

Golden Times

1-2/2000

The official newsletter of the
World Goldpanning Association

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- Publisher: Kauko Launonen
 - Editors: Paul Thurkettle, Inkeri Syrjänen, Pirjo Muotkäjarvi
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Message from the President



Gold rushes in the world continue on. There are two forms of modern day gold rush. One is based on financial targets and the other one's target might be more like different kinds of experiences. Most of the members in our association belong to this group searching for experiences. They spend more money to pan for gold than they expect to get back. There must be tens of thousands of these kinds of gold prospectors in the world. Most of them don't know about our association. Some of them don't even want to. Many gold prospectors like to work alone like the old-time hermits of the gold fields.

Naturally the WGA should respect the wishes of these lonely prospectors. However, in the future the WGA could be the organization which guarantees the continuity of their hobby as well. In many countries there are continuing signs of change in the limitations placed on gold panning. Modern day fast development of technology has run over the legislation and thus caused problems where for example the organizations of nature conservation has interfered. Gold panning, however, is one the oldest professions in the world. It's tradition should be allowed to continue in the future as well, at least as a hobby. To take care of this is one is the basic task of WGA. To record and develop gold panning traditions is one the aims written into our association. The Gold Panning Championships around the world has the

main role at least from the publicity requirement.. Championships are, indeed, a good way to gather together the people with a common interest. Co-operation in recording the tradition as well as in developing the possibilities of the hobby of gold panning has received less attention. Fortunately, during the past few years several gold museums have been founded in many countries. Through them the knowledge about the thousands of years of traditions and skills will spread to the large public. In many countries the gold panning associations have arranged to make gold panning available for their members. Now, is the time to offer the possibility to gold panning outside of the associations, to all people interested in nature and experiences. We need places where tourists can enjoy the

genuine experiences or let amateurs find a golden nugget for his collection. I hope that member countries will take measures in arranging this kind of public possibility. In Finland we have launched a project "Gold Rush 2000". It's target is to create gold

panning products & services and a net of people who arrange these products & services. Let this be also as a challenge to another member countries where it is possible to pan for gold. Let's create a common *GOLD CHAIN OF THE WORLD*. We are looking forward to

contacts from those who are interested in taking this challenge. Happy digging season to all. Kauko Launonen



Treasurer's Report

We have made good progress over the last two years. The new ideas that we have introduced will soon improve the WGA's financial account. I am grateful for the help of all those who wrote to me with the ideas, and those who then supported the ideas and have helped to make them happen.

At this years meeting in Poland, it will be important to look closely at any ideas to make *Golden Times* better and if possible cheaper.

To review the income changes made at the last WGA meeting, please check your last issue of GT.

National Representatives: Please bring US dollars to the meeting to make your countries yearly payment. Other currencies give us problems as we then have to transfer them to Finnish marks.

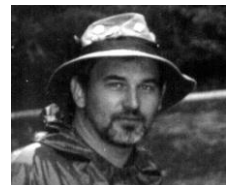
Just a short note this time! Perhaps the shorter the note, the better things are!

Vincent Thurkettle, Treasurer

Editorial



Articles, Articles, Articles... For the editorial staff this is our cry to you the Goldpanners of the World. *Golden Times* represents the World Goldpanning Association and as any one who has been to Championships will know, we have a lot of the World there. We would like to put out the challenge to all to send us articles on Gold related subjects from your



area. We would love to have some Gold Prospecting stories on "how and where" to prospect in your area and the regulations that apply. If you are worried about your English, don't! Working with you we will get it done. Any pictures you send will be returned if you wish. You can also send your story by E-mail, which is quicker and cheaper! The word *Technology* does not spring to mind when one thinks of Goldpanners,

but members are asking for electronic copies of GT as well as paper. This would allow us to save costs and use colour images, please let your country rep know what you think and it will be discussed at this year's meeting in Poland. We are also looking into a better system of preparing GT which will improve its layout and overall look and hopefully save some of our time! Thank you to all who contributed to this issue.

Notice:

National team – Time to choose

One of the most exciting and important categories at the World Goldpanning Championships is the National team event. It is an official category and allows each nation to forward a team of its 5 best Goldpanners, however, there are no rules on how it should be run and this means it can be different each year. It is the only official event where we do not have any agreed rules. We must look for a way for the team event to allow 5 people to wash as a team, talking and helping each other, but only using one trough. This allows up to 30 Nations to compete in the final.

So that we can all agree on one system and stop the current confusion, Kauko (WGA President) will ask the WGA committee to consider the rules for the National team event at this year's meeting in Poland.

A paper for discussion will be prepared for the meeting.

Profile – Three generations of the Morysek family, Bohemia.

Those who visited Kocaba '99 had an opportunity to walk around the southern meadow of the competition area and to the spot just to the left behind the footbridge. There you would find a special collection of picturesque goods arranged in the grass and on the simple



table. Plenty of variegated medals, buttons, old postcards and pictures, vials for gold, second hand hats and caps, awkward parts of field equipment, brochures from the museum at Jílové etc. were offered there by an elder tall man. This man, just enjoying life, friends and the varied company of gold prospectors from different parts of the world, was selling almost for free his flea-market goods to all who spoke loudly enough. His name is Tonda (Antonín-Anthony) Morysek, the first person to be introduced today. Born at Jílové, he studied geology at the Purkyně University of Brno. For more than 38

years he worked as a mining geologist in graphite mines, the Jílové gold mine, and for two other companies. After he had left underground and professional geology in 1990, he started to work in the Regional Museum of Gold at Jílové which was just reconstructed and in the mining archive in the town. Almost the entire original part of the exhibition formed as a result of Tonda's original ideas and proposals. Tonda is retired at present but is still widely involved in gold affairs: he visited all the gold panning events held in Bohemia and surroundings, brings us his bright sense of humour and good mood, and keeps a good continuity with our ancestors. By the way, he is the highly appreciated 'Exclusive supplier of model hats for the world champions from Bohemia'.

The second member of the Morysek family is Jirka (Jiri - George). He inherited not only his father's face and figure, but also his love to nature and the mother Earth, and became a geologist like his father. His work at the Czech Geological Survey at Prague was always linked with prospect ion and geological and geochemical survey; he participated in the expedition to Mongolia in 1989. Jirka always helps with the organizing of the Czech goldpanning contests and is a successful competitor whose skills are needed, namely in the practical tasks and competitions close to natural conditions like at Kestrany on the Otava River. This local competition is the only one organized in a very natural manner, here you are - one small pan and the shovel for 15 minutes in the river, the winner - often Jirka - has the highest number of gold chips.

