



TWIN CITY ANCIENT COIN CLUB



March 1971(?)

Rodney Olson
President

Charles J. Gustafson Hon. Sec.
1078 Carrie St. (Tel. 226-5801)

James Buelow
Treasurer

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

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.

Jan 72

It is, of course, a great pity it didn't end there, as sadly enough, as we all know now, this was just the beginning, and now, I really need help. How in heavens name am I supposed to know the difference between an ALMOST VF for example, and a CHOICE F, or worse, a Fine PLUS!...I guess the trouble really started for me when I first got confused over the glowing description of a LARGE 19" TV screen. What I want to know is, is this the same as an Almost 20"?

Seriously though, we do have some power to help clean up this silly business. Any club member that feels he has been thrown into the net of confusion by this kind of selling, or feels he's been injured by poor tactics of any dealer, should notify one of our officers at once. They have assured me, that they will be willing to meet as a group, or create a quorum, to fully look into the complaint. If they feel the cry is indeed a legitimate one, it will, I assure you, get the fullest publicity. It may not get you recourse, but it will, at least warn others of the hazards of putting business in the wrong direction...You know, even in the previously sacrosanct areas of old line European dealers, one of our members recently found it necessary to return a batch of coins, to a well known London dealer, because, in his opinion, they were over graded. Where will it all end?

Lest we forget. This month's meeting will be held in the UNIVERSITY again. The same Social Science Tower, West Bank, and Room 850, as before. The date is TUESDAY. JAN. 25th. 7:30 P.M.

SUBJECT. How to make fine castings of your valuable coins. This will be an actual demonstration of fabrication of the mold and the casting material. Mixmaster, my wife, as previously reported. I believe it will be well worth your attendance, and I would suggest bringing a note pad, you may want to record a few manufacturers names. Your viewing of this interesting series of processes is under distinctly advantageous conditions. It's not likely to splash in your soup.

FOR FEBRUARY Mr. Olsen and I intend to regale you with a film show, sound, colour, everything but the popcorn, and as far as your inevitable question is concerned, we don't know yet, but we promise to make it interesting, as well as relative to our hobby. If our luck holds, we'll be back in the U again, otherwise, well....more on that anon.

You might want to take note of a coin show on Feb. 5th & 6th. to be held at the Holiday Inn in St. Paul, (just off the Freeway) Known as the St. Paul Coin Carnival, the advertisement claims they will have 38 Bourse tables. Of course, if you're like me, you'll probably think that serried rows of Lincoln pennies, will do little for your weekend, and with this sentiment, I'll agree. However, a visit might be worthwhile, and might not be the complete exercise in futility it appears. Diligent questioning at the tables will sometimes turn up some results, and you might hook a nice ancient out of the woodwork. As you know, most of them have little interest, or knowledge of our coinage, which means that their valuation of a stray Roman or Greek, will more likely be on a "cost plus" basis, rather than a 'cost, now hit 'em plan. Anyway, I feel the show is worth at least a brief visit. I tell myself that if they can get that enthusiastic about this stuff, I should once more review my stock. Most of our coins are more beautiful by far, more historical by centuries, and more ancient by eons, we should be in raptures, it seems.

Most of you know, I'm sure that the Rev. Gustafson is off again to the Holy Land, leaving at the end of this Feb, on the 28th, and arriving in Jerusalem the next day, day 3 will be spent in the city, and then he starts a whirlwind tour of the sites rich in Biblical history. Bethlehem, Jericho, the Dead Sea,

On to Samaria, Galilee, Capernau, Nazareth, and Haifa. On the 7th day he is free to shop, and I hope he doesn't fall prey to some of the more unholy aspects of the area, hastening to add, I'm referring to modern ancients. His last day of the tour proper, takes in Tel Aviv-Jaffa and so on to Rome, where the lucky so and so, has another full free day, returning to New York, and so to home the following day. If this doesn't gather enough material to interest us, for at least onesession, I'll not forgive him.

How do you feel about the merits of a 'swap column' through the media of these pages?. Most of us, through inevitable duplication and upgrading, end up with coins we'd like to dispose of, and if you're like me, you're not quite sure what to do with them, so perhaps we can help each other. We could, for example, have two columns, one for our disposals, and one for our wants. We would of course have to set some limits from each member, perhaps, no more than three at a time in each list, and to eliminate some of the odour of the market place, no prices would be published. Just as full a description as possible, with a fair grading. A 'these I want' and 'these I don't want' type of thing. It would then be up to the individual members to contact each other, either at the next meeting, or through the help of the Rev. who has most of our 'phone numbers.

I was given a listing by the Rev. of some of the members specialties for inclusion in this letter, but as most of them were listed under the heading of 'interests' "General" I felt it might be too vague to be of mutual help. I'm therefore appealing for the large group who are listed so, to inform Rev. if your interest has now taken a more firm direction, so that such a listing which we hope to put in next month, will be of help to you too. Even period, or Geographic interest will be better than general, so please think about it.

Since the officers of this club have decided that a newsletter is a good thing, and since they have also decided to give our collective ideas a wider circulation, especially through the mailboxes of known coin dealers, I'm requesting all the help possible, to make this effort more professional. Viewpoints, suggestions, complaints, related items of interest, news of special activities of our members relating to the hobby, ancient coin monographs, anything that will help us round out this effort to the extent that its arrival will be awaited. Coin dealers too, your news and views are most welcome. My address is at the end of this letter. Concerning the monthly printing, and as Chuck wishes to get this out to you, well before the monthly meeting, deadline for any contributions would be the first of that month. So, remember, I'll look forward to hearing from you, and finally, in case you have the same trouble I do, in remembering dates, remember this, until otherwise informed, we meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

See you then,

H.G.G.

4012 Aldrich Avenue, South.
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Jim A. Buelow.
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FEBRUARY, 1972.

Just heard on the radio, less than six weeks to Spring! Although it may not mean much to us this far north, it does something for my mental adrenals, and I'm up and running, and before I forget, I should report, what may be a very interesting evening, for those with the time to spare.

I've had a letter, with an invitation to attend a lecture by Professor Homer Thompson, from the Institute For Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey. It will be held at Macalester College, St. Paul, on Wednesday Feb. 16th. at 8.30 in the evening, in the Concert Hall of the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center. Subject. "Excavations in the Athenian Agora"

This respected Professor is eminently qualified, by the looks of his experience, and I think each and every one of us would enjoy it. Members of the public are invited, and admission is free, what more could one ask? Hope to see you there.

.....
It was regrettable that so few were able to attend the last meeting, especially as we had such an interesting session, snow, high winds, and a temperature that would have made zero degrees look warm to us, provided a good enough excuse, so, an extra thanks, those few Spartans who braved all. I trust your sole reward was not a few days in bed, as a result.

For those of you who wanted to attend to catch the information on the coin casting methods, I've been asked to re-cap the highlights, and should it not be quite enough to take the plunge, direct your questions this way, we'll be happy to amplify.... Basically two materials are used to make the molds, so I'll deal with them one at a time, but first let me add that two materials are used because, although the first does the best job, it's not safe to use it on certain coins. As preservation of condition, of your precious coins is of paramount importance, the best, but safest way possible is adopted. 2000 years creates enough surface crystallisation on silver in the first place to make the use of material one, too risky. It's more sticky, and tenacious... and could lift off some of the surface. Plated coins, of course, carry an extra risk. So... to the material one, which we use, as explained, on bronzes, which fortunately, have been provided with a natural case-hardened skin, and to date seem quite impervious to damage. We use, in both cases, a dental impression material, available at any wholesale dental supply house, and a few dollars will provide you with enough material for a large collection. Once more, method one, definitely does the best job, but for the reasons stated, we use it only on Bronzes.. In the package you'll find two containers. The trade names may vary, but buy a "Poly-sulphide" base, this is a rubber like material, and the two have to be mixed together to create a catalyst, and it's from this brew that the mold is formed. Just like the epoxy glue mixes most of you have used, the proportions of the two, determine the speed of set up, and the body of the material. Anyway, read the instructions, of course.

Find something flat to mix on, we used a stiff plastic sheet, about 8" square, and puddle enough of the two materials together to fill, say, a tablespoon. This should be enough for about two coin molds, or one around the Roman large bronze size. Work them thoroughly together, until they're an even neutral colour, a small spatula, or a little flat stick used for clay modelling does the job well. Then, with the stick carefully coat one side of each coin, just a thin skin will do, but make sure you don't trap any airbubbles. Then, form the rest of the mix into a flattened mound sufficiently large enough to press the two coins in, hold your breath, and gently push them down until the top edge line is level with the material. It should then take about 15 mins. to set up, but a good test is to touch your finger tip to the mix, and when it depresses instead of sticking, you're close. I should also mention that this material comes in two or three grades, which affect the density only, and from experience, my wife is using the light bodied group, currently from a company named "Kerr", she feels the thinner base gives slightly more detail on coins with low relief... Before going on to Phase two, the actual coin casting, I'll mention the other mold material, which, remember, should always be used with the coins of delicate nature. This second material also comes from your nearest dental supply house, and is known as a "Hydrocolloid" It has a water base, and although having a few characteristics that provide a less desirable end product, it is at least, perfectly safe. Use this on all your silver, if you want to play safe. The kind we have found, is pink, and something near to the consistency of a jelly, and the method we have used to make it fit for use, is to cut some up and place in a small jar, about the size of a baby food container. Pop the jar into a small saucepan with some water added, and allow to simmer for about 20 mins. I'm sure there's a stated temperature to achieve before use, for those with proper equipment, -for our and your purposes, this seems to do the trick. When ready, take it out of the little jar, and scoop onto a similar palette as suggested before, and then make a little pyramid with it. Gently, with a slight twisting motion depress the coin down, until at the desired level (the pyramid prevents the airbubbles) then leave to cool. Whichever mix you've used, when set up, as in process one, or cooled off, as in two, you will now be ready to remove the coin, or coins. In the case of process one, you can now prepare your mix for the actual casting, for the other, better to wait an hour until surface moisture leaves, otherwise a wet mold may create a little havoc with the detail. So, after having gently lifted out the coin, we go to the casting materials. After much trial and error, this has been narrowed down to two materials, one called "Glastone" the other "Castone" The first costs a little more, it's harder and of course more brittle. Both do a good job, but unfortunately, the smallest quantity from the same dental supply houses is 25lbs. This is about enough for 2359 coins! Both bags of 25lbs cost well under \$10.00 so there's little pain however. So, take a small flexible plastic container, and pour a little water in, then, slowly add the powder, stirring until a thick cream is produced, it's then ripe for pouring into your molds. Carroll takes the extra precaution of 'leading down' into the mold with a little stick, to cover the base before pouring, this helps to keep down the risk of airbubbles. In the rubber base mold, about 40 mins. is ample time for set up, but with the other, the suspended water will slow things down a bit, and I'd suggest an hour or so. When you get your coin casting out, leave at least overnight to dry out, (48 hrs. for a large coin) and then you can do what you will with the results. Two sides of a coin can be mounted on a card for reference and attribution, and for the artistic among you, the actual colouring can be faithfully reproduced quite easily, as you have seen from the specimens Carroll has brought in. They can serve well as a fine display within a frame, or to give to that jealous friend who covets the coin you won't sell, but more important, they establish a fine security record, and enable you to put the coins in a safe place. Finally, one nice thing about the water base material, it can be used again, just as long as you do not allow it to dry out. Any questions left? you know where to direct them.

