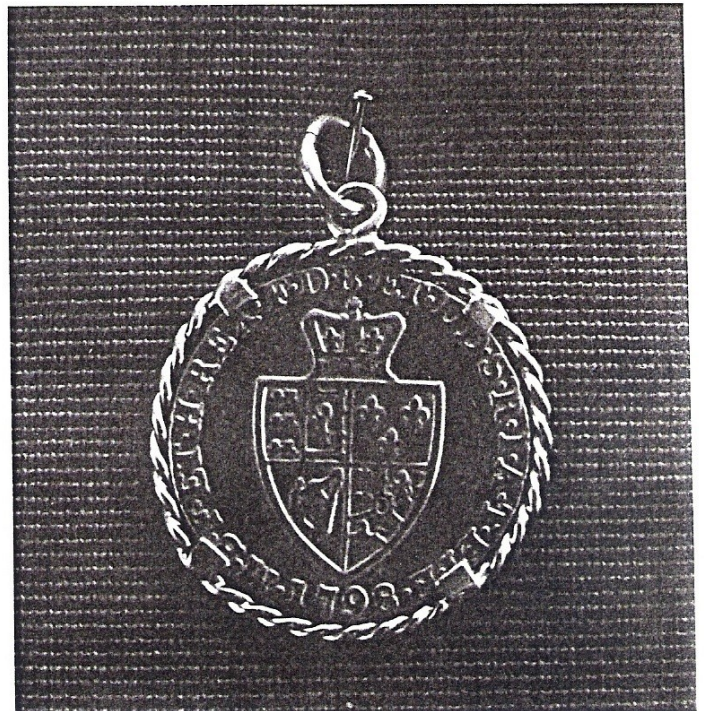
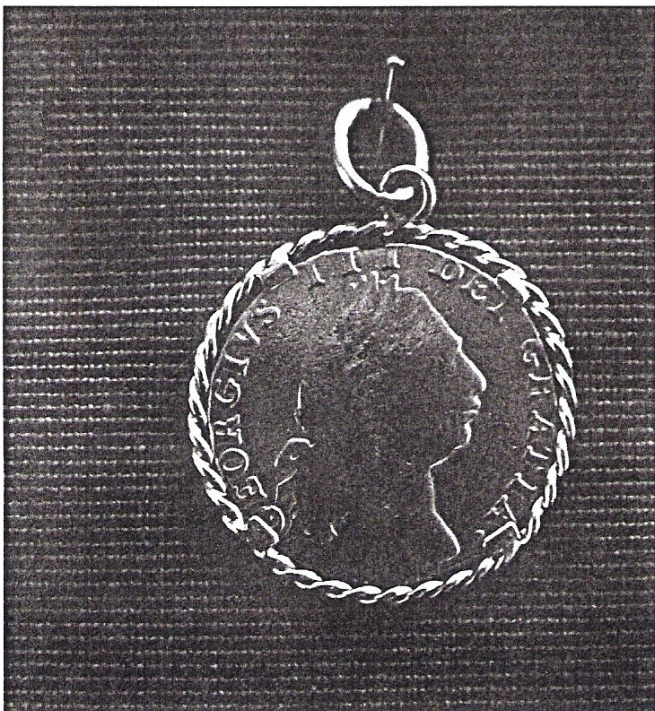
Name: Wolfgang Roux from Sonstraal

Entry: A British George 111 Half-Guinea Gold Coin dated 1798 set in a clasp. The British Guinea was struck from 1663 to 1813. At one stage this gold coin was referred to as the guinea pound. Due to a shortage of copper and silver coins, the gold half-guinea was put into circulation.

Detector used: Minelab Sovereign.

Where and when it was found:
(Short background)

It was found at Silwerstroom beach on the west coast. This beach is not known for spectacular finds other than a few rings in the tidal pool. This Saturday in October 1999 was no different. Pierre and I decided to try the beach area for a change. Nothing much was found - a coin or two when suddenly out popped this coin in a clasp. Not being able to see very well without my glasses, I called Pierre over to "check out" the flea market trinket. "GOLD COIN" he said going quite pale. "Not possible" I said, feeling like jumping over the moon. It now has pride of place in my collection.



