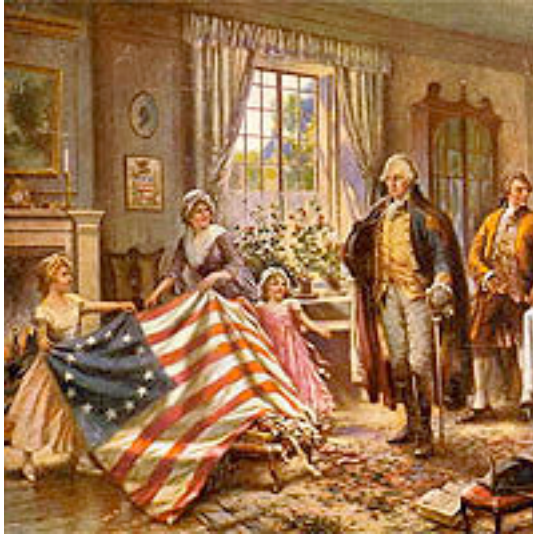


FLAG DAY. June 14th.

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The American Flag. Directions. Print out. Keep as a reference. p.1.

The Birth of Old Glory [detail],
Percy Moran, artist, copyright 1917.
Prints and Photograph Division



<http://www.epicflags.com/history-of-the-american-flag.html>

http://www.homeofheroes.com/hallofheroes/1st_floor/flag/1bfa_hist2.html

<http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flaglife.html>

<http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagtale.html>

<http://www.epicflags.com/history-of-the-american-flag.html>

The Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776) severed all ties between the 13 American Colonies and Great Britain. For almost a full year after that first Independence Day, the flag of the new nation still bore the Union Jack among its red and white stripes. All of that changed on June 14, 1777 when the Marine Committee of the Second Continental Congress passed a resolution establishing a new design. The

The Birth of Old Glory cont'd.

name of the "United Colonies" having been changed in September of the previous year, the resolution read:

"Resolved, that the Flag of the thirteen United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new constellation."

The resolution gave no instruction as to how many points the stars should have, nor how the stars should be arranged on the blue union.

June 14, 1777,

in Journals of the Continental Congress.

A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation, 1774-1875

Since 1916, when President Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924) issued a presidential proclamation declaring June 14 Flag Day, Americans have commemorated the adoption of the Stars and Stripes by celebrating June 14th as Flag Day.

According to legend, in 1776, George Washington (1732-1799) commissioned Philadelphia seamstress Betsy Ross (1752-1836) to create a flag for the new nation. There have been twenty-seven versions of the flag over the years. The current version dates to July 4, 1960, when Hawaii became the 50th state.

Strong evidence indicates that Francis Hopkinson (1838-1915) of New Jersey, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, was responsible for the stars in the U.S. flag. At the time that the flag resolution was adopted, Hopkinson was the Chairman of the Continental Navy Board's

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The Birth of Old Glory cont'd.

Middle Department. Hopkinson also helped design other devices for the Government including the Great Seal of the United States.

[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/detr:@field\(NUMBER+@band\(det+4a26653\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/detr:@field(NUMBER+@band(det+4a26653)))

Answer the questions below.

1. When is Flag Day celebrated?

Answer: Flag Day is celebrated on June 14th.

2. What is Flag Day?

Answer: Flag Day is the anniversary of the day in 1777 when the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as the flag of the United States. The day has been observed since 1897. On Flag Day, flags are flown outside homes and public places. Flag-raising ceremonies are held, and instructions in flag etiquette and history are given. Schools and playgrounds hold exercises honoring the flag.

2. Who is believed to have first originated Flag Birthday or Flag Day?

Answer: B.J. Cigrand (1866-1932), a schoolteacher in Fredonia, Wisconsin.

<http://www.nationalflagday.com/bjc.asp>

The Birth of Old Glory cont'd.

The Father of Flag Day, Bernard J. Cigrand was first and foremost an American patriot. From the 1880's through the 1930's he preached respect and honor for the nation and its flag.

