

Golden Times

Newsletter of the
World Goldpanning Association



Autumn 2010





Welcome!

Welcome in the first Golden Times issue from the new board! We have worked hard to put together this issue and hope you will all enjoy it.

We would like to thank all the people who submitted articles and other contributions. It is because of you that it is such a nice issue!

If you feel inspired to make a contribution and share a great story or picture with the goldpanning world in the next edition of Golden Times, please send it to

esther@worldgoldpanningassociation.org

Golden greetings,
Your Communications Committee:

Esther van Diggelen
Georgina Friend
Gonneke Cornelisse
Kim Hillier

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1. Let me tell you...

Dear Friends,
Although winter is almost upon us, my thoughts and very probably yours too are still full of the colours and flavours of the last World Championships. It was an excellent event, organised to the highest standards by our Czech and Slovak friends. There was marvellous participation by both competitors and public as well as great support from the Zlaté Hory local Administration. So it's a good memory to treasure in our hearts for a long time to come.

Personally, I now intend spending some time collecting and cataloguing the hundreds of photos

taken in Zlaté Hory itself and in Prague on my way there; photos with all the friends who shared the journey from Italy with me and also the hundreds of friends I met up with again at the competition arena. I'd like to savour them during the winter months ahead, when the weather confines us to the house and when going on the river is not an option...

The year which has just concluded in Zlaté Hory (doesn't it seem as if the World Championships were a new kind of New Year's Eve party? –don't YOU think so too?) brought many changes and innovations to our Association. In the first place this

magazine, the Golden Times, is now in the hands of Esther who will lead a new Communications team and I'd like to wish them the very best in their endeavours to publish two issues a year so that you, dear readers and gold prospectors, will be kept better informed.

The greatest number of changes were introduced during the A.G.M. where we modified a series of rules that for years had needed clearing up – off with the dust!!

From now on we will have World Championships that are more complete in that all categories will assign a world title including, let us

not forget, the Classic. This brings to an end years of discussion and trials as it will now to all intents and purposes be an official category. I would first like to thank the W.G.A. Board whose members supported my requests and who gave due consideration to the wishes of many participants. Then I would like to extend my thanks to all the delegates who attended the A.G.M. in Zlaté Hory and who took an active part in the deliberations and in the rapid adoption of the innovations. Their spirit of participation and cooperation pleased me greatly and showed me all that is good about our Association as regards both ideas and people.

The W.G.A. that I see is an organisation open to new ideas and change, where there is a global exchange of information and where anybody can, openly and

without qualms, make proposals and have discussions with Board members on any topic related to gold prospecting, competitions and rules, by-laws and roles.

Holding a position within the W.G.A. does not and should never entitle one to privileges but, if anything, should denote a willingness to serve, upholding the roles and duties necessary for the correct functioning of the Association and giving maximum support to local organisers of European and World events in such a way as to obtain the best results. Such results should be interpreted in both a strictly organisational sense but also on a political level where they enhance the image of and win favour for the nations making up the W.G.A.

I again thank all those of

you who opted for change and in so doing, took risks but, as I said during the meeting, nothing lasts forever and, if the purpose of the changes is to improve, then I will never be the one to oppose them. What is important is that the objective must be to improve and not merely to change.

As we approach the year's end- the calendar year, that is- I would like to wish all of you and your families a happy Christmas time in the company of friends and relations. ...And may the new year, apart from taking us back again after 10 years to Zlotoryja, fill our pans with gold chips and new golden friends. Why not?

See you in the next issue of the Golden Times in spring 2011.

Ciao,
Arturo

**“Zlaté Hory
is a good
memory to
treasure in
our hearts”**



2. North Queensland Goldpanning Championships 2010

The tablelands township of Mareeba, in North Queensland has played host to the NQ Championships for last 10 years. Since its inception in 2000, the championship has attracted a steady number of return panners and enticed newcomers into the competitive side of gold panning. North Queensland has a colourful mineral history and Mareeba was the gateway to the well known Palmer River Gold rush of 1873 with Tin; Zinc, Copper and Gold all firmly cementing their places in North Queensland Mining history.

It was here in 2007 that I had my first taste of competition gold panning. My efforts in 2007 were nothing short of slow and painful. But with firm coaching from my husband Kim Hillier, I have continued to improve on both my time and recovery.

The wonderful thing to see at any gold panning event is that age or gender is no barrier. At this year's event ; 90 year old Tim Land blitzed a very fast field of young and seasoned gold panners to claim the Open Title. When I spoke with Tim after his presentation, I noted that he still pans with a classic Klondike pan. Tim is living proof is that technique is definitely the name of the gold panning game. Ralph De Lacy –

Chairman of the North Queensland miner's Association and his crew of volunteers continue to host a wonderful event that aims to serve small miners and prospectors and gold panning enthusiasts such as myself.

Also amongst the crowd, were seasoned world Gold Panning participants Fred and Gloria Olsson. They wowed the crowd with their speed and their knack for quick recovery, and their Ferrari pans enticed many onlookers to take an interest in the day's proceedings.

Gloria went on to claim the Skill Women's Title and I am excited to have placed second to her. We had already panned off against each other in the Australasian Finals in March. It's safe to say that I am well and truly addicted to this sport and attending regional gold panning events provides the opportunity to come together and enjoy the competitive atmosphere.

Georgina Friend



A sport for all ages!



The winner takes it all



Fred Olsson in competition mode



Practice makes perfect

3. 10 years of fun

As it was suggested to me, I thought it could indeed be a good idea to recall a few good memories about the ten years the Belgian Goldpanning Championship lasted.

It all started in September 2000 an apocalyptic year as it was because it never stopped raining and the courageous competitors were drenched from head to toes. There were only Belgian panners because I knew that if we wanted to have at least once a Belgian national champion we had to keep the foreign panners away for one time. Don't blame me! Hardly anybody in Belgium had ever panned in river, let alone taken part in any panning competition.

So only the second year was an open competition and a few countries were already represented (France with the faithful Bonnaire Family, Germany, Luxemburg, ... Amongst them were also the Netherlands, attending their second or third competition ever (Rookies newbies but champions to be as we all have witnessed since then) I especially remember Sam Sosef who couldn't care less about winning or competing against the time and smoking a cigarette on the bench looking amused at the frantic competitors. Yes, he has changed a lot ...

Then we grew organized and we tried to make of every edition a better one. Having started from a field open to anybody we ended up with a free camping ground with electricity, toilets and running water. The panning troughs were also more and more controlled. Since we panned in the river we had to try to keep the water level as correct as possible which proved a feat in times of heavy rain (It tends to happen quite often in Belgium).

We also tried all sorts of sands and gold flakes. We combined as much as we could a strict observation of the international rules and our own logistic and economic possibilities. In the beginning some competitors found bits of bricks in their sand or some unwanted gold flakes. Every error was corrected and we learned as competitions went. The competitors were great, almost every of them very understanding and benevolent. People extremely rarely got upset and we had a good time every year we met. This was also the occasion to make new friendships, share experience and most of all have a lot of fun.

It is also during those championships that Belgium invented the almost world famous Night Beer panning which meant panning for gold in a

servicing tray after having drunk the beer mugs that were on it. Some drank fast, some panned fast, few did both well and efficiently but what a laugh. This will be the memory I'll keep. We had a good time!

Thanks to all those who made it possible. Competitors, organizers and spectators.

