



The Buckeye Searcher

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England's Treasures

The topic of this months meeting will be metal detecting in England. Several of our club members will discuss metal detecting in England and bring in some of the items they found. Finds include coins, buttons, lead items and many artifacts. England has a very long history that spans Neolithic times (stone tools). Bronze Age, Roman occupation (2,000 years ago), Viking, Saxon, Middle Ages as well as Georgian and Victorian periods. The club members will also discuss the Treasure Laws that govern finds as well as the relatively good relationship the Hunters have with archaeologists.

This should be very interesting and informative. Come and find out what treasures other countries have and how you could go on a trip to find these types of artifacts too.

Find of the Month:August

<u>Coins Non Silver</u>	<u>Coins Gold or Silver</u>
<u>Joe Franchino- 1943 Centavo 32 Points</u>	<u>Joe Franchino-4 Silver coins 38 points</u>
<u>Jewelry</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>
<u>Rick Culp- 10 KT Gold ring 37 points</u>	<u>Joe Franchino – Silver spoon</u>
<u>Bill Akers-14K Gold Ring 24 pts</u>	<u>38 pts</u>
<u>Joe Franchino - Silver Girl Scout Ring</u>	
<u>14 pts</u>	

**Don't forget to renew your memberships! Just send in the form on
the last page or bring it with you at the next meeting.**

This is a recent article from Western and Eastern Treasure Magazine

Detecting Expeditions To England

By Peter D. Spencer



Although I took up metal detecting only three years ago, I have found it to be an absolutely fascinating pastime and now take every opportunity to inform others about what I regard as the best hobby in the world. This short article, therefore, is aimed at spreading the word even wider- in particular, to those in the U.S. who may be considering a detecting trip here to England.

Organized Tours

Articles about organized detecting trips to England were published most recently in the February and June 1999 issues of W&ET. As these covered the subject fairly thoroughly, I will only mention the most important points that prospective visitors to England should keep in mind.

First, it is vital that tours/trips should only be booked through a reputable firm. Ask around and seek the advice of others, especially at the club and Federation level. Good news travels fast, but bad news moves even faster. After a few conversations, letters, and telephone calls, you should not only have found out who the good guys are, but also who is to be avoided at all costs.

The best tour operators will provide you with all the information you need to make your trip a happy and productive one. You should be given information about the U.K. Treasure Act; the locations of the sites available for detecting on; details of how your finds will be recorded; and, last but not least, the need for an official Export License for certain items. An Export License is required for any object more than 50 years old found in U.K. soil or territorial waters.

Here are some links for metal detecting trips to England:

<http://metaldetectingtours.com/>

http://www.jimmysierra.com/tour_info.htm

<http://www.eurodetectorshop.com/lp/metal-detecting-trips-in-england.htm>

Reputable firms also arrange associate membership of the NCMD (National Council for Metal Detecting) for their clients, and each detectorist should be given a copy of the NCMD Code of Conduct. The very best tours lay on other activities besides detecting: visits to historic sites and locations, evening talks and lectures, and excursions through scenic countryside. This added bonus is particularly

welcome for non-detecting members of a party. In fact, the best tours offer such an enticing itinerary that I wouldn't mind booking a place on one myself!

Do-it-yourself Trips

Package tours are not to everyone's taste, of course. Some like to go it alone and make their own arrangements. Actually, this can be fairly easy, provided that a reasonable number of contacts have been made with English detectorists.

A good way to start making such contacts is to join the NCMD. Through the General Secretary of this organization you can obtain the names and addresses of numerous metal detecting clubs and federations dotted about England. Contact can then be made with individual clubs which are situated in areas of particular interest. Ask, in a letter to club secretaries, for the names and addresses of members who would be interested in corresponding with detectorists in the U.S. In this way you should soon be swapping mail with English enthusiasts.



Although Roman coins occasionally come out of the ground in superb condition (center), most are heavily oxidized or encrusted.

Once you have developed a few friendships with English detectorists in various parts of the country, then it should be possible to start planning a trip. Many clubs over here have outings every weekend. Additionally, individual detectorists, especially those who are retired from work (of whom there are many), often go out detecting on weekdays.

One thing I learned very quickly when I first took up metal detecting is that participants in the hobby are a very friendly bunch. They are always willing to pass on knowledge, tips, and advice; and many are even prepared to share their sites-provided, that is, that the landowner is also in agreement.

Assuming that friendships have been formed, and plans made well enough in

advance, then a do-it-yourself detecting trip to England can be a sound alternative to an organized tour. Flights and accommodation would need to be arranged, but there are plenty of hotels in the provinces which, for the most part, are substantially cheaper than those in London. If you are really lucky, you may even get to stay with a detectorist or two.

Those who go it alone should bear in mind that they can't just detect anywhere, however. All land is owned by someone or something; so, permission from the landowner is a first priority before your search begins.



Places To Search

Roughly speaking, the areas most productive in the widest range of finds are the southern and central regions of England, and eastern coastal regions up to just north of the river Humber. This is because more people have lived and worked there over a greater period in time than in other parts of the land.

Tour operators usually try to find land in the areas which are expected to be more productive in finds. While this approach often does lead to a wide range of coins and artifacts being found, that is certainly not always the case.

From various sources, we now know a great deal about human activity in England during past ages. However, there is much yet to learn- particularly about the Celtic, Roman, and Anglo-Saxon periods. Our knowledge of the activities, settlement, and movement of our ancestors is constantly being expanded through work done by historians and archaeologists, often based on new evidence unearthed by detectorists.



