TREASURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
April 2023

NEWSLETTER

Inside this Newsletter . . .

THA Lecture Series

Current plans call for four THA lectures in 2023. The two confirmed lectures are:

On Tuesday, May 16, Dror Goldberg, will be talking about his book *Easy Money: American Puritans and the Invention of Modern Currency*. Dr. Goldberg is a professor at The Open University of Israel and has a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Rochester and a law degree from Tel Aviv University. More about his book is provided in the Book Section.

On July 19, the lecture will be on "How Abraham Lincoln Became a Hamiltonian" by Nancy Spanan elaboration of the chapter "Abraham Lincoln, Hamiltonian" in her book *Hamilton Versus Wall Street*.

Later this year, former THA Board Member David Thomson plans to speak on Civil War financing.

Members will be alerted when it is time to register for these upcoming THA lectures.

The last lecture was December 19th when Max Harris spoke on the little-known Tripartite Agreement of 1936 between the United States, Britain and France to end the monetary war after the collapse of the old monetary system during the Great Depression in the 1930s. The talk was based on his new book *Monetary War and Peace: London, Washington, Paris, and the Tripartite Agreement of 1936.*

The 2021-22 lecture series was entirely virtual. One benefit of the virtual lectures has been that lectures can be heard and seen by members who previously had not been able to attend a Cash Room lecture. While lectures may again be virtual this year, it is possible some lectures could be held in the Cash Room.

Many lectures from 2019, 2020 and 2021 have been recorded and are now posted on the THA website.

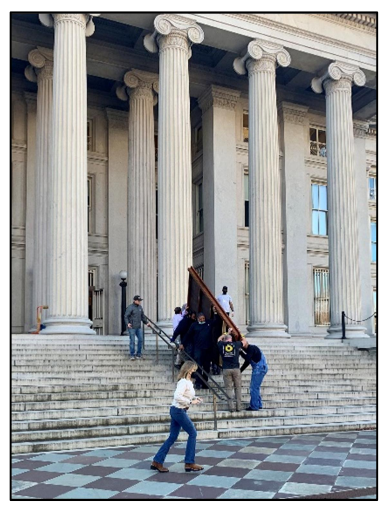
Treasury Curator's New Preventive Conservation Plan: The Secretary's' Large Conference Room

The Office of the Curator has developed a new Preventive Conservation Plan. The multi-year plan looks to systematically conserve and improve the existing conditions in some of Treasury's most significant historical spaces.

The first space to be addressed was the Secretary's Large Conference Room. The Secretary's large conference room and the Diplomatic Reception Room were not restorations of historic rooms, but rather re-creations of earlier rooms, using undated vintage photographs as evidence of the two rooms' historic appearance and furnishings.

Since the Secretary's private office was in 5 or more locations over the years, the decision was made to recreate these rooms near the location of the Secretary's office since 1910.

For the current restoration project, the biggest challenge, both literally and figuratively, was the removal and conservation of the massive 24-foot 1940's conference table. Leaving the building for the first time in almost one hundred years, the table made its way out of the North Entrance, down the steps, and back up to a waiting truck on Pennsylvania Avenue.



Conservators and Treasury team carrying a section of the Secretary's' conference table out the North Entrance.

Shortly after coming to Treasury in 1985, Secretary James Baker initiated these room projects as well as the restoration projects for the Salmon Chase Suite and the Andrew Johnson Suite. Previously, Secretary Baker served as President Reagan's Chief of Staff from January 1981 to April 1985 when he famously swapped jobs with Donald Regan who was Secretary of the Treasury at the time. Members of the Advisory Committee for the Restoration of the Treasury Building assisted in developing these projects.

When he came to Treasury, Secretary Baker brought several White House staff people with him, including John F. W. Rogers who became the Assistant Secretary for Management. He had been the Director of Administration for the White House. During that time, beautiful -- but hidden by modern-day dropped ceilings -- original architectural elements of what is now called the Eisenhower Executive Office Building were discovered. Mr. Rogers then began a large restoration/preservation effort for that building.

Upon coming to Treasury, Assistant Secretary Rogers established a plan for the Main Treasury projects as well as for improving the appearance of the public hallways/staircases. He also established the Office of the Curator and later created the public tour program. Before leaving for the State Department with Secretary Baker in late 1988, with Secretary Baker's endorsement, he started the project to restore the Cash Room.

While the conference table spent six weeks in Baltimore being completely restored, the empty conference room also received much needed TLC. The reproduction broadloom carpets were professionally cleaned, the walls received a fresh coat of paint, the reproduction silk drapes were cleaned and rehung, and all lighting fixtures were cleaned and relit. In addition, a conservation team treated all framed artworks in the room, including the gilded 1870's overmantel mirror and the Abraham Lincoln portrait donated by Treasury Historical Association in 2008.

Completion of the Preventive Conservation Plan in the Secretary's Large Conference Room has restored the presentation standards, in one of the buildings most public interior spaces, to a level befitting the prominence of the room. This spring and summer, the Office of the Curator will turn its attention to the conservation of the Andrew Johnson Suite.

The brilliant shine of the Secretary's Conference Room after receiving a thorough conservation treatment.

THA entering its 50th Year

THA was founded on December 13, 1973 and is now in its 50th year of service to the Treasury Department. THA provides support for the restoration of the National Historic Landmark Treasury Building and by promoting educational activities related to the history of the Treasury Department.

