

Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association



The Nor'wester

1st Quarter 2018
January - February - March

An Annual Medal –



One Club's Tradition

See pp. 10-12

ANACS submissions accepted at show – See back-cover ad.

Boeing Employees' Coin Club 54th Annual Coin & Currency Show
January 20 - 21, 2018 - Kent Commons - Kent, Washington



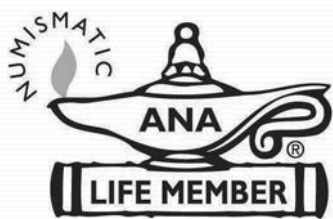
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www.pnna.org

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For membership information please see page 6, the PNNA website, or attend the convention.



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Dues are Due!

PNNA dues are assessed annually in January. If you have not yet paid for 2018, you will receive a reminder with the 2nd Quarter 2018 edition of *The Nor'wester*, which will be your last edition until dues are paid. Individual online-only dues are \$10; family groups and clubs are \$15. Life membership costs \$200. Add \$5/year for paper copies.

For those of you who prefer to use PayPal, the PNNA PayPal email is sales@pnna.org, and there are payment buttons available on the PNNA website (click on "Membership").

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PNNA Officers 2016-2018

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Rick Schulz, Thomas Tullis, Dan Vornbrock

Appointed Positions

Dealer Director - Dennis Reed

Editor/Webmaster - Eric Holcomb

Deadline for submission of material for 2nd Quarter 2018 Nor'wester: February 15, 2018.

Please send ad copy to Eric Holcomb (email Eric@Holcomb.com), and payment to the PNNA treasurer. Call Eric (541-647-1021) for more info.

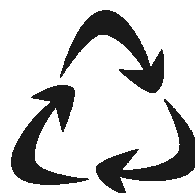
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Color pages in the convention editions, where available, will be charged at a higher rate. See website for details.

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All exhibitors receive a BECC medal as a participation medal!

Explanation of cover image: the Boeing 737 MAX 9 in The Nor'wester cover image was photographed flying over Seattle during its first flight on April 13, 2017. We used artistic license to change the background, simulating what it might have looked like on a sunny day with the mountains in the background. Photo courtesy of The Boeing Company. All rights to further reproduction or use are reserved. The medals and elongated coin on the cover are also simulated based on approved artwork. For some actual medal photographs, see page 12.

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PNNA President's Message by James Reinders

Do not forget *numismatics* when you make up your New Year's resolutions. I think you can agree you'll want to keep these:

Attend lots of coin shows in 2018!

- Attend the 69th Annual PNNA Convention & Coin Show, March 16-18 in Tukwila. Attend the annual membership meeting after the show on Saturday March 17, where membership feedback is welcome, and results will be announced of our 2018 elections, annual awards, and plans for the year.
- Attend the 14th Annual PNNA-WCC Fall Convention & Coin Show, Oct. 20-21 in Portland.
- Aside from the PNNA shows, we should all attend lots of other coin shows too. The PNNA calendar at <http://pnna.org/calendar.html> stands ready to help us plan!

Invest in your own numismatic learning!

- Due Feb. 15: Apply for a PNNA scholarship (download form and instructions on the PNNA website at pnna.org) to attend the ANA 2018 Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs this summer. There is no better investment in learning about numismatics than hanging out in Colorado Springs for a week or two. The PNNA scholarship can help at least one adult and one youth attend each year.
- Plan to attend the *PNNA 2018 two-day Numismatic Seminar*, October 18-19 in Portland. Pencil this in!! Details will be announced by the time we meet in Tukwila – and we will put information on the PNNA website at <http://www.pnna.org/info/education.html>.

Lend a helping (numismatic) hand!

- Encourage members of your local clubs to apply for a PNNA Scholarship, attend PNNA shows, and attend the *PNNA 2018 two-day Numismatic Seminar*. Of course, attend as many local coin club meetings as you can; engage, learn, and share your numismatic passions!
- Promote our Numismatic Merit Badge workshops to any scouts or adult scout leaders you know. Tony does a great job at the Boeing Employees' show and the Tukwila convention, and either Tony or I make sure Portland is well covered.
- Sign up with Rick early (email richardf53@yahoo.com) to help our annual outreach in the Hobby Hall at the Washington State (a.k.a. Puyallup) Fair, Aug. 31 – Sept. 23, 2018. You get in FREE for the day, and spend a few hours making smiles as you talk about coins!
- Run for the board in the PNNA elections this year (coming up in February). We can always use more help!

