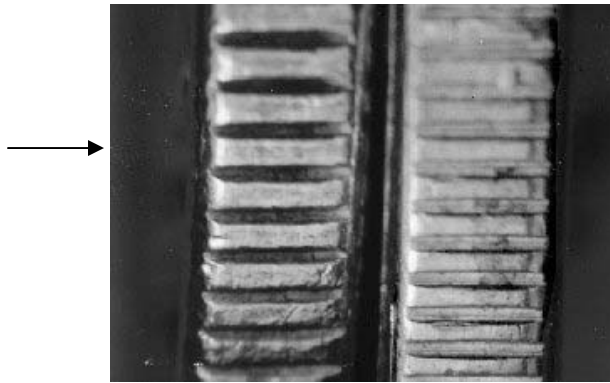


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1921 Morgan Dollar Wide "157" Reeding (left)



Rare 1921 VAM 44 Wide Reeding

Top 100 Populations

Ironia, NJ-December 1, 2008. The Fall, 2008 issue of *Top 100 Insights & Value Guide* contained the latest Condition Census of Top 100 Morgan dollar varieties. Also included was a rank order list of certified *Top 100* coins by proof-like (PL) and deep mirror proof-like (DMPL) designation.

An expanded list of *Top 100* coins, new die marriages, and revised VAM numbers were given in a newly designed 3-page *Top 100 Value Guide*. Included in the list were images to attribute an *ultra rare* 1921 VAM 44 Morgan dollar discovered by Ash Harrison (above). VAM 44 can be identified by having wide reeding, as with other *Top 100* coins, but this rare variety is paired with a 16 berry

D² reverse rather than the usual 17 berry D¹ reverse. The best feature to identify this *ultra rare* wide reed variety is the Eagle's center claw on the reverse. It does not penetrate the olive branch as seen with other wide reed varieties.

Only 283 trades were recorded during the past quarter, down from 429 last quarter, but comparable to last year's quarterly trades of 280 varieties. New record prices were established for a PCGS 50 1878 8TF VAM 14.15 at \$3999 in a VAMquest auction, an XF40 1878 7TF VAM 166 for \$2700 and a Fine 1878 s VAM 72 B¹ (long arrow shaft) reverse for \$2500 in private transactions by Larry Briggs.

Included with the Fall, 2008 issue was RCI Ultra Rarities Auction of the J.W. "Bill" Courter, Ph.D., collection of rare Morgan dollar varieties and literature. The 14 page mail bid auction catalog can be viewed on the web through RCI's web site or at <http://rcicoins.com/fall2008/catalog.pdf> The auction closes at 9 PM on December 17, 2008.

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.

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: Fevms@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>