In June of 1888, at the same time he was graduating first in his class from dental college, Cigrand addressed a Chicago organization known as the "Sons of America". In his speech he emphasized the good that would come from a flag holiday. In response, the organization undertook to publish a magazine called the "American Standard" to inculcate reverence for American emblems, and appointed Cigrand its editor-in-chief. Cigrand's articles in this magazine helped direct public attention to the Flag and the date of its birth.

In the years that followed, Cigrand authored hundreds of other magazine and newspaper articles advocating recognition of the June 14th adoption of the Stars and Stripes.

In the third Saturday in June, 1894, the first general public school children's celebration of Flag Day in Chicago was held in Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt, Lincoln, and Washington Parks, with more than 300,000 children participating. These observances were held in the five parks again the next year, also on the third Saturday of June.

In the years that followed, 36 Governors, scores of mayors and five Presidents of the United States sent delegates and credentials agreeing that Flag Day should be observed in all states of the Union on the actual June 14 anniversary of the adoption of the flag .By 1916 flag ceremonies on June 14 had become so prevalent that President

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The Birth of Old Glory cont'd.

Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation establishing Flag Day as an annual national event.

Cigrand died of a sudden heart attack on 16 May 1932.

President Harry S. Truman (1884-1972) signed the legislation in 1949 and June 14th was properly designated Flag Day. This is where Flag Day stands today, 50 years after Truman as we enter the twenty-first century.



Bernard J. Cigrand



The Birth of Old Glory cont'd.

3. In 1916, who issued a presidential proclamation declaring June 14th as Flag Day?

Answer: President Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924).

Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.

<http://americanflags.com/flaghistory.htm>

In a 1917 Flag Day message, President Wilson said:

"This flag, which we honor and under which we serve, is the emblem of our unity, our power, our thought and purpose as a nation. It has no other character than that which we give it from generation to generation. The choices are ours. It floats in majestic silence above the hosts that execute those choices, whether in peace or in war. And yet, though silent, it speaks to us-speaks to us of the past, of the men and women who went before us, and of the records they wrote upon it. "We celebrate the day of its birth; and from its birth until now it has witnessed a great history, has floated on high the symbol of great events, of a great plan of life worked out by a great people.... "Woe be to the man or group of men that seeks to stand in our way in this day of high resolution when every principle we hold dearest is to be vindicated

The Birth of Old Glory cont'd.

and made secure for the salvation of the nation. We are ready to plead at the bar of history, and our flag shall wear a new luster. Once more we shall make good with our lives and fortunes the great faith to which we were born, and a new glory shall shine in the face of our people."

4. How many stripes does the US flag have?

Answer: 13.

5. What do the thirteen stripes of the US flag represent?

Answer: The thirteen stripes, alternating red and white, represent one of the 13 original colonies of England. There are 7 red and 6 white.

6. How many stars does the US flag have?

Answer: The US flag has 50 stars.

7. What are the three other nicknames of U.S. Flag?

Answer: Stars and Stripes, Star Spangled Banner, and Old Glory.

The Stars and Stripes originated as a result of a resolution adopted by the Marine Committee of the Second Continental Congress at Philadelphia on June 14, 1777. The resolution read:

The Birth of Old Glory cont'd.

"Resolved, that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field representing a new constellation. "

The resolution gave no instruction as to how many points the stars should have, nor how the stars should be arranged on the blue union. Consequently, some flags had stars scattered on the blue field without any specific design, some arranged the stars in rows, and some in a circle. The first Navy Stars and Stripes had the stars arranged in staggered formation in alternate rows of threes and twos on a blue field. Other Stars and Stripes flags had stars arranged in alternate rows of four, five and four. Some stars had six points while others had eight.

Francis Scott Key (1779-1843) gave the flag its nickname "Star Spangled Banner" when he wrote the "Star Spangled Banner" in 1814. As the song says, Key looked through the smoke of battle and saw that "the Star Spangled Banner still waves." The song summed up the feeling that no matter what happened, the American flag would not fall.