In 2018, in addition to our two conventions – we are going to invest in our Pacific Northwest membership in two additional ways: (1) two days of classes ahead of the Fall convention in Portland – we are calling it the *PNNA 2018 two-day Numis-*

matic Seminar, and (2) scholarship funds for members to get training – including the *ANA Summer Seminar* and the *PNNA 2018 two day Numismatic Seminar* in October.

Learning is a lifelong process, and this applies to us numismatists as well! Therefore, your PNNA board has discussed many options and settled on these two investments for 2018. I know the board will pour its heart into these efforts, but we also welcome (and need) help from all our membership.

The PNNA received a generous gift of \$5,000 from the Eric P. Newman Education Society. The PNNA is one of a number of organizations selected to receive an award. Eric Newman passed away on November 15, at the age of 106 (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_P._Newman). The board will use the money to further PNNA activities including scholarships to help members further their numismatic educations.

John Brown has been a tremendous help on the PNNA board for years, in addition to his other contributions to Pacific NW numismatics with the Salem Club and being a driving force behind the Polk County Coin Show (2nd annual was in 2017!). Unfortunately, John let us know that he needed to resign his board position for personal reasons. Of course, we wish him well. It is always excellent to run into John – and since his resignation in October, I've noticed he is no less present in numismatic circles. This is great to see. Thank you John for all your service to Pacific NW numismatics!

I'm very pleased to say that the board approved my nomination of Tom Tullis to fill the vacancy on the board. Tom has jumped in, and will help use drive Membership activities including the *PNNA two day Numismatic Seminar* this fall. Please welcome Tom and thank him, as we do all our board members, for their help at the regional level in making the Pacific Northwest the best place to be a numismatist!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Boeing Employees' Show in Kent (Jan. 20-21) and the PNNA show (March 16-18).

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates and Locations:

- Jan. 20, 2018 at the Boeing Employees' Coin Show, Kent Commons, Kent, Wash., at about 6 p.m. (earlier if everyone is ready)
- March 17, 2018 at the PNNA Convention, Tukwila Community Center, Tukwila, Wash., at about 8 a.m.
- Summer meeting TBD
- Oct. 20, 2018 at the WCC/PNNA Portland Convention, DoubleTree Lloyd Center, Portland, Ore., at about 6 p.m. (earlier if everyone is ready)

The Board and Officers serve at your pleasure – please contact any one of us with your suggestions. We want to grow this organization and we want to better educate our members on the subject of numismatics.

There are many coin shows to enjoy this winter (see <http://pnna.org/calendar.html> for up-to-date listings). What could be better on a cold winter day than a warm coin show?

PNNA Membership Information — If you have questions about your PNNA membership or would like to join, please contact: Eric Holcomb, 1900 NE 3rd St STE 106 PMB 361, Bend, OR 97701-3889, phone (541) 647-1021, email eric@holcomb.com. Individuals, families and clubs can join PNNA for 3 years and save money! See the PNNA website memberships page for details.

PNNA/WCC Portland Fall Show Report

The Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association/Willamette Coin Club fall show was a success for the 13th consecutive year at the Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel in Portland, Ore., Oct. 20-22, 2017, with an active bourse and collector exhibits. There was a steady stream of registrants for more than an hour when the show opened to the public at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. Thanks to all who attended!

Free copies of the fall 2017 convention edition of *The Nor'wester*, enclosed in a clear plastic literature storage bag, were available.

ANA Past President Walter Ostromecki once again conducted the youth treasure hunt and related activities.

Many thanks to convention chairman Ed Fischer, bourse chairman Scott Loos, and all show volunteers.

The next PNNA/WCC fall convention is scheduled for Oct. 19-21, 2018, also in Portland, Oregon.

