

Gold in the News

A look at recent stories concerning gold

Gold Coin Hoard in France

France's biggest trove of Gaulish coins has been unearthed in Brittany. Archaeologists found them while searching along the route of a bypass under construction in the Côtes d'Armor. They lay a foot (30cm) beneath the earth's surface near Laniscat, 64km south of Saint-Brieuc, at a known Iron Age manor house or farm site, and date to 75-50BC. The trove consists of 545 gold-silver-copper coins and they are currently in the hands of specialist restorers.

See <http://www.french-news.com/content/view/2549/52/lang,en/> for more information.

Magnetic Atoms of Gold Have Been Obtained

An international team from the Faculty of Science and Technology at the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) and directed by Professor Jose Javier Saiz Garitaonandia, has made atoms of gold magnetic. According to the research, the magnetism appears at a nanometric scale when the material is surrounded with selected organic molecules. This work poses new questions about the physical mechanisms associated with magnetism and opens the door to interesting applications yet to be discovered, some of which are related to the use of magnetic nanoparticles for the diagnosis/treatment of illnesses.

The article has been published in the February issue of *Nanoletters* (Vol.8, No. 2, 661-667 (2008)).

Thermal Gold Foil Coating with Less Weight and Higher Temperature

Epner Technology, a leading plating and coating provider, has announced a breakthrough foil technology, called Thermal Foil Gold Coating. The automotive racing car market has driven the need to protect carbon fibre components from the blistering heat generated by the engine and exhaust system. Up until now many of these carbon fibre parts have been gold coated by directly plating the plastic substrate.

However, there is a growing requirement to have a ductile, flexible "wrapping" material that retains the inherent properties of gold and this has driven the development of Thermal Foil Gold Coating (a copper foil 0.025 mm thick coated with gold) for the ultimate thermal control barrier. Epner's laser gold plating reaches reflectivity of >99% @ 10 microns and >98% at 1 micron.

Gold Necklace found is 'Oldest in Americas'

A four thousand year old necklace found near Lake Titicaca in southern Peru, marks the oldest known worked gold artifact ever uncovered in the Americas. Discovered by Prof Mark Aldenderfer of the University of Arizona, Tucson, the necklace's discovery at a transient settlement of seasonal hunter-gatherers shows the use of gold jewellery to distinguish wealthy and important people began before the appearance of more complex societies in the Andes. The report in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences says that the cylindrical beads of the necklace appear to have been cold-hammered from gold nuggets from the Andes, first flattening them and then curling them into cylinders, which backs the idea that the earliest metalworking in the region was experimentation with native gold. Until today, the earliest published sites with gold artifacts or evidence of gold-working technology are Mina Perdida in the Lurín Valley (1410 to 1090BC) and Waywaka in the central Andean highlands in Andahuaylas (1500 to 1000BC).

GFMS Annual Survey of Gold Market

GFMS launched *Gold Survey 2008* in April, the 41st edition of their authoritative annual survey of the world gold market. Global mine production fell by a slight 0.4% in 2007 to an eleven year low of 2476 tonnes. Africa saw the heaviest regional drop at 29 tonnes while output in North America and Latin America also fell (largely thanks to US and Peruvian losses). In contrast, Asia saw gains, centred on Indonesia and China, with the latter becoming the world's leading gold producer in 2007. Jewellery demand recorded very different results during 2007 as the first half saw year-on-year growth of 22% and the second half a drop of 9%, with the fourth quarter particularly weak. This left the full year up 5% at just over 2,400 tonnes. Other fabrication rose slightly to 671 tonnes, chiefly due to higher coin minting plus modest gains for electronics and other industrial & decorative while dental demand fell.

For more information please see http://www.gfms.co.uk/Press%20Releases/GS08_Overview.pdf