

Heritage Auction Galleries. Although previously reported that the sale would take place in conjunction with the Florida United Numismatists (FUN) convention from January 9th-15th, it has now been rescheduled for the Heritage Long Beach Sale on February 13th-16th. According to David Lisot, Consignment Director for Heritage, this will allow for a “Display of the coins at FUN (assuming they are back from grading in time).

According to Michael S. Fey, Ph.D. , President of Rare Coin Investments (RCI) who is assisting Mr. Van Allen with the sale, “Some of these coins represent the rarest, most historic Morgan silver dollars known and should be considered national treasures”.

Included in the sale is the “holy grail” of Morgan dollar variety collecting, a certified “Presentation Piece” of one of the first twelve Morgan dollars struck on March 11th, 1878 just after 3:17 PM, the 1878 8TF VAM 9. A second business strike 1878 8TF VAM 9 will be offered, complete with its original chamois pouch and hand written note from its buyer on August 5th, 1878, the first day the U.S. Mint offered the new Morgan silver dollar for sale.

Equally spectacular is the Leroy Van Allen specimen of the 1888 o VAM 4 “Hot Lips”, the strongest doubled die obverse in the entire Morgan dollar series. It is the “only” deep mirror proof-like (DMPL) “Hot Lips” known, and is certified mint state. Van Allen’s personal mint state 1888 o “Scarface” is one of the rare very late die states and shows a long and impressive die break.

Included in the sale will be several other rare and desirable *Top 100* Morgan dollar varieties, an *ultra rare* mint state 1878 8TF VAM 14.7, and some truly spectacular Morgan dollar errors.

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 (4th Ed)* normally referred to as the VAM book.

The Morgan & Peace dollar variety market continues to trade briskly with several record prices recorded this past quarter. An *ultra rare* ANACS 40 1878 8TF VAM 14.20 described as “cleaned” sold in a David Lawrence auction for \$4600, and a *Top 100* PCGS 63 1902 VAM 4 “Doubled Ear” sold in a private transaction for \$3000.

For further information, please contact Michael S. Fey, Ph.D., at RCI, P.O. Box C, Ironia, NJ 07845 or call (973) 252-4000; FAX (973) 252-0481; E-Mail: Feyms@aol.com Information on *Top 100* pricing can be found in RCI’s quarterly newsletter, *Top 100 Insights & Value Guide* at <http://www.rcicoins.com>