Finally, I take advantage of this occasion to congratulate and encourage all the organizers of all the goldpanning competition across the world. It is a very difficult job and we owe you a lot of fun. Thank you!

Bruno van Eerdenbrugh



“It was during those championships that Belgium invented the world famous Night Beer panning!”





10 years of fun during the day





10 years of fun during the night



4. South African National Championships: All the winners!

Another marvellous National Gold Panning Championship took place during Heritage weekend in the quaint town of Pilgrim's Rest. Close to a 1,000 eager participants came from all over the country to be part of the South African Championships. It was organised by the Dept. of Culture, Sport and Recreation in co-operation with the South African Gold Panning Association (SAGPA).

The 926 official goldpanners who registered, are nearly a 150 more than those who participated in this event in 2009... a sure sign that goldpanning is alive and well in South Africa! Goldpanning has been recognised as a world sport already 33 years ago and it is being practised by at least 23 countries. It is

also very much a cultural event, as it revives the many memories of the early diggers all over the world.

The weekend of the 23 – 26 September started off with the very popular Street Parade. Dignitaries like Dr. Mafika Lubisi, Chief Director of Cultural Affairs in the Dept. of Culture, Sport and Recreation as well as Mrs. Patience Chima, Ward Councillor in the Thaba Chweu Municipality, were transported to the Gold Panning site in Vintage cars.

Floats from Down Town, the Diggers Daughters as well as TGME formed part of the street parade. They were joined by Staff from The Royal Hotel, Wheelbarrow Patterson and the scholars from the Pilgrim's Rest Primary



School. The different goldpanning teams added lustre and colour to the parade.

At the Gold Panning site, a programme of entertainment awaited the excited crowd. The JDP Group opened the Championship with their beautiful version of the National Anthem. The Diggers Daughters (can can girls) gave a lively show

"In 2012 the World Goldpanning Championships will be held right here in Pilgrim's Rest!"





and were clearly a crowd favourite. Ms. Sendra Mthuke, Chairman of SAGPA, was guided to the stage by the Ithumeleng Choir. Dr. Mafika Lubisi delivered the keynote address and subsequently wished all the goldpanners a successful panning weekend.

The crowd was there to stay and they were not disappointed. They were entertained by the Ga Pharea Traditional dancers, the Aaja Nachle Indian dancers as well as the hip hop rock group Blue Noise. The opening event was concluded by the Phoenix Fire and Drum group. And then it was back to business on Friday, as the gold panning started in earnest.

During Friday, Saturday as well as Sunday each and every goldpanner did their utmost best to win his / her specific category, be it Proficient men / Ladies, Juniors, Traditional panning, 3 man team / 5 man team, the couples category or in the veteran section.

And the winners who won tickets to attend the World Gold Panning Championships in Poland in 2011, were:

Proficient men:

- Coen Vermaak
- Danny Brink
- Bright Malatjie
- Dave Khatz

Proficient Ladies:

- Sendra Mthuke
- Essie Mogane
- Kyla Goodwin
- Joyce Mashego

Juniors:

- Filile Mathebula
- Primrose Mohlala
- Bridgetee Mashailenem
- Dian van Heerden

Traditional panning:

- Chester Mukutu
- Carmen Goodwin

Veterans:

- Francois Groenewald
- Elna Gundry Barrows

All the participants and the whole of Pilgrim's Rest would like to thank each and everyone who worked so hard to make this Championship such a



success and everyone is already looking forward to the competition in 2011.

And then in 2012, the WORLD GOLD PANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS will be held right here in Pilgrim's Rest!

Isabel Jacobs



5. Visit to a quarry in Xanten, Germany

Ever since I caught gold fever in Arrowtown, New Zealand I try increase my gold collection with as many different samples as possible. Preferably also originating from many different countries.

Normally, I combine the urge to collect more gold with a goldpanning competition somewhere in Europe. In this way we have collected nice samples from Slovakia, Italy, Switzerland, Austria and Belgium. Although the gold from Belgium is very small and difficult to find, several years of perseverance result in a nice sample for the collection! Occasionally I trade some, receive presents and buy some gold and before you know it you have your own small gold museum!

In an attempt to add to the collection I planned a trip to Xanten in Germany. The old town of Xanten once was a Roman border town along side the river Rhine. Nowadays it is located in the proximity of

a sand and gravel quarry – a Sand und Kiesgrube. This company collects sand and gravel from the river using suction pumps. This material is then transported and processed to separate the sand and gravel. And as we gold diggers know this sand and gravel also contains plenty of gold dust, very very fine, but pretty!

We tried our luck there – plenty of goldbearing sand. Normally people panned for gold underneath the conveyor belt. Due to the shaking of the belt light material is shaken of the belt, leaving the heavy material, like gold and heavy minerals behind. The most heavy material is concentrated at the end of the conveyor belt – the best place to look for gold.

Luckily the quarry had moved a kilometer and left some kind of elevator behind from which we were allowed to get sediment.





The places around the conveyor were very poor in gold content, but this elevator machine turned out to be a real goldmine!

Apart from buckshot, plummet, corroded lumps and even a spanner the machine contained loads of black sand, which is a good indicator for gold in this setting. And yes, after washing black sand away, the gold literally floated in my pan. The gold dust is so small that its weight is not able to break the surface tension of the water and therefore floats.

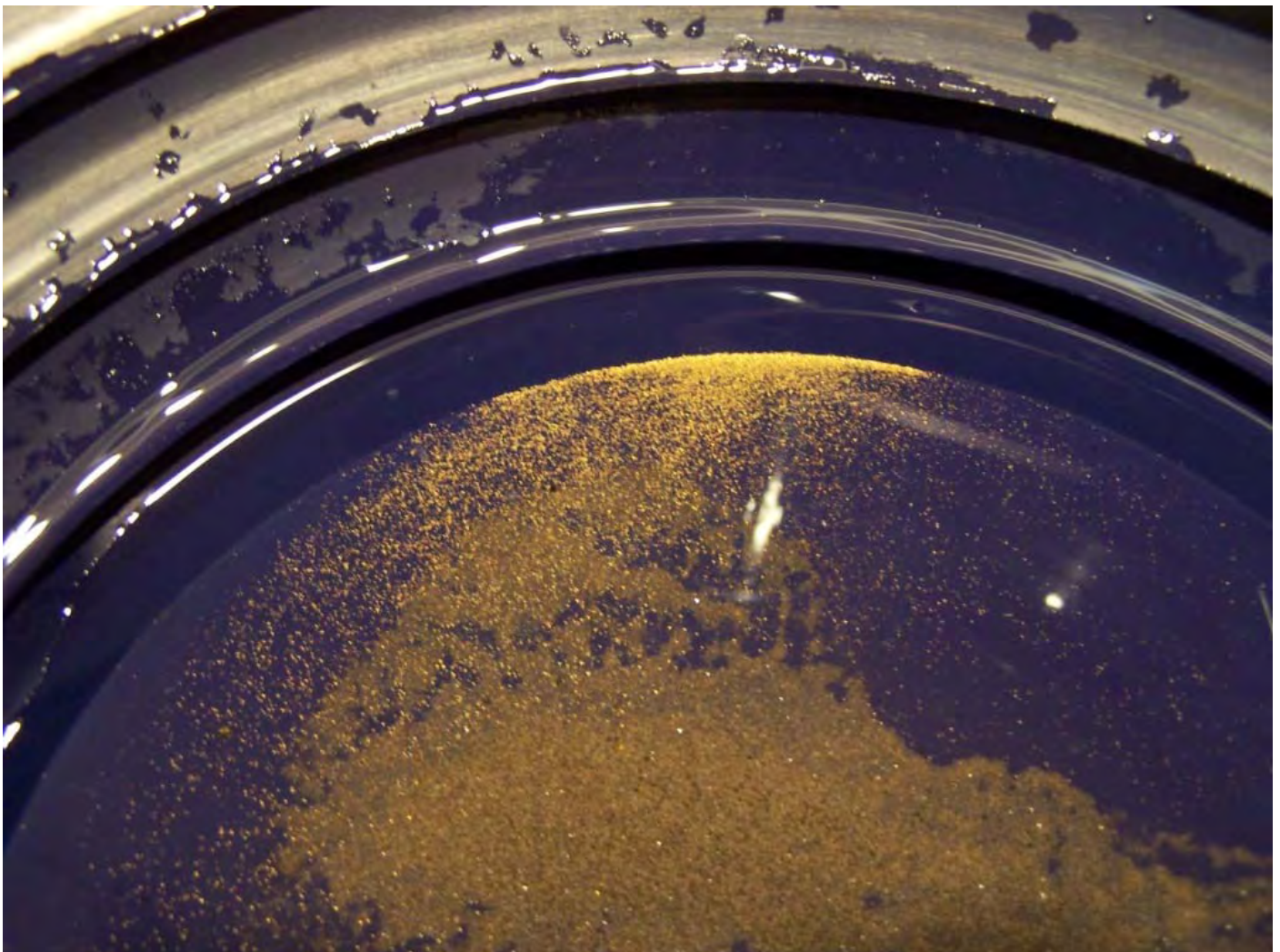
After a couple of hours I quitted and headed home – tired, but satisfied with in

