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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 2, 2008

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Leroy Van Allen

Van Allen VAMS Set Record Prices

Ironia, NJ-May, 2, 200. With only one Van Allen pedigree VAM dollar remaining in the 2008 Long Beach Heritage Sale scheduled for May 31, 2008, coins from Leroy Van Allen's personal collection sold at Heritage's Central States auction on April 18th, 2008 brought record prices. The final coin remaining in the sale is the Finest Known ANACS 64 DMPL 1878 8TF "First Morgan" VAM 9 Presentation Piece.

According to Michael S. Fey, Ph.D. , President of Rare Coin Investments (RCI) who is assisting Mr. Van Allen with the sale, "Many, in the advanced Morgan

Dollar collecting community, were shocked by the strength of the Van Allen pedigree, and the incredibly high prices his coins brought”.

The Finest Known PCGS MS 60 DMPL 1888 o VAM 4 “Hotlips” doubled die obverse brought \$25,300, including Heritage’s 15% sale commission. An *ultra rare* PCGS 62 PL 1878 8TF VAM 14.7 realized \$13,800. A PCGS 64 1880 VAM 6 “8/7” realized \$12,650. The historic ANACS 62 DMPL 1878 8TF VAM 9, designated as a presentation piece, the “First Morgan” dollar variety struck, brought \$11,494.

A late die state PCGS 62 1888 o VAM 1B “Scarface” variety was bought for \$8913, while a PCGS 40 1903 s VAM 2 “Small s” sold for \$2990. A lone PCGS 64 1922 Peace dollar VAM 2A “Ear Ring” die break on obverse sold for a whopping \$4025.

Separately, in an RCI Lightning Sale conducted on E-bay, a raw Mint State 1878 8TF VAM 9 “First Morgan” dubbed “Black Beauty”, due to its darkly toned appearance, along with original chamois pouch and handwritten note from when it was purchased directly from the U.S. Mint August, 5 1878 brought a record \$6110, including a 10% sales commission. Van Allen’s ANACS 55 1880 VAM 8 “8/7 Ears” sold for \$1295. “All 36 coins in the sale found new homes”, according to Fey.

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,
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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>**
