



TWIN CITY ANCIENT COIN CLUB



11/79

Bob Stumm, Pres. Tom Beniak, V.P. Whitney Lindwall, Treas. Bea Lindwall, Sec.

First, a big "thank you" to Dee Layden for being the secretary. Dee resigned due to the demands of running her own business. However, Dee is an active club member.

The November meeting will be held one week later than usual at the St. Paul Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul, Ave.

AGENDA

- 7:30-8:00 Coin trading, social and coffee time, business time
- 8:00 Whitney Lindwall will talk about methods for detecting counterfeit ancient coins (Bring samples if you like.)
- 9:00 Coin auction

Instead of the usual December meeting, a sociable evening is planned. At our last meeting it was the concensus of the members to attend the Rodgers and Hart musical at the Chimera. It is sold out until after Christmas. Dee was able to reserve tickets for Saturday, December 29th. The price will be \$4.75 per ticket unless the group numbers beyond 25. Dinner will be held at the W. A. Frost restaurant dining room on Western and Selby. The prices are reasonable from \$4 to \$6 and the fare excellent. We plan to meet at the restaurant about 5:30 and then be at the Chimera auditorium by 7:30. Please bring money for the Chimera tickets to the November meeting. We encourage you to bring guests.

Many members have paid their dues (fall 1979--fall 1980). The dues are still a nominal \$3.00. Please submit your \$3.00 to our Treasurer, Whitney Lindwall, 1739 Roselawn West, 55113, or bring to our next meeting. Paid-up members will be called or sent a newsletter each month.

Here is part of an article published in January 1961 publication, "The Voice of the Turtle." Frank O'Sullivan wrote about the WHYS AND WHEREFORES OF COLLECTING ANCIENT COINS:

Why collect Ancients? The collecting instinct seems to have been ingrained in the human race since its beginning. There are so many manifestations that it would be superfluous to even attempt to elaborate upon the multitudinous articles which acquisitive humans collect, and the basic, underlying reasons therefore. However, a brief comment upon those who collect ancients would certainly be in order in this particular discussion.

The collector of ancients is usually a person who combines most, if not all, of the following qualities- a student, at times perhaps of such caliber as to more appropriately termed a scholar--a deep art appreciation (for real art--not themuck that the would-be ultra-sophisticates of our time call art)--reverence for antiquity--and great interest in the great and near-great who shaped and determined the course of our civilization at its source. The sum of this is the simple observation that the collector of ancients must be willing to devote more time and study to the proper development of his hobby than is the case in any other category of numismatics.

The collector of ancient coins collects much more than money "per se." In those days, when there existed no media of swift, mass communication such as we know today--no newspapers, radio, telephone, television--coins were extensively utilized to fill this basic function. All sorts of news and propaganda were disseminated by the coinage--the inauguration of social and fiscal reforms--new laws and the repeal of old laws--wars, victories, and peace treaties--new dynasties--public doles and celebrations--the "news scoops" of the world of the past all parade before our eyes in the fascinating scope of ancient coinage.

In the field of art, many masterpieces by the greatest artists of antiquity--unsurpassed to this day--survive only in their replicas upon ancient coins. For instance, the head of the statue of the Olympian Zeus by Pheidias is believed to be depicted upon the obverse of the tetradrachms of King Philip II of Macedon--father of Alexander the Great. The reverse of one type shows the king's race horse--an Olympic Winner in the 4th century B.C. The only reminder of one of the seven Wonders of the Ancient World is the radiate head of Helios--the sun god--upon the coins of Rhodes; all that remains of the great Colossus.

Of ancient structures and also one of the seven Wonders, the Pharos--or Lighthouse--of Alexandria, Egypt also survives only upon an ancient coin. The famed Temple of Diana at Ephesus has long vanished save for its foundations, but it is still possible to obtain coins showing the effigy of Diana in her sanctuary and thus recall the famous dispute between St. Paul and the silversmiths. Forever gone also is the Mausoleum, but coinage of Mausoleus himself survives to bring to mind one of the greatest tokens of love in history in that magnificent tomb erected by his grief-stricken wife--over 2000 years later to survive as a word in a language then unborn.

Until the latter part of the 4th century B.C. only gods and semi-divinities were shown on coins, but from then on we can build a magnificent portrait gallery of the great personages of history. Alexander, probably the pre-eminent man of antiquity--during his lifetime was shown on his coins only in the idealized guise of Herakles, wearing as a head-dress the scalp of the Nemean lion. Following his death, a more realistic portrait, wearing the Horns of Amon, appeared on the famous tetradrachms of Lysimachus of Thrace, noted as among the most beautiful of Hellenistic coins. The figure of seated Athena upon the reverse of these same coins served as the prototype for Britannia upon Roman coins and today may be seen on current British pennies. (This article will be continued in the next newsletter.)

Have a great Thanksgiving holiday. It will be good to see you at our November meeting. The center will be sure to have a large room for us. Last month our larger group needed just that.

Bea Lindwall, Secretary