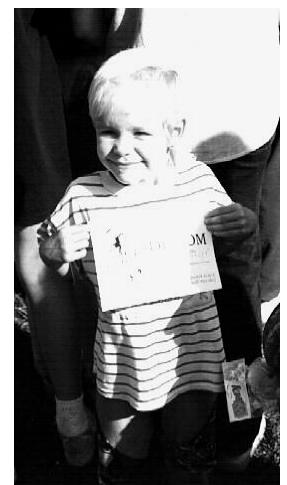


The most remarkable fact about Jirka, however, is dated to recent time. After the change of the old economic system in Bohemia, Jirka was among those first pioneers who dared to start geological activities on their own. He prospected and opened a small garnet mine near Trutnov in north-western Bohemia in 1995. The small-scale operation exploits the garnet-bearing alluvial sediment in an open valley. This mine still efficiently survives, giving jobs to several local people and a living to Jirka's family. It also supplies Czech jewellers with the traditional high-quality raw pyrop-rich garnet. In the context of the strong resistance against exploration and exploitation activities in Bohemia, this operation is one of the few showing that Earth's riches can be sensitively exploited for common wealth. Many of you know Jirka as a enthusiastic gold panner who has taken part in several world events in the last decade. His first world championship was the Kopparberg event in 1991 where he came with his wife Lucie shortly after their marriage. She's given him three children - Tomas, Aneta, and Barbora since that. He celebrated the Centenary of Yukon Gold by carrying two guitars, mandolin and a tambourine in addition to his and Tomas's equipment across the Chilkoot Pass in 1996, and substantially thus improved the quality of the Czech music played in the camps on the trail and during the event.



One cannot make a mistake when looking at the face of the youngest male branch of the Morysek family, the oldest child Tomas still keeps the family features of his grandpa. He used to travel with his father and participated successfully in quite a few national competitions as the winner of his category, travelling to Rauris and Lac de Saint Pardoux. Tomas's best international result was first place among children in the World Championship in Dawson City obtained after 4 weeks of wild travels through Alaska and the Yukon in 1996. As Tomas's interests has slowly differentiated, handball is apparently his number one hobby at present. Morysek's

genes of prospectors can influence also Tomas's younger sisters, Aneta



and Barbora and their relationship to goldpanning in the future. When she was 4 years old, Aneta was awarded for being the youngest contestant in the national championship held at Kocaba in 1997. The whole family now lives at the former royal mining town of Kutná Hora, where Jirka and Lucie are just finishing the construction of their new house.

The three generations of the Moryseks are not the only family involved in the present Czech gold panning events, however, you can hardly meet the others as often and regularly. I believe that those who know Jirka or Tonda would agree that they deserve at least this short note in our newsletter.

VŠ

News From Poland - Host of the 2000 World Championships

The 6th Open Polish Gold Panning Championships.



Competition "family" photo

150 prospectors from Poland, Slovakia, the Netherlands, Great Britain, Germany and Australia took part in 6th OPGC, held in Szklarska Poręba, the Karkonosze Mountains, in August 1999. This town is the „winter capital” of south - west Poland and the famous centre of winter sports.

Two days competitions started with parade in historical costumes, carried out despite strong rain.

Competition took place at a small lake, between granite rocks and the chair lift station.

Results:

Juniors: 1. Marcin Maciejak (PL), 2. Jarosław Augustyn (PL), 3. Hanna Wasilewicz (PL), 4. Katarzyna Rodzeń (PL), 5. Katarzyna Maciejak (PL).

Amateur ladies: 1. Karolina Świerk (PL), 2. Andrea Povazanova (Slovakia), 3. Irena Drozd (PL), 4. Ewa Raczek (PL), 5. Dobrawska Barbara (SL).

Amateur men: 1. Przemysław Michalski (PL), 2. Andrzej Strzelecki (PL), 3. Rafał Czernikowski (PL), 4. Wiktor Andrzejewski (PL), 5. Łukasz Zalewski (PL)

Profi ladies: 1. Anna Świerk (PL), 2. Agata Wejksznia (PL), 3. Renata Wasilewicz (PL), 4. Zofia Korkosz (PL), 5. Katarzyna Czech (PL).

Profi men: 1. Fred Olsson (Australia), 2. Tadeusz Wasilewicz (PL), 3. Lubos Dobrota (Slovakia), 4. Arkadiusz Noremberg (PL), 5. Michał Wejksznia (PL).



Profi Mens

Veterans: 1. Peter Ossenkopf (Germany), 2. Feliks Gil (PL), 3. Milan Urbanek (Slovakia).

Endurans: 1. Ryszard Wisiński (PL), 2. Roman Bober (PL), 3. Wojciech Kosatka (PL), 4. Richard Kana II (SL), 5. Dobrawsky Frantisek (SL).

Teams (5 persons): 1. GBI (Great Britain), 2. U Tadka (PL), 3. Mercurius (PL), 4. Slovakia I (SL), 5. Slovakia II (SL).

Regional competitions

In 1999 Polish Guild of Gold Prospectors was organising a few regional competitions in

order to promote gold panning further.
These were:

Golden Mounts Open in old mining town Złoty Stok (abandonment of gold extracting in 1960);

Holly Cross Mountains Open in Chęciny (central Poland);

Sudety Open in Złotoryja;



Piotr Kariak - Winner of Sudety open '99



Ladies final - Sudety Open '99

Wielkopolska Open in Złotoryja

Ziemia Łódzka Open in Pabianice (central Poland).

About 400 people took part in all championships organised by Polish Guild of Gold Prospectors in 1999.

The first handbook for gold prospectors in Poland

In the end of December '99 the first in Polish handbook for gold prospectors appeared. The authors are Kinga Maciejak and Krzysztof Maciejak from Złotoryja. The book has 80 pages and includes almost 60 colour illustrations, maps and geological sections, and gold bibliography. Inside, the reader can find advice as to how and where to pan, and under.

Separate chapter is about gold mining history of Poland and about contemporary explorations, too. There are results of all Polish Championships since 1994. Book has been written in Polish language

(kmaciejak@bbk.pl)

New address of Polish Guild of Gold Prospectors:

Polskie Bractwo Kopaczy Złota

ul. Żeromskiego 15a

59-500 Złotoryja

Poland

Tel. (76) 8-787-040

Fax. (76) 8-787-044

e-mail: pbkz@pro.onet.pl

web: <http://www.gold2000.pro.onet.pl>

Krzysztof Maciejak

Gold in Poland

Gold in Poland has been searched since the early medieval times. The main area of gold prospecting has always been Lower Silesia, chiefly the Sudetes (NE part of the Bohemian Massif).

Major centres of gold mining include the surroundings of the towns of Złotoryja, Lwówek Śląski, Złoty Stok and Głucholazy, and also mountain massif of the Karkonosze and the Izera Upland.

The first king of Poland, Bolesław Chrobry (967-1025), is known to receive substantial benefits from gold mines in Silesia, Bohemia, and Moravia. Through the centuries the gold mining was experiencing frequent up-and-downs. Just before 1961, when gold exploitation was finally abandoned, gold was only recovered as a by-product of arsenic ore processing in Złoty Stok.

Renewal of gold recovery has been noticed since 1994. This time, using technology of the Swedish "Boliden" company, gold comes as a by-product of copper ore processing in the Copper Works "Głogów", which are the part of the KGHM Polska Miedź SA concern. About 400-500 kg of gold is recovered yearly.

In the late nineties, 33 gold-bearing plots have been delimited in Lower Silesia, each about 96 sq km. In 1996-2000, ventures with Polish, American, Irish and Australian assets have already been granted the right to prospect and document gold-bearing deposits.

