

Mysterious 'MollyCoin' found by Bit and Bridle



Mara discovered some unexpected coins and a scroll containing clues next to the Bit & Bridle. [Photo: Magic]

Are we about to witness the start of a Gold Rush?

There was surprise and mystery on the estate last night when Tall Tails citizen Mara discovered some gold coins and a scroll containing what looks like a set of clues which she found near where the Stoat-O-Ween experience had been located.

In an exclusive interview with the Gazette, Mara stated "Something caught my eye glittering in the pony cart headlights and when I went to take a closer look, I found three gold coins. Perhaps they were unearthed by the stoats when they were building the Stoat-O-Ween experience?"

The discovery of gold coins is something in itself but what makes this find more curious, is that on closer inspection, one side of the coin features an engraving of Molly's head and the other side the TT logo. It looks like Tall Tails legal tender but when asked, Molly was quick to deny any knowledge of the coins. She confirmed they are not legal tender and has asked the Ponizei to start a full investigation and seize any more so-called MollyCoins.

The scroll containing clues is also very curious, perhaps created to serve as a reminder as to where the coins had been buried.

Some enterprising citizens have placed some spades by the entrance of the Crooked Cart Cafe for would-be treasure hunters to use. In addition, some iPads can be found in the Bit & Bridle, fitted with a scanning attachment and app.

Following Molly's statement, Police Chief Axelle decreed that any found MollyCoins must be placed in a Coin Deposit Terminal set up in the

grounds of the Ponizei HQ and that citizens who return the most coins would receive a prize, but there was also a warning. Citizens found in possession of the MollyCoin clearly not en-route to deliver it to the Ponizei HQ would be subject to potential arrest and criminal charges.

A company called LucenTech was immediately tasked with creating and installing a suitable Coin Deposit Terminal.

For some reason the Ponifia appeared to be slow to react to this developing news story, but later that evening, Ponifia Godmother Tricky Trouble made an announcement saying that they do not



Heads on one side... [Photo: Molly]



Tails on the other. Yup its a coin. [Photo: Molly]

trust the Ponizei to handle this task properly and asked citizens to instead return their coins to a Coin Deposit Terminal under the entrance archway of their castle on Plywood Hill. She decreed that the coins would be used to contribute towards worthy charitable causes. Good citizens were also promised prizes and rewards for those that returned the most coins to the Ponifia Deposit terminal.

Who are LucenTech?

Recently, TT has seen the appearance of devices branded LucenTech. But who is behind this company that has appeared out of the blue?



Right Time, Right Place: LucenTech [Graphic: Mara]

Special Reporter Lucy Loone caught up with the founder of the company, Ms Mara Lucente, to talk briefly about the company and what they do, and why they are involved in the things that are happening right now in the Meadows and Pike.

Lucy: What can you tell us about LucenTech?

Mara: First of all, thank you for giving me the opportunity of being featured in your lovely paper. It is an honour for me. LucenTech was born a whopping 16 years ago, some months after I joined Second Life. At the time I was mainly doing little experiments for fun, and some of them even got me in trouble.

Mara: My first creation was a device that relayed the chat near the player's camera position. With



The Ponifia Coin Deposit Terminal [Photo: Tori]

the advent of Restrained Life, I then started getting some interest in making stuff that could restrain people, and I invented a script that would turn a person into a lifeless greeter, having them greet people entering chat range, delivering notecards, landmarks and freebies, and could also record messages to act as a recorder to leave messages to the owner. I've had a discreet success but then as technology grew more complex and people started doing mesh devices far more advanced than mine, I lost interest in the market.

Lucy: So why did you come back into the market now? And what pushed you to it?

Mara: Well, I've always had an entrepreneurial spirit although I've always preferred to hide behind a keyboard and type code, but I sensed this was the moment to take this on.

Lucy: What do you mean precisely?

Mara: Sure. We are talking about a potentially continent-wide treasure hunt, for gold that could be used for good or bad purposes. This needed to be handled in a diligent manner, in order to safeguard Tall Tails and its residents. I felt that it would be a shame if some ruthless third party organisation from the outside got their hands on this wealth, so I offered the services of my company, and quickly buffed up on my required coding skills.

Lucy: It is speculated that you are working with Ponifia against Ponizei to gather a larger portion of these coins, how do you respond to this?

Mara: As I said before, I want to make sure that the flow of this treasure is fairly controlled. Although these coins are probably illegal, having only Ponizei handle the gathering felt wrong, as many would surely take steps to secure the wealth for themselves.