The name "Old Glory" was first applied to the U.S. flag by a young sea captain who lived in Salem, Mass. On his twenty-first birthday, March 17, 1824, Capt. William Driver (1803-1886) was presented a beautiful flag by his mother and a group of local young ladies. Driver was delighted with the gift. He exclaimed, "I name her 'Old Glory.'" Then Old Glory accompanied the captain on his many voyages on his ship the *Charles Doggett*. Shortly before his death, the old sea captain placed a small bundle into the arms of his daughter. He said to her, "Mary Jane, this is my ship flag, Old Glory. It has been my constant companion. I

The Birth of Old Glory cont'd.

love it as a mother loves her child. Cherish it as I have cherished it." The flag remained as a precious heirloom in the Driver family until 1922. Then it was sent to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., where it is carefully preserved under glass today.

8. What do the red and white stripes on the US flag stand for?

Answer: The thirteen stripes, alternately red and white, stand for the thirteen colonies. There are 7 red stripes and 6 white stripes.

9. What do the three colors in the flag represent?

Answer: The only specific reference to the three colors comes from a report by the Secretary of the Continental Congress (1774-89), Charles Thomson (1729-1824), political leader in the American Revolution. John Adams (1735-1826) called him "the Sam Adams of Philadelphia." He was the moving spirit in the committee that obtained the design for the Great Seal of the United States.

Though the United States has never adopted any "national coat of arms", the image from the obverse of the great seal is often used informally as national arms, and is used on state documents such as passports in this capacity. The description below refers to colored representations of the seal as often seen; the physical Great Seal itself, as affixed to paper, is of course monochrome.

The Birth of Old Glory cont'd.

Symbolism of the design

When the Second Continental Congress proposed the Flag Resolution on June 14, 1777, there was no particular symbolism attached to the colors or their arrangement on the flag. However, on June 20, 1782, Charles Thomson, the secretary of the Continental Congress, gave a report to the Congress defining the new Great Seal of the United States. Meanings were attached to the colors (which, contrary to popular misinformation, is not part of any of the rules of heraldry). Rather, the meanings were a matter of contemporary fashion and personal preference on the part of Mr. Thomson.

The colours of the pales are those used in the flag of the United States of America. White signifies purity and innocence. Red hardiness and valour and Blue the colour of the Chief signifies vigilance perseverance and justice. [ContCong 22:339]

Originally, both the number of stripes and the number of stars were supposed to represent the number of states. However, this became unwieldy as states were added to the union. During the debate that eventually resulted in the Flag Act of 1818, U.S. Naval Captain Samuel C. Reid suggested that the number of stripes be set at thirteen to represent the original 13 colonies and that only the number of stars be set to the number of states. [USGov 4]

A book about the flag published by the Congress in 1977 gives further symbolism for the flag:

The Birth of Old Glory cont'd.

The star is a symbol of the heavens and the divine goal to which man has aspired from time immemorial; the stripe is symbolic of the rays of light emanating from the sun. [USFlag.org]

10. What do the 50 stars in the US flag represent?

Answer: The United States Flag has 50 stars, one for each state of the Union. The last star added was for the State of Hawaii, 1960.

The original flag had 13 stars—one for each of the 13 original colonies (Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina and Rhode Island). It then rose to 15 when Vermont (1791) and Kentucky (1792) were added; 20 with the admission of Tennessee (1796), Ohio (1803), Louisiana (1812), Indiana (1816) and Mississippi (1817); and 21 with Illinois (1818).

The flag had changed many times since 1777. In 1817 Captain Samuel Reid (1728-1810) of the United States Navy suggested that the flag should go back to the thirteen stripes it had at first. Then it would go on standing for the original thirteen colonies. For every new state that joined the Union, a new star should be added. It was also agreed that that the new star would go on the flag on the first 4th of July after the state came into the Union. Congress accepted this idea and this is still the rule today. In 1818, Congress passed The Flag Act, which stipulates

that the flag will always have 13 stripes, and that stars will be added for new states each July 4th only. From that point on, the flag added

The Birth of Old Glory cont'd.

stars frequently. The present American flag has 50 stars. It dates from 1960, when Hawaii joined the Union.