my eyes a nice sample for my collection. When my little museum is ready it will get a special place. If you would like to come by and admire it, please make an appointment and you are more than welcome!

Frenk Hink



“This machine turned out to be a real gold mine!”



6. Australasian Goldpanning Championships, Ballarat, 2010

The shores of Lake Wendouree in Ballarat provided the perfect backdrop for a renaissance in Australia's gold panning circuit. The Australasian Championships was literally the first cab off the rank for Aussie gold panning events. World Gold Panning personality Gerard Tobin emceed, whilst (X) men, women and children got down and dirty in an effort to claim the title of 2010 Australasian Champion.

This year the Open Winner won a return ticket to the 2010 World Goldpanning Championship in Zlate Hory. However, the gold panner had to secure the win by performing the best aggregate time in the Skilled and the Classic (traditional) pan A total of 90 competitors from regional Victoria, Queensland and even New Zealand converged in the troughs with their sights set firmly on the shiny gold stuff, and the top prize.

This year the pressure was on with the Trans-Tasman Challenge. Australian and New Zealand have always shared a healthy sense of rivalry in all things competitive with gold panning being no different.

Gold panners lined the bays as Gerard Tobin engaged the crowd. Amongst the sloshing water; scattering buckets

and jeering, battle lines were clearly drawn. It seemed almost unpatriotic to allow a visitor to our shores to depart with the coveted title and trophy. Even though our Kiwi gold panners were outnumbered in the event they let their pans and quick hands do the talking. Hopefully in 2011, the Aussie participants can recover their pride and the coveted Trans-Tasman trophy.

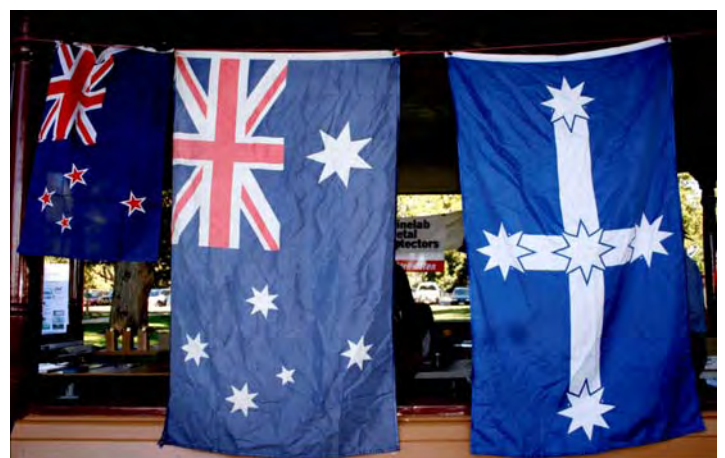
A bevy of sponsors jumped on board to throw their support behind a new rejuvenated championship and many thanks must be passed on to Marcus Binks, President of the Victorian Gold Panning Association for hosting a fantastic event.

Besides gold panning, competitors and spectators participated in a "stake your claim". A section of land is marked out and the treasure is registered at predetermined coordinate. Participants had to stake their claim as close to the coordinates to claim the prize, which consisted of a \$500 voucher from an Outdoor Adventure company. Winners from all categories received, trophies, medals and a gift bag of prizes from the sponsors. At the end of the day, Fred and Gloria Olsson dominated the

podium with top placings in the 3 person team challenge, Women's Skilled, and Veteran's category while Marcus Binks was crowned the overall Australian Champion. Another highlight worth mentioning is the midas touch of Giulio Rasmini. Giulio took out the Men's Skilled event and admitted to not touching a pan for a number of years. Clearly, he hasn't lost his touch, beating competitors in a clean cut time of 2:52:40. Events such as these engage the community in an important part of our mining and prospecting heritage whilst bringing together old and new friends.

Georgina Friend

"Even though our kiwi gold panners were outnumbered in the event, they let their pans and quick hands do the talking!"



The New Zealand & Australian Flags hang respectfully alongside a reminder of the Eureka Stockade of 1854.

9. Winterpanning in Czech Republic

Když konečně trochu přituhlo, domluvili jsme s Honzou výpravu na zlatonosná pole do okolí českého Dawson City – Velké Lečice. Zdržel jsem se v práci - zdejší zlatonosná pole přece jen neposkytují dostatek zlata na obživu.

Na břehu nejmenovaného přítoku Klondiku (Kocáby) již hořel oheň, ale před námi byla dlouhá a hlavně studená zimní noc.

As soon as the temperature was finally well below the freezing point, we went at the goldfields surrounding Czech Dawson City – Velka Lecice. I was delayed in the office, local goldfields are not rich enough for full-time goldpanning.

The campfire on the bank of an unnamed tributary of Klondike (Kocaba river) was already lighted, but we had awaited a long and cold winter night.

Zajištění ohně bylo samozřejmě prioritou č. 1, šli jsme připravit nějaké dříví.

Fire is priority No. 1, of course.

Že Honza UMÍ připravovat skvělé bowlle je obecně známo, ale horká varianta byla opravdu znamenitá.

It is known, that Honza prepares an excellent bowls, but the hot one was really exceptional.



Před půlnocí se nečekaně objevil kolemjdoucí Tom a přidal se k našemu táborovému ohni. Nebyli jsme napevno domluveni a tak jeho největší obava byla, že bychom akci vzdali. *Tom unexpectedly appeared in our camp before midnight. We did not settle the meeting for sure, so his major fear was that we had given up the trip.*

Než Honzovi umrzly ruce, hladil naše duše kytarou. *Honza played guitar until his hands were completely frozen.*

Při teplotě -20 st. Celsia jsme přečkali noc celkem v pohodě, ovšem snídani jsme připravovali netradičním způsobem: Loupání zmrzlých vajec je podobné vařeným, jenom to jde o hodně hůř. Vejce jsou zespuď smažená a svrchnu zmrzlá.

