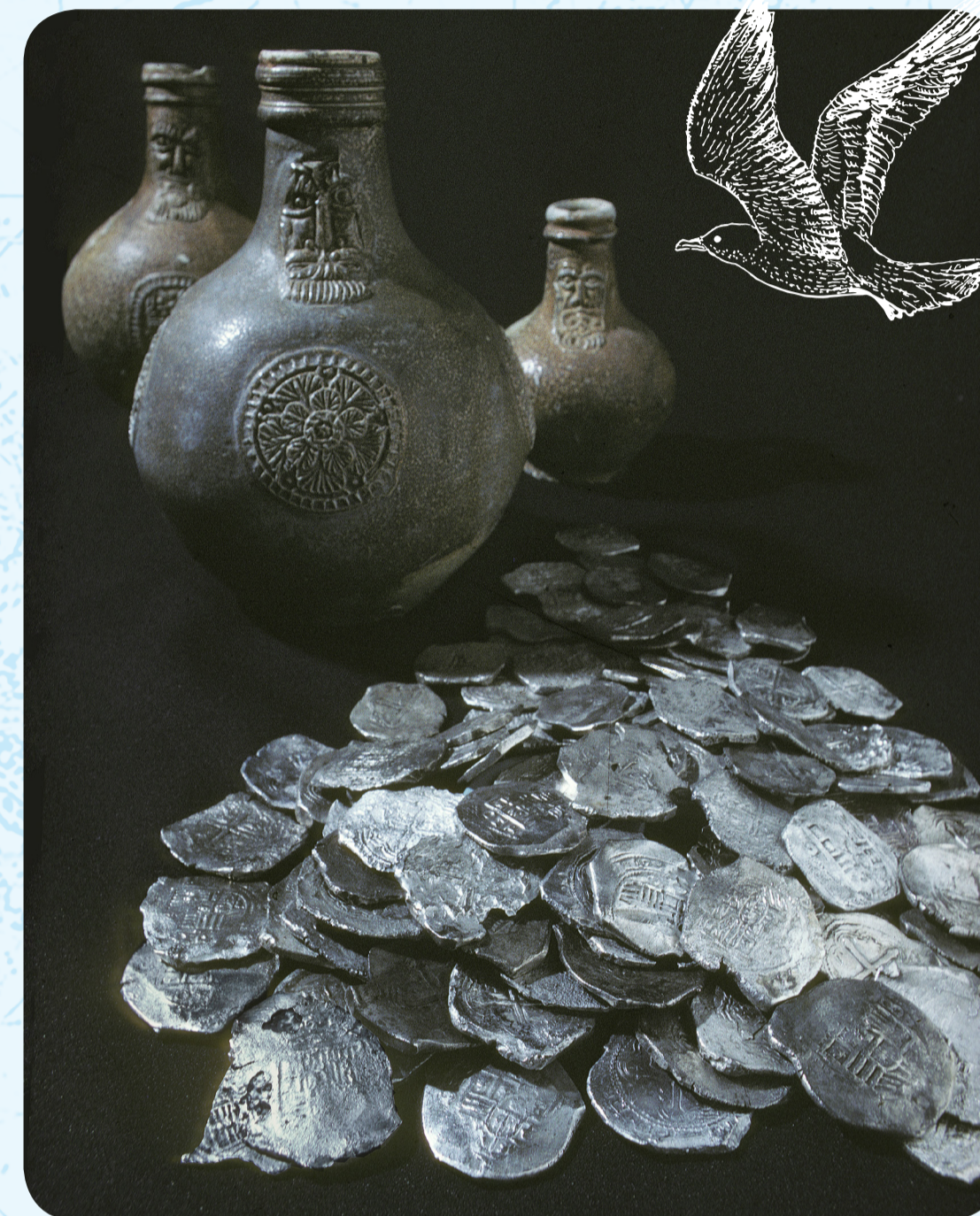
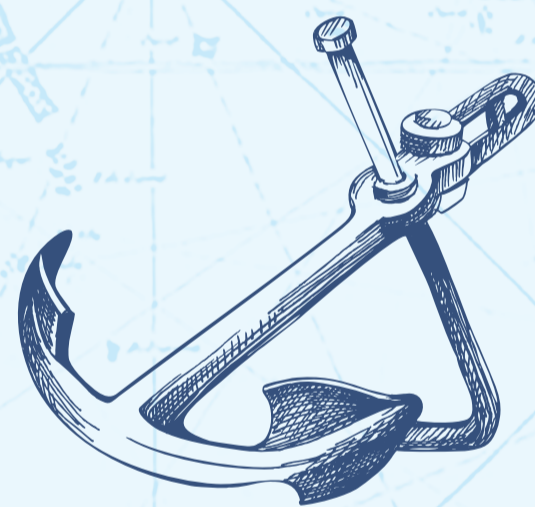


# Vergulde Draeck – Shipwreck

The *Vergulde Draeck*, a 260-ton, 41.8 metre 'Jacht', was sailing to Batavia (Jakarta) carrying trade goods and eight chests of silver valued at 78,600 guilders. The wreck's name translates to the 'Gilt Dragon'.

On 28 April 1656, the vessel struck a coral reef just south of Ledge Point. Sadly, only 68 of its 193 passengers survived. Between 1656 and 1658, five search vessels were sent south from Holland, to no avail. All efforts resulted in the loss of more men and boats, and failure to find any trace of the *Vergulde Draeck*.



On New Year's Day 1658, Abraham Leeman van Santwits, First Officer of the *Waeckende Boey*, led a crew of 13 sailors to search for the 68 survivors of the wreck of the *Vergulde Draeck*. The party landed at Two Rocks, finding wreckage but no survivors. The *Waeckende Boey* deserted them, leaving Leeman to lead his men back nearly 2000 miles.



In 1931, a young boy found 40 silver coins dated 1619 to 1655 - likely treasure from the wreck - near the Moore River mouth. The wreck was finally discovered in 1963 by 5 spear fishermen, 12km south of Ledge Point. They first noticed bricks, then elephant tusks!



All images courtesy of Western Australian Museum