

SOUTH AFRICA



1892 - 6 PENCE - REVERSE

SOUTHAFRICAN REPUBLIC
BERLIN MINT

6 PENCE 19MM .925 FINE 2.82 GRAMS

1892 28,300

▲OV: Head of Stephanus Johannes Kruger, facing left.

▲RV: Large 6 dividing DATE, Z A R (Z A R = Zuid Afrikaansche Republek = South African Republic) above, within wreath of oak leaves.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = Imperial Mint, BERLIN

REFERENCE: Y-3, KM-2

ENGRAVER: Otto Schultz

FOOTNOTE: Nearly all of the 6 pence coinage of South Africa were minted at Pretoria, which after the South African Republic of the Boers became part of the Union of South Africa, was a Royal branch mint. There was one exception, the first issue President Kruger ordered from the Imperial Mint, Berlin dated 1892. Listings are in date chronological order.

FOOTNOTE: S.J.Paul Kruger was born in 1825. As a Boer statesman, with Joubert and Pretorius formed the Provisional Government (December 1880) of the Transvaal, or South African Republic. He was elected President in 1883, 1888, 1893 and again in 1898. He died in 1904.



1897 - 6 PENCE - OBVERSE

SOUTHAFRICAN REPUBLIC
PRETORIA MINT

6 PENCE 19MM .925 FINE 2.82 GRAMS

1893 95,530

1894 168,000

1895 178,640

1896 205,480

1897 220,000

▲OV: Head of Stephanus Johannes Kruger, facing left.

▲RV: Large 6 dividing DATE, Z A R (Z A R = Zuid Afrikaansche Republek = South African Republic) above, within wreath of oak leaves.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = PRETORIA

REFERENCE: Y-3, KM-4

ENGRAVER: Otto Schultz

FOOTNOTE: Union of South Africa - Under the terms of the South African Act of 1909 the former self governing colonies; Cape of Good Hope, Natal and Orange River Colony (Orange Free State) united on May 31, 1910 to form the Union of South Africa, a Dominion of the British Empire. The four British Provinces as denoted on the reverse of the 6 pence by the bundles of four roses; include; Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Orange Free State and Transvaal.



1897 - 6 PENCE - REVERSE

FOOTNOTE: In 1886 a handful of British and Dutch prospectors dug beneath the soil of Witwatersrand and found the world's richest Gold field. The first miners called their camp of flimsy tents and shacks Johannesburg. The Witwatersrand, the gold-mining district extending for over 60 miles south of Pretoria, Transvaal forms the watershed between the Orange River and the Limpopo. The word Rand in Dutch means *Edge* and is used to describe a low range of hills. Gold was first mined in 1885 on the Rand with the District made a public goldfield a year later. In 1899 the output of the goldfields was over four million ounces. Five years later Chinese labor was introduced with restrictive conditions but a year later the granting of permits for their importation was stopped. Johannesburg with a population of 237,220 including a white population of 119,953 is the center of the Rand District.

FOOTNOTE: Boers is the Cape-Dutch name for the farmers of Dutch origin in South Africa. In 1836-7 large numbers of the Boers, being dissatisfied with the British Government in the Cape Colony, migrated northward to what is now Natal. Here their ill-treatment of the native soon led to war, and the British had to interfere and ultimately (1843) annex the country. The Boers again migrated but their new settlement was annexed in 1848. They then began to form the Transvaal, where their ill-treatment of the colored races has caused the British Government again and again to interfere. The Boers, who are all rigid Calvinists, are described as frugal, industrious, and hospitable, but distrustful of foreigners, especially of the English. Their aggressive and often treacherous policy and their cruelty to the natives go far, however, to outweigh any good qualities they may have shown. *Cabinet Cyclopaedia, 1895.*



Boers mail coach



Stephanus Johannes Kruger

FOOTNOTE: In 1922 the Coinage Act gave authority for gold, silver and bronze coins to be minted at the reopened Pretoria branch mint of the Royal mint. *South Africa Yearbook, 1976.*

SOUTH AFRICA, UNION of
PRETORIA MINT

6 PENCE 19MM .800 FINE 2.82 GRAMS

1923	209,110
1924	325,610

▲OV: Crowned head of George V, facing left
GEORGE V REX IMPERATOR (George V KING EMPEROR) / B.M.
on truncation.