As previously promised, a film session is on the books for this month's meeting On Tuesday, Feb. 22nd, we will have two films to show, and each in their own way should be equally interesting. "Rivers of Time" which recreates the ancient and little known civilization of Sumeria, and "Athena, the Golden Age". Both look like providing some very good viewing. Meeting starts as usual at 7.30 PM. and, unless otherwise informed, it will be in the Science Tower, U of M. as before. Room 850. Let's see you please, we really thinned out the ranks this last two months.

March Meeting will be in the capable hands of John Hartman, who has agreed to hold the chair on a subject, not at time of writing disclosed. Those of us who know him well, can feel confident he will keep us interested, so come prepared for a stimulating evening, meanwhile I hope to have more details by next letter.

I'm still appealing for help in putting this together each month, any items of interest, relating to the hobby, net peeves, (related) opinions, suggestions, I want to sell lists, I want to find lists, (coins only) monographs, special interest articles, you name it. How about each one telling us how he or she got started in this fascinating interest? In about 300-400 words, doing one each month, it should make interesting reading. Greek collectors, take a city state, Roman collectors, take an Emperor, and in 500 words, tell us as much as you can about the area, or in the case of the Romans, the period. Doing them, one at a time, then lets have a vote on the most interesting account. A prize of course, to the winner.

In the 'wants' category, and merely to start the ball a'rolling;

Carroll Gibson wants quality Greek silver, has a few to trade. Would buy choice bronze Oscar Gibson wants Roman Aes, VF or better, collecting portraits only, some odds to trade.

Rodney Olson wants anything nice among the many Seleucid Kings in bronze or Silver.

Rev. Gustafson, has particular interest in any ancient with strong Biblical reference No trades at this time, unless he can upgrade.

Talking of the Rev. as you know, he's off to the holyland later this month, I'm sure I speak for all when I wish him a bon voyage, or should I say Shalom! When he gets back, I'll press him for some details for our little letter.

"Antiquities are history defaced, or some remnants of history, which have casually escaped the shipwreck of time."

Francis Bacon. 1561-1626.

H.G.G.

Newsheet items;

4012 Aldrich Ave. South.
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March. 1972.

Sorry to start on a grim note, but we have in a sense, reached a minor crisis in the affairs of our little club, and for the loyal few who have found a way to attend over the last 90 days, you'll know exactly what we mean...A tiny group have been entirely supporting this little venture for too long, and your President feels it's time we did a little head counting.

Making the arrangements for our meeting places, calling the members, handling the costs of the newsletter printing, the mailing expenses, renting films and projectors, even providing the coffee urn, coffee and doughnuts, has all been in the hands of four persons, and if for no other reason, it's simply not fair.

We now mail out close to 50 Newsletters per month, and although it's our pleasure and full expectation to shoulder most of this responsibility, a reasonable attendance each month would at least prove our efforts were appreciated, plus the fact that the humble \$1.00 per head we collect would also help defray expenses.

Even taking our unholy winter conditions into consideration, let's face up to a fact, the attendance this last 3 months has been awfully thin.

As a result Rod Olson has requested that I ask for the following assurance of future support. Within the next week or so, mail to my address below, a short letter, or postcard, indicating your wish to continue, or renew, your support of the club, whichever the case may be. If sufficient numbers do this, we will be re-vitalised and will continue the effort, otherwise the outcome maybe, sad to say, the demise of the effort. I should also add that, regardless of the outcome, a non-arrival of this requested note will indicate and serve notice of no further interest, and we'll act accordingly.

We have recently had an offer from a prominent out-of-State dealer and enthusiast, to attend our April meeting. He intends to give an interesting lecture, and bring in a large number of fine ancients, these for our viewing, appreciation, and possible purchase, if interested. He would fly in, and spend the night here, all without obligation to us!

What's wrong then? Well we're scared stiff, that's what! At the present rate of travel, our anticipated attendance would humiliate us beyond endurance, and I'll wager it would be the last guest we'd ever have. Do you realise now, why we must have assurances before taking our plans further?

Out of towners too, and dealers, do you want us to mail this sheet to you? at least let us know, and we'll be happy to keep up the good work.

Trying another tack to whip up attendance, our March meeting will be held on THURSDAY 23rd March. at a new address. 1276 University Ave. Back of the building entrance, downstairs, & plenty of parking. John Hartman will have the chair, and by taking you through the steps of coin study, will illustrate the difference between a collector and a Numismatist. It should be good, please show up and give some support.

7:30 P.M.
(Penn Mutual Bldg. East of Wards)

Letters, etc;
4012 Aldrich Ave. South.
Minneapolis. 55409. Minn.

H.G.G.

SOME QUESTIONS & THEORIES CONCERNING POSSIBLE COIN FABRICATION
METHODS IN ANCIENT SICILY & SOUTHERN ITALY.

Because of a deepening curiosity concerning an aberration or phenomena seen in the creation of some ancient Greek coinage, I beg indulgence through my discourse and the questions raised, in particular, as I fear that someone from a position of higher scholarship, may well have explained already, that which appears to me, too lightly dealt with in the explanation of this ancient technology.

I bring to your attention, the strange dual, pointed protuberances, forming little peaks, and breaking the round profile at almost equi-distance in the circumference of the coin flan of many coins of Sicily and southern Italy.

They certainly seem separate from the normal end result of a simple die punch/die anvil strike, and I am prepared to offer the proposition that this strange shaping was created prior to the actual strike, and was in fact, a side result of the first operation in the preparation of the blank flan.

Primarily, the incidence appears to be most heavy on the early coins of Sicily, occurring however, but seemingly to a lesser degree, at some adjacent southern Italian mints. Also, due to the natural irregularity of ancient coins in general, I would not be prepared to say that this condition does not exist on coins struck many miles away, though I have failed to discover this condition on the many coins I've studied, through the media of numerous catalogues.

Sufficient to add, that using the fine illustrated Kraay/Hirmer volume of "Greek Coins" as a first reference, and in spite of the varied series shown therein, Sicilian and Southern Italian mints appear to be the only ones that produced this condition.

Therefore, in Kraay/Hirmer, please note the condition on Plate 5 #13, on Plate 11 #33R on Plate 15 #43R & 430, on Plate 20 #65, on Plate 21 #68R, on Plate 30 #89R & 91R, and on Plate 53 #149R & 1490... In Seabys "Greek Coins & their Values" see Plate II #414A. In "Masterpieces of Greek Coinage" by Dr. Seltman, see Plates 5A, 5B, 17A, 17B, and 38. In the British Museum publication, "Coins of Greek Sicily, by Kenneth Jenkins, see Plates 3, B, C, & D. 6, A, 7, B, 13, A, & B, and Plate 15.

All these examples serve well to emphasise the point, and to further pursue the issue, I'm adding herewith, a sketch of a bronze from our own cabinet (Sketch one) which seems to accentuate extra vividly this aspect of manufacture, that I feel too lightly passed over. Recognising however, the possibility of a fuller and more accurate explanation already long propounded, I seek refuge in the statement that, allied to this personal curiosity, is a theory on the means that our ancient forebears used, to achieve their mastery of weight uniformity, at least as it applies to this specific coinage, and directly connected to this mentioned condition.

I must first however, revert to the earlier stage in the planned manufacture, and this is the actual production of the original round, (more or less) metal blank or flan.

Known to all of us, is this surprisingly efficient little piece of metal, which, throughout all of its final demoninations, remained astonishingly accurate in weight, and thus, from my position of ignorance, I study with curiosity. How were these little flans first prepared? each so closely tied to each other by virtue of even weight.

I read that Dr. Seltman states that, they were all "accurately adjusted", in the BM publication, "Coins of Greek Sicily" Mr. Jenkins also states, they were "adjusted". This of course, must be conceded, but how were they adjusted? All the coins and illustrations I have studied show no strong evidence of clipping, or chiselling, so I think it must be generally agreed that this weight adjustment had to be made prior to the actual striking of the coin...so once more how?

Consider for a moment, holding a reasonably flat and round piece of silver, about an inch in diameter, and discovering that your scale indicated that it was overweight, not much, say about 8 grains, or a little over $\frac{1}{2}$ gramme. You live in the fourth century BC, and of course, you have no files, or other sophisticated modern tools to reduce weight, and lightening by drilling simply cannot be considered. You hav'nt even a good method of holding this little piece while you work on it, and although a crude form of lathe was in fact, in use, it was turned by a hand-propelled bobbin drive, and was only fit for simple wood working tasks, or clay work.

As a person long versed in the techniques of metal fabrication, I would have been at a loss, arriving at a solution, unless.....a means had already been provided and used, when the first form was conceived.

Along this train of thought, I wish to offer the following proposition, illustrated by sketch two. I believe that it is possible that a series of circular cavities were cut, or depressed into a fairly flat surface, probably into a block of clay, or similar firebrick material, each a shallow hole to approximately the correct diameter and depth, forming what must have looked like a large multiple cake tin, the cavities then joined by narrow channels. The intended denomination of course, predetermining the size. This block would be kept hot to facilitate the flow out of a larger reservoir as shown, and by a slight 'jiggling' movement, the molten metal would have leveled. Then the block of molds would have been lifted off the fire, and as soon as possible, the frame of flans would have been lifted out, 'quenched' in cold water to create a little brittleness, and broken apart, through the legs, or sprues.

Experience would allow the artisan to cut, or break near to the required weight merely by 'feel', and then after a careful weight check on a simple beam scale, the heavy ones would be easily 'adjusted' by chipping or cutting from what remained of the little legs. These, I submit are the little pointed pieces on the coins of Sicily and lower Italy. The one we possess, shows evidence of being snapped off quite close to the round, and it appears to have left a little thin tail behind, because as the final strike itself occurred some of this thin excess turned over and up into the flan face, as can be seen quite clearly.