Further details are posted under the "Donate Now" tab on the THA website. Those who wish to volunteer their help or have questions can send an e-mail to THA at info@treasuryhistoricalassn.org

FRASER and Two Primary Sources of Treasury History

by Kim Carter and Andy Young, Librarians, Treasury Library

Researchers sometimes ask us where they might start work on a project related to Treasury's history. We often recommend FRASER, specifically two primary sources of Treasury history.

What is FRASER?

FRASER is digital library of U.S. economic, financial, and banking history from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. It is available on the open internet at https://fraser.stlouisfed.org .

And, what about the two primary sources of Treasury History are available on FRASER?

First, *The Annual Report of the Secretary on the State of the Finances* runs from 1789-1980, when the publication, sadly, ceased. It contains Treasury reports, data, and organizational history in primary volumes and appendices. Although the Treasury Library has a full run of the *Annual Report* in its holdings, the volumes digitized for FRASER are not from our collection. The collection is searchable here: https://fraser.stlouisfed.org/title/annual-report-secretary-treasury-state-finances-194 .

Second, *Press Releases of the United States Department of the Treasury* are available on FRASER from 1916-present. Press releases from 1916-2009 were digitized from the Treasury Library's unique print collection in a joint project with FRASER to make the frequently requested content available to the public. The *Press Releases* series includes, as expected, press releases, plus associated content such as reports, testimonies, and graphs & charts. The collection is searchable here: https://fraser.stlouisfed.org/title/press-releases-united-states-department-treasury-6111 . It was highlighted in a FRASER blog entry titled *Staff Picks: Treasures from Treasury Press Releases*, an entertaining and informative read giving examples of sometimes unexpected content contained in the *Press Releases*.

FRASER, a rich repository of historical sources, can be used in conjunction with other Federal Reserve resources, including FRED (Federal Reserve Economic Data), ALFRED (Archival Federal Reserve Economic Data), the Federal Reserve History website, and curriculum materials developed by the Fed's economic education staff.

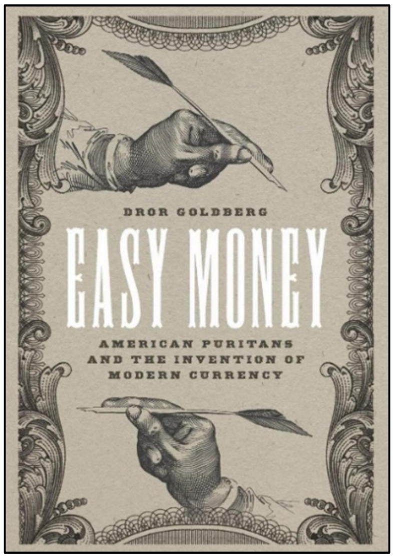
Have a question? Write us at Treasury Library's reference desk: libraryreference@treasury.gov .

Update on Treasury Building Saturday Morning Public Tours

The Saturday public tour program, shut down since December 2019, is starting to get back in operation. In January 2023, the Saturday public tours restarted on a limited basis, with an expanded program expected soon. Those interested should in these tours should send an e-mail to the tour coordinator, Luke.Leyh@treasury.gov for details about signing up.

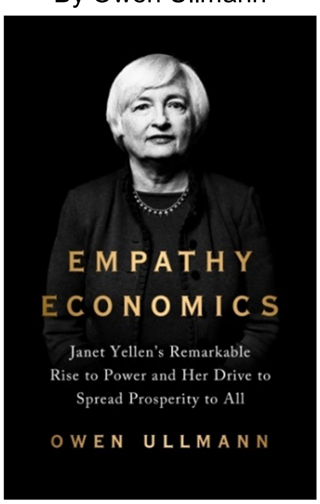
Recent Books on Treasury

Easy Money: American Puritans and the Invention of Modern Currency by Dror Goldberg



Easy Money tells the story of the development of "modern money" (i.e., paper money not "backed by" or convertible into gold or silver) in colonial New England in 1690 out of the need for a common currency to carry out basic transactions. They faced a situation with a lack of coins and English banning prior attempts for a workable currency.

Empathy Economics: Janet Yellen's Remarkable Rise to Power and Her Drive to Spread Prosperity to All
By Owen Ullmann



This book tells the story of Janet Yellen and her lifelong advocacy for an economics of empathy to deliver the fruits of a prosperous society to people at the bottom half of the economic ladder. The book was named one of Investopedia's 7 Best Economics Books of 2022.

The book discusses key aspects of Secretary Yellen's approach to economics: her commitment to putting those on the bottom half of the economic ladder at the center of economic policy and her ability to maintain humanity in the Washington policy world in our current age of polarization.

Janet Yellen is the first person to hold all three top economic policy jobs in the United States: chair of both the Federal Reserve and the President's Council of Economic Advisors and currently as Secretary of the Treasury.

Author Owen Ullmann has had a five-decade career in journalism, currently at *USA Today*. Prior books included a critically acclaimed biography of David Stockman, Director of the Budget under President Ronald Reagan.

THA Social Media Videos

THA's presence on Social Media now includes LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. New material is posted periodically. These videos can be found on YouTube, for example, by searching for "Treasury Historical Association" on YouTube.