We survived the night at -20 deg C quite well, but the breakfast was prepared in an unusual way: Frozen eggs peeling is more demanding than peeling of the boiled ones. The eggs are fried from the bottom and frozen from the top.

Zmrzlý chleba nejde ani mačetou ukrojit či useknout, našťestí máme i jiné nástroje. *The frozen bread cannot be cut or chopped even with a machete; fortunately we have a better solution.*



Pokud si chcete opéct na klacku v zimě špek, pak vězte, že akumulátorová vrtačka je nezbytná.

Accu drill is a must when you want to roast your bacon in the winter.

Během snídani se oteplilo na -18 stupňů, takže vzhůru do práce.

During the breakfast the temperature rose to -18 deg. C, so we could start the gold prospection.

Odebíráme žhavý základ pro sekundární oheň u potoka. Dole na fotografii je má oblíbená sýrová fondue. Nová zkušenost: při této teplotě na ohni

prakticky nelze připravit.

We set on the secondary fire close to the creek. See in the bottom: my favourite cheese fondue is being cooked.

New experience: practically impossible to prepare fondue on the fire in such a low temperature.

Návštěva denních zlatokopů: Zdeňkův

80% rum pěkně hřeje

Visit of day-only goldpanners: the 80% rum from Zdenek warms up our bodies.

„Bonanza je deset palců ve skále, bílej potok na kost promrzlej, radši bys to přečkal někde v lokále, nepeře ti štěstí osud zlej.“

Country song Bonanza

Zlato, zlato, zlato, zima...

Gold, gold, gold, cold



Specifika zimního rýžování:

- zlato přimrzá k pánvi
- píst k pumpě
- ledová násada krumpáče klouže jako d'as

Winter panning is unique:

- gold is frozen onto the pan
- piston to the pump
- icy pick handle slides easily

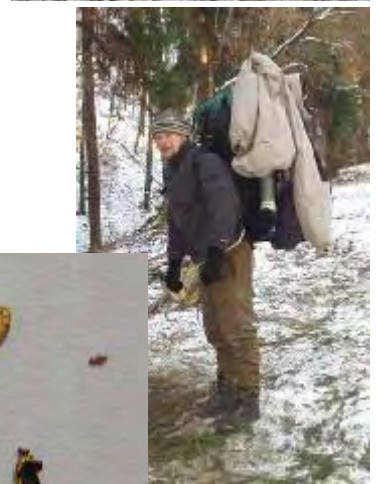
0,00006 kg zlata. Batohy jsou plné k prasknutí, můžeme jet domů.

0,00006 kg of gold. Backpacks are full to the top; we can go home.

Tak zase příště – AuRum

See you next time!

Jirka Dunovsky





More pictures and classifications are available at www.w-g-a.org





More pictures and classifications are available at www.w-g-a.org

8. My first World Goldpanning Championships



Hi everybody,

In Czech Republic I got acquainted with the world of goldpanning for the first time. Together with my mom and dad I traveled a thousand kilometer to Czech Republic for my first holiday. And I liked it very much.

The camping was great and I apologize for any noise before 6 a.m.... Although some say that my father made more noise early in the morning.... And I also want to thank all of you for letting me sleep in the night.

I did not really like the goldpanning yet (first things first: learn to walk, learn to talk and then learn to pan) but I really liked the people I met, and off course the swing near the competition area. And my parents bought me my first batea!

This experience will probably be the first one in a long row, for my parents will off course take me to Poland next year. Maybe I will be able to participate then.....

A kiss and a hug from
Daan van Wijhe



9. WGA 2010 Annual General Meeting

According to the WGA tradition the Annual Meeting for the representatives from all Member Nations is held each year during the World Championships. The organizers in Zlaté Hory did an excellent job in accommodating the 2010 AGM!

Every member nation has two representatives. The representatives from all member nations together from the WGA Council. The Council makes decisions and is allowed to vote, for example on changes in the competition rules, hosting countries for future World and European Championships and for the appointment of new WGA Board Members.

Each member nation has 2-5 votes at the Council, depending on the number of goldpanners attending the last two World Championships. Member nations are also allowed to suggest subjects for discussion, which can be put on the meeting's agenda.

The most important points addressed during this year's meeting have been:

- Team categories official or fun event?
- Traditional category official?

- Spain and Finland put in bids to host the 2012 European Championships

- Italy put in a bid to host the 2013 World Championships

To make sure that all the gold panners know what is going on, the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting are published in the following pages.

Again we would like to thank all the representatives for their attendance, active participation and constructive discussions. We hope to see you all again at next year's AGM in Złotoryja!

Yours,

WGA Board:

Arturo Ramella
 Ken Karlsson
 Pirjo Muotkajarvi
 Marlise Luedi
 Eugene Swanepoel
 Esther van Diggelen





World Gold Panning Association

Minutes 1 (4)

Annual General Meeting 2010

Time Thursday 19th August 2010 at 5.20 pm.- 8.19 pm.

Place Pension Rejvíz, Zlaté Hory, Czech Republic

Present WGA Board:

Arturo Ramella – President
 Ken Karlsson – Vice-President
 Marlise Ludi – Treasurer
 Pirjo Muotkajärvi – Secretary

Chairpersons of the Committees:

Eugene Swanepoel – Competition Committee
 Esther van Diggelen – Communication Committee

Countries Represented (18):

Australia, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland. (See enclosure 1)

1 §

Opening, Welcome and Legality

President Arturo Ramella opened the meeting by welcoming all delegates. The meeting was declared legal and commenced.

Minister of Mpumalanga spoke about arrangements for the coming World Goldpanning Championships 2012 in South Africa, inviting everyone to participate in the event.

2 §

President's report

President Arturo Ramella asked the delegates to spread all the information regarding the World Goldpanning Association (WGA) among the competitors and members of their national and local associations. The delegates' duty is to inform their countrymen about the decisions taken at the annual general meeting. President Ramella would like to keep the work of the WGA as open as possible.



He encouraged the delegates to present the new ideas and proposals from member countries and pointed out that the rules could be changed even every year those changes made the competitions better.

Arturo Ramella explained that the Spring Board Meeting had to be cancelled because of the flight problems caused by the volcano in Iceland. The board, however, had been in close contact by e-mails.

3 §

Financial Report

Treasurer Marlise Ludi introduced the financial report relative to the period 1st of July 2009 to 30th June 2010 which showed the valuation of €6355,49 at the end of the accounting period. (See enclosure 2)

4 §

Communication Report

Chairman of the Communication Committee Esther van Diggelen said that new members are needed for the committee and asked those interested in joining to contact her.

She reported that the WGA web site has been revamped so that now even the results of the World Goldpanning Championships can be found on the site as soon as the results are published by the organizers of the event.

The Golden Times will be published twice a year and it's very important that member countries should provide the articles.

5 §

Competition report

a) Competition Report

Chairman of the Competition Committee Eugene Swanepoel introduced the competition report. (See enclosure 3)

b) Official categories

It is proposed that the following categories should be accepted into the official category:

- 2-member team
- 3-member team
- 5-member team



These categories are at present unofficial and the winners, in fact, do not earn the title of World Champion. In the future there would not be unofficial categories in the World Goldpanning Championships but only official categories and fun events. The official categories have to be organized in every World event under the official rules and everybody is allowed to participate. Everything regarding the fun events is decided by the organizers.

