

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

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January 13, 1979

R.A. Kehoe
University of Cincinnati Medical Center
Kettering Lab
Cincinnati, Ohio
45267

Dear Mr. Kehoe:

I am currently a post-doctoral fellow working with Mr. Gary Becker on economics of the family. As a minor part of my research I am currently investigating the lead-poisoning theory of the decline of the Roman Empire. In Gilfillan's original article (The Rankine Quarterly, Jan.-March 1965) he mentions that a study was at that time being done by you to learn the relative lead content of the bones of poor and rich Romans.

I have done a rough search of the literature since 1965 and have found no references to the results of your study. Were the results ever published? If not, were they ever written up in a form that I might be able to obtain?

I would appreciate any information that you could give me on your research. I would also be interested in any thoughts you might have on the general plausibility of Gilfillan's theory.

Thank-you for your time.

Sincerely,



Arthur M. Diamond