Gold in Złotoryja

Gold mining around Złotoryja was based mostly on alluvial placer deposits, although some gold was also recovered from solid rocks of the Nicholas Hill and the Wielisławka Hill using shafts and underground galleries. Gold present in the alluvium of the Kaczawa river was brought down several million years ago by the ancient Bóbr and Kaczawa rivers flowing from the Karkonosze, Izera, and Kaczawa Mountains, the areas where primary gold is known to have occurred. Heavy gold deposits may have been laid down in many different places, on the inner meander banks, in narrow stretches of rivers, depressions of rivers beds, behind natural steps and any other obstacles.

In two areas in the immediate vicinity of Złotoryja gold bearing deposits occur as the old terrace of a Tertiary river.

One of these is around the settlements of Nowa Ziemia, Sępów and Jerzmanice Zdrój (ca. 230 m a.s.l.). Sands enriched in gold rest on sandstone bedrock, about 24 m above the present Kaczawa valley floodplain. Old steep-sided spoil tips scattered through woodlands on both sides of the Złotoryja-Jelenia Góra road can be seen there now. The other area comprises the north-east

part of Złotoryja and settlements Kopacz and Kozów. Gold-bearing sands occur some 20-30 m below the surface (180-200 m a.s.l.), yet they occasionally crop out in the valley sides of the Kaczawa river and its tributaries.

Mean gold content in the alluvial sediments of the Kaczawa river was 2 g per tonne, but it attained 10-14 g per tonne in some places. In the course of very detailed investigations carried out by Professor Andrzej Grodzicki from the Institute of Geological Sciences, University of Wrocław, several kinds of gold occurrence were recognised.

Gold is present as fine scales, plates, sticks, and grains (max. 4-6 mm). Much more rarely, nuggets up to pea-grain size can be found. The colour of gold recovered from the Kaczawa alluvium is rather dark, with delicate red shading.

Gold rush

It is unknown when searching for gold around the present town Złotoryja (Złotoryja = Gold Town, *pol.* złoto = gold) actually started. Perhaps the very first people to look for gold in Lower Silesia came from the island of Crete, and were then replaced by Celts in the 4th to 3rd century BC. Later in the 5-6th century, gold was recovered from alluvial sands by Slavic people, but the area really grew in importance between the 9th and 12th century. The name of the oldest mining settlement, Kopacz, which may be translated as *Digging*, originated in the medieval times.

In 1211 Henryk Brodaty, the Duke of Silesia, gave Złotoryja, as to the first town in Poland, the foundation charter based on the Magdeburg Law. Since then, names of the town, such as Aureus Mons, Aurum, Aurimontium and Goldberg, have always emphasised its close relations to gold.

The height of gold rush was experienced in the 13th century, when some 24 to 48 kg of

pure gold was recovered each year. The town was renowned for its mines, *Golden Schlag*, *Golden Rad*, *Fuchs Winkel*, *Zum Reischt*, *Sieben B)ttten*, and *Auf der Hube*. Profits were shared between dukes, burghers of Wrocław and Legnica, and monasteries.

In 1241 gold miners from Złotoryja took part in the famous Battle of Legnica against the Tatar hordes. Miners captured by the Tatars were supposed to be taken to the shores of the Caspian Sea and to Siberia, where they recovered gold for the benefits on the Tartar Khans. In the 2nd half of the 13rd century the best and most easily

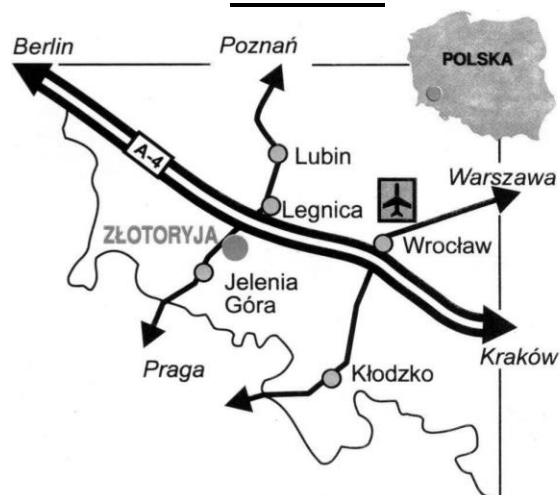
accessible gold-bearing deposits became exhausted, yet in the following centuries, using new techniques of exploitation, several attempts were made to resume gold mining, e.g. in 1661, 1775-77, 1781-84, 1842-43 and 1853-68. The last episode of gold mining took place in the 20th century. As recently as 1923 mining guilds Gold, Silber und Kupfer - Mutung Goldberg I and II got licenses for gold exploitation. In 1925 the St. Hedwig gallery was dug in the Czerwony Potok valley. However, after three years mining activity eventually ceased.

Krzysztof Maciejak

WORLD GOLDPANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS

ZŁOTORYJA 2000

POLAND



* Złotoryja is located in the south-western part of Poland near a crossing of the A4 Motorway (Berlin-Wrocław) and the Road no.3. Złotoryja is crossed by a road leading from the northern and western parts of Poland towards Jelenia Góra, Karkonosze Mountains and the Czech Republic.

* The town is 370 km far from Warsaw, 160 km far from Prague, 225 km far from Berlin, and 324 km from Vienna as the crow flies.

* Złotoryja is the gate to the territory of the Kaczawa Upland and Mountains (part of the Sudeten Mountains), which is crossed by the Kaczawa river valley.

* Nature monuments: geological reserve on Wilcza Góra hill (basalt outcrops); geological monuments - Raven Rocks, Landscape Park „Chełmy” and „Ostrzyca Proboszczowicka”; Karkonosze Natur Park (60 km).

- Historical monuments: Gold Miners Monument, gallery of gold prospectors (1660/61); Gold Museum; Birth of Virgin Mary church; st. Hedwig church; Holy Cross church; Smith's Tower (14/15th century); medieval city walls; Grodziec medieval castle; furnaces in Leszczyna (19th century).

Schedule of Events

Monday (28.08)

Meeting in Złotoryja
Registration
Mineralogical excursions
Excursions to historical gold-mining places
Gold panning school
Open of the photographic exhibition „6 years of goldpanning championships in Poland”.

Tuesday (29.08)

Registration
Excursions to historical gold-mining places
Gold panning school
Enduro motocross race in Świerzawa - Nowy Kościół
Symposium Gold in Poland

Wednesday (30.08)

Registration, closes afternoon (10 p.m.)
Excursions to historical gold-mining places.
Gold panning school
Minerals Market
Canadian Triathlon
Parade of national representatives (6 p.m.)
Official opening of the World Goldpanning Championships 2000
Artistical and music events

Thursday (31.08)

Preliminary heats (Proficient Men - 9.30 a.m.;
Proficient Ladies - 2.30 p.m.)
Gold panning school
Minerals Market

World Goldpanning Association Annual Meeting
(6 p.m.)
Presentation of 2001 European Goldpanning Championships host country - Italy
Music

Friday (1.09)

Preliminary heats (Proficient Men - 9.00 a.m.;
Beginners Men - 11 a.m.; Veterans)
Open teams
Gold panning school
Minerals Market
Presentation of 2001 World Goldpanning Championships host country - Australia
Music, cultural events

Saturday (2.09)

Preliminary heats, Semi - Finals (Proficient Men - 9.00 a.m.; Proficient Ladies - 10.00 a.m.;
Beginner's - 11.00; Juniors under 16 - 2 p.m.;
Children under 11 - 3 p.m.; Veterans - 4 p.m.)
Minerals Market
Gold panning school
Acrobatic show
Gold Prospectors Evening Party (8 p.m.)