11. Who is believed to have sewed the first American flag even though this is still in question?

Answer: Betsy Ross (1752-1836).

According to most historians, she has been incorrectly credited with designing the first Stars and Stripes. The story has enormous popularity, yet the facts do not substantiate it. Records of her time reveal no foundation for the legend, but she was paid for making flags for the Pennsylvania Navy in 1777. Lets begin with the legend itself. See Betsy Ross.

12. Why were the stars on the first flag arranged in a circle?

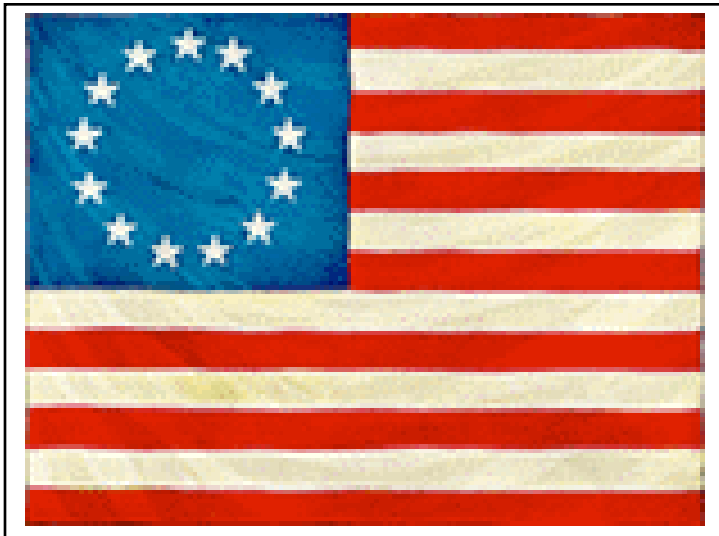
Answer: The stars were in a circle so that no one colony would be viewed above another. They represented the perpetuity of the union. The "Betsy Ross flag," which arranged the stars in a circle, did not appear until the early 1790's.

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The origin of the original flag having a circle of stars. An artist named Charles Weisgerber actually designed the flag in this manner for the painting, "Birth of Our Nation's Flag." This painting was eventually copied into American History texts and became 'fact'.

So what is the true origin of the flag? It is believed that Francis Hopkinson (1790-1809), a Congressman from New Jersey and patriot, and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, was the true designer of the flag. In fact, the journals of the Continental Congress show that he designed the flag. For further information on this interesting figure, please see Francis Hopkinson on the U.S. Flag Web Site.

The Birth of Old Glory cont'd.

At the time that the flag resolution was adopted, Hopkinson was the Chairman of the Continental Navy Board's Middle Department. Hopkinson also helped design other devices for the Government including the Great Seal of the United States. For his services, Hopkinson submitted a letter to the Continental Admiralty Board asking "whether a Quarter Cask of the public Wine will not be a proper & reasonable Reward for these Labours of Fancy and a suitable Encouragement to future Exertions of a like Nature." His request was turned down since the Congress regarded him as a public servant.

13. Who is a vexillologist?

Answer: A person who studies flags.

NOTES:

http://www.flagday.com/history/flag_colors/index.shtml

* From the book "Our Flag" published in 1989 by the House of Representatives...

"On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution authorizing a committee to devise a seal for the United States of America. This mission, designed to reflect the Founding Fathers' beliefs, values, and sovereignty of the new Nation, did not become a reality until June 20, 1782. In heraldic devices, such as seals, each element has a specific meaning. Even colors have specific meanings. The colors red, white, and blue **did not** have meanings for **The Stars and**