To implement this further, I refer also to a similar strike reaction, a coin in the Kraay Hirmer book, Plate 100 #290R.

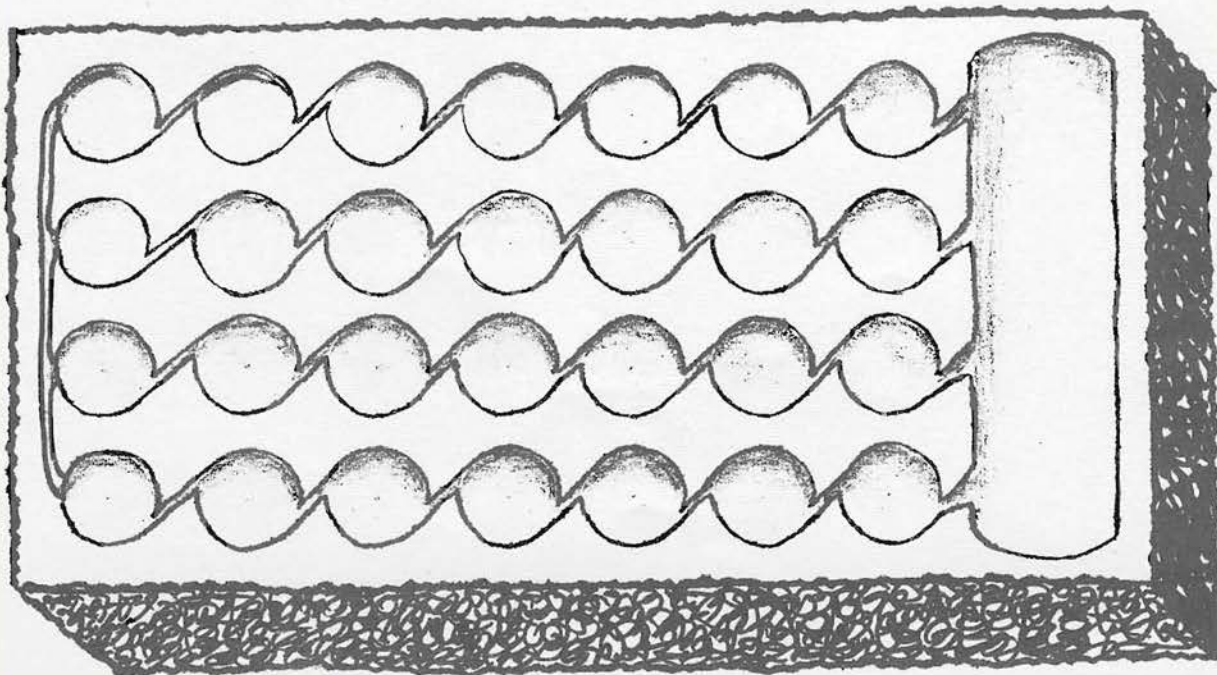
I am naturally in recognition of the frailty of my beliefs, and fully realise the counter questions that can rise, for example, how can I then explain the lack of these strange points on coins from other areas of the Greek world? By what means then, did these other coin makers achieve the same degree of accuracy? Of course, I don't know, and I suppose the mystery will continue, unless of course, I am missing a complete explanation. Sufficient to say that, whether my theory carries some credence or otherwise, these strange little coin points will always instil in me, the deepest speculation.

H.G.G.



Sketch one.
Coin of Syracuse under Hiketas.
Ob. Persephone. rv. Biga. 287-278 BC.
AE 21. BMC 441.

Sketch two.





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Jim A. Buelow.
Treasurer.
April. 1972.

Glad to report,a heartening return to a near normal turnout last month has breathed new life into our monthly gathering,keep this up,and we may make it.

Thanks also for the assurances of more co-operative help in support of the venture, especially to Whitney Lindwall for the promise to handle our monthly printing job,all without cost to us. Thanks too, to Jim Buelow for the provision of a nice cosy meeting room, again without cost, and Mr & Mrs Wheelock, thanks for adding your baking skills to the evening coffee break. Finally,a sincere thank you,to John for a penetrating look at what extra rewards, a deeper study of our coinage will bring.

The meeting did prove that we have a fair number who wish the club to continue, and for those who did not make it once more, you should know that it was resolved by a voice vote to collect the princely sum of \$2.00 per annum from all who wish to receive our monthly mailing, so if you want to stay on the listing, mail your check to Jim, c/o the Rev.Gustafson. But more important,if you live in the Twin Cities,please show up once in a while.

To round us out,a volunteer is wanted to take over publicity for us,primarily with the duties of making our group better known to others with similar interests,with a view to increasing our membership. Classics Dept: at the U,would be a good lobbying area,for one example, and the help in collecting newsworthy items for us would also be welcome. The pay is high, two low grade Antoniniani per annum.Check with your officers for the application forms.

Special note for the out-of-towners receiving this newsletter,if you have,or know of a similar publication, we would like to reciprocate copies,and content too,if of interest. We're starved for educational material, as you will note,and we'd relish to chance of an exchange of articles, ideas, or even downright debate. You may get the poor end of the bargain,but look not for reward in this life. If you've been as diligent as you should have been, delving into the murky history of the ancient world,you may believe you have already, a few Dieties working for you. We're looking for help from almost all of them, but especially from Abundantia, Bonus Eventus, Fortuna and Moneta, with perhaps the emphasis on the latter, so with their help, and maybe yours, who knows? Thanks, "Siglos" of San Francisco for your letter,nice to hear from you,and we hope to hear again, not only from you, but others of ilk.

The word is out...it has been said that our little newsletter lacks scholarly content, and with this view, I fully agree,however, from my seat at the typewriter,there's little I can do unless I receive some help. Even if I was sufficiently qualified,(which I'm not) it would be patently wrong for me to presume to hand on my exclusive thoughts, 'a la Mao, even on such an innocent subject as ancient coinage. So my friends the onus is on you,in your hands,minds, books,coin hordes,et al. To start the ball 'a rolling, I humbly added a slight monograph last month, hoping it might lead to a wave of interesting matter. Did you find something interesting to add? or better, contradict? Another subject?..Let's hear from you.

The journey to Israel and Rome was a tremendous experience, no matter how many times one travels to those historic lands, the fascination remains the same. We have always found the greatest highlight to be Jerusalem, that picturesque city so often the victim of conquest through the centuries. Today of course, the Old City, and Eastern Jerusalem is back in the hands of the Israelis for the first time since the Bar-Kochba Revolt in the years 132-135 AD, and with the exception of another revolt in 66-70 AD, 1967 was the first time Jerusalem was in the control of Israel since its loss to Pompey in 63 BC. What a great sight it is to see the Jewish people praying and dancing at the ancient defense rampart of Herod the Great's temple, now refurbished. The Romans left this Western enclosure wall of the temple standing, as a monument to their triumph over the Jews, which incidentally they celebrated with more coin issues than they did any other triumph in their history. The conquest over Judea appears as one of the most important events of the Flavian dynasty. Comparing Judea Capta coinage with those of the Augustus triumphs over Egypt, or the victories over the Germanic tribes of the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, also commemorated, there are so many more issues dealing with the Judean defeat.

Jerusalem is a great city for one interested in antiquity, almost everywhere you go, and whenever you turn around, there's something of historical importance. We also found that Jerusalem is a great place to buy coins related to biblical history. If you make sure you visit well known dealers, you'll come away with fine pieces at a price substantially less than you'd pay here. I've been cheated in Egypt, and in Lebanon, but not so in Israel. I saw coins from many Palestinian cities I've never seen here, or yet seen advertised, and picked up specimens from Tiberius on the Sea of Galilee, Nablus, Petra, Philadelphia of the Decapolis, Gadara, Gaza, Gerasa, Dio Caesarea Sephoris, Sidon, Ptolemais, Caesarea Maritima, and Aelia Capitolina (some research yet to do on this last one). I also bought a Herod Archelaus coin. Of course not all of these are scarce here, but some seem to be unavailable. I also stayed with the AE issues, feeling these were less likely to be counterfeits. We saw many coins to make one drool, and hope to do something about that when returning again next year, the Lord willing. We were also impressed with the skill of the Arabs in recognizing coins types, they put me to shame! They could tell at a glance which city, or what year of the revolt it was minted, whatever the condition, with ample numismatic material to back it up if one wanted verification. They seemed weak in reading the Greek and Hebrew inscriptions, but all in all, did very well. I should add that prices are on the rise, I'm told partly because of a Government tax on dealers in antiquity.

I should also mention that some very interesting numismatic literature can be bought from the Arab dealers of Eastern Jerusalem, and it's to their credit that we saw very few bars or taverns in Arab Jerusalem, but many bookstores. We bought Meshorer's, "Jewish Coins of the Second Temple" for about \$7.00, and Yigael Yadin's volume on the Bar Kochba revolt for the same figure. Both of these would have been about double here. I could also have bought, if the money had held out, most of the now out of print Kadman series on Caesarea Maritima, Ptolemais, and the First Revolt, just think, whole books on the ancient coins of one city! and not booklets. I also saw a monograph on the recent coin discoveries in that part of the world, and bought a book on procedures used in minting ancient coins. Yes, Jerusalem is a great place for buying books too.

When we stopped in Nazareth, we bought an Agrippa I coin reported to have been found in Jesus's boyhood town.... One cannot begin to tell how much is actually seen on one of these trips, it's almost impossible to record all the sights and information that comes your way. Rome was completely new to us, and fortunately, with our plane taking off from Tel-Aviv at night, we arrived before dawn, and managed to get a few hours sleep in our De-Luxe Hotel before seeing what we could in a free day.

Taking three separate public bus trips to the Roman Forum area in beautiful weather, which by the way, was characteristic of the whole trip, we took a multitude of pictures. The Colosseum, the Baths of Caracalla, Trajan's Column, and the Pantheon were all subjects for our cameras. On the following day, the tour took us to the Vatican Museum, the Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Church, the catacombs, and the Mamertine Prison. What an experience! There were no attempts at coin purchasing in Rome, and finally, let me say we were in no danger during the trip, at least, not that we were aware of. Except for one Army base we passed in Israel, we didn't see more than a dozen soldiers the whole time we were there. We were in Nahariya, only 5 miles from the Lebanese border, with people milling in the

streets, shopping, and eating in the sidewalk cafes. One wouldn't have known things were happening a short distance away. It seems our newspapers play up the conflict way out of proportion.

So, back home again, and remember, if you would like to go on a similar trip next year, let me know. It will be March 12th, and we go to Egypt, Cyprus, and Israel again. It will be very economical and an unforgettable experience....drop me a note.

