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# FOREWORD

The Association of South African Numismatic Societies entered into a new phase when the headquarters moved from Transvaal to Natal in the middle of 1989 for a period of two years.

The committee is:-

President:-	Keith Murray Natal Numismatic Society.
Secretary:-	Alec Singer Natal Numismatic Society.
Treasurer:-	Brian Hern Transvaal Numismatic Society.
Committee:-	Dr. Robert Morris (Public Relations) Transvaal Numismatic Society.  Wynand Du Plessis Vrystaats Numismatiese Vereniging.  Paul Fauche The Military Medal Society of S.A.

With Natal being the headquarters it has been my responsibility to produce a Numismatic Journal. This has not been an easy task.

My thanks go to Dr. Clive Graham President of the Pietermaritzburg Numismatic Society, for his help and assistance, the other members of my committee, all the people who came forward with articles and adverts and especially the members of S.A.A.N.D. for their adverts and help when needed. Thanks also go to Brian Hern for his broad shoulders and sturdy legs who carries all the burdens no one else wants to carry. Finally my thanks go to my wife Carrol who has assisted in every way possible.

Keith Murray.

# Show Resumé : 1989 / 90

## Durban 1989

Hosted by our friends, the Natal Numismatic Society, who once again pulled out all the stops to make it most enjoyable. Besides the excellent exhibits (the Best on Show going to Keith Murray) there were 10 dealers including Richard Lubbock from the United Kingdom. All dealers reported a good turnover, buying and selling.

## Cape Town 1990

A smaller show than usual but nevertheless advantageous for those who attended (but the Cape is always worth going to!). Not as much support from the local collectors as we could have wished but the buying from the public was quite active.

## Johannesburg 1990

Four overseas dealers attended (Dolphin, Spink and Lubbock from London and John Saunders from California) in addition to 11 dealers from around the Republic, with the notable exception of the Cape. We had about 300 visitors and trading was brisk. We had excellent co-operation from the TV people but unfortunately it was screened weeks after the show.

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## CAPTAIN QUENTIN GEORGE MURRAY SMYTHE, VC

One of only four South Africans to win the Victoria Cross in the Second World War (and the only one to win it while serving with the South African forces), Quentin Smythe is also the last recipient of this award during that war to have served in uniform anywhere in the world.

The son of a farmer and grandson of a former premier and the first Administrator of Natal, Smythe overcame a boyhood injury to go into farming like his forebears. Three years before the outbreak of the Second World War, Smythe joined the 1st Battalion, Royal Natal Carbineers as a voluntary member of the Active Citizen Force. He was mobilised with the regiment after the commencement of hostilities, seeing action in East Africa at El Wak and Margarita, and was amongst the first troops into Addis Ababa during its capture, before he contracted malaria at Dessie. After a period of recuperation at Addis Ababa, he embarked at Djibouti and sailed to Port Said. There he rejoined his regiment on their arrival after the conclusion of the East African Campaign.

By June 1942 the Natal Carbineers were a part of the British 8th Army and were deployed as a part of the "Gazala Line" to the North of General Ritchie's attack during the Battle of the Cauldron. At Alem Hamza the enemy's strength was to be probed by patrols (which were to include Smythe's platoon), and at about 05h30 on 5 June, the supporting artillery barrage lifted to allow the probing platoons to move forward. Smythe; by then a platoon sergeant, suddenly had to take over command of the platoon when his officer, Lieutenant Douglas, was wounded in the arm by small arms fire. Escorted by two men Douglas was immediately evacuated.

Smythe led the platoon forward in the half-light of dawn in the face of determined enemy fire. Jumping into the first enemy position, Smythe killed two of the enemy with his rifle and bayonet. His platoon followed and immediately became involved in close quarter fighting with rifles, bayonets, hand grenades and Bren guns.

An Italian armed with hand grenades scrambled from his trench, but Smythe bayoneted him. As the platoon fought on, enemy grenades and shells exploded close by. Smythe received slivers of plastic from the concussion grenades all over his body, was wounded in the foot, and had shrapnel from a shell embedded in his forehead. Two of his men were also wounded when a machine gun began to fire at them from an enfiladed position less than thirty metres away.

Smythe ordered his men to take cover, and crawled forward in the growing light, wiping the blood from his eyes. As soon as he was close enough he silenced the machine gun with a grenade. He had just returned to his men, some of whom were again involved in combat, when a 47 mm anti-tank gun fired on them from close by. Again Smythe went forward, and after killing several of the enemy with rifle and bayonet he captured the gun single-handed.

As the enemy resistance had petered out, he set about reorganising the platoon. Smythe directed the platoon's defence against enemy counter-attacks for the next one and a half hours, but eventually had to withdraw in the face of the enemy attempt at encirclement. Smythe left with the last section, and as they passed through the covering smoke screen a 105 mm shell landed amongst them, fortunately only knocking two men off their feet.

Smythe was awarded the VC for his gallantry, and eventually returned to the Union in September 1942.

Quentin Smythe's unique medal group includes the following:

Victoria Cross (the only foreign award  
to enjoy precedence over all  
South African awards)

SADF Good Service Medal (Silver)

SADF Good Service Medal (Bronze)

Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal, 1953

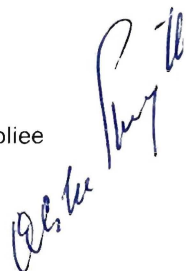
1939-1945 Star

Africa Star

War Medal 1939-1945

Africa Service Medal

Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee  
Medal, 1977



## MARIA THERESA OF AUSTRIA; A NUMISMATIC PROFILE

BY K. MURRAY

The gods who bestow immortality upon some beings and withhold it from others are erratic and unpredictable in their behaviour. It would be hard to find a better illustration of Fate's whims in this respect than the case of the only regent queen of the House of Hapsburg, Maria Theresa of Austria. The apparent spontaneous decision of Arab traders and tribesmen throughout the Near East to accept Maria Theresa thalers as a firm medium of exchange has led mints throughout the world to strike coins with the Queen's portrait for more than two full centuries after her death. For Arabs and numismatists alike, the good woman has attained eternal life.

Since this sort of numismatic longevity seems to be nothing short of utter coincidence, it might as easily have been conferred upon a colourless non-entity. Any of the parade of undistinguished European rulers could have been blessed in this fashion. Happily, Maria Theresa has nothing of the colourless cipher about her. A strong and spirited woman, an almost appalling fertile producer of children, a loyal ally, a relentless enemy, she lived an absorbing life and played a vital role in the fabric of the history of Eighteenth-Century Europe.

Maria Theresa was born on May 13, 1717, the first of two daughters of Charles VI, King of Austria and Hungary and Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. According to the terms of a decree of her grandfather's, the children of her father's older brother were to stand before her in line for the throne. But Charles was distraught at the idea of being succeeded by a niece instead of a daughter. As single-minded a ruler as he was generally inept, he devoted all of his energies to the establishment of a decree of his own known as the Pragmatic Sanction, a decree establishing Maria Theresa's right to the throne which was to be guaranteed by all the crowned heads of Europe.

For the first twenty-three years of Maria Theresa's life, her father laid the groundwork for her succession. The acceptance of Pragmatic Sanction cost him heavily in territory and other concessions. At the same time, he worked hard to arrange the right marriage for his elder daughter.

The House of Hapsburg has been famed since its inception for advancing itself diplomatically by marrying off its daughters, and Charles did not swim against the tide. Maria Theresa was betrothed first to Prince Clemens of Lorraine when she was all of six years old. When the young prince died of smallpox, other negotiations were begun. She was betrothed to a Spanish prince, Don Carlos. Other European powers objected to the match and it fell through. Her name was linked with Frederick of Prussia but this match too, failed to come off.

A match between the two, incidentally, would have altered entirely the whole course of European history. In later years Maria Theresa and Fredrick the Great were constantly at odds. In an era of evershifting allegiances, the Prussian King had the singular distinction of being Maria Theresa's permanent enemy.

In due course the future queen was betrothed and married to Francis, Prince of Lorraine. The marriage took place in 1736. Although this match, like so many other royal alliances, had been arranged in every sense of the word, it happened to be a love match as well. Maria Theresa was a strikingly attractive young woman, blessed with a fine face and figure, and

Francis was an alert and handsome young man.

On October 10th, 1740, Charles VI ate the plate of mushrooms which Voltaire later described as having changed the history of Europe. An immediate attack of indigestion led, in ten days' time, to his death. Maria Theresa, twenty-three years old, became Austria's first and only reigning queen.

The early years of Maria Theresa's long reign were exceedingly hectic ones. Her hereditary domains constituted not one unified nation but a whole group of lands bearing varying degrees of loyalty to the crown. The Holy Roman Empire itself was little more than a geographical expression, a crazy-quilt collection of small and large states who swore theoretical loyalty to one emperor while warring incessantly among themselves.

By the same token, the politics of the period seem impossibly tangled, even when seen in the light of current international confusion. Europe itself was a many-sided chess board straight out of "Through the looking glass". Its many monarchs, all somehow related to one another by blood or marriage or both, played war and diplomacy upon this board in a manner which would have seemed chaotic to Alice herself. Almost every royal death brought with it a question of succession which led to a war. Every ruler had some sort of claim on the territory of another ruler which he might feel free to press by force of arms. A precise political history of Maria Theresa's reign, while occasionally fascinating, is enough to make the head swim. But a few incidents from her reign may help illuminate the woman whose numismatic portrait is still legal tender in the Middle East. The young Queen's first real test is a case in point. A few months after she took the throne Frederick the Great of Prussia marched troops into her province of Silesia and announced his intention to occupy the province permanently. Determined to retain her hereditary dominions, Maria Theresa immediately put an army in the field, and war with Prussia broke out in earnest.

The war did not go well for the Austrians. The army was undermanned and poorly equipped, and the royal treasury was unequal to the task at hand. Alliances were drawn up, with England providing financial assistance to Austria, while France and Bavaria mounted an attack against Maria Theresa and drove toward Vienna itself. By the fall of 1741 the situation had become quite desperate. The young queen's only hope was for assistance from Hungary. She had been given the Hungarian throne a few months earlier in a rather staggering ceremony during which the Hungarians, somewhat upset at the idea of a female ruler, persisted in greeting her with shouts of "All hail our Mistress and King"!

Hungary, while sharing a ruler with Austria for years had little sympathy for the Austrians. A Hungarian appropriation of troops and money was the one thing which would save Austria and the one thing which Maria Theresa seemed least likely to obtain. But with characteristic determination, the queen presented herself before the Hungarian Assembly and made her appeal.

Her speech before the assembly has come down in history as one of those occasions in which great and moving oratory completely prevailed over an originally hostile audience. One of Maria Theresa's biographers compares the incident to Antony's funeral oration for Caesar and to Patrick Henry's liberty-or-death speech to the House of Burgesses. The comparison seems legitimate. At the onset the young queen was greeted with cries of "The Devil take the Queen!" and similar messages of ill-will. But speaking in both Latin and Hungarian, and employing every trick of rhetoric, Maria Theresa turned the tide of feeling in her favour. As a grand climax she stood before the assembly wearing the crown of St Stephen and holding the

Crown Prince Joseph in her arms. Weeping hysterically, she assigned the defence of the future king to her brave Hungarians.

The effect was magnificent. The assembly rose as a body and swore to die for their Queen. Those present voted to put a hundred thousand soldiers in the field, and every nobleman present swore to ride to defend the queen's honour.

The war did not terminate in an Austrian victory. Wars were rarely won or lost at that time, they merely went on interminably, with occasional prizes gained or forfeited, with occasional shifts of nations from one side to another, and with occasional interruptions of peace which functioned as intermissions during which the wounded were carried out and new armies raised. But the entrance of the Hungarian army saved the day, maintained Maria Theresa on the throne and prevented any further loss of territory.

In the course of her reign Maria Theresa did many things which had a profound effect upon European history. Her decision to substitute the French Bourbons for England as Austria's traditional ally greatly altered the shape of European politics. Her friendships with Catherine the Great gave rise to a sort of female triumvirate which dominated contemporary diplomacy

At home, she was a tremendously popular leader and one who lived an exemplary life. Her marriage was an essentially excellent one, although upset from time to time by Francis's frequent infidelities. She produced the staggering total of sixteen children. While many of these fell victim to smallpox, the Hapsburg curse, a good many grew to maturity, whereupon Maria Theresa followed the age-old Hapsburg custom of marrying them off to solidify Austria's position in the world. Her last daughter, Marie Antoinette, made what seemed to be the best marriage of all. Through her friendship with France in general and Madame Pompadour in particular, Maria Theresa succeeded in marrying the girl to the future Louis XVI of France. The marriage ended at the guillotine, of course, but at the time it seemed like a good idea.

A champion of science, the Queen laid the groundwork for Vienna's emergence as a centre for medicine. She instituted many reforms aimed at making life more endurable for the poor. A determined militarist in early life, she mellowed in later years and went out of her way to avoid war because of the harm it did to the people of her country. On at least one occasion she went so far as to effect a rapprochement with Frederick the Great to head off an impending war. Many of her actions were substantially less than praiseworthy. She participated in the partition of Poland. She played the game of diplomacy with considerable Machiavellian intrigue. But on balance, her faults were the faults of the period in which she lived and her virtues outshone them. She was a great figure in a royal line that produced more than its share of bunglers and buffoons.

In 1767, Maria Theresa suffered an attack of smallpox from which she never completely recovered. From then on, she was an old woman, a woman waiting to die. Death came in 1780, the very date which all Maria Theresa thaler bear to this day. Her death was at least as glorious as her life. A few minutes before the end she rose suddenly to her feet and walked towards the window. She stretched her arms to Heaven, cried out, "To Thee I come," and fell down dead. No dramatist could have staged the scene better, and it is as though the old woman retained the fine feeling for drama which carried the day at Pressburg so many years earlier.

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## (WAT IS) MUNT OF KRUIS?

('N KWESSIE WAT AL IN DIE HOF BESLEG IS!)

DEUR C L ENGELBRECHT - KURATOR VOLKSKASMUSEUM

Die woordeboek (dink hulle) is heel duidelik op die punt: *kruis* is die voorkant van die munt waar die afbeelding van 'n kop verskyn en die keersy is die *mint*.

Die S.A. Munt se manne sê dan ook die kruiskant dra die kop of landswaap en die muntkant kan, soos in die geval van ons huidige munte, 'n dier of plant met die waarde-aanduiding van die munt wees.

Nou wat sê ons mense as hulle 'n muntstuk opgooi en die val daarvan of liewer die kant wat bo lê moet bepaal byvoorbeeld van wie eerste speel?

"*Kruis of mint?*" sou die vraag wees. Dit is egter hier waar 'n navraag onder jong mense - en ook onder die ouer garde - die antwoord "*Kop of sterk*" na vore gebring het en wat meer is, baie van die jong mense kon nie die "*kop of stert*" van ons "*koplose*" munte aandui nie en het skouerophalend gesê: "Ek verlaat my maar op die ander ou se kennis en eerlikheid".

