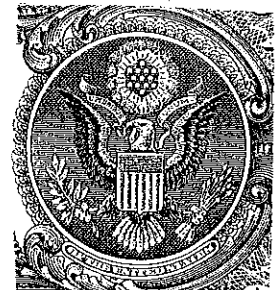
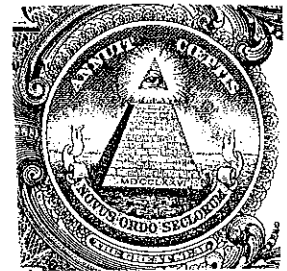


Conspiracy theorists frequently point to the design of the dollar bill (specifically the reverse of the Great Seal) as evidence of Masonic influence at the very high spheres in government. In particular, they point to the all seeing eye - which they claim is a Masonic symbol - the pyramid, and to the legend underneath it: "Novus Ordo Seclorum" - which is frequently translated as "New World Order" (concluding erroneously that Freemasonry is involved in strategic world domination).

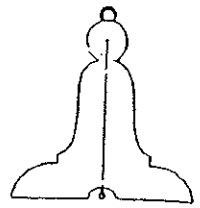
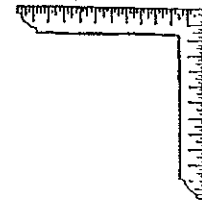
This argument is flawed on many counts, first: the all-seeing eye while utilized by Freemasons to remind themselves of the omnipresence of God, is not a "Masonic" symbol, rather, it is a very old representation of Deity (Great Architect) utilized heavily by many cultures and civilizations through the ages, from ancient Egypt through classical Greek, and from the Orient to Meso-America. Second, the pyramid is not a Masonic symbol either: it has been used since early times as a monument, temple, observatory, sacrificial offering, etc. Extensively utilized in Egypt as well as in America, where some examples are still standing today. Varying in size and design they are known to be marvels of architectural and engineering accomplishment.



The design of the Great Seal dates to the late 18 th. Century; in it, the unfinished pyramid has thirteen levels-one for each state in the Union at the time-suggesting a work in progress; the all-seeing eye, the dependency of the American people on Divine guidance as they begin to develop their new Nation; and the caption should be translated as a far more benign : "A New Order for the Ages", quite possibly a note of optimism to go with the beginning on a new nation in the process of developing a representative government.

The Great Seal initial design was accomplished by Pierre Eugene du Simitiere, a member of the First Committee that gathered from 1776 through 1782. Many drafts were completed, some of the quite intricate and elaborate. The important fact remains that du Simitiere was not a Mason. The initial draft for the reverse side was produced by William Barton, expert in heraldry and assistant to the Third Committee (he was 28 years old, an not a Mason). The final design of the Great Seal was created and submitted to Congress on June 20, 1782 by Charles Thompson, for many years the Secretary of the Continental Congress (and as two previous designers, definitely not a Mason).

Masonry is a process of lifelong learning and discovery that delivers a way of living a principled life observable in the simplest behaviors whether at Lodge home or workplace.



August

1738 Pope Clement XII issues the Eminenti Apostatus Specular excommunicating Catholics found to be Freemasons

1740 Born Bro Joseph M. Montgolfier, inventor of hot air balloon

1749 Born Bro. Johan W Von Goethe, prolific German poet, it is said his last words were "Mehr Licht" meaning "More Light".

1771 Born Bro Sir Walter Scott, prolific writer

1786 Bor. Bro David Crockett, well known historical figure, died at El Alamo

1881 Born. Bro Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin

1901 Born Bro. Luis "Satchmo" Armstrong, legendary musician

1923 Died Bro. William H Harding, U.S. President

1924 Died. Bro. Walter P. Chrysler, automotive giant

A PM was asked what can be done to make Freemasonry better and help preserve it for our children, should they choose to go down this path. He simply said to replace oneself every year. He explained: if every Mason was to "replace" himself by bringing one person through the degrees, every year, we would be back at the pinnacle of society where we should be, which would give us the ability to do more good for all mankind. Let's get started, right now Brothers....

ANNO LUCIS - FYI

The Masonic calendar traditionally dated from 4004 BCE; the creation of the universe, or *Anno Mundi*, as computed by Archbishop James Ussher in 1650. Bishop William Lloyd of Winchester inserted the date as a marginal note in the Great Edition of the English Bible in 1701 where it remained until 1900 when the Cambridge University Press removed from further editions.

By the mid 18th century, Masonic usage had shifted to the year of light, *Anno Lucis*, which dated from 4000 BCE. There is no Masonic significance to either date, other than a desire by early Masonic writers to create as ancient a lineage for Freemasonry as their imaginations would allow. By using the 4000 date, they could claim that their usage predated Ussher's promotion of the theory that Jesus had been born four years earlier than claimed by Dionysius Exiguus, the 6th century creator of the BC-AD time system.