Mara: Offering my services to Ms. Trouble also enables me to help control the flow of this treasure to help make sure that everything is accounted for in the end. I strongly believe that citizens should have the freedom to decide who they want to side with, and what to do with their hard-earned coins.

Lucy: Thank you for coming to talk to us, and good luck with your business venture.

Thank you to Lucy for helping with this special edition with Tori Ernshaw away.

How to Hunt for a MollyCoin!

To take part in the treasure hunt you need to:

- **Have a copy of the clues**
The first are in this edition of the Gazette and if any more are found they will be published here and announcements will be made.
- **Collect and wear a Treasure Hunt iPad**
This is available in the Bit and Bridle. If you are livestock, then bump the giver to have one auto-attach.
- **Collect a Spade**
These are available from outside the Crooked Cart Cafe. If you are livestock, you won't need a spade, you will use your hoof.
- **Solve a clue**
The clues indicate the rough location where the coins are buried. Go to the location you think it refers to and use the Scanner App on the iPad to see if you can find a dig location.
- **Use the Treasure Hunt iPad**
Press the mDetector App and it will show if coins are detected and indicate how far away they are. It will also tell you when you are close to a location where it might be worth digging.

Hint: A MollyCoin is usually buried in grass, but not always.

■ Add the Spade

If not in tack, add the Spade (available outside the Crooked Cart) and press the Dig app to start digging. You will be told the result of your dig and if you found a MollyCoin.

If you are in tack, have no fear. You too can dig for treasure, but using your hoof instead of a spade. Press the Dig app and you will be told the result.

(Please note: To prevent farming, only one MollyCoin can be found per person per day per location).

■ Redeem MollyCoin

By default, a MollyCoin is virtual in nature but you have the option on your Treasure Hunt iPad to turn your virtual MollyCoins into physical coins. Whilst this is undoubtedly a unique and beautiful item to own, it will take the coin out of the game and you will no longer be able to turn it back into a virtual coin and hence deliver it to one of the Coin Deposit Terminals.

■ Scan and be scanned

The Treasure Hunt iPad also allows you to scan and be scanned to find out if you or others are carrying a (virtual) MollyCoin. This might lead to attempted robberies. (These are conducted via RP).

■ Transfer MollyCoin

There is also the option to transfer these virtual coins to another person. There are reasons to do this, such as transferring MollyCoins following a successful robbery attempt. (This is not automated, its done via RP).

■ Coin Deposit Terminals

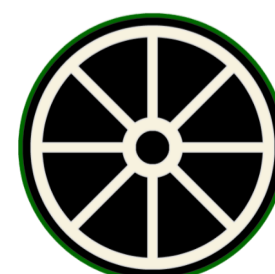
You may decide to deliver all or some of your virtual MollyCoins to either the Ponizei or Ponifia Coin Deposit Terminal. This looks like an ATM machine. If you click (or bump) the terminal you will have the option to deposit a specified number of virtual MollyCoins you have collected. A record is kept of how many MollyCoins citizens have contributed at each of the terminals.

(Please note: You can not take coins out of the Coin Deposit Machines or rob them etc).

Questions or Issues

If during this event you have any questions or issues, please contact Mara or Tori.

And no, just to clarify - they won't help you solve any of the clues :)



The Ponizei Deposit Terminal is lowered into position, overseen by Mara and Axelle. [Photo: Magic]

Quick Guide to using your Treasure Hunt iPad

- This essential treasure hunt device is available for free in the Bit & Bridle.
- If you are in tack, bump to have it auto attach.
- When attached, it will ask if you are human or livestock.
- Please note, this uses LL Experience, so if you leave Experience Land, it will auto detach.

[mDetector]