Sunday (3.09)

Finals heats - all categories; Nationals Teams (9 a.m.-1 p.m.)
Minerals Market
Knight's fights - a historical performance
Golden Picnic
Awarding of Prizes and Closing Ceremony (3 p.m.)

News from other countries

Italy

The Eco-museum of Gold and of the Bessa

Thanks to cooperation between the Biella Goldprospectors' Association and the Elvo and Serra Eco-museum Association, the very first work has begun on the nucleus of the Gold Museum.

Tenders had been invited for reconstruction work on the building provided by the Zubiena Council, and the job has been awarded to a local firm.

Over the past weeks a first step was taken with the demolition of certain structures within the building, (a former school, now in disuse, in the ancient centre of Vermogno) and in the photo one can see the labour of the first team who, having for once laid aside the



traditional tools used in the search for the precious metal, have instead taken up those normally used on a construction site.

The building in which the Gold Museum will be situated consists of three floors: that of the main entrance will include a reconstruction to scale of the goldmine area of Roman times (the historical goldfields of which Plinius the Elder and Strabone both speak), a series of panels explaining prospecting methods and a computer point linking the Museum via Internet to gold-prospecting sites all over the

world. The upper floor will host an exhibition of archaeological finds, thanks to the collaboration of the Bessa Special Natural Reserve Board and the Archaeological Heritage Authority of the Piemonte Region.

Finally, underground, in the most beautiful of halls will be housed the heart of the Museum, which will pulsate with auriferous samples from the streams of Biella together with an exhibition of tools handed down from our ancestors, including some rare pieces dating from the 19th century and come to light thanks to the older members of the Biella Association.

Moreover, in these very last few days, a delegation from the Leon region of Spain has visited the Park and has undertaken to work closely with the local Eco-museum in order to link up every aspect of this activity within Europe.

According to the project elaborated with the Local Action Group, work should be completed by December 2000, thus permitting those who will come to Biella for the European Championships in 2001 to visit a further point of interest regarding the activity of gold-prospecting - apart from the square kilometres of stone-heaps in the Bessa goldmine and the other rich attractions of the Biella area.

Japan

The All Japan Goldpanning Association hosted the National Goldpanning Championships in Nakatombetsu in August 1999.

On the day of the Championships, the weather was fine and it was very hot, with a temperature exceeding +30 degrees of Celsius. In spite of the extreme weather, 141 participants from many parts of Japan actively competed in the panning. The champion was Mr. Hosoi, a professional gold panner, who works as an instructor in Usotannai Gold Park. It was decided that he

will represent Japan in the World Goldpanning Championships in Poland this August, and we have big expectations of him. (See Photo 1)



Photo 1

In October 1999, 15 people entered the heart of the Usotan gold dust mountain in Hamatombetsu to investigate the remains of gold dust mines. They investigated the Ustan gold dust mountain, the name of which appears in the Japanese Goldpanning history as a "Klondike of the Far East" when gold dust was discovered there in 1898, attracting over 10 thousand gold panners. The investigators also confirmed the existence of stone walls, a former gold mine, a company building and unknown persons' graves, all of which are the remains of goldpanning activities from that time. We will report these investigations in a book which completes our role of investigating, preserving and handing down these remains. (See Photo 2).



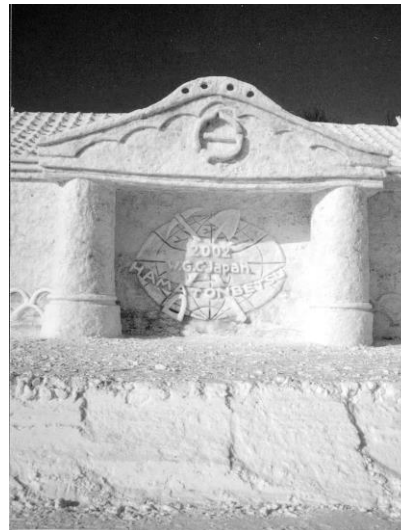
Photo 2

In February 2000, the Winter Festival, which the citizens of Hamatombetsu eagerly anticipated, was held, and unique competitions, including a log-pulling race, were conducted. The official logo of the

World Goldpanning Championships in Japan, scheduled for 2002, was also sculpted in snow at the center of this year's main statue, "the 2000 Climbing Dragon, " adding to the excitement of the snow festival. (See Photos 3 and 4).



Photo's 3 & 4



Makoto Okada

All Japan Goldpanning Association

IRELAND

GOLD FINGERS IN IRELAND : a background to the "panning" weekends run by Geologists in County Mayo to show greenhorn prospectors how to find the real thing.....

"Nothing quite prepares you for your first gold strike. Eyes fixed and keen, cold fingers swirl and tilt the silvery pan so the mountain water coaxes the last heavy grains of black sediment and silt back to the river bed.

And there it is !

A single shard of gold glistens and dazzles in the cool, blue light of March as the Carrowniskey river tumbles urgently to the Atlantic".

Looming abruptly to the east is Croagh Patrick, black and purple and imposing on a Spring day, hiding its horde of gold deep in the saddle of quartz-rich rock between the Reek and Ben Goram. This is Ireland's 'Holy Mountain', 753 m tall and bearing the name of the nation's patron saint, Patrick, who,



in the year 441AD is said to have fasted here for 40 days. Every year in July a pilgrimage takes place, most pilgrims traditionally taking on barefoot the steep, slippery climb to the summit and back.

Two veins, estimated to carry 500,000 ounces of gold, were discovered here in Co. Mayo in the mid-80's, using goldpanning to track the alluvial gold washed and scoured into the streams and rivers back to their source in the mountain crags. Geologists were convinced that Croagh Patrick was the beginning of a band of noble metal which extended eastwards throughout all of Ireland and as far as Scotland. In 1991, Mayo County Council imposed a mining ban in parts of the county. (There had been great opposition among local groups to the so-called 'destruction

and desecration' of the environment and especially of the holy site). The mining company eventually took legal action in the High Court, as, although in '92 the ban had been overturned, the value of the company's shares on the Dublin Stock Exchange had plummeted from 30p a share before the ban to 12p afterwards. An Australian specialist gold-mining company which had a 51% stake in the prospect also collapsed as a result of the ban. Great damage had been done in the marketplace to confidence in mining in Co. Mayo.

But meanwhile the idea of goldpanning for tourists and interested natives had taken off. The technique is explained and demonstrated by a Geologist to the motley crew of novice prospectors who hope to use this ancient method to snare gold from its hiding-place on the bed of the Carrowniskey river.