The issue raised an active discussion. Arturo Ramella asked the meeting if the voting could be done by a show of hands. As no objection was made, a show of hands demonstrated that 47 votes supported and 14 votes were against the proposal. The proposal was accepted and the rule will be adopted in the World Goldpanning Championships in Poland 2011.

c) Classic pan

It is proposed that the Classic pan category should be accepted into the official category.

Which type of classic pan to use raised a further discussion. It was decided unanimously that the organizer of the event should be allowed to make the decision regarding what kind of pan they use in the Classic pan category. The Classic pan category was accepted unanimously as an official category.

However, the chosen pan must be approved by the WGA Board. The type and size of the pan must be communicated at least one year before the event. Also the competitors around the world should be able to buy the pan easily, for example on the internet.

Estwing 14" (Klondike) and the batea used in World Goldpanning Championships in Czech Republic 2010 are already approved.

The delegates of Poland said they will consider which pan to use next year and will communicate the decision as soon as possible on the web site of WGA. The opening ceremonies will take place on Monday and the competition itself will start already on Tuesday.

d) Veteran category

It is proposed to discuss whether the Veteran category could be divided between Veteran (age 60-69) and Super Veterans (70 years and older) because of the physical limitations of many of the older people. The competitor would be allowed to participate in only one Veteran category.

It was agreed the issue will be discussed further in the forthcoming annual general meeting of WGA.



6 §

Bidding to host future World and European Championships

European Goldpanning Championships 2012

There were two bids to host the European Goldpanning Championships in 2012.

The Spanish delegation presented their application to host the event from 23rd-29th July in Navelgas, Spain and the Finnish delegation from 5th-10th June in Eväjärvi, Finland.

The voting resulted in 37 votes for Finland and 20 for Spain, with 4 abstentions on this issue. Therefore, Eväjärvi, Finland will host the European Goldpanning Championships in 2012.

World Goldpanning Championships in 2013

The Italian delegation presented their application to host the World Goldpanning Championships in 2013 from 19th- 25th August in Biella, Italy. A show of hands confirmed one hundred percent support for the bid on the part of those present and Italy will host World Goldpanning Championships in 2013.

7 §

Other business

a) Fee for the National Team Category

It was proposed by German delegation that the participation fee for the National Team Category would not be more than €50.

It had already been decided earlier (AGM 2004) that the fee for the National Team Category should amount to three times the fee for the individual category (maximum €75). There was no need for further discussion on this issue.

b) Opening Anthem

The WGA needs an Opening Anthem and hopes that the musicians of the association will get to work on composing one.

8 §

Closure

Arturo Ramella closed the annual general meeting at 8.19 pm. thanking participants for their contribution in making it such a good and active one.

Arturo Ramella, President

Pirjo Muotkajärvi, Secretary



Enclosure 1

WGA Country Representatives 2010

AUSTRALIA

Kim Hillier
Marcus Binks

AUSTRIA

Josef Haslinger
Peter Aspen

BELGIUMCANADA

David Millar
Lorraine Millar

CZECH REP.

Veronika Stedra
Jirka Dunovsky

FINLAND

Jouko Korhonen
Raimo Repola

FRANCE

Guyon Claude

GERMANY

Isabella Jahn
Robert Rolle

GREAT BRITAIN

David Slatman
Richard Deighton

ITALY

Luigi Conti
Luca Pasqualini

JAPAN

Hideko Nakano

NETHERLANDS

Ruurd van Wyhe
Sam Sosef

NEW ZEALANDNORWAY

Torill Langseth
Geir Langseth

POLAND

Norbert Makowski
Krzysztof Jedroszkowiak

SLOVAK REP.

Miroslav Nagy
Danka Muckova

SOUTH AFRICA

Sandra Mthuke
Sanjay Singh

SPAIN

Marcos da Rocha
César Castano

SWEDEN

Ulla Kalander-Karlsson
Thomas Linnarsson

SWITZERLAND

John Meekel
Friedrich Grundbacher

USATranslators:

Heimo Vrbau – Austria
Marta Herreros - Spain
Piercarlo Lacchia - Italy

Observers:

Konrad Mardyla - Poland



World Goldpanning Association

Year 01.07.2009 to 30.06.2010

Balance

	€	Notes:
Bank account saldo	4 231,60	
Cash Euro	500,00	
Cash at hand, New 01.07.2009 to 30.06.2010	208,89	
Liquid Assets	4 940,49	
Inventory		This represent:
	74,00	37 badges à 2 Euro badges (old metallic pins)
	170,00	and 80 new cloth badges à 2 Euro badge
	538,00	new Pins from 2010
	633,00	eastving pans
Total Inventory	1 415,00	
WGA valuation /capital	6 355,49	
Debtors	-	
Creditors	-	
Treasurer WGA		Marlise Lüdi



COMPETITION COMMITTEE REPORT - AUGUST 2010

Good evening Mr President, WGA Board and delegates from the WGA member countries, ladies and gentlemen.

At the end of the World Championships in Biella 2009, the Board elected me Chairperson of the Competition Committee as Ken Karlsson became the Vice President of the WGA. This indeed left me with the task of filling a big pair of boots - or should I say, waders! The Board also appointed Esko Ovaro as Vice Chairperson of the Competition Committee. In consultation with the Board, the following members were elected as senior members of the Competition Committee:

- 1) Ulla Kallander Karlsson
- 2) Geraldine McCrossan
- 3) Jenny Chaplin

Temporary members from the hosting countries as proposed by them are:

- 1) Jiri Duwovsky - Czech Republic
- 2) Konrad Mardyla - Poland
- 3) Sonja Vermaak - South Africa

Biella 2009, certainly set a standard in terms of ensuring a fair championship and in terms of the WGA rules, this is the broad mandate of the Competition Committee.

To date, we can only commend the Czech organising body for ensuring this. We as the Competition Committee will come to you and ensure a more standardised championship in the future.

The more important of these issues are tabled here tonight as part of the agenda of this AGM. As part of this Board, I respectfully request that we debate and if possible make wise and enlightened decisions thereon.

Thank you.

Mr President, with your permission, I propose that we return to the agenda points for further discussion,

10. Italian publication on historical mining and panning (preview)

It already seems ages since we all met at the great World Championships in Zlaté Hory this year so it's probably a bit much to ask readers to cast their minds even further back to August 2009 in Biella.

However, what I'm hoping is that many of you- 54 to be precise- from various nations, will recall the excursion we made together to the Monte Rosa/Anzasca Valley area where we visited the La Guia mine and, following a delicious, sun-soaked picnic lunch, headed off to pan on the Anza river at Piedimulera. Got it?

However, even those readers who missed the outing will certainly find plenty of interest in the book we are introducing here. It was published in Italian in time for our Championships last year. The English translation is almost complete and, as soon as the promised Regional funding comes through (fingers crossed...), you will be able to find it through our local Association so, keep a look out!

