

Perhaps the single most historic discovery made by a non-expert in recent years was made by an unemployed British man named Terry Herbert. Herbert is an amateur treasure hunter who searched fields and back lots with his metal detector for over 18 years. Herbert started digging and soon discovered that he had struck gold—literally: He had stumbled upon the largest Anglo-Saxon treasure ever found. In September of 2009, while using his metal detector on the land of a friend's farm, the detector started beeping wildly.