

THE COINAGE OF SOUTH AFRICA by DR. CLIVE GRAHAM  
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If we examine our coinage of the present day and of the recent past a number of salient facts we have come to accept as the norm are

- (i) Our coins have become tokens, i.e. the intrinsic value of their metal content is much less than their nominal value. Indeed many recent changes in our coinage have been made to ensure the continuation of this state of affairs.
- (ii) Token coins of South Africa are acceptable only in South Africa where their nominal value is legally maintained, and
- (iii) Small change is plentiful even in the remoter parts of our country.
- (iv) At any single time a single system of coinage (e.g. sterling or decimal) is in operation and orderly transitions are arranged from one type to another which then becomes universal.

Early coins at the Cape

As we now look back to trace the history of our South African coinage it is necessary to abandon any preconception that the above features of a coinage can be extrapolated backwards. Indeed, a good starting point is to note that in the early days of trading by sailing ship, in the absence of banking facilities and electronic communication, coin was the medium of exchange, and internationally-minded merchants of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were less concerned with the country of origin than with the quality of the metal and the honesty of the weight. Thus it was that an extraordinary variety of coins was brought to the early Cape, not as curiosities but for use in commerce. The term "coinage of the early Cape" is thus open to a very wide range of interpretation, for any specie of the period could have been used at the Cape. Collectors often take great pleasure in adding to their collections specimens which are known to have circulated here. In the present limited overview we concentrate on coins commonly seen at the Cape.

At the time when the Dutch Provinces first started to shake off their Spanish overlords in 1568 under the leadership of William (the Silent) of Orange, Spain and Portugal were the leading commercial forces in the world. In particular, Spain was exploiting the vast silver deposits of Peru and Mexico originally developed by the Incas, and supplied a considerable fraction of the world's coin in the form of the Spanish 8 real, or "piece of 8" which was ubiquitous in various forms for nearly three hundred years. Thus in the year 1652 when the V.O.C. sent Van Riebeeck to occupy the Cape and to establish a victualling station there for its East Indian fleet, the Spanish 8 real was the basic currency on board. There is continued reference to its use at the Cape, and records show that the British used this coin to pay their troops as late as 1810. An early form of the "piece of 8" was the "cob", [1] derived from "Cabo de barra" which translates to "end of the bar". From approximately 1580 to 1732 silver was exported from the new world in the form of cobs made by slicing planchets from the end of crudely cast bars of refined bullion, after which the planchets were clipped to the requisite weight, heated and hand-hammered between crudely engraved dies. The idea was that these pieces would be re-minted in the mother country, but they were very often used as trading pieces in the original form. One of the examples shown on slide came from the Joanna, a British ship which foundered off the Cape in 1682 and which was salvaged in

1982, three hundred years later.

The Spanish 8 real of 1691 shows the monogram of LIMA [2] in Peru, bearing witness to the origin of its silver. Later forms show the famous pillars of Hercules [3] (the rocks of Gibraltar being the end of the known ancient world; and ironically the origin of the symbol of currency \$ in the new world). All these coins were Thaler, Dollar, or crown-sized coins and a close equivalent to the British 5/- piece.

Another Spanish coin current in the Spanish Netherlands (modern-day Belgium) at the time of Van Riebeeck was the Ducatoon, [4] a silver coin slightly larger than the 8 real, and originally equal in value to the gold Ducat.

At the time of the Dutch revolt against Spain in 1568 under William of Orange, the Dutch were a small nation of traders concentrating on the distribution through Europe of goods brought from the East by Spain and Portugal. In 1581 Portuguese ports were closed to the Dutch and small Dutch companies were formed to trade independently with the East. After two decades of counter-productive competition these companies united to form the United East India Company (V.O.C.) in 1602. The Netherlands were now gaining international recognition as an independent nation, but should be regarded as a confederation of seven provinces Utrecht, Holland, Gelderland, Overijssel, Wes Friesland, Friesland and Zeeland. Starting about now the Provinces minted their own Rijksdaalders, [5,6,7] but showing on the reverse the arms of the United Netherlands, (a rampant lion facing left and holding in one claw a bunch of faggots) together with the motto of the new nation "Res Parvae Crescunt Concordia" meaning little things grow powerful through cooperation, or "Eendracht maakt macht". This was followed in 1659 by the first Ducatoon or Silver Rider, [8] also minted by the individual provinces and bearing the arms and motto of the United Netherlands. The coins of the standing knight and silver rider remained current for 140 years.