Geraldine

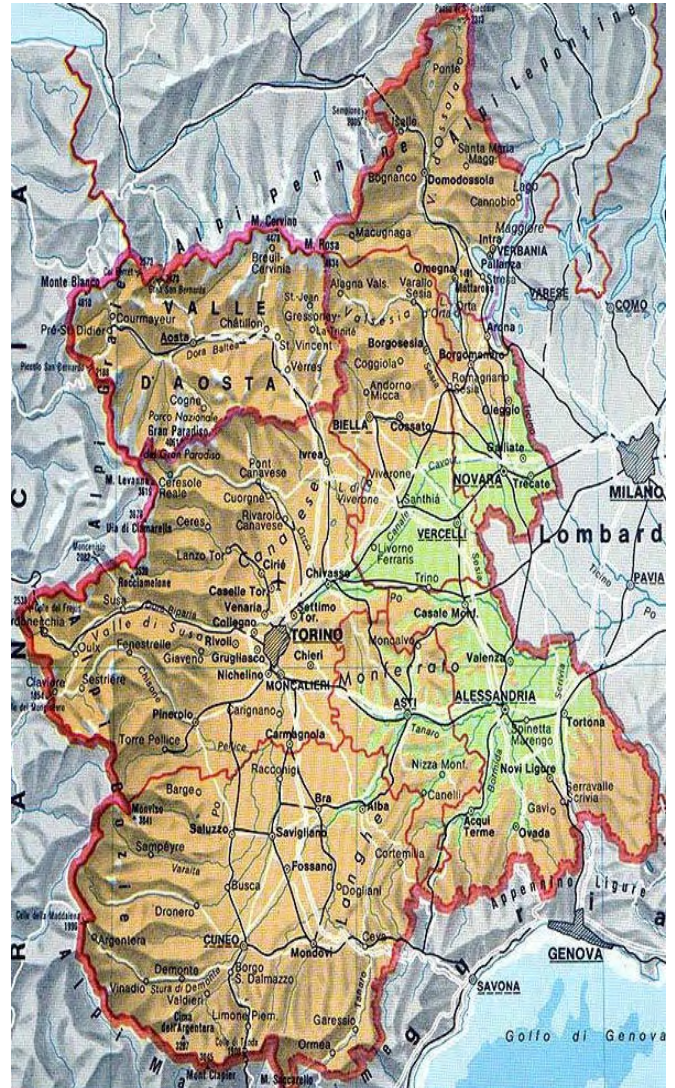
“The Italian Gold Rush (1848-1915)” by Aldo Rocchetti - A brief and partial adaptation, translated by Anthea Lacchia, Biella Goldprospectors' Association, Italy

Upon hearing the words gold rush, one's mind fills with images of a cowboy, spurs on his boots and beans sizzling on a pan nearby, working the famous creeks of the Klondike or riding a golden stallion in the Australian sunset.

However, in the second half of the 19th century, Northern Italy too was suddenly transformed into a true “Eldorado”, a mecca to be exploited by avid panners and miners from all parts of Europe.

The Italian gold rush took place in the valleys in the north of the Piedmont region, in the shelter of the Monte Rosa massif and close to the border with Switzerland. The Monte Rosa massif itself is the primary deposit, giving rise to all the secondary and fluvio-glacial deposits of this area.

The necessity of extracting as much gold as possible, led to the birth of many mining companies from various countries. The quest was for both native gold, which is found in rock and is extracted by mining, and alluvial gold, which originally was native, but has been transported and transformed by the work of glaciers and rivers, and is found in particles of varying sizes along the



banks of water courses. The further upstream the gold is panned, the larger the particles; conversely, gold found far down stream tends to be in the form of tiny particles called “flakes”.

Native gold often nestles in quartz veins and can be of microscopic dimensions

or, once extracted, in the form of large nuggets, usually still clinging to a chunk of rock.

Even the amateur geologist can easily spot the white quartz among darker rocks. Of course, the visible part of the quartz vein is but the proverbial tip of the iceberg. It is

thanks to these small clues in the rock that the wider presence of gold can be detected.

Before the gold rush, which is described here, took place, both local inhabitants and, about 2000 years ago, the invading Romans had already plundered the gold fields of Northern Italy. “The Bessa” (GPS: N 45,50046° E 8,00764°), near Biella, Piedmont, was the oldest open-cast gold mine in Europe in Roman times (it is now a Nature Reserve of important historical, archaeological and geological interest). Returning to more recent times, gold mining companies sprang up in any site that was potentially profitable.

You are probably aware of the technique traditionally employed in separating gold from rock: first of all, the rock containing the gold was ground up in a large crusher to which mercury was added. Obviously, since gold amalgamates with mercury, it was easy to separate the precious metal from the unrequired rock and the surplus mercury was either dumped in a river or reutilised. Today’s environmentalists would be askance with horror, were such a procedure to take place!

Mercury, which was used in many places up to relatively recent times, represented a danger to physical as well as mental health and must have played havoc with

ecosystems of old.

Of course, the dangers didn’t stop here; miners often used pneumatic drills that led to pulmonary problems and, naturally, the threat of rock fall was always a risk. Among the many important gold mines active in Northern Italy in the last three hundred years were the Alagna Gold Mines and those of Pestarena, both of which we will here briefly discuss.

Mine cultivation in Alagna, situated to the South of the Anzasca valley, which leads off from the Monte Rosa massif, can be traced back to the Middle Ages. The veins were worked most intensively in the 18th century, under the management of the House of Savoy. Sadly, the mines were later almost completely abandoned, before passing into the hands of various mining companies. The real turning point came at the very beginning of the 19th Century, when the property was taken over by an Anglo-French Company, purposely established by the South African banker George Robinson, the “Monte Rosa Gold Mining Company Limited”. Tunnels were restored, buildings were repaired and galleries were lengthened. When,



Entrance to the La Guia Mine, part of the Pestarena Gold Mines

between 1900 and 1901, the Company encountered financial difficulties, Robinson set up two new companies, the “Rimella Gold Mining Company Limited” and the “New Monte Rosa Gold Mining Company Limited”.

The Anzasca Valley



In 1906, work quickly resumed under the technical direction of Engineer Pierre Catzigera, of Greek origin.

The far-sighted Engineer took a great interest in the workers of whom there were about 100, arranging for them to undergo a thorough medical examination once a month. He saw to it that they and their families enjoyed free medical assistance and medicine. Moreover, he promoted a healthy living environment and lifestyle among the men, awarding prizes for order and cleanliness.

The mineral treatment plant was modified in such a way as to recuperate 90% of the gold, as opposed to the 60-70% recuperated under the previous system. The new system involved the cyanidation of the mineral in French vats.

1903 was the year in which most gold was extracted, as much as 12 Kg; however, in general, annual yield did not exceed 1 kg and funds dried up soon enough, until work was almost completely suspended. As if this wasn't enough, in 1915, an avalanche seriously damaged the principal building and this was followed by the death of George Robinson.

As with the Alagna Gold Mines, the six mines of Pestarena, located at the mouth of the Anzasca valley, were already known

and intensely worked in the middle of the 1800's. Little is known about the early years of activity but the renowned engineer Francfort, who had studied in both America and Germany, came to Italy in around 1857 and made a study of the local mines. In particular, he discovered that gold was present on pyrite, in the form of microscopic particles.

He thus convinced some English entrepreneurs to back him financially and in 1863 the "Victor Emanuel Company" of London bought the mines.

Following detailed studies of the valley's mineralization, he introduced a new system for working the mineral, consisting in great amalgamation mills which led to a reduction in the quantity of gold lost due to the use of Piedmont-style mills.

Soon, different companies merged to form the "Pestarena United Gold Mining Company", the largest gold company in Europe, if we do not count two mines in faraway Czarist Russia.

