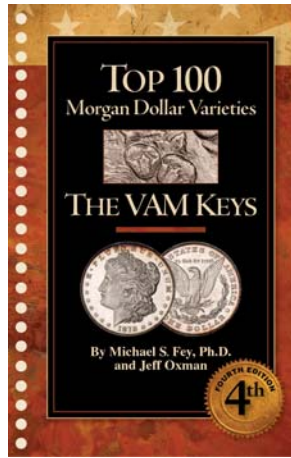


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 28, 2009

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A Cure for the Summertime Blues

Ironia, NJ-August 28, 2009. Michael S. Fey, author of the Summer, 2009 issue of *Top 100 Insights & Value Guide* offered several numismatic ideas as a cure for the summertime blues. Among them included looking through your own collection, checking the various auctions, visiting your local coin dealer, exploring silver dollar web sites, acquiring a new coin book, attending an ANA Summer Seminar, attending the ANA World's Fair of Money, attending a local coin club, and in joining a new national coin club.

The market for Morgan silver dollar varieties remains weak for the more common issues, but strong for the rarer varieties. As the economy improves, Fey

expects prices for the more common silver dollar varieties to increase. Of note, a PCGS 61 Top 100 1887 VAM 1A “Donkey Tail” sold in a Stacks auction for \$5157.

Noteworthy trades for non-Top 100 varieties in the past quarter included \$2750 for a PCGS XF40 1878 7TF VAM 166, a new *Hit List 40* variety and \$6326 for a PCGS 64 1886 VAM 20, a *Hot 50* variety. Armed with knowledge of what these silver dollar varieties look like, a collector could still find either unattributed for less than \$50.

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 Official Guide to the Morgan Dollar *Hit List 40* and The Official Guide to the *Hot 50* are silver dollar variety books published by Jeff Oxman at VAMlink.com

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