



THE GREAT SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



OBVERSE



REVERSE

Awake - America! - Let freemen sing! of God! of Liberty! & the blessings they bring! Still the cynics & traitors - tongues which lie! By faithful acts - keep our emblem ever high!

IN PHILADELPHIA—156 years after the writing of the Mayflower Compact—a brave and democratic group of men assembled to formulate plans for a new nation. . . . On this day—July 4th, 1776—the free-people issued their Declaration of Independence* & named their 13 united colonies: THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!

The Great Seal of the United States of America is a twin of the Declaration of Independence—both born on July 4th, 1776. . . . A few hours after the reading of the historic Declaration of Independence—John Hancock—president of The Continental Congress—filled Independence Hall with another solemn & official message. He announced:

"We are now a nation, & I am ready to hear you vote on the question. Resolved that Dr. Franklin, Mr. Thomas Jefferson & Mr. John Adams be a committee to prepare a device for a seal of the United States of North America."

This formal announcement became the foundation cloth upon which inspired patriots & artists painted for nearly 6 years—before completing America's masterpiece:

THE GREAT SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES

EXPLANATION AND REMARKS

Obverse Side: The Escutcheon (Shield) is composed of: Paley of 13 pieces, Gules (Red) & Argent (White); a Chief, Azure (Blue). The pieces, paley (perpendicular stripes), represent the 13 original States of the Union supporting a Chief (upper part of shield), which unites the whole & represents Congress. The pales are kept closely united by the Chief & the Chief depends on that Union & the strength resulting from it—for its support.—thus denoting the Confederacy of the United States of America. . . . and the preservation of their Union thru Congress. . . . The American Eagle, famous for vision & courage—gloriously bears & guards this Union;—in his strong beak he holds our Motto—ever high and honors this Nation's success, under God's benevolent light and man's unity: E pluribus Unum—Out of many, one. . . . out of many States, America—was created. . . . The colours of the pales are those used in the flag of The United States of America: White—signifies purity & innocence, Red—hardiness & valour, and Blue, the colour of the Chief—signifies vigilance, perseverance & justice. . . . The Escutcheon is borne on the breast of an American Eagle, without supporters, to denote that the United States of America relies upon their own virtue. . . . The American Eagle—great with experience & vision, prefers peace rather than war. . . . BUT—The American Eagle is equipt for both peace & war: . . . with his right talon, he offers the olive branch—the Biblical token of peace— . . . while in his left talon, he bears the united military might of the States. The olive branch & arrows—thus—denote that the power of peace & war—is exclusively vested in Congress. . . . The Constellation with a star for each of the 13 original States—represents The United States of America—a new nation—taking its place & rank among the sovereign powers of the world.

Reverse Side: The pyramid signifies Strength & Duration. . . . The All-Seeing Eye with the Motto (Annuit Coeptis—God Has Favored This Undertaking)—signifies the gratitude of the new nation—for the blessings bestowed—by Providence. . . . The date MDCCCLXXVI (1776) refers to year of our Declaration of Independence. . . . Time has proven the truth and worth of the Motto:—"Novus Ordo Seclorum"—A New Order of The Ages!

Seals are the most ancient of man's inventions, which were & still are used to establish identity & authority. . . . During recent centuries—the art of designing a seal—became termed a 'science.' This science—heraldry—has both a language & a system of design. . . . As a matter of historical accuracy every American should delight in reading this government's heraldic description & law which created our cherished Great Seal of The United States.

Today—all important national & international documents of The United States of America—are affixed with an impression of The Great Seal.

The report of Franklin's committee (Aug. 20, 1776) & a report of the second committee (March 25, 1780) were not legally accepted. . . . William Barton, a Philadelphia lawyer, studied the designs of both committees—used elements of each—added original ideas—& submitted 3 designs. . . . On June 20th, 1782, five years before the adoption of our present Constitution,* Charles Thomson—the Secretary of The Continental Congress, made slight alterations on Barton's seal design and its heraldic description—and wrote the following government record of the Congressional acceptance of our Great Seal:

"The device for an armorial achievement and reverse of the Great Seal for the United States in Congress assembled is as follows:

ARMS: Paleways of thirteen pieces, argent & gules; a chief, azure; the escutcheon on the breast of the American Eagle displayed proper, holding in his dexter talon an olive branch, & in his sinister a bundle of thirteen arrows, all proper, & in his beak a scroll, inscribed with this motto, "E pluribus Unum." For the CREST: Over the head of the eagle, which appears above the escutcheon, a glory, or, breaking through a cloud, proper, and surrounding thirteen stars, forming a constellation, argent on an azure field.

REVERSE: A pyramid unfinished. In the zenith, an eye in a triangle, surrounded with a glory, proper. Over the eye these words, "Annuit Coeptis." On the base of the pyramid the numerical letters MDCCCLXXVI. And underneath the following motto, "Novus Ordo Seclorum." Journals of Congress—ed. 1823 v. 4, p. 9. The government record was concluded with this endorsement: "Device for a Great Seal for the United States in Congress Assembled. Passed June 20, 1782."

Today—our pure white scroll bears its historic—proven motto. . . . Today—under the beautiful blue heaven of justice—our shield of purity, vigilance & valour—armours us from our enemies. . . . Today—as in our beginning—the glory of God & the eye of Providence—by day—does nourish. . . . by night—gifts—peace.

"If we make freedom our choice, we must obtain it by the blessing of Heaven. . . ." GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Our Independence & Great Seal were born in 1776. . . . For 165 years—Our New Order of The Ages—has grown. . . . Today—our eagle—is strong and free.

Man is God's masterpiece & possession. . . . In man there are riches greater than all those about him—within every free man—there is a Divine gift, bearing seeds of faith and fruits of justice. . . . Godless man has ever failed.

THE FOUNDING OF AMERICA—WAS FAVORED BY GOD!

Americans rise! Be proud! From Atlantic to Pacific - in every freeman's soul Let - love for America *** be every American's goal!



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