TCACC

MAY 1986

VOLUME 21 NUMBER 5

Campania to Messana - 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 Hicron of Syracuse?

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

Dave Alverez 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 Alverez won his own name at last months 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 Immanual 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. ıe 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.

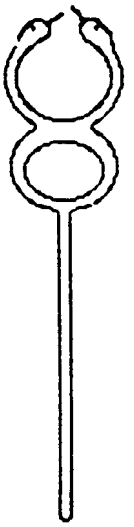
per! - Unclean!

Don't buy a coin if it has "living" bronze disease. Leave these to the museams to treat. If you already own one, sell or trade it to a dealer or collector you don't like. Museams 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 ʻution 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

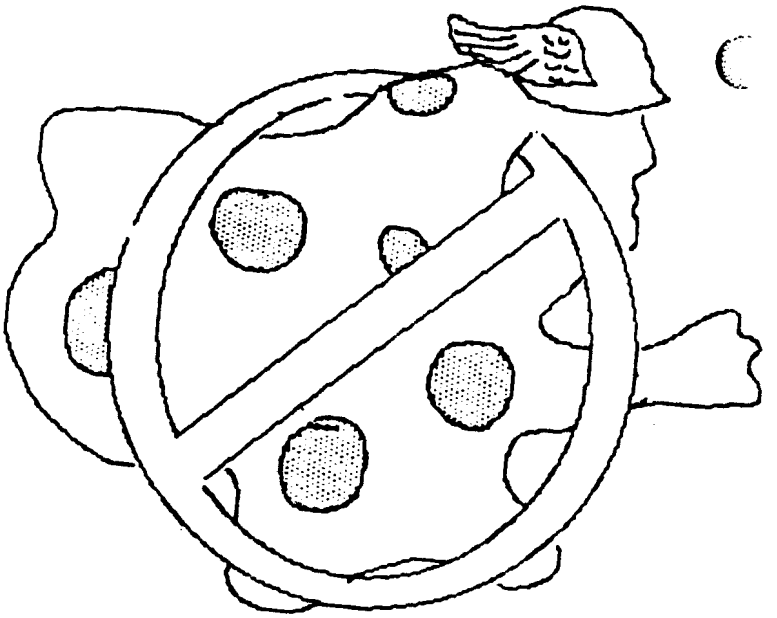
If your "slimed" objects don't respond to the efforts of the Ghost Busters, then maybe you should consider taking preventive actions next time. The ideal way to store your coins is in a chemical-free environment, which effectively precludes planet Earth. The next thing is to use inert coin flips and *Cointains*. Cointains have the advantage of protecting your coins but have the disadvantage of being sized fot 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 I!

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"