



Heartland Science

Ohio's Legacy of Discovery & Innovation



Communications

From Greenbacks to Lexis-Nexis

The Buck Stops Started Here

Salmon P. Chase, a Cincinnati lawyer who became Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury, in 1864 invented the nation's modern currency, including coins with the words "In God We Trust" and green paper money.



The motto was placed on United States coins as a reaction to increased religious sentiment during the Civil War. At the time, Chase was Secretary of the United States Treasury. He frequently received requests from devout U.S. citizens encouraging that God be recognized on currency. Treasury Department records show that the first such letter arrived November 13, 1861 penned by a Rev. M. R. Watkinson, Minister of the Gospel from Ridleyville, PA. Read the resulting correspondence at www.treas.gov/education/fact-sheets/currency/in-god-we-trust.html.

Did You Know?

- The United States Government began printing money in 1862, when "greenback" currency was issued to finance the Civil War.
- In 1964, when silver coins became too expensive to make, Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus designed the nickel-copper "sandwich" metal now used for coins.
- The United States Mint is responsible for producing coins and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) produces currency notes.
- The BEP produces approximately 37 million currency notes each day with a face value of about \$696 million -- 45% of these notes are the \$1 denomination.
- About 95 percent of the currency notes printed each year are used to replace notes that are already in circulation.



Find out more...

- [The United States Mint \(www.usmint.gov\)](http://www.usmint.gov)
- [Manufacturing Process of U.S. Coins \(www.treas.gov/education/fact-sheets/currency/manufacturing.html\)](http://www.treas.gov/education/fact-sheets/currency/manufacturing.html)