Rev. Gustafson.

I am pleased to announce that we will have as our guest this month, Mr. Harlan Berk, of Joliet, Illinois, a well known dealer and collector of ancients. He should give us an interesting hour discussing the long history of the coinage of ancient Rome, its ups and downs, with the varying changes and subsequent debasement, in particular as it related to politics and inflationary causes. He then intends to draw some pointed parallels to our own sad progression in modern currency. Add the extra bonus of a nice display of fine ancients, for sale, trade, or just looking, and it should be one of our best nights. So please do our guest the honour of showing up, remember, he's come a long way. Same place as last month. Just east of Wards on University. No. 1276, The Penn Mutual Bldg. Back entrance, and downstairs at 7.30 PM. Tuesday, 25 April.

For those with the odd coin or so to trade or sell, the following partial listing may help in making the suitable contact;

Howard Brin.	Ancient Hebrew.	Rod Olson.	Seleucids & Bactrian
Otto Schaden.	Ancient Egyptian.	Ted Molitor.	Ancients of India.
Bill Wheelock.	Byzantine.	Whitney Lindwall.	Gen. ancients & Swedish.
Rev. Gustafson.	Biblical ancients.	Dave MacDonald.	Augustus & Caria.
Don Doyle.	Anatolia.	John Hartman.	Caracalla.
Art McCracken.	Ancient & Med. Britain.	Jim Buelow.	Qual. ancients, Rm & Grk.
Carroll Gibson.	Classic Greek Silver.	Oscar Gibson.	Qual. Rm Imp. & Republican

Many interesting lectures are conducted throughout the season by the Minn Chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America. This related field offers much pleasure to such as I, (and I suppose that makes me a frustrated archeologist) but they are free, and the opportunity of witnessing some of this exciting work, even if it is only by colour slide, appears to be the next best thing. By joining the Society, you get a cheap excursion to all kinds of diggings, generally with the actual nationally known archeologist as the lecturer. You can write to Sheila McNally, President of the Minnesota Society, for more details, c/o, the Dept: of Classics, The University of Minnesota.

That about wraps it up for this month, remember, we expect you on the 25th. April. 7.30

The various modes of worship, which prevailed in the Roman world, were all considered by the people as equally true; by the philosopher, as equally false; and by the magistrate, as equally useful.

Edward Gibbon. 1737-1794.



TWIN CITY ANCIENT COIN CLUB



Rodney O. Olson.
President.

Chas. J. Gustafson. Hon. Sec.
1078 Carrie Street. (226 5801)
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Jim A. Buelow.
Treasurer.
May. 1972.

Well, we did it! and I mean recording our best monthly attendance for many a Moon. This seemed to relieve the tensions of your club officers as an added pleasure. Harlan Berk came, saw, and presumably conquered, and since buying from his large display continued until he was almost pulled away to meet his plane, it must be concluded that the evening was a success in every way. As an extra news tit-bit for those few members who could not attend, a little more was added to the club funds through the auctioneering skills of the Rev., a nice gift book from Dave MacDonald, a coin from Harlan, and a few other related sundries. Before Mr. Berk left that night, two more nice Romans were added to our assets by Harlan, and we'll dispose of them in the same manner this month.... With some further thoughts on this pleasant phenomena, it seems that, whether we like it or not, the chance to sell, trade, or just look at coins, may yet prove to be the way to preserve maximum attendance. Talks, or lectures, if we wish to give the exercise its most pompous term, are all very well, but I suppose that, like all things that are good for us, they taste better if taken sparingly. They also tend to pre-suppose that the majority are, or will be, closely interested in the subject, and just as important, ready to consider the source authoritative enough to hold their interest. Unfortunately, the ancient collector is in an extremely varied area, even discounting the geographic implications, Greece, Rome, India, Egypt, etc. just two collectors of Roman Imperial bronzes could be the poles apart in interest. For example, one could be putting together a portrait gallery of the notorious Rulers, while another could be assembling a gallery of coinage which dealt with the overt propaganda, so often passed on to the lowly Plebs Romani. These interests to the total exclusion of all other distractions. Therefore, this makes all lectures, profound or otherwise, risky to the extreme, and frankly, makes one wonder if they are worthwhile. It would be interesting, perhaps on a polling basis, to see whether we could come up with 5 subjects for the future, popular enough to find acceptance with 75% of our membership.

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We meet as usual in the Merrie month of May, on Thursday the 25th. at 7.30 Pm. prompt. Through the good offices of Jim Buelow, at the same place. 1276 University Ave. The back entrance to the Penn Mutual Bldg. On tap first, a fine film that I have been trying to snag for a long time. The "Search for Ulysses", based of course on the book, Ulysses Found. It's in beautiful colour, with narration by James Mason. Following the film, which runs for 53 mins. and based upon the theory that our new found strength may lie in the marketplace, we plan to turn over the last part of the evening to a "sell, trade, or just looking" session. Bring every ancient you have that you might like to dispose of, and have fun. If you prefer the extra excitement of an auction, hand over the coins in separate envelopes to Chuck, and add as much information on the coin as you can gather, condition, attribution, and perhaps your reserve price. Remember, the total reference helps to value, and don't forget the BMC number, if known, or other catalogue check. Chuck will auction the other two coins from Harlan at the same time. Finally, before I leave the subject of money, is there anyone out there who has not yet paid their \$2.00 for their year of mailing. With stamps @ 8c. times 12, where else is there such a bargain? Seriously, we do plan to cut off the delinquents very soon. Checks should be made out to Jim Buelow, and mailed to Mr. Gustafson, address above.
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It was suggested by a member a couple of months back, that we should try to include a little material which would aid the new ancient collector, and I heartily agree with the thought, once more however, reiterating that it should be the duty of all of us to contribute to such a venture, with whatever we feel will help. For now, on the chart below, is what I believe a fine reference to Greek city symbols, not only for the neophyte, but perhaps for others too, who cannot always identify coins from the lesser known regions. Similar items must abound betwixt the covers of some of your own books? how about a loan of them for awhile? They will be put to better use through the medium of these pages.

How about a few paragraphs from the oldtimers to this great hobby, on what advice you would give to a beginning collector? with maybe the extra bonus of hearing the story of how you got started. Do you just have an urge to 'collect'? Are you compelled to 'touch history'? Are you a 'numismatist', in the solemn sense of the word? or are you just a refugee from the Denver Mint.?

Ancient Greek Primer

Identification of ancient Greek coins by the main device shown should be much easier for the beginner who consults the accompanying table of line drawings identifying many of the more common types used. It is not intended to be more than a guide for the novice collector but may point the possessor of only a handful of unattributed Greek coins in the right direction for further research.

The lettering, where found on this class of coin, consists normally of the name of the state or, more often, that of the maker or mint master. Lettering is not given at this time, but only the primary device or badge of the issuing city or state where it will serve as a clue to identification.

Numerals below refer to the numbers on the plate:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Abdera | 43 Larissa |
| 2 Acanthus | 44 Lete |
| 3 Achaean League | 45 Lyttus |
| 4 Aegina | 46 Melita |
| 5 Aenus (to right) or | 47 Messana |
| Aegospotami (to | 48 Metapontum |
| left) | 49 Methymna |
| 6 Aetolia | 50 Miletus |
| 7 Agrigentum | 51 Naxos |
| 8 Agrigentum | 52 Neapolis in Mace- |
| 9 Amlsus | don |
| 10 Amphipolis | 53 Locri Opuntii |
| 11 Antioch ad Euphra- | 54 Panticapaeum |
| tem | 55 Pelinna |
| 12 Arcadia | 56 Pergamum |
| 13 Athens, early | 57 Phocis |
| 14 Athens, late | 58 Poseidonia |
| 15 Boeotia | 59 Rhodes |
| 16 Cales and other | 60 Segesta |
| Campania cities | 61 Selge |
| 17 Neapolis | 62 Selinus in Sicily |
| 18 Camarina | 63 Seleucia Piera |
| 19 Camarina | 64 Side |
| 20 Carthage | 65 Side |
| 21 Carthage | 66 Sidon |
| 22 Centuripae | 67 Sinope |
| 23 Chalcis | 68 Sicyon |
| 24 Mytilene or | 69 Smyrna |
| Olynthus | 70 Stymphalus |
| 25 Chios | 71 Syracuse |
| 26 Cnidus | 72 Syracuse |
| 27 Cnossus | 73 Tarentum |
| 28 Corinthus | 74 Tarentum |
| 29 Corcyra | 75 Tenedos |
| 30 Croton | 76 Thasos |
| 31 Cyme in Aeolis | 77 Tauromenium |
| 32 Cyrene | 78 Tralles |
| 33 Cnidus | 79 Vella |
| 34 Dyracchium | 80 Zacynthus |
| 35 Ephesus | 81 Zancle |
| 36 Ellis | 82 Melita |
| 37 Olympia | 83 Judea |
| 38 Gela | 84 Judea |
| 39 Gortyna | 85 Judea |
| 40 Gortyna | 86 Rhodes |
| 41 Heraclea | 87 Tyre |
| 42 Histiaea | 88 Zacynthus |



For those among you, who were interested enough to retain the gist of my recent remarks concerning those strange little points on the coins of Sicily and Southern Italy, you may also be interested in knowing that I was persuaded to offer the notes to the British Museum. This, I finally elected to do, but not without some hesitation, and understandably, waited for a reply with a fair amount of curiosity....I am copying their reply herewith, verbatim; "I was most interested in your note on the preparation of flans in Sicily; but I am not persuaded that you have the answer. In particular, there has never been a sign that the projection has been chopped. If you compare the silver coins with bronzes from Sicily and other regions where coins have been clearly cast in lines, and have a projection at either side similar to that which you postulate, you will see what I mean. The best discussion of this phenomenon is that of Hill in the Numismatic Chronicle of 1922, pp.1-42. He suggests there that the flans were cast in two hemispheres accurately weighed to half the weight of the final coin. These are then soldered together and the coin is struck across the join, forcing the two pieces together. The result of the striking, however, is to cause the coin to break apart at the edges and it is just this that produced the protuberances. This seems to me convincing because you will notice that very often in a line with the two protuberances, there is a crack across the flan. The same article contains a number of other notes on coin production and I am sure that you would be able to obtain a copy of it from your public library or from the ANS."

April 12th.72.

Yours sincerely, Dr.M.J.Price.
Dept: of coins & Medals. British Museum.

