

TCACC

MAY 1986

VOLUME 21 NUMBER 5

Campania to Messina - The Mamertini

- O Who instigated the first Picnic War?
- O Whose name came from the Oscan word for Mars - god of war?
- O Who plundered Sicily until checked by Hieron of Syracuse?

The Mamertines provided much drama to the early history of Rome. Dave Alvarez will provide us with a history of the Mamertines. As usual, you are encouraged to bring coins of Campania, Messina, Syracuse, Carthage, The Mamertini, etc.

Dave Alvarez Moves Onward and Upward

We especially appreciate Dave's presentation for our group this month as it may be his last. Dave expects to leave for the West Coast in June to start a new position with the government. We wish him and Mike and the rest of the family the best of luck.

Slime Busters

The April meeting proved that we are a really diverse group of slime busters. Our discussion on cleaning coins was a big hit. By request, a reprint of the slime busters article is on the back of this newsletter.

Door Prize Awarded

Amid protests from the crowd Mike Alvarez won his own name at last month's meeting to win the door prize. Congratulations. We hope you enjoy the book on Roman Britain.

A door prize will be awarded at the May meeting.

Information for New Members

1. Meetings are held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 so. Snelling, St. Paul, at 7:30 p.m.
2. Directions: Snelling Avenue exit off of interstate 94. Drive south on Snelling Ave. to the intersection of Goodrich and Snelling. The church is on your left.
3. Annual dues are only \$3.00. We pass the hat at meetings to pay for the use of the church facilities - 50¢ to \$1.00 is sufficient.
4. For information, please contact:
President: Bob Stumm 487-1569
Vice President: Tom Beniak 722-3235
Secy./Treas: Kenn Hollister 822-8157

Meeting Agenda

- 7:30 - 8:00 Socializing
- 8:00 - 8:15 Auction
- 8:15 - 8:45 Presentation
- 8:45 - END More Socializing

Calendar

- May 22 - Meeting
- June 21 - Liberty Coin Show
- June 27 - Meeting
- July ? - T.C.A.C.C. Picnic

Rx FOR BRONZE DISEASE

Collectors love to talk about bronze disease but in reality it's a pretty rare affliction in its extreme form. The Center For Disease Control in Atlanta has identified two major varieties of this disease:

1. The Green Slime (*Slimus Vertus*)
2. It's Alive (*Spiritus Transcendus Mortus*)

Where Does It Hurt?

The "Green Slime" is the common variety that usually results from improper storage of nice bronze coins. In some cases it is more a result of deterioration of the packaging than of the coin. Its symptoms include sticky, oily deposits on the coin often accompanied by a yellowing or chemical breakdown of the packaging.

The "It's Alive" variety is usually found on large bronze coins, antiquities, weapons, etc., that came out of the ground. There is usually evidence of corrosion, possibly including mysterious holes which promise to open to caverns within the mass of the object. This is the dangerous variety. It is bacterial in nature and therefore subject to spreading to your other numismatic loved ones.

per! - Unclean!

Don't buy a coin if it has "living" bronze disease. Leave these to the museums to treat. If you already own one, sell or trade it to a dealer or collector you don't like. Museums treat these coins much like items recovered from shipwrecks; by soaking them in preservatives. If your coins are slimed, you can do one of two things: Call Ghost Busters to remove them or try to clean them. The risk of green slime is twofold: A) It is ugly, and B) If left for an extended time it can cause permanent discoloration or pitting.

There Is A Cure

To preserve your bronze coins, prepare a solution of one teaspoon of sodium carbonate monohydrate and one teaspoon of baking soda in 1/4 cup of water. Sodium carbonate monohydrate can be purchased in a good photo store such as Brown Photo. Immerse your coins in this solution for 10-15 minutes. If your coins display only a spot or two of corrosion, you can apply the solution with a bit of cotton on a toothpick.

To complete the treatment, seal your coins with a solution of benzotriazole and rubbing alcohol. Start with a spoonful or two of alcohol and add the benzotriazole until no more will dissolve. Apply this solution with a cotton swab or a Q-Tip and allow the coin to dry without blotting or rubbing. Benzotriazole can also be purchased in photo stores.