"*Kop of stert*" word as 'n vertaling van die Engelse "*heads or tails*" beskou. Persoonlik dink ek die betekenisveld van die woord het (saam met ons munte) verander en met die oppergesag was Engels in die handel en sport beklee het, het ons elders langs die pad die vertaalde betekenis van die woorde aanvaar. As kind kan ek onthou dat die oumense by die vraag van kop of stert die Engelse pennie gebruik het. Op die voorkant hiervan was die (gewoonlik) gekroonde hoof van die Engelse monarg en op die keersy die sittende beeld van Britannia met die vloot se drietandvurk, simbool van die vloot so oppermag op see. In Afrikaans is die duiwel in die volksmond met digby dertig name onder andere ook mos bekend as ou Knakstert of Langstert. Hier het die uitdrukking 'n letterlike betekenis gehad maar toe die munte bekend as duiwelspennies verdwyn, verdwyn ook die presiese betekenis en het óf die Engels soos 'n handskoen gepas, óf ons het aangegaan om so (verkeerd) te praat. Hoewel 'n koeël nie meer rond is nie en ons hom nie so ken nie, praat ons nog van koeëlrond!

Netso kan ek onthou dat die woord *kruis* of *mint* gebesig is met die gebruik van die Engelse *florijn* maar die skilde of *kruis* was die *kruiskant* en die *muntkant* het die *kop* gedra. As ons in gedagte hou dat onder andere die Engelse sjieling van die agtiende eeu 'n *kruis* op gehad het en dat die *florijn* met sy skilde was 'n *kruis* vorm vanaf 1848 tot 1936 so gemunt is, was hierdie gebruik inderdaad diep gewortel. Met die verandering van munte het hierdie betekenis versluier geraak.

Taalkundig is dit 'n interessante vraag hoe ons dan by "*kruis*" uitkom as ons die woord saam met kop en kroon vir die voorkant van die munt gebruik. Sonder om in detail in te gaan is die voorbeeld aan my genoem van die Nederlandse woord "*huus*" wat "*huis*" geword het (uu na ui). Die kop van vele monarge is in die verlede met krulle afgebeeld. "*Cruus*" en "*croes*" was die naam vir so 'n kroeskop. As die uu ook hier na ui verander kom ons by *kruis*.

As ek die anglisistiese "*kop of stert*" dan mag gebruik, wil dit vir my lyk asof baie mense nog nie kop of stert van hierdie saak kan uitmaak nie! En

dit was lankal só. Lees maar hierdie berigie wat aan *Die Transvaler* van 29 Januarie 1940 ontleen word.

## MENINGSVERSKIL OOR DIE WOORDE "KRUIS OF MUNT" IN HOF BESLEG

*'n Bevel dat die verkiesingsbeampte opnuut be wyse van lootjies trek moet beslis wie stadsraadslid van Balfour gaan word, is gister deur Regter Maritz in the Pretoriase Hooggeregshof uitgereik na aanleiding van 'n meningsverskil oor die betekenis van die woord "munt" wat na 'n muntworp uiteenlopende interpretasies aan die betrokke partye ontlok het.*

In die jongste verkiesing van lede van die dorpsbestuur van Balfour, het mnr. J.W. du Preez en D.J. van der Heever, twee kandidate, eweveel stemme gekry. Hulle sou in aanwesigheid van die verkiesingsbeampte beslis wie lid gaan word deur 'n muntstuk te gooi.

"MUNT!"

Die verkiesingsbeampte het 'n muntstuk aan mnr. Du Preez oorhandig en het voor hy dit sou opgooi, het laasgenoemde mnr. Van der Heever gevra om te raai.

"Gooi eers," het laasgenoemde versoek en solank die muntstuk in die lug was, het hy "munt!" uitgeroep. Sowel die verkiesingsbeampte as mnr. Du Preez het gelyktydig gevra wat dit beteken. Mnr. Van der Heever het gewag totdat die muntstuk op die grond geval het en het toe daarna gaan kyk en gesê: "Dit is munt." Die geldstuk het met die kop daarop boontoe gelê.

Daarop het die beampte gesê dat dat indien "munt" die kop is, mnr. Van der Heever tot lid verklaar word.

In sy petisie aan die hof het mnr. Du Preez gesê dat sy huistaal Afrikaans is, maar dat hy nog nie voorheen die woord "munt" gehoor het nie. Hy het sedert die voorval gehoor dat daar 'n gesegde "kruis of munt" is wat "kop of stert" beteken. Die gebruikelike Afrikaanse woorde daarvoor is "kop of stert". Nadat hy die saak met andere bespreek het en 'n woordeboek daaromtrent geraadpleeg het, het hy tot die gevolgtrekking gekom dat "munt" die keersy van 'n muntstuk beteken.

### BETEKENIS VERANDER

Die volgende dag he mnr. Du Preez skriftelik beswaar by die verkiesingsbeampte en mnr. Van der Heever gemaak. Die beampte het die beswaar van die hand gewys op grond van sy oortuiging, nadat hy die saak noukeurig ondersoek het, dat ofskoon die woord "munt" vroeër in Holland die keersy van 'n muntstuk beteken het, die betekenis daarvan in Suid-Afrika verander het. Mnr. Du Preez het sy beslissing geopponeer na aanleiding van die meningsverskil oor die betekenis van 'n woord wat aan die meeste Afrikaners vreemd is.

In 'n beëdigde verklaring het die verkiesingsbeampte verklaar dat die staatsvertaler in Pretoria die betekenis van "munt" as "tails" aangegee het, terwyl 'n skoolhoof van Heidelberg dit as "Heads" aangegee het.

Hy het omsendbriewe aan 30 professore en onderwysers uitgestuur, nadat hy mnr. Du Preez se brief van beswaar teen die beslissing ontvang het, aldus die verklaring, en elf van die 23 antwoorde wat hy

ontvang het, lui dat "munt" "heads" beteken. Die ander het Nederlandse of outydse gesaghebbendes aangehaal om hul standpunt te bevestig, maar hy het hom geroepe gevoel om die betekenis van die woord soos algemeen aanvaar word, aan te neem.

Mnr. Van der Heever het in 'n beëdigde verklaring verklaar dat hy as onderwyser altyd probeer het om anglisismes te vermy. "Kop of stert" is 'n egte anglisisme. As skeidsregter het hy nog altyd "munt of kruis" gebruik, bedoelende "heads or tails".

Prof. T J Haarhoff en mnr. J.D. Louw, hoof-staatsvertaler, het in beëdigde verklarings volgehou dat die betekenis van "munt" nie "heads" is nie. Dr S.P.E. Boshoff het verklaar dat die gesegde selde of nooit gebruik word en vir die meeste Afrikaners vreemd is.



*Die hand wat die munt so lekker opskiet is dié van argitek Gawie Fagan, bekend vir sy restorasiewerk aan die Kaap (Tulbagh, Tuynhuis, ens.)*

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## NATAL TOKENS

BY GILLIAN BERNING

Natal developed its own colonial postage stamps, but it never produced its own coinage. The Colony, as an extension of Empire, relied on British coinage as legal tender. Specie brought into the Colony by the army regiments stationed at Fort Napier, in Pietermaritzburg, determined to an important extent the amount of ready cash that was available in the Colony. It is known that the regiments provided an important source of labour for early colonial developments. For example, Durban's 45th Cutting is named after the Sherwood Foresters 45th Regiment of Foot. However, there are also interesting references to the significance of the military chest, such as this quote from the mid 1860s:

*"The scarcity of silver coin has been lately felt most inconveniently, but we are happy to hear that £500 in silver has been received into the military chest at Maritzburg, by the late arrivals of specie, £100 of which has been sent to Durban."*

But, little research has been undertaken on the role the army played in Natal's fiscal history and the implications that this might have had on the Colony's economic development.

Cash was a scarce commodity in the early settler days and its shortage was often linked to the frequent cycles of economic depression experienced in the Colony. The need for and the appearance of tokens in Durban and Pietermaritzburg is clear proof of the cash shortage. The Government itself was clearly concerned about the situation and the Legislative Council took evidence concerning the problem in June 1865 and reasons for the dire shortage of cash were suggestively hinted at. For example, a decrease in the practice of bartering, especially with the African population, who were, in addition, increasingly demanding cash in return for labour, put pressure on this scarce commodity. This would not seem an unreasonable supposition following the imposition of a Hut Tax on the African population in 1854. In addition, the introduction of indentured Indian labour in 1860 and the Government stipulation that a set wage be paid further stretched the availability of cash. Furthermore, the shortage of cash in Pietermaritzburg was blamed on the fact that a portion had to be sent down to Durban! And, indeed, the shortage of cash was most acutely felt in Durban as George Russell in *A History of Old Durban* wrote:

*"We loved to talk about manhood suffrage and consider ourselves all equally as 'friends, countrymen and lovers' of Durban but the real thorn in our side was the want of money."*

Local banks, such as the Natal Bank formed in 1854, issued cheques and notes with beautiful line engraved vignettes of Durban (illustration 1); nevertheless, printed good-fors for all small change proliferated. It was, then, for a variety of reasons that a cash shortage arose and, consequently, tokens were introduced to play a vital role in Natal's exchange economy.

A token is defined as a stamped piece of metal, often having the general appearance of a coin, issued as a medium of exchange by a private person or company, who would engage to take it back at its nominal value giving goods or legal currency for it. Apart from the tokens obvious use as a medium of exchange they were also used to advertise and promote companies; to

encourage trade at a particular store by locking the customer into a discount system and, perhaps, at their most exploitative they were used to lock wage labour into a system of cyclical dependency. However, these other usages for tokens were to develop later in Natal's economic history but because the system was so easily abused, the Government made some attempts to abolish the use of tokens. In 1928 metal tokens were made illegal, consequently, the main stores turned to composition type tokens. These were finally made illegal in 1949.

#### DURBAN TOKENS 1860

Token money was first issued by the Durban Club (illustration 2 & 3) in 1860 to 'relieve Club members from the inconvenience of the shortage of small change' in Durban. The 6d tokens were made in Birmingham, then the centre of token manufacture, and they soon began circulating amongst Durban's general public. Some Durban firms followed suit, nevertheless the Club's tokens became the most widely known than any other Durban small change.

#### BLACKWOOD COUPER & CO. TOKENS 1861

Blackwood Couper & Co's grocery store of West Street issued 1/-, 6d and 3d tokens in 1861 because of the lack of small change in circulation in Natal (illustration 4 & 5). In July 1861 James Blackwood formed a partnership with a Glasgow merchant, William Couper, and erected a 'handsome two-storeyed establishment, the front of which would do credit to an English street'. This building appears on the reverse side of the tokens. The store premises in West Street were burnt down on 1 May 1864 (and as a result Durban's first fire brigade was formed).

#### McARTHUR MUIRHEAD & CO TOKENS 1861

McArthur Muirhead & Co, General Merchants and Shipping Agents had premises in Pine Terrace (present day Pine Street), and also felt the need to introduce small change in Durban. The firm issued a set of tokens: 1/-, 6d and 3d (illustration 6). Alexander McArthur was the Mayor of Durban between 1860 and 1863. The star on the reverse side of the token represents the star of Bethlehem (an interference to the origin of Natal's name - in 1498, around Christmas time, Vasco da Gama named this region Natal, meaning birth, to commemorate Christ being born).

#### JOHN FREDERICK BAUMANN TOKENS 1880

John Frederick Baumann was a caterer, confectioner and general baker who took over a Durban baking business, but because of hard economic times in Natal in the 1860s and 1870s he went to the diamond fields and then to England. When J.F. Baumann returned to Durban in 1877 he set himself up as a baker, wholesaler and retail grocer in West Street. He introduced 5/- and 1/- tokens in 1880 (illustration 7) and used them in payment of the 5% discount for cash (which was the general custom in Durban at the time). These tokens were as good as the coin of the realm for making purchases at his store.



## TOKENS FROM THE HOUSE OF ILL-FAME

Perhaps the most notorious of Durban's tokens are those from the houses of ill-repute. There are three known brothel tokens - Jeanette's, Martha's and Bertha's. Jeanette ran her brothel from 68 Victoria Street during the 1879 Anglo-Zulu War. The museum does not have a Jeanette token in its collection. Martha's and Bertha's establishments operated during the 1899 - 1902 Anglo-Boer War up until World War I (illustration 8). Martha's Plasier Place at 70 Fountain Lane was very well-known, while Big Fat Bertha's brothel at the Green House in Bond Street was less popular.

The tokens of Martha's and Bertha's brothels are made of hollow brass and were manufactured by Carreaux of Paris. The tokens throw light on an interesting aspect of Durban's history.

In 1903 the Durban Town Council passed a law making brothels illegal; but this law was rarely observed and the Town's prostitutes continued with their work. Every day at a quarter to five the prostitutes would leave their establishments to travel down Grey Street and along West Street in a fleet of rickshas before returning to their brothels. Durban's houses of ill-fame flourished during World War I with the large number of soldiers billeted in Durban. This caused some consternation amongst the newly-enfranchised women on the Berea, who formed a union called the "League of Honour". Berea ladies gave patriotic tea parties for the troops and felt that the prostitutes besmirched Durban's fair name. Consequently in June 1917 a deputation of women marched on the Council Chambers to petition the Council to abolish the brothels. The Council divided; those who were pro felt that the brothels, of which there were said to be ten in Durban, were the lesser of two evils. Not only were the police aware of all the establishments but the medical officer ensured the good health of the women by maintaining regular, but unofficial checks on them. Interestingly a memorial signed by 310 of Durban's working women petitioned the Council - *"That these houses of ill-fame be tolerated under strict police supervision and so secure for us proper protection to go to and from our daily employment without fear, . . ."* However, on 7 June 1918 the Town Council finally made brothels illegal.

## A.H. GUY TOKENS c 1912 - 1914

Between 1912 and 1914 Mr A H Guy was a contractor to the Natal Government Railways and in addition, he ran a transportable store which supplied the workers with their requirements. He issued a set of tokens: 10/-, 5/-, 4/-, 3/-, 2/- and 1/- (illustration 9).

## H. GUYS TOKENS

No information has been found on when they were produced or how they were used (illustration 10).

## PETER'S LOUNGE TOKENS c 1935

A waiter at the Anzac Lounge, Mr S M Naidoo, was fortunate enough to be left £100 and all the Anzac furniture when the owner returned to London. In 1919 Mr Naidoo opened the Mysole Cafe in Queen Street and this was followed by Peter's Cafe in 1923 and in 1927 by Peter's Lounge. In 1935 Mr Naidoo had a set of tokens issued for use in the pin tables that his

establishment had (illustration 11).

#### **MOWAT'S QUARRY TOKENS c 1935**

C J Mowat, businessman, opened a quarry in 1922 in the Clairwood area. In 1931 a Mr Limalia established a shop next to the quarry and the bulk of his business came from the quarry workers. In 1935 Mr Limalia had a set of tokens made and at the end of each month Mr Mowat and Mr Limalia would settle up the quarry workers' accounts - in return for the tokens Mr Limalia received cash and this was deducted from the workers' wages. Each worker was given a number to make the system more efficient. This token belonged to worker 180 (illustration 12).

