

Buried Treasure

by Pinkney Juge



Old Pewter Silver Mug Carried Its Own Nutmeg

"What are you going to do with that thing?" asked Jim. The mug was plain pewter, unornamented, pot-bellied, but with a base, rim and handle of a different colored metal which proved to be silver.

But that was not the most interesting thing — good as the quality of the pewter proved to be and unusual as it is to find the combination of the two metals. What really got me about it was the ball-thumb knot rising from one side of the lid.

The top of the knob unscrewed, revealing a hollow in the upper part of it that was large enough to hold a sizeable bit of nutmeg.

And that was the purpose of the knob. The nutmeg was kept because, when grated and

sprinkled on beer — especially green beer — it much improved the taste.

Unnoticed when I bought the piece was the presence of a nutmeg grater. It was screwed to the bottom of the mug and so encrusted with dirt that I became aware of it only by grating a finger while washing the piece.

What the value of the beer mug is I don't yet know. There is no maker's mark on it, but there are some indications that it probably is 17th century. In any event, Jim who has a fair collection of steins and a considerable knowledge of the subject has grudgingly offered me \$50 for the piece, an offer I will not accept because it indicates a value several times that figure.

STAMP ONLY ITEM OF VALUE LEFT OF RUSSIA

"My brother got out of Russia in 1922, and I was lucky enough to follow him the next year," said Georgi.

I asked how come they were able to get out when the Communist regime had finally established itself.

"We were Nepmen," he said, grinning wryly. "In other words, we were businessmen who made some money under Lenin's New Economic Policy which he had to set up when he saw that Communism was on the skids."

I pointed out that it was the Nepmen and the Kulaks who got rubbed out.

"That's right," Georgi said. "Most of them did. They were the ones who stayed too long, who waited for Stalin. They couldn't bear to part with their valuets. They didn't see that it was life or death."

"I could see what was coming. When I got across the Polish border, without even any shoes,

just pants and shirt, and life, and this."

From his breast pocket Georgi drew a slender pigskin case. He opened it and removed a letter in an envelope which he handed me. I couldn't read the writing but could see that the stamp was lightly cancelled in 1922 and that the figure 5,000, surcharged in black on the ultra-marine blue background, was upside down. The eight-sided picture of an industrial scene and the figures of the five-ruble denomination were quite clear.

"The letter's from a sister who's still there, I guess," Georgi seemed almost indifferent. "But I thought you would probably be interested in the stamp."

I asked him what the stamp was worth.

"It catalogues at \$25 unused," he said. "Used, it's so rare it isn't even listed. But it isn't for sale. I'm going to leave it to my son."

OLD COINS WORTH MORE AS RARITIES THAN BULLION

Which is worth more, a pound of \$20 gold pieces or a pound of \$5 ones?

I was reminded recently of that old chestnut, posed recently by a well-known commentator, when a friend of mine, just back from a vacation in Brazil, announced he had bought four Brazilian gold coins down there. The pieces were heavy in my hand. They were cruzados, all of the same year, 1726, and in generally good condition.

On observing, surrounding the Royal Portuguese coat-of-arms was the legend IOANNES V. D. G. PORT ET ALG. REG. 20000. Which is abbreviated Latin for "John, By the Grace of God, King of Portugal and Algarve—20,000 Reals."

On the other side was a cross, more Latin, the date and the letter "M" standing for the Brazilian Province of Minas Geraes.

"The fellow who owned them thought he would really stick me," my friend said, "but I pulled a fast one and got them for \$60 each."

I asked for details. He went on to explain that he had had the gold content of the coins appraised, which showed them to have 1.718 ounce of the precious metal, or a bullion value of \$60 each.

"He tried to tell me the gold content was bigger and he didn't know that I knew the price of gold has dropped since the war. And when the guy saw the bills and knew I knew what it was all about, he decided to go ahead with the deal."

After a brief pause, he continued, "I saved myself the red tape in buying gold here. Know what I'm going to do? Have these melted down for a bracelet for my wife."

Horrified, I explained that the coins had a value to collectors of around \$130 or more each.

"Okay," he said presently. "I'll sell."