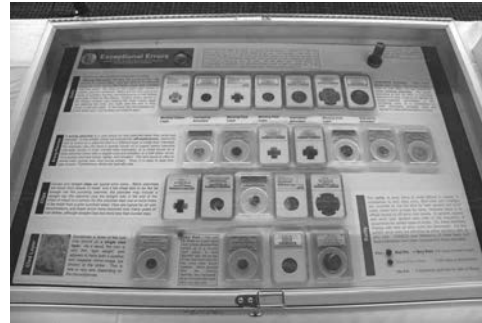
The collector exhibit award winners were:

1st Place and Best New Exhibitor — Jimmy Krozel — "Exceptional Errors."

2nd Place — Jason Breedlove — "Oregon Trade Tokens: The County Seats."

3rd Place — Tom Tullis — "Where is that Bank?"

Thanks also to judges Eric Holcomb, Danny Bisgaard and James Reinders.



*Photo:
First case of
Jimmy Krozel's
exhibit,
"Exceptional
Errors."*

PNNA Nominations/Elections

PNNA officers and directors serve two-year terms; see a listing of the current board at <http://pnna.org/officers/officers.html>. The next elections are in the spring of 2018, with the new board to be installed at the annual Tukwila convention.

Although most current board members have already indicated whether or not they're running again, nominations are also sought from the general membership, and are due by Feb. 15. (Note: This is earlier than the usual March 1 deadline due to the early PNNA convention in 2018.) All persons nominated must be PNNA members, and must sign a letter of acceptance. To nominate a PNNA member for any of the officer or director positions, please contact election chairman James Free, email jfree@centurylink.net, or contact the PNNA using the information listed on page 2.

Election ballots will be mailed with the 2nd Quarter 2018 issue of *The Nor'wester*, and must be returned before the Tukwila convention, March 16-18, 2018.

PNNA Annual Awards

Please see the PNNA website for information about how to nominate someone for these awards.

Bob Everett Memorial Award —
<http://www.pnna.org/awards/everett.html>

Literary Awards (Club Newsletters/Articles) —
<http://www.pnna.org/awards/literary.html>

National Coin Week Awards for Clubs —
http://www.pnna.org/awards/ncw/ncw_awards.html

Nina Nystrom Numismatic Ambassador Award — <http://www.pnna.org/awards/nystrom.html>

Presidential Award —
http://www.pnna.org/awards/presidential_award.html

Scholarship Awards —
http://www.pnna.org/awards/scholarship_awards.html

The winner of the PNNA's annual Bob Everett Memorial Award, made for integrity and demonstrated commitment to numismatics in the Pacific Northwest, will be announced at the convention on Saturday, March 17. Other PNNA annual awards will also be announced at this time.

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An Annual Medal – One Club’s Tradition

The story of Boeing Employees’ Coin Club annual medals, by Anthony Kalt, BECC Medals Co-Chair.

All photo references are to the photo collage on page 12.

Introduction

The Boeing Employees’ Coin Club (BECC) started in 1963 in Puget Sound. Another Boeing Coin Club had started in Wichita a little before. But I’m getting ahead of myself. As I think back, I’m still a fairly new member of the Boeing Employees’ Coin Club in comparison, having joined in April of 2011 and actually didn’t attend the meetings until September. I volunteered for and attended my first coin show in January of 2012. It was then that I did my very first exhibit. I called it “The Impossible Collection” and it was on the different medals that The Boeing Company had done over the years that I had managed to collect. I titled it “impossible,” because as I tried to find information for the exhibit, I found none existed inside or outside The Boeing Company; it just wasn’t tracked. It was a fun exhibit and a learning experience. A learning experience is a very nice way of saying as an exhibit it tanked; it needed a lot of help and work as exhibits went. There was just no way of getting any of the needed background info or even finding out what different ones there were. Then the club started talking about their next medal design at the February meeting and briefly covered what was done in the past. I found it interesting and thought “I found my next collection.” I didn’t have a lot of input at the time but it was interesting to see the process. A few years after that I was happy to step up and become one of the medal program co-chairs. My interest in the club medals and history still keeps me captivated as I try to learn more of the past while guiding the future medals and designs.