FINALIS(T) G

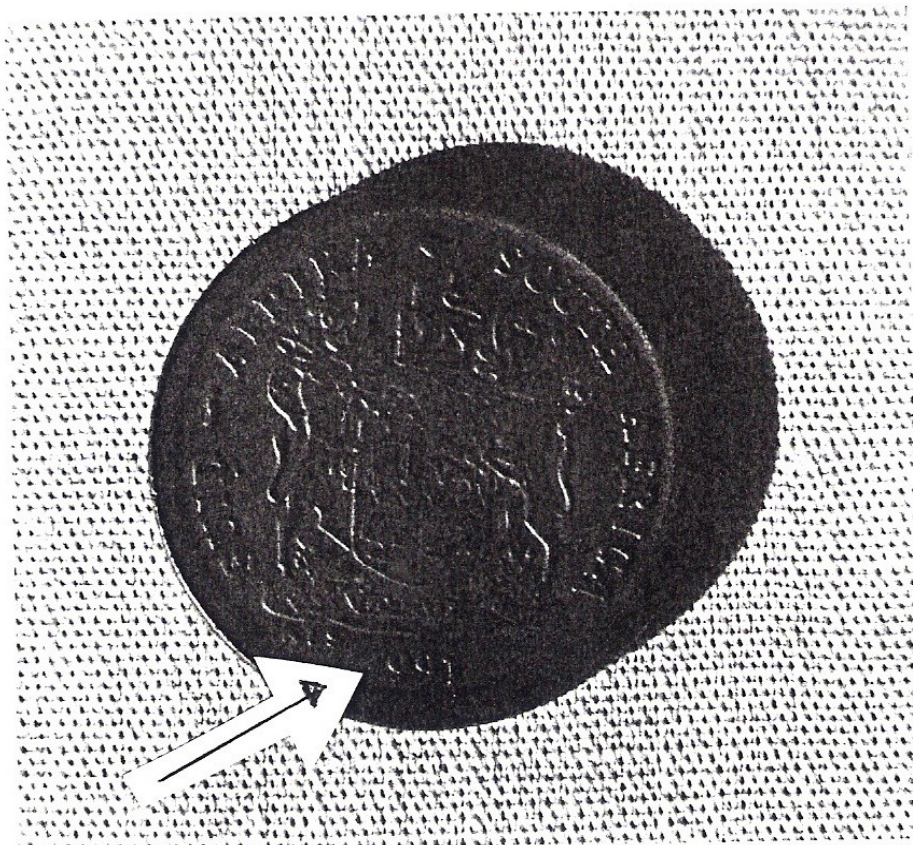
Name: Peter Batchelor from Durbanville

Entry: A modern South African two cent piece dated 1991, but without the first 1 in the date, thus reading 991

Detector used: Fisher 1280X Aquanaut

Where and when it was found:
(Short background)

As a total new-comer to this very interesting and rewarding hobby, I was invited in April of this year by two local "veterans" to join them on a detecting outing to our local beach. I purchased a second hand machine (Fisher 1280x Aquanaut with a 10.5" coil) only a couple of months before. We arrived at the beach and all went our separate ways to find a "patch". They found theirs and I just bumbled around and found pull-tabs, bottle tops, other junk and a few coins. I thoroughly enjoyed the morning and the teasing afterwards. They referred to me as "Pull Tab Pete". Later that day at home, explaining the trip to my family and counting all R5.32, I noticed something different about a 2c coin. I rubbed some grime off it and discovered a funny date. Instead of 1991, the date stamped on the coin read 991. I have contacted numerous coin dealers and they have never heard of this. I am in the process of contacting the South African Mint, and hope that they can give me an idea of the rarity of the coin. I know that in America, coin collectors pay huge prices for odd coins like these. I am holding on to my "funny money" and have even refused an offer made to me by a collector in Cape Town. It just go to show that in this game anything might pop out of the sand. Check each and every find, no matter its value. It's the rarity of goodies that make this hobby so interesting and enjoyable.



Normal 2c dated 1994

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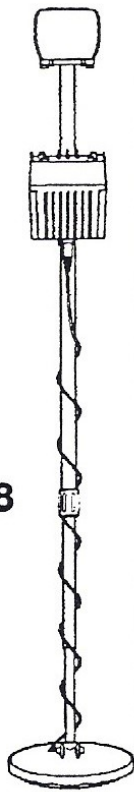
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Late Entry

