

The Dollar Bill

The United States one-dollar bill is a remix of various components that create the dollar bill. The various components in the United States one-dollar bill include a serial number, the face of President Washington, the great seal, reverse of the great seal, official stamps, texts, and signatures. Each of these components has their own texts within them that give them their own unique meaning. These different components are related the concepts of security, religion, or patriotism. The one-dollar bill holds a special place in the heart of America. It is what stimulates the economy and communicates monetary value between consumer and producer. The history with the dollar bill and the prosperity of the United States is prevalent. There are also many different ways the dollar bill communicates different messages to its citizens. The strongest message of the bill is that many different aspects are necessary for a completed product. This is essentially what the United States is, a combination of many different aspects from around the world, which makes it the most unique country on Earth.

The genealogy of the dollar bill can be traced to the early origins of the United States. The first issued one-dollar bill was in 1863 under the presidency of Abraham Lincoln. Surprisingly enough, the face of George Washington was not on the first issue. Salmon P. Chase, the secretary of President Lincoln, was on the first one-dollar bill. Not until 1869 was George Washington's image placed on the bill. Up to today there have been 18 different issues of the dollar bill. The changes made to the dollar bill are due to a change in times, security reasons, or wartime. An interesting fact about the bill is that a special issue was created in 1942. The issue could only be used in a Japanese invasion on the island of Hawaii. That's the only time that issue could be used. This had been the

only time a state had its very own issue of the bill and also the word Hawaii printed horizontally on the side. There were multiple changes in size of the stamps until the department of the U.S. treasury determined what they thought was the best size for the bill. The size of the entire bill was changed to the smaller current size in 1929. The use of colors other than green was discontinued in 1957. The year 1957 represents the year the last issue of the one-dollar bill had been created. The only differences between a dollar issued today and one issued in 1957 are the serial numbers, signatures, date, and Federal Reserve Bank stamp. The reason a new issue of the one-dollar bill has not been released is because there is not much concern about people trying to mass-produce and counterfeit these notes. The amount of effort to produce a counterfeit one-dollar bill can't be worth it. The most common ways of counterfeiting is with the large denominations, such as one hundred dollar bills. That's why there have been ever-increasing issues of the one hundred dollar bill. Recently the 28th version of that note was released in circulation. All of these changes to the bill just add to the complexity of this remix. The extent of the detail on the current issue and all of its past issues fall nothing short of incredible.

The great seal is a great example of intense detail. There is a lot going on in a very small space on the one-dollar bill. This text itself can be looked at as a remix. There are multiple historical references on the seal. The first thing you notice when you look at the great seal is the United States national animal, the bald eagle. The number thirteen is significant in the history of America, of course because of the original thirteen states. The thirteen original states are referred to in three places on the great seal. There are thirteen arrows held in the right talon. In the left talon an olive branch with thirteen leaves

appears. This represents how the United States has a strong desire for peace, but will always be ready for war. Above the eagle is thirteen stars also representing the original states in the same way they are presented on the flag. There is more meaning to the stars though. They are arranged into the shape of the Star of David. The cause of that can be credited to a request from a wealthy Jewish man in Philadelphia. He is credited to converting French loans into cash that could be used in the United States. This aided immensely in the Revolutionary War. He was a Jewish broker and Washington told him he could have anything requested. Naturally he asked for that shape on the crest. That is one of multiple places where religion is incorporated and referred to. Even more is incorporated in the seal. The American is presented in a different shape than usual but basically just represents the flag along with the thirteen stripes. It is colorless, but hey maybe more colors will be on the bill in a future version.

The reverse of the great seal can be found located symmetrically on the left side of the note. Also many texts can be seen inside this seal to create messages just like all the other components within the dollar bill. The largest text on this seal is the pyramid. It doesn't represent any real pyramid in the world but still contains meaning. There are of course thirteen steps to the unfinished top. The fourth and final time that the thirteen original states. The pyramid sits unfinished which suggests the unfinished prosperity of the United States. Meaning the United States will never stop prospering even through the toughest if times. The eye above the pyramid is the "eye of providence". This presents another religious reference. All it means is that God will watch over the United States and keeping it safe and prosperous. This eye of God is not specifically related to any specific

religion. The religious representation remains up for interpretation and personal preference.

Both sides of the seal have a motto in Latin. The front of the seal has the motto “E. Pluribus unum.” The translation comes to be “Out of many, one.” The reason this phrase got chosen is because it refers to how out of many different states emerged the single nation of America. This actually relates to this project. Instead of the dollar having different texts within it the entire nation is essentially the same with states making it up. The reverse side of the seal contains two Latin mottos. *Novus ordo seclorum* translated into English is “The New Order is dispatched.” This means that there is a new authority over the land. That authority is the United States government. The final saying in Latin is “*Annuit cœptis.*” In English you would read it as she/he has approved of the undertakings. Essentially this means that everyone by living in this country and using this dollar bill accepts the laws and responsibilities people should uphold that society dictates.

Turning to the front side of the dollar bill you see instantly the face of our first President, George Washington. This image presents to its citizens the patriotism for our great leaders. We as a country recognize that George Washington was a very important man and not only when he was president. George Washington’s image remains presented appropriately on the most commonly used form of bill in this nation because he was so important during the initial prosperity of this country. Other smaller components of the front of the bill are the official stamps, serial numbers and signatures. These are important and also represent the current leaders of this country.

The serial number is more of a technical installment on the bill. This doesn’t much give of a message, but acts more for accounting and data information. Each serial

number remains unique and can all be traced back to where and when it was produced. The same serial number is used 26 times, but is still unique because the final letter is different. The 26 letters of the alphabet are used to keep track of how many times that one number has been used.

The stamp on the left side of the dollar bill indicates that this bill is ensured through the Federal Reserve Bank of whatever city it came from. For example, a bill with the letter L in the center of the stamp was distributed through the bank of San Francisco. The L appears at the beginning of the serial number and also in all four corners.

There is another stamp on the right side. This stamp comes from the department of the U.S. treasury. The stamp ensures us that this is legal tender and official currency. In the top left of the front there is a very direct message that also proves the authenticity of the note. It reads, "This Note Is Legal Tender For All Deals, Public and Private." The tone of this message is more interesting than the message itself. It is a very formal and direct way of getting a message across. Personality is absent from this text. This strict message can be seen in plain small print. This can be inferred most likely the most uncreative and least in-depth meaning component on the bill.

The religious aspect of this bill persists as a remix of itself. This remix is the combination of aspects of different religions. The parallel to be drawn here is with the dollar bill of course, but also the United States. All kinds of people and religions live in this country. The Jewish faith is clearly represented on the great seal and the general figure of God is also there. The words "In God We Trust" remains printed on the back of the bill. The phrase can be perceived as a God of any religion.

Interestingly enough there are two different materials used to create the dollar bill. The bill contains 25% linen and 75% cotton. No message can be directly related to the material used, but these materials do affect the economy. The cotton markets benefit from this greatly. Other than the materials the only other components used to create this bill is the repeated use of the word one and number 1. A total of 16 ones rest on the front and back of the bill. The message of how much that note can be valued at translates through the ones.

In conclusion, the one-dollar bill holds a wonderful example of a remix. This one bill continues to be so commonly used and extremely engraved into America's past, present, and future. Many different messages are communicated through this one piece of currency. These messages are history, values, patriotism, religion, security, and monetary value. Our great leaders of this country are honored and presented in the bill. The dollar bill represents an important part of America and will.