Early Club Medals

Now back to the Boeing club medals. The Boeing Coin Club in Wichita made one medal in 1964. It was made by the Medallion Art Company and they had a silver and bronze version. Only 150 silvers and 1,000 bronzes were minted, according to one source I’ve come across. The medals were serialized. This medal showed images of the Boeing products produced in Wichita. {Photos: upper left.} The medal was struck for the club’s 5th anniversary in October 1964. It is 45 mm in diameter and shows a B-52 in flight. The reverse shows a Kaydet, a B-29 and a B-47. The sculptor was Patrick Whitaker. The Wichita club no longer exists as Boeing sold that part of the company. If you consider this medal as part of the collection, the silver version will be the hardest to get to complete your collection. The Boeing Employees’ Coin Club (BECC) in the Puget Sound area issued its first medal in 1966 for the 50th anniversary of The Boeing Company. This medal was struck in silver, antique silver, bronze and gold. {Photos: upper right.}

The next medal didn’t happen until 1977 — the Jet Foil or the Flying Boat. {Photos: second row left and holder.} A new de-

sign has been done every year since then with the exception of 1990. Another interesting fact is that the silver medals are 1.5 troy ounces and not the usual one ounce silver. The first ten years (1966, 1977-1985) had 1.5 ounce gold medals made as well. It has been fun to actually see a few of these at the Boeing Employees’ coin shows the past few years, but none grace my collection.

Design Selection Process

As I understand, at the start the design was going to alternate each year from a design containing a current Boeing product one year to an historical Boeing product the next year. But what ended up happening was a lot of different Boeing product anniversaries started taking place and that idea/pattern didn’t last long. I can understand how that might work as it recently impacted the design options for the club’s 2017 and 2018 medals. We started looking at a three-year medal design series for 2017, 2018 and 2019 and tweaking three different Boeing space product designs to go for final approval when the following question was asked: Isn’t Boeing going to deliver the 10,000th 737 in 2018? If so, wouldn’t it be great to commemorate that on our 2018 design? It will be the first jet airplane in the world to have 10,000 planes made. We checked it out and confirmed that was the case. So instead of doing the three-year, three-medal series, we quickly changed design ideas and went with the 747-8 Intercontinental (for 2017), still a new model Boeing plane and the club hadn’t used it yet for a medal design. So you can see how easy it is to change medal design plans to provide a more timely product/medal. {Photos: see bottom row center for the 2017 and 2018 medal designs.}

Holders

From the beginning, the club has always offered custom holders for the medals and most folks collected the medals in three-piece holders to hold the silver, bronze, and pewter medals.

{Photo: see center of page for example of blue plastic holder for the 1977 Jet Foil medals.}

A longtime club member, Al Schy, made custom holders for the club and others for many years. I have seen a variety of the holder he would make and some have been simply incredible. I missed taking pictures of some of them from Al’s personal collection a couple of years back. These were display pieces that contained information about the planes commemorated on the medals. I have managed to get a few of the smaller unique holders (also more affordable as the very large and detailed holders contained the silver, bronze, pewter and gold medals). After Al, the custom holders were made by Sperry Laser, which was later bought out by Red 27, who still makes the club’s holders.

{Note: Although the holder pictured is for 1977 medals, it appears to have been made by the laser etching method more recently. It’s nice to be able to order such a custom holder!}

An Annual Medal – One Club's Tradition

Mints

So we've covered the holders, now we'll mention the mints used. I'm still researching which mint made which medals, but the mints were Medallion Art (Wichita), The Metal Arts Co., Golden State Mint, Northwest Territorial Mint and BEX. BEX in the current minter of the medals.

Reverses

The Boeing Totem was on the reverse of the club's medal until 1999. {Photo: 1966 medal in upper right.} The next reverse went from 2000-2006 and got a slight change to meet the newer logo requirements. {Photo: 2012 medal and reverse below holder.} In 2013 a special reverse was used to celebrate the club's 50th anniversary and the design was provided by a young numismatist who was a member of the club. {Photo: right in row below holder.} One more reverse design, introduced for the company's 100th anniversary, has been used since then. {Photo: lower right with 2018 medal.}

Composition, Pricing, etc.