FINALIS(T) I

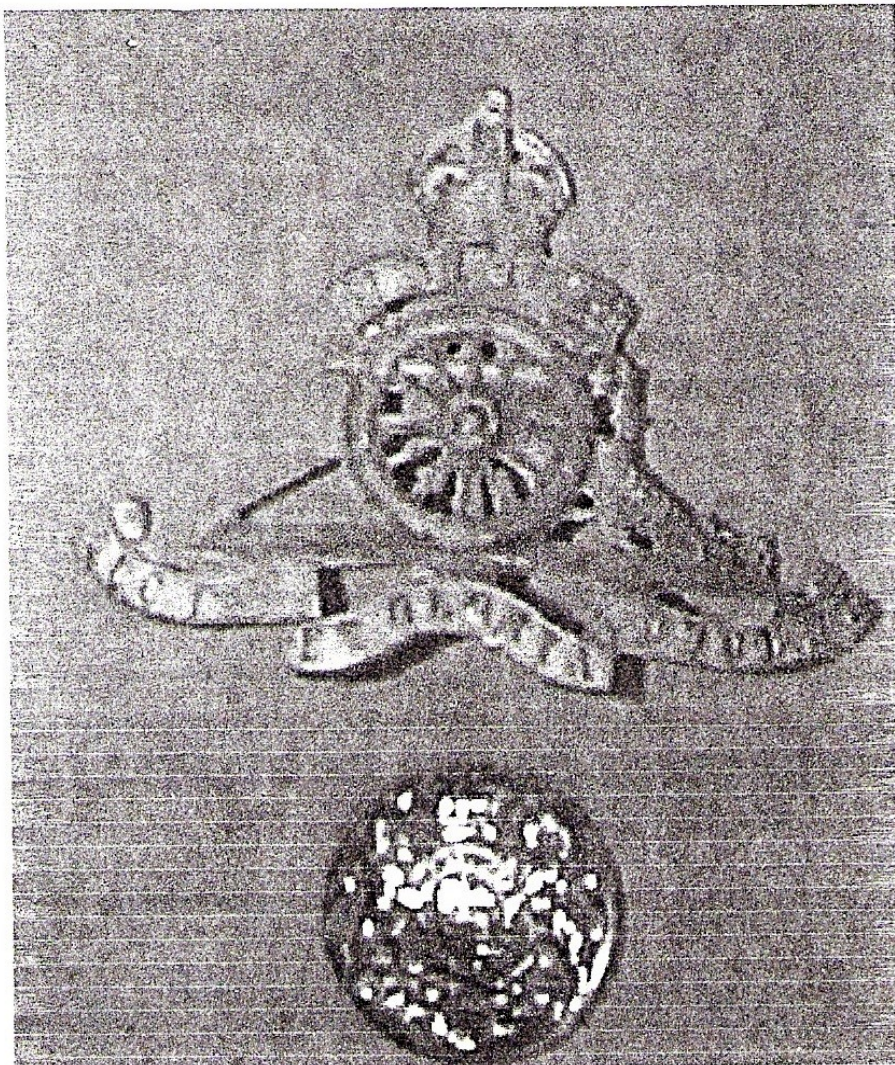
Name: Deon Michael Esterhuizen from Fishhoek

Entry: British Cap Badge & Button. (Royal regiment of artillery: Formed in 1716 under the old Board of Ordnance, whose arms included three cannons)

Detector used: Fisher 1280X Aquanaut

Where and when it was found:
(Short background)

Found on 24 April 2000 at 11.55 am. I took a ride out to Simonstown to check out an old gun battery. The recent fire had burnt all the bush away, which made searching a lot easier. I first found a few large nuts and an old naval button. I then moved about 20 meters on and found this British cap badge of the Royal Regiment of Artillery.



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TREASURE TALK

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

Spring Issue 2000 Lente Uitgawe

Dear Reader

The latest copy of Treasure Talk, in which we announce the finalists of our Find of the Year Competition, will be posted to you today. A voting form has been included and you will be asked to vote for the best entry. However, two late entries were received, which are attached herewith. Should you want to vote for one of these, please indicate that on the entry form.

Beste Leser

Die jongste uitgawe van Treasure Talk, waarin ons die finaliste van ons Vonds van die Jaar Kompetisie bekend maak, word vandag aan u gepos. 'n Stembrief word daarby ingesluit, en u sal versoek word om die beste inskrywing na u mening te kies. Twee laat-inskrywings is ontvang wat hierby aangeheg word. Sou u een van hierdie inskrywings as die beste kies, dui dit asseblief so op die stembrief aan.

Kind regards / Vriendelike groete



Pierre Nortje
Editor/ Redakteur: Treasure talk

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Laat-inskrywing

FINALIS(T) K

Naam: A J Smith van Bredasdorp

Inskrywing: K(1) Goue Arabiese muntstuk met jaargetal of iets in die voege 1222 in Arabies daar op. (9 karaat goud)

K(2) Brons of goue hangertjie waarskynlik gedra deur 'n Roomse persoon (Portugese meestal Katolieke)

Masjien wat gebruik is: Fisher 1225X

Waar en wanneer item gevind is:
(Agtergrond tot fonds)

K(1) Gevind by die baken te Waenhuiskrans gedurende Januarie 2000.

