



SOCIAL NETWORKING

Need help or advice on a numismatic topic?

You can depend on your online friends and neighbors.

GENERALLY DEFINED AS a group of individuals who share an interest, locale or other characteristic, “social networking” has exploded with the ready availability of Internet forums and tools. Today’s collectors can communicate easily and frequently with others who appreciate the numismatic hobby.

or to “fans” of your page.

Since Facebook features a huge cross-section of the world’s populace, you’ll find an equally large number of topics, several of which concentrate on numismatics. If you “fan” these pages, you’ll be kept abreast of developments and announcements from the hosts. Additionally, your Facebook friends will be able to see what pages interest you.

Check out these hobby-related Facebook pages:

- ▶ American Numismatic Association (www.facebook.com/numismatics)
- ▶ Krause Publications Numismatics (www.facebook.com/kpnumismatics)
- ▶ Coin World (www.facebook.com/coinworld)

Coins.about.com

[Coins.about.com \(forums.about.com/n/pfx/forum.aspx?](http://Coins.about.com/forums)

[nav+messages&webtag=ab-coins\)](http://nav+messages&webtag=ab-coins) is a website that focuses entirely on coin collecting. About.com is part of The New York Times Company, which hires experts (otherwise known as “guides”) who create content and monitor the exchange of ideas in specialized areas. (I am proud to serve as the site’s “coins” guide.)

Online forums (sometimes called “message boards” or “chat boards”) offer venues for airing ideas, issues and questions with other members. The moderator initiates discussion on one or more subtopics designed to encourage participation and interaction. The coins.about.com forum covers a wide variety of subjects, including

U.S. issues, error coins, die varieties and ancients, plus a special area for newcomers to the numismatic hobby.

NGC Collectors Society

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation’s Collector Society forums (boards.collectors-society.com/ubbthreads.php?ubb=cfrm&c=4) address a multitude of numismatic topics. The most active forum is “U.S. Coins,” with over 18,000 different discussions. One of the more interesting forums is “Hey Buddy, Can You Spare a Grade?” in which participants can seek members’ opinions about particular coins.

Collectors Universe

Collectors Universe message boards (forums.collectors.com/index.cfm) offer conversational exchanges about coins, paper money, stamps, sportscards, autographs and memorabilia. Numismatic topics range from world and ancient coins to metal detecting and precious metals. Some forums present opportunities to buy, sell and trade.

Numismatic Society

Numismatic Society (www.numismatic.com) focuses specifically on coin-related forums. Some interesting discussion threads differentiate this forum from others and include Canadian coins, scrip, exonumia, Civil War tokens, counterfeits/replicas, books and numismatic photography.

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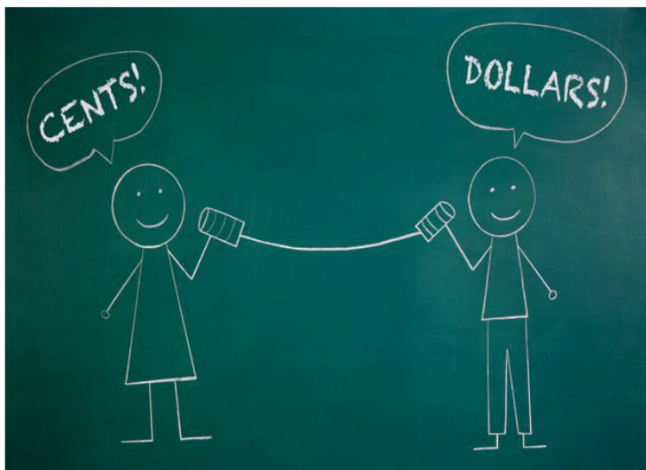


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The main draw of online social networks is that members can ask questions, share their opinions or post responses to users’ questions and inquiries. In this way, knowledge is available to everyone, not just a select few who publish books or magazines. However, in this environment, you must use caution: *misinformation* can be posted, too!

Facebook

Currently, the world’s most popular site for online social networking is Facebook. (As of last month, it had more than 750 million users.) You create an online profile, and any updates you post are communicated to your “friends”