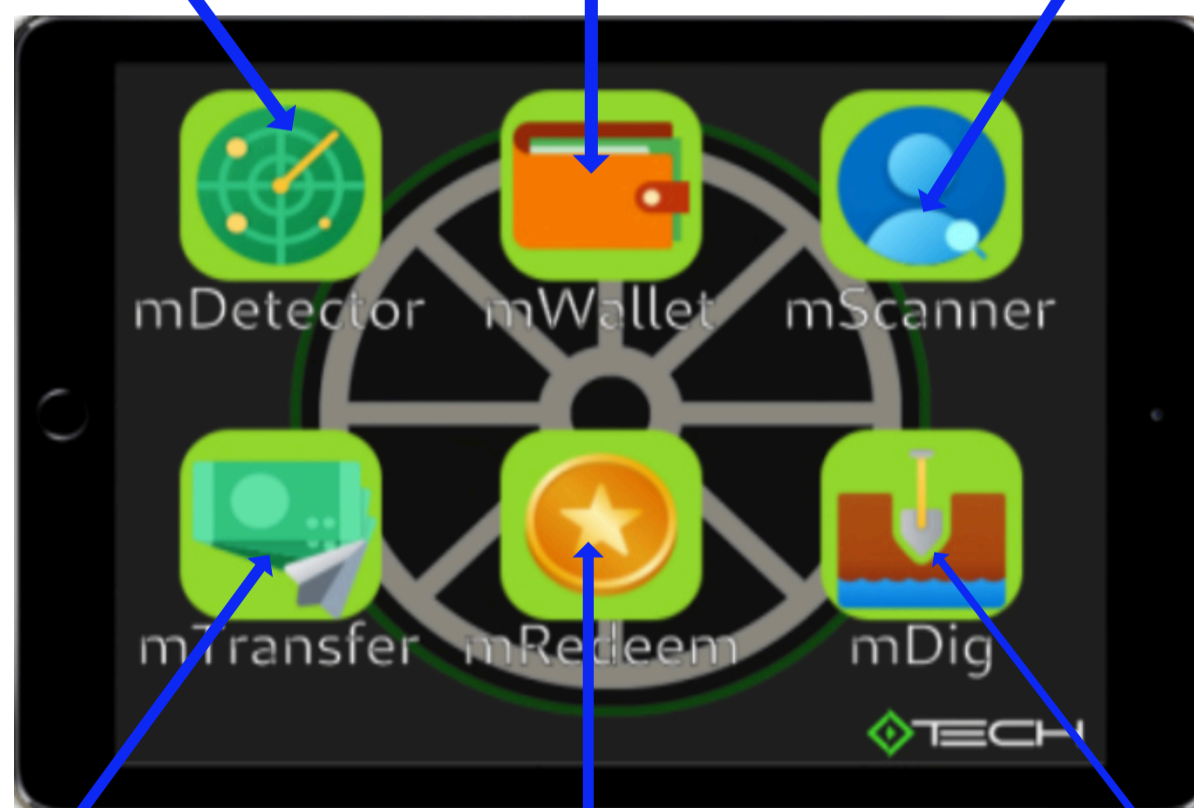
This app will show if coins are detected in the immediate vicinity and how far away they are. It will also tell you when you are close to a location where it might be worth digging.

[mWallet]

This app tells you how many virtual MollyCoins you are carrying.

[mScanner]

This app allows you to scan and be scanned to find out if you or others are carrying a (virtual) MollyCoin. This might lead to attempted robberies. (These are conducted via RP). Even livestock can use this feature but we are not quite sure how it will help them.



[mTransfer]

This app provides the option to transfer these virtual coins to another person. There are reasons to do this, such as transferring MollyCoins following a successful robbery attempt.

(This is not automated, its done via RP).

[mRedeem]

By default, a MollyCoin is virtual in nature but this app provides the option to turn your virtual MollyCoins into physical coins. Whilst this is undoubtedly a unique and beautiful item to own, it will take the coin out of the game and you will no longer be able to turn it back into a virtual coin and hence deliver it to one of the Coin Deposit Terminals.

[mDig]

Press this app to start digging. If you are not in tack you will need to be wearing a spade (available from outside the Crooked Cart Cafe).