From the Editor

My thanks to Kim Carter, Andy Young, Jon Frederick and Tom O'Malley for their contributions to this issue and to Janet Auten for her help in editing.

Your Treasury office or personal stories and suggestions or materials for future articles and topics of interest for the newsletter are welcome and would be greatly appreciated.

Jerry Auten, editor
Gerald.auten@treasury.gov

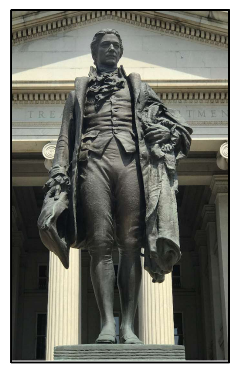
THA President's Message

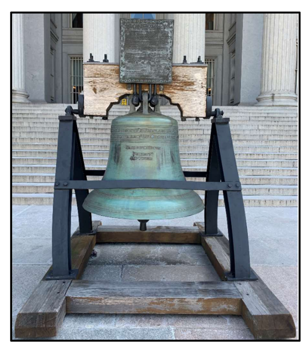
For the next year, THA's operating plan will center on helping the Treasury Department restore and maintain the three historic monuments outside of the Main Treasury Building: the 1923 statue of Alexander Hamilton in the South Plaza, the 1947 statue of Albert Gallatin in the North Plaza, and the 1950 replica casting of the Liberty Bell outside the staircase of the West entrance. The Treasury's Office of the Curator has identified conservation of these monuments as a priority.

These memorials have not received conservation treatment in decades to counteract constant exposure to urban pollution and environmental and biological debris, leading to staining and corrosion of the bronze structures and deterioration of the mortar and decorative stonework of the pedestals. The wooden structures supporting the Liberty Bell need complete refabrication. If left untreated, the three monuments will suffer permanent damage.

In 2023, THA will focus its fundraising efforts – including corporate and individual donations, membership drives, and sales of commemorative products – on generating the resources needed to restore and annually maintain these iconic structures. In addition, THA's educational efforts, social media postings, and website content will help raise awareness of this historic preservation activity.

We will keep THA's members up to date on the progress of our efforts, and we welcome member interest, participation, and suggestions. Feel free to contact THA (info@treasuryhistoricalassn.org) or any Board member with input on this project or any other THA activities.





Treasury Historical Association
P.O. Box 28118
Washington, DC 20038-8118
Message Line: 202-681-9779
Website: www.treasuryhistoricalassn.org
E-mail: info@treasuryhistoricalassn.org

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August 2023

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THA Lecture Series

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On May 16, Dror Goldberg spoke about his book "Easy Money: American Puritans and the Invention of Modern Currency." Dr. Goldberg is a professor at The Open University of Israel and has a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Rochester and a law degree from Tel Aviv University. More about his book is provided later in this Newsletter.

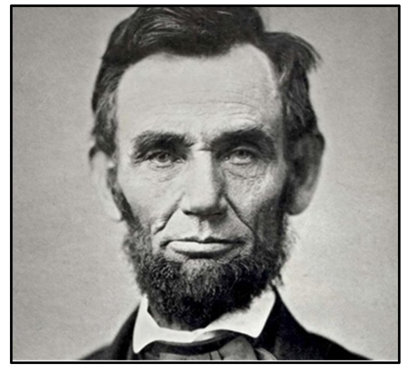
On July 19, Nancy Spannaus, a well-known and respected researcher on Alexander Hamilton, spoke on "Abraham Lincoln: the Hamiltonian," which addresses the way in which Alexander Hamilton's American System policies came to influence the policies of President Abraham Lincoln. The article in this issue is a condensed version of her presentation. For more information, check out her book *Hamilton Versus Wall Street: The Core Principles of the American System of Economics*.

Since 2020, the THA lecture series has been entirely virtual. One benefit of the virtual lectures has been that lectures can be heard and seen by members who previously had not been able to attend a Cash Room lecture. While lectures may again be virtual this year, it is possible some lectures could again be held in the Cash Room of the Treasury Building.

In addition, many lectures from 2019, 2020 and 2021 are now posted on the THA website.

How Alexander Hamilton Shaped Lincoln's Economic Policy

It is well-established that Abraham Lincoln subscribed to the economic policies of Alexander Hamilton. But there's a story behind the story here. Just how conscious was Lincoln's adoption of Hamiltonianism? How did Hamilton's ideas get transmitted to this self-educated lawyer from Illinois? And what were the core ideas of Hamilton's economics anyway?



Portrait of Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln entered political life in 1832. That year saw President Andrew Jackson on the warpath against the Bank of the United States, claiming that it was a "monster" eating out the sub-stance of the common people. Jackson had also vetoed a bill for federal support for internal improvements and declared his intent to reduce the tariffs for manufactures.

All three of these policies – national banking, internal improvements, and government support for industry – had been put forward in Hamilton's magnum opus, the *Report on Manufactures*, in 1791.

In his declaration of candidacy, Lincoln came out squarely for this Hamiltonian program. "My politics are short and sweet, like the old woman's dance. I am in favor of a national bank. I am in favor of the internal improvement system, and a high protective tariff. These are my sentiments and political principles." As a politician and President, Lincoln not only never veered from these policies, but he deepened his understanding of the principles they represented.