#### **MODEL DAIRY TOKENS**

No information has been found on when these tokens were in use at Durban's famous Model Dairy, however, they were used as a medium of exchange for dairy products (illustration 13).

#### **WONDERLAND AUTOMATIC AMUSEMENTS CO. TOKENS 1942**

Wonderland was established by Mr Sam Newton as a place of entertainment on Durban's popular beachfront. In 1942 he issued a token to be used in his slot machines (illustration 14).

#### THE REST OF NATAL

##### PIETERMARITZBURG

#### **CROWN HOTEL BILLIARD CLUB TOKENS 1861**

In 1861 the Crown Hotel issued a 6d token (illustration 15 & 16) which was presumably the charge for a game of billiards?

#### **M FRANKLIN TOKENS 1876**

Mark Franklin, storekeeper and tinsmith, had premises in Chapel Street and because of the scarcity of pennies and halfpennies he had tokens made in England (illustration 17). The tokens were a penny in goods or coin if exchanged at his store. He had the tokens over stamped 'A Card No Value' after they were manufactured, to prevent customers passing them off as pennies at the other shops (illustration 18). These tokens became known as the 'Maritzburg Penny'.

#### MID-ILLOVO

#### **EVANS TOKENS**

No information has been found on when they were produced or how they were used (illustration 19).

## DWALENI

### H REINSTORF TOKENS

No information has been found on when they were produced or how they were used (illustration 20)

## RICHMOND

### J W ARNOLD TOKENS 1900

Mr J W Arnold of Arnold's Hill, Richmond, was a farmer. He came to Natal in 1870. In 1900 he introduced tokens to pay his farm labourers (illustration 21). The brass token was the equivalent of 1 day's wage (6d) and the white metal token was the equivalent of a month's salary (30/-).

## PORT SHEPSTONE

### WHITE HOUSE TOKENS c 1928

White House (Pty) Ltd of 38 Reynolds Street, Port Shepstone, were Wholesale and Retail merchants. In 1928 the business had been sold to Moosa Ltd and they resold the shop when the premises were burnt down in 1932. It is thought that the token was issued during this brief period.

## AREA UNKNOWN

### J N GLUTT TOKENS

No information has been found on when they were produced or how they were used (illustration 22).

### NORTHERN NATAL COAL MINING TOKENS

Token money was known as 'Scrivana' by the black mine workers and the word is derived from the Afrikaans word 'skryf'. At the end of each month the mine management co-operated with the storekeeper in deducting the amount advanced to the mine worker, provided it did not exceed 70% of his wage. This system of advanced credit came to an end in 1945.

### MINE STORES (NATAL) LTD TOKENS, 1918-1936

Mine Stores (Natal) Ltd, Wholesaler and Retailer Merchants, Bakers, Confectioners, Maize Millers, Malt Manufacturers and Butchers, with head offices at Glencoe, and branches at Burnside, Dannhauser, Dundee, Enyati, Grootvlei, Hlobane, Northfield and Vandyksdrif collieries issued metal tokens between 1918 - 1927 with the monogram 'MSN' in the centrefield (illustration 23). Composition celluloid tokens were used between 1927 - 1936. The composition tokens with the monogram 'MS' were also issued by Mine Stores (Natal) Ltd and each colour represented a different store:

the black tokens were used at Northfield Colliery, the larger tokens represented 1/- and the smaller ones 3d.

the red tokens were used in the store at Burnside Colliery.

#### DAN DUCHEN TOKENS 1914

Dan Duchen; Durban Navigational Collieries. Dan Duchen was a storekeeper at Dannhauser 1914 - 1921 (illustration 24).

#### DUCHEN & KLEINMAN TOKENS 1921-1927

The firm of Dan Duchen became Duchen & Kleinman and traded on the Natal coalfields from 1921 - 1927. The firm continued to use the 'DD' tokens and added the 'D & K' tokens when they were needed.

#### DUCHEN BROS TOKENS c 1936-1945

The firm of Duchen & Kleinman became Duchen Bros and they continued to use the 'DD' and 'D & K' tokens, but added a new pair of brass tokens, with the initials 'DB' worth 6d and 3d (illustration 25). These tokens were used from 1927 - 1936. In 1936 a set of celluloid composition tokens of 2/-, 1/-, 6d and 3d value were manufactured and used up until 1945.

#### KLEINMANN & FRANCIS STORE TOKENS

No information has been found on when they were produced or how they were used (illustration 26).

#### FRANCIS & KLEINMANN TOKENS

No information has been found on when they were produced or how they were used.

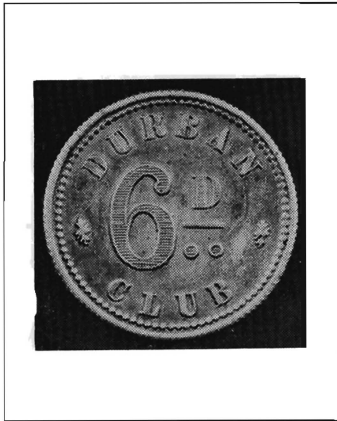
#### BALLENGEICH TRADING CO. TOKENS

Ballengeich is in the Northern Natal Coal area, about 10 miles south of Newcastle, where there is a large carbide factory. Ballengeich Trading Company Tokens were put into circulation in the early part of this century with the aim of encouraging mine workers to deal with their store only. The blue token was worth 6d and the yellow token 3d (illustration 27).

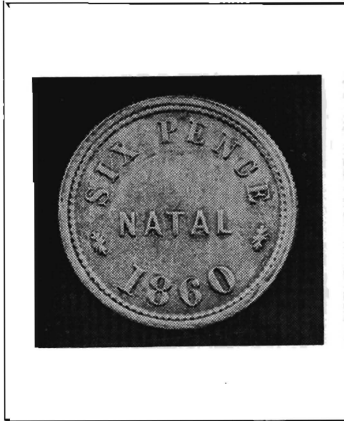
The Local History Museum acquired a good portion of its token collection from the local collector, Pat Moran, in 1986. Pat Moran wrote the fascinating book *The Tokens of Natal* (1970). The Africana Museum has also compiled a very useful catalogue reference to South African tokens. The Local History Museum would be grateful to receive any further insight and information regarding tokens and their use in Natal (as material manifestations of past exchange systems). Natal tokens remind us of (and provide the stimulus to enquire into) aspects of Natal's economic history that are often overlooked.



Bank Note No. 00052 London and Natal Bank LTF. 10 Pounds



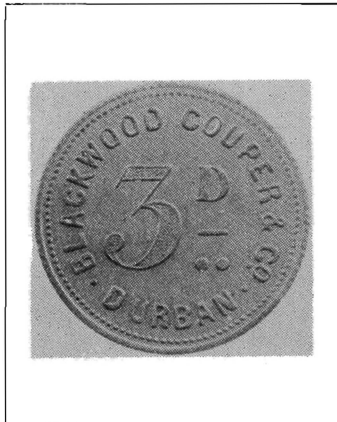
DURBAN CLUB TOKENS



DURBAN CLUB TOKENS



BLACKWOOD COUPER & CO. TOKENS



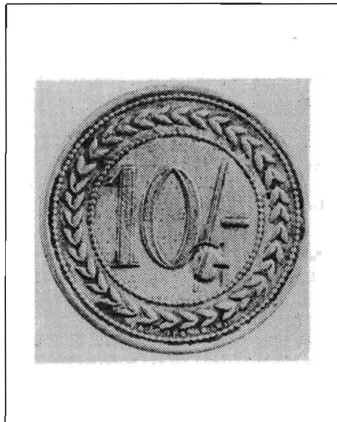
BLACKWOOD COUPER & CO. TOKENS



McARTHUR MUIRHEAD & CO. TOKENS



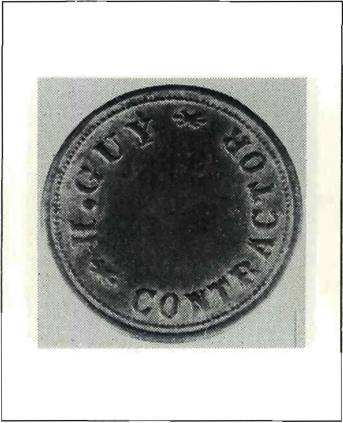
J.F. BAUMANN TOKENS



A.H. GUY TOKENS



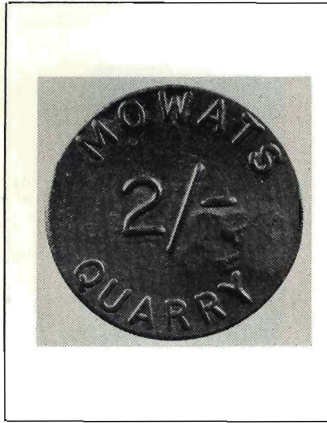
TOKENS FROM THE HOUSE OF ILL-FAME (MARTHA AND BERTHA)



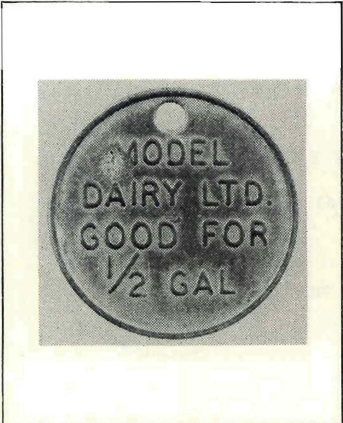
H. GUYS TOKENS



PETER'S LOUNGE TOKENS



MOWATS QUARRY TOKEN



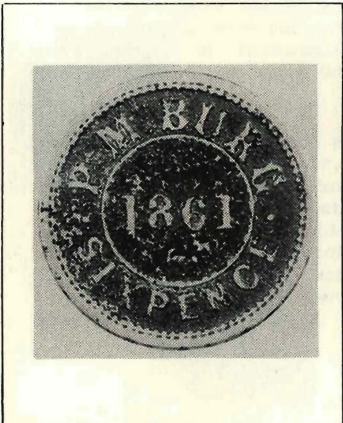
MODEL DAIRY TOKEN



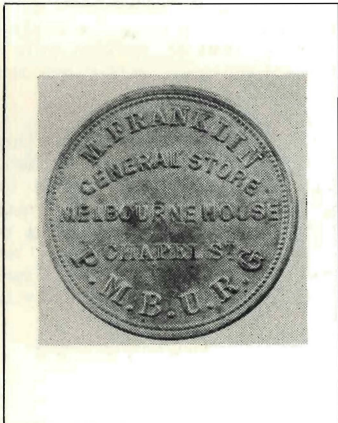
WONDERLAND AMUSEMENTS CO. TOKEN



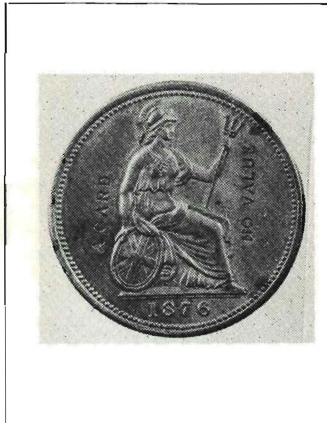
CROWN BILLIARD CLUB TOKEN



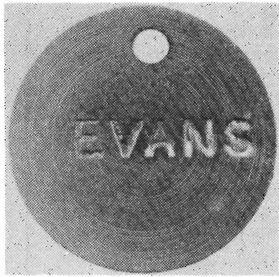
CROWN BILLIARD CLUB TOKEN



M. FRANKLIN TOKENS



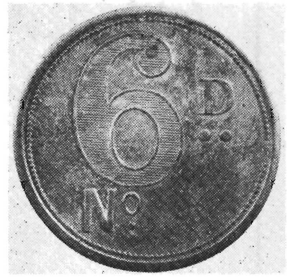
M. FRANKLIN TOKENS



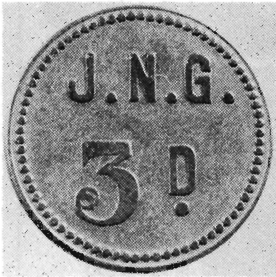
EVANS TOKENS



H. REINSTORF TOKEN



J.W. ARNOLD TOKENS



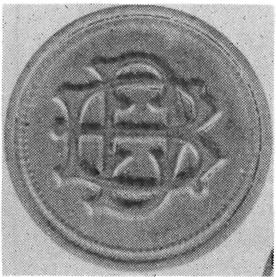
J.N. GLUTT TOKEN



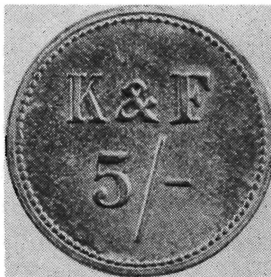
MINESTORES NATAL LTD TOKENS



DAN DUCHEN TOKENS



DUCHEN BROS. TOKENS



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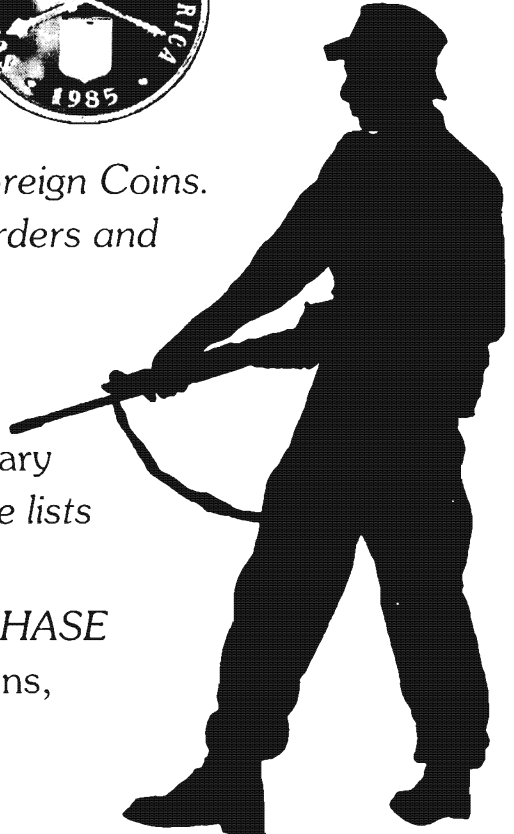
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# COINAGE OF LUNDY

BY G. VAN HOOGDALEM

MARTIN COLES HARMAN who purchased the Island in 1925 for Sixteen Thousand Pounds, minted Lundy's first coinage during the year of 1929.

The coins depict on the obverse, Harman's bust and name; and on the reverse a puffin. The inscription "*Lundy Lights and Leads*" appears around the edge. Although these were not legal tender except for use on the Island itself Harman was happy to accept and distribute them from the Post Office. He was later to be prosecuted for contravening the Coinage Act of 1870. At the trial, held at the Devonshire Quarter Sessions, Harman defended his right to issue coinage with the argument that Lundy was outside of the Realm.

However, the hearing went against him and appeal was dismissed. He was fined five pounds.

The coins themselves, as mentioned earlier, were current only on Lundy, where the normal English coinage was used concurrently. Harman arranged with the Bideford Banks to exchange English Copper for Lundy coins; and this arrangement continued until the High Court Ruling of 1931.