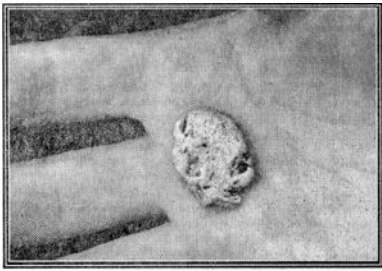
"-Find a likely-looking spot downstream of one of the large boulders near the midpoint of the waterway", he says. "That's the most likely spot for the energy of the river to be sapped momentarily by the rocky obstruction so that the fragments of heavy gold sink behind the rocky outcrop. Shovel hard into the ten inches of fast-flowing river and bring the mud, pebbles, sand and silt with you. Dump the lot into a strong, wire sieve and using the river water wash the finer stuff through the sieve into the pan. Repeat two or three times so you build up about half a pound or more of relatively fine stuff in the aluminium saucer.

Tilting the pan so the lip rests on the surface of the river allows the flow to do the work for you. All that is required is a steady hand tilting and swirling so that the lighter deposits and aggregate swirl to the top and spill back into the river. Do it well enough and long enough and a thimble of black particles, the heaviest minerals, are left behind. That's when you can start peering for the lustre of a tiny nugget."

Reputedly, there are dealers in London's West End who are prepared to pay £1,000 an ounce for Irish gold. Its relative rarity and the romantic symbolism of having a wedding band of Irish gold ensure top prices, even if gold prices worldwide are going through something of a slump.

Ireland even had its own mini-Klondyke in 1795 when alluvial gold was found in a minor County Wicklow river subsequently named the Goldmines River. A local gold rush ensued, lasting for some six weeks as an estimated 80 kg of gold was extracted by feverish prospectors. The government

stepped in and dispersed the diggers before embarking on seven years of mining around the river, and there were subsequently a number of other attempts made in the 19th century both by the local populace (1804-'39) and by a private company (1860) to extract gold in the area. Significant



amounts of gold were found during these periods, but since then only very small amounts are known to have been recovered. The total quantity is calculated at some 300kg, although the true figure may be higher. While most of the gold occurs as free particles, grains and nuggets (up to 0.75kg) have been found. (Our photo shows one the size of a blackbird's egg, discovered by a second Geologist while exploring in Co. Wicklow.) Attempts were made to trace the bedrock

source of the gold, with no success. The most recently-proposed theory is that most of the gold is derived from iron-copper mineralization hosted in Ordovician acid volcanics.

Considerable quantities of pre-historic gold ornaments have been found throughout Ireland. Most belong to the Bronze Age, although others date from the late Iron Age and Early Christian periods. Archaeological opinion has long been divided as to whether the gold used in the ornaments had been imported or whether it had been mined in Ireland. The fact that there was only one known locality which had the potential for significant (alluvial) gold mining (the Goldmines River, Co. Wicklow) lent support to the view that the gold was imported. However, recent exploration has demonstrated that gold in significant quantities is to be found at a number of localities throughout Ireland. There is now a greater likelihood that the pre-historic ornaments were made from Irish gold. Some confirmation for this view is provided by the Annals of the Four Masters (1632) which refer to the discovery of gold in Ireland in 1600 BC approx. and further state that the gold was smelted in the forests south of the present-day capital of Ireland, Dublin.

Records of gold extraction or its occurrence are relatively sparse and poorly documented prior to the 17th century, and some enigmas even remain regarding the presence of gold in Ireland today. But one thing is certain - in Ireland as elsewhere, the lure of gold has remained constant throughout the centuries from pre-historic times to the present day.

Geraldine Mc Crossan

(Sources : Irish Gov.Dept. Of Marine and Natural Resources,
"Irish Independent" and "Irish Times" national daily newspapers.)

Australia

RICH DISCOVERIES (THIS ARTICLE IS TAKEN FROM "GOLDEN YEARS 1851 - 1951".)

Victoria's goldfields have been notable in particular for the richness of their deposits, especially in the alluvial field.

One of our most notable stories of rich finds at Ballarat relates to a claim pegged out originally by eight men at the junction of the Canadian and Prince Regent's Leads. They were new chums, entirely without experience, but they sank their shafts to a depth of 90 ft, struck the true gutter, and found the washdirt exceedingly rich in gold.

They took out enough to produce £12,800 worth, but feared to continue working because in their ignorance they had timbered their shaft very badly, and it threatened to collapse. Another party of ten bought the claim for £77, and in two days took out £10,000 worth of

gold. After that the claim changed hands several times, and produced altogether more than £50,000 worth.

These rich returns created tremendous interest, but greater excitement was caused by the finding of nuggets.

One day in February, 1869, John Deason, a Cornishman, while poking in the ground with a fork on a claim which he had taken with a companion at Mount Moliagul, near Dunolly, struck an obstacle about one inch below the surface. He dug round it with a pick and found it to be a great mass of quartz and gold, tangled in the roots of a tree. The original mass weighed over two hundredweight; the net weight of the gold, 2284 ounces.

This "monster", which was twenty-four inches in length, was the famous "Welcome Stranger", the largest nugget on record. It was bought by the London Bank at Dunolly for £9,436.16.8.

Descendants of John Deason still live in the Maryborough region.

Fred Olsson
Australia

Great Britain

The results of the British Goldpanning Championships 27-28th May 2000
1st Vince Thurkettle, 2nd John Krenc, 3rd Barbara Copley

Finland

History of the Finnish Gold Rush

The story of the old rush began in the 16th century when rumours about the Lapps having found gold reached the king of Sweden. He launched an expedition but only a small amount of gold was found and the search was called off. Two hundred years later the king of Denmark heard the rumours and sent his experts to the north, but the men came back reporting the alleged gold was only worthless pyrite. Hopes rose again in 1836 when two gold-bearing dolomite blocks were found by the Kemijoki river. An extensive search was organized, with meagre results.

The turning point came in 1867. A Norwegian mining engineer Tellef Dahl struck gold at the same spot rumoured to be the Lapps' ancient gold field. An expedition was sent to explore the area, headed by

mining engineer Johan Konrad Lihr. Some gold was found, but not enough for mining to be profitable. The men were disappointed, their three-month search had been in vain. Yet they decided to check one more area before returning. And it was there, by the Ivalojoiki river, that the first gold nuggets were discovered on 16 September 1868.

When Lihr reported the gold finds, the government started planning extensive gold mining in Lapland. However, these were the years of severe famine in Finland and due to the lack of funds it was impossible to launch a new expedition. But the news of the "Finnish California" leaked out and some acted fast. After procuring a gold panning licence, the first gold diggers arrived in Lapland in the summer of 1869. Among them were two sailors Jakob Ervast and Niklas Lepistö, as well as a Russian merchant with

his 14-men crew. Since the two sailors had experience of gold digging in America they found two kilos of gold in only a couple of weeks. Law-abidingly, they took the gold to the county sheriff Planting. But he, a veteran gold digger, didn't want his long-standing dream to be shattered. He swindled the men out of their gold claim. This developed into a lengthy court case.