I intend to let this reply sit until next month, without comment, and in the June issue, I'll publish the exact section of the article, referred to in the Numismatic Chronicle of 1922. I should add, I am planning a reply, and at this date, I'm not convinced.

Two special reasons to mention Mr. Kent Froseth, one of our members. Starting this month, Kent is writing an article each Thursday for the Minneapolis Star & Tribune, this is the evening edition, of course. The column will, I am told, be called "Numismania", and you've guessed it! it will concern coins. News item No.2, Mr. Froseth has recently opened a coin and stamp shop in downtown Minneapolis. "Numisco Sales" is on 7th Street at No.103, and should you have trouble finding him, his 'phone is 338 0637. Hours 9 to 5.30, 6 days per week. Ancients, Moderns, and all in between. Good luck Kent, from all of us.

While on the subject of Dealers, once in a while, I come across a new one, and I'm thinking it might not be a bad idea to give some mention. The latest to come my way is the "Aquarius Gallery" at Box 326, Short Beach. Conn. 06405. A small, but interesting group in his first listing, with the added attraction of some interesting artifacts. He also mentions he plans a classified ad. section @ a dime a word, wherein you can list those hard to sell, locally, coins. The proprietor, Mr. Michael Miller claims he starts with over 600 collectors on his mailing list, so it might be worth some consideration.

Well, that just about wraps it up for this month, we are considering a short recess during our short Summer, probably July and August, although there is a thought about a gathering of those who can't stay away that long, and the tentative plans suggest an early evening 'picnic', large yard, medium assembly, small beer keg type of thing. Any thoughts on this, please air them at the May meeting, and drop a note to Chuck if you will not be there.

Hope to see you all on the last Thursday of this month.

H.G.G.

Newsletter items; to,
4012 Aldrich Ave. South.
Minneapolis. Minn. 55409.



TWIN CITY ANCIENT COIN CLUB



6/72

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Jim A. Buelow.
Treasurer.

June, 1972.

First, a few words of welcome to the little group who have requested our newsletter over the next 3 issues, "welcome aboard" so to speak, and we hope your stay is permanent. Speaking, I am sure, on behalf of all members of the TCACC, we're glad to have this opportunity of getting to know you. Unfortunately, this month's meeting will bring us up to a short Summer recess, as we do not intend to hold a club meeting during the months of July and August, although there is a picnic planned for July. You are, of course, heartily welcomed to both events. Meanwhile, whatever prompted your enquiry, let me pledge the club's assistance to you, if you are, or maybe intend to be, a collector of ancient coins. Just speak up, and our collective experience is available to you. The collection of these early relics can be the most fascinating hobby, with many of the specimens so replete in history, and it is to be hoped that our humble efforts will help you to enrich your spare time... Also to the 'old'un' we may have picked up in this little recruitment, welcome too, we're glad of the knowledge you can add to our studies. Finally, one more request for those of you that may have a specialized knowledge in this very interesting area, would you provide us with a brief pen picture of your experience and special skills, we may be selfish enough to call on you one day.

The June meeting will be held, as before at 1276 University Ave. Just East of Wards. This is the Penn Mutual Building, and we meet in the basement meeting room at 7.30 PM. Entrance at the back of the building, with plenty of parking. Meeting day, June 29th. Thursday. 22nd. Mr. Don Wallace will give an interesting talk on the portraiture on Roman coinage, and knowing the years he has been immersed in the pleasurable study of this subject, we should all benefit from his view of that notorious gallery.... After a coffee break, Mr. Art McCracken, will display some ancient coinage for our interest, and purchase if wanted. For those among you who do not know this gentleman, he is one of the few dealers in town, with a genuine non-commercial interest in ancient coinage, owning, I believe, a fine personal collection of old English. We have requested his presence, and there is no obligation to buy, so browse at will.

By the time you receive this, Otto Schaden will be in Egypt, where, he told me, he will be digging at the tomb of Ay. This is of the New Kingdom, in the XVIII Dynasty, and old Ay ruled, I see, in the period 1339-1335 BC. Makes our coins seem modern, doesn't it? I hope he comes back with a colourful tale or two, to warm a Minnesota Winter night. With all the hazards that I thought would dominate such a venture, I have found that one of the more mundane problems beset him. Food... evidently the choice is limited, and if you are at all particular, (which he is) you may have a problem. Goats milk, and the flesh of same, very stringy beef, and fish of dubious antecedents, from an even more dubious Nile, appear to be the main fare.... So apparently, he lives on canned fruit, Egyptian beer, and whatever he can force himself into sampling. Last year he had a large tin of cookies sent to him, and on a strict rationing, they should have lasted for most of the remainder of his stay. Unfortunately, two ant sized holes provided a fine exit and entrance into the container, and he entered his tent one day to view two endless columns, keeping a perfect formation (it must have looked a little like an ariel view of the LA freeway) and rapidly depleting his precious stock of home cooking.

So, Otto, when you read this in the Hotel at Luxor, remember our thoughts are with you, and we'll all eat a beefsteak in your memory...Seriously, good luck, and good digging, and we all look forward to your return.

How about a little competition,? I saw in an old Seabys catalogue, an extremely good idea, which I steal without conscience,herewith. Fancy yourself as a poet?...What about a short poem on our Hobby?..Rhyme or free verse. Profound, serious, or lighthearted. A Dollar a head for entrants, with a prize to the total value for the winner. Anyone receiving this newsletter is eligible, except the 3 officers named on page one,and myself, and we will set ourselves as judges. With well over 50 letters now going out, it could be a nice little prize if you will all promise to join in the fun. All entries with the buck to be in to me by November 1st.72. This will give us time to add some fun to Christmas, as well as a suitable gift for the winner.

Example, from your humble servant;(non-eligible)

An ancient coin of Rome, I hold,
would that it could, its tale unfold.
The surface is worn,by the journeys of trade,
for Rome travelled far for its silks, oils and Jade.
The stern face of Nero, stares out from the flan,
reminding us all, of man's hatred for man.

On the surface, a gash, made perhaps in despair,
like a cry from the past, 'let all men beware'.
The reverse shows with irony, a Diety wise,
when wisdom, like justice, would rarely rise.
The patina is green, with a trace of red,
telling maybe, of the blood that was shed.

This relic of Empire, so long in the dust,
warns us perhaps...only time is just.
For the power, pride and glory, that once was Rome,
lies deep and asleep now, in Italy's loam.
Proclaiming to nations, at the peak of their power,
that in history's year,....they have less than an hour.

H.G.(Oscar) Gibson.
4012 Aldrich Ave.South.
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Ready to try,?entries to me then.....at;

For those of you who are staying with me on my tilt at the British Museum writer, who replied, as reported in the last letter, here is the article refered to, concerning that strange condition on the coins of Sicily and southern Italy. The reprint I was asked to read is from the Numismatic Chronicle of 1922.pp.1-42.Herewith then:

The most remarkable peculiarity is one which is especially characteristic of early Sicilian coins. On many of these there are to be seen ridge shaped projections at two diametrically opposed points of the edge. It appears that the blank was cast in a spherical mould,made of two hemispherical halves. The metal flowed into the joint between the two halves, making a sort of equatorial ridge round the blank. "If the blank was placed on the anvil in such a position that the ridge was in a horizontal plane, then the ridge would be preserved all round the edge of the coin. But this would have produced a thin ragged edge to the coin; more usually, therefore, the plane of the ridge was inclined, or even vertical, so that only two small projections remained after the striking. Fig.1.shows the appearance of such a blank before and after being struck; the drawings have been made from a wax model before and after being pressed flat.

The fact that a globe of metal retains heat longer than a disk may explain the fact that the blanks were made of a shape that would seem to place so much strain on the dies, instead of something more like the shape of the finished coin.

The latter method was certainly employed by most other parts of the Greek world. The lentoid shape of the blanks of the early electrum of Asia Minor, for instance, has hardly been altered under the pressure of the dies. Such blanks as have been preserved from greek times are as a rule very much of the shape of the actual coins--only rather thicker, as a rule, since the metal flattens and spread under the hammer(Pl.I,3)
The method of casting 'en chapelet' above described was also widely employed for making blanks, especially in the late second and first centuries BC.in the Eastern Mediterranean. When the coins were small, as in the series of the Hasmonaeen kings of the Jews--but also frequently when they were large, little trouble was taken to trim off the runners.(Pl.I,4)
Judging from their shape, it would seem that blanks such as those just described were cast in open moulds. The mould was slightly less in diametre at the bottom than at the top, so that on turning it over, the blanks would more easily drop out. Blanks thus cast have therefore bevelled edges. These are characteristic of Syria and Egypt, but are also found elsewhere.

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From this extract, it is obviously difficult to decide where direct reference ends, to the condition I described, but I think you will all note, a surprisingly disparity between the comments I received in the letter, and the actual article by the eminent, G.F.Hill. Although I have taken the preceeding out of the complete article, nowhere else within the reading is there anything remotely suggesting the theories described by Dr.M.J.Price, in his letter to me. As far as soldering two hemispheres together, of "accurate weight" & striking the joined globe"across the join" so "forcing the two pieces firmly together", as Dr. Price suggests, I fail to see where he finds substance to this idea. In my opinion, I find it almost impossible to accept the idea that they had a technique strong enough in the first place to "solder" in the manner described, tho' I concede they were able to fuse gold together, in making intricate jewellery. I also believe they were practical people, and would have discovered a lot of more simple methods in controlling weight, than this incredulous idea. Frankly too, if this idea does carry any weight, I bet they had a lot of flying metal as the two halves parted company...I don't want to appear iconoclastic, and approach the idea of contradicting a Scion of the B.Ms.Coins & Medals Dept: much like a parish priest would find the idea of denying the Pope, but nevertheless, I think they're wrong, and I welcome your collective views. Space does not permit printing my reply, but I promise it in the next issue. Then, on the round two, I hope, fun, is'nt it?.

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Summer picnic. It has been resolved to hold such a gathering on Saturday, July 15th. the meet to be at:1267 Brighton Square. New Brighton. Minn. This is the home of Finch Booker, one of our members, who has kindly offered to throw open the facilities of his apartment complex. This offers us a swimming pool...etc. weather being suitable, and if inclement, he has secured the party room. He suggests we bring some snacking materials, weiners, etc. and the club will provide a small keg of draught beer, and pop for those that prefer it. Sorry he says, but no children, so those with, make thy arrangements early. 2.00..to ? To find him, I'm told its two blocks North of 694, and Silver Lake Road. Lets have a little discussion at this months meeting, and collectively assume a few responsibilities to make this thing worthwhile. To Mr. Finch Booker, our sincere thanks for your kindness, you have certainly established yourself, as a member in very good standing.