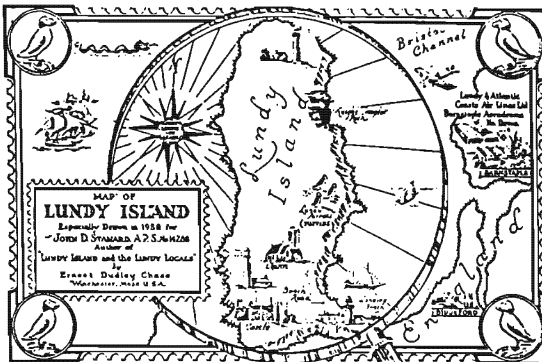


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Lundy only issued two coins, a half Puffin (fig. 1) and a one Puffin (fig. 2) but both these coins were issued during 1929 and 1965 with mintage figures of 50 000 for the 1929 issues and a mere 3 000 for the later.



They were of a low mintage because funds were not always readily available to an Island as small as Lundy and because the population at the time of mintage was a mere 21 (13 men and 8 women) who occupied a total of 5 houses. The two issues of coinage were also minted in gold but with a mintage of 50 pieces each they are rarely seen.

In 1965 the dies were taken over by a firm known as Modern World Coins who issued a double commemorative set of coins on the fortieth anniversary of the purchase of Lundy by Mr Harman.

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## PROOF COINS OR NOT? - THAT IS THE QUESTION

BY GYNN TUNLEY

Being an avid collector of Rhodesian coins I have always been mystified by the appearance of so-called proof coins of Rhodesia listed in not only leading world coin catalogues but also advertised as such by world known dealers. Mystified because to my mind the existence of many of the so-called proof coins is completely unsubstantiated.

Liaison with senior personnel of the Reserve Bank has authenticated the existence of the following Proof Coin Sets:

### Southern Rhodesia 1932-1954

1932	(5 coins) 3d, 6d, 1/-, 2/- and 2/6.	Mintage	496 sets
1937	(6 coins) 1d, 3d, 6d, 1/-, 2/- and 2/6.	Mintage	40 sets
	Possibly struck as Specimen sets as they were not cased.		
1939	(5 coins) 3d, 6d, 1/-, 2/- and 2/6.	Mintage	10 sets
1953	Rhodes Commemorative Crown	Mintage	1 500
1953	Rhodes Commemorative Crown (2 coins cased)	Mintage	3

### Rhodesia & Nyasaland 1955-1963

1955	(7 coins) $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 3d, 6d, 1/-, 2/- and 2/6	Mintage	2 000 sets
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### Rhodesia 1964-1980

1964	(4 coins) 6d, 1/-, 2/- and 2/6 Cupro nickel	Mintage	2 040 sets
1964	(double set)	Mintage	10 sets
1966	(3 coins) 10/-, £1 and £5 Gold	Mintage	2 000 sets
1966	(1 coin) 10/- Gold	Mintage	4 000
1966	(1 coin) £1 Gold	Mintage	3 000
1966	(1 coin) £5 Gold	Mintage	1 000

So, there is no argument about these proof coins. Now, what of the others that are quoted in the world catalogues? Check your own catalogue and see for yourself. Let's just see what other so-called Proof coins are listed.

Southern Rhodesia	Rhodesia & Nyasaland	Rhodesia
1938 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. pence	1956 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. pence	1968 3d. pence
1942 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	1956 1d.	1970 $\frac{1}{2}$ c cents
1942 1d.	1958 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	1970 1c.
1947 6d.	1958 1d.	1970 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.
1952 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.		1973 1c.
1952 1d.		1973 5c.
1952 3d.		
1954 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.		
1954 1d.		
1954 2/-		
1954 2/6		

Examining this list in further detail we find the following:

### Southern Rhodesia

In 1938 only 3 coins were minted. These were the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d. and 2/6 piece. Why should a proof  $\frac{1}{2}$ d be minted and not the other two coins?

In 1942 7 coins were minted, these being the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 3d, 6d, 1/-, 2/- and 2/6. What reason would there be for minting then a proof  $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d and not the others?

In 1947 only 6 coins were minted, being the 1d, 3d, 6d, 1/-, 2/- and 2/6. Why mint a proof 1d and not the others?

In 1952 7 coins were again minted, these being the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 3d, 6d, 1/-, 2/- and 2/6. Why should, out of these, only the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d and 3d be proof?

In 1954 only 4 coins were minted. They were the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2/- and the 2/6. I suggest here that these 4 coins advertised as proof coins are in fact "Specimen" sets, and if this was the case then the likelihood is that only 10 sets were supplied by the Mint. Support for this theory is that both the 2/- and 2/6 pieces were the first Southern Rhodesian coins to have Queen Elizabeth II's head on them.

### Rhodesia and Nyasaland

In 1956 all 7 coins were again minted. Why, out of these, only mint a proof  $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d and none of the others?

In 1958 only 2 coins were minted, these being the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d. There was no change in design for these coins and it is most unlikely that proof dies were made for these two coins, since both were made out of bronze. There was also nothing historically significant in this date issue to justify such a proof minting.

### Rhodesia

In 1968 only the 3d piece was minted. Again, there is no reason for a proof issue of this one coin.

In 1970 only 3 coins were minted and these were the  $\frac{1}{2}$ c, 1c and 5c pieces. I see no logical reason why any of these should be proof coins.

In 1973 only 2 coins were minted and these were the 1c and 5c pieces. What reason could there be for making them proof issues?

My suggestion is that all these coins listed as proof coins, and which I have labelled "so-called" proof coins, are in fact nothing more than the first coins struck from the dies made for the coins meant for general circulation. The accepted definition of a proof coin is that it is a coin that has a mirrorlike surface without blemishes, and which is struck from a highly polished die and specially prepared metal blanks. Such coins are minted solely for collectors and are not intended for circulation as money and are graded F.D.C. (Fleur-de-coin).

The cost of preparing these special dies is high and for this reason such proof coins are not commonly issued.

In the case of these so-called proof coins I am not disputing the fact that these coins grade at Brilliant Uncirculated and, indeed, are proof-like, but they are not genuine proof coins as they were unlikely to have been struck from specially prepared dies.

How is it then that these so-called proofs have surfaced as proof coins? My suggestion is that people who have had such proof-like coins have created this artificial market without seeking to justify the existence of such a proof coin. "Proof-like" can never be proof, no matter how hard one would like to justify such a grading, unless that coin was struck from a specially prepared die.

My advice to collectors is to check very carefully into the authenticated existence of proof coins from this country, before outlaying large sums of money on a proof-like coin in the belief that the coin is a proof coin. I feel it is up to not only our coin dealers, but others throughout the world, to make every effort to check the authenticity of such proof coins before advertising them for sale as such.

No doubt there are some of you who have differing views. The Natal Numismatic Society would like to hear from you on this topic, especially if you have evidence to support the existence of these so-called proofs.



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## THE AWARDS OF THE SOUTH WEST AFRICAN POLICE

BY S MONICK

The writer considers that an article devoted to the awards of the South West African Police is especially apposite, in the light of the recent political events in the territory now known as Namibia. These events signalled the end of South West Africa's dependence upon South Africa (especially within the sphere of security); a relationship which dated from 1919, when South Africa was entrusted with the mandated control of the former German colony. The assumption of power in that state by the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) has effectively meant the demise of the South West African Police, especially in terms of that Force's paramilitary role. The service of this Force is preserved - in terms of historical memory - by the series of six awards which were instituted during the period 1981 - 1986, which form the central theme in the following study. To this extent, the subject of this paper exemplifies an important aspect of the relationship between medals and the study of history, in two important respects. First, the series of South West African Police awards encapsulates the history of a service which, albeit short lived (1981 - 1990), formed a vital component in the defence of this formerly dependent territory of South West Africa. Second, the re-emergence of the South West African Police as an independent force after a period of 42 years is a reflection of the altered constitutional status of South West Africa in 1981. In that year, a National Assembly was established comprising 50 members of the Constituent Assembly, with powers to increase the membership of this body to 65. The National Assembly was instituted as the highest legislative body to accommodate the democratic parties not represented at that point in the Constituent Assembly.

The term 're-emergence', with regard to the formation of the SWA Police in 1981, has been employed in order to indicate that this Force had formerly possessed an independent status (during the period 1919 - 1939). The original institution of the Force embodies the mandate of the territory being entrusted to South Africa in 1919. Thus, the history of the South West African Police embodies, to a large degree, the fluctuating political configuration of South West Africa.

The principal source of this paper is the writer's book *Awards of the South African uniformed public services 1922 - 1987*.<sup>1</sup> In the following article, the writer makes no claim to originality beyond the monograph, cited above, which has served as its source. However, it is considered that the edited and expanded version of those extracts which relate to South West African Police awards do contribute to the body of material appertaining to the medals of Southern Africa. By concentrating this theme within the framework of a paper, greater awareness is inculcated with regard to a series of awards, now effectively obsolete, which have attracted very little attention, and concerning which the documentation is sparse. (To the best of the writer's knowledge, his book is the only source which contains a detailed treatment of these awards.)

In order to furnish an external frame of reference for the detailed study of these awards, it is intended to preface the article with a brief history of the South West African Police.

## HISTORY OF SWA POLICE<sup>2</sup>

The first formal policing in South West Africa was undertaken by the German military forces based in the colony (the *Kaiserliche Schutztruppe*) as part of its overall duties. However, by 1905 a distinct police force for the territory had been formed, the *Kaiserliche Landespolizei für Deutsch Südwestafrika*. By 1907 the strength of this force had increased to some 400 officers and men. The history of the *Landespolizei* effectively ended in 1914, when the Union Defence Forces (UDF) invaded the territory. The role of policing was then allocated to the five regiments of South African Mounted Riflemen (SAMR) which, at that juncture, formed the backbone of the Permanent Force. These regiments, under the command of Col de Jager, remained in South West Africa after the main South African military forces had been withdrawn. In August 1915 the SAMR patrolled from Tsumeb to Grootfontein in a north-easterly direction towards the Angolan border. The first elements of the SAMR left South West Africa in November 1915, the last being recalled in 1917. Recruiting had, in the interim, commenced at Bloemfontein, with the object of establishing a military constabulary, to assume the duties of the SAMR. The first two detachments were sent to South West Africa in 1916. The new force was commanded by Maj C A van Coller, and its establishment consisted of 52 officers and 1 100 other ranks. In order to assure a sound training for its fledgling members (many of whom were extremely young and had received scanty instruction) a training depot was established at Windhoek in October 1916, under Col Detling, with a staff of 16 instructors. Small groups were sent to the centre for intensive training before returning to their units and being followed by the next group. Police tracker dogs were also trained at the depot, following the precedent of the *Landespolizei*. On 31 December 1919 the military constabulary was disbanded, its members being formed into the South West African Police. A Detective branch was formed in May 1920, under the command of the post commander at Luderitz. Additional police posts were established at Kalkfontein-North, Namacunde (in Owamboland) and Gochas, in order to facilitate patrolling in the more remote areas of the territory. In 1939 the South West African Police was disbanded, its functions and duties devolving upon the South African Police. This state of affairs continued until 1 April 1981, when the South West African Police resumed its independent status. The absorption of the Security Police and the Counter-Insurgency Unit in 1985 completed the establishment of an independent Police Force in South West Africa.

During the struggle against the SWAPO-inspired insurgency, the South West African Police played an extremely active role in the Counter-Insurgency (COIN) operations. Three branches of the Force were particularly noteworthy in this regard; viz. the Counter-Insurgency unit, the Special Task Force and the Protection Force. The South West African Police Counter-Insurgency Unit (SWAPOLCOIN, unofficially designated *Koevoet*) acquired an enviable reputation for itself during the emergency. Originally founded in 1978, as a unit within the South African Police, it was, to reiterate, absorbed into the South West African Police in 1985. It was largely the creation of Maj Gen J G Dreyer. By 1987 this predominantly black unit had accounted for almost 25% of the 10 351 casualties sustained by SWAPO terrorists.<sup>3</sup> It is certainly not coincidental that the disbandment of this unit was one of the first demands made by SWAPO, in 1989. The Special Task Force was also originally formed as a South African Police unit. It was founded in order to counter terrorists operating south of the 'Red Line', which designated the southern boundary of the operational area. It also served as the anti-riot unit, as well as being

the SWA Police's only standing reaction force. This unit possessed a multiple purpose and extremely versatile role, which combined a rural COIN function with the role of an urban counter-terrorist unit, a riot squad and that designated by American Police departments as SWAT (*Special Weapons and Tactics*) teams. In 1987 its strength was approximately 100 officers and men.

In an article devoted to this unit, Helmoed Romer Heitman states:<sup>5</sup>

'...the Special Task Force has been called out every rainy season since 1975 to deal with the infiltration of SWAPO's "special forces" elements through eastern Owambo into the farming areas to its south. Where necessary this small unit has been supplemented by Koevoet fighting groups and army elements ... While the infiltrated insurgent groups have generally been small, they have usually comprised highly trained and indoctrinated men who are not easily dealt with. The Special Task Force has thus faced some difficult situations in tracking down and eliminating these groups in the hilly, often thickly bushed and populated areas to the south of Owambo. Each of the infiltrated groups has, none the less, been broken up, tracked down and dealt with in quite short order. The unit has thus been a major - possibly the major - factor in frustrating SWAPO's annual attempt to terrorize the northern commercial farming areas of SWA."

The Special Task Force was formed in 1977, and its genesis resides in the SA Police anti-riot unit, instituted in 1976. The primary role of the Protection Force was the safeguarding of those known to be especial targets for assassination. The danger was very real; as evidenced by the murder of the following leaders: The Owambo Chief Minister Filemon Elifas (1975) and Pastor Cornelius Ndjoba (1983); two Owambo ministers - Toivo Shiyag ya (1978) and Thomas Shikonga (1980); the widely respected Herero leader Clemens Kapuuo (1978); more than 40 headmen; as well as a number of other prominent persons who have been abducted to an as yet unknown fate. In order to counteract the terrorist tactic of assassination and abduction, the Protection Force was founded in 1976, based upon the earlier institution of the Tribal Police. Its members were designated Special Constables, and its strength was approximately 5 000, of whom some 3 000 were deployed in Owamboland.

One especially noteworthy feature which emerges from the above outline history is the manner in which the key components within the SWA Police's security forces were originally elements instituted within the South African Police. This was of course inevitable, in view of the SA Police's function in policing South West Africa prior to 1981. This intimate relationship is clearly reflected in the role which the South African Police award structure played in shaping the SWA Police medal pantheon.

#### AWARDS OF THE SOUTH WEST AFRICAN POLICE (1981)

**NOTE:** The terms 'GN' and 'AG' refer to Government Notice and Administrator General of South West Africa, respectively.

#### 1. SOUTH WEST AFRICAN POLICE STAR FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE (SOE) (1981)

**Ref:** AG GNs 155 and 156 (South West Africa Official Gazette Extraordinary 4558, 4 December 1981); amended AG GNs 44-46 (South West



Africa Official Gazette 5181, 15 March 1986)

This award was instituted in terms of Administrator General Government Notices 155 and 156 (published in the South West Africa Official Gazette Extraordinary No 4558, dated 4 December 1981). The decoration is awarded to a member of the South West African Police who has

- (a) in the performance of his functions, or while he has acted in the protection or rescue of property or lives or attempted to do so, displayed particular bravery or exceptional ingenuity, skill or perseverance; or
- (b) distinguished himself by the display of leadership or sense of responsibility and personal example in any division or branch of the Force.

