



The pedigree of this mint state proof-like coin according to Fey who has extensive notes and original packaging from Leroy Van Allen is that it was obtained from a Pennsylvania estate by Art Leister in 1973. Mr. Leister sold it to Herb Elvengren in 1974 in an annotated 2x2 envelope as a “Museum Piece with Papers” for approximately \$50. The coin was bought by Morgan dollar specialist Herb Elfvengren in 1974, and was later acquired by Leroy Van Allen in 1981. Fey sold the coin on eBay, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 as an agent of Mr. Van Allen to VAM collector Robert Namiat for \$6130.50. Fey bought the coin from Namiat on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Other Van Allen specimens of the 1878 8TF VAM 9, an ANACS MS 62 DMPL and ANACS MS 64 DMPL sold in Heritage auctions for \$11,494 and \$19,950 respectively in the winter and spring of 2008.

The coin now resides in a multilayer Haug plastic custom holder (photo) along with the original handwritten insert and pedigree history. “It is my intention,” Fey remarked, “to someday donate this historic coin to a numismatic museum so that it can be shared with the public. In the meanwhile, I would like just to enjoy owning it and ponder the history surrounding the striking of this first new Morgan silver dollar design.”

VAM is an acronym for Leroy Van Allen and A. George Mallis who were first to catalog varieties of obverse and reverse dies, called die pairs, by a VAM number. VAM numbers are given along with photographs of each in the *Comprehensive Catalog and Encyclopedia of Morgan & Peace Dollars (4<sup>th</sup> Ed)* normally referred to as the VAM book.

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