



The 16th-century gold bishop's ring

Also in August, hobbyist treasure hunter Ashley Solly found a solid gold bishop's ring depicting the Madonna and Child while taking part in a metal detecting rally on the Isle of Sheppey in Kent, England. The rally was an annual event organised by Medway History Finders and saw more than 70 metal detectorists take to the site.



Couple Finds More Than 66 Bottles of Prohibition-Era Whiskey in New York House

A New York couple didn't believe that their century-old home was built by a legendary bootlegger until they decided to undergo renovations last month.

Nick Drummond and Patrick Bakker were shocked to discover that hiding in the walls and floorboards of their house in the village of Ames, about three hours away from New York City, was more than 66 bottles of smuggled Prohibition-era whiskey, according to CNN. Two months ago, the couple decided to begin major renovations on their home,

which was built in 1915 by a German man known as Count Adolph Humpfner.

Drummond told CNN he was removing outside skirting along the bottom of the mudroom when a package fell out.

After finding the first package of whiskey, he went on to discover several other smuggled packages under a hatch inside the floor. Drummond said that each bottle was wrapped in tissue paper and straw and came in packages of six.

"Initially we found seven bundles of six in the wall and then at that point we found four more bundles and actually funny enough as of less than a week ago we just found more," added Drummond, a designer and historic preservationist.



The Barbarian treasures found under a pile of leaves

Earlier this year, a man walking in the woods near the village of Grzmica in Poland came across three gorgeous silver and gold clasps hidden under a pile of leaves, the sort of find we'd all dream of discovering out on a hike.

Experts at the Muzeum Okręgowe Koszalin believe the highly decorative clasps were made in the fifth century, by a craftsman from one of the Barbarian tribes that were prominent in the area at the time. They reckon that the artefacts may have been left by a sort of travelling salesperson who was touring the region.

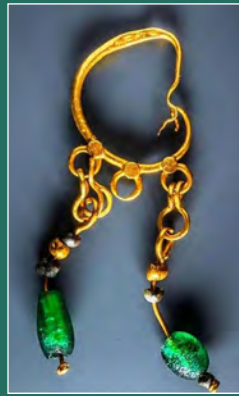




In Israel, a group of four high school students who were hiking along Galilee's Zippori stream in February chanced upon an ornate gold coin dating from the fifth century. Experts at the Israel Antiquities Authority revealed that the coin was minted in Constantinople (now Istanbul) between 420 AD and 423 AD.



The first of its kind to have been discovered in Israel, the ultra-rare coin depicts Byzantine Emperor Theodosius II. Ironically, it was found on a trail dedicated to the Sanhedrin, the ancient Jewish councils that were outlawed by the foreign emperor in 425 AD.



The sunken temples and treasure-laden ships of Heracleion

During the past few months, archaeologists have uncovered several ships laden with treasure including a wealth of gold and bronze coins, exquisite jewellery and fine pottery, as well as the ruins of a small Greek temple and remnants of a larger temple. They are thought to be linked to legendary lovers Helen of Troy and Paris.

The 10-foot statue of Emperor Trajan - Image below

A team of nimble-fingered archaeologists working on the site of the ancient city of Laodicea in modern-day Turkey recently discovered a towering 10-foot statue of the Roman Emperor Trajan, who was at the helm of the vast empire from 98 AD to 117 AD.

Unearthed under an age-old water fountain, the statue was found broken up in 356 pieces, which the expert team painstakingly reassembled, finishing the job in April. It is likely to have been toppled and smashed into smithereens during one of the many earthquakes that have plagued the region over the centuries.



The second-largest diamond ever mined

In April, a monster diamond the size of a tennis ball was unearthed by the Canadian company Lucara Diamond Corp., at the company's Karowe Mine in Botswana. Weighing in at an incredible 1,758 carats, the gemstone is the second-largest diamond ever mined. The biggest of all time is the famed 3,106.75-carat Cullinan, which was cut into nine diamonds for the Crown Jewels of the United Kingdom.

The black-grey diamond has been named Sewelô, which means 'rare find' in the local Setswana language. Despite its rarity and immense size, the gemstone won't be breaking any records as far as price is concerned, due to its variable quality and relatively poor clarity.