▲RV: Large 6 within wreath of laurel and oak tied with
ribbon below / KG below, SOUTH AFRICA ❖ ZUID AFRIKA,
around above ❖ DATE ❖ below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = PRETORIA Branch of the Royal
mint

DESIGNER: (ov) B.M. = Sir Edgar Bertram MacKenna
(rv) KG = Kruger Gray

REFERENCE: Y-16, KM-16.1

FOOTNOTE: The British Empire Conference sessions commenced in London on October 1, 1923; South Africa was represented by General J.C.Smuts. On December 18, 1923 the first radio broadcast in South Africa was transmitted.



1927 - 6 PENCE - REVERSE

SOUTH AFRICA, UNION of
PRETORIA MINT

6 PENCE 19MM .800 FINE 2.82 GRAMS

1925	79,231	rare
1926	721,606	
1927	1,547,788	
1929	783,885	
1930	448,267	

▲OV: Crowned head of George V, facing left
GEORGE V REX IMPERATOR (= George V KING EMPEROR) /
B.M. on truncation.

▲RV: Thistle within 6 bunches of four rods / KG
below, DATE above, SOUTH AFRICA, left, SUID AFRIKA, right / ♦
6 PENCE ♦ below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = PRETORIA Branch of the Royal
mint.

DESIGNER: (ov) B.M. = Sir Edgar Bertram MacKenna
(rv) KG = Kruger Gray

REFERENCE: Y-18, KM-16.2

FOOTNOTE: The one-day flight by a military aeroplane from Cape
Town to Pretoria took place during 1924. On June 17, 1924 in the
general elections General Herzog was elected Prime Minister of
the Union of South Africa.

FOOTNOTE: Events of 1925 - Prince of Wales visited South Africa.
The Union of South Africa reverted to the gold standard. Afrikaans
was recognized as the official language, parallel with English and
Dutch. Parliament petitioned the King of England not to bestow
titles on South Africans. *South Africa Yearbook, 1976.*

FOOTNOTE: Pretoria, the capital of the Transvaal Colony, formerly
the South African Republic is situated 4500 feet above sea-level
on the southern slope of a spur of the Magalies Berge, in the south
central part of the colony, 35 miles by rail, north-northeast of
Johannesburg. It was regularly laid out on an extensive scale,
with wide and straight streets crossing at right angles, but, al-
though it became the converging point of the main railroad lines
from Delagoa Bay and Port Elizabeth, it never acquired much eco-
nomic importance, owing to the competition of Johannesburg. The
Raadzaal or former Parliament House, 126 feet high, surmounted
by a statue of Liberty, is the most important building. The population
in 1904 was 38,519 of whom 21,161 were whites. Pretoria, named
after the Boer General Pretorius, was founded in 1855 to succeed
Potchefstroom as capital of the Transvaal Republic. In May, 1900 it
surrendered to the British after which its four imposing fortresses
were dismantled. *New International Encyclopedia, 1910.*

FOOTNOTE: Alan (later Sir Alan) Cobham completed the round trip
flight by aeroplane from England to Cape via Egypt in 1926. *South
Africa Yearbook, 1976.*

FOOTNOTE: Events of 1927 - Diamonds were discovered in Little
Namaqualand. The Flag Agreement provided for the Orange-White-
Blue tricolor and the Union Jack as the official Flags of the Union of
South Africa. During 1927 the diamond cutting industry was es-
tablished at Kimberley. *South Africa Yearbook, 1976.*

FOOTNOTE: The capital of the Union of South Africa was named
after Andries Pretorius who followed the Afrikaners - speaking
Boers who left their commodious Dutch homes in the Cape Colony
to found an independent republic in the heart of Southern Africa.
After numerous efforts of the whites to subdue the South African
natives, a punitive expedition was sent against the Zulus. Although
it ended in disaster for the whites, Andries Pretorius, an influential
farmer from Cape Colony then went up to Natal with reinforce-
ments. He organized the Voortrekkers into a compact military unit
and for months prepared his army for what was to be the most
decisive battle for the supremacy of the white civilization in South
Africa. He met the Zulu Army 12,000 strong on December 16,
1838. At the Battle of Blood River, and by clever strategy his 474
Europeans managed to defeat the natives. *South Africa Yearbook,
1976.*

FOOTNOTE: 1931 - Pretoria was proclaimed a city. The October
output of gold from the Union mines passed the £ 4 millions mark.