In a land of such long and diverse history, all kinds of artifacts are likely to surface. This assortment includes examples from Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Medieval, and later eras.

The point I wish to make is that although there is a better chance of making finds in certain parts of England, do not be put off searching areas where there is supposed to be little chance of finding anything. For example, I have searched a site in Yorkshire on three occasions which is close to a stately home, a ruined abbey, and a Norman castle... and found nothing of note. In contrast, another site in Yorkshire, miles away from the nearest town, has produced an exceptional range of finds from Celtic times onward.



High on most English searchers' wish lists are Anglo-Saxon coins. The two largest in this group are silver pennies of Aethelred II and Cnut.

Recoveries & Records

Roman coins and artifacts can be found just about anywhere- but, of course, in greater quantities in some places than others. Anglo-Saxon material is much scarcer. This is due to the shift away from a cash economy and the less ostentatious culture and society of the Anglo-Saxons. Far more artifacts than coins

are found dating from the late Saxon period up to the last quarter of the 12th century. During the latter period there was a definite shift toward a cash economy, and finds of coins from this time onwards are just as common as artifacts.

Newcomers to detecting are often surprised by some of their coin-related finds. Jettons dating from Medieval times to the Stuart period are often unearthed. These are usually classed as reckoning counters (for adding up sums on a counting board) but have been discovered in such quantities that some scholars believe they must have been used as currency. Foreign coins, dating from the medieval period to quite modern times are often unearthed. These made up for shortages of native small change during times past. Irish and Scottish coins also circulated in England. Then there are forgeries, the early ones being quite scarce, but those dating from the early 19th century being very common indeed.

Visitors, therefore may be surprised not only by where they find things, but what they find, too. Nevertheless, don't be disappointed if you don't find anything special. Some English detectorists have been searching for years and have yet to unearth a truly rare coin.

Up to fairly recently, it was often difficult for detectorists to find a person or institution who would record their finds. However, this situation was remedied when the Treasure Act came into force in 1997. A number of regions then appointed Finds Liaison Officers whose job it is to record finds. These officers, who are mostly trained archaeologists, also offer valuable help in the identification and dating of coins and artifacts. This scheme has worked well, is expanding all the time, and is helping in no small way to expand our knowledge of the past.

The best tour operators work in conjunction with the Finds Liaison Officers, thereby ensuring that an accurate record is made of any significant find. It is worth mentioning here that visitors should have all their finds examined by an expert. Something which appears to be nothing special may, in fact, turn out to be quite important.



If your vacation itinerary won't permit a visit to the Continent, don't worry. Coins from many European nations end up in England. Who knows? You might even find old U.S. silver that's eluded you back home, such as the 1839-O dime included here.

Helpful Contacts

When considering a tour operator, seek recommendations from others before making a firm booking. If you decide to go it alone, then start making contacts and developing relationships well in advance.

The best tour operators will tell you all about the Treasure Act and provide you with application forms for Export Licenses. Visitors from the U.S. who wish to eventually take possession of finds made in England must have an Export License. Those attempting to export goods without a valid license risk confiscation of their finds and prosecution.

Bear all these points in mind, and your detecting expedition to England will be trouble free and, hopefully, productive in finds.

First contact for NCMD: Trevor Austin, NCMD General Secretary, 51, Hilltop Gardens, Denaby, Doncaster DN12 4SA, England. Phone 01709 868521.

For Export License applications: Mrs. Margaret Cates, Export Licensing Unit, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, 2-4, Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DH. Phone 0171 211 6166 or 6164 or 6168. A booklet about the Treasure Act is also available from this address.

For advice about detecting tours to England: David Barwell, Barnwell, Front Street, Ringwould, Deal, Kent CT14 8HP. Phone 01304 366365.

Up Coming Events

September 16th-Our Club Hunt at the Polo fields

Competition Hunts Calendar

27th Annual Buckeye Championship Treasure Hunt

August 19th and 20th in New Concord, Ohio

Contact Donald Hayes (740) 872-4217

FMDAC Fall Convention and Treasure Expo on Nov 10th, 11th, and 12th at the Bay Watch Resort North Myrtle Beach, SC.

Contact Duane Biller (724) 439-1380 or

Jill Mc Feeders at (330) 364-1608

Fall is soon approaching. Get out and do some detecting before that snow arrives!!



Membership Renewal Form-June 2007

Applicants agree to abide by club rules and show good fellowship and to participate in club activities. No member will do anything to harm or degrade the Club's name or reputation and will work toward the preservation of the same.

Name (Print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (Area code included) _____

Cell Phone _____

E-Mail

Address _____

FMDAC MEMBERSHIP () Yes () No (\$5.00 Fee to join)

Ok to publish your home phone number and e-mail? () Yes
() No

Type of membership: Individual (\$15.00) _____ Family
(\$25.00) _____ senior over 70 (\$10.00) _____ Senior Family
(\$15.00) _____

For a family please list your spouse and your children and their ages:

Please make check payable to Tammy Kepler and mail to 39064 East River Road Elyria, Ohio 44035 or bring to a monthly meeting.

Dealers who support our club
Silver Eagle and Gold Coin Shop
4979 West 130th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44235
Jose Ortiz Phone: 216-267-6760

If you have anything you would like to sell or share with the club you can contact me (the editor).

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