

OVERBERG GEOSCIENTISTS GROUP (OGG)

2025 OGG International Gold Presentation Program

The series of presentations by the experts below will provide important and new insights into gold placers, and role of geological settings, structural controls, metamorphism, fluids systems, porphyries and igneous petrology in the genesis of gold deposits.

Gold has been utilized in a myriad of applications throughout history, from ancient medical practices to cutting-edge technology. Long before our modern civilisation, it was proven to be a versatile and invaluable resource given unique physical properties, symbolic significance, and store of wealth. Egyptians mined gold as early as 3600 BC. for many purposes. It was believed to be the skin of deities, especially the Egyptian Sun God Ra, thereby attributing divine status hence the extensive use of this metal in burial masks and tombs; the mask of Tutankhamun is a striking example.

Date (2025)	Speaker	Topic	Venue/Mode/ Time
Thursday 6 March	Prof Dave Crow (Univ Otago, NZ)	<i>Placer gold science (without avoiding the Witwatersrand) (Dunedin NZ +11)</i>	<i>Zoom (RSA 10h00)</i>
Thursday 13 March	Dr Julian Vearncombe (Perth)	<i>Witwatersrand structures and gold (Perth +6)</i>	<i>Zoom (RSA, 10h00)</i>
Thursday 20 March	Prof Neil Phillips (Melbourne)	<i>Metamorphic waters and some of their wonders (Melbourne +9)</i>	<i>Zoom (RSA 10h00)</i>
Thursday 27 March –	Prof John Clemens (Univ. Stellenbosch)	<i>Formation of Cu–Au porphyry deposits: what we can learn from igneous petrology</i>	<i>Zoom (RSA 10h00)</i>
Thursday 3 April	Dr Bjorn Von Der Heyden (Univ. Stellenbosch)	<i>Southern African metallogeny with a focus on gold</i>	<i>In-person + Zoom (RSA 11h00)</i>

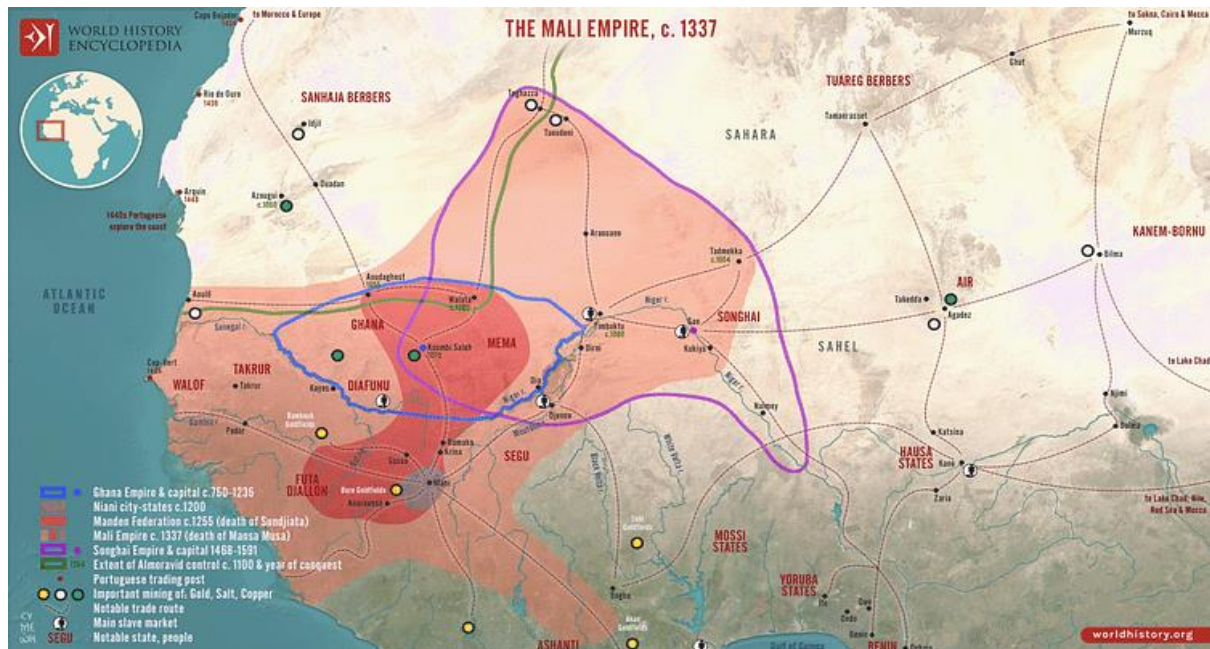
The Inca's of South America were excellent farmers, warriors and miners, skilled in extraction of gold in their mountainous Andean setting. They had experience in gemmology and were quality metallurgists with records of metal working in 1500 BC.

