



Scientia Coronati Research Lodge No. 4 F&AM

Scientia Coronati Research Lodge No. 4 F&AM is a Masonic entity formed for the purpose of education, research and informative discourse of Freemasonry.

www.scientiacoronati.org

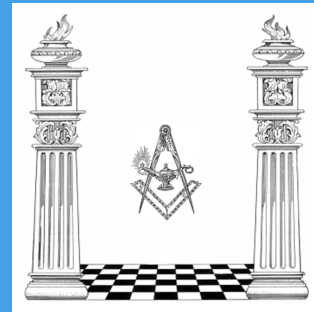
Essays, Papers & Articles

Masonic Topics

From the Library of

**Scientia Coronati
Research Lodge No. 4 F&AM**

www.scientiacoronati.org



And the Earth was without

form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters, and God said, 'Let there be light'



Address postal correspondence to:

Scientia Coronati Research Lodge No. 4 F&AM

1028 Willow Creek Road Prescott, Arizona, USA 86301-1642

Address electronic correspondence to:

secretary@scientiacoronati.org

Masonic – Symbolism of the One Dollar Bill

Presented to

Scientia Coronati Research Lodge No. 4 F&AM

March 21, 2014

By

Joseph F. Panek

Masonic – Symbolism of the One Dollar Bill

It is an accepted fact that a number of our Founding Fathers were Masons. And although the exact number of Founding Masons is difficult to determine, we do have paintings of both George Washington and Benjamin Franklin wearing the Masonic apron. Furthermore, we also know that Benjamin Franklin was a printer, an author, and a statesman; and, as such, had a tremendous amount of input and influence in the founding, structure and moral principles which gave birth to the United States of America.

As to the other Founding Fathers, including Thomas Jefferson, although many of them cannot be officially confirmed as being Masons, their personal philosophies and associations were certainly in line with Masonic virtues.

As Masons were the catalyst for the forming of our nation, they also incorporated Masonic principles and Symbolism in the original writings and artwork associated with the birth of our Great Nation.

This article explores the Masonic Symbolism contained within the U. S. One Dollar Bill.

The front of the One Dollar Bill contains a portrait of George Washington, Mason. But it is the Symbolism on the back of the One Dollar Bill that is the focal point of this article.

On the back of the One Dollar Bill there are two Circles. One Circle contains a portrait of an eagle and the other Circle contains a portrait of the Great Pyramid of Giza above which floats the "all seeing eye".

This article will limit itself to the Symbolism of the Circle, the Eagle, the Great Pyramid and the "all seeing eye".

The Circle:

The Circle Symbolizes the eternal, the infinite and the unending. Therefore, the Circle is a Symbol for Deity, or God. But why the Circle?

Simply put, the only way to measure or resolve the area or circumference of a Circle is by the use of the mathematical factor of pi. The formula for determining the area of a Circle is: pi times the radius squared. The formula for determining the circumference of a Circle is: pi times the diameter.

When we attempt to mathematically resolve pi ($22/7$) we arrive at something referred to by Pythagoras as an "irrational number". An irrational number is a number with a fraction that never resolves itself, regardless of how many decimal places we use. When we divide 22 by 7 we come up with 3.1428571.....on and on, into infinity. And although pi never resolves itself, it is the necessary factor in determining the circumference and area of a Circle.

Now here is the interesting part. Although we can actually draw a circle, or build a circular building, we can never come up with an exact final mathematical figure for the Circle we drew or the Circular building we just built.

Symbolically, the Circle is used to represent Deity, the infinite, and the eternal for the following reason:

Just as the Circle can never be mathematically resolved with any finality, neither can our rational minds finally resolve, or understand, Deity and the infinite. For no matter how much we may rationally learn and understand about Deity and the infinite, we can never fully understand these two sublime concepts; for there is always more to learn. Symbolically, there is always one more unresolvable decimal place standing before us.

Yet, within the infinite (the Symbolic Circle) all that is created, or can be manifested, already exists.

The Eagle:

Symbolically a bird represents "Spirit"; for it represents the one animal that can soar upward and come into closer contact with the heavens.

It is interesting to note that the Eagle was not the original intent of the Masonic Symbolists. The original intent was to depict the Phoenix; the mythical bird which Symbolizes birth and rebirth from the ashes of the old. The Phoenix was to represent the expiring liberties of old Europe brought to new life by the creation of the New World called the United States of America.