In 1681 the Dutch guilder (previously a money of account only for nearly 100 years) took physical form in the shape of one, two and three Guilders [9,10] which were introduced to the Cape. These continued current with other Dutch coins until the early 1800's. They depict the Dutch Virgin Pallas leaning on a heavily bound bible, and surrounded by the legend "Hac Nitimur, Hanc Tuemur" - From this I draw my strength, this I shall defend. Her staff is capped by the Phrygian hat symbolic of freedom. The symbolism is reminiscent of the French Revolution and hence the Statue of Liberty. At this time the monetary system in the Netherlands was:

4 Duits	= 1 Stuiver
6 Stuivers	= 1 Shelling
20 Stuivers	= 1 Gulden
50 Stuivers	= 1 Rijksdaalder (Silver Ducat)
60 Stuivers	= 1 Ducatoon (Silver Rider)

At the Cape 1 Gulden fluctuated between 24 and 20 Stuivers, and a useful point of contact with our own experience is that the stuiver was equivalent to one penny. Hence 1 Gulden is two British Shillings and the silver rider 5/-.

With this in mind it is interesting to look at the buying power of early Cape coins. In our days of inflation it is astonishing to note that diaries of 1658 and 1740 reveal that salaries and costs at the Cape remained static over this period. Typical salaries were:

Salary of sailor in service of V.O.C.	8 gulden p.m.
Salary of soldier in service of V.O.C.	9 gulden p.m.
Ship's Captain	50 - 80 gulden p.m.

Typical costs were:

Fresh mutton	3 stuivers per lb.
beef	2 stuivers per lb.
pork	4 stuivers per lb.
milk	1 stuiver per 1/2 pint
1 egg	1 stuiver
Bunch (25) carrots, parsnips, beetroot, turnips	2 to 3 stuivers (seasonal)
1 shirt	26 stuivers
slaves	50 to 75 gulden each
tobacco	6 gulden per lb.

Clearly the silver crown-sized coin of about 60 stuivers was a substantial amount of money. Smaller pieces were the coin of the little man.

From 1726 to 1794 Copper Doits, the equivalent of a farthing were minted by the Dutch Provinces [11]. Also in 1726 the V.O.C. started minting its own coins, and what were normally home Dutch coins alone now started to appear bearing the V.O.C. monogram. Silver riders, 1, 2, and 3 gulden pieces, [12] duits [13], etc. took up their places alongside the corresponding home Dutch coins, but it is believed remained in the minority. Silver varieties of the Duit which is normally copper arose from a Dutch custom in which mintmasters coined silver doits to be used as presents at the feast of St Nicholas, and are not really true currency coins.

One might imagine that the Provincial mints of the Netherlands now supplemented by the V.O.C. mints would provide ample specie for use at the Cape. This is not so. In 1781 a shortage of circulating coin at the Cape led to the introduction of the paper Rixdollar [14] equivalent to 48 stuivers. This gave physical form to the rixdollar introduced to its books by the V.O.C. as a money of account in 1705. At home in the Netherlands the export of home-Dutch coins to the colonies was prohibited in 1785, and by 1790 it was estimated that less than £500 of coin was in circulation at the Cape. In 1794 Copper bonks [15] were placed into limited use to alleviate the situation, but to no avail.

#### The First British Occupation 1795

When the British first occupied the Cape in 1795 there was a critical shortage of coin there, and it was estimated that 1 1/2 million Rixdollars of intrinsically valueless currency were in circulation. Two years later 1797 saw the production of the world's first coins mass produced by machine in the form of the cartwheel 2d and 1d [16] pieces minted in Britain by Matthew Boulton. Large quantities of the penny pieces were introduced to the Cape where they passed for two pennies. From this arises the term "dubbeltjie" coined at the Cape, not to be confused with the actual 2d cartwheel piece, twice the mass of the penny, and not in use at the Cape. Types of coin at the Cape proliferated as the authorities also put into circulation Spanish dollars (with which the troops were paid), rupees, guineas, mohurs [17], and British shillings. Yet more paper currency was issued by the British, under the seal of the V.O.C. [18], so that over two million Rixdollars were now in circulation.