.....
So thats about all for this time, I do hope to see you all at the June meeting, 7.30 PM same place, the Penn Mutual Bldg.

Until then.

H.G.G.



TWIN CITY ANCIENT COIN CLUB



Rodney O. Olson.
President.

Chas. J. Gustafson. Hon.Sec.
1078 Carrie Street.(226 5801)
West St. Paul.Minn. 55118.

Jim A. Buelow.
Hon.Treasurer.

September.1972.

Trying to shake off the euphoria of Summer, I make haste to say that I have completely neglected the typewriter, at least as far as the club is concerned, since the July edition, so cast not dark glances at your faithful mailman, the blame is all mine. However, I will now try to make amends and fill this minor void, by bringing you up to date, at least as far as coin gossip and our future activities are concerned...Tom Mowery will occupy the podium at our next meeting, which will be held as usual on the 4th Thursday of the month, Sept.28th. For new members, and others with interest, the place is 1276 University Ave.St.Paul.(The Penn Mutual Bldg)..To the back entrance,down the stairs, and plenty of parking by the door....Apparently Tom has just completed a book on the ancient coinage of China, and his account of his labours, as well as the subject matter, and probably some of the heartache that went into the research, should make for an interesting and instructive evening.

The Summer picnic went off as planned,under ideal skies, and in my opinion, it turned out to be a fine success. The attendance was somewhat less than I expected, but I'll wager, our kind hosts were glad it stayed modest in numbers. The cornucopia was indeed to full measure, both in liquids and solids, and the following evening,a few loyal rear-guards assisted me in seeing that the keg was light enough to transport back to the suppliers.All in all, a nice event that should be repeated more often.

I have had the good fortune to make a trip to both California and Canada since our last meeting, and while out West,I was fortunate to be close enough to Joel Malter to contact him, and get an invitation to his office in Encino. He was courteous enough to pick me up in Beverly Hills and drive me out to his place, where I spent a rewarding afternoon browsing through his coins and artifacts. Greek, Roman, Judean, Syrian, Egyptian, you name it, Joe has it. Beautiful scarabs, votive figures, from high priced,to fragments for a few bucks, pottery, lamps, ancient weaponry, not to mention one of the largest ancient coin stocks I've seen in the country. In addition, Joe plays a major part in the publication known as SAN. The Journal of the Society for Ancient Numismatics. Also, Joe has his own publication, The Journal of Numismatic Fine Arts., of similar format as the preceeding, but being a combination of magazine and ancient coin listing. Both are on fine art paper, and quality works, and in my opinion well worth the nominal cost.They are produced quarterly by the way. Joe was kind enough to give me a few sample copies, which I intend to pass around at the Sept. and Oct.meetings. You can then decide if you wish to subscribe. Before leaving Mr. Malter, he extended his good wishes to all of us in the Twin Cities, and hopes to detour from one of his coin trips in the near future, and perhaps spend an evening in our company, if this is possible, he has promised to show us a nice selection of coins,"really competitive material".

Sad to report, the trek into Canada produced a sweet zero,prices were so high,I thought at first, the Swiss had taken over, and not being prepared to pay brandy prices for beer quality coins, I passed,

Three wishes for \$5.00.

Feeling lucky? What would you pay to rub Alladin's lamp?, or better still, own it outright! No, this is not a 'once upon a time' story, you can own Alladin's lamp, and for a very modest price, although the arrival of your personal Genie cannot be guaranteed. This strange little clay vessel, recognised by all lovers of the Arabian Nights stories, probably began its existence around the 15th century BC, in that part of the world, now known as the Middle East.

In its first crude form, it was little more than a dried clay saucer, pinched at the rim to hold a wick, and burning an unrefined vegetable oil, almost certainly, olive oil. As time passed, improvements came, and the users multiplied. The Potters wheel, which later created a more concentric form, also helped in forming larger vessels, and design modifications slowly turned the pinched lip design into an enclosed watch shaped lamp, to which, a handle was soon to be added, and then, a firm wick spout. Multi-spouted lamps followed, enabling several wicks to burn together, shedding more light. All this brings us up to the 5th Century BC.....Two hundred years later, the Greeks, then at the peak of their artistic endeavours, evolved a fine version of the lamp, with a depressed inner rim or discus, for filling ease, but now a great deal of design work was added around the upper body of the vessel. Simple and complex geometric patterns, as well as a variety of leaf and floral designs adorned this little giver of light, and it all happened because of the use of molds, instead of the spinning Potter's wheel.

In a sense, mass production had begun, and as a result, huge numbers became available throughout the ancient world. Strangely enough, however, it took the Romans, in the first Century AD, to carry the art of decorating the lamp to its ultimate. Finely executed figures from contemporary life and mythology, as well as the always popular series of Gods and lesser Deities, now took their place along with the inevitable erotica. The clay lamp had come of age, and by now was considered the symbol of learning, the "shedder of light". Alladin's lamp had indeed been created, and in Roman hands, was soon to find a niche in the rude dwellings of most of Europe, and to be continued on, even to this day, in some of the more primitive societies of North Africa and the Middle East. Excavations have produced thousands of these little artifacts, often found in ancient grave sites, along with other personal effects, and left no doubt to assist the dead through the darkness beyond.

A careful study by experts, will often pinpoint their geographic origin, this through analysis of the clay, and many have been found hundreds of miles from their place of manufacture. Design and style too, will just as surely denote their place in history, and in some cases, the artisan's signature on the base of some specimens, adds more information for the researcher.

Do you want to rub your own Alladin's lamp? Simple enough, some Roman, Judean and Greek types can be bought for just a few dollars. If you want an earlier, fine art style specimen, with a well defined design from around the First Century AD, you'll pay \$50.00 to \$150.00 for this one, and add a hundred for a dirty picture. If you're well heeled, and perhaps looking for quality magic, the very ornate multi-wick versions, or the later bronze versions of the 3rd Century AD, will cost you over \$300.00

But whatever your choice, they are all genuine artifacts from the cradle of our civilisation, but be careful, buy from a known dealer in ancient artifacts. He has carefully appraised its age and place of origin, and will guarantee its authenticity, but not however, its ability to produce a Genie, that's your only gamble.

What has this got to do with ancient coins? Well, it depends upon your attitude. If your coins are little more than a AR. Ex.F/F. with a BMC reference point, + current value, and the hopes of the present spiral in values continuing, ...nothing. But if you feel you touch history as you hold a Claudius Bronze, regardless of value and condition, then you will surely feel the same sense of awe, as you cup this fragile "shedder of light" in your hands.

H.G.G.

Like to read and see more? These are two of the best.

Catalogue of the Greek & Roman lamps in the British Museum, H.B.Walters. M.A. F.S.A. Ancient Lamps. (Translated from the Hungarian.) Tihamer Szentleleky.

The subject of contributions is almost always a painful one, especially when the request concerns money (non-ancient), my request does not concern money however, and that should warm the heart. I am asking once more for contributions to this news-letter, articles, long or short, opinions, anecdotes, interesting news items, anything worthwhile and connected in one way or another with ancient coin collecting. Letters requesting help or information, will be given special attention, especially from newcomers to this wonderful hobby. You know, any club, or loose gathering of people with a related interest will measure its success and strength solely from the help it seeks and is ready to give, don't feel shy, try us, you may like it.

Due to 'upgrading' and revising in our collection, we have a few Greek and Roman for sale, these are mostly fine or VF. I will sell them separately, or with a discount as a batch, (there's 14 at time of writing), please ask me for the list if interested...I understand also, that Chuck Gustafson, also has a few he wishes to convert into cash. (current). Furthermore, any member in a similar circumstance should request similar space, and this applies to your 'want' listing too.

A European newspaper I subscribe to, reports from Rome, that someone took on the prodigious task of deciphering over 5000 graffiti from early Imperial times. From this massive research, it seems as if the taste and style of wall-scratchers was as low then, as now.

Working among the ruins of Rome and Pompeii, the most commonly found words were Stinker, Pimp, S.O.B. Queer, (in the effeminate sense) Whore, Eunuch and "ready for the grave"! Apparently, the art of graffiti was first scratched in the soft sandstone or plaster in block letters, but by the 2nd. Century AD., script, or long hand, became the style.

Bookkeeping too was found, in meticulous detail, unfortunately, most of it dealing with the business of prostitution, and a sign was found, which actually offered 'letters of credit' or credit cards, to Romans travelling to Greece on business, and afraid to carry money, because of the threat of bandits. An election sign warns.... "anyone who removes my election announcement shall have an apoplectic seizure". Another slogan suggests that, "all who vote for Cassius Marcellus are thieves". There's not much change is there?

Beneath one wall, loaded with expletives and obscenities, someone had scratched, "I marvel, oh wall, that you have not collapsed under the burden of so much filth"

Now, what about that little competition? I devised it to help fill the monthly void. Are we so lacking in poetic effort and talent that the Twin Cities are to remain silent, and allow an out-of-towner to carry off the honours? Sad to report, the only responses so far, are from far afield, and if the rate of contributions follow the present flow pattern, we'll be hard put to buy a prize. Remember, \$1.00 per entry, to anyone receiving this letter, except the designated judges, the total to be used for a single entry 1st. prize in December.

Another example;

(Non-eligible)

I stare with disdain at 'modern art'
asking why beauty plays no part?
I marvel at efforts that distort all form,
and regret the creator's right to 'perform'
I grunt with disgust at impressionistic works,
and doubt the sincerity in these strange quirks.
But, I'm really quite lucky, insulated well,
since i've no need to 'enjoy' this visual Hell,
for my pleasures are near, and nothing to join,
I just take a look at an Ancient Greek coin.

Anonymous.

Have fun, roll them in, you might find it easy. I hope you are all looking forward to our 'Fall revival' as much as I,

see you on Sept. 28th.

H.G.G.



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October, 72.

Thank you Tom Mowery, for what I hear, was an interesting meeting. My personal regrets for non-attendance, being in Chicago, but I hear that the method you have described to aid in the easy identification of early Chinese coinage was most fascinating and instructive. If I should be lucky enough to snag a few in a wild grab at some old coins, I'll now know what to do, being I see, the proud recipient of one of your attractive booklets, "One Cash Coins of China's Manchu Dynasty." 1644-1911. A nice buy from Tom, for only \$1.85.