K(2) Gevind by Struisbaai plaat in Februarie 2000 in omgewing waar die (tee wrak) Elizabeth A. Oliver gestrand het.



K(1)
(vergroet)



K(2)

Late Entry

FINALIS(T) J

Name: George Davidson from Wingate Heights

Entry: Two Pipe Bombs (Live)

Detector used: Aquapulse 1B with 38cm deep search coils.

Where and when it was found:
(Short background)

The two bombs were found in a vlei near Muizenberg in May 2000. The police dive unit asked us to help search for two pipe bombs thrown by a suspect into the Seekoeivlei. The dive unit has spent two days searching for it. We located the bombs under water within 30 minutes using detectors.

Editors note: No photo was received from George, but he wrote the following -
"Dear Pierre, Would you like the full story behind this as an article?"

Of course!!

Lure of Grosvenor lies in its treasures

THE GROSVENOR is one of those shipwrecks that centuries on still captures the public imagination and intrigues treasure hunters everywhere. Daily Dispatch reporter **GLYN WILLIAMS** did some research into the background of the ship and the process of her recent discovery.

THE LATEST search for the Grosvenor was by a group of divers from Hungary -- odd, perhaps, emanating from a country devoid of seaboard -- but they are experienced, having honed their teeth in their homeland's lakes, and they also gained knowledge of sea conditions by working for two seasons on the wreck of the Dutch warship *Bato*, sunk off Simonstown in 1806.

They worked at the wreck site off the coast of East Pondoland during the calmer weather of last winter, and returned there in April

this year with their South African liaison man, Jonathan Sharfman, a Cape Town marine archaeologist, after depositing the items they retrieved from the Grosvenor's remains at the East London Museum.

The lure of the Grosvenor lies in its reputed treasure. It certainly had a valuable cargo. Its bill of lading when taking goods from Madras, India to Britain included gold bullion, jewels, coins, plate and other valuables.

Whether it contained much more in loot plundered by adventurers, including the fabulous peacock throne of Persia, could be mere conjecture. That unknown is certainly very much the cherry on top: a true jackpot of the deep.

The Grosvenor was wrecked on August 4, 1782, going slam-bang into rocks in the bay at Lwambazi, with the blame being laid on faulty charts, though apparently the captain took no heed of a look-out's warning that he saw breakers ahead.

There are various reports on just how many people were aboard the 700 ton vessel, and on the number of survivors who reached the shore safely. Certainly there were no more than 150 passengers and crew, and 15 could have drowned.

Survival stories from other shipwrecks along the African coastline, far from any of the few towns in the 18th and 19th centuries, emphasise the requirements of salvaging some supplies and having discipline allied to firm leadership.

The Grosvenor was unlucky on all counts. Those who got ashore virtually had nothing more than they were wearing, they were quarrelsome, and they split up when trying to get to Cape Town, nearly 2 000km away.

Six managed to reach a frontier farm near Port Elizabeth and a relief party found another 12. The others died or were absorbed into local communities, with reports persisting of white people being seen along the coast.

A 1790 expedition is said to have found in Transkei, along a tributary of the Mngazi, a group of 400 people who were composed of the survivors, or descendants, of various shipwrecks.

Cannon and other items from the Grosvenor were found but it was the reports of silver and gold coins being washed up, allied to the bill of lading, and the possibility of that peacock throne, that really fuelled the imagination.

The Hungarians, led by Attila Szaloky, seemed relaxed and confident enough when they handed over the artifacts to the conservator at the East London Museum, Deon Smit, before travelling to Pondoland for the start of their second season on the wreck site.

It seems as if they have accepted the Grosvenor will not yield great riches but they believe they will be able to make money, or cover expenses, by displaying the items they find on an international tour -- and, you never know, they might get a real jackpot.

Thereafter the items will be returned to South Africa to be stored in a designated museum, probably East London.

Dispatch
Online

Saturday, July 1, 2000

ASSEBLIEF! / PLEASE!

REMEMBER TO SEND US YOUR ADDRESS DETAILS IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE TREASURE TALK IN FUTURE - use the competition voting form to fill in your details and send it off today!

ONTHOU OM U ADRES VIR ONS TE STUUR INDIEN U TREASURE TALK IN DIE TOEKOMS WIL ONTVANG - Gebruik die kompetisie stembrief om u adres-besonderhede vir ons te stuur en pos dit vandag nog!

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