How Did Hamilton's ideas survive?

Hamilton's ideas had been kept alive by the Irish émigré Mathew Carey. Carey started a publishing business in Philadelphia in 1787 with the *American Museum*, a subscription magazine that published many of the influential founding documents of the Republic, including the full *Report on Manufactures*.

Although the *American Museum* folded in 1792, Carey not only continued in publishing, but also began a career as a political organizer and pamphleteer. And while he was a Democratic-Republican, Carey insisted that Hamilton's manufacturing perspective had to be carried through.

Mathew Carey, painting by John Neagle, 1825.

His first activity on the national scene occurred during the 1810 Congressional debate over whether to renew the charter of Hamilton's Bank of the United States. Carey wrote a pamphlet warning of dire consequences should it be allowed to expire.

It did expire, and financial disaster, and nearly military disaster, ensued. So, at the end of the War of 1812, Carey produced his most influential work, *The Olive Branch*, whose circulation rivalled that of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*. That pamphlet blasted both the Federalists and Democratic-Republicans for putting the country through hell. The Democrats' failure, Carey charged, lay not only in eschewing necessary preparations for military defense, but for having abandoned Hamilton's Bank.

Carey created a Hamilton revival after the War of 1812 – ranging from re-establishing the Bank of the United States, to raising tariffs to protect industry, and demanding federal support for necessary infrastructure. One of his several revisions of the *Olive Branch* began with a major excerpt from Hamilton's Report on Manufactures.

His Hamiltonian ideas lay at the base of the "American System," which the political leader Henry Clay championed. That system was at the center of the Whig Party that was founded in 1833.

Abraham Lincoln was a passionate Whig and saw Henry Clay as his "beau ideal of a statesman."

Campaigning for the National Bank

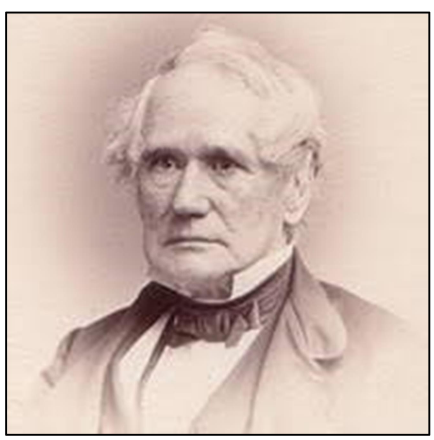
The United States in 1840 was mired in a deep depression, the outcome of the period of wildcat banking and speculation brought in by Jackson's elimination of the First Bank of the United States. In stumping for Whig presidential candidate William Henry Harrison, Lincoln waged a campaign to re-establish a Bank of the United States.

Lincoln contrasted the advantages of a National Bank against the Sub-Treasury system which the van Buren administration was seeking to enact into law. Although he never referred to Hamilton by name, Lincoln echoed our First Treasury Secretary's rigorous arguments in favor of national banking.

The Whig Party reprinted Lincoln's speech in a pamphlet which was circulated nationwide.

The Influence of Henry C. Carey

During the early 1840s. Lincoln embarked on an intensive study of economics, especially the work of Henry C. Carey, son of Mathew Carey.



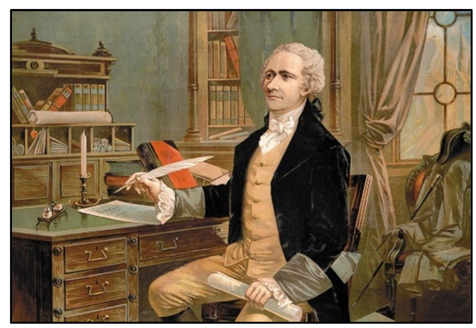
Henry Carey

Hugh Carey was a prolific writer and researcher, who backed up his theories of economic development with detailed comparative studies of the history of various nations and regions. He openly embraced his father's and Henry Clay's American System and elaborated its fundamental principles in books such as the *Principles of Political Economy* (1837-38) and the *Harmony of Interests* (1851). Two years later, he addressed the issue ripping the nation apart in *The Slave Trade, Domestic and Foreign*.

There is strong evidence that Lincoln read all of Carey's major writings; he definitely embraced his point of view on central issues.

At the core of both Carey and Lincoln's economic outlook was a view of human identity which contrasted sharply with that of Classical economists. In an 1857 speech, Carey castigated those economists "who regard man as an animal that must be fed and will procreate," and "can be made to work only under the pressure of a strong necessity." "Were they, however, to look, for once, at the real Man – the being made in the image of his Creator, and capable of almost infinite elevation – they would perhaps, arrive at a conclusion widely different."

Carey's economics put him squarely in the Hamiltonian tradition. In at least one essay he used the *nom de plume* Hamilton.



Alexander Hamilton

Championing Hamilton in Congress

In 1846, Lincoln was elected to Congress, where he became a leading standard-bearer for Hamiltonian policies, specifically the contribution of the Federal government to building internal improvements which would increase the productivity of the economy as a whole.

In the summer of 1846, Congress passed a Rivers and Harbors act, which would have allocated Federal funds to improvements in 40 projects around the country. President Polk vetoed it, claiming that it was unconstitutional.

