



# Quilt Appraiser Certification Program

Quilt appraisals are important for many reasons insurance and donational being only two. The American Quilter's Society offers the only recognized certification program in the country. Insurance companies rely on appraisal values furnished by our certified appraisers. Collectors base some of their purchase decisions on the value placed upon a given quilt by our certified appraisers. That means AQS Certified Quilt Appraisers are required to maintain their skill level and undergo recertification every three years.

Our program has several phases.

If you are already appraising you may have some of the experience necessary. We require that all candidates attend the three day Skills Course in order to insure they are aware of all the necessary requirements for AQS certification.

## Certification Requirements

All AQS certified quilt appraisers must be able to demonstrate extensive knowledge about the process and procedures used in their appraisal profession and:

- Understand the difference between insurance value, market value, and donation value.
- Understand differences between an appraisal, written documentation, and research.
- Establish a circa date for any quilt.
- Determine fabric fiber content, as it applies to the value of a quilt.
- Recognize and describe construction techniques and type of binding or edge finish.
- Determine the quality of construction techniques and the quality of quilting and the effect on value.
- Determine the condition of a quilt and recognize alteration, conservation, and restoration.
- Identify pattern or variation.
- Recognize major historical trends and influences in quiltmaking.
- Determine the value based upon visual appeal.
- Recognize and record appropriate provenance.
- Use accepted appraisal practices, procedures, and vocabulary when dealing with a client.
- Accept and support the ethical practices of the program.
- Have enough knowledge/experience to assign realistic values to quilts and quilted textiles which can be substantiated in a court of law.
- Recognize personal limits of knowledge, abilities, and experience and be willing to refer clients accordingly.
- Purchase official embosser.
- Use recommended AQS appraisal forms or forms that comply to USPAP standards.

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