However, the difficulty that confronted the Symbolists was: How do you depict a mythological creature in a way that is satisfactory to everyone?

Therefore, in the end, it was the very recognizable and familiar Eagle that was settled upon to depict the bird, or "Spirit" of our country. The Eagle, along with the falcon and the hawk, is the ruler of the heavens. Its keen eyesight Symbolizes "higher vision" and "awareness" which are two components of "Wisdom".

In one of its talons the Eagle holds an olive branch, in its other talon it holds thirteen arrows which represent the original thirteen colonies. Symbolically, this means: "we offer the olive branch of peace to all. However, if necessary, we will take up the arrows of war to defend our nation".

The Great Pyramid:

Just as the Great Pyramid of Giza is truncated at its top, so is the Pyramid appearing on the One Dollar Bill truncated at its top. This Symbolizes that our Nation's work, along with the work of any Mason, is never completed. Our Nation, and we Masons, are forever growing and expanding through all the days of our earthly existence.

The Pyramid holds very similar Symbolism to that of the Ladder. Both Symbolize that knowledge, Wisdom, ascension and Enlightenment ("further light") are acquired step by step, with pauses in between, so that our new insights can be properly absorbed prior to moving up the next step.

In this way, the Masonic Pyramid represents the steps, degrees, proficiencies, and instructions undertaken by an Initiate who chooses to separate himself from the mundane and superficial follies of the masses (or the "vulgar horde" as referred to by Pythagoras).

The All-Seeing Eye:

Above the truncated Pyramid is an illuminated triangle within which is portrayed a single eye. This eye has been called "the all-seeing eye", the "eye of Horus" and the "third eye"; all of which refer to "higher vision", "full awareness" and "Enlightenment". And although this higher vision is available to all, only a few nations or men will make the effort to pursue it.

The first thing we notice is that this illuminated triangle which contains the "all seeing eye" is atop, but not touching, the stone Pyramid. Stone represents the world of matter. The illuminated triangle, although involved with the world of matter, transcends the material world: it is separate and apart from it. And although this "all seeing eye" can be associated with the keen vision of the Eagle, it carries a far more Symbolic meaning.

The "all seeing eye" Symbolizes the highest and farthest vision, which is representative of Wisdom, Awareness and Enlightenment. In other words, because this "all seeing eye" floats freely above the world of matter (the stone Pyramid), we are reminded that this higher vision is "involved in this world, but not of it". Therefore, to us Masons this "all seeing eye" is representative of "all of the light we are entitled to receive through Masonry".

In Ancient Egypt, ascension and enlightenment were achievable by way of two different paths, and were therefore represented by two separate deities: Horus and Osiris. Osiris represented final Enlightenment by way of an infinite number of reincarnations, or paths. Horus represented final Enlightenment by way of direct ascension. In other words the "Eye of Horus", which is another way to interpret the "all seeing eye", is the beacon which beckons us to directly ascend the Pyramid of matter step by step, properly learning our Masonic lessons, until we finally obtain Enlightenment directly in one incarnation. This is another way to express the metaphor and Symbolism of the Masonic Ladder; climbing it step by step, or degree by degree, until we finally achieve "all the light available in Masonry".

And finally, the Symbolism of the eye within the triangle refers to our pineal gland, or "third eye". The pineal gland, or "third eye", is located within a triangular cavity at the rear base of our brain, and is considered by ancient cultures to be our "Seat of Wisdom". Eastern cultures mark the location of the "third eye" by placing a red dot on their forehead between their eyebrows which is where the frontal energy of the pineal gland is focused. Ancient Eastern scriptures teach us that when we are able to activate our pineal gland, through concentration, focus and

meditation, we are then able to open up the doorway of our "third eye" and receive Enlightenment directly from the Divine cosmic source itself.

Therefore, the lessons associated with the Symbolism of the "eye within the illuminated triangle" is that of "higher vision", "Enlightenment", "Awareness" and "Wisdom"; which are alternative ways of referring to "all of the light available in Masonry".

Suggested reading:

America's Secret Destiny: Spiritual Vision & the Founding of a Nation, Robert Hieronimus

The Secret Symbols of the Dollar Bill, David Ovason

Submitted by:

Joseph Panek, Master Mason

March 21, 2014