Recipients of the award are entitled to the post-nominal letters 'SOE' (*Stella Officii Egregii*).

**DESCRIPTION:** Designed in the shape of a Maltese Cross in red enamel, defined with a gilded edge. The centre of the cross is decorated with an image in relief of the 'Franke Fort' on a circular gilded background. The design is encircled with a wreath of gilded aloe leaves and mounted on the cross.

The reverse bears, in relief, the official badge of the South West African Police with the words '*STELLA OFFICII EGREGII*' as circumscription.

**RIBBON:** 36 mm in width, divided into five parts: white (4 mm), red (12 mm), gold (4 mm), repeat in reverse.

**BAR:** A bar was authorized to denote a subsequent award. The bar bears in the centre a clasp embossed with a four-pointed star.

**NOTES:**

- (i) In terms of the original instituting Government Notice, the award was to be suspended from a neck ribbon; but, in its subsequent form, was pendent from a breast ribbon, in terms of design of suspender.
  - (ii) In terms of the amending Government Notices 44-46 (published in the South West Africa Official Gazette No 5181, of 15 March 1986), the decoration is henceforth worn around the neck from a golden chain. The links of the chain are charged with red enamel and the official badge of the South West African Police in gold.
2. SOUTH WEST AFRICAN POLICE STAR FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE (SOO) (1981)

Ref: AG GNs 155 and 156 (South West Africa Official Gazette Extraordinary 4558, 4 December 1981).

This award was instituted in terms of Administrator General Government Notices 155 and 156 (published in South West Africa Official Gazette Extraordinary No 4558, dated 4 December 1981).

The decoration is awarded to:

- (a) Members of the South West African Police who have, in the course of their duties performed services of a particularly meritorious or exemplary nature; or
- (b) Members of the South West African Police who have displayed irreproachable conduct for a period of service of not less than 30 years (not necessarily continuous); or, in the case of former members of the South African Police who subsequently joined the South West African Police, and whose combined service with both Forces amounts to at least 30 years.

Possession of the award entitles the recipient to the post-nominal letters 'SOO' (*Stella Officii Optimi*).

**DESCRIPTION:** A circular gilded design. Within the circle is placed a 22-pointed star, gilded and set with blue enamel. The obverse is decorated with a relief design of the 'Ouden Bogenfels' encircled by a wreath of aloë leaves.

The reverse bears, in relief, the design of the official badge of the South West African Police with the words 'STELLA OFFICII OPTIMI' as circumscription.

**RIBBON:** 36 mm in width, divided into seven parts: blue (6,5 mm), white (4 mm), blue (6 mm), gold (2 mm), repeat in reverse.

**BAR:** A bar was authorized to denote a subsequent award. The bar bears in the centre a clasp embossed with a 22-pointed star.

### 3. SOUTH WEST AFRICAN POLICE STAR FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE (1981)

**Ref.** AG. GNs 155 and 156 (South West Africa Official Gazette Extraordinary 4558, 4 December 1981).

This award was instituted in terms of Administrator General Government Notices 155 and 156 (published in South West Africa Official Gazette Extraordinary No 4558, dated 4 December 1981). The medal is awarded to a member of the South West African Police who has displayed irreproachable conduct and an exemplary character for not less than 20 years (not necessarily continuous); or to a former member of the South African Police who subsequently joined the South West African Police, and whose combined service with both Forces amounts to at least 20 years.

**DESCRIPTION:** Designed in the form of a stylized Welwitschia, silvered. The obverse bears, in relief, a Welwitschia in the foreground against a background of sand dunes bordered by sunbeams diagonally cut to meet the sand dunes in the background.

The reverse bears, in relief, the design of the official badge of the South West African Police.

**RIBBON:** 36 mm in width, divided into nine parts: green (5 mm), silver (3 mm), orange (3 mm), silver (3 mm), green (8 mm), repeat in reverse.

**BAR:** A bar was authorized to denote a further 20 years service of a meritorious character. The bar bears a clasp in the shape of a Welwitschia plant.

4. **SOUTH WEST AFRICAN POLICE MEDAL FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE (1981)**

**Ref.** AG GNs 155 and 156 (South West Africa Official Gazette Extraordinary 4558, 4 December 1981).

The award was instituted in terms of Administrator General Government Notices 155 and 156 (published in the South West Africa Official Gazette Extraordinary No. 4558, dated 4 December 1981). The medal is awarded to a member of the South West African Police who has displayed an irreproachable character and exemplary conduct for a period of service of not less than 10 years; or to a former member of the South African Police who subsequently joined the South West African Police and whose combined service with both forces amounts to at least 10 years.

**OBVERSE:** In relief, a Welwitschia in the foreground against sand dunes in the background, bordered by sunbeams, diagonally cut to meet the sand dunes in the background.

**REVERSE:** In relief, the design of the official badge of the South West African Police.

**RIBBON:** 36 mm in width, divided into nine parts: brown (3,5 mm), green (3,5 mm), brown (3,5 mm), green (3,5 mm), brown (8 mm), repeat in reverse.

5. **MEDAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOUTH WEST AFRICAN POLICE (1981).**

**Ref.** AG GNs 155 and 156 (South West Africa Official Gazette Extraordinary 4558, 4 December 1981).

This award was instituted in terms of Administrator General Government Notices 155 and 156 (published in the South West African Official Gazette Extraordinary No 4558, dated 4 December 1981). It was awarded to those serving in the South West African Police on 1 April 1981.

**DESCRIPTION:** Designed in the form of a circular gilded star, with 11 pillars of 33 stylized beams divided into equal quantities. The obverse is charged with a circle in blue enamel with 11 stylized aloes in green and red. The centrepiece consists of an image, in relief, of the Needle Rock with sunbeams, diagonally emerging from behind the rock to meet the circle.

The reverse bears, in relief, the design of the official badge of the South West African Police.

**RIBBON:** 36 mm in width, divided into five parts: orange (7 mm), blue (5 mm), orange (12 mm), repeat in reverse.

6. SOUTH WEST AFRICAN POLICE STAR FOR MERIT (1986)

Ref. AG GNS 44-46 (South West Africa Official Gazette 5181, 15 March 1986)

Note: This award, although originally gazetted in March 1986, was only minted in 1988.

The South West African Police Star for Merit was instituted in terms of Administrator General Government Notices 44-46 (published in South West Africa Official Gazette No 5181, dated 15 March 1986). Those eligible for the award are members of the South West African Police who have

- (a) in the execution of their duties, rendered services of an especially meritorious character; or
- (b) have performed exemplary services for a period of at least 30 years (not necessarily continuous), during which time they have displayed an irreproachable character; or, for those former members of the South African Police, whose period of service - if combined with that undertaken in the South West African Police - totals at least 30 years.

The award follows the South West African Police Star for Distinguished Service in the order of precedence of South West African Police Awards.

**DESCRIPTION:** An eight-pointed star, charged with a medallion (circular in shape) in the centre of which is depicted a statue of a German soldier, mounted on a horse and carrying a rifle; on a circular gilded background defined with a star-shaped motif in red and blue enamel. (The equestrian statue is situated in Windhoek, and symbolizes the relief of Reiterdenkmal, a garrison besieged during the Herero rising of 1906-1907).

**REVERSE:** In relief, the design of the official badge of the South West African Police.

**RIBBON:** 32 mm in width, red with a silver centre stripe 2 mm in width.

**NOTE:** The description of the ribbon cited above is that which appears in the Government Notice. It is noteworthy that the final approved, sealed pattern of the ribbon deviated from this description, and consists of a ribbon 32 mm in width, dove grey with a 2 mm red centre stripe.

**BAR:** A bar was authorized, to denote a further award, on the grounds of meritorious service. The bar bears in its centre a clasp, consisting of a circular silver button containing the official badge of the South West African Police, flanked on either side by a triple winged motif (resembling pilots' wings) extending to the edge of the bar.

## NOTES RELATING TO SERIES OF SWA POLICE AWARDS

- (i) The designer of the above series of awards was Col A L Collins, SOO, formerly OC training, SWA Police.
- (ii) The above decorations and medals were awarded by the Administrator General of South West Africa, on the recommendations of the Commissioner of Police; the ultimate authority being the Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

## CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS ON SWA POLICE AWARDS

- (a) The SWA Police awards embodies the series of South African Police long service and good conduct awards (**Medal for Faithful Service**, **Star for Faithful Service** **Star for Merit**), in recognition of 10, 20 and 30 years meritorious service respectively; as well as the senior meritorious service awards (**Star for Outstanding Service** and **Star for Distinguished Service**). (With regard to the **Star for Distinguished Service**, the terms of eligibility with regard to the South West African Police award differ *vis-a-vis* the South African Police counterpart. The SWA Police **Star for Distinguished Service** is not restricted to general officers, as is the case with the South African Police version). The parallel between the two award structures is heightened by the SWA Police medal pantheon's adoption of post-nominal letters denoting acronyms for Latin designations. The utilization of this device by South African Police awards has served as the model with regard to the award structures of the South African uniformed public services (South African Railways Police, South African Prisons Service).
- (b) There is no provision within the SWA Police award structure for any medal for combating terrorism. This represents a remarkable omission, in view of the high profile which the Force adopted in COIN operations. There is no counterpart within the South West African Police medal pantheon of the South African Police (and South African Railways Police) **Medal for Combating Terrorism**.
- (c) The SWA Police award structure does not include any awards for gallantry; there are no counterparts to the South African Police **Cross for Bravery** (1963/1989) and **Silver Cross for Gallantry** (1985).

The factors discussed under (b) and (c) above render the model of the South African Police medal pantheon, in relation to that of the South West African Police, incomplete.

- (d) The order of precedence within the two medal pantheons differs. In the South African Police award structure, the **Star for Distinguished Service** precedes that of the **Star for Outstanding Service** (presumably on the grounds that the former is reserved for general officers); whereas the reverse order is evident in the SWA Police award structure.
- (e) In one respect the South West African Police award structure furnishes a precedent for that of the South African Police, thereby reversing the normal relationship between the two. For the medal pantheon of the former includes a commemorative medal, *viz.*, the **Medal for the Establishment of the South West Police**. In 1988 the South African

Police adopted this precedent, and instituted the **Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Commemorative Medal**. (The inclusion of commemorative medals within the parochial award structures of the uniformed public services is a curious phenomenon, in view of the absence of this category of award within the contemporary pantheon of civil awards. The sole commemorative medal officially gazetted in South Africa is the **Union of South Africa Commemorative Medal 1910 (1910)**. (The **Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal (1953)**, although officially recognized as a South African award, was never legally authorized as such by the Government of the Union of South Africa.)

#### CONCLUSION

There is a close degree of convergence between the awards of the South West African Police and those of the (now obsolete) South African Railways Police. In both instances the award structures of the Force embody the service of institutions subsequently extinct. This situation, whereby a series of awards confined to a specialized branch of the public service serves as the receptacle of an historical awareness of the role of that service, reflects the positive aspect of parochialism, which is such a marked characteristic of the South African award structure. Within this context, the following extract from *Awards of the South African uniformed public services 1922-1987* is apposite:

'South Africa is probably unique in maintaining a series of awards peculiar to the uniformed public services. The proliferation of decorations and medals specifically related to the Police, Railways Police and Prisons Service is an especially noticeable development of the post-1961 period; a process which has undoubtedly tended to intensify during the period 1963-1980. One also observes the situation whereby the series of awards introduced by one of these services reacts upon, and influences, those of the other two ... . The SA Police has undoubtedly been the primary motivating force in this series of awards within the other two uniformed public services ... Finally, it should be borne in mind that medals provide a graphic index of cultural evolution, and this is clearly evident in the award structures of the uniformed public services of South Africa. The Police and Prisons awards reflect a national orientation and self-consciousness on the part of the public services from a very early point in their development.'

The awards of the South West African Police represent a natural extension of this development.

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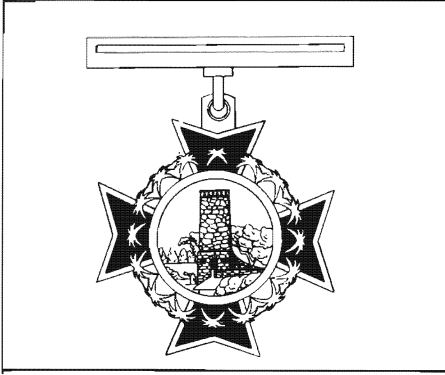
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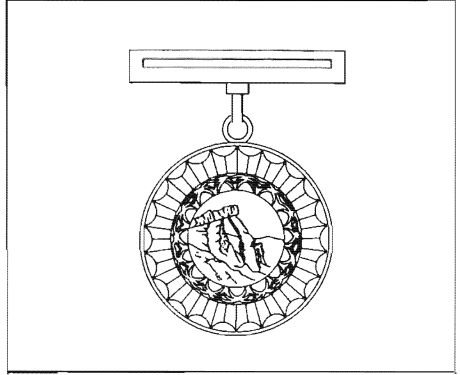
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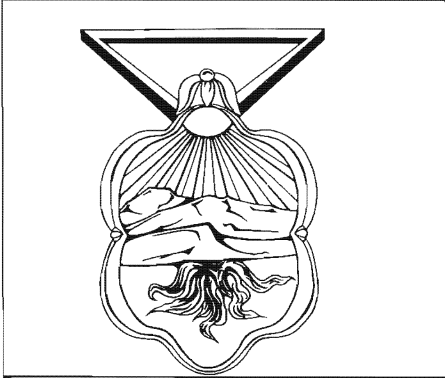
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SOUTH WEST AFRICAN POLICE STAR FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE (SOE)  
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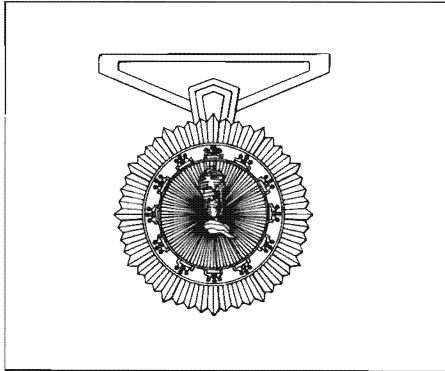
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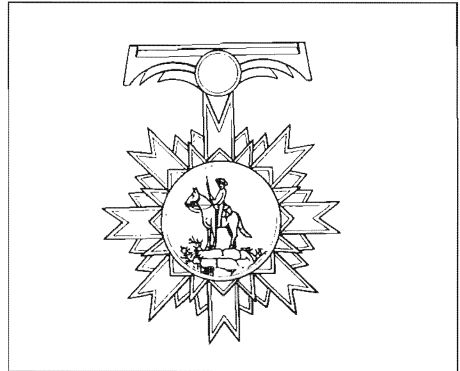
SOUTH WEST AFRICAN POLICE STAR FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE (1981)