In 2012 the cost of silver went up to a new high and the club's cost on the 1.5 ounce silver medal had to go up as well. That took the cost of the 1.5 ounce silver to \$70. Now the collectors who didn't want to pay the higher price for the silver medal, but still wanted to have a three-piece set for the year, were able to order a copper version for the first time. The copper medal versions continued for the next five years.

In 2016 it was proposed that the club quit producing and selling copper as they were always the low seller since they weren't a traditional medal material. After further discussion, the board was convinced to do a limited run but not enough to fulfill the normal four-piece medal sets. After deliberation it was decided and agreed to that they be auctioned off at the club meetings to generate revenue for the club's use. The 2017 medal had a quantity of 35 and the 2018 medal has a quantity of only 25. It is uncertain how many more years the copper version will be made. With the typical custom holder size being either three or four medals, 2018 makes seven years of coppers. A 2019 copper would complete the club's two custom four-medal holder sets for the collection. Time will tell if this is the last of the copper variation or will there be more interest to have the four-piece medal sets in the future.

While on the topic of limited medals since 2014, the club has given out award medals at its annual banquet that had a minted quantity of 24. In 2014 it was a reeded-edge pewter of the CH-47 Chinook; in 2015 it was an antique silver of the V-22 Osprey; for 2016-2018 it has been antique bronze for the current year's design.

The club medals have always been proof-like medals with the exception of the antique versions.

Boeing 100th Anniversary / Design Concept Change

A design concept change took place in 2016 when the club's medal commemorated Boeing's 100th Anniversary. On the obverse it showed the classic image of the B&W and a partial image of the 737. Prior to this year, an entire image of a Boeing product was always on the medal. In 2017 part of the wing and 4th engine were "outside" the medal edge to give a larger view. The newer design images used on the past three medals enhances some of the trademark features for that plane, as you can see in the pictures in the bottom row.

Key Dates / Varieties

A couple of early "key date" or variety medals would be the 1966 antique silver (162 minted), and the 1989 IUS medal {photo: second row center}, which had 160 silvers and 110 pewters made. Another medal of interest which I don't have info on, but 100 were made in 1988, is the one-ounce silver version of the club medal. Other than these 100 medals, and special 1991 75th anniversary medals, the club's silvers have always been 1.5 ounces. I have yet to come across one of the 1988 one-ounce medals. I also had an inquiry last year about a medal that looked like the club's 1992 50th anniversary of the B-29. The obverse was nearly a mirror image of the club's medal but the reverse was more like a military challenge medal. I have not been able to chase down any info on that medal.

Medal Display

The BECC's medal collection will be on display at its annual club coin show, Jan. 20-21, 2018, at Kent Commons, along with the medal dies the club has in its possession. Here you will find the 40 different medal designs from 1977 to 2017.

There are always a few dealers at the Boeing Employees' Coin Show who have club medals for sale, if you are trying to find a particular medal or get the new medal for the year.

If you are interested in collecting BECC medals, a list of medals and quantities minted can be found on the club's website at www.seattlebecc.org. (Then click on "Medals.")

I put a collection of pewters together in about four years, but the bronze and silver are the most popular after the three-piece sets. If you have more interest in, or have additional historical information on, the BECC medals please feel free to contact me at becc.medals@gmail.com.

Editor's note:

Articles in The Nor'wester are eligible for PNNA literary awards ... see the information on page 7, or on the PNNA website under "Awards."





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Many thanks to the PNNA dealers advertising on this page and elsewhere in *The Nor'wester* for helping to make this special coin show edition possible. If you wish to buy, sell or trade numismatic items with the dealers at the coin show, please consider carefully all of your options before making a decision.

Please see the West Coast Coins centerfold ad on pages 8-9!

2018 PNNA Spring Convention

Save the dates! The 69th Annual PNNA Spring Convention will be held at the Tukwila Community Center, March 16-18, 2018. The spring convention has a rich tradition as the oldest and largest annual coin show in the Pacific Northwest. In addition to the 85-table bourse, offerings will include a Young Numismatist treasure hunt, Boy and Girl Scout programs, hourly door prizes, and numismatic theater presentations. We look forward to seeing you there!