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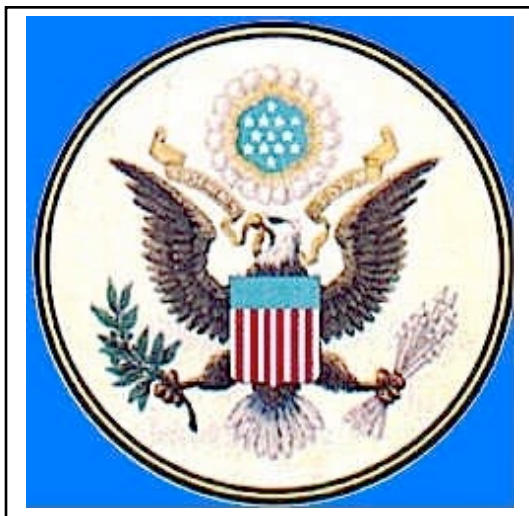
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The Birth of Old Glory cont'd.

Stripes when it was adopted in 1777. However, the colors in the Great Seal **did** have specific meanings. Charles Thompson, Secretary of the Continental Congress, reporting to Congress on the Seal, stated:

"The colors of the pales (the vertical stripes on the shield of the eagle) are those used in the flag of the United States of America; **White** signifies purity and innocence, **Red**, hardiness & valour, and **Blue**, the color of the Chief (the broad blue band above the stripes at the top of the shield) signifies vigilance, perseverance & justice."



Obverse



Reverse

THE GREAT SEAL of the United States

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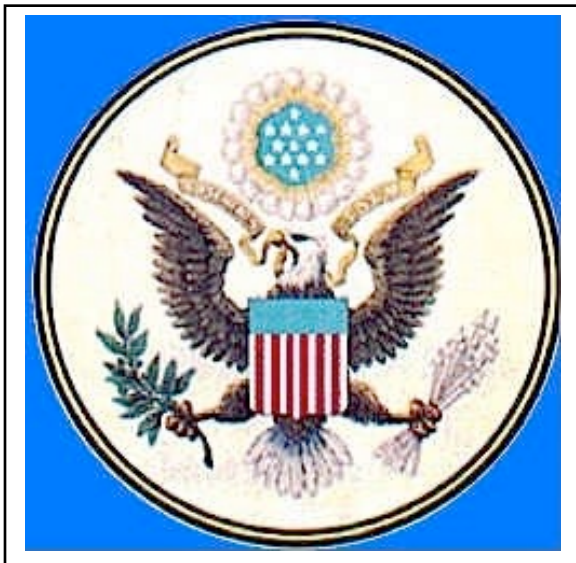
The Birth of Old Glory cont'd.

http://www.homeofheroes.com/hallofheroes/1st_floor/flag/1bfa_hist2.html

http://www.homeofheroes.com/hallofheroes/1st_floor/flag/1bfc_seal.html

The word "Obverse" identifies an object as a COUNTERPART of another object. By referring to something as the OBVERSE you are indicating two things about an object: The OBVERSE side is the front or principle side of the two-sided object; and, there is a second, or REVERSE side.

THE OBVERSE (FRONT) OF THE GREAT SEAL



The American bald eagle is the most prominent feature of the Seal of the United States. Across the breast of the eagle is a shield with 13 alternating red and white stripes (the pales) representing the 13

The Birth of Old Glory cont'd.

original States. Note that the stripes alternate in opposite fashion from the stripes on our flag. On the seal the stripes begin and end with a white stripe, while on the flag the first and last stripe are red. Across the top of the shield is a blue field (chief) that unites all the stripes into one. The blue chief represents the United States Congress. In his talons the eagle grasps an olive branch representing peace, and 13 arrows representing war. These demonstrate our desire for peace but our willingness to defend with might, the Nation the Seal represents.

Above the eagle are thirteen stars inside a circular design, representing a "New Constellation", the same constellation referred to in the blue union of the of the United States Flag. In his beak the eagle grasps a flowing ribbon bearing the first MOTTO of the United States:

E Pluribus Unum

These Latin words are translated "*Out of many, One*", reminding us that out of many States was born One new Nation.