Congressman Lincoln challenged Polk's view in a major speech in Congress on June 20, 1848. Echoing Hamilton, he argued that there is no internal improvement that does not contain both local and general benefits, and thus a project should not be discarded because it helps a locale. Every project must be judged by the preponderance of its impact, for or against the public good.

Hamilton used almost identical argumentation in his *Report on a National Bank*. As for constitutionality, Hamilton had made the argument for Federal funding for multi-state projects in his *Report on Manufactures*.

Lincoln's Hamiltonian Presidency

In 1856, both Carey and Lincoln joined the Republican Party. Carey soon became the leading economic spokesman for the new political party.

As such, Carey became the author of the economic planks of the 1860 Republican Party platform, a platform that included a commitment to providing just wages and compensations to workers and farmers (the tariff), and to internal improvements such as upgrading rivers and harbors, and building a transcontinental railroad. When Lincoln was elected, Carey was his economic advisor, and intimately involved in the decisions taken to finance the war and prepare ultimately for the peace.

The first Hamiltonian initiative of the Lincoln presidential era, the Morill tariff, is widely attributed to Carey's influence.

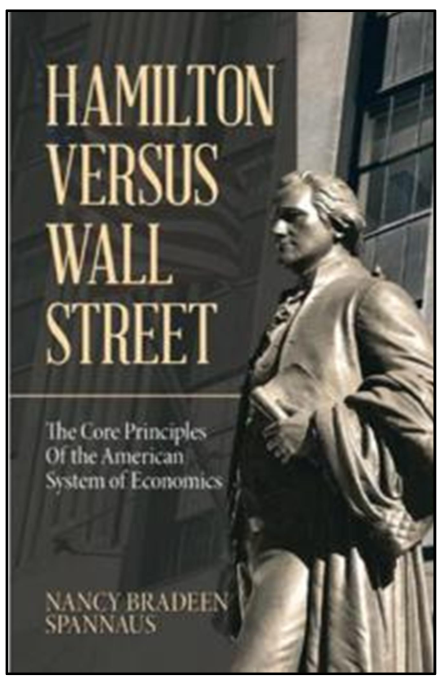
Key to Carey's thinking was the need to expand the industrialization of the country into the South. He had argued that it was the lack of industrialization that had kept labor and living standards in general in such a miserable condition in the Southern states, as part of preserving the moral and economic disaster of slavery. He therefore advised, and Lincoln agreed, the need to expand rail infrastructure into the South, starting with the border states. Lincoln included that proposal in his first address to Congress in December 1861.

Carey's hand can also be seen in the financial measures which Lincoln took to restore economic sovereignty to the nation and finance the war. He was a close collaborator of Ways & Means Committee chairman Thaddeus Stevens, and in constant touch with Treasury Secretary Salmon Chase and his staff. He championed the idea of the greenbacks, the first American currency based on the full faith and credit of the Federal government, calling them the "people's money." He also supported the establishment of the national banking system, which, like Hamilton's, was based on linking the issuance of the national currency to U.S. Treasury bonds.

The Lincoln administration did far more in a Hamiltonian direction than create a national banking system, of course, but that is beyond the scope of this article.

Lincoln did not live to carry out his full vision, but what he accomplished put the United States on the pathway to becoming the most advanced industrial nation in the world. For that, we have not only him, but Alexander Hamilton to thank. All the more reason we should apply ourselves to studying Hamiltonian principles today.

This article by Nancy Spannaus is a condensed version of her THA lecture presentation. A fuller write-up will be available on her blog *americansystemnow.com.* Her PowerPoint presentation is available upon request: *nancyspannaus@comcast.net.*



Hamilton Versus Wallstreet

How Tax Collection Became the Foundation of Modern Currency

Modern currency is paper money that is legal tender for debts and taxes but is not backed by or otherwise related to gold. This has been the character of currency since 1971, when President Richard Nixon suspended the right of foreign central banks to convert their dollars into gold. However, the original invention of such currency happened in 1690 Massachusetts.

Paper money itself was not even new in 1690. China had invented paper money centuries earlier, and there were isolated cases in Europe. Even pre-1690 America had paper moneys, such as in the military emergency experienced by French Canada in 1685. However, all these paper moneys legally relied on intrinsically valuable goods, where either the issuer promised to provide such goods for paper or forced all sellers to sell goods for paper.

Massachusetts invented a currency that legally relied only on the paper's circulation into and out of the treasury. The invention was the culmination of decades of monetary experimentation. The pattern of colonial money had been set in Jamestown, where exporters exchanged tobacco and English silver coins for European manufactured goods. With most coins thus exported and few coins left for local exchange, colonists improvised an alternative money with their main export good. The same happened in the northern beaver-exporting colonies.

Massachusetts' immigrants were different though, and they were not content with that primitive monetary system. As religious refugees, their ranks included many upper middle-class people such as merchants and college-educated ministers. The Boston area quickly became English America's intellectual, mercantile, and financial hub.

These more sophisticated immigrants immediately tried alternatives to primitive money: freely assigning private IOUs, using bullets and wampum as small change, and legalizing payments in plate and foreign coins.