From the 13th to 17th century, the great Malian Empire established by King Sundiata Keita and the famous city of Timbuktu dominated West Africa and African trade, given its wealth of gold. During the reign of Mansa Musa (*Musa I*), Mali was one of the richest kingdoms of Africa, and he amongst the world's richest individuals.

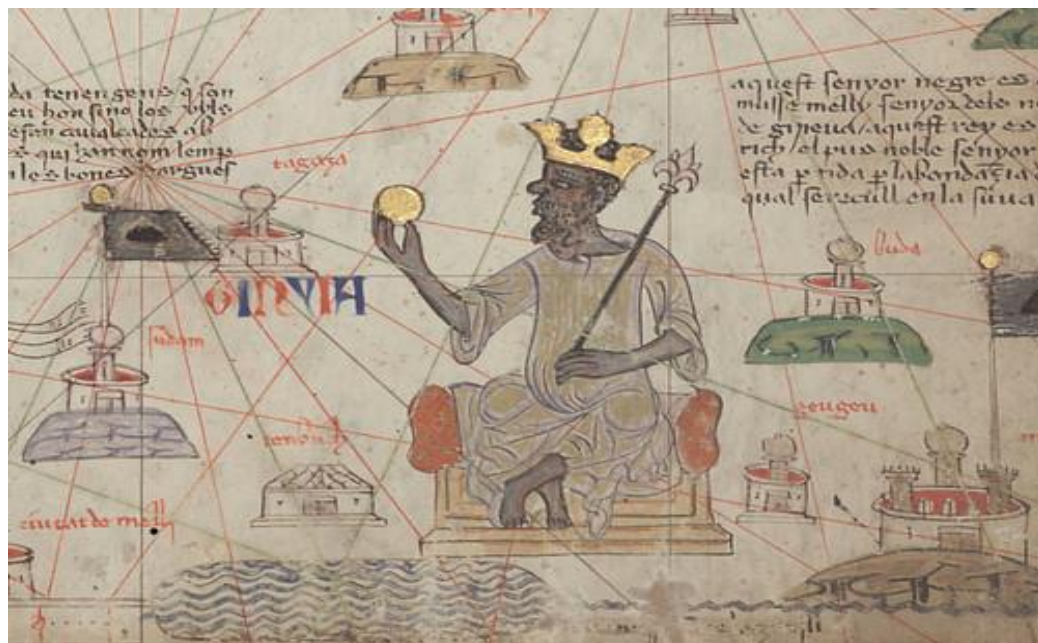
The ancient and lengthy history of this metal likewise attests to the scholarship, cultural diversity, technology, trading acumen, wealth creation, mining, metallurgical skills, fabrication and finesse of our predecessors.

Gold continues to hold the distinction of being one of the world's most valuable and sought-after precious metals, finding extensive use in adornment, jewellery, electronics and technology. Its historical role as a safe haven asset during economic downturns, preserving value for millennia, has made it the world's most reliable investment in uncertain times.

Given the historical and current context in respect of gold, modern research and improved technology to locate economic deposits in challenging terranes, including covered and buried deposits, apply smart mining, processing and recovery from lower-grade and increasingly complex ore bodies, is essential.



The Mali Empire (1240-1645 CE) and Mansa Musa gained access to the goldfields on the Black Volta (modern-day Burkina Faso) and the Akan Forest (modern-day Ghana), and its kings became wealthier than their regional predecessors of the Ghana Empire.



(Source: Cartwright, M. (2019). The Gold Trade of Ancient & Medieval West Africa. World History Encyclopedia, 13 May 2019.)