The sailors' gold find launched swift preparations by the state officials. A gold rush was anticipated for the next summer. A gold committee was founded and mining licences started being delivered. The government built a crown station near the gold field in order to control the gold panning and collect taxes. All gold was to be sold to the government and a tax of 3-12 per cent was to be paid depending on the amount discovered. The expectations proved right: in the summer of 1870 the gold rush was in full swing. Hundreds of people swarmed into the region. Some risked everything sold their property and set out to try their luck.

The access to the gold field was rough. Since there were no roads up north, people had to either walk, ski or row. Travelling through the rapids in a river boat was no easy task for the unexperienced, it demanded both skill and force. Many turned back. Some died during the trip. But the most eager were not discouraged and in the first summer the gold diggers in the area numbered 335.

The Kultala Crown Station with its main building, bakery and a tavern became the centre of the gold diggers' lives. Gold was panned from 6am until 9pm. On their days off, the men - and women - drank, partied rowdily and played cards. Disputes over the gold claims were common but no lives were lost in the fights. Some mysterious

disappearances were reported, though. The gold discovered during the first summer amounted to 19 kilos. Due to the harsh nature conditions of Lapland, gold panning was possible only in the summer. In the autumn, when the frosts came, the gold diggers and state officials returned to their home regions.

Next summer the gold rush reached its peak: almost 500 gold diggers gathered in the area. The amount of discovered gold rose to 57 kilos. Rumour has it, however, that as much as 2/3 of the gold was smuggled to Norway where it could be sold at a better price and without tax.

The summer 1872 was almost as busy as the previous year, but thereafter the gold fever started to cool down. The peak was over, even though the government made efforts to facilitate gold panning by lowering licence prices and alleviating regulations. The panning still continued on a smaller scale and spread to other areas. When gold was found in Lemmenjoki river in 1945, the old gold fields were left almost empty, except for some solitary gold diggers. new gold rush developed by Lemmenjoki, but by far not as busy as the first one in Ivalojoeki in the beginning of 1870.

Gold seeking still goes on, both by amateurs and professionals. The latest find was made in the summer of 1998. Baptised "Little Mammoth", it was the third biggest gold nugget ever found in Lapland, weighing 251 grams. And the biggest one found by a woman.

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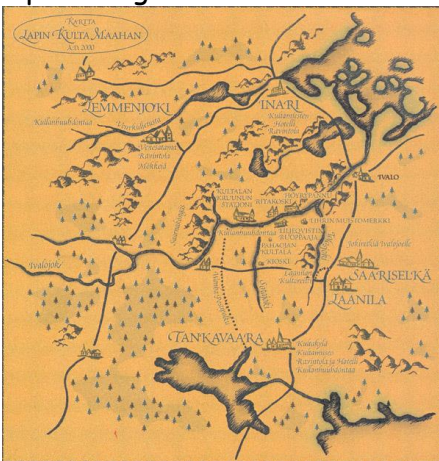
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(Gummerus 1986)

Research: www.kulta.com

Gold Rush 2000 -project

- culture, experiences and gold to the visitors

Travelling for culture, experiences and nature is becoming more and more popular. Visitors want more from their holiday journey; they want to take a closer view for the local culture and enjoy the genuine experiences in the pure nature. Gold history of Lapland is an important part of the culture in Lapland. Gold Museum in Tankavaara shows the visitors the history and modern day life of gold prospectors and in the goldpanning place they can try to pan for gold themselves. In addition of those gold tourists want to see the famous Ivalojoiki and Lemmenjoki gold fields and pan for gold also in the wilderness claim.



For that reason a new project "Gold Rush 2000 - product development and marketing project of gold tourism services" was established July 1999 in Lapland. Tankavaara Goldvillage realizes the project together with few other companies in travelling industry. Financing for the project comes from those companies but also from EU and municipalities of north.

Target is to produce a new high-quality services for visitors interested in gold, develop the old, good services and make sure that all information about those services as

well as all other possibilities related gold travelling are easily available for the people interested in gold.



World News - From Koos Schoenmaker

Holland Gold for sale!

In view of the introduction of the Euro coin in 2002, the Dutch General Bank will sell - in the next five years - again a lot of gold; 300.000 kg = 24.000 ingots! Of Dfls 6 milliard.

This is about 30 % of the stock now. There will remain only (!) an amount of 700 tons. Still, Holland remains one of the most biggest gold possessors of the world. (See Golden Times 3-4/1998)

Spain

The Dutch boy Sammy (age 13) on a holiday near Alicante, found a treasure. How did it happen? He dropped his knife somewhere (on which part remains a secret). Digging into the sand, he found four jewels of solid gold; together 108,46 grams. They are descended from a necklace of the so called Iberian period. In this place, archeologists are digging for more of this kind of "gifts from Gold" they said.

Romania

Cyanide in the river Tisza.

On January 31st, last, an incident happened in a goldmine in Baia Mare. Because of enormous snowfall the melting-furnace was damaged, through which cyanide escaped into the river Tisza. This caused a terrible

disaster in the environment. Goldmining in this way will never compensate such kind of pollution!

Japan

Your GSM-phones containing gold!
Yokohama Metal in Sagamihaare recycles used phones. These phones are containing silver, bronze and gold. In only one year Y.M. collected about 3,5 million phones: result? 1.000 kilo of silver, 20 tons of bronze and last but not least 50 kilo of gold.

Chile

Bernard Keiser - see Golden Times 3-4/1998 - is back again on Chile's island Juan Fernandez. The first time he was there, he met a lot of opposition. Why? He does not

know. Now he is back with a lot of different licenses to explore the whole valley for a period of 5 years. "A dream came true" he said. Time will tell us.

More is coming in due course.

Greetings,
Koos

A Report on Visiting Australia

km,



To
fin

d a station in Perth was a result of a lucky guess. On the map marked a railway and along it countless amounts of pictures of the stations in square boxes. However, nowhere on the map was the station, which was marked on our tickets.

Finally, however, we happily stand on the platform in the middle of

huge heap of suitcases and we looked more like some immigrants than the passengers on a first class train. We were renting a car in Perth and were driving around in Kalgoorlie and other western gold fields. And as always, when you travel by car where there is extra room, it's easy to buy "everything nice", such as different kind of teddy-

"Indian Pacific"

Journey: ca. 4000
four days 22 carriages in the train
Perth-Adelaide-Sydney
Journey: Departure from
Perth: Mondays and Fridays at
10.55

Arrival in Adelaide:
Wednesdays and Sundays at
06.05

Arrival in Sydney:
Thursdays and Mondays at
09.15

bears as we did. But when you have to bundle all those things into the suitcase it starts a real war. "You wanted to buy also that one" - the quarrel usually ends in buying a new suitcase.

We had also packed some better clothes with us for the assumed "white-tablecloth-dinners". Later on at dinner we notice that, yes, there were a white cloths on the tables, but we were surprised to see a

middle-aged man from Sydney marching calmly to the same dinner wearing shorts and thick knee socks. He had been visiting his relatives in Perth again and was now on his way back home. A railway journey in this train seemed to be everyday life to him, but for us it was a real treat.

The carriage servant guides us with all our luggage to our carriage where we find all necessary for the three days train journey; a sofa which can spread as a bed for nights, a table, a wardrobe, shower and toilet. All our luggage went in easily under the beds and on the wardrobe.