Massachusetts Mint Coins: 1652-1682

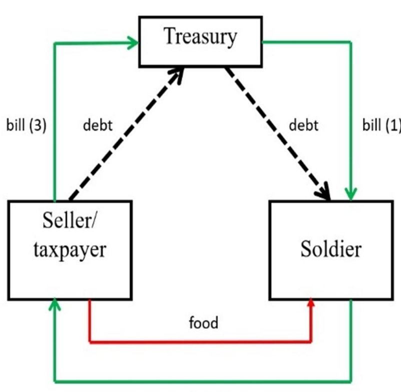
The colony could not produce coins according to English law, but after the king and royalty were beheaded in 1649, Massachusetts became the only colony to open a mint.

Royalty returned, however, and in 1682 Massachusetts was forced to close the mint because its operation was seen in England as treason. Soon England revoked the colony's charter and imposed a dictatorial regime on the entire New England region.

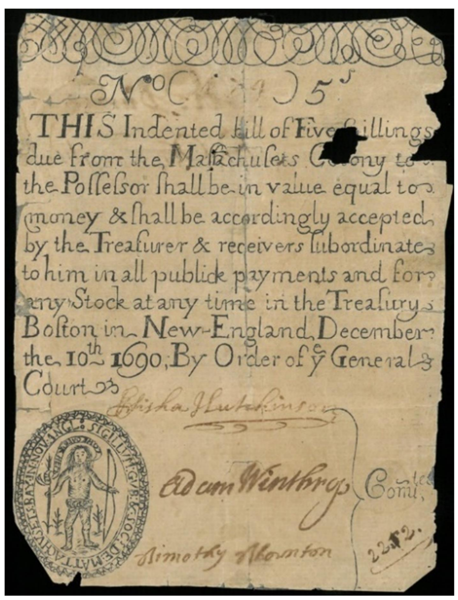
The regime lasted until 1689, when the colonists learned of the Glorious Revolution in England. They revolted and restored the charter government de facto. The Glorious Revolution also involved the English colonies in a war with French Canada. The revolutionary Massachusetts government lobbied the monarchs William and Mary to restore their charter while attacking Canada. In the fall of 1690, Massachusetts tried to occupy Quebec, counting on expected plunder to finance the soldiers' wages. But the mission failed, and the returning soldiers demanded pay.

The amount of money needed to pay wages to thousands of soldiers for three months of service was £40,000. The government increased taxes by the same amount – 20 times the annual peacetime tax. Paying these taxes would have taken months and the soldiers were impatient.

The colony could have reopened the mint and issued coins or printed paper money and forced it on all sellers under penalty (Canada was doing this). But the colony was in the middle of lobbying for its cherished charter and could not risk alienating England by violating the royal monopoly on producing money. A different path had to be taken.



Each soldier received a single "debenture" stating the colony's debt to him, so the legislature made the debentures legal tender for taxes. That wasn't enough to get debentures to circulate as money because each debenture was for a large, non-round sum. The solution was then to offer each soldier to swap his debenture for several "bills" of small, round denominations, convenient for transacting. Sellers were not forced to accept the bills, but they could discharge their enormous tax obligations with these bills. The word "bill" then had a commercial, not a monetary, connotation, as in "bill of exchange" and "bill of lading." Officially, it was not money at all but merely the treasury's IOU, and thus England was expected not to care. Soon the bills were named "bills of credit" and even "bills of public credit," making clearer what was their foundation, but still not disclosing their monetary function. To a skeptical population, the elite soon explained that paying taxes with such bills was merely a set-off operation – something that everyone was accustomed to in the coin-challenged colony. But in fact, it was a revolution in the nature of money.

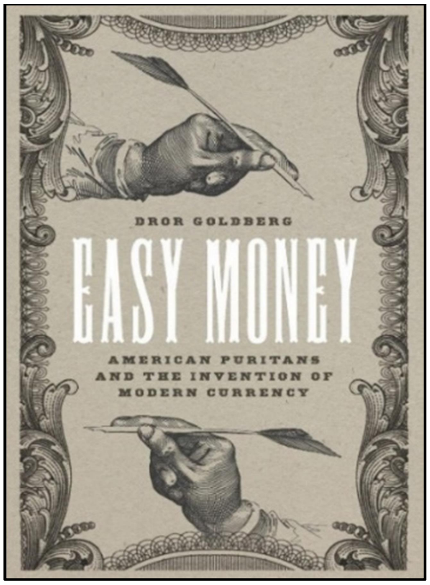


Bill of public credit issued to Soldiers

England did not care about these bills, and the following year Massachusetts received a new charter. All British colonies later had paper money, much of it in imitation of Massachusetts' legal tender bills of public credit. The idea of paying for war with paper money – of whatever legal status – spread to Europe during the Revolutionary War and was implemented by both France and Britain before the century ended. No longer would kings debase their gold coins to finance wars; the printing presses took center stage. Silver – and later gold – made a comeback, again and again, to prevent inflation, only to be discarded during wars. The turbulent events of the 20th century buried gold perhaps for the last time. Since then, our currency has been Massachusetts currency. The Central Bank Digital Currency that may replace our physical currency will have the same legal status. This legal privilege is the main difference between government currencies and crypto would-be currencies such as bitcoin, and it is the best explanation for the failure of these alternatives to function as general media of exchange.

