September - October 2021

## Bottles and Extras

Discovery of a 3,000-yearold body that shows signs of the disease. Inside a decorated coffin in a Sudanese tomb it appears that we've found the earliest evidence of cancer. The man was probably between 25 and 35 when he died, and he appears to have suffered extensive skeletal damage due to metastasizing (spreading) soft-tissue tumors throughout his body.





Coming in at \$18.9 million was a 1933 Double Eagle Coin, which now stands as the most expensive coin ever sold at auction, nearly doubling the previous record. Sotheby's sold this example on behalf of the United States Government in 2002, when it brought \$7.59 million. It is the only 1933 Double Eagle coin able to be owned privately by an individual. The coin broke a record for the most expensive ever sold in 2002, but was later dethroned by others, the highest of which came in 2013 with the \$10,016,875 sale of a 1794 Flowing Hair silver dollar at Stack's Bowers.

The two philatelic items came in the form of a British Guiana One-Cent Magenta stamp, which sold for \$8.3 million, and the Inverted Jenny Plate Block, which brought \$4.9 million from collector David Rubenstein.





Archaeologists are possibly the only group that get excited over finding other people's poo. So Danish archaeologists were ecstatic when they pried open a treasure trove of old wooden barrels found near the city of Odense—only to find them full of partially fossilized feces. Normally, such barrels were used to transport perishables, but it appears they were later repurposed into cutting-edge medieval latrines. The unexpected toilets were found in mint condition, allowing for forensic analysis of some really old poo and furthering our understanding of medieval dietary habits (raspberries appear to have been quite popular). Scraps of toilet paper were found as well—or at least the bits of leather, moss, and other soft materials that were used as toilet paper in those days. Archaeologists confirmed that, even after all those years, the barrels still stank.

Earlier this month a rare almost 2000-year-old border stone from the reign of the Emperor Claudius was unearthed in the city of Rome. The stone, technically known as a pomerium cippus (boundary stone), marked the sacred limits of the Roman Empire's capital city and dates to 49 A.D., when Claudius expanded the boundary of the city. This wasn't a simple property marker, it was part of a series of stones that divided the urban civic world of Rome from the military powers that lay outside it. Even more interestingly it is inscribed with now-lost ancient letters invented in the first century. As the first discovery of its kind in almost a century, the discovery created a media firestorm.







A lost 13th-century masterpiece has sold for almost 24.2 million Euros (\$26.8 million), just months after it was found hanging in a French kitchen.

"Christ Mocked," by the Florentine painter Cimabue, sold for more than four times the pre-sale estimate at an auction in Senlis, north of Paris, on Sunday.

An elderly French woman from the town of Compiegne had kept the rare artwork -- which she thought was a Greek religious icon -- in her kitchen. The unsuspecting owner did not know where the 10-inch by 8-inch painting had come from, according to Jerome Montcouquil of art specialists Cabinet Turquin, which was asked to carry out tests on the painting following its discovery in the summer

"It didn't take long for us to see that it was an artwork by Italian painter Cimabue," he told reporter prior to the sale. "He's a father of painting so we know his work very well."

Cimabue is the pseudonym of artist Cenni di Pepo, born in Florence around the year 1240. He is known to have been the discoverer and master of Giotto, widely regarded as one of the greatest artists of the pre-Renaissance era. The artwork is believed to be part of a triptych made in 1280.

> In 2021, farmers ploughed a grove in Mexico. At one point, they hit a rock. After trying to remove it, the farmers discovered that the object was a large statue of a woman. Mexico is no stranger to ancient artefacts but this was not your everyday find.

Jake Brown discovers a secret cellar under his house as old as the early 1900s new homeowner discovers secret cellar dating back 100 years. Brown says that the secret cellar was 16 feet deep, nearly 10 feet high, and nearly 10 feet wide. "It had been used as an easy space, to hide the waste from renovating the property's roof, guttering, doors, and windows many years ago before being covered up," he explains. "As I moved deeper into the cavern I began to search for evidence that would tie it to a grouping of years, so as I could more accurately determine how long it had been covered up. In the dark, I collected bottles, paint cans, and my golden find was the remains of a newspaper, though was more comparable to mushy silt."



The wreck of H.M.S. Terror, one of the long lost ships from Sir John Franklin's 1845 expedition to find the Northwest Passage, is astonishingly well preserved, say Parks Canada archaeologists, who recently used small remotely-operated vehicles (ROVs) to peer deep inside the historic vessel's interior.

"The ship is amazingly intact," says Ryan Harris, the lead archaeologist on the project. "You look at it and find it hard to believe this is a 170-year-old shipwreck. You just don't see this kind of thing very often."

