

## **What is Accreditation?**

“Accreditation” is a process of external quality review and the primary means of assuring and improving the quality of honesty and integrity within the coin, currency, comic book and trading card dealers, grading companies and auction houses or galleries. Accreditation has been around for the past 100 years, this private, voluntary system of self examination and peer review has been central to the creation of an enterprise that assures compliance to high standards when dealing with the public.

## **Seven ways in which Accreditation serves society and the public interest:**

1. The primary public symbol of legitimacy for over 100 years and is a highly successful and well tested system of quality assurance and quality improvement.
2. The primary “reliable authority” for the public to assure oversight responsibility when dealing with an accredited auction house or gallery, coin, currency, comic book or trading card dealer or grading companies.
3. A major source of protection against fraud and abuse for dealers and consumers.
5. Successful in encouraging honesty and integrity when dealing with the public for businesses that sell, buy, grade and auction coins, currency, trading cards and comic books.
6. Vital to maintaining good professional business relationships with other accredited member dealers, graders and auction houses.
7. To ensure that conflicts of interest do not occur while conducting business with consumers or investors. Example - grading coins and selling them.

## **A few examples of who receives accreditation:**

1. Colleges and Universities
2. Police Departments
3. Hospitals
4. Laboratories
5. Non-profit organizations, etc.

## **USPI Recognition Standards**

1. Quality- Accreditors have a clear description of numismatist quality and clear expectations that the currency, coin, trading card and comic book dealer, grading company, auction house or gallery they accredit have processes to determine whether standards are met.
2. Demonstrate accountability – Accreditors have standards that call for coin, currency, trading card and comic book dealers and grading companies to provide consistent, reliable information about quality and employee achievement to foster continuing public confidence and investment.
3. Encourage, where appropriate, self scrutiny and planning for change and needed improvement through ongoing self-examination within their business organizations
4. Employ appropriate and fair procedures in decision making. Accreditors maintain appropriate and fair organizational policies and procedures that include effective checks and balances.
5. Demonstrate ongoing review of accreditation practice. Accreditors undertake self scrutiny of their accrediting activities.

## **Summary**

Accreditation in the United States is about quality assurance and quality improvement. USPI has established a process to scrutinize coin, currency trading card and comic book dealers, auction houses and galleries, and grading companies. Accreditation adds value to society through assuring quality, reliability, honesty, consistency and integrity enabling the public to make sound judgments when they decide to buy, sell, auction or grade their coins, currency, comic book or trading cards.

The recognition processes are similar: self-evaluation based on standards, site visit and report, award of recognition status. Recognition adds value to society as a vital part of accreditation accountability and oversight.