### The Batavian Republic

In 1803 the Cape was handed over to the Batavian Republic which now took the place of the Dutch East India Company, and Commissioner-General de Mist and Governor Jansens took over the un-enviable task of running the Cape. De Mist disapproved of the British Cartwheel pennies in circulation, and in a bid to restore the Dutch monetary system to the Cape ordered from the Netherlands a large quantity of 1,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{8}$ , and  $\frac{1}{16}$  guilders, depicting a sailing ship, later known as scheepjies-gulders or ship-guilders [19]. The first consignment in seven cases and seven barrels was sent on to Batavia, and even a second consignment was confined to the State strong-rooms awaiting further supplies before a general issue. Ironically no further supplies arrived and it was the British who placed these coins into circulation in 1806 when they took over the Cape for a second time. Another of de Mist's projects of interest to numismatists, but which never came to fruition was to withdraw all British Cartwheel pennies and to have them restruck as coins of the Cape. The proposed design has survived [20], as have drawings of the proposed mint and machinery. In addition to the above measures old Rixdollars were recalled and replaced by a new issue of notes printed on card [21].

### The Second British Occupation

In addition to the abovementioned release of the scheepjies-guilders, the British made a further issue of Rixdollars, still with the stamp of the Batavian Republic when they occupied the Cape for a second time in 1806. Yet there remained a desperate shortage of specie and all manner of coins found their way into circulation once more. To create some order out of the reigning chaos Major General Bird, Commander-in-Chief of the Cape forces issued a proclamation (partly reproduced below) to establish fixed rates of exchange.



*"WHEREAS it is highly necessary for the prevention of all disputes, and the better regularity of trade, that the several coins of Money which are current in this Colony should have fixed and determined value assigned to them, I having taken the same into my most serious consideration, have determined, and do hereby order accordingly, that the respective values of the Coins hereafter mentioned should be as follows:*

	SHILLINGS	STIVERS	STERLING
A GUINEA	44	264	£1. 2.0
1 DOUBLOON 16 SPANISH DOLLARS	160	960	4. 0.0
A JOHANNA, 8 SPANISH DOLLARS	80	480	2. 0.0
A VENETIAN SEQUIN	19	114	0. 9.6
A DUCAT	19	114	0. 9.6
GOLD MOHUR, 15 RUPEES			1.17.6
A PAGODA	16	96	0. 8.0
A SPANISH DOLLAR	10	60	0. 5.0
A RUPEE	5	30	0. 2.6
ENGLISH SHILLING	2	12	0. 1.0
COPPER COIN		2	0. 0.2



Paper Rixdollars were issued with the Britannia stamp and troops continued to be paid in Spanish dollars. Chronic shortage of coin persisted, but a commitment to introduce British coinage could not be made until 1814 when the Cape was finally ceded and became a Colony of Great Britain. Even so it was not until 1825 that British 5/- [22], 2/6, 1/-, 6d, 1d  $\frac{1}{2}$ d and  $\frac{1}{4}$ d coins were systematically introduced in any quantity - but, as it turns out, in insufficient quantity. The Rixdollar was now declared valued at only  $\frac{1}{6}$ , despite spirited appeals by local money-lenders. Indeed in 1832 sterling paper money was introduced and 1841 was declared the last date for redeeming rixdollars. This unit of currency then remained only as a money of account amongst the Boers in the Transvaal and Orange Free State.

#### The Griqua Coinage

The British occupation of the Cape brought with it yet another interesting and important numismatic event, namely the issue of our first indigenous coinage in 1815 and 1816. At the close of the 18th century a colony of about 2600 people of mixed blood, known as the Bastards, established itself north of the Orange river and adjacent to what is now the Orange Free State. After a Baster delegation had first made contact with members of the London Missionary Society visiting the Cape in 1799 a mission station was established at Klaarwater. The concept of the noble savage, free from European sin and decadence was at its height in Europe, and the Reverend John Campbell who visited the Basters in 1812 saw in them a nobility akin the ancient Greeks. He persuaded them to drop their derogatory label and to call themselves the Griquas. Moreover he introduced a code of laws and proposed a coinage. Back in England the dies were duly sunk by Thomas Halliday, and the minted coins were dispatched to South Africa in two consignments, one in 1815 and one in 1816. There were four values, a silver 10 and 5, and copper  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  [23], presumably pence, for the coins bear no denomination. These coins are said to have circulated for no more than two years before they were melted down, but all the specimens I have seen bear witness to considerably more wear than that.