Which reminded me that one pound of gold is worth no more than another, except for the rarity of the form it is in.

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Call and get all particulars. PARKER REALTY HOME \$9950

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BIG HOUSE AT BIG REDUCTION. 2000 sq. ft. 2 1/2 stories. Fixed living rm., dining rm., rumpus room, music rm., large handy kitchen. Hardwood floors. Garage, auto. New \$12,500. Terms.

50000 GETS YOU 1 ACRE. IRRIGATED, 2 bedroom home, stoves and dinette set, garage, chick house and a newly furnished trailer. Terms too. You can't beat this!

RIVER BOTTOM ALFALFA. CLOVER, 160 acres, 87 irrigated, free water. Big silo, 32-station barn and 2500 sq. ft. hay shed. Home, fireplace, garage, guest cabin. \$32,500. Terms.

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2-BRM. HOME, carpet, fenced back yard. Low down payment. Call 2-3039.

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SERVICE Station and Garage. Good location. Nice galloping. Fully equipped. This one is a money maker for the right party. You can't find a better investment. \$11,000 will handle. Tribune. Box 8950.

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19-A-REAL ESTATE WANTED

WANTED to buy 3 BR home or small acreage. Prefer Oak Grove or West side school district. Ph. 2-9836.

WANTED to lease 10 to 30 acres irrigated, suitable for hay & pasture. Write P.O. Box 651, Gold Hill, Oregon. Phone 2-9836.

WANTED—Home with 2 to 10 irrigated acres. No over 5 miles from Medford. Will trade 3-bdrm modern home. Call 2-2947.

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20-LOGG NOTICES Medford Lodge No. 83 I.O.O.F. meets Tu & 4 p.m. Jan. 22 at 8 p.m. Birthday party. Visitors welcome. Jack Huston, N.G.

Medford Bodies Scottish Rite. Monday, January 24, 1955, 8 p.m. Stated Council and business in Medford. Free service. Visiting brethren welcome. Fred A. Purdin, Secy.

LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE No. 178. Grand Lodge meets Wednesday, 7:30 P.M. 11 Newtown St.

21-FOR SALE, MISCELLANEOUS ECONOMY HOUSE. AUCTION Crater Lake Hwy. at Biddle Road. 45,000 sq. ft. 2 1/2 stories. Full house of Medium and High grade furniture at unreserved prices. 14 Cu. Ft. Coldtopper Freezer, almost new, perfect condition. Sky Blue Bed, down, perfect. Nice Dk. Walnut 3-pc. Bed Set. Several nice Refriger. & Elec. Ranges. Very good Blond Table & 5 Chairs. Charming. Very good wood Heater. Nice matching maple Twin Beds. 45,000 sq. ft. 2 1/2 stories. Sharp. Rollaway Bed, coil springs; nice Good Wringing Washers. 2500 sq. ft. Coldtopper Freezer, exceptionally nice condition. Finished Bunk Beds, clean mattresses. Good white and full Gas Ranges.

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NORTH 90 TRADING CENTER. 2740 N. Pacific Hwy. Phone 2-3227. Open Sun. and Eve. till 9 p.m.

AFT. electric gas range and refrigerator for sale. Or trade for 1/2 size electric range in good condition.

WESTINGHOUSE elec. heater with thermostat. 2000 w. Like new. \$45. Phone 2-5690.

POWER TOOL SALE 1 only 3" Tilting Band Saw was 39.95 now 32.77 1 only 4" Band Saw was 49.95 now 37.77 4 1/2" Jointer-Planer now 45.77 was 49.95 1 only 12" Circular Saw was 34.77 now 31.77 1 only 12" Circular Saw was 34.77 now 31.77 1 only 12" Circular Saw was 34.77 now 31.77

WESTINGHOUSE RANGE, automatic. Has fluorescent light, minute timer and 4 surface units. Excellent condition. \$95. Also Westinghouse hand saw with water saw \$115. Phone 2-6941.

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\$1250— Large View lots. Restricted area. S.W. Suburban section, \$250 down. \$25 per mo. on balance. ROGUE VALLEY LAND CO. 704 West 6th St. Ph. 3-3641, 3-4376

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