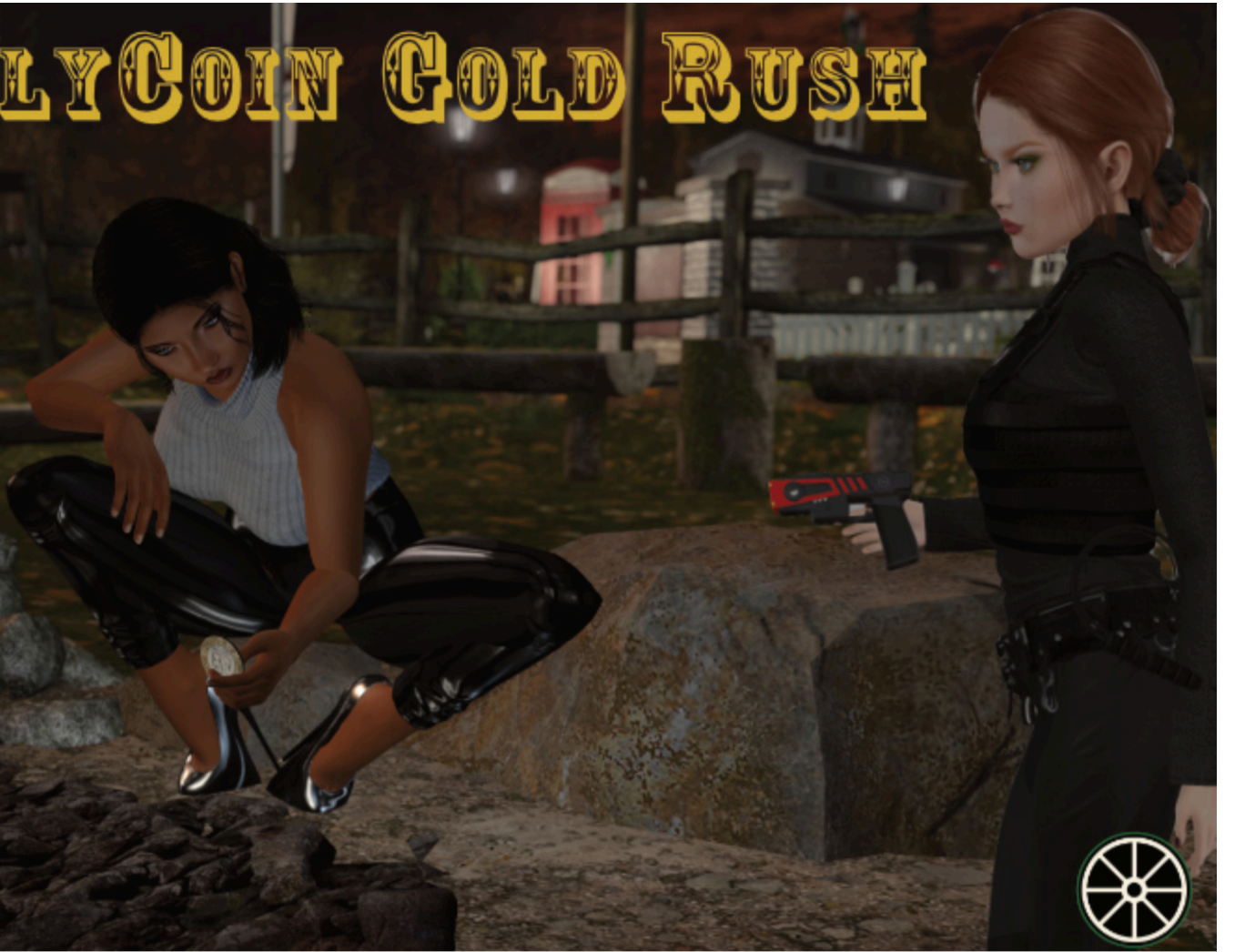
THE MOLLYCOIN GOLD RUSH

Good folk and noble steeds, hearken unto me. Behold, hidden treasures lay concealed within these very soils.

Decipher the riddles, procure a wondrous iPad Scanner from thee Bit & Bridle and secure a trusty spade from the humble Crooked Cart Cafe. Then embark on a quest for uncovering.

Present thy discovered MollyCoins to the esteemed Coin Terminal, located within the venerable Ponifia Castle Headquarters or Ponizei Headquarters, as befits your moral compass and loyalties!

Take heed, for brigands of the highway may lurk in the shadows!



Did someone mention clues?

We have covered in detail the find of MollyCoins buried by the Bit & Bridle but lets take some time to look more closely at the scroll which was found rolled up alongside the coins.

It appears to indicate where other stashes of MollyCoin might be buried, so using the Treasure Hunt iPad it should be possible to locate them.

The other question that spring to mind is whether there are other scrolls containing clues to be found.

One has to ponder who buried these along with the clues. It can't have been buried that long ago given Molly's head is on it and she isn't that old (despite Axelle's frequent assertions to the contrary).

So if we accept the premise that this isn't ancient gold, is this a massive hoax? Could some locations be booby trapped?

As we know, Ponizei have been tasked with conducting a full investigation, so in all likelihood, we will probably never know.