The history of West Griqualand was an unhappy one, the Griquas being harassed to an intolerable extent by land hungry Boers of the Orange Free State. In desperation they accepted the exchange of their homeland for Nomansland, sandwiched between the borders of Natal and the Cape. In 1863 they moved to what was now to be East Griqualand, where we will see them associated with other events of numismatic interest.

#### The Proliferation of Private Tokens

Repeated reference is made in South African historic documents and literature to the chronic shortage of small change that prevailed in all our provinces before the application in 1881 of the Imperial Coinage Act of 1870 to the Cape and Natal. In particular, drought and a widespread depression in the 1860's led to a critical shortage of specie which threatened to destroy any surviving trading or commercial activity. "Good-fors" [24] in the form of signed promissory notes printed on cardboard became the order of the day in the Orange Free State, but throughout the country more enterprising business organizations issued trade tokens. These can be defined as private coins issued by traders in times of acute shortage of coin of the state to enable normal trading activities to proceed. The token is a pledge, redeemable in goods or in coin of the state, i.e. either in small coin when it should become available or in available coin of larger denomination if redeemed to

equivalent face value. Daniel and Hyman of Bloemfontein [25], J.W. Irwin of Cape Town [26], Strachan and Company of Umzimkulu [27], and M. Franklin and Company of Pietermaritzburg [28] to name but a few issued token coinage of this type. Each token issue is often associated with a fascinating story and I believe the tokens of South Africa still present a wonderful opportunity for numismatic research which could be very fulfilling indeed. Besides, they have a charm and beauty of their own and are a potential source of great joy to the South African numismatist. A very useful guide in this field of collecting is Dr C.P. Theron's "Tokens of Southern Africa and their history".

### British Coinage in South Africa

British coinage which took root in the Cape in 1825 was the de-facto currency of all South Africa by 1850, and in 1881 and 1882 became the exclusive currency in the Cape and Natal respectively by enforcement then of the Imperial Coinage Act. In the Boer republics the Rixdollar had persisted as a money of account, and barter was still a prevalent way of doing business, but the coin in circulation was British, so much so that when the Transvaal contemplated its own currency it instinctively turned to the British model.

It is not surprising that the Colonies occasionally considered minting their own indigenous coins, nor it is surprising that big business was hovering in the background keen to satisfy their clients' needs. This time saw the production by Otto Nolte of Germany a range of specimen coins for three provinces [29,30,31], (excluding Natal) and for Griqua Town [32]. They were all exceptionally beautiful, and many numismatists have expressed regret that they never came to pass.

### The Burgers Pond of 1874

South Africa's first gold coin, the Burgers "Staatsponden" of 1874 [33] is a coin of great numismatic and romantic interest. It is the subject of a whole book by Matthy Esterhuizen and only the salient facts can be recorded here.

Before the discovery of gold on the Rand there were manifestations of South Africa's immense wealth in gold in the alluvial diggings of Pilgrim's Rest where large nuggets of native gold were being found in 1873. Keen to publicise his country's potential wealth President Burgers visited the gold fields in 1873 and 1874 and bought a total of 256.3 ounces of gold for the proposed minting of coin. Two nuggets, the Emma of 16 ounces and the Adeliza of 22 ounces included in this amount have a particularly romantic story.

A certain Mr Potgieter, a former parishioner of the Reverend Francois Burgers at Hanover in the Cape Province, followed his minister to the Transvaal and subsequently worked a claim in the alluvial fields of Pilgrim's Rest. After months of disappointment he decided to abandon his claim and return to Pretoria. With his whole family packed and waiting he returned to his claim in pensive mood to say a last farewell. As he idly scratched away the sand from a fissure in a large rock the two nuggets miraculously appeared. They were subsequently named after Mr Potgieter's two daughters.