For the current month, I've just had confirmation of the promise to return, by Harlan Berk, of Joliet, Illinois. Presumably, he will fly in and out again that night, so for those of you who missed him before, or those who could not quite reach that certain coin, this might be your last chance. For those not present before, you should know that this is probably the largest selection of ancients we are likely to see in these parts, so don't miss it this time. Meeting, as usual, the Penn Mutual Bldg. 1276 University Ave. St. Paul. Rear entrance door, and parking thereby. Time, 7.30 PM. Oct 26th. Prior to Harlan's offerings and display, our Hon Sec. will call the meeting to order, and request a short open session to discuss the possibility of a January election of club officers, and since they've seen fit to elevate my position to officer rank from quiet scribe, all four positions will be open to a free vote. How you want to nominate, and under what rules you want to conduct this procedure, as well as for what length of term. These you should define, that is, if you want to help in directing the aims of the club. It sounds like an important meeting, leavened afterwards, as already mentioned, by Mr. Berk and a large number of fine ancient coins.

.....

SYBARIS. (Magna Graecia)

Do you enjoy comfort and luxury to the extreme? do you put these things above all others in your life quest? If you do you might well be described as a 'Sybarite' and your activities as 'sybaritic'. Websters define a Sybarite as someone noted for their love of luxury and pleasure, a voluptuary in fact, but don't feel bad, this term evolves from a description of the inhabitants of ancient Sybaris, a Greek city that came into full prominence around the 7th century BC., after beginning just a short 100 years earlier. Sadly enough, the wealth, indolence and luxury, degenerated these people into dissolution so rapidly, that 100 years later, an army three times larger than its enemy, was so weakened, that the city lay in ruins, heaped high with the bodies of its inhabitants. Sybaris would have been found in Southern Italy, within the huge bay which forms the instep of the Italian boot. The city was approx: 70 miles NE of Croton, the warriors of which, were finally to prove the Nemesis of the Sybarites.

The site of Sybaris was overwhelmingly beautiful, a rich fertile plain bordering the sea for over 24 miles, and extending about 18 miles inland to the mountains, which in turn provided a perfect watershed for their irrigation and the consequent prosperity. Is, of Helice, is believed to be the founder of this ancient city, taking his small

sailing ships 400 miles along the Ionian sea coast into the magnificent Gulf of Taranto, there to finally beach them, and develop a settlement in this rich fertile spot. About this same time, the Achaeans arrived nearby, founding the city of Croton in the SW. With these, and similar settlements the Greek city State system became firmly established along the south shore of Italy and helped them in their eventual control of the Strait of Messina, and the south and east coasts of Sicily, this in 710 BC. The Sybarites also had contact with two tribes which had been there since the dawn of history, the Bruttians and the Lucanians. In the north were the Etruscans, who were to play an important part in the future prosperity of the Sybarites, although, no trace can be found today of the two ports that were built to do trade with them, Laus and Skidros.

At the peak of their wealth, the sloth of the Sybarites is well documented. One law was passed which forbade any noise within the city, even poultry was forbidden within sight of the city, to prevent roosters from disturbing the citizens. The Sybarites were the first to allow women to attend banquets, and a law was passed, in which it was stated that a year's notice must be given, to allow sufficient time to prepare clothing and other adornments. Concerning clothing, the Sybarites were not content with the fine products of their own looms, importing the more famous wools of Miletus, a city which, developed a huge commercial relationship as a result. Consequently, when Sybaris fell, the Milesians, young and old, shaved their heads and.. "made great public lamentation, and mourning"...

All Sybarites were complete slaves to their bellies and desires, and preferred to associate with the Ionians and Tyrrhenians, because of the stories that these people surpassed most other Greeks in the waste and extravagance of their lives. A certain Aleisthenes has a place in history due to a purchase of a cloak, so rich that it was on public display at Lacinium during the festival of Hera. Later it was owned by Dionysius the Elder who in turn, sold it to a Carthagian for 120 Talents. Pity, it is not stated whether these were silver or gold talents. Webster defines a talent as 58 lbs. so if in silver it would be about \$2000.00 or, in gold \$38000.00.

In order to escape the heat of Summer, the richest citizens went to the Grottos of the Nymphs, on the Lusias River, insisting that the one day journey take three! Many of the roads are reported to have been "roofed over", tho' this might well mean, planted with shade trees along the route.

They took great pride in their handsome cavalry, and their horses were trained to dance to the sound of pipes, becoming so skilled at this exercise, that performances were often given at the more important banquets. Unfortunately, this pretty trick was later to contribute to their downfall.

One last story concerning their sloth, it concerns a patrician, who complained about a sleepless night. He claimed that one of his slaves, in laying out his bed of rose petals, had failed to remove some with crumpled petals. Such laziness led of course, to softness both in body and mind, and it is apparent that these idle people contributed nothing to the dawning classical period of Greece. They had running water, floors of marble or mosaic, wainscotings inlaid with gold or ivory, richly upholstered chairs and stools, and even tables and beds of solid silver, surrounded by walls covered with fine tapestries, but of literature, philosophy, painting, sculpture, nothing! Perhaps the intellectual effort was considered too big a strain for a people so dedicated to idleness. To the contrary, Croton led a full cultural life, creating the greatest school of medicine in Magna Graecia. Scholars came from Greece to listen to the discussions of Pythagoras, both in philosophy and mathematics, and advanced theory on astronomy was propounded in Croton at this time.

About 510 BC, a citizen of Sybaris named Telys, brought charges against some of the very wealthy Sybarites, which caused their exile, and the confiscation of their property. The banished then sought refuge at the altar, in the market place of Croton, which in turn, led Telys to force the city to send a warning to return them, or face war. This was of course, a grave situation, Sybaris larger, more powerful would almost certainly crush Croton. The sentiment was then, to accede to the wishes and deliver up the refugees. But Pythagoras addressed the assembly, urging them not to stain their name and that of their city with such an act, and his argument prevailed, the city sending ambassadors to Sybaris to try for an amicable agreement.

These men, all prominent members of Croton society, (fortunately Pythagoras not among them) were immediately put to the sword, their bodies thrown over the walls of the city for the wolves to feast upon.

This treachery caused, it is reported, "the Gods to show great anger" and the statue of Hera, wife of Zeus, "poured forth blood," which "caused great fear among the citizenry". They then fell upon Telys and their leaders, slaying them on the Altar steps, incurring even "more wrath from the Gods" at such desecration, and war was now inevitable.

A force of Crotons, about 100000, soon faced an army from Sybaris of 300000, and at the conclusion of the struggle, the route of the Sybarites was complete.

The strategy employed by the Crotons was unique, they had learned the tunes which had inspired the horses to dance. From Aristotle, there is mentioned a flute player who had revealed the melodies to the Crotons as a revenge for an insult. When the cavalry made to charge, the Croton pipers took up the tunes, causing the horses to dance and the riders to lose control, chaos resulted, with the horses turning into their own infantry.

The broken army retreated into their city, where the remnants were finally reduced after a siege of 70 days. The city was then completely destroyed, and the Crotons "conducted the river over it and submerged it"...

The ruins laid unoccupied for 58 years, but in 452 BC. a resettlement began, but Sybaris was never to regain its former richness, and was finally absorbed by the Athenian colony of Thurii in 443 BC.

Today, this ancient site still remains uncovered in the plain, and until very recently, its actual whereabouts were in doubt. But in 1953, a probing coring tool brought up datable pottery sherd establishing, without doubt this ancient city. Strangely enough, this little modern Italian village is called Terranova di Sibari.



Stater of Sybaris, right, Stater of Croton, left. Both coins with pattern incuse on reverse. Both circa. 525 BC. Both with a BMC reference. 1.



An idea is germinating which might be of interest to members and friends. How would you like a couple of weeks in Europe in the early Fall of next year? The thread of the idea turns around the thought of about a week in London, and about a week's tour of some of England's Roman towns. If enough enthusiasm is shown for the idea, we would be able to do this for a very reasonable price, as the head count determines the cost. If you think you be interested, complete the 'tear off' below, and mail to me. Then I can come back with some figures. Dealers receiving this letter could help by polling their listings, as we would see this as a great 'get acquainted' opportunity with others of ilk. Tentatively, let's speak of Sept. 12th to 27th, midweek departures and arrivals, cut costs. Like the idea? then write to me before you forget.

The mountains look on Marathon, and Marathon looks on the sea; and musing there an hour, alone, I dreamed that Greece might still be free.

Lord Byron. 1788-1824

PRINT.

Yes, count me in for Europe '73, if the price is right. Name.

Address.

I think I can count on more friends to join us.

Signed.

Mail to, H. Gibson, 4012 Aldrich Ave. South.
Minneapolis. Minn. 55409.



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November. 72.

I am happy to report another successful meeting logged for October. Harlan Berk made the long journey to town, not only with a fine selection of ancient coinage to please our palate and dent our pockets, but with an added bonus of an interesting discourse on one of his special treasures, a coin from Olympia which he feels is probably unique. This particular coin bearing a three letter signature of the die maker, is apparently the first evidence of such a method being employed. Before rushing off to catch the last plane of the night for Chicago, Harlan also donated some ancient bronzes to our club funds, which Chuck Gustafson intends to auction at the next meeting, which will, by the way, be held on Nov. 30th. at the same address as always; 1276 University Avenue, St. Paul. (The Penn Mutual Bldg.) Rear entrance, downstairs. Meeting starts at 7.30 PM.

The following story, with a touch of the macbre, is from Dave MacDonald, and I think well worth repeating;

In the fabulous numismatic collection of Paris, there resides a huge gold coin, believed to be the largest ancient gold coin in existence. It weighs the equivalent of 20 Staters, and bears the portrait and designs of Eucratides, Greek king of Bactria and India, in the Hellenistic period. Some believe the huge medallion to be false, but most experts agree, it is genuine and unique.

Apparently, the coin was acquired for the Bibliotheque Nationale late in the last century through purchase from an oriental gentleman, who had brought it first to London. After much negotiation, a considerable price was agreed upon, and while making out the Bank draft, the purchaser enquired about the exact circumstances of discovery. Whereupon, the oriental replied that he, with three companions, had chanced upon it, while digging for a well... Handing over the check, the purchaser remarked that he supposed that the sum would now be divided among the lucky four.

With a deep sigh, and a barely suppressed smile, the oriental replied, "alas, no, at present, only my brother and I remain alive of the four".

From mid-June, through almost mid-August, the University of Minnesota Egyptian Expedition, (UMEE) cleared two royal tombs in the Western valley of the Kings in Egypt. The staff consisted of Chuck Aling, Rick Brown and myself, (as field director) this plus a host of trained diggers, local laborers, inspectors and guards... in all about 135 men.

As some of the details of the work will be presented at the forthcoming November meeting of the TCACC, I have been asked to give some background material.

