



GEORGE FREDERICK KOLBE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The second part of the John J. Ford, Jr. American Numismatic Library and the outstanding Craig and Ruanne Smith Library, sold at auction on June 4 & 6, 2005, brought a total of over \$571,000. This is the second highest total ever recorded for an auction event comprised of rare and out of print numismatic literature, exceeded only by the June 1, 2004 Ford I sale, which brought 1.66 million dollars. The 400 lots in the Smith Library realized nearly \$383,000; the 750 Ford lots realized over \$188,000.

The total amount realized by the two Ford Library sales comes to an astounding \$1,851,000. This eclipses the total of approximately one million dollars realized by the four Armand Champa Library sales, and the 1.25 million dollar total of the five Harry Bass Library sales. Illustrated copies of the Ford II and Smith catalogues, accompanied by the prices realized list, may still be ordered by sending \$35.00 to George Frederick Kolbe, Fine Numismatic Books, P. O. Drawer 3100, Crestline, CA 92325. A limited number of Ford I catalogues are also available for \$35.00.

Sale highlights include: a superb leather bound set of *The Numismatist*, 1888-1952, including the first six original volumes from the library of the first A. N. A. president, brought \$41,400; a complete, handsomely bound set of the *American Journal of Numismatics* realized \$34,500; a complete, most attractive leather bound set of American Numismatic Society *Numismatic Notes and Monographs* sold for \$10,925; a handsome leather bound set of *Ars Classica* auction sale catalogues of ancient coins went for \$5,750; a number of Chapman Brothers auction catalogues with original photographic plates, along with a number of the firm's unique Bid Books brought strong prices, led by S. H. Chapman's priced and named 1916 Bement sale,

which sold for \$4,830; Colonel Green's deluxe full morocco edition of Browning's classic 1925 work on quarter dollars realized \$12,650; several hardbound sets of classic 19th and 20th century American auction sale catalogues originally in the George Fuld Library mostly brought strong prices; fascinating and historically important early correspondence written by Walter Breen, John J. Ford, Jr., and other important American numismatists generally sold very well, bringing as much as five times—in one case over ten times—the estimates; important Americana, including an extensive selection of nineteenth century American Directories brought mixed, though often strong, prices; eight remarkably fine original copies of Crosby's 1875 *Early Coins of America*, including John Robinson's superb Subscription Copy sold extremely well, the subscription copy selling for a world record price of \$10,350; a fine hardbound set of B. Max Mehl auction sale catalogues and a set of *Mehl's Numismatic Monthly* sold for \$6,325 and \$2,300 respectively; a very rare 1840 Brasseaux work on Napoleonic medals went for \$920; and Harry Bass's annotated set of Walter Breen monographs on United States gold coins, estimated at \$2,500, sold for \$5,290.