Mr L.C. Wyon, illustrious die-sinker to the Royal Mint accepted the task of

sinking the Burgers dies as a private commission, and 837 pound pieces, identical in fineness, mass, and size to the British pound were minted by Ralph Heaton and Son in Birmingham. The first 695 pieces (now known as the fine beard variety) were struck with a single pair of dies, after which the obverse die broke. A further 142 pieces (the coarse beard variety) were struck with a new obverse die but with the same reverse die. The double-struck 8 in the coarse-beard is the most telling feature. Unfortunately the ponde were received by the Volksraad with considerable dissent (particularly since he had committed the indiscretion of allowing his own image to appear on it) and though the coins were declared legal tender by 21 votes to 3, no further minting was permitted. The truth is that Reverend Burgers, highly-educated and cultured was unpopular amongst his countrymen, and different standards were applied to his more popular successor Paul Kruger whose bust appeared on the next coins of the Z.A.R.

#### The Kruger coinage of the Z.A.R.

The discovery of gold in 1883 at Barberton and in 1886 on the Witwatersrand attracted an influx of fortune seekers and triggered a vast increase in commercial activity bringing with it a demand for dramatically increased quantities of coin. It was in the interests of the Z.A.R. both commercially and politically to satisfy this need, and in 1881 President Kruger granted a banking concession to the National Bank which carried with it the obligation to establish and operate a mint. Sensing possible political advantage in getting the new coinage into circulation before the election then pending Kruger hastened affairs by having the first coins struck in Germany before his own mint was operational. To some extent the operation proved a little counter-productive for the first ponde, half-ponde and crowns [34] (all minted according to the prescription of the British Coinage Act of 1870) depicted a wagon which was not the traditional Boer ossewa. Most people need a glass to see that the oxwagon on the new coins had two shafts instead of a single disselboom, and all four wheels of equal diameter, instead of two large and two small, as on the standard ossewa [35]; but Kruger's political opponents in an exaggerated outrage fanned by political nastiness seized the opportunity to create an emotional storm. Even the initials O.S. of the die sinker Otto Schulz were forced into political action to imply that Kruger was an Ox. Surprisingly the campaign had sufficient impact to lead to the withdrawal and melting down of as many coins as could be recovered. By early 1893 the Z.A.R. mint was operational and imported, redrawn dies bearing the date 1892 were used in Pretoria to produce stocks of single-shaft £1, 5/-, 2/6, 1/-, 6d, 3d and 1d pieces. There is no record that any single-shaft 10/- pieces were minted and yet a single specimen, evidently genuine, turned up mysteriously in a collection inherited by Transvaal numismatist Mr W.J.C. Menne. Last seen this coin was lost in the post when local dealer John Keogh loaned it for exhibition in Australia. A limited number of proof coins were minted in Germany and are much sought after. However, the normal coins of greatest rarity are those of 1893, since dies for this year arrived late after most of the production of that year had already been executed with dies of 1892. Due to Boer War hostilities minting was interrupted in 1898, but ceremonially re-opened in 1899 by the overstriking of a small number of 1898 Ponde with a small "99" under the bust, no dies for that year having reached Pretoria from Germany. The 1900 pond is the last coin to emerge from the Z.A.R. mint before production ceased completely due to the British advance on Pretoria. This very coin was at the centre of a numismatic storm in the late sixties when the dies were stolen and used to restrike a large number of coins. The underground mint-master made the mistake of emphasizing feathers on the eagle's breast evidently worn away with use,

but actually never present in the dies when new. A second fatal mistake was for the perpetrators to offer these coins for sale at the meetings of the Transvaal Numismatic Society normally attended amongst others by employees of the South African mint who were keen numismatists.

Blank ponde, some with rims, others without, and most with scraper marks from paring the coins down to weight were evacuated from the mint by the retreating Boers and subsequently used to pay troops or in exchange for British pounds more acceptable to black farmers selling supplies. Since they were used commercially in this way these blanks are regarded as a legitimate part of the Kruger series.

Yet another famous addition to the coins of the Z.A.R. was made in 1902 in the form of the "Veld Pond" [36], a gold £1 coin minted on improvised plant put together in the goldmine workshop at Pilgrim's Rest. About 1000 of these very interesting pieces were minted from dies made under primitive circumstances by Mr P.J. Kloppers, whose aim was to alleviate a desperate shortage of coin. Forgeries of this famous and expensive coin abound, and would-be buyers should take expert advice.

Z.A.R. coins were never demonetized, and circulated for many years thereafter alongside their British counterparts. This was nothing new, for it is estimated that even at the height of production of the Z.A.R. mint British coins circulated in the Republic in equal or even larger quantities. Indeed British coins were the medium of currency in all four provinces when they formed the Union in 1910, and continued to be so until 1923 when the South African Mint came into production.