SOUTH WEST AFRICAN POLICE MEDAL FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE (1981)

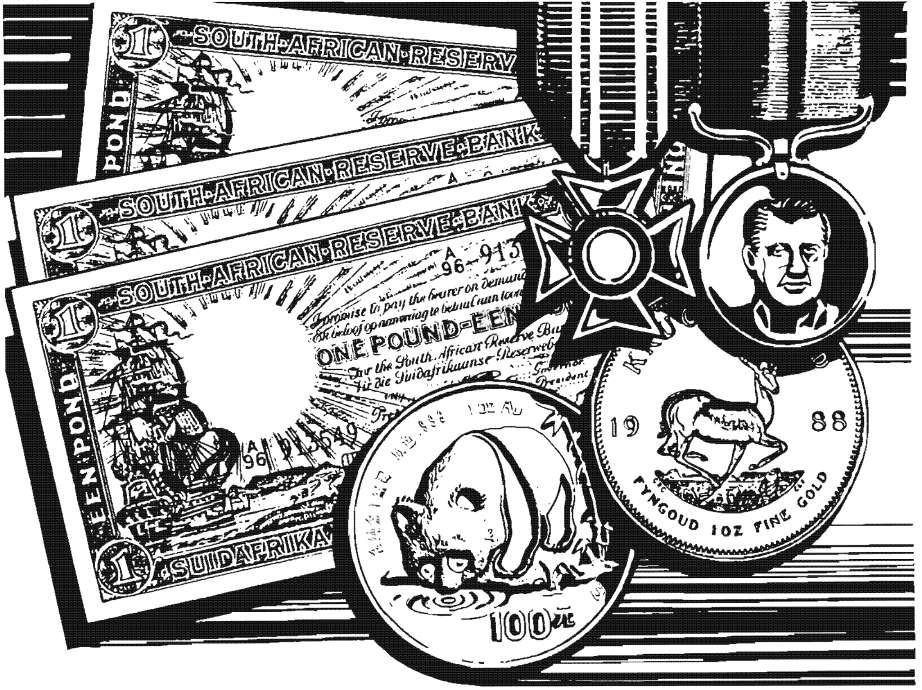


MEDAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOUTH WEST AFRICAN POLICE  
(1981)



SOUTH WEST AFRICAN POLICE STAR FOR MERIT (1986)





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## IN SEARCH OF AN ANSWER

BY P R MULLER

Many numismatists are drawn to medals because of their exceptional beauty but the collecting of military medals has one outstanding appeal over all other avenues of numismatics, in that each medal has a personal history attached to it. Nearly every medal bears the recipient's name, rank and regiment or attachment, which enables the collector to do research in an attempt to unfold the military life of a particular soldier. However, in South Africa the accessibility of records on British soldiers is very limited and as a result many South African collectors concentrate their effort on local recipients. Of particular interest are medals related to the Anglo-Boer war.

The Queen's South Africa (QSA) is one such medal and is a particularly beautiful work of art. It bears the head of Queen Victoria on the obverse and on the reverse there is a figure of Britannia with a flag in her left hand, while extending her right hand with a laurel wreath towards an advancing group of soldiers. The QSA was granted mainly to all officers and men of the Navy and Army who actually served in South Africa against the Boer forces.

One of the QSA's which my late father acquired many years ago bears the inscription: *Mr A Milligan. 'Natal Mercury'*, which means that Mr Milligan was a War Correspondent during the Anglo-Boer War, working for the Natal Mercury, which was, and still is a Durban-based daily newspaper. In the 1986 Summer Journal of the Orders and Medals Research Society an article appears entitled '*War Correspondents : South Africa 1899-1902*' by Patrick Street. This article lists 149 journalists who represented 47 newspapers and journals throughout the British Empire during the Anglo-Boer War. A. Milligan's name appears along with 3 others who corresponded for the Natal Mercury. However, 2 of these correspondents also represented other newspapers. It is stated that Mr Milligan's medal was issued on 18.4.1903.

A telephone call to the Natal Mercury offices in Durban provided no information as they have no historical records on file. A visit to the Natal Archives in Pietermaritzburg was next on the agenda, and a few lunch hours later Mr Milligan's past was unfolding, but presenting more questions than I had expected.

In '*The South African Who's Who*' of 1912 the following information was extracted:

Alexander Milligan was born in 1864 in Edinburgh and educated at Merchants' Company's Schools in Edinburgh as well as at Heriot Watt College and Edinburgh University where he studied music. He was engaged for some years in journalistic work on Scottish daily and weekly Press and came to Natal in 1889 where he was employed in secretarial work in the Engineering Department of the Natal Harbour Board. Mr Milligan joined the Editorial Staff of the Natal Mercury in 1893. He represented the Mercury at the Native Rebellion in Mozambique Province in 1894, the Jameson Raid, opening of the Bulawayo Railway and the Anglo-Boer War. He was one of the founders of the Durban Municipal Art Gallery and had been Honorary-Secretary since its inauguration. Mr Milligan was also a foundation member of the Durban Savage Club and of Durban Golf Club and captain of the latter in 1899. He was a member of the Durban Club, the Author's Club in Whitehall, London, the Institute of Journalists and the Royal Society of South Africa.

The Archives also contain Mr Milligan's death notice which states that he passed away in Addington Hospital, Durban, on 23 August 1913 at the age of 49 years. He was not married and the only relative was a sister, Agnes, who lived in Scotland. His residential address was given as the Durban Club and his position at the Natal Mercury was 'Manager' (Editor). His Estate was 'estimated' to the value of £228-2s-1d. (Where did they get the one penny from?)

In *'The Pictorial'* of 28 August 1913 (a supplement to the Natal Mercury) appeared a portrait of the late Mr Milligan. It was mentioned that he had suffered from a protracted illness and his character is vividly portrayed. The following are two quotations from *'The Pictorial'* :

"He could not be called a negrophilist, for he would never identify himself with the advocacy of proposals for giving the black and coloured people political privileges which as a body they were incapable of intelligently exercising. He believed that the white man must rule in South Africa, but he always insisted that their governance should be just and fair." (A far cry from the present approach of the Natal Mercury.)

"Mr Milligan was often misjudged. He had a habit of saying what he thought, even if it might be unpleasant to the objects of his criticism to hear it."

The Archives also produced a letter to the Agent General for Natal in London, dated 20.3.1904, explaining the loss of his QSA and requesting a duplicate medal. According to Mr Milligan his 'purse' was stolen containing, amongst other things, his war medal. He kept it in his purse because he attached great value to it. It is on record that the War Office obliged and issued Mr Milligan with a duplicate medal on 27 May 1904.

The last Will and Testament gave rise to some speculation, as a gold medal, won in 1898, was bequeathed to a Mrs Max Robinson. Was this a prize medal? Mr Milligan also requested that his QSA be given to the Durban Museum. The Will is dated 24 December 1908.

After Mr Milligan's death an inventory of his personal moveable property was made up, dated 22 September 1913 - one month after his death. However, no mention is made of a gold medal or a QSA; only a miniature medal is mentioned. (Presumably a miniature QSA.) A visit to the Durban Museum (Local History Museum) confirmed that they had no such QSA. However, they are in possession of some other items, such as garments, which had belonged to Mr Milligan and a number of QSAs, but not the medal in question.

Thus, after a relatively extensive search for facts surrounding this QSA to Mr A Milligan of the Natal Mercury, one is left with more questions than one had started off with, such as:

- What happened to the original QSA after it had been stolen?
- Why was the duplicate medal not on the inventory?
- Was the Museum in possession of the medal at any stage?
- Where did my late father acquire this particular medal?
- What are the legal implications?
- What did Mr Milligan do to deserve a gold medal in 1898?

Although time has erased most clues, much enjoyment was had by searching for the answers, and there is always hope that further information may be gained from some unexpected source...

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**GUIDO VAN HOOGDALAM**



## STAMPS USED AS CURRENCY

BY H VAN HOOGDALAM

Postage stamps have often been used as units of currency when coin money has been in short supply, a common situation during war or its aftermath. Stamps were declared legal tender in the United Kingdom during both world wars, but they were never used as currency because there was always enough small change to go around. Other countries were less fortunate and many of them used stamps as coins.

The idea originated in the United States of America, during the Civil War of 1861 to 1865. The banks suspended payments in coins, with the result that any remaining coins were hoarded and disappeared from circulation altogether. Shopkeepers and traders were unable to give small change to their customers, and a highly impracticable system of barter grew up.

The use of postage stamps as a substitute for nickels and dimes spread gradually. In New York City alone the sale of stamps rose from 3 000 dollars to 16 000 dollars worth a day.

After the stamps had been in circulation for a while they became dog-eared and torn and valueless as currency. When a Boston sewing-machine salesman named Gault suggested encasing the stamps in small circular metal discs with transparent mica fronts, the idea was immediately adopted. The relieved public had something which looked and felt like a coin.

The encased stamps had another advantage. The backs of the discs provided perfect advertising space and they were used for a large variety of advertisements.

Various stamps of the 1861 definitive series, ranging in value from 1 to 90 cents were used in the discs. Almost 200 varieties of encased postage stamps, with advertisements for everything from patent medicines to life insurance, have been recorded.

There is a great demand for these tokens in the U.S., since they are collected by Philatelists and Numismatists alike. Even the cheapest variety sells at about R10,00. The value of the token depends on the advertisement on the back as much as the stamp itself. The rarest of all is the 2c (blackjack) which was only used by Gault, the man who originally suggested the idea. It is worth about R1 000,00.

Encased stamps soon gave way to government postage currency which consisted of notes printed with pictures of stamps. This currency is of little interest to Philatelists.

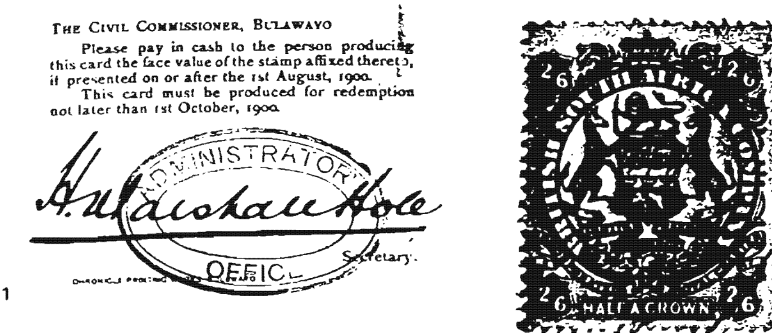
Encased stamps appeared again after World War I. Before the German mark began its dramatic inflationary spiral in 1922 and 1923, Germany and Austria met the shortage of coins by following the example set by America 60 years before: the stamps were enclosed in mica-faced discs about the size of a penny, slightly larger than the American type. They were backed with aluminium and, as before, they carried a wide range of adverts. The practice spread to France, also experiencing an acute shortage of currency. The French discs sometimes had a numeral on the back indicating the value.

The use of these makeshift coins eventually spread to a large number of countries including Norway, Denmark, Argentina, Belgium, Greece and Italy.

Examples from those countries are extremely scarce. Even the common varieties from Austria, Germany and France are now worth over R10,00 apiece.

Stamps have been substituted for coins in other ways. During the Boer War the British South Africa Company in Rhodesia adopted the method of sticking the stamp to special cards (see ill. 1). The civil commissioners in Bulawayo issued a set of small cards (5,5 by 7,5 cms) bearing the legend "Please pay in cash to the person producing this card the face value of the stamp affixed thereto; if presented on or after August 1st 1900. This card must be produced for redemption not later than October 1 1900. (Signed) H. Marshal Hole, Secretary."

1a



They bore the imprint of the Chronicle Printing Works, Bulawayo, and a great variety of rubber stamps was used to authenticate the Secretary's signature.

Stamps of the B.S.A. Company were affixed to the back and contemporary stamps of 3d, 6d, 1s, 2s, 2s 6d and 10s value have been found. (See ill. 1a.)

Of the £20 000 worth of stamps issued, about £1 000 worth were never redeemed. The quantity of stamped cards in the hands of collectors is presumably fairly small.

The same technique was used in Madagascar during World War 1 and postage, fiscal and railway stamps, stuck on yellowish paper, were used in Turkey at the end of the War. The Republican Government in Spain used the same device during the Civil War of 1936-1939. Stamps of the definitive series were affixed to cardboard discs bearing the Spanish coat of arms on the back. (See ill. 2 and 2a.)

An extension of this idea was to print the stamps directly on to stout card. The Russians resorted to this in 1915 for the re-issue of the 10, 15 and 20 Kopek denominations of the Romanov commemorative series. The backs of the cards were inscribed in Russian meaning: "On par with silver currency" and they could be used either as money or for payment of postage.

These cards are, however, rare in postally used condition - especially on the original envelopes.

The Kerensky Government treated the 1, 2, and 3 Kopek stamps in a similar fashion in 1917. Some of the 1 and 2 Kopek values were also surcharged 1 or 2 across the face of the stamp. (See ill. 3 and 3a.)



3



3a

Stamps printed on card were used in several fragments of the former Russian Empire at the end of World War I. The ephemeral regimes of the Don Cossacks, Armenia, the Crimea and the Ukraine produced various stamps on ungummed paper or on thick card between 1918 and 1920. Inscriptions authorising their use as coins were printed on the back. Austria also produced cardboard stamps for use as money tokens in 1919 and 1920. Only two examples were produced during World War II. The Indian State of Bundi printed 3 pies and 1 anna tokens on cards representing current stamps over printed - *cash coupon - Bundi state*.

Filipino guerrillas operating in Japanese-occupied territory in 1942 produced 5 peso notes to which revenue stamps of the appropriate amount were affixed.

All of these particular card stamps are rare, even the Russian specimens which, for many years, could be picked up for a few cents. Even now their price is low considering their scarcity.

The American encased stamps have an established value, and are mentioned in both Numismatic and Philatelic catalogues.

By contrast the rarity of French or German examples is little appreciated outside the countries of origin.

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# TOWARDS A CURE FOR THE PVC MENACE

BY H F GLEN

## ABSTRACT

The effects of ultrasound and acetone on coins which have been stored in PVC are discussed. A possible technique for the safe removal of PVC deposits from coins is evolved.

## THE PROBLEM

The idea of storing coins in albums seems to have been around for slightly over ten years. In itself, the concept has much to recommend it, such as the possibility of displaying all of a series or set at once, flexibility, etc., though it must be admitted that a collection stored in albums is not necessarily very compact, and other storage techniques, such as flips, waste less space.

The most serious objection to the coin albums sold here, or indeed anywhere else in my experience, is the material from which the file sheets are made. I have yet to see a file sheet made of any plastic other than PVC. The reasons for this are not far to seek: PVC is cheap, plentiful and easily formed into the desired envelopes. Unfortunately, it is also far from inert. Sheet PVC is not pure poly-vinyl chloride; if it was, it would be stiff, brittle and impossible to work with. To counteract these problems, a plasticising compound is always added, and it is this which makes PVC totally unsuitable for archival storage systems. The plasticiser reacts with the moisture in the air to produce hydrochloric acid and a sticky organic substance of unknown and probably variable composition. Both of these migrate out of the PVC sheet and contaminate whatever they come into contact with.