Among the many mines of the English Company were the Val Toppa, the Cani and the Crodo gold mines. Production often surpassed 200 Kg per year in the following decades,



Panners at work on the river Anza

despite the fact that average gold content had decreased from an initial 30 g/t (or perhaps more) to 20 g/t and subsequently to 15 g/t in Pestarena and 10 g/t in Val Toppa.

Work in many concessions was so extensive that boundaries were reached. Unfortunately, from 1898 onwards, production diminished and, the following year, the "Pestarena United Gold Mining Company" came into financial difficulties and many workers were laid off.

In an attempt to resolve the situation, a new Company, the "Pestarena Mining Company" was established. This was of no help however, and in 1901 the new Company was forced into liquidation. So ended the most significant and lucrative aspects of the Gold Rush.

It is said that every golden age has to end, and indeed, the once thriving mines in Northern Italy are now

largely abandoned.

However, gold fever still strikes prospectors in Northern Italy, where all rivers contain alluvial gold, to a greater or lesser degree.

It's interesting to consider that between the two great World Wars, people in Piedmont eked out a living by panning for gold, but this activity today is mostly done for fun, rather than as a means of securing a livelihood. All you need is a spade, a gold pan and a thirst for that glimmering metal!

References

"La corsa all'oro in Italia, 1848-1915" by Dr. Aldo Rocchetti (of the Ecomuseum of Gold and the Bessa, Zubiena, Biella) is due for publication in English. www.ecomuseo.it

The author has kindly given his consent for this article to be published in Golden Times.

I I. River Goldpanning World Championship 2011

After a long hesitation I decided to pronounce the **Pikovice 2011** event as the

RIVER GOLD PANNING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2011

It may stay as a fun event, or not... But in France they call one event "RIVER GOLD PANNING EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP". It may be only a question of time to evolve into a real, official competition. But when we will be the first, we will have the advantage of OUR rules and competition system, which we are used to. Of course, rules in time should develop similarly, as in case of "normal" competitions.

This may be an alternative to modern specialized competitions. Back to prospecting, where success depends not only on

goldpanning skills itself, but also on prospector's experience, estimation, and of course - a bit of luck. Also panning of raw river sediment with stones, clay etc., or 15 minutes of competition time makes it different.

6th anniversary GOLD WASHING IN PIKOVICE-LAGOON,
This time as the RIVER GOLD PANNING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2011
10th September 2011

Gold-panner's meeting
9th-11th September
...a campground in Pikovice (near Prague, Czech Republic),
A bank of the Sazava River and mostly in the Sazava River

Schedule: 10 AM - 3 PM
qualification rounds
4 PM final round
5 PM award ceremony

To carry:
personal belongings,
firewood, musical instruments, a tent
for competition: gold pan according to rules of World Championship and a scoop (not bigger than the CZ military entrenching tool).

Competition rules:

There are 15 competitors in each round. Every competitor is allowed to start more than once, until he gets tired. After the group starts from riverside, there is a limit of 15 minutes, in which the competitors should pan as many gold flakes from the river bottom as possible (use only scoop, gold pan and own knowledge/craft) and stick them on a received sellotape-card.

After the round is finished, the competitors give their cards to the referee. Ten best competitors go into



the final round.
(In case of doubt, the referee is right.) :-)

Honza Basta

Registration:
in place

Start fee:

20 CZK for 1 start

Contact:

janbasta@email.cz



12. Golden streets of Złotoryja

There was an article on the Internet titled „Archeologist found gold”. If he had found a treasure, it may cause sensation. But he found gold in our area, and in this case, a better discoverer would be a geologist, who having found a new rich deposit of this noble metal, may have given Złotoryja a new economic impulse. Just like eight hundred years ago.

Gold in prehistory

People had been founding nuggets near Kaczawa and Skora river before the medieval and modern gold mining destroyed the remarks of prehistorical mining. Probably, some shallow excavations were made and tiny specks of gold among sand and gravel were found there. Still, in river beds, after taking out stones, gravel and loose sand, one can find a deposit of loam with the precious ore.

During one of such explorations of Skora river bed, Irena Drozd (Polish Guild of Gold Prospectors) found a nugget. Its copy is placed in the Gold Mining Museum in Złotoryja.

How do we know that people started to look for gold in early Bronze Age? Too intensive settlement in this upland area indicates it. There are also material evidence such as a bronze sword from

Złotoryja, a gold tiara from Sichów and monuments dated from the Early Bronze Age II. Rich treasures appeared later too. Bronze bracelets, pots and weapons were discovered near Jerzmanice Zdrój. They are dated from Middle Bronze Age II A. Was Golden Fleece used to obtain gold, just like in the mythological Colchis?

Looking at pans used by the members of PGGP, lined with carpet-like fabric, we can acknowledge that almost every kind of animal skin with thick bristles (especially sheepskin) can be used to obtain gold.

Local gold (Lat. Aurum) is divided into:

- flour gold (fraction < 0,5 mm)
- gold sand (fraction 0,5- 3 mm)
- nuggets (fraction over 3mm)

1 litre of pure metal weighs 19,28 kilos

Slavic gold diggers

Before the specialists from Europe came, the Silesians had been panning for gold since the Middle Ages. How do we know that? There were five strongholds built at a very short (just 20 km) distance between Złotoryja and Legnica. Their crews were guarding the route and



Golden nugget found by Irena Drozd

goldfields. They were also watching over the safety of gold tributes. The presumptions were confirmed by the archaeological excavation. They found weapons and, unknown to the local people, north-Czech and Slavic ceramics inter alia in a village called Rzymówka. It means that the areas were initially controlled by Czech dukes and later by the first Polish rulers. A Polish chronicler Gallus Anonymus (early 12th century) describing the reign of Boleslaw Chrobry, mentions a great number of gold objects at court. Some of them came probably from sacking or exchange, but some of the

“Almost every kind of animal skin with thick bristles can be used to obtain gold.”

objects were probably made of gold from Złotoryja. The old names of towns also suggest the mediaeval gold exploitations of gold, for example Kopacz (Eng. digger). Józef Domański in "Szkice Legnickie, vol.3", writes "the name of a village - Kopacz suggests that the place was initially settled by gold prospectors."

Mediaeval miners

When Władysław II Wygnaniec's sons came back to Silesia, things changed. Local people who had been panning for gold were replaced by the specialists from the empire. The reason the miners came to Złotoryja was mainly the contemporary name of the town- Aurum (Lat. gold). New ways of mining gold brought great benefits not only to the miners but mostly to all the dukes. Władysław II Wygnaniec's descendants became the richest dukes in the area. It happened because of Peter's Pence. Peter's Pence was collected in silver coins by the parishes. The coins were exchanged for gold from Złotoryja, because Roman Curia did not accept denars and other silver coins manufactured in Poland. Then the gold was sent to Rome as gold coins or gold ingots. The gold sand called *aurum de polhiola* had lower price than ingots. Running out of alluvial stratum, the miners were made to dig a gold mine. The gold mine "Aurelia" is considered to be dated from 17th century but

according to the specialists from Akademia Górniczo-Hutnicza in Kraków its forming started in the Middle Ages.

