



THE  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY  
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and  
Hamilton County

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## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### ***On the “Banks” of the Ohio & “Notes” of Interest: A U.S. Currency Display at Main Library January 5 – February 2, 2004***

Recently the government released a newly designed “colorized” twenty-dollar bill. Those bills pale in comparison to the wide assortment and artistry of currency from our country’s past. Since 1861, the United States has issued paper currency for general circulation. **On the “Banks” of the Ohio & “Notes” of Interest: A U.S. Currency Display** features actual national banknotes from over 25 Cincinnati banks, along with color reproductions of some one-of-a-kind notes. The display will be featured in the Main Library Atrium, 800 Vine Street, from January 5 – February 2, 2004.

The exhibit, on loan from a private collection, features large-sized Gold Certificates, Legal Tender, Silver Certificates, and United States Notes from denominations of \$1.00 to \$100,000.00. It also includes some currency printed with errors by the Bureau of Engraving & Printing, as well as many unique color reproductions from the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

#### **Among the many unique items on display:**

- **\$10.00 United States Note, 1862:** Based on a photograph by C.S. German, President Lincoln was only one of two individuals to have their likenesses on currency while still living.
- **\$1.00 United States Note, 1862:** Salmon P. Chase, former governor of Ohio and Lincoln’s Secretary of the Treasury, had his picture on the first dollar bill.
- **\$2.00 Treasury or Coin Note, 1890:** General James B. McPherson was born in Sandusky, Ohio, graduated from West Point, and was killed in battle in 1864.
- **\$10.00 United States Note, 1923:** Andrew Jackson appears on this rare \$10.00 bill.
- **\$50.00 Gold Certificate, 1922:** President U.S. Grant was born in Point Pleasant, OH.

**About The Bureau of Engraving & Printing**

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing had its foundations in 1861 with workers signing, separating, and trimming sheets of Demand Notes in the Treasury Building. Gradually, more and more work, including engraving and printing, was entrusted to the organization. Within a few years, the Bureau was producing fractional currency, revenue stamps, government obligations, and other security documents for many federal agencies. In 1877, the Bureau became the sole producer of all United States currency. The addition of postage stamp production to its workload in 1894 established the Bureau as the nation's security printer, responding to the needs of the U.S. government in both times of peace and war. Today, the Bureau is the largest producer of U.S. government security documents with production facilities in Washington, D.C. and Ft. Worth, Texas.

**About the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco**

The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco is one of twelve regional Federal Reserve Banks across the United States that, together with the Board of Governors in Washington, D.C., serves as our nation's central bank. Congress founded it in 1913 to provide the nation with a safer, more flexible, and more stable monetary and financial system. The Twelfth Federal Reserve District includes the nine western states—Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington—and American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Branches are located in Los Angeles, Portland, Salt Lake City, and Seattle. The largest District, it covers 35 percent of the nation's landmass, ranks first in the size of its economy, and is home to approximately 20 percent of the nation's population.

**EXHIBIT HOURS:**

Monday – Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Thursday – Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday: 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

✓ **Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the World Wide Web at: [www.CincinnatiLibrary.org](http://www.CincinnatiLibrary.org).**