

Abstract

This thesis addresses the phenomenon of hobby metal detecting in the Czech Republic, aiming to determine whether individuals' wealth influences the formation of detected finds collections. The mass spread of metal detecting in the Czech Republic since the 1990s has proven the significance of studying this activity. The phenomenon of metal detecting can be classified under contest theory, where agents make costly efforts to compete for a limited resource, which in this case is archaeological finds. From the standpoint of economics, a study about resources allocation, the metal detecting hobby can be an intriguing topic for investigation. This thesis presents estimates of models based on five different datasets, each containing several thousands of observations obtained from a renowned Czech metal detecting website. The findings suggest that relatively wealthier metal detectorists are more likely to submit coins, but not artifacts. Given that coins form a relatively homogeneous group, the estimation results associated with coins might be applied to the formation of finds collections overall. Hence, the collecting of finds is likely to be negatively associated with an individual's socioeconomic status.

JEL Classification	D14, D61, D91, O33, Q01, Q32, Q34, Z13
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