FOOTNOTE: 1932 - Wireless Telephone communication was es-
tablished with Great Britain. The diamond mining industry was
temporarily closed down owing to the Depression.

FOOTNOTE: During 1933, the circulation in the Union of South
Africa of British silver coinage was withdrawn with a increase in
the mintage this year of the South African 6 pence. *South Africa
Yearbook, 1976.*

FOOTNOTE: The Jonker Diamond of 728 carats was found on the
Elandsfontein alluvial diggings during 1934 and sold for £ 70,000.
South Africa Yearbook, 1976.

FOOTNOTE: The Union of South Africa celebrated its 25th Anniver-
sary during 1935 and a record price for gold was established on
March 6th. *South Africa Yearbook, 1976.*

FOOTNOTE: The record for the sea voyage from England to Cape
Town held by RMS Scot since 1893 was broken in 1936 by RMMV
Stirling Castle (13 days, 6 hours, 30 min.). *South Africa Yearbook,
1976.*



1936 - 6 PENCE - OBVERSE

SOUTH AFRICA, UNION of
PRETORIAMINT

6 PENCE 19MM .800 FINE 2.82 GRAMS

1931	4,805	rare
1932	1,524,910	
1933	2,818,595	
1934	1,518,864	
1935	573,485	
1936	627,046	

▲OV: Crowned head of George V, facing left
GEORGE V REX IMPERATOR (= George V KING EMPEROR) /
B.M. on truncation.

▲RV: Thistle within 6 bunches of four rods / KG
below, DATE above, SOUTH AFRICA, left, SUID AFRIKA, right / ❖
6 D ❖ below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = PRETORIA Branch of the
Royal Mint

DESIGNER: (ov) B.M. = Sir Edgar Bertram MacKenna
(rv) KG = Kruger Gray

REFERENCE: Y-27, KM-16.3



Mining in South Africa



1936 - 6 PENCE - REVERSE

FOOTNOTE: In 1941 the Pretoria Branch of the Royal Mint was
proclaimed the South African Mint. *South Africa Yearbook, 1976.*



1947 - 6 PENCE - OBVERSE

FOOTNOTE: The 1947 proof shown was part of 2,600 proof sets
struck at the Pretoria mint.



1947 - 6 PENCE - REVERSE

SOUTH AFRICA, UNION of
PRETORIAMINT

6 PENCE 19MM .800 FINE 2.82 GRAMS

1937	1,695,727	
1938	1,724,621	
1939	30	proof only
1940	1,628,759	
1941	2,262,732	
1942	4,935,792	
1943	3,776,139	
1944	228,201	
1945	420,095	
1946	290,593	
1947	578,487	

^OV: Head of George VI, facing left GEORGIVS VI
REX IMPERATOR (George VI KING EMPEROR) / H.P. under bust.

^RV: Thistle within 6 bunches of four rods / KG
below, DATE above, SOUTH AFRICA, left, SUID AFRIKA, right / ❖
6d ❖ below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = PRETORIA

DESIGNER: (ov) HP = Henry Paget
(rv) KG = Kruger Gray

REFERENCE: Y-35, KM-27



1950 - 6 PENCE - OBVERSE

SOUTH AFRICA, UNION of
PRETORIAMINT

6 PENCE 19MM .800 FINE 2.82 GRAMS

1948	2,414,503
1949	3,567,607
1950	8,694,343

^OV: Head of George VI, facing left GEORGIVS VI
REX IMPERATOR (George VI KING EMPEROR) / H.P. under bust.

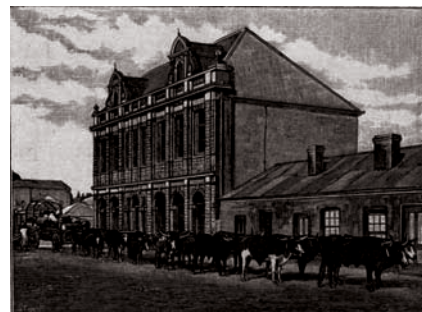
^RV: Thistle within 6 bunches of four rods / KG
below, DATE above, SOUTH AFRICA, left, SUID AFRIKA, right / ❖
6d ❖ below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = PRETORIA

DESIGNER: (ov) HP = Henry Paget
(rv) KG = Kruger Gray

REFERENCE: Y-44, KM-36.1



Scene in Johannesburg in 1896



1951 - 6 PENCE - OBVERSE

SOUTH AFRICA, UNION of
PRETORIAMINT

6 PENCE 19MM .500 FINE 2.82 GRAMS

1951 3,511,462
1952 5,244,972

▲OV: Head of George VI, facing left GEORGIVS SEXTVS REX (George VI KING) / H.P. under bust.