Bonsler (1989) gives a detailed study of PVC damage, and lists some means of removing PVC from coins. But one of the solvents he recommends happens, unfortunately, to be one of the less environmentally acceptable chloro-fluorocarbons (CFC's). Surely, one imagines, a hydrocarbon solvent such as acetone or benzene would be preferable. Having pointed out the environmental objection to trichlorotrifluoroethane, I must in all fairness mention that many hydrocarbons are carcinogenic (such as benzene) or explosive (such as ether). Acetone (nail-polish remover) is safe, cheap and evaporates completely, leaving no residue.

## THE HYPOTHESIS

As one of many collectors trying to care for my coins as well as possible, I naturally wished to ensure that when I moved them from PVC file sheets into melinex (truly inert) flips, the damage caused by deposits of decaying plasticiser was limited as far as possible. In other words one needed a technique for removing the acid and sticky goo from the coins as far as possible, while leaving the desirable patina behind.

Electron microscopists use a technique called ultrasonic cleaning for maintaining the insides of their instruments critically clean. The parts are placed in a beaker of fluid in a water jacket in a chamber which is subjected to very high-pitched sound waves, beyond the limits of hearing.

The very rapidly changing pressure waves in the fluid serve to dislodge any garbage adhering to the parts being cleaned.

Recent studies (Suslick 1989; Suslick & Doktycz 1990) indicate that the cleaning action is not quite that simple. Friction caused by the rapid movement of the molecules of cleaning fluid (which is usually mostly water) causes minute bubbles of vapour to form. These are collapsed by the next pressure wave to pass through them, and because of the way the bubbles collapse, anything in the cleaning bath is subjected to a stream of small, fast, high-energy jets of steam from all sides. The same authors present a picture (with no clue as to the magnification used, which is annoying) of ultrasound damage to an aluminium film. However, they indicate that they use much more intense ultrasound to produce this damage than a cleaning machine can deliver.

If one used as a cleaning fluid a cocktail of something to dissolve the goo and something else to neutralise the acid, would it be possible to use ultrasound to rescue PVC-ed coins? The goo, being organic, would require a solvent which would necessarily be inert towards metallic coins but which could cause problems with celluloid tokens. The rest of this article reports on an experiment conducted along these lines.

### THE EXPERIMENT

The coins examined in detail were:

a German East Africa 1905J	1 heller
a German East Africa 1910J	1/4 rupie
a West German 1950F	1 pfennig
a West German 1950G	50 pfennig.

Jaeger (1974), an incomparable source of useful information, reports that the compositions of these coins are as follows:

D.O.A. 1 heller	:	95% Cu, 4% Sn, 1% Zn
1/4 rupie	:	92,5% Ag, 7,5% Cu
West German 1 pf	:	Iron coated with copper
West German 50 pf	:	75% Cu, 25% Ni

These coins were specifically chosen to give a range of base, clad and moderately valuable coins, so as to explore the effect of the treatment on most modern coins. All are replaceable (a necessary precaution in case of disaster); the ease with which some can be replaced is almost unfortunate.

Casual notice is also taken of about 30 assorted coins prepared for safe storage in my collection.

The cleaning mixture used was tap water with a dash of dishwashing liquid to dissolve the goo and about 5% by volume of 8% commercial ammonia solution to neutralise the acid. An organic solvent such as benzene would probably have been more effective as a cleaning agent and would certainly be more inert towards metal. However benzene is expensive and the vapour is carcinogenic.

The coins were treated for one to five minutes in this cocktail in the ultrasonic cleaning machine, rinsed briefly in the water jacket of the same machine, and then blotted dry on kitchen (paper) towel. The 1 heller piece was swabbed down with acetone, using a piece of kitchen towel. The coins were examined at various magnifications by SEM (attached to the stub with double-sided tape or clear nail varnish, and uncoated, at a beam energy of

15 kV) both before and after treatment. The 1 heller piece was examined three times, namely before treatment, after sonicating, and after swabbing. The miscellaneous coins were simply examined visually under strong light at various stages.

## THE RESULTS

The goo is very readily seen as dark patches on the coin surface in fig. 1. Figure 2 shows the same coin, cleaned. Figures 3 and 4 show that, at least for the silver that is used in the German East African  $\frac{1}{4}$  rupie, there is no discernible aggravation of existing scratches by this method. Figures 5 and 6 indicate that the same is true for the relatively thin copper cladding of the German 1 pfennig. The even-numbered pictures show that at least some of the miscellaneous, undesirable and generally unavoidable garbage (mostly silica, i.e. house dust) on the coins is removed, as is most of the target goo. Figure 9 shows that swabbing down with acetone is possibly more effective than ultrasound for removing organic deposits. This impression is strengthened by the appearance of the swab, on which green and black dirt were clearly seen after this operation.

Visual inspection of all the coins treated indicated that whatever scratches there were previously became more obvious after treatment, possibly because a degree of lustre was restored to the coins. The effect of fingerprints on brass and bronze coins was, at least at first, minimal, but it is possible that damage from these has been arrested - only time will tell. One coin left in the sonicator for some 10 minutes while the telephone demanded attention lost much patina and came out an unlikely colour.

So therefore ....

One possibly important observation made while doing these tests is that where two or more coins have been stored in the same PVC album page for the same period under the same conditions, the amount of damage to each coin depends only on the chemical activity of its surface layer. Thus aluminium coins, which are protected by a thin surface film of (essentially inert) aluminium oxide, are almost invulnerable. Gold coins are likewise unaffected, because gold seldom reacts with anything; to a lesser extent the same is true of silver. *Heavily patinated* copper coins are relatively safe provided that the patina is intact. Unprotected copper, copper alloys and zinc in any condition are reactive and very vulnerable to PVC damage. Curiously, uncirculated coppers are (slightly) less reactive than those of EF or VF condition - evidently the minting process produces a minute protective layer which is removed by handling.

Ultrasonic cleaning is evidently a safe treatment for base-metal coins if certain commonsense precautions are taken. Results that are visually at least as good can be obtained by the simple expedient of swabbing the coins down with acetone. This does not address the problem of hydrochloric acid, however. One can suggest the following treatments for coins which have been contaminated with PVC.

If an ultrasonic cleaner is available, treat the coins (one or at most two at a time) in a fluid composed of a dash each of dishwashing liquid and cloudy ammonia, made up to the required volume with water, for not more than 5 minutes. Less than one minute here is ineffective. Blot dry and swab down once with acetone. Air dry and seal in an inert container immediately.

Otherwise, swab down with acetone at least three times. Air dry and seal in an inert container.

In both cases, observe the coins from time to time, as it may be necessary to take further action against traces of corrosive residues.

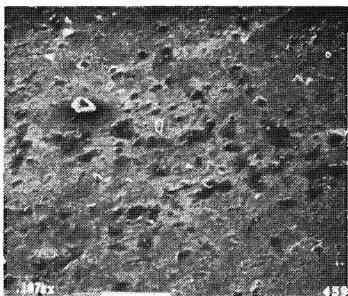


Fig. 1.

German 50 pfennig piece before cleaning. The scale bar is just less than 0,2 mm long.

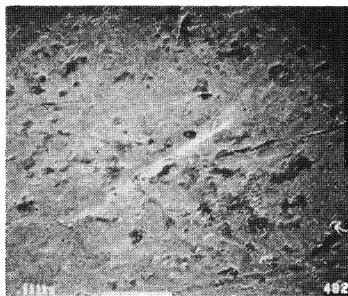


Fig. 2.

The same coin after (partial) cleaning. Some of the larger lumps of PVC are still there, indicating that further cleaning is required.

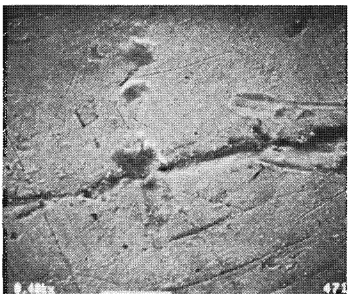


Fig. 3.

German East African  $\frac{1}{4}$  rupie, before cleaning. The scale bar is about 0,05 mm long. Comparison of this picture with fig. 7 shows the difference in effect of PVC on different metals very clearly; this coin has been subject to exactly the same treatment as the 1-heller for the last 25 years.

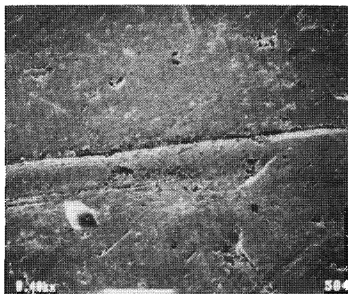


Fig. 4.

The same coin after partial cleaning.

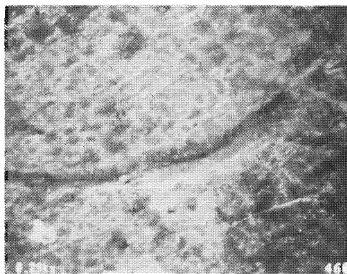


Fig. 5  
 German 1 pfennig piece before  
 cleaning. The scale bar is about  
 0,7 mm long.

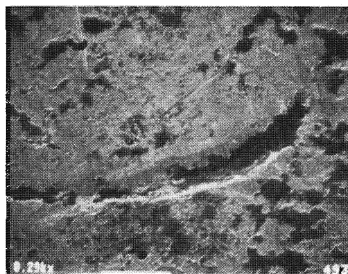


Fig. 6  
 The same coin, cleaned. Note the  
 large number of smaller scratches:  
 previously hidden under dirt,  
 which have now become all too  
 obvious.



Fig. 7  
 German East Africa 1 heller 1905  
 before cleaning. The scale bar is about  
 1,18 mm long.

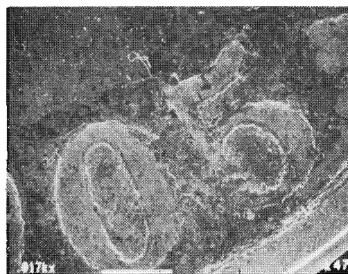


Fig. 8  
 The same coin after ultrasonic  
 cleaning. The irregular small  
 white spots are dust. The white  
 tangle is a piece of cotton  
 thread.

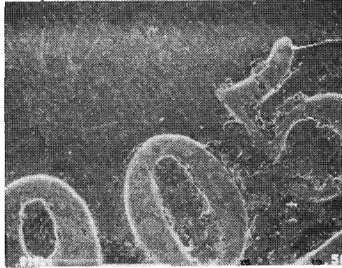


Fig. 9 The same coin swabbed down with acetone. The field now shows nothing but patina, but the details of the design still offer many corners for dirt.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My thanks are due to Wal Rosenmeyer, who drew my attention to the article in *The Numismatist* and discussed the reactivity of different coin metals, Mrs Lategan of the Mary Gunn Library, who worked tirelessly to obtain the other literature for me, and Mrs Perold (NBI), who gave me access to the SEM and related equipment. Without all of these good people, I should not have been able to attempt this study.

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BY PAT MORAN

Mark the 3rd son of George and Mary Langhorne was born on 21-2-1833. He accompanied his parents to Natal aboard the "Nile" in 1850 and went with them to Lidgetton. By his own admission he did not get on well at Lidgetton with his own family, the two Hodson brothers and the Britton family. Why this should have been so he did not say. He tried his hand at farming in the Lidgetton district, working first for the Richardsons and then for the owner of the neighbouring farm Mooifontein.

In 1852 he sailed for Australia aboard the "Hannah" which landed at Melbourne. In the passenger list he is described as "an English farmer", but obviously not a prosperous one as he went steerage. He went in company with Mr and Mrs John Richardson, and Mr Arthur Richardson, who had been fellow passengers on the "Nile".

From Melbourne he went to the gold diggings at Fryer's Creek, Castlemain district where he remained for only four months. In his reply to the questionnaire sent out in 1896 by Christopher Bird, Mark stated boldly that "I made fair wages". What he did not say was that he found a very large nugget of gold which is reputed to have been the first nugget found at the diggings. This nugget which is a rough pyreiform shape, has been mounted as a pendant on a heavy gold chain and has been passed down to the eldest son in each generation of Mark's descendants. Martin David Franklin of Maritzburg is the present owner. I have not weighed the pendant accurately but it seems to be more than an ounce in weight.

After leaving the gold diggings Mark went to Melbourne where he worked just as a gardener, then as a drayman and eventually he set up in business for himself as a carter and draymen. He stated that "he did fairly well", which can be probably translated to mean that his business was a very profitable concern.

In Australia he met Sarah Susannah Whatmann, who had accompanied her brother to Australia. She was Welsh, although she was born in Deptford, Kent. In later years she habitually spoke Welsh with her daughter-in-law, Sarah Ann Thomas. Mark and Sarah Susannah were married on the 8th November 1853 at St Paul's Church, Melbourne. Sarah Susannah's personal writing bureau is now in the hands of her great granddaughter, Alison Hilda Maud Franklin Lambert of Elandskop, Natal.

Mark and Sarah remained in Australia until early in 1859. Two children, Jane Emma and Sarah Louisa were born there and Sarah Louisa died there in infancy. Their third child, George Lewin, was born aboard the "William Jackson" off Cape Lewin on their return to South Africa.

The "William Jackson" called at the Cape and Mark and his family transferred to the steamer "Waldenstein" which plied between the Cape and Port Natal. They arrived at Durban in May, 1859 and went to Pietermaritzburg, where other members of the Franklin family were then settled.

On his return to Pietermaritzburg Mark established a business as a tinsmith. Where or when he had learnt his trade I have not been able to discover. Seven years later he expanded his interests to include a grocery

and general store as well. During these years the family lived at "Melbourne House", Chapel Street.

In 1876 Mark had a number of brass token coins struck for use in his shop. At the time copper pennies were in short supply in Pietermaritzburg and the brass tokens were taken to represent a value of one penny. The tokens could only be tendered in Mark's shop, and to avoid any possible confusion with the coin of the realm the coins were counterstamped a card - no value by Mark himself. This must have been very necessary as the tokens were very similar in general appearance to a penny piece. Each token coin also carried Mark's name and address - useful advertising.

Mark spent a period of two years in England from 1881 to 1883. On his return he added a farmline shop to his enterprises. He moved from Melbourne House to new premises in Chapel Street between Berg Street and Boom Street. Before his death he owned not only the large property where his business premises, his own dwelling and stables, and a smaller house in which his daughter Florence Maria Toogood lived were situated but also four other houses, almost opposite the Berg Street Girls' School. After his death the large property was sold and the four houses opposite were left to his surviving children, Florence Maria, William James, Francis Thomas and Albert Edward Nicholson. His sons did not inherit Mark's business acumen and there was no further expansion of Franklin interests in Maritzburg after his death.