Also, we are looking for additional volunteers to assist with the important behind-the-scenes work that contributes to the show's success. If you can help, please contact General Chairman Kevin Charbonneau at kcharboneau58@comcast.net.

If you are a dealer who would like to advertise in the convention edition of The Nor'wester, or if you would like to advertise on the PNNA website, please contact editor Eric Holcomb, eric@holcomb.com. One-line website listings at http://www.pnna.org/info/member_links.html are free to PNNA dealers!

More information about the convention will be posted on the PNNA website, and will appear in the 2nd Quarter convention edition of The Nor'wester.

PNNA Calendar

Just visit pnna.org and click on the "calendar" button, or pick up a paper copy at the show!

Not Online?

Write to the address listed on page 2 of this magazine.

PNNA Board Meeting Minutes

*Minutes from past PNNA board meetings, including at the Portland fall show in October, are available on the website at:
<http://www.pnna.org/minutes/board.html>.*

Exhibits at the 2018 Tukwila Convention

Now is the time to build your exhibits for next spring's PNNA convention in Tukwila. There is also an opportunity to show exhibits at the Boeing show in January (Jan. 20-21); use this show as a proving ground for your entry for the PNNA.

The best exhibitor at the PNNA spring convention earns \$200 toward the expense of taking the winning exhibit to the ANA summer convention the same year (the ANA will be in Philadelphia, Pa., Aug. 14-18, 2018).

For more information about numismatic exhibiting at a PNNA convention, see the PNNA website at <http://www.pnna.org/exhibits/exhibits.html>, or contact PNNA chief judge Eric Holcomb.

ANA National Coin Week

Webpage: <https://www.money.org/numismatic-events/national-coin-week>.

Dates: April 17-21, 2018.

Theme: "Connecting Cultures: From Many, One."

ANA Summer Seminar

Webpage: <https://www.money.org/summer-seminar>.

Dates: June 16-21 and June 23-28, 2018.

Location: Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Summer Seminar is a once-a-year opportunity for numismatic scholarship and camaraderie that offers students a varied selection of courses designed for discovery or continued study. For many students, Summer Seminar is a life-changing event; it has catapulted the careers of many of the nation's most respected collectors, authors and dealers.

Get full information including the course catalog online to see what Summer Seminar can do for you, and consider applying for a PNNA Summer Seminar scholarship.

What Language Do You Speak?

by Ray J. Fiorini, as originally published in the September edition of the South Hill Coin Club Newsletter.

Now please don't be confused by the title of this article. I'm not asking whether you speak a foreign language, but rather what *numismatic language* do you speak? What numismatic language do I speak?! I must have dove into the shallow end, right? But before you answer that, let me explain what I'm talking about!

I've been an active and enthusiastic participant in this wonderful hobby of ours for quite a number of years. I've read thousands of numismatic articles detailing everything from a coin's creation, to its history, rarity and more. I've read, referenced and studied many research books and attended every type of coin show, from small local shows to ANA conventions. I've enjoyed thousands of hours of conversations with my fellow club members and hobbyists. In other words, just like you, I'm a coin collector!

But sometimes, no matter how hard I try, I just don't understand what I've heard or read! Either I'm just not the sharpest knife in the drawer or there's another explanation! I'll think I'll go with the latter since according to my 2-year-old granddaughter, I'm soooo smart! So, after putting on the old thinking cap and pondering my own mental shortcomings, I came to the conclusion that a lot of us "speak" a different language when it comes to our favorite hobby!

I'm sure you've seen this before or even been a party to it. Your discussing the merits of a particular coin with someone else and just can't grasp what they're trying to say. Either "they're an idiot" or you just encountered a "language" barrier. Let's give them the benefit of the doubt, OK? For the sake of this article, we'll say they're not an idiot, but assume you both may just speak a different numismatic language.

For practical or maybe satirical purposes, and after many hours of contemplation, I became a linguist. I identified and translated six different prime "languages." And using all the Latin I remember from Sunday School, I have given them the following names and listed them in no particular order.