Gold story about a bucket

This story comes from the Piast dynasty times. Roman Heck in Szkice Legnickie, vol.9 writes "Prince Bolesław II Rogatka unfairly sentenced a man from Legnica to beheading. The court willing to save the man, sent him to Złotoryja. Some time later Prince came to Złotoryja and met the man carrying (with another convict) a bucket. He asked if the man was the one who was to be beheaded and why he was still alive. The crowd said he had risen from the dead." Putting aside the ironic and sarcastic vein of the story, one should focus on the convict's attribute- a bucket. In the Middle Ages the miners who did not drain mine shafts were punished. A man with a bucket was the easiest pump removing water from a shaft or an excavation. Such a convict was a very precious mineworker. Saint Hedwig sent convicts to build a monastery and Prince Bolesław started doing the same, turning the capital penalty into work in mines. Prisoners did many different works, for example turning treadmills. A fragment of such a treadmill is displayed in the Gold Mining Museum.

After gold rush



Basztowa Street

In 14th century large deposits of gold started to run out. Later, there were some attempts to revive gold mining, but expenses overran profits. Copper started to be mined but gold has never been forgotten. When Silesia came back to Poland, the scientists from Wrocław - Andrzej Grodzicki (member of PGGP), J. Kaźmierczyk and T. Dziekoński officially started to study old gold mining. Local enthusiasts of geology went out looking for the precious natural treasures of Kaczawa Foothills. Probably, some of their houses has enriched by found gold. Nowadays, the miners' traditions are maintained by the Polish Guild of Gold Prospectors in Złotoryja, annual organizer of the Polish Goldpanning Championships. In 2011 the World Goldpanning Championships are going to be organized in Złotoryja.

"Inhabitants of Złotoryja, walking every day on streets also walk on gold!"



Gold found at Basztowa Street

They walk on gold every day

Inhabitants of Złotoryja,

walking every day on streets, do not realize that they also walk on gold. Not the hypothetical one and hundreds of meters underground. Gold is just a meter under cobblestones. How did they find golden dust? By accident, of course. One day, an archeologist and a member of the Polish Guild of Gold Prospectors met at a building site and decided to check if there was gold in the excavation made by the builders. The result was interesting, because they found dozens of golden specks. The discovery was a good reason to check all the gravel-sand embankments in the town.

Next panning (Piłsudski Street) was done by the World Golpanning Champion - Tadeusz Wasilewicz in 2000. The amount of found gold was astonishing.

Later, all the embankments in Złotoryja were checked: Basztowa Street, Chopin Street, Górna Street and Town Square. It turned out that there are 2 grams of gold in every tonne of gravel. It was estimated that gold under Old Town may weigh about 5 kilos! It is worth a lottery prize - about 1.000.000 PLN (around 250.000 EUR)! But mining gold here is unprofitable, because expenses overran profits.

Gold on streets

Where, when and why

were mentioned sands and gravel brought here? It is probable that they came from local goldfields and according to prof. Grodzicki they are from Sępów surroundings. When? At the twilight of the Middle Ages for sure, because the embankments cover layers of the mediaeval material with the modern ceramics above them. It was believed that spreading sand was done to cover mud on streets and it was taken from a moat.

But it was a very expensive and difficult task and people had to have an important reason to do so. In the second half of 15th century, after Hussite invasions, the stream of pilgrims was moving through Silesia to take part in celebrating the jubilee years in Rome (1450, 1475 and 1500). People were also making pilgrimages to the tomb of Saint Jacob in Santiago de Compostela. Thousands of people were walking through the streets of Złotoryja. Maybe, spreading gold bearing gravel and sands on the streets did the inhabitants of Złotoryja proud. Just like in the apocalyptic Jerusalem in Gospel of John, where the streets are gold.

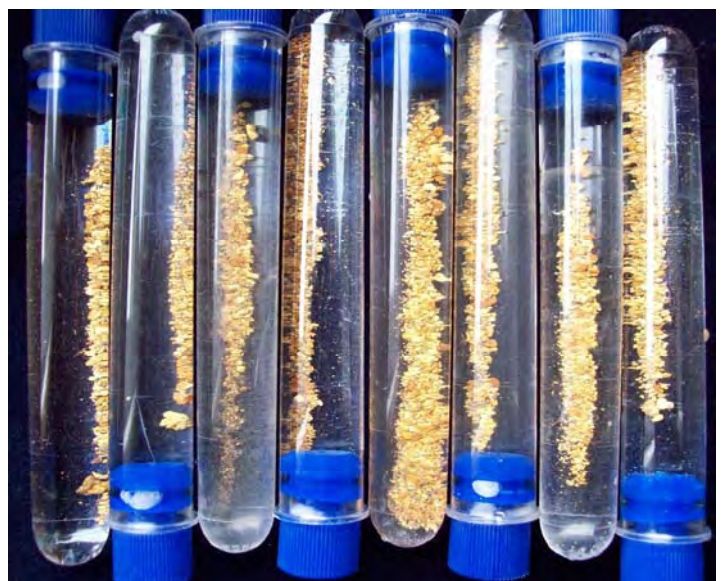
Witold Łaszewski



Tadeusz Wasilewicz at work...



Gold from Chopin Street



Gold from Złotoryjan streets

13. Special competition for champions at WGPC in Złotoryja 2011

Next year Poland is hosting the next World Goldpanning Championships in Złotoryja. During this event the organizers would like to have a special category just for previous World Champions from the categories Proficient Men and Proficient Ladies. This category will be called the Masters Trophy. All former World Champions Men and Ladies are invited to join this special competition.

If your name is on the list, please contact Zdzislaw Herba by email

zherba@herbatele.com



World Champions 1977 - 2010

Year	Proficient Men	Proficient Ladies
2010	Antti Seppälä	Pirjo Muotkajärvi
2009	Leopold Deinhofer	Valentina Deinhofer
2008	Sam Sosef	Hannele Pispa
2007	Veikko Keränen	Ulla Kalander-Karlsson
2006	Veikko Keränen	Esther van Diggelen
2005	Iisakki Kuisma	Marjatta Kannisto
2004	Antti Seppälä	Anita Patala
2003	Jouko Korhonen	Pirkko Mäenpää
2002	Ken Karlsson	Lea Rekilä
2001	Ken Karlsson	Marjatta Kannisto
2000	Tadeusz Wasilewicz	Birgitta Larsson
1999	Richard Kana II	Lempi Mastomäki
1998	Veikko Keränen	Marlise Ludi
1997	Pierino Odini	Veronika Stedra
1996	Frantisek Hrala	Veronika Stedra
1995	Armando Pasqualini	Laura Gautier
1994	Pierino Angoli	Katri-Sofia Hulkkonen
1993	Aleardo Salina	Raija Järvinen
1992	Pablo Schwarz	Ivanne Josso
1991	Josef Stöckl	Veronika Stedra
1990	Renaldo Molaschi	Margareta Sandström
1989	Renaldo Molaschi	Kaija Niehoff
1988	Seppo Mauno	Pascaline Saivres
1987	Johnny Hagberg	Gertraud Veitz
1986	Ape Järvinen	Donatelle Busch
1985	Pentti Nummela	Raija Arho
1984	Rudolf Steiner	Dawne Mitchell
1983	Karl Virtanen	Anita Patala
1982	Rudolf Steiner	Raija Arho
1981	Jorma Stallanko	Raija Arho
1980	Aarre Rytönen	Pirjo Laiho
1979	Yrjö Korhonen	Tuula Salomaa
1978	Leo Kuronen	Marjut Telilä
1977	Leo Kuronen	Kaisa-Leena Malinen



World Goldpanning Association
Golden Times
Autumn 2010

World Goldpanning Association

www.w-g-a.org

Please send contributions for the next Golden Times to

esther@worldgoldpanningassociation.org



World Goldpanning Championships

22-28 August 2011

Złotoryja, Poland