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

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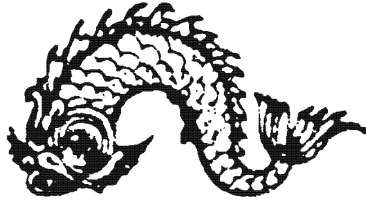
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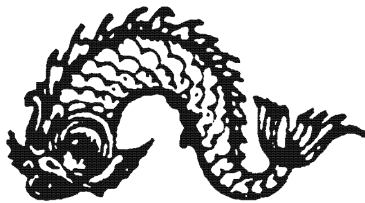
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# DOLPHIN COINS

## THE LIFE OF MATTHEW BOULTON

BY ARTHUR COWEN

Matthew Boulton senior started business as an Ironmonger in the 18th century in Warwickshire, this being close to the only source of fuel, coal and appropriately named Black Staffordshire. Our Matthew was born on the 14th September 1728 and entered the family business in 1745. With cheap fuel at hand he concentrated on iron ware, nail making, chain making and locks and blades for knives. The screw press and fly press designed in 1696 were improved by Boulton and used for stamping buttons and the making of kettles, pots and pans.

In 1690 in the time of William and Mary, mens' shoes and breeches were the normal dress and both were ornamented with buckles from the Boulton manufactory; the first shoe laces were invented in 1786 in the time of George III. Massive heavy buckles were made for leather straps which horses used to tow navigational barges in the canals and rivers of England, this being a primary means of transport.

In 1762 the first Sheffield plate was made, also Silver plate, Ormolu, Pinchbeck, Gold and Silver toys, trinkets, seals, tweezer and tooth pick cases, smelling bottles, snuff boxes, filigree work, toilets, tea chests, ink stands, cork-screws, draw boxes, snuffles, watch chains, stay hooks and sugar knippers.

The manufactory was now moved to Snow Hill on the outskirts of Birmingham on the road to Wolver Hampton. Forgers earned 20 shillings per week and Filers 9 to 15 shillings per week. At this stage Boulton's wife died childless, and in 1780 Boulton married his sister-in-law who came with a dowry of £14 000 being the same dowry as her late sister, which no doubt reduced Boulton's bank overdraft.

Just outside Birmingham there was a public house and the sign hanging from the wall outside depicted a fox hunt with horses and men and hounds and the hunt master's call or hunting cry was Soho (like Tallyho). This later gave the name to Boulton's new factory at Soho. By now the factory was mass producing cameo brooches, steel for fob chains and an incredible variety of buttons, gilt, plated, silvered, lacquered, pinchbeck, platina and these were inlaid with glass, horn, ivory, pearls, paste, stones and glass and sold from threepence per gross to 140 guineas per gross. By 1758 the staff numbered 600 and much Sheffield plate had been made.

In 1780 Boulton registered his own mint mark, the double sun. The Assay office mark was an anchor, a lion was used to depict the Sovereign and the letters M.B.I.F. for his partner Fothergill. On the first day the Assay office opened, 841 ozs. were sent in by Boulton; one piece alone weighed 200 ozs. All standards and specifications at the office were compiled and formulated by Boulton himself. By now Boulton had assumed such proportions of fame that his frequent visitors included King George III and Queen Sophia, the Empress Catherine of Russia, Lords and Ladies of nobility, the English, French, Spaniards, Germans, Russians, Norwegians, Polish, Danish and from Sardinia who purchased his magnificent Tureens, Candelabra, Vases and Coffee Pots in Silver and Gold.

James Watt, a mathematical instrument maker, joined the company in 1770,

and they converted the horse-mill to steam in 1783. The Argand oil lamp with new circular wick was designed by them in 1784. In 1786 Boulton produced his rotative steam engine for the coining of money. This had been hammered until 1662, and made in the mill and screw fly presses until 1750. There was a huge shortage of coins from 1648 to 1672 and by 1753 some 20 000 issues of private tokens were in circulation.

Half the Copper coins were counterfeit, and no legal coinage in copper was issued from 1754 to 1770. In 1791 the first issue of farthings was made, and in 1774 Boulton applied steam for the mass production of coinage. In 1786 an order for the East India Company was executed.

In 1786 Boulton went to Paris to the Hotel des Normandy where he employed a French designer and engraver, Droz, who made a 6 segmented collar "*Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's*", for the edge inscription on French Ecus.

By 1788 six steam rotative presses were rolling copper ingot into sheets and strips. There were machines to anneal and scale the strip, to cut blanks, to remove arris from the edges, bagging machines and machines to multiply dies. Copper from the Angelsea mines was used for coinage for the American colonies, and also for the Sierra Leone Co. By 1792 eight large steam presses were producing at the rate of 50/120 coins per minute. The labour used per machine was one 12 year old boy.

In 1798 Boulton and Droz produced a medallion on a cartwheel 2 pence blank illustrating the number of coins per stated diameter struck per hour (in French). In 1789 came the famous George III second recovery from insanity and the Lord Nelson Trafalgar Medal.

In 1790 Droz was dismissed, being too difficult to work with and was replaced in 1793 by Kuchler who made the Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette medals. In 1797 came the celebrated "Cartwheel" coinage with copper standards of purity and diameter and weight laid down by Boulton himself.

1805 began the partnership of Boulton & Watt with the contract for the entire copper coinage of England and Ireland. In 1810 Boulton re-stamped Mexican Silver Dollars into 5/- pieces. The first delivery of 38 casks was delivered by Snells canal; this was for £50 000, further delivery for that year to equal £500 000.

1805/10 saw the move of the antiquated mint from the Tower of London to Tower Hill. The industrial revolution of 1812 now began in earnest. Tower Hill was a Government tobacco warehouse, which itself stood on a site where King Edward III in 1350 had founded the Cistercian Monastery of St Mary of Grace, usually called East Minister, to balance West Minister. Presses were now being exported to Russia, Spain and Denmark and in 1791 the newest presses were made, to be operated by four ten year old boys, each press being capable of producing 30 000 guineas per hour.

By now Boulton was 75 years old and suffering from a kidney stone ailment; his son came into the business, and in 1800 a new foundry was built. At the inauguration many fat sheep were consumed together with garnished rumps and rounds of beef, legs of veal, gammon of bacon, countless meat dishes and plum puddings whilst a good band played martial music. At the Altar of Vulcan in the great hall of Cyclops at the Temple which measured 46 x 100 feet Matthew Boulton consecrated the hall in the name of Vulcan, the walls were liberally sprinkled with wine, and all the Gods and Goddesses were

invoked, and Matthew Boulton pronounced the Soho foundry to be, and all the people cried Amen. The Benediction was then pronounced and Thanksgiving performed. Six cannon were discharged, the band of music struck up "God Save the King" which was sung in full chorus by loyal subjects. Many toasts followed with great spirit and hilarity, each toast accompanied by three joyous huzzas and a further discharge of cannon.

In 1808 Boulton took in new partners, Hornblower and Avery. New large engines were made, a four horsepower engine and boiler sold for £327 and a fifty horsepower engine and boiler sold for £1 727. Matthew Boulton died in 1809.

Reference: Matthew Boulton by H.W. Dickinson, 1936.



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## THE SAFE PEOPLE

## THE INFLATION NIGHTMARE

BY KEITH McLEOD

Wherever we are living today on planet Earth we will feel the effects of inflation.

Inflation has been with us all for the past 50 years without a break and many people think it is Public Enemy Number One.

Yet inflation is a much maligned term. What is inflation? Inflation is anything that lowers the value of money.

But there are many different types of inflation and not all of them are bad.

A small dose of inflation is good economy because no growth can come about if there is not a persistent crawling inflation.

Consider the South African economy from about 1950 to 1979. Throughout that 29 year period South Africa sustained an annual inflation rate which varied between 4 and 6 percent and enjoyed the period of its greatest economic growth and prosperity.

The opposite of inflation is deflation. Money increases in value during deflation. Deflation is bad news.

Investment comes to a halt. Money is circulated at a slower and slower rate. Businesses become bankrupt and people are thrown out of work.

Industrialized nations such as the United States of America, Germany, France and the United Kingdom suffered their greatest economic setbacks during the deflationary period of the late 1920's and early 1930's. This period became known as the great world slump and economists have feared its return ever since.

Today the thriving economies of Japan, West Germany, Sweden and Switzerland are rolling forward, as they have done for many years past, at an inflation rate of no more than 6 percent.

Once inflation runs into a yearly double digit percentage the problems start. We in South Africa have suffered an annual double digit inflation rate for over a decade and this has eaten way into our living standards.

Because our rate of inflation is so much higher than many of our trading partners such as the United States, Japan, West Germany, France and Hong Kong the value of our currency has dropped sharply in terms of theirs. This pushes up the prices of goods we purchase from them and thus causes us to import more inflation.

However our inflation rate is mild when compared to some countries. Consider Brazil. The annual rate of inflation there is 1000 percent! With inflation of that nature it is easy to be a millionaire.

Early this year a student in one of my economics classes, who had just returned from Brazil, asked me if it were possible to change a 1000 Cruzado note he had brought back.

I told him that because of Brazil's inflation rate no bank outside of that country would touch it and that the best thing he could do with it was to use it to light up his pipe!

While in Peru in 1984 I was a millionaire for the period of my stay. When I arrived in the country there were 3200 Peruvian Sols to one American Dollar! You only need a little more than 300 Dollars to be a millionaire in terms of the Sol.

Ten days later when I left Peru the exchange rate had climbed to 3300 Sols to one Dollar! This is a situation approaching hyperinflation.

Eventually the Sol became so worthless that the government did away with it bringing in a new form of currency, the Inti. But it is now rapidly going the way of the Sol.

Hyperinflation is a nightmare. It has occurred in Germany, Hungary and Greece within living memory.

In Germany during 1923 hyperinflation got so bad that before workers would start a day's work they would sit down and discuss with management what pay they would get at the end of that day, because what would buy a loaf of bread that morning would scarcely buy a crumb that evening!

Citizens were carrying sacks of mark notes about to purchase items such as a bottle of milk or a couple of eggs!! It cost billions of marks to post a local letter!

A popular story tells the tale of two German brothers during that fateful year of 1923.

One was very hardworking and had become a millionaire while the other was a wastrel and a drunkard.

Came the hyperinflation and almost overnight the millionaire was ruined while the wastrel became a millionaire on returning his empty booze bottles!

Like many notophilists I have a number of Reichsbanknotes of that period among my paper money collection.

All are in good, crisp condition and the values vary from one million to 100 million marks.

They were not worth much towards the end of 1923 (100 million marks would scarcely purchase a slice of bread or a few grains of coffee) and despite being collectors items they are worth little more today.

Bad as the 1923 hyperinflation in Germany was, what happened in Hungary in 1946 makes it seem mild.

Flying across the financial sky the Hungarian Pengó devalued 300 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 (300 000 quintillion) times!!

That year saw the issue in Hungary of the largest nominal value of any banknote 1 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 (one octillion) Pengos!!

It would not have bought much!

What causes inflation? Take your pick from a variety of causes that lower the value of money.

Increasing prices, increasing wages, increasing credit, increasing money supply, lower production rates and higher costs.

All these and others. But the biggest cause of inflation worldwide is government!

Whatever the nation, whatever the government - it is the prime cause of inflation.

At the turn of the present century the role of the state was to administer and govern and to keep its nose out of business.

Gradually governments worldwide have increased their role in the business affairs of nations. In some cases such as the command economies of Communist nations the government is accounting for over 90 percent of the Gross National Product.

Governments have to provide vast sums for the legions of bureaucrats they employ. An endless flood of money is gobbled up by armies and police forces. None of this is productive.

Frequently governments will interfere with the running of private businesses, sometimes for valid reasons but often to the detriment of the economy. Witness the nationalization policies of the British Labour Government - ruining practically every enterprise they took over. The present Conservative Government under Mrs Thatcher is busy reversing that trend with its policy of denationalization.

Above all it is the governments of the world who control the money supply, interest rates and legislate the banking systems. They can and do create money out of nothing.

Governments may be social necessities but they are economic evils.

If we wish to look for minimum inflation we need to look for minimum government interference. Where we find this we will also find the greatest growth and highest living standards. Nations such as Japan, West Germany, Switzerland and the United States of America have cut government interference to the bone, and their economies have blossomed.

Inflation is something we will all probably have to live with for the rest of our lives. In South Africa the present rate is 17 percent and there is not much sign of it coming down.

Our one rand note issued in 1970 is larger than the present ten rand one and it would also have bought more at the time.

So how does one "hedge against inflation?" You might buy stamps, old coins, gold, property or paintings but these outlets are not always reliable.

Best "hedge" against inflation is to invest in yourself.

How?

By becoming better qualified and thus increase your earning capacity to

absorb the eroding power of inflation.

As your salary increases so will your pension for those older years.

Not only that, you can afford to take out a series of annuities over a period of time which mature, say, at age 60, 65, 70, 75 and 80.

I have done this and even at the age of 66 recently took out two further annuities which mature at age 77.

Also when you retire - don't!

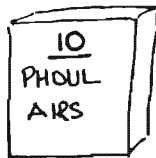
Take up some other type of work - light work with no pressure where you choose your own hours. You will earn more money and live longer.

Some people I know are still very productive and they are over 80!

Only if we all become more productive can inflation be curbed!

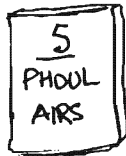
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1930



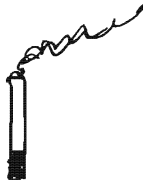
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WITH PHOUL AIR

1955



PHOUL AIR IS GOOD  
FOR YOU

TODAY



TREAT YOURSELF TO  
FOUL AIR

TOMORROW



THIS SPACE TO LET

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1935



R 2000

1955



R 2000

TODAY



R 10000

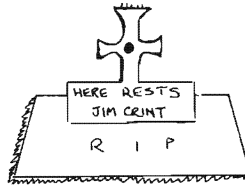
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R 10000

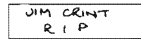
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1935



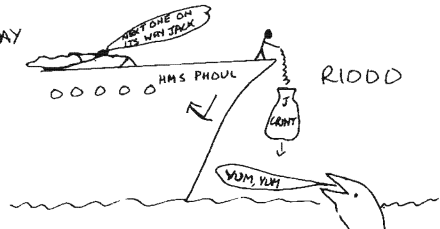
R 1000

1955



R 1000

TODAY



R 1000

**THE DRINKER'S VIEW OF INFLATION  
BEER - WHAT 5 CENTS WOULD OR WILL BUY**

1930



1955



TODAY

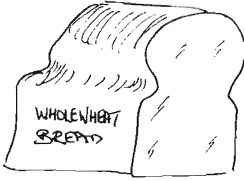


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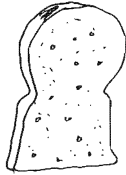


**THE GLUTTON'S VIEW OF INFLATION  
WHAT 10 CENTS WOULD OR WILL BUY**

1960



TODAY

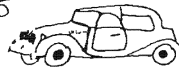


TOMORROW



**THE MOTORIST'S VIEW OF INFLATION**

1935



R400

1955



R400

TODAY



R400

SOON

LICENCE

R400

IF HYPERINFLATION  
COMES

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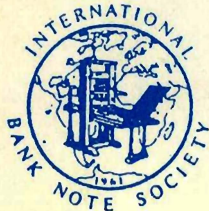
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