The similarities between the Great Seal and the United States Flag are no accident. Francis Hopkinson (1790-1809) of New Jersey is generally credited with the design for our first flag, the Congress Colors of 1775. He was Chairman of the Continental Navy's Middle Department at the time the Flag Resolution was adopted on June 14, 1777 establishing the "Stars and Stripes" flag, and most historians believe that he was responsible for replacing the British Union Jack of the Congress Colors with the 13 stars of the new flag. He is also generally credited with the design for the Seal of the United States.

The Birth of Old Glory cont'd.

** (Years later Francis Hopkinson sent a petition to the Continental Admiralty Board seeking reward for his services in design of these and other early American symbols. In that letter he asked if "a Quarter Cask of the public wine will not be a proper and reasonable reward for these labours of fancy and a suitable encouragement to future exertions of a like nature." His request was denied because he was considered a "public servant", and was ineligible for payment for such services.)

On July 4, 1776, our first Independence Day, the Continental Congress passed a resolution authorizing a committee including Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams to research and devise a National Motto as well a seal for their new Nation. On September 9th Congress gave that new Nation a name, calling it the "United States". During that meeting the motto "E Pluribus Unum" was generally accepted as the Nation's motto, though the official vote did not occur until later. Likewise, the adoption of a National Seal would not occur until much later.

In 1782 Charles Thompson, Secretary of the Continental Congress, introduced this design for the new Seal of the United States. He told the members of Congress:

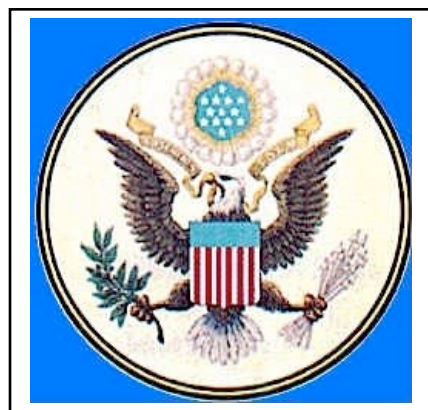
"The colors of the pales are those used in the flag of the United States of America; White signifies purity and innocence, Red, hardiness and valour, and Blue, the color of the Chief signifies vigilance, perseverance and justice."

The Birth of Old Glory cont'd.

On June 20, 1782 Congress approved the design, and the Great Seal of the United States was born. The image of the eagle within the seal became our National "Coat of Arms".

Heraldic devices such as our Great Seal have been in use for centuries. Some of the earliest seals were carved into the face of a ring worn by a monarch. Official documents were quickly recognized by the impression of the king's seal in soft wax applied to the document.

The OBVERSE FRONT of the Great Seal of the United States authenticates the President's signature on many official documents. The Great Seal die, counter die, press and cabinet that contains them are located in the Exhibit Hall of the Department of State. Nearly 3,000 times a year the Department of State receives official documents ranging from ratification of treaties to communications from the President to officials of foreign governments. When these have been duly signed by the President and counter-signed by the Secretary of State, an officer from the State Department's Presidential Appointments Staff affixes the Great Seal of the United States to authenticate the signatures.



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REVERSE (BACK) OF THE GREAT SEAL



The main feature of the reverse side of the *Great Seal* is a pyramid representing strength and duration. At the top of the pyramid is an eye and the words "*ANNUIT COEPTIS*" meaning "He has favored our undertakings". The "HE" refers to *GOD*, and is in reference to the Founding Father's belief that *God* had favored our Nation and provided providentially for our success during the struggle for freedom. (During the Revolution, prayer was held daily in the halls of the Continental Congress.) At the base of the pyramid are the Roman numerals for the year 1776, the year of our Nation's birth. The scroll at the bottom contains the words "*NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM*" meaning "A new order of the ages" and referring to the new American era.

The reverse of the *Great Seal* is NEVER used as a seal for official documents, though it can be found from time to time on some official papers. The reverse of our One Dollar Bills contain images of BOTH the Obverse of the *Great Seal* of the United States, and the Reverse of the *Great Seal*.

