



# Introducing

## **The Appraisers Association of America, Inc.**

**A national non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of the appraisal profession.**

The Appraisers Association of America, Inc. is a non-profit professional association founded in 1949. Although multi-disciplinary by charter, AAA from its moment of inception has evolved into an organization in which most members are practitioners of personal property appraising. Consequently, AAA is the oldest professional association of personal property appraisers in the United States. Our members are considered to be pre-eminent as personal property appraisers, especially in all areas of the fine and decorative arts.

Members are specialized in over 50 major categories and in over 600 sub-specialties of personal property appraising, as reflected in our current membership directory. These include general categories, such as European and American paintings and European and American furniture and decorative arts, as well as more arcane categories such as animation art, dolls, automobiles, and baseball memorabilia. Members are located throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia.

The Appraisers Association of America sets standards for membership and provides services for its members. Since personal property appraising is not subject to any direct government oversight or licensing at this time, membership in AAA establishes the credibility of the personal property appraiser and serves as one of the most important professional credentials.

## **The Members of AAA**

Only individuals can become members; companies or corporations may not hold membership. AAA has approximately 800 members and close to 300 candidates and affiliate "Friend" and "Students." Financial institutions, insurance firms, law firms, and government agencies, as well as art collectors consider membership in the Appraisers Association of America essential to the professional credibility of an appraiser and consistently turn to the AAA as the premier authority on matters relating to personal property appraising.

The Appraisers Association of America is frequently mentioned in the news media, and is considered a leader in the field of personal property appraising. AAA has been mentioned in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Newsday*, *Artnews*, *New York Law Journal*, *Art & Antiques*, *Art & Auction*, *The Antiques and Arts Weekly*, and other publications. Members appear frequently on national television and radio, speaking on theory and methodology as well as on their areas of specialization.

## **Responsibilities and Privileges of Membership**

Members of the Appraisers Association of America maintain the highest ethical standards of the appraisal profession as set forth in the *Code of Ethics and By-Laws of the Appraisers Association of America*.

Members continue to acquire knowledge and expertise in their field, to share such knowledge and expertise with their colleagues and the general public, and to contribute to the understanding of the importance of the independent appraiser as an objective authority in valuations.

Members actively contribute to the growth of the Association by participating in its activities, by attending the general meetings and lectures, by serving on committees, by accepting the responsibility of office when nominated, and by helping to forward the educational goals of the Association.

## **Qualifications for Membership in the AAA**

There are three levels of membership in the Appraisers Association of America:

### **Associate**

Candidates for "Associate" must have a minimum of three years experience as a professional appraiser to be eligible for this level of membership. Associates are expected to advance to Member level following a period of two years as an Associate, and within three years of being admitted as an Associate, assuming requisite criteria is fulfilled.

### **Member**

Candidates for "Member" must have a minimum of five years experience as a professional appraiser to be eligible for this level of membership.

### **Certified Member**

Candidates for "Certified Member" must first apply to be admitted as a "Member" and may then apply to become certified. Candidates are tested in theory and methodology as well as in their individual specialties as part of the process of becoming certified.

*Candidates for all levels of membership must submit the names of three references, and at least three appraisals in each category in which the candidate wishes to be admitted. The name of each candidate is published and distributed to the entire membership on a monthly basis, allowing members the opportunity to contact the Association with pertinent information about a candidate. After a candidate's name has been published twice, the entire membership package is submitted to the Admissions Committee which evaluates the candidate's qualifications.*

### ***Friends of the AAA***

One can also become a "Friend of the AAA" and receive the Association's newsletter, free admission to the monthly lecture series and discounts on registration to the Association's National Conference, special seminars, videotapes and selected publications.

### ***Student Affiliate***

Any student who is enrolled in an appraisal studies program or an art history program which will lead one to becoming an appraiser is eligible to become a Student Affiliate and is eligible to compete for the annual Augustus H. Fisher Fellowship which carries a stipend of \$2,000.

## **Benefits of Membership in AAA**

Membership in the Association provides you with one of the most highly-respected credentials in the profession, professional development and education, and networking opportunities. Benefits include:

Newsletter: The biannual newsletter keeps the membership informed on all topics that may affect the appraiser, and provide updates and news on the activities of the members as well as on the Association.

Legislative Issues: AAA actively works with all government agencies, especially the IRS, and other allied professionals such as bankers, trust officers, attorneys, and insurance brokers and underwriters in representing the concerns of appraisers and forging means of meaningful interactions and cooperation.

National Conference: Every year, the Association presents a National Conference during which the most significant events affecting the appraisal profession are reviewed and future developments are considered.

USPAP Seminar and Certificate Program: A 15-hour course and examination in the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice is offered continuously throughout the year and around the country.

Monthly Lecture Series: Monthly seminars are presented six times throughout the year in New York City, and in other regional centers, and future lectures by prominent authorities and specialists.

Specialized Seminars: Special study programs are also scheduled during the year. For example, upcoming study programs include: the annual three-day program in Winterthur in August 2005 and a three-day program in Baltimore in September 2005. A new series entitled "Advanced Issues in Appraising" will be offered four times throughout the year in New York and other major cities beginning in June 2005 with "Serving as an Expert Witness." Also new on the schedule is a series entitled "All About Appraising" and will feature prints in October 2005. We also offer special topics such as "Digital Photography for the Appraiser" (March 2005) and "Report Writing" in June 2005.

International Study Tours: AAA sponsors an international travel program in which groups of appraisers visit museum and private collections throughout the world. Upcoming tours include a trip to Maastricht in March 2006 and a trip to Dublin in October 2005. Recent programs have included trips to Cuba, Eastern Europe, Italy, France, Spain and China.

Affiliation with Major Universities: AAA maintains formal affiliations with New York University and with Florida State University. At NYU's Appraisal Studies Program, members of the AAA Board of Directors serve on an advisory committee for curriculum development and form a large block of the faculty. We administer a structure in which graduates of the NYU Certificate Program can apply their course work toward vocational credit to satisfy requirements for AAA membership. At FSU, we are currently preparing to launch an on-line appraisal studies program in September 2005 which will cover all aspects of personal property appraising with a focus on the fine and decorative arts.

Membership Directory: Members are listed in the AAA Membership Directory, which is widely used by private individuals, attorneys, estate and trust officers, probate officials, insurance companies and government agencies. Directory information is also available to the general public through a computerized referral service and an on-line searchable database on the AAA website: [www.appraisersassoc.org](http://www.appraisersassoc.org).

Publication Discounts: AAA offers significant discounts on publications of particular interest to appraisers. Large discounts on the publishers price currently available are: *Art Law: The Guide for Investors, Dealers, Artists, and Collectors*, *International Art Price Guide Annual - ADEC* and *Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice*, and others.

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