

Heritage Auctions Awarded the Historic, World-Renowned Harry W. Bass Jr. Collection of Gold Coins and Patterns

Proceeds from the auction of this unparalleled assemblage, which begins in the fall, will benefit Dallas nonprofits working with children, homeless people, the hungry and more



DALLAS, Texas (July 13, 2022) – Heritage Auctions announced Wednesday that it has been selected to offer one of the most revered and valuable rare-coin collections in numismatics history: [The Harry Bass Core Collection](#). The historic assemblage of some of the rarest U.S. gold coins and die patterns is estimated to be worth more than \$60 million, and proceeds from its sale will benefit the dozens of Dallas-based nonprofits supported by the Harry W. Bass Jr. Foundation with a particular emphasis on early childhood education and literacy in Dallas.

The collection, which the late Dallas oilman and philanthropist Harry W. Bass Jr. began assembling in the 1960s, has been on display at the American Numismatic Association's Edward C. Rochette Money Museum in Colorado Springs, Colo., since October 2000. Earlier this year, the foundation's trustees voted to sell the collection, which contains some 450 U.S. gold coins dating to the late 1700s, to increase its annual giving – from \$2 million to at least \$5 million each year, depending on the once-in-a-lifetime auction's final results.

"We've had to say no to so many deserving groups, and with the sale of this collection, we can now expand our funding and reach a lot more people," says F. David Calhoun, executive director of the Harry W. Bass Jr. Foundation. "The pandemic has exposed how much need there is. It has been a very trying and challenging time for the nonprofit sector, especially in education, and it has magnified many times the needs of the underserved populations of Dallas."

In April, the foundation announced it would be removing its assemblage, which includes the only complete \$3 gold coin collection, from the ANA museum and deaccessioning it to increase its philanthropic efforts in Dallas. The board of trustees hired Professional Coin Grading Service co-founder and numismatics expert John Dannreuther to manage the collection's sale, including selecting an auction house and third-party graders.

Heritage Auctions, founded in 1976 by Steve Ivy and Jim Halperin, was among several internationally renowned auction houses vying for the collection. Heritage was awarded the assemblage in early July and will offer The Harry Bass Core Collection in a series of auctions over the next year, beginning in the fall.

All the coins in the Bass Collection have been unavailable for decades; indeed, many trace their lineage to the heralded auction of Louis E. Eliasberg Sr.'s gold coin collection in 1982. All are uncertified or ungraded. Heritage will now request proposals from Professional Coin Grading Service, Numismatic Guaranty Company and Certified Acceptance Corporation to handle the grading and assist with marketing this world-renowned collection.



Executive Vice President Todd Imhof led Heritage's efforts.

"We worked very hard to present a creative and enticing proposal to the Bass

Foundation's trustees and are grateful and honored to have been selected, especially since the sale proceeds will stay here in Heritage's hometown," Imhof says. "For many decades, the foundation and its trustees have been remarkable stewards and custodians of this incredible collection. And their generosity has benefitted untold thousands."

Since the 1990s, the Harry W. Bass Jr. Foundation has supported qualified 501(c)(3) organizations throughout Dallas, primarily focusing on youth and education. Among its more than four dozen recipients, the foundation counts [Frazier Revitalization](#) in South Dallas, [Head Start of Greater Dallas, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas](#), the [Momentous Institute](#), [Bachman Lake Together](#) in Northwest Dallas and [Readers 2 Leaders](#) in West Dallas. But the foundation also helps feed the hungry through such nonprofits as [Crossroads Community Services](#) (which provides nutritional assistance for at-risk children in Dallas County), and it supports [Austin Street Center](#)'s work with Dallas' unsheltered.



A complete list of the foundation's grant recipients can be found [here](#).

"The pandemic was a giant paradigm shift regarding our outlook on the future," Calhoun says. "There is just so much need. In 2020 we diverted more than half of the annual funding to food-oriented organizations – and they used every cent of it. Late that year, we started discussing deaccessioning the collection, and we made the decision this year. It was a slow process,

but ultimately, we asked ourselves: How many more organizations can we fund? How many more lives can we positively impact? And that's exciting to think about." Says Heritage Auctions President Greg Rohan, "This was a complex and competitive situation, and we're extraordinarily proud of the work Todd did in helping us make sure the Bass Collection remained in Harry's hometown. Of course, our real work is just beginning, and our team is excited about what's to come."

Heritage Auctions is the largest fine art and collectibles auction house founded in the United States, and the world's largest collectibles auctioneer. Heritage maintains offices in New York, Dallas, Beverly Hills, Chicago, Palm Beach, London, Paris, Geneva, Amsterdam, Brussels and Hong Kong.

Heritage also enjoys the highest Online traffic and dollar volume of any auction house on earth (source: SimilarWeb and Hiscox Report). The Internet's most popular auction-house website, HA.com, has more than 1,500,000 registered bidder-members and searchable free archives of five million past auction records with prices realized, descriptions and enlargeable photos. Reproduction rights routinely granted to media for photo credit.

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