TWIN CITY ANCIENT COIN CLUB

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Hello again! In the press of so many events crowding in and with our monthly sessions being spaced out in the midst of them, it is difficult to establish the continuity of subject matter and the regular contact with one another. We do the best we can under the circumstances of our busy world. In addition, yours truly has found himself busy with a host of activities partly to survive in the economic pinch and partly because of the season of the year.

Our club did a fine job in its ancient display at the Jewish Coin and Stamp Show in February. We seemed to draw the most spectators and even the great Ya'akov Meshorer, chief numismatist of the Israeli Museum in Jerusalem, was impressed with the range of our display in a cultural backwater like ours. People who worked at our presentation included Howard Brin, Irene Klugman, Steve Rubinger, Burton Field, Jerry Lorentz, Dick Horst, Rodney Olson, and yours truly. Along with these club members, additional club members who attended the Meshorer lecture on Sunday afternoon included Dee Laden and her husband, Sally Bauer, Joan Olson, and Judy Gustafson. Please excuse me if I have left out anyone. A group of us, including Otto Schaden, met with Ya'akov Meshorer at the Howard Brin residence that evening for a very stimulating question and answer session. During the course of the evening, Mr. Meshorer revealed the only two absolutely reliable coin dealers in the Jerusalem area. Since that time we have written to both and received a response from one. J. Zadok & Sons are willing to send some pieces for inspection for those interested in ancient Jewish coins and Palestine city coins. We have since responded with a want list selicited from three of our members. However, others will certainly have an opportunity to suggest their desires and opportunity to buy on whatever lot of coins we receive. The sample prices of the few pieces which Mr. Zadok did mention were considerably lower than Joel Malter's prices here in the States.

Jerry Lorentz, one of our club members and long-time officer in more than one of our Twin-City clubs, will blend together the history of Alexander The Great and several of Alexander's coins in a presentation for this month's meeting. The TCACC will meet at (the Jewish Community Center in St. Paul) See Note 1375 St. Paul Avenue, at 7:30 P.M., next Thursday, March 27th. In addition, David MacDonald has sent up a few coins from the Crusader period and a few Luristan arrowheads. We have also a shipment which is supposed to arrive in the near future of Egyptian frog lamps used by Christians as symbols of the resurrection (dated 250 A.D. to 500 A.D.). All these items are economically priced. Perhaps you have a few coins for trade or auction to bring to the

Note: Passover Celebration Closed Jewish Center

Meet at my church: Oakdale Community Ch. 1066 Carrie St. W. St Paul, Minn. (a few blocks N.E. of Signal Hills Shopping Cntr.)

club. Also the Society of Ancient Numismatics (SAN), based in southern California, has inquired whether our club would like to affiliate with them and therefore share in the high quality of their resources. We would also make contributions to their magazine and to the furtherance of our hobby together. Oscar informs me that they will make use of Carol's article on the Athenian helmet. And perhaps some of our other past highlights will end up in their high quality publication. A vote on this opportunity could take place next Thursday if our members so desire.

In keeping with our recent display of ancient Jewish and Palestinian city coins we present an article by one of those interested in our club in the Twin-City area, Calvin Woods, which he published in "The Voice of The Turtle", in June, 1965, and is reproduced here with his permission.

COIN TOPICS

"A reader asks why some hints aren't given for displaying ancient coins. It is commendable that there is a desire to show coins and the educational purposes of the Turtle are in accord with any attempts to bring about more displays of ancient coins to offset in part the dull and lackluster exhibits of Lincoln cents and worthless medals.

We cannot not agree with this same reader that any one should be afraid to display. There can be no 'poor' exhibit of ancient coins, since each coin, because of its age if nothing else, has a fascination for the lay public. On the other hand, there are a few hints that can lead to much better exhibits and hopefully the real simplicity of preparing a display will convince other of our readers that it is their duty to evangelize a bit and show their collections.

The main secret for a good display is THEME. The exhibit should illustrate a story and there are literally thousands of stories which ancient coins can tell. The following hints are illustrative:

1. Representations of a particular deity on Greek coins through several centuries.
2. Ancient dress as shown on coins.
3. Changing women's hair styles as illustrated by the coins. This feature fascinates the ladies and is especially good for the Roman coins which can be compiled over a three century span.
4. Ancient ships as illustrated by the coins.
5. The eagle (or any bird or animal for that matter) on coins.
6. Buildings on coins.

Once the reader lets his imagination begin to work the list of possibilities is endless.

A good display should not contain a large number of coins. Individual preferences vary, but a consensus lies between ten and twenty coins per standard ANA display case. Too many coins give the exhibit a cluttered look and tend to confuse the viewer. It is far better to have too few than too many coins.

In a well judged contest, numismatic information should provide 50% of the total valuation of the exhibit....An exhibit should not be cluttered with extraneous material. Maps, illustrations and descriptive text should be limited to material which adds to or points out a particular feature being emphasized. (And) By all means look at other displays. Pay particular attention to the prize winners.....(And how they earned their prize)

To recapitulate: Be sure to enter; never be afraid of being beaten. It is through experience that the best exhibits are made. Have a theme. Make your coins illustrate and describe the theme you have selected. Use the old Greek standards of symmetry and moderation. Make your display neat and attractive.

As a collector of ancient coins, possessed of knowledge not available to the lay public, there is an obligation to disseminate that knowledge to the people...The public interest is always high (in ancient coinage). C.C. Woods

See you at the meeting and please excuse my condensing of the above. C.J.G.