



Editorial: Native American Day!

[The views expressed here are all mine and do not necessarily reflect the views of the officers and membership of Sierra-Diablo, my neighbors, my children, or my pets]

Hey! You missed it! It was at the end of last month (the fourth Friday of the month). This day is set aside to honor and celebrate Native Americans, the first Americans to live in the U.S. Still commonly referred to as “American Indians”, the current politically correct term of “Native Americans” has been used in recent years as a sign of respect and recognition that they were indeed the first people to populate our wonderful nation. By the time the first explorers and settlers arrived from Europe, Native Americans had populated the entire North American Continent, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Gulf of Mexico all the way to the northern reaches of Canada, and the South American continent all the way down to the Strait of Magellan.

In light of this, as of this moment, I am starting a hobby-wide campaign to abolish the category of “INDIANS” *[am I allowed to say that?]*. This hobby is completely out-of-step with the current Liberal “don’t do, say, or think anything that might possibly offend anyone anywhere anytime” sentiment. My friends, it’s scandalous! Are we to go down in history as a prejudiced, bigoted, anti-Native American, racist, homophobic *[I just threw that one in because it’s always a good catch word]* hobby?!! I say, “NAY!” Our red brothers *[am I allowed to say that?]* deserve this long overdue tribute to their talents, history, and achievements...and never let it be said that we refused to give the ‘noble Red Man’ *[am I allowed to say that?]* his due *[actually, that should be ‘his or her’ due because we can’t be sexist either]*.

I propose that in place of our presently embarrassingly antiquated category of “**CENSORED**”, we establish a “NJMOOBNA” category to take its place (Noble Just-Minding-Our-Own-Business Native American....“NJMOOBNA”....*Hey, it even sounds Native American!*). Of course, as with any enterprise of this magnitude, I am bound to have my detractors, my critics....those who seek nothing more nor less than to wound me to the quick. But, I shall persevere! So what, if they (predictably) point out that the word “American” comes from the word “America”, which comes from that skinny little Italian fella, Amerigo Vespucci, who figured out that what John Cabot and Christopher Columbus insisted was “Asia” was actually a “New World”! And so what, if they then (predictably) go on to point out that that would mean we’re seeking to honor these noble INDIGENOUS PEOPLES by labeling them with a purely European label! And so what, if they (predictably) then scoff at our misdirected and misplaced sentiment! *[We could go with....“OIPOTLWOEPUBHPT1492”....Original Indigenous Peoples Of The Lands West Of Europe Previously Untouched by Honkies Prior to 1492....nah! That’s too confusing. I’ll stick with my original “NJMOOBNA”. Let them do their worst!]*

The “INDIAN” *[am I allowed to say that?]*, “NJMOOBNA”, or “OIPOTLWOEPUBHPT1492” category does have a lot going for it: great graphics, large numbers, easy availability, and, if you like challenges, it can be as challenging as you want to make it (i.e. you could go after one cover from every specific tribe *[sorry, I mean ‘cultural grouping of distantly related individuals native to these particular lands’]*). I’ve got over 1,100, myself, and Jimmy Calhoun, CA, reported having 1,833 back in April of 1993, and I know that there are many more than that. There are also some great sets available, including the well-know store set of famous Indian *[am I allowed to say that?]* chiefs. This is a topic that cuts across all other categories, new and old, so you’re liable to find them anywhere.

...and each time you find such a cover, let it not fail to remind you of the great cultural heritage for which we are indebted to our Native American brethren.....or, you could just drive by a casino.