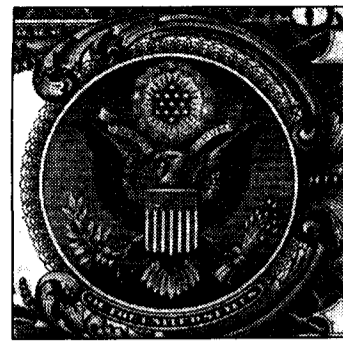


# E-MAIL Thoughts



Uplifting e-mails we would like to share...

Take out a dollar bill and look at it. The one dollar bill you're looking at first came off the presses in 1957 in its present design.

This is true. According to the U.S. Treasury Department, that is when the motto, "In God We Trust" started being used on paper money. It was in use on coins long before that.

This so-called paper money is in fact a cotton and linen blend, with red and blue minute silk fibers running through it. It is actually material. We've all washed it without it falling apart. A special blend of ink is used, the contents we will never know. It is overprinted with symbols and then it is starched to make it water resistant and pressed to give it that nice crisp look. If you look on the front of the bill, you will see the United States Treasury Seal. On the top you will see the scales for the balance—a balanced budget.

That may be somebody's interpretation of the scales, but the Treasury Department has little to do with whether the budget is balanced. That's handled by congress. According to the U.S. Treasury Department, the balancing scales represent justice.

In the center you have a carpenter's T-square, a tool used for an even cut. It is not a carpenter's T-square. It is a chevron with 13 stars representing the 13 original colonies.

Underneath is the key to the United States Treasury. It is not the key to the United States Treasury.

It is using the key as a symbol of authority. That's all pretty easy to figure out, but what is on the back of that dollar bill is something we should all know. If you turn the bill over, you will see two circles. Both circles, together, comprise the Great Seal of the United States.

This is true. The back of the dollar bill has become so familiar to Americans, that many may not have realized two things. One is that the symbols are from the official Great Seal of the United States. The other is that the Great Seal actually has two sides. The First Continental Congress requested that Benjamin Franklin and a group of men come up with a Seal. It took them four years to accomplish this task and another two years to get it approved.

Before the adjournment of the Continental Congress on July 4th, 1776, a committee was appointed to develop a seal for the United States.

The committee was Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson, three of the five men who had drafted the Declaration of Independence. They were merely the first committee, however. It took six years, the work of two additional committees and a total of 14 men before a final version of the Great Seal was approved. The final proposal, which was accepted by Congress, was submitted on June 13, 1782 by Charles Thompson who had the title Secretary of Congress.

If you look at the left hand circle, you will see a pyramid. Notice the face is lighted and the western side is dark. This country was just beginning. We had not begun to explore the west or decided what we could do for western civilization.

**In keeping with last issue's "gullibility virus" warning, we went to *TruthOrFiction.com* to check out the patriotic "back of the dollar bill" e-mail we received. TruthOrFiction's response to the e-mail is in italics.**

**Now, if only we knew we could trust them. . .**

First, the pyramid was not a part of the proposals for the Great Seal until the third committee. It was not suggested by Jefferson, Franklin, and Adams. As to the lighting on the East or West of the pyramid, we did not find any such official explanation.

The pyramid is UN-capped, again signifying that we were not even close to being finished.

This appears to be accurate. The unfinished state of the pyramid was intentional. Also, Charles Thompson, in his remarks to congress about the symbolism on the Great Seal, said the pyramid represented "Strength and Duration."

Inside the capstone you have the all-seeing eye, an ancient symbol for divinity. It was Franklin's belief that one man couldn't do it alone, but a group of men, with the help of God, could do anything.

Although Franklin's committee did not suggest a pyramid, it did originate the suggestion of the eye. The term "the all-seeing eye" is never used in describing it. The Franklin committee wanted the seal to include a reflection of divine providence and discussed a variety of themes including the Children of Israel in the Wilderness.

The eye as representing "the eye of providence" has a long history.

"IN GOD WE TRUST" is on this currency. The Latin above the pyramid, ANNUIT COEPTIS, means "God has favored our undertaking." The Latin below the pyramid, NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, means "a new order has begun." The government's translation of this phrase is, "A new order for the ages." At the base of the pyramid is the Roman Numeral for 1776.

This is true. If you look at the right-hand circle, and check it carefully, you will learn that it is on every National Cemetery in the United States. It is also on the Parade of Flags Walkway at the Bushnell, Florida National Cemetery

and is the centerpiece of most hero's monuments. Slightly modified, it is the seal of the President of the United States and it is always visible whenever he speaks, yet no one knows what the symbols mean.

The Presidential Seal has the eagle facing to the eagle's left toward the olive branch instead of toward the eagle's right as on the Great Seal. This was a change ordered by President Harry Truman in 1945.

The bald eagle was selected as a symbol for victory for two reasons: first, he is not afraid of a storm; he is strong and he is smart enough to soar above it. Secondly, he wears no material crown. We had just broken from the King of England.

We could not find this particular explanation of the imagery of the eagle in the official records. Most references to the eagle indicate that it represents something of uniquely American origin. One of the original design proposals for the Great Seal featured a small crested white eagle, which is not uniquely American.

Also, notice the shield is unsupported. This country can now stand on its own.

This is accurate. Charles Thompson

said it denoted that the United State of America ought to rely on their own virtue.

At the top of that shield you have a white bar signifying congress, a unifying factor. We were coming together as one nation. In the eagle's beak you will read, "E PLURIBUS UNUM", meaning "one nation from many people."

Actually, the shield consists of red and white stripes with a blue bar above and which does represent Congress. The colors are taken from the American flag and officially, the red represents hardiness and valor, the white represents purity and innocence, and the blue, vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

Above the eagle you have thirteen stars representing the thirteen original colonies, and any clouds of misunderstanding rolling away.

The thirteen stars do represent the Colonies. We could not find anything official about the "clouds of misunderstanding."

Again, we were coming together as one. Notice what the eagle holds in his talons. He holds an olive branch and arrows. This country wants peace, but we will never be afraid to fight to preserve peace. The eagle always wants to face the olive branch, but in time of war, his gaze turns toward the arrows.

The official meaning is that the olive branch and the arrows "denote the power of peace & war." As noted above, the design has been with the eagle facing the arrows except for when President Harry Truman turned the face toward the olive branch on the Presidential Seal.

They say that the number 13 is an unlucky number. This is almost a worldwide belief. You will usually never see a room numbered 13, or any hotels or motels with a 13th floor. But, think about this: 13 original colonies, 13 signers of the Declaration of Independence, 13 stripes on our flag, 13 steps on the Pyramid, 13 letters in the Latin above, 13 letters in "E Pluribus Unum", 13 stars above the eagle, 13 plumes of feathers on each span of the eagle's wing, 13 bars on that shield, 13 leaves on the olive branch, 13 fruits, and if you look closely, 13 arrows. And for minorities: the 13th Amendment.

The significance of the number 13 in all the symbolism represents the beginning of the country, the 13 colonies.