We were directed towards the lounge carriage. Along our way there are one person sleeping sections which provokes mirth since they are like the bubbles in both sides of corridor. The corridor winds like a snake and it was impossible to avoid bumping the walls.

At the lounge we sit down into the boggy armchairs glancing at the older ladies who are bustling around the coffee machine and thinking if it would be proper to order gin & tonic. Everything else is included in the train ticket but alcohol drinks and wines.

It is easy to start talking with Aussies. They are impulsive and friendly people and many of them have

travelled a lot. The only problem is the language, which should be English which we almost understand. Most of the time you catch on a plot of discussion but details leaves conjectural.

We get to the dinner carriage for the second sitting as it is announced through the loudspeaker in the bar. We have Matthew and Sue from Melbourne as dinner company. They have travelled with the Indian Pacific train before and find it more comfortable than flying. "You can relax on the train for a few days and just walk around and enjoy good meals".

We have a kangaroo roast for dinner and with it we choose a local Chardonnay. Australian wines are excellent and with a reasonable price.

The landscape has totally changed after Perth. On the coast we admired blue flower fields further than the eye can see (the journey took place in October, in other words in Spring) but now the scenery teeming behind the windows is nothing else but red sand. The Nullarbor Desert is literally "nulla arbor" = no trees at all. A few bushes-like things loom on the horizon but everything else is just stones and sands, endlessly... When the day dawned the scenery is as



sandy as it was when the evening grew dusky, although the train proceeded over 500 km during the night. However, the land is not empty; now and then one can see a hawk flying in the sky, even a eagle couple appears above the train. There must be something to eat on the ground, in other words, life! Later on I read from the guidebook that in the desert there are plenty of endemic animals and plants.

We stop in the small station of Cook where the crew of the train is changed. Around the station a small village of 100 inhabitants was born; most of them are railway men and their families. With a lot of effort some trees had been planted in the village, which they must irrigate through the summer. Swallows have found trees and insects. Whistling of the wings fill the air when they speed screaming above the dusty street. Any other living things we don't see except the salesman at the station's souvenir shop. The villagers' sense of humour express the sentence painted in the chink of concrete; "Our

hospital needs help, please get sick".

The day passes by reading the books, dozing and staring at the horizon. There is no hurry anywhere, there is time for the blue thoughts, one can enjoy the swinging ride of the train by doing nothing. What a luxury

Early in the morning we get off the train in Adelaide. We have travelled 3220 km on the railway as straight as an arrow, small empty stations, names on the map. The Nullarbor Desert has soothed busy minds and the train journey offered sweet rest. The carriages of the Indian

Pacific with silver sides and pictures of eagles continue their way to Sydney and we direct ourselves to the new adventures at the opal fields of Cooper Pedy.

(Inkeri Syrjänen and Kauko Launonen visited Australia on October 1999)

Cooper Pedy - An opal city in the middle of nowhere

In the Outback of South Australia, 846 km north of Adelaide hides a strange city. It really hides; it is situated underground! Underground, because the opals are there and because in the desert summers are hot and winter nights cold. Summer temperatures (Dec-Feb) range from +35 degrees C in the shade and dust storms trouble the area where there are no trees growing at all. Underground the temperature is steady +23 degrees C



throughout the year and since annual rainfall is minimal there is not any damp problems.

Cooper Pedy is an international town. Among its 3500 inhabitants there are 45 different nationalities. Half of them live underground, in houses commonly known as "dugouts". These are dug to join the tunnels where the opals are searched. The biggest mansion style homes spread up to 450 square meters underground. Also most of the museums, churches, and shops are huge.

When driving around the desert the motorist is asked to be careful so that they don't park their vehicle on the roof of neighbour. The air conditioning pipes peeping out from the sand could be only sign of underground life.

The Discovery of Opal

In January 1915, William Hutchison (aged 14) was camping with his father's gold prospecting party south of Cooper Pedy and when searching for water young William found pieces of surface opal and eight days later the first opal claim was pegged.

After the First World War, an influx of miners caused a major increase in production. The dugout style of living introduced by these ex-soldiers gave the fields its name which is derived from the Aboriginal *kupa piti* meaning 'white man's burrow'.

In 1946 an Aboriginal woman named Tottie Bryant made a rich opal find in the area which started a new rush in the fields. In the 1960's and 70's the opal industry developed and Cooper Pedy became a modern mining town.

Opal workings now extend for nearly 40 km north and 10 km south of the township.

Coober Pedy is the world's largest producer of precious opal, and has been superseded only by Mintabie for a few years in the mid-1980s. Australia produces nowadays 95 % of the world's commercial opal and most of that comes from Coober Pedy.

Further information about Coober Pedy: www.opalcapitaloftheworld.com.au and fossicking in Queensland, Australia which is <http://www.dme.qld.gov.au/resdev/landuse/fossick.htm>

OPAL INFORMATION (Pt 1 of 2)

(from "Opal in South Australia" by Mines and Energy Resources, 1997)

What is opal?

Opal is a form of silica, chemically similar to quartz, but containing water within the mineral structure. Precious opal generally contains 6-10 % water and consists of small silica spheres arranged in a regular pattern.

Opal occurs in many varieties, two of which are precious opal and potch.

Colour in precious opal is caused by the regular array of silica spheres and voids diffracting white light, and breaking it up into the colours of the spectrum. The diameter and spacing of the spheres controls the colour range of an opal.

Small spheres produce opal of blue colour only, whereas larger spheres produce red colour. Opal with red colour can display the entire spectrum.

Opal colours also depend on the angle of light incidence and can change or disappear when the gem is rotated.

In potch opal, the silica spheres may be absent or too small or irregularly arranged to produce colour.

Mining Opal

Opal is one of the few mineral which can still be extracted economically by a miner working alone. The simplest form of mining is by shaft sinking with a pick and shovel. Driving along the level is then carried out with picks and explosives. A handpick or screwdriver is used to extract any opal found.

Most shafts are now sunk by Calweld-type drills which are used to sink vertical holes about

one metre in diameter using an auger bucket.

This rig is also used for prospecting and the opal fields are pitted with abandoned Calweld drillholes.

Waste material, or mullock, from the shafts and drives was originally lifted in buckets by hand windlass, but power winches (Yorke hoists) or automatic bucket tippers (self unloaders) are now used.

There has been a rapid increase in the use of mining machines since the 1970s. Tunnelling machines with revolving cuttings heads and small underground front-end loaders (boggers) have been introduced.

Bulldozers are employed to remove overburden and expose the level where it is shallow. Spotters follow behind watching for traces of opal; any seam found is then worked over by handpick.

Noodling

Many locals make a living out of searching through heaps of discarded mullock for pieces of precious opal, a pastime popular with tourists. The most productive heaps are those excavated by bulldozers where opal may have been crushed or overlooked by miners. Noodling machines in which mullock is passed by conveyor under an ultraviolet light in a darkened enclosure are also used. The ultraviolet light causes the opal to fluoresce a bright white, enabling it to be sorted by hand.

