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Import restrictions possible on Italian coins

April 20, 2010

Colorado Springs, Colo.--The American Numismatic Association (ANA) recently informed members of a potential issue that could impact jewelers who deal in gold coins as part of their business.

According to a member alert issued by the ANA, the U.S. government is set to rule on whether cultural property of Italian origin that is not accompanied by Italian export permits should be restricted from entry into the United States.

On May 6 and 7, the U.S. Cultural Property Advisory Committee (CPAC) will hold hearings regarding the five-year renewal of an already existing agreement. CPAC falls under the auspices of the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and is charged with advising the president (or his designee) on appropriate U.S. action in response to request from other countries for assistance in protecting their cultural heritage.

According to the notice from ANA, ancient coins have been exempted twice before in previous renewals of the agreement, but there is good reason to believe that Italy and members of the archaeological community will try to add coins to the list of restricted items this time.

Retailer Susan Eisen, of Susan Eisen Fine Jewelry and Watches in El Paso, Texas, is a member of ANA and said the possible import restriction on coins is something jewelers should know about, especially if they deal with coin jewelry, buy gold coins from the public, appraise estates that include coins or appraise for agencies such as the U.S. Marshals Service or the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to the member alert, the ANA is opposed to new import restrictions on numismatic objects and wants its members' opinions to be heard by the government. Those members of the public wishing to speak out on the issue can [click here](#) and follow the instructions to express their opinions.

The deadline to voice an opinion on import restrictions on ancient coins is April 22, according to the ANA.

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