That this happened in Massachusetts was no coincidence. This mercantile and financial Anglo-American center was very experienced in monetary laws, complicated settlement of debts, and even failed banking experiments. Harvard graduates and merchants dominated Massachusetts' government. At Harvard, the only college in English America, students read Plato (who said money was merely a symbol), Aristotle (who said money was made by law), and Thomas Hobbes (who compared the circulation of money in the economy to the circulation of blood in the body in his famous *Leviathan).* The heart of the monetary system – according to Hobbes – was not the mint but the treasury which validates money by accepting it for taxes and sending it back to the private economy.

The mechanism of modern currency supported only by taxes allows the government to produce as much money as it wants because taxpayers will always have to obtain it, regardless of the inflation rate. The presumptuously named "modern monetary theory" (MMT) calls exactly for that – producing as much money as needed to eliminate (not just reduce) all social and climatic problems with the hope that inflation will not occur. This is vastly different from what the disciplined Puritans had in mind: They taxed first and printed later, with the bills merely providing liquidity. MMT is all about denying this discipline, hence the grave danger it poses.



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"50 for 50" Fundraiser to Celebrate THA's 50th Year

THA was founded on December 13, 1973 and has provided 50 years of service to the Treasury Department.

Recent and on-going efforts include THA's purchase of a rare historic print of African-American public officials from the Reconstruction Era and donating it to the Treasury Department, and THA's current initiative to fund the restoration of the Alexander Hamilton and Albert Gallatin statues that are on the South and North Treasury Building plazas, respectively. Included in the restoration plan is the Liberty Bell replica at the West Treasury Building entrance. All three are in dire need of restoration and preservation to protect them from future deterioration. THA is seeking contributions of $50 (or more) to commemorate THA's "50th".


Hamilton ***Gallatin***

You can help fund these projects by sending your contribution to THA by U.S. mail or by contributing online under the "Donate Now" tab on the THA website. If you have questions or wish to volunteer your help, please contact THA (see box on this page)

THA Golden Anniversary Ornament Discount Offer

To commemorate THA's 50th Anniversary, a special ornament has been created in a limited quantity. Current members can receive a limited time discount. See the next page for details.

THA Social Media Videos

THA's presence on Social Media now includes LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, and "X" (formerly called Twitter). New THA material is posted periodically.

THA-originated videos can be found on YouTube by searching for "Treasury Historical Association" and on THA's website, under the Education tab.

From the Editor

Special thanks to Nancy Spannaus and Dror Goldberg for contributing articles about their THA lectures to this issue and to Janet Auten for her help in editing.

Your office or personal Treasury-related stories and suggestions or materials for future articles and topics of interest are welcome and will be greatly appreciated.

Jerry Auten, editor
Gerald.auten@treasury.gov

Treasury Historical Association
P.O. Box 28118
Washington, DC 20038-8118
Message Line: 202-681-9779
Website: www.treasuryhistoricalassn.org
E-mail: info@treasuryhistoricalassn.org

Join Us in Celebrating the Golden Anniversary of the Treasury Historical Association

ADVANCE NOTICE FOR MEMBERS ONLY – BEFORE OFFERING TO THE PUBLIC

The Treasury Historical Association is pleased to offer its exclusive limited-edition 50th Anniversary commemorative ornament for advance sales to current THA members.

THA was established on December 13, 1973, with Treasury Secretary George P. Shultz being the first to sign the Association's charter, along with Helen Hamilton Burgess, the great-great-granddaughter of Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury.

The ornament includes the iconic 100-year old 10-foot tall Alexander Hamilton statue on a pedestal on the Treasury Building's South plaza and is gold-finished, with ribbon and historical insert card in a gift box. Dimensions of the ornament are about 3 inches high and 2-1/2 inches wide.

The regular price for this ornament is $25, but THA members' special 20% discount early-order price is **$20 for orders placed before September 2, 2023*,** the Treasury Department's Anniversary date. And, for orders of 2 (or each multiple of 2) ornaments, THA will include a free gold-finished Treasury Building bookmark-ornament, a $10 value, while supplies remain.

Mail Orders Only –
This ornament will not be added to THA's public website store until a later date, and then at its regular selling price.

Please order early, as quantities will be limited. Order fulfillment is planned to start by September 2.

Please mail the below order form, along with your payment check, today to:
Treasury Historical Association, P.O. Box 28118, Washington, DC 20038-8118.

- -

Name: ____

* Special Offer Deadline Extended to the 11th.
Alexander Hamilton's Birthday

Street Address: ____

City/State/ZIP: ____

Telephone: ______________ Email: ________________________________

Number of ornaments ordered: ___ @ $20 = $______ + S&H $_______ = Total Enclosed: $_________

Shipping & Handling Fees to One Continental USA Address:
For 1 ornament, add $6.50; for 2 ornaments, add $8.00; for 3 ornaments, add $9.50; for 4 or more, add $11.00.

Thank you for supporting THA's mission by your purchase of this and other products of the Association.

TREASURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
December 2023

NEWSLETTER

Inside this Newsletter . . .

50th Anniversary of the Founding of the Treasury Historical Association

In September 1972, Interior Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton advised Treasury Secretary George P. Shultz that the U.S. Treasury Building would be designated a National Historic Landmark in the National Register of Historic Places. A month later, a ceremony took place at the top of the South entry steps of the Treasury Building. Treasury employees filled Sherman Park and Hamilton Place. In addition to the two Secretaries, the event was attended by First Lady Patricia Nixon (representing President Nixon), current and former Treasury bureau heads, and heads of former Treasury bureaus such as the U.S. Coast Guard.