Inkeri Syrjänen

Dates for your Diary

GOLDPANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 2000

*** Italian Open Championships**

22.-23.7.2000, Stura River, Ovada
Information: Federazione Italiana Cercatori
D'Oro, Museo Storico dell'Oro Italiano, 15077
Predosa (AL), Italy. Tel. (0143) 873176 (Dr. G.
Pipino)

*** Yukon Open Championships**

1.7.2000 Dawson City, Canada
Information: <http://www.dawsoncity.com>,
kva@dawson

*** French Open Championships**

7.-8.7. near Foix
Information: Limousin Goldpanners Association,
Serge Nenert, La Villatte, 23500 St Quentin La
Chabanne, France, Tel/Fax. 05-55-66-55-34, e-
mail: serge_nenert@yahoo.com

*** German Open Championships**

7.-9.7.2000, Goldkronach
Information: Deutsche Goldsuchervereinigung
e.V., c/o Norbert Kurtz, Sickenreuther Str. 29,
95497 Goldkronach, Germany

*** Swedish Open Championships**

15.-16.7.2000, Kiruna
Information:
- Per-Olof & Margareta Sandström, Idrottsvägen
20, S-98139 Kiruna, Sweden,
Tel & Fax: +46 980 17207, Celluar: +46 70
2257160
- Rikard & Pia Lomvik, Rävstigen 8, S-98010
Vittangi, Sweden
Tel & Fax: +46 981 10705, Celluar: +46 70
6012919
- Anders Fors, Gästisvägen 9, S-98010 Vittangi,
Tel: +46 980 66520, Fax: +46 980 66521, Celluar:
+46 70 5871395, E:mail: fobbe@vittangi.com

*** Spanish Open Championships**

28.-30.7.2000, Navelgas, Asturias
Information: Asociacion de Bateadores de Oro
"Barciaecus", Plza Padre Celestino 1, 33873
Navelgas, Asturias, Spain

*** Czeck and Slovak Open Championships**

3.-6.8.2000, Jasenie, Slovak Rep.
Information: Ing. Kmet Frantisek, Svermova 24,
Banska Bytrica, 97401 Slovak Republic

*** Finnish Open Championships**

4.-6.8.2000 Tankavaara
Information: Goldpanning Finnish Open, 99695
Tankavaara, Finland, Tel. +358-16-626171, Fax.
+358-16-626271, e-mail: *.*@kultamuseo.inet.fi,
www.urova.fi/~kulta

*** Austrian Goldpanning Championship**

12.-13.8. Rauris, Austria
Information: Niko Granegger: [info@heimalm-
rauris.at](mailto:info@heimalm-rauris.at)

*** South African Goldpanning Championships**

11.-12.12. Pilgrim's Rest
Information: Tel. +27 013 7681296 or 7681471,
fax +27 013 7681469, e-mail:
digger@netactive.co.za

*** World Goldpanning Championships 2000**

28.8 - 3.9.2000 Zlotoryja, Puola
Lisätietoja: The Polish Guild of Gold Prospectors,
ul. Eromskiego 15 A, 59-500 Zlotoryja, Poland.
Tel/Fax 048-76-8787440, e-mail:
pbkz@pro.onet.pl
<http://www.gold2000.pro.onet.pl>

OTHER COMPETITIONS

*** Goldpanning Indoor Italian Championships**

14.-16.4.2000
Information: Associazione Biellese Cercatori
D'oro, P.za Mazzini n. 54, 13872 Borriana, Italy

*** Seinäjoki Open**

20.5.2000 Seinäjoki, Finland

*** Stierische Meisterschaften**

3.-4.6.2000 Pusterwald, Austria
Information: Tourismusverband Pusterwald, W.
Steinkellner, Tel. 0664/2556424

*** Eväjäarvi Open**

10.-11.6.2000 Längelmäki, Eväjäarvi, Finland
Information: Eväjäjärven seudun kyläyhdistys,
35400 Länkipohja, Finland

*** Bavarian Championships**

10.-11.6.2000 Riedenburg, Germany
Information: Gertraud Veitz, Lautenschlagerstr.
1 a, D-80999 München

*** Saariselkä Open**

23.-24.6.2000 Saariselkä, Finland

*** Championnat Fribourgeois**

15.-16.7.2000 Broc, Switzerland
Information: Bastien Brodard, Rue de Gruyères 5,
1636 Brocc, Switzerland, Tel: 026/9212844, e-
mail: geologiebroc@isuisse.com,
<http://www.isuisse.com/geobroc/or2000.htm>

*** Ivalo Open**

21.-23.7.2000 Ivalo, Finland

*** Queensland Goldpanning Championships**

14.-21.10.2000 Gympie, Australia
Information: Kay Kitchen:
festival@goldrush.org.au

**GOLDPANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN
2001, 2002, 2003**

*** Swiss Open Championships**
23.-24.6.2001

Information: SGV, Friedrich Grundbacher,
Moosstrasse 34, 3113 Rubigen, Switzerland,
Email: friedrich.grundbacher@bbt.admin.ch

*** European Goldpanning Championships in
2001**

26.6.-1.7.2001, Biella, Italy
Information: Associazione Biellese Cercatori
D'oro, Piazza Mazzini n. 54, 13872 Borriana BI,
Italy, Tel. 015-446597, Fax. 015-94939, e-mail:
arturo.ramella@iol.it

*** World Goldpanning Championships in 2001**

22.-28.10.2000 Maryborough, Victoria, Australia
Information: Australian Goldpanning Association
Inc., 27 Derby Road, Maryborough, VIC 3465,
Tel/Fax. 03-54614709 or Swain Events, Level 4,
114 Flinders Street, Melbourne, Victoria,
Australia, 3000. Tel. 613-96639399, Fax. 613-
96639499, e-mail: Libby@SwainEvents.com

*** European Goldpanning Championships in
2002**

St Yrieix near the Le Bourneix Mine, France
Information: Limousin Goldpanners Association,
Serge Nenert, La Villatte, 23500 St Quentin La
Chabanne, France, Tel/Fax. 05-55-66-55-34, e-
mail: serge_nenert@yahoo.com

*** World Goldpanning Championships in 2002**

26.8.-1.9. 2002, Kutcharo Lake Side,
Hamatonbetsu, Japan
Information: All Japan Goldpanning Association,
154, Hamatonbetsu, Esashi-gun Hokkaido 098-
5792 Japan, Tel.+81-1634-2-2345, Fax. +81-
1634-2-4766

*** World Goldpanning Championships in 2003**

Willisau, Switzerland
Information: SGV, Friedrich Grundbacher,
Moosstrasse 34, 3113 Rubigen, Switzerland

*The
Golden Beer
of Lapland*

LAPIN
KULTA
OLUT

Golden Times

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Tel: +358-16-626158, Fax, +358-16-626261

Editors:

Paul Thurkettle USA 757-848-9070 FAX 757-445-3785 Email: thurkettle@hotmail.com

Address: 306 Riverside Dr, Hampton, VA, 23669 USA

Pirjo Muotkajärvi, FIN-99695 Tankavaara-Email: pirjo.muotkajarvi@kultamuseo.inet.fi

Tel: +358-16-626171, Fax, +358-16-626271

Website: <http://www.urova.fi/~kulta>