#### Coinages of the South African Mint

As a matter of course gold mined on the Witwatersrand was exported to Great Britain for minting into sovereigns and half-sovereigns, and South Africa's gold-coin needs were re-imported. It was very profitable for the Royal Mint to operate in this way, and despite agitation by local mining and banking circles to establish our own refinery and mint the status quo was maintained until the balance was finally tipped by recognition of the unnecessary dangers involved in the old procedure in times of war. Ultimately the Pretoria Mint Act of 1919 provided for the establishment of the South African Mint at Pretoria as a branch of the Royal Mint, London. Gold refined at the Rand Refinery Ltd. (controlled by the Transvaal Chamber of Mines) would now be minted in South Africa with dies imported from the Royal Mint into sovereigns and half-sovereigns identical in every respect to those minted in London but for a small S.A. beneath the dragon. These would be legal tender anywhere alongside the London coinage.

In addition a set of indigenous South African coins from 2/6 down [37] to 1/4d along the British model could now be struck for circulation in the Union under authorization of the Union Minister of Finance. Our first coins, comprising the £1, 10/-, 2/6, 2/-, 1/-, 6d, 3d, 1d, 1/2d and 1/4d (with no crown or 5/-) appeared in 1923. Production of gold coin was suspended in 1932 when we went off the gold standard, but the South African silver and bronze continued unchanged (but for small alterations in design and a change of monarch) until 1947 when a crown or 5/- piece was added to the series.

In the early years of our coinage, especially 1923 to say 1931 very few collectors were active in South Africa consciously preserving the earlier specimens. Indeed it has been estimated that at that time there were more

collectors of S.A. outside our country than in it. As a result coins of this era are extremely hard to find in good condition. In addition, the silver coins of 1931 were minted in particularly small quantities, and normal modern-day collectors can only dream of owning coins of this year.

The South African Numismatic Society based in Cape Town was established in 1941, followed by the Transvaal Numismatic Society (formerly the Johannesburg Numismatic Society) in 1948. Our first catalogue published by Dr Stan Kaplan appeared in 1949. Even so, silver coins of the era 1939 - 1950 are particularly rare, partly because of the direct effects of war, but particularly due to the fact that the Uranium enrichment process for the atomic bomb called for many tons of silver in the construction of the necessary apparatus. When leaders of the Manhattan Project approached the American Mint for a number of tons of silver they were initially rebuffed in a letter stating that "At the mint we speak in ounces".

The presence of organized numismatic bodies in South Africa led directly to the production of our South African crown when a deputation of numismatists successfully induced Mr J.P. Roux, Master of the Mint, to issue a crown-sized coin on the occasion of the Royal Visit in 1947. Mr Roux approached the Project with great enthusiasm, and it was he who suggested to Coert Steynburg, his chief die sinker, the design of the "pronking" springbok [38]. It was also Mr Roux who inadvertently helped create the great rarity of our crown series; for in 1959, in a desire to publicise the mint, he took almost the whole crown mintage to pay for his travel and accommodation on a long holiday to Lorenzo Marques. Near the end of his supplies he received a telephone call to tell him that the dies for this coin had all broken, and that production had ceased.

Rising world silver prices forced the reduction of the fineness of our silver coin from 800 to 500 in 1951, and so it remained until 1964. With the lower fineness the coins would normally have appeared rather brown and coppery, so blanks were initially pickled in nitric acid to leach out the superficial copper, leaving a whiter spongelike surface onto which the image was then struck. As a result the worn surfaces of circulated coins of this era are unattractively brown, and tarnish very readily, so that collectors are well advised to collect uncirculated specimens where possible.

