



THE *Cincinnati* BUTCHERS' SUPPLY COMPANY

PHONE: 221-1535

TELETYPE CI 130

CABLE ADDRESS: CIBUSO

BENTLEY CODE

HELEN AND BLADE STREETS,  
OFF 5600 VINE ST.  
P. O. BOX 16D  
CINCINNATI 16, OHIO

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe  
c/o Kettering Laboratory  
Medical College  
University of Cincinnati  
Cincinnati, Ohio

September 23, 1964

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

With this letter I am including a clipping that I found in the Cincinnati Post. You may have plenty of these clippings, but undoubtedly another will be appreciated.

May I report that Dr. Stein was very pleased with the fact that you and Dr. Cleveland presented our case.

With best wishes , I am,

Sincerely,

THE CINCINNATI BUTCHERS' SUPPLY COMPANY

*Oscar Schmidt*  
Oscar Schmidt  
President

COS/go  
Encl.

TRACES OF LEAD SUGGEST POISONING KILLED OFF EMPIRE'S LEADERS

# Ancient Roman Bones Studied at Kettering Lab

The bones of ancient Romans—dug up by an American archaeologist who believes they may contain the secret of the decline of the Roman Empire—have found their way to Cincinnati.

Kettering Laboratory's Dr. Robert A. Kehoe is the expert called in to study the bones and determine whether lead poisoning could have been the cause of illness or death.

The bones were collected from ancient Roman cemeteries by S. S. Giffillan, Santa Monica, Cal., archaeologist. He says that traces of lead found in these and other ancient bones suggest that lead poisoning, from poor diets, killed off the ruling classes of Rome and thus prepared the way for the empire's fall.

(The traces of lead could have resulted from the excessive use of lead products for sweetening and coloring. Chromate of lead can be used to color confections



DR. ROBERT KEHOE STUDIES ANCIENT ROMAN BONES and sweets, and oxide of lead to sweeten sour wine.) Giffillan's theory, de-

scribed in a Post and Times-Star story last week, is that the wealthy and intelligent Romans died out because they ate rich foods and wines which contained high levels of poisonous lead. The poorer Romans, who had plainer but healthier diets, took over, but were unable to hold the empire together, he says.

TO TEST his theory, Giffillan asked Dr. Kehoe to analyze and study the lead content of the bones. Dr. Kehoe, director of the University of Cincinnati's Kettering Laboratory, is an internationally known authority on lead poisoning and the metabolism of lead in man.

"There is always a certain amount of lead in the bones of man," Dr. Kehoe said. "The question here is, how much.

Dr. Kehoe's job will be determined whether the lead content of the bones is above established "safe" limits, and high enough to cause illness or death.

DR. KEHOE emphasized that his studies are not designed either to support or refute Mr. Giffillan's theories of the fall of Rome. His research will simply establish whether or not there is enough lead in the bones to have caused injury or death.

Studies on the bones are under way at Kettering now, Dr. Kehoe said, but thus far there has not been time to establish any definite conclusions or results.

Dr. Kehoe said he was contacted by Mr. Giffillan about the bone study last winter. The bones themselves—about 30—arrived at Kettering two months ago.

The bones are from various parts of the body, including the ribs, Dr. Kehoe said. They are unidentified to the layman however, since most of them are extremely small splinters and pieces of bone, rather than major sections.