▲RV: Thistle within 6 bunches of four rods / KG below, ◆ DATE ◆ above, SOUTH AFRICA, left, SUID-AFRIKA, right / * 6 D. * below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = PRETORIA

DESIGNER: (ov) HP = Henry Paget
(rv) KG = Kruger Gray

REFERENCE: Y-51, KM-36.2



South African natives and huts



1951 - 6 PENCE - REVERSE



South African Republic, Orange Free State, Cape Colony, Natal

Gergraphy, Wm.Swinton, New York, 1880



Ostrich farming in South Africa



1959 - 6 PENCE - OBVERSE

SOUTH AFRICA, UNION of
PRETORIAMINT

6 PENCE 19MM .500 FINE 2.82 GRAMS

1953	2,500,514
1954	2,199,547
1955	1,971,887
1956	1,773,791
1957	3,289,500
1958	1,173,016
1959	261,832
1960	1,589,923

▲OV: Head of Elizabeth II, facing right ELIZABETH II REGINA (Elizabeth II Queen) around / M.G. on truncation.

▲RV: Thistle within 6 bunches of four rods / KG below, ◆ DATE ◆ above, SOUTH AFRICA, left, SUID-AFRIKA, right / * 6 D. * below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = PRETORIA

DESIGNER: (ov) M.G. = Mary Gillick
(rv) KG = Kruger Gray

REFERENCE: Y-63, KM-48

FOOTNOTE: In 1961 when South Africa broke away from the British Commonwealth and became an independent republic, a new decimal monetary system was established with the 5 cents denomination falling in the size definitions of this series.

FOOTNOTE: Proof sets including the 5 cents coin were struck at the Pretoria mint with the following mintages; 1961 - 7,530, 1962 - 3,844, 1963 - 4,025, 1964 - 16,000.



1961 - 5 CENTS - OBVERSE

SOUTH AFRICA, REPUBLIC of
PRETORIAMINT

5 CENTS 19.3MM .500 FINE 2.82 GRAMS

1961	1,486,168
1962	4,191,643
1963	8,057,541
1964	3,583,279

▲OV: Bust of Jan Van Riebeeck * UNITY IS STRENGTH * EENDRAG MAAK MAG (Unity is Strength) around / M.W. on truncation.

▲RV: Protea blossom within 5 fasces of four rods / KG below, ◆ DATE ◆ above, SOUTH AFRICA, left, SUID-AFRIKA, right / * 5 c * below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = PRETORIA

DESIGNER: (ov) W.M. = Willie Myburgh
(rv) KG = Kruger Gray

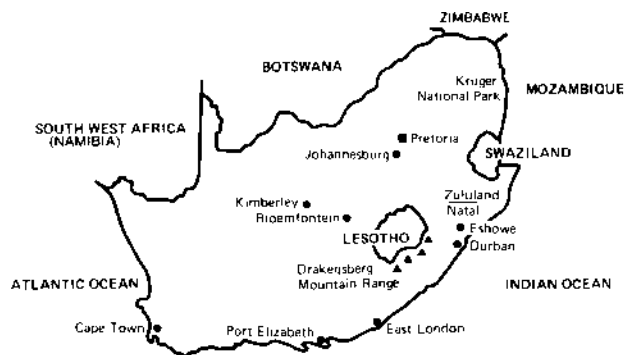
REFERENCE: Y-74, KM-59

FOOTNOTE: On April 6, 1652 Jan Van Riebeeck set foot on South African soil. He was not sent by his powerful Directors, the Council of Seventeen to colonise by means of settlement or to exploit. Together with some 90 men, Van Riebeeck was to tame the wilderness in Table Valley, to build a fort and hospital, and to provide meat and fresh vegetables for passing ships. He was also to keep the peace with the Hottentot cattle-breeders with whom he would have to barter for his meat supply. In ten years of effort Van Riebeeck did not attain many of the Company's objectives, nor did his successors fare any better during the next 20 years. *South Africa Yearbook, 1976.*



