

A Trip to the Local Coin Dealer

(A slightly modified version of a post to the PCGS World & Ancient Coins Forum)

By Terry C. aka usarok on the PCGS Message Boards

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Today I ventured out of the apartment to visit my local brick and mortar coin shops. The goal of my trip was to purchase a recently issued proof coin that I wanted as well as a 2007 Coin and Banknote catalogue. Since I took a few pictures along the way, I thought I'd share them here.

My journey began with a walk to the nearby subway station to catch a train for the 15 minute ride downtown. The sign pictured says I need to go down another level to catch the blue line train I'll take to my destination.



While waiting for the train to arrive I snapped a picture of the station platform. Note the huge crowds. If you've ever ridden the subway in Seoul, Korea it's obvious that I timed my trip to avoid rush hour!



Aha, my stop. Now it's time to climb a lot of stairs to get out of here (Why are the trains I need always located on the lowest level?) and walk a few blocks over to the underground shopping arcade where the coin dealers are located. Note to self, time to start that exercise program - those stairs almost did me in! Sorry, no picture of the stairs as when I saw how many there were, my mind went blank.



At last I've reached the Promised Land, Hoehyeon underground shopping arcade. Scattered among the many different shops here are at least 10-15 Coin & Stamp dealers. This picture shows one aisle of the 4 or 5 in the shopping arcade.



I wandered through several of the coin shops but couldn't find my target coin so I headed over to the dealer I usually do business with and saw one of the coins I wanted in his window. Here are front and side views of his shop.



The coin I was after on this trip was a Silver Proof 2006 South Korea 20,000 won coin commemorating the 560th Hangeul Day. Hangeul Day celebrates the invention of Hangeul, the native Korean phonetic alphabet. I think this is a really cool coin and wanted one for my collection. Of course the dealer tried to tempt me by showing me some other pretties but I was strong - well pretty strong as I did end up buying the 2005 Proof Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) commemorative he dangled in front of me. I also purchased the 2007 Korean Coins and Banknote Catalogue that I was after. Altogether it was a fun and successful trip for me. Here's a picture showing the results of my excursion. Hangeul Day coin on the left and APEC coin on the right.