The main goal of the UMEE was to clear the tomb of King Ay (XVIII Dynasty, circa 1344-1340 BC) Though the tomb was discovered in the early 1800s it was never fully cleared, and no finds, except for the battered granite sarcophagus box, were reported. We hoped that full clearance would reveal definite evidence concerning Ay's burial, for there is some evidence to indicate that he may have been merely discarded, or hidden away somewhere without receiving the proper burial.

His successor, Harmhab, seems to have had a strong dislike for him. Scattered fragments of gold foil, wood, faience and miscellaneous funerary furniture tend to indicate that Ay was buried, probably without the magnificent equipment of the same quantity, as that of

Tutankhamun, (the king Tut of gold fame). Ay's career was short as King, but if for nothing else, he should be remembered for his burial of King Tut. Ay is depicted in King Tut's tomb, and must be given some credit for allowing the young king to take so much wealth with him into the Netherworld.

All the finds are fragmentary, except for the granite lid of the sarcophagus. It measures over 2½ meters in length. Of potential interest to Coin Club members was the fact that some persons inhabited the tomb and its environs during the late Roman period, unfortunately, they were very careful, and didn't lose any coins.

The other tomb was a small affair in comparison, though not by original design, for it was to be similar to the other royal tombs, but was never completed. It is not inscribed, so the owner was, and still is, unknown. The UMEE hoped to discover the name of the owner by searching for foundation deposits. Unfortunately, although a large area in front of the tomb was dug up, none were found. The tomb surely dates to the same general period as the tomb of Tut and Ay, but there's now little chance that the identity of its owner will ever be discovered. Fragments of numerous late New Kingdom mummies were still there, along with bits and pieces of some of the coffins.

Some items from an XVIII th Dynasty burial tend to suggest that originally a member of the royal family was actually interred.

P.S. Though not a really serious collector of ancient coins, I did keep my eyes open for them in Egypt. Most of my browsing was done in Luxor, but there was very little worth looking at. Most coins were little more than mere lumps of metal, so badly worn, they appeared to have just come out of circulation a few days before.

Otto Schaden.

Thank you Otto, and a reminder to all club members that Mr. Schaden will graciously occupy the chair at the next meeting, and enlarge a little more on this fascinating story. Try to make a point in attending a rather special meeting.

By the way, my feelings should be hurt! In my labours of last month concerning Croton and Sybaris, I made a error during my rush to get the copy to Whitney. How many caught it? Two at least, judging by the rapid reaction. I referred to the Croton coin as the Sybaris, and vice versa. Except for these two 'eagle eyes', silence. I prefer to believe that this lack of protest is due to a lack of knowledge of the two coins in question, or to the gentle wish of having me escape the embarrassment. Anything would be better than the alternatives, indifference, or from my point of view, worse yet, you didn't read it.

Julia Domna had an unusually tragic life, in a period when tragedy on a massive scale was quite commonplace. A woman of great beauty, wit, learning, and eloquence, she became the second wife of Septimius Severus after the death of Marcia his first wife. History informs us that she had two sons, the infamous Caracalla, and Geta, plus some unrecorded daughters of "no celebrity". Unfortunately, along with her enviable natural talents, she added the art of palace intrigue, which often brought her under imperial suspicion, and even more sad, a reputation for immorality which raised the eyebrows of court society even in a time when looseness of behaviour was considered almost a royal prerogative.

It is recorded however, that Septimius Severus loved her so deeply that he was always ready to forgive. It is also possible that his own less than exemplary behaviour, made it possible to understand this strange, brilliant woman.

So her life of pleasure remained more or less unmarred until the death of the Emperor in 211 AD. in York England., after a long and painful campaign against the wild northern people of Caledonia. On this costly British military adventure, he had been accompanied by his wife Julia, and his two sons, and although it is recorded that he died of a disease of the joints, (the climate?) it was rumoured that his eldest pride and joy, Caracalla may have assisted him over the Styx with a light potion of poison, since history records that he had already tried unsuccessfully to accelerate his ascendancy to the purple.

With Julia, now a dowager Empress, she was soon to witness the bitterness that consumed her two sons, as each vied for the supreme power, having been ordained joint rulers. Geta's efforts were comparatively mild and doomed to failure, Caracalla having shown already, a massive talent for cruelty hard to equal even in early third century.

The tragic climax was reached when, at the age of 22, Geta, who had been previously taken off guard by overtures of friendship by his brother, saw the steel in Caracalla's hand, and sought refuge in his mother's arms, only to be butchered by the monster as she held him. The months that followed were times of great stress for the long suffering Romans, as the deranged Caracalla caused all put to death, who bore his late brother's name. This was

also the fate of all who showed poor Geta, and it is recorded slaughter that followed. That that the name of Geta be and coin dies, although we as hoped, as we have today, prince. Meanwhile Julia goodwill between herself some good reason, obviously, to his favour, albeit precarious, honours for her avowed loyalty. young man, as the Roman world vicarious taste, and it took the who, using as an agent of death one



the slightest sign of sympathy for that no fewer than 20000 died in the was not all however, an edict decreed expunged from all records, buildings, know that this was not as successful many visual records of this tragic confined her activities to restoring and her son, now Emperor, not without and eventually she restored herself and ironically enough, received some But, Nemesis was overtaking this sick decided he was too much, even for their form of the Pretorian Prefect, Macrinus,

of Caracalla's own bodyguard, one Martialis, slew him while on a journey to a temple of the Syrian God, Lunus, in Mesopotamia. This event in 217 AD. Julia now repaired to Antioch, probably both in fear of her life and grief over the assassination, and in the weeks that followed, reached such a state of depression, that she decided to end her life by voluntary starvation. However, she made a rapid about face when she received a series of courteous messages, from the new Emperor, Macrinus, who apparently was willing to forgive her for producing her little monster, and perhaps looking for salve for his conscience too, if such a thing existed.

But here, Julia's ambitious streak came to the fore, and she began immediate intrigue to strengthen her position. This was of course, more than Macrinus could bear, and he ordered her "away from Antioch". Poor Julia felt then, that the last die was cast, and resolved once more to perish by starvation, which end she successfully met later the same year. For those of you who feel you would like to collect a series of this strange mixture of talented womanhood, you are very fortunate, there being, (according to Seaby) over 250 pieces in the recorded series, and this in silver alone. Caracalla, and even his brother are also well represented, which means the prices on these coins are still 'right'. The whole sad gallery of this tragic family could be assembled for well under \$100.00. Another postscript to this is, there happens to be a strange phenoma concerning Julia Domna coins, at least, it's completely unexplainable to me. There appears to be more coins in choice condition of her, than any other of the varied faces of Imperial Rome. I don't think this is my imagination, check among that old pile of coin catalogs behind the umbrella stand.

I felt last month when I disclosed the thoughts I had had on a possible trip to Europe next September, that I would receive a fair response from the club, as well as the hinterland. Frankly if the replies are any indication of the enthusiasm for the idea, we only need charter the starboard side of a Cessna. Seriously, you have no obligation in registering your interest, subject to the price being right, and as numbers are the only criteria, I need the count to get an estimate, so drop me a line if it sounds good. One week in London, (I know where the dealers are, and if this tires you, I also know most of the pubs) and one week on a tour of the countryside, seeing some of the Roman garrison towns. It could be great fun, and if the response is general, you'll end up knowing many more around the country with the same interests.

"Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up, and hurry off as if nothing had happened."

Winston Churchill.

I hope to see you all next week,

H.G.G.

ANCIENT COIN SEMINAR

Oct 71

FEATURES

SPEAKER: Mr. Howard Brin

- President of Brin Glass Company
- President of the Jewish Community Center of Minneapolis
- Collector of ancient Jewish coins
- Participated in excavations at Masada near the Dead Sea

TOPIC: "THE EXCAVATIONS AT MASADA"
(Includes slide presentation)

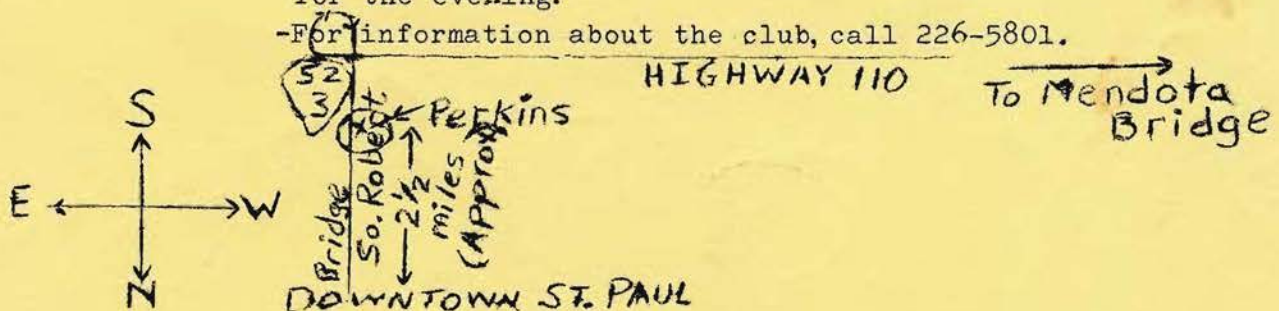
DATE: Tuesday, October 26th, 1971

TIME: Eat together 6:45 P.M. (Optional)
Regular Meeting: 7:45 P.M.

PLACE: Perkins Cake and Steak House (we have separate room)
1365 South Robert (So. Robert and Emerson)
West St. Paul (See map)

ALSO: Bring a coin you would be willing to auction off to raise money for our club.

- Hear about a possible coin collector's tour to England.
- Wives are invited to our meetings.
- Time for coin trades; also buying and selling.
- Small viewing lamps are helpful if you can bring one for the evening.
- For information about the club, call 226-5801.



11/71

ANCIENT COIN SEMINAR

FEATURES

SPEAKER: Mr. Otto Schaden

Egyptologist, University of Minnesota

TOPIC: "Blocks of Tut-ankh-Amon and Eye from The Temple at Karnak
and The Tomb of Eye in The Valley of The Kings"

(Mr. Schaden has recently returned from Egypt where he
did research on this topic.)

DATE: Tuesday, November 23, 1971

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: Social Science Tower, Room 850

West Bank, University of Minnesota

ALSO: ~~Wives~~ are invited to our meetings.

-Time for coin trades; also buying and selling.

-Refreshments will be served. Bring 50 cents for dues and to
help defray expenses.

-Coins donated for auction to raise money for the club are welcome.

-University students of Classics, Middle Eastern Languages, and
Ancient History are invited as our special guests.

-For information about the Seminar, call 226-5801.

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(BUY DOUGHNUTS)