1961 - 5 CENTS - REVERSE

FOOTNOTE: Boers (Dutch, Agriculturists, Farmers), the name applied to the Dutch colonists of the Cape of Good Hope who are engaged in agriculture and the care of cattle, the Boers, generally, according to Dr. Livingstone, "Are a sober, industrious, and most hospitable body of peasantry." Very different, however, are certain of their numbers who have fled from English law, on various pretexts, and formed themselves into a republic in the Cashan Mountains. Coming "with the prestige of white men and deliverers" from the cruelty of Kaffir Chiefs, they were received by the Betjuans gladly, who, however, soon found out that their new friends were much less desirable as neighbors than their old enemies. The Boers forced even these tribes of the Betjuans who are most friendly towards them to perform all kinds of field-labor for nothing; and not only this, but they also compel them to find their own implements of labor and their own food. They steal domestic servants from more hostile tribes in the most cowardly and cold-blooded way imaginable. The plan of operation is thus described by Dr. Livingstone: "One or two friendly tribes are forced to accompany a party of mounted Boers, and these expeditions can be got up only in the winter, when horses may be used without danger of being lost by disease. When they reach the tribe to be attacked, the friendly natives are ranged in front, to form, as they say, 'a shield'; the Boers then coolly fire over their heads, till the devoted people flee, and leave cattle, wives, and children to the captors. This was done in nine cases during my residence in the interior, and on no occasion was a drop of Boer's blood shed". They have an immense contempt for the ignorance of the natives, and told Dr. Livingstone that he might as well teach baboons as Africans. They, however, declined a test which the missionary proposed - viz., to be examined whether they or his native attendants could read best. In his opinion, they are quite as degraded as the blacks whom they despise. *Library of Universal Knowledge*, N.Y., 1879.



South Africa today

FOOTNOTE: The Great War (World War I) brought prosperity to South Africa. The price of Gold was then just under £ 5 (\$25 U.S.) an ounce, having risen from £ 4-5 (\$21 U.S.) since prewar days, thus the *Gold City* of Johannesburg was still a very flourishing city. By 1922 the low price of gold threatened the existence of low-grade mines, that is, the mines possessing poor ore carrying no more than about four or five pennyweight to the ton; and the outlook was not encouraging. The economic destiny of South Africa was hitched to gold. The Witwatersrand gold mines announced wage cuts and opened up to non-Europeans work previously done by whites. There were 20,000 whites working in the gold mines and 180,000 Bantu who were excluded from all skilled work. The black man gave his brawn and the white man his skill. Gold mining is not easy work either for white or black. The average earnings of a white miner was about £ 42 (\$210 U.S.) a month, while a native worker earned about a seventh of that. *The Union of South Africa*, Lewis Sowden, 1943.

FOOTNOTE: The known history of the South African natives indicate that Bushmen and Hottentots first occupied the country. Probably not more than three hundred years ago the Bantus from the north and east invaded South Africa, sweeping back Bushmen into the mountains and deserts and partly absorbing the Hottentots, so that now nearly all of the South African natives are of Bantu blood. Generally the native is a backwoodsman. He may serve a term on a farm or in a mine or town, but easily slips back into the primitive tribal life of the Kraal, living much as his forefathers lived. Here, the old native customs and laws are allowed to prevail, supervised by the Union Government only to the extent necessary to prevent tribal and village feuds, cattle-raiding and crime generally. Authority centers in the head of each family, next in the headman of the locality and then in the hereditary tribal chief, assisted by his counsellors under the control of the Union Government. *World Cruise 1928*, Thos. Cook & son, 1927.

FOOTNOTE: From the brief stories, relating some of the history of South Africa; including the Boers who later became known as Afrikaners, the Cape Colony English and the Bantu natives, it can be seen that early periods did not require much small coinage as gold was the store of value and little trade was required except in the cities. This relationship of population to mintage is confirmed by the low mintages of the 6 pence starting in 1892 with 32,000. From 1898 through 1933, British coinage circulated including the 6 pence of Edward VII and George V. When the Pretoria mint started again to strike 6 pence in 1923, low mintages continue with a few hundred thousand each year, except 1927 when the mintage jumped to 1,547,788. Following this, mintages were again relative low, except for the early war year (World War II), and dropped back after three years of higher production, until the late 40's.