Be careful out there

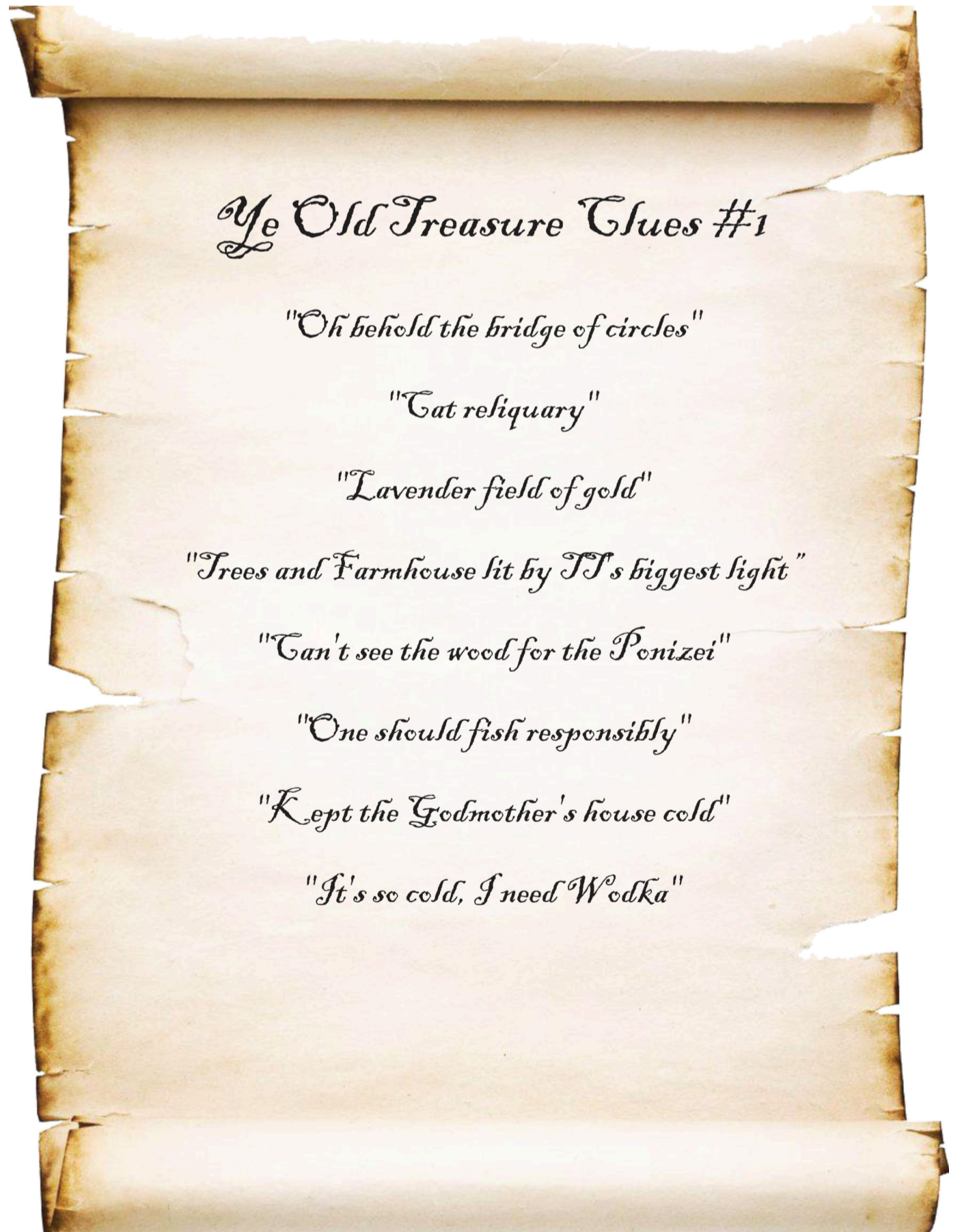
It is very likely that the Ponizei will be very busy in the coming weeks which will be in stark contrast to the disturbingly small number of patrols we have seen in recent weeks.

We can expect the gold rush to attract lots of interest from citizens looking to get rich fast or being good citizens and returning coins to the Ponifia or Ponizei, based on their allegiance.

Sadly dear citizens, we may also witness instances of robberies and violence as greed really can bring out the worst in people. Be careful on your travels whether on cart or foot and be vigilant of what is around you.

Also beware a rampaging Tricky Trouble who is spitting blood it is not her head on these coins.

But take comfort that the Gazette will be there to cover the juiciest stories as this event unfolds.



Oh my goodness, its a set of clues! [Photo: Tori]

Ye Old Treasure Clues #2

"Unflat rocks near the flattening"

"Where the ponies queue for the star"

"Under the radishes, it's allotment time!"

"Bishop to C4"

"The centre of Sin"

"The windmills little brother"

"Worthy news HQ"

"Between the grapes and the apples"



If more clues were found maybe they would go here? Yes it seems! [Photo: Tori]



Ye Old Treasure Clues #3

"Ulysses very secret library"

"Picnic near Jane's anyone?"

"Swamp Lovers"

"Signs to here, there and nowhere"

"Shoot over here for a lawyer!"

"Kermits Corner"

"Next to a sticky factory!"

If even more clues were found maybe they would go here? [Photo: Tori]