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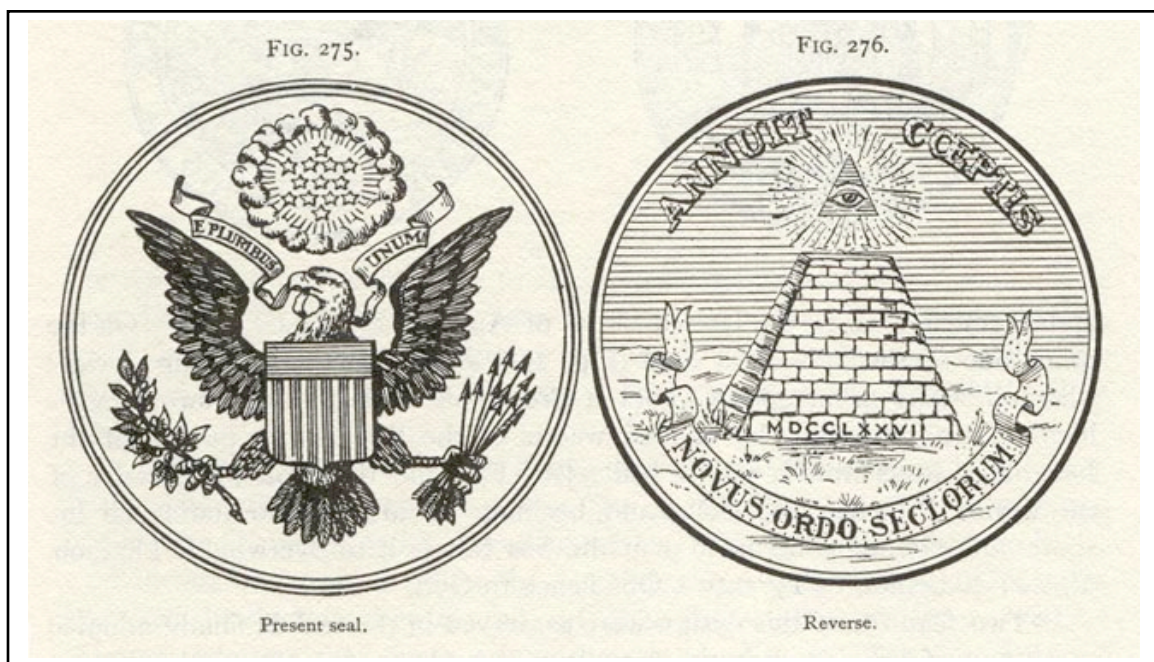
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The Birth of Old Glory cont'd.

On July 30, 1956 the words "In God We Trust" were designated as our National Motto (Title 36, Chapter 10, §186).

<http://www.heraldica.org/topics/usa/usheroff.htm>



Also this from a book about the flag published in 1977 by the House of Representatives...

The Birth of Old Glory cont'd.

"The star is a symbol of the heavens and the divine goal to which man has aspired from time immemorial; the stripe is symbolic of the rays of light emanating from the sun."

The quote below concerning **gold fringe on the Flag** is from the book "So Proudly We Hail, The History of the United States Flag" Smithsonian Institute Press 1981, by William R. Furlong and Byron McCandless. "The placing of a fringe on Our Flag is optional with the person of organization, and no Act of Congress or Executive Order either prohibits the practice, according to the Institute of Heraldry. Fringe is used on indoor flags only, as fringe on flags on outdoor flags would deteriorate rapidly. The fringe on a Flag is considered and 'honorable enrichment only', and its official use by the US Army dates from 1895. A 1925 Attorney General's Opinion states: 'the fringe does not appear to be regarded as an integral part of the Flag, and its presence cannot be said to constitute an unauthorized addition to the design prescribed by statute. An external fringe is to be distinguished from letters, words, or emblematic designs printed or superimposed upon the body of the flag itself. Under law, such additions might be open to objection as unauthorized; but the same is not necessarily true of the fringe.'"

The gold trim is generally used on ceremonial indoor flags that are used for special services and is believed to have been first used in a military setting. It has no specific significance that I have ever run across, and its (gold trim) use is in compliance with applicable flag codes and laws.