



## Fun Facts about Money

-When is it time for changes? The Secretary of the Treasury is able to change the circulating coinage designs every 25 years.

-Legend has it that Martha Washington donated the silverware from her table to make our nation's first currency.

-On display at the Philadelphia Mint is Peter, the bald eagle who lived at the first Mint and was befriended by workers there. After Peter's death, the workers had him stuffed and mounted where he has remained on display for more than 150 years.

-Horses, oxen, and man power were what ran the Mint's coin presses before 1816. The first steam operated coin press appeared in 1836.

-“In God We Trust” was first used on coins during the Civil War. It didn't become necessary to add it to all coins until 1955. The inscription “E Pluribus Unum” means “One from Many”, as in one country made from many states.

-The Philadelphia Mint is the world's largest mint, covering 5 acres of ground. The building standing there today is the fourth United States Mint that has been in that city since the year 1792. Almost 400,000 people visited in 2011.

-The life expectancy of a circulating coin is 30 years, while the life of paper money is only 18 months!

-The Philadelphia Mint was the first building that was authorized by the U.S. government. It houses the key to the first Mint, the original Mint Deed, and a wooden chair that is told to be a chair of George Washington's. He lived in Philadelphia and visited the Mint often.

-The first U.S. commemorative coin was produced in 1892 for the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Christopher Columbus was featured on this coin. Some years later, in 2000, they produced another commemorative coin that featured Leif Ericson.

-Thomas Jefferson, who is honored by the U.S. nickel, was the first person to support the use of the decimal money system that we use today.

-Paul Revere was a silversmith that contributed to our early coinage production. His company supplied the Mint with rolled copper for the production of coins.

-The Mint produced its first batch in March 1793. This batch was worth \$111.78- consisting of 11,178 cents.

-The reed edges of the coins were created to make sure they would be hard to alter and also to keep people from trying to file the edges to retrieve the metal they were made of.

-Mint marks show what facility the coin was produced from. "P" is for Philadelphia Mint, "D" for Denver Mint, and "S" for San Francisco. The only exception is the Philadelphia Lincoln Penny, which has no mint mark.

-George Washington never was in agreement to put his or other official's faces on coins. He stated that it would make the U.S. too much like the monarchy, and we were trying to get away from that type of leadership. Years after his death, he appeared on the quarter and still does today.

-The Mint was an independent agency that reported to the President from 1799-1873. The Mint became part of the Department of the Treasury in 1873 and remains as is today.