Here are my general translations of each of these languages:

EYELIKEUM. The person who speaks this language is most concerned with the "Eye Appeal" of a coin. Since "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder," it's a bit more difficult language to translate. These folks are not all that interested in a precise numerical grade, the strength of the strike or other minutia about the coin. Show them a Lincoln Cent with a nice, even, rich chocolate color and they'll think it's a beauty, or maybe they won't, who knows?! Will you look at the cartwheel on that coin, they'll say! What does the patina look like? Are those blemishes? Doesn't this coin look nice? These folks appreciate the coin for its beauty! In fact, this is my native language. I naturally appreciate the overall eye appeal of the coin first and foremost and the numerical grade and statistical information second.

TECHNOSLABIC. Is the coin an MS66 or an MS67? Who cares? The people who speak this language do! These people are the "nerds" (as if the rest of us aren't) of numismatics. They can tell you with complete certainty the numerical condition of the coin. Is the coin pretty? They don't care, it grades to an MS67! They can also tell you how many grading services there are, how he or she grades the grading services and whether or not they agree with the grading services grade! Tell them the number of bag marks that are on the coin, they need this information! Are those die polish marks? The flow lines don't look proper! Is that circulation friction or bag marks? A carbon spot, are you kidding

me! This coin has been cleaned! Is that toning natural or artificial? What's the precise mintage? There's a whole lot of technical information contained in this language and these guys enjoy every bit of it!

HARDHIT. This language is often considered a dialect of TECHNOSLABIC, but I chose to make it its own language. Why? Because the people who speak this language are concerned with one thing and one thing only, perfection! And the only way to achieve perfection begins with the strike! How hard was the coin struck? What type of impression did it leave? Is every single, itty-bitty detail perfect? They don't want flat, bland strikes. Only the hardest, deepest hit will do. They want their coins perfect and only a coin that is graded 70 in every sense of the word will satisfy their desires!

MYSTERIOUSH. This language was a little more difficult to translate. The person who speaks this language is generally fond of coins off the beaten path. They like coins that are both esoteric and mysterious. Lincolns, Walkers, Morgan's, BORING! They take great pleasure in coins that have distinctive historical information that is often either obscure or shrouded in secrecy. They are most concerned with the fascinating story that the coin tells, and are not really concerned with the coins condition. The person who speaks this language would probably make a great college history professor, or perhaps someone who probably has no life and writes obtuse numismatic articles!

ERRORISH. Where to begin ... The collectors who predominantly speak this language are fans of the bizarre! Coins that are so strange, unusual and unique that they defy all logic. This strange language uses words like Brockages, Capped Dies, Clipped Planchets, Die Adjustment Strikes, Double Denomination, Double/Multiple Strikes, Mules, Off-Center, Overstrikes and far too many more to translate! Most people don't like manufacturing errors. Would you mount a tire to your car that was out-of-round or buy a plate that was missing a third? Probably not. But this is a different breed of collectors. Do I have a coin with doubling, a die break or a clipped planchet? No. But these folks do. And they like them. They really, really like them.

MOOLAMAN. OK. This language is a bit tricky because it contains every single decipherable word in all the languages combined. These are the people who speak all the languages. When it comes to coins, they generally only have a single concern, can they make a profit? The coin itself doesn't matter. It could be a low grade, high grade, common, scarce, rare, bronze, copper, nickel, foreign, silver or gold coin. Only one thing ever truly matters to this type of person, profit. You need to be very careful with the "speaker of all languages." If you speak TECHNOSLABIC, so do they! And they probably speak it better than you do! Same with any of the languages! These types mimic your primary language and they can use this skill to their advantage to induce you to give them your coin at a greatly reduced rate or to entice you to walk away with one of their coins easily. Be very careful with the people who speak all the languages. While our hobby greatly depends on the "speaker of all languages" and generally benefits from them, there are some who use this skill for evil and are a scourge on our hobby.

Well, that's it, that's my theory and I'm sticking to it! So, if you find yourself in a conversation with someone that you just don't understand, be patient, they're probably just speaking a different "language" than you! With so many numismatic languages and sub-dialects that I didn't even mention, it's a wonder that we all communicate as well as we do!

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