#### Decimal coins of South Africa

Decimalization of our coinage was first contemplated seriously in 1932 and a few pattern coins have survived to tell the tale. Thereafter decimalization committees and boards met in 1945 and 1946, and the Decimalization Board which finally steered us to D-day in 1961 was constituted in 1959. Our first series of decimal coin stuck slavishly to the old British sterling pattern, in mass, dimension and even in design [39], except that there were no decimal equivalents of the old 2/6 or 1/4d pieces; and the bronze 1d and 1/2d changed to brass 1c and 1/2c equivalents. The coins circulated from 1961 to 1964, when virtually every country in the world abandoned the use of silver for its every-day circulating coin. Now came our first distinct break from the British pattern. There were two one-rand coins, one in gold (the equivalent of the old 10/-) and a completely new 800-fine silver rand which was to circulate in the early days at face value. The 50c, 20c, 10c, and 5c were pure nickel. Even though we have nickel mines of our own and actually produce this metal, our product is too hard for the mintage of coin due to the presence of natural impurities; and it proved economic for many years to import our nickel from Canada. There

it is mined in an extraordinarily pure state from what is believed to be the body of a gigantic meteorite which once embedded itself into our Earth. Fracture lines from the impact are clearly visible in satellite photographs of the region. So, our first nickel coins were literally out of this world - a factor which has now very sadly led to their demise, as the price of Canadian nickel has soared to levels where the metal content of our coin is greater than the face value. Thus we are busy entering yet another era in our numismatic history as we change over to much cheaper plated coins.

Items of outstanding beauty and interest in our most recent numismatic past are the silver one rand pieces [40] which include many interesting and varied designs, many of them commemorative in nature. Viewed en masse a proof set of these coins is a true numismatic delight. Looking to the future South African numismatists have campaigned and lobbied for the return of a crown-sized silver coin depicting scenes and events which are typically South African, and indications are that this very interesting numismatic event in our history is about to occur.

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Addendum - Pictures added by WCNS that corresponds with reference no's found in the lecture

<u>No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Photo source</u>
1	Piece of 8 "cob"	vosper4coins.co.uk
2	The Spanish 8 real of 1691 showing the monogram of LIMA in Peru	coinsbook.net
3	Later forms (of the 8 Reales) show the famous pillars of Hercules	NGC
4	Spanish Netherlands Ducatoon at the time of Van Riebeeck	VCoins
5	Rijksdaalder Gelderland 1617	NGC
6	Rijksdaalder Overijssel 1620	NGC
7	Rijksdaalder Zeeland 1660	NGC
8	Ducatoon or Silver Rider Holland 1660	Fritz Rudolf Künker
9	1 Gulden 1681 & 2 Gulden 1687	Numista
10	3 Gulden 1687	Numista
11	Gelderland Doit 1786	MS Shops
12	Silver VOC Rijder 1738	Numista
13	V.O.C. Doits from various provinces	WCNS
14	Cape paper Rixdollar notes	WCNS
15	Copper Bonks	rarecoinsandtokens.co.uk
16	Cartwheel 1d and 2d	Reddit
17	Left to right: Indian gold Mohur and silver Rupee and English gold Guinea	Katz auctions & Sovereign Rarities
18	Paper currency was issued by the British, under the seal of the V.O.C.	C.L. Engelbrecht
19	1, ½, ¼ 1/8 1/16 scheepjes-gulders	C.L. Engelbrecht
20	De Mist proposed design of the Cape coinage	C.L. Engelbrecht
21	Rixdollars printed on card	Bank Note Museum
22	British 5/- of 1822	Numista
23	Griqua silver 10 and 5, and copper 1/2, and 1/4	WCNS
24	Orange Free State Good Fors	C.L. Engelbrecht
25	Daniel and Hyman of Bloemfontein token	Bobshop
26	J.W. Irwin of Cape Town token	Numista
27	Strachan and Company tokens	Bobshop
28	M. Franklin and Company token	Bobshop
29	Otto Nolte specimen Cape Colony 1d	Heritage
30	Otto Nolte specimen OFS 1d	Numista
31	Otto Nolte specimen Transvaal 1d	Numista
32	Otto Nolte specimen Griquatown 1d	Numista
33	Burgers "Staatsponden" of 1874	Coinweek
34	ZAR Double shaft Pond, Half Pond and 5/- (Not to scale)	Pegasus Auctions and Heritage
35	Standard ossewa with two large and two small wheels	WEET & X-Com
36	Veld Pond	Numista
37	1923 set 2/6 down to 1/4d	WCNS
38	The design of the "pronking" springbok	Francois Malan
39	1961 our first series of decimal coins	Russell Kaplan Auctions
40	Silver one rand commemorative pieces	Numista



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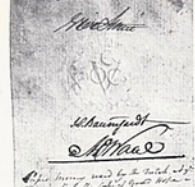
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The painting of the springbok by Jan van Zyl.



The design of the springbok as it appeared on the R1 coin.

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