



Western Cape Numismatic Society

Under the distinguished patronage of Alderman Geordin Hill-Lewis, Mayor of the City of Cape Town

Seven short questions to a Fellow Collector

Question 1: Tell us about yourself.

I'm Luthando Prinsloo, born in Krugersdorp in 1958, in the then Transvaal province. I initially followed a Navy seagoing career, have lived and worked in many parts of the world, and now function as a maritime educator, leading/teaming and organisational thriving facilitator. I live with my wife and two dogs in the Republic of Vishoek.



Question 2: How and when did you become interested in collecting?

At about age ten, my parents announced one good day that I needed a hobby, and that it was going to be coin collecting. I had an early affinity for coins, from tickeys paid by the tooth fairy and hidden in Christmas puddings, to the beautiful and heavy five Shilling crowns and the big yellow one cent.

Question 3: What did you collect in the beginning?

It was easiest to collect circulation coins, most exciting during the change-over to SA's first decimal series. I was also fortunate to be supported by family and friends of family – who contributed coins from travels and adventures. In this manner I met many African and overseas coins (also from exotic places). I was happy with anything from somewhere, but gradually I became interested in groups – of countries, dates, issues, etc.

Question 4: What do you collect now, and why?

My current interest is in the Bohemian, Austro-Hungarian, Habsburg silver Maria Theresia taler (1740–1780 and 1780 restrikes). It is a fascinating and vast field, and after some time decided on a specific focus. Although I appreciate new, unblemished and proof coins, I love circulation coins as survivors and working-class heroes. I have various old and new full SA series circulation sets.

Question 5: What is the biggest challenge you currently face with your collection?

I can't discuss my Maria Theresia taler focus yet, as I intend publishing about it, and there's still much research and coin collecting ahead of me. It is challenging to find specific talers in SA, I'm therefore reliant on international auctions. It's a bit of a lonely collecting endeavour as not many people share the interest and amongst the few of us, there's fierce competition.

Question 6: What advice would you give to new collectors?

Just start collecting, whatever grabs your fancy! Then blend your research and reading in, and consult with other collectors about scarcity, value, etc. Projecting from myself; I like satisfying my heart and mind. Some coins feed my emotions, sense of art and history, others stimulate my curiosity and need for facts, figures, dates, weights, designs, etc. I'm happiest when one type of coin fully engages me. Once you enter into expensive coins, then please consider issues like security, confidentiality, return on investment, ease of reselling, etc.

Question 7: If you were to take up a new hobby, what would it be?

I have so many hobbies and interests already, that I should really rather start dropping some!

(**Webmaster's note:** Luthando is the author of the WWII-era novel "Vanished" published in 2023, a book which weaves together fact and fiction to create an engrossing tale of subterfuge, murder, and revelation.)