Rx By A Specialist

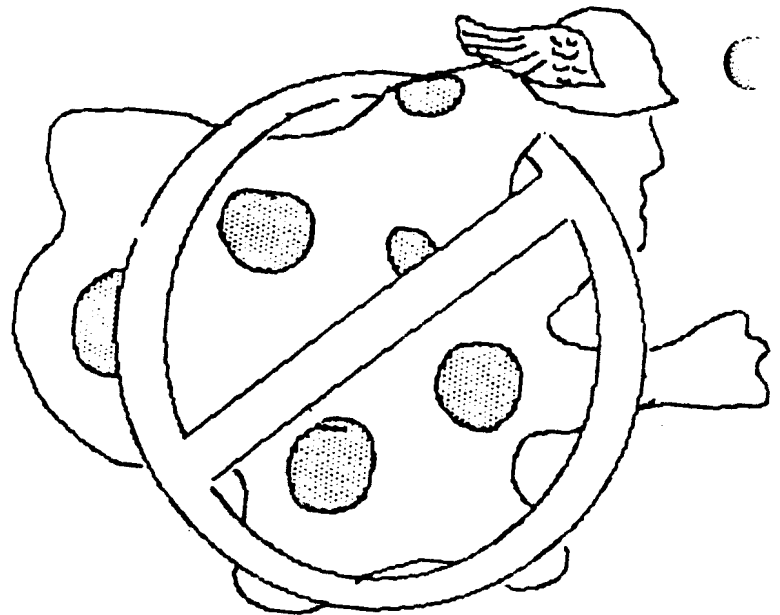
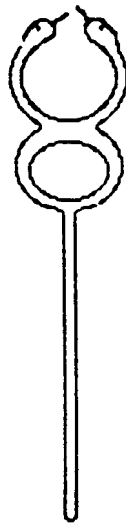
If your "slimed" objects don't respond to the efforts of the Ghost Busters, then maybe you should consider taking preventive actions next time. The ideal way to store your coins is in a chemical-free environment, which effectively precludes planet Earth. The next thing is to use inert coin flips and *Cointains*. Cointains have the advantage of protecting your coins but have the disadvantage of being sized for United States coins. Try to cram an Athenian tetradrachm into a quarter size holder. The U S mint has much to learn about striking high relief coins!

Look at the bright side. These coins have been around for hundreds, even thousands of years. They will surely outlast you and !!

Cointains and other "safe" coin supplies can be purchased directly from the manufacturer:

E&T Kointainer Co.
P O Box 103
Sidney, Ohio 45365

Or if there is sufficient interest among club members, Moneta will put together an order. Please see Kenn Hollister if you are interested.



'SLIME BUSTERS'

There are many similarities between the development of Indian cultures along the Mississippi river and Neolithic and Bronze Age societies of Europe and the Near East. While our attention often focused overseas we have a rich archaeological history here in our own backyard. Come learn more about this backyard with Bob Stumm as he tells of his adventures exploring the archaeological remnants of Mississippian cultures. Perhaps we can draw some conclusions about how these cultures were similar to or different from those we have studied in connection with ancient numismatics.

No, we're not planning the third Punic War - just our annual club picnic. Date and location have not been decided so please come to the meeting and add your two cents.

Are You Ready To Believe This?

Summerfest

A footnote to a history of Cicero published in the early 1700's: In the beginning of the sixteenth century, a tomb was discovered in the high-road near Terracina, which was called by the Romans Via Appia, and in it was found the body of a young girl swimming in a certain unknown liquor. The corpse had fair hair turned up with a gold buckle, and as fresh as if alive. At the feet of the body was a lamp burning, which went out as soon as the air came to it. By the inscriptions it appeared that it had been buried in that place fifteen hundred years, and it was supposed to be the body of Tullia, Cicero's daughter. It was carried to Rome, and exposed in the capitol, where great crowds of people came to view it; but as the credulous multitude would needs have it to be the body of a saint, because it was not corrupted, the Pope ordered it to be thrown by night into the Tiber.

The Liberty Coin Club of Saint Paul is having a one-day "Summerfest Coin Show" on Saturday, June 21. The show runs from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It's at Signal Hills Shopping Center So. Robert Street in West Saint Paul. You can bet Don Doyle will be there. It's almost next door to his coin shop. Kenn Hollister will be sharing his table. Remember, any profits will be used to send two starving coin dealers to the ANA show in Milwaukee. Both Kenn and Don will feature pre ANA specials for their regular customers.

It Was No Picnic

Calendar

The Punic war was no picnic but Dave Alvarez's talk on the Mamertini was a real treat. Thank you Dave for sharing your enthusiasm and knowledge with us one last time before beginning a new job in California. Good Luck.

- June 21 - Summerfest Coin Show
- June 27 - Meeting
- July ? - T.C.A.C.C. Picnic
- August - NO MEETING!

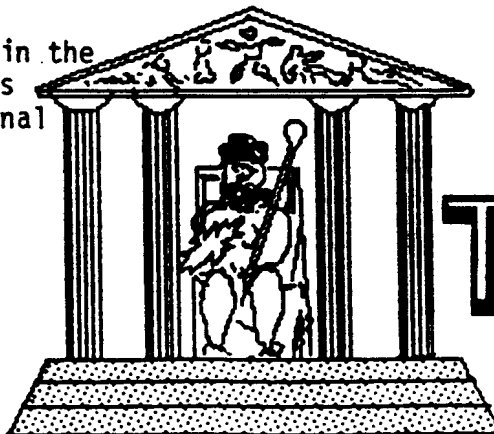
Meeting Agenda

Information for New Members

Read this carefully! Another change in the agenda has taken place. The agenda is "back by popular demand" to its original format.

1. Meetings are held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 So. Snelling, St. Paul, at 7:30 p.m.
2. Directions: Snelling Avenue exit off of Interstate 94. Drive south on Snelling Avenue to the intersection of Goodrich and Snelling. The church is on your left.
3. Annual dues are only \$3.00. We pass the hat at meetings to pay for the use of the church facilities - 50¢ to \$1.00 is sufficient.
4. For information, please contact:
 President: Bob Stumm 487-1569
 Vice President: Tom Beniak 722-3235
 Secy./Treas: Kenn Hollister 822-8157

- 7:30 - 8:00 Socializing
- 8:00 - 8:30 Presentation
- 8:30 - 8:45 Auction
- 8:45 - End More Socializing



TCACC