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PCGS Certifies 2012 Coin of the Year Winner, Jonah in the Whale, for Israel Coins & Medals Corp.

(Paris, France) – For the first time, Professional Coin Grading Service (www.PCGSglobal.com) has certified coins submitted through the Israel Coins & Medals Corp. (ICMC), including the Bank of Israel's Jonah in the Whale silver commemorative that was recently honored as the 2012 Coin of the Year by Krause Publications.

The next PCGS Paris Grading Week will be March 12 -16, 2012.

“We are seeing increased interest by mints around the world to have their modern commemorative and bullion coins graded by PCGS,” said Muriel Eymery, PCGS Vice President of International Business Development. “We have now certified beautifully designed Biblical-themed coins, including Jonah in the Whale, Elijah in the Whirlwind and Sampson and the Lion, for the Israel Coins & Medals Corp., the exclusive distributor of coins from the Holy Land Mint www.israelmint.com/about-israelmint .”

PCGS also graded coins from the new one-ounce, .20 New Sheqalim (NIS) 9999 fine gold Tower of David coin, the first in the Jerusalem of Gold series and the first Israeli bullion coins priced in accordance with the daily international price of gold.

The Jonah in the Whale coin was selected by Krause Publications' international panel of experts as the best of 10 individual category winners. The coin commemorates the Biblical story of Jonah praying from the belly of a whale.

Aviv Katz, CEO of the Holy Land Mint, said: “We are excited about having coins graded by the PCGS for the first time in the popular Biblical Art Series, issued by the Bank of Israel. These are coins with outstanding designs, highlighted by the Jonah in the Whale Coin winning the title Most Artistic Coin and Coin of the Year 2012. These are also coins with high quality, which is reflected in



The Bank of Israel's Jonah in the Whale silver commemorative, certified by PCGS, was honored as the 2012 Coin of the Year.

the high grades they have received from the PCGS professional team. With their inspiring themes, top designs and quality, these coins meet the criteria sought after by coin enthusiasts.”

To make an appointment for the upcoming PCGS Paris Grading Weeks, March 12 - 16, April 23 - 27, and June 18 - 22, 2012, or to obtain more information, EU dealers can contact the Paris office at info@PCGSglobal.com or by calling Muriel Eymery at **33 (0) 1 40 20 09 94**.

Additional information about PCGS is available in English and other languages at www.PCGSglobal.com. For a list of PCGS Authorized Dealers in the EU, visit www.PCGS.com/dealers and click on the map to locate your country.