Designation of the Treasury Building as a National Historic Landmark led to the creation of the Treasury Historical Association (THA) as a nonprofit organization 14 months later. In their private capacities, Treasury General Counsel Edward C. Schmults, Fiscal Assistant Secretary John K. Carlock, and Treasury's Director of Administrative Programs Robert R. Fredlund created and chartered THA. Secretary Shultz was the first to sign THA's charter on December 13, 1973. Among others signing the charter were Ambassador and former Treasury Under Secretary W. Randolph Burgess and Helen Hamilton Burgess, his wife and great-great-granddaughter of Alexander Hamilton.

In 1974, THA was approved under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code for status as a nonprofit charitable organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions. During the first few years, the primary focus was on THA's organization development, membership outreach and a number of educational initiatives. About 10 years later, THA emerged as a partner with Treasury in restoring the Treasury Building.

Significant THA Donations to the Treasury Department

THA has contributed many gifts to the Treasury Department, including donations of cash and in-kind gifts worth almost $800,000 for restoration and preservation of the Treasury Building and items of significant interest in Treasury history and financial civics. In addition to major restoration projects, THA has donated at least 350 engravings, prints and smaller items.

Here are representative examples:

1979: 5 Historic marker plaques for the rooms in Main Treasury that had been the offices used by Secretaries of the Treasury over the years ($870).

1985: A collection of books for the Treasury Library ($1,000).

1986: Reproduction 19th century chandeliers that hang in the Treasury Building corridors ($24,970).

1987: Original 19th century chandeliers for the Secretary's Conference Room ($25,000).

1989: Treasury Bicentennial Anniversary banners, calendars, etc. ($6,100).

1992-1994: Paintings of the interior and exterior of the Treasury Building and Annex by artist Ken Frye ($2,912).

1993: Funds for replica window shades for the Chase Suite ($4,000).

1993: Photographs of the Treasury Building, historic prints, engravings and other artwork ($12,789).

1993-1994: Gilding for eagles and keys on North wing column capitals ($27,300).

1993-1994: Funds to reupholster antique furniture for Chase and Johnson Suites ($9,590).

1995-1996: Over 80 historic prints, engravings and photographs of the Treasury Building ($5,016).

1996-1998, 2003 and 2012: Incremental funds to conserve *trompe l'oeil* wall decoration on the third floor of the Treasury Building ($38,940).

1998-1999: Historic photographs ($4,061).

2000: *Treasures of the U.S. Treasury* fine art calendars ($5,000).

2000: Funds to re-gild the Cash Room ceiling damaged in the 1996 fire and one corner dome ($200,000).

2002: A framed original 1937 letter from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, along with his photo ($2,500).

2002: Original 1869 Treasury seal doorknobs and locksets ($850).

2003: Funds to repair water damage to the Diplomatic Reception Room period-style stenciled ceiling ($3,470).

2004: J.Goldsborough Bruff manuscripts with drawings of Treasury Building's decorative designs ($1,500).

2004: Funds to repair and restore the West wing dome ($40,370).

2005: Funds for four sconces for the West second floor lobby ($12,000).

2006: An 1862 lithograph of Treasury Secretary Salmon T. Chase ($300).

2008: An 1801 framed Albert Gallatin Treasury Circular ($500).

2008: An early portrait of Abraham Lincoln now in the Secretary's large conference room ($5,228, including $540 for restoration expenses).

2008: A gift for the Treasury Collection Endowment Fund ($100,000).

2009: Funds for conservation of a newly acquired early bust of Alexander Hamilton ($2,000).

2009 and 2015: Incremental funds for restoring the West wing staircase and stonework ($150,000).

2010: Funds to conserve a Ulysses Grant portrait ($1,700).

2012: Funds to purchase a portrait of Treasury Secretary Robert J. Walker (1845-1849) ($5,000).

2013: An original 1863 photograph of Salmon P. Chase ($3,540).

2014: Funds for the restoration of an 1863 photograph of Salmon P. Chase ($1,880).

2016: Funds for digitizing vintage Treasury telephone directories in the Library collection ($2,500).

2017: Funds for art restoration services and a gilded Gesso frame for an 1880 portrait of Andrew Johnson, now in the Johnson Suite which served as the Office of the President for about 6 weeks after the assassination of President Lincoln ($2,500).

2023: Funds for the acquisition of an engraving of Blanche K. Bruce, Register of the Treasury, 1875-1881 ($3,805).

THA Funds Purchase an 1880s Engraving

In March, THA funded the winning bid on an important engraving with five portraits including Blanche K. Bruce, who was born into slavery, was the first African-American elected to a full term in the Senate, and later served as Register of the Treasury, becoming the first African-American to sign U.S. currency. Bruce was featured in Secretary Yellen's commemoration of Black History Month.

Engraving with Blanche K. Bruce in center

The other individuals in the engraving are four African-American legislators from the Reconstruction era: Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina, James T. Rapier of Alabama, and Hiram R. Revels and John R. Lynch from Mississippi.

Bruce served as Register of the Treasury from May 21, 1881 to June 5, 1885 and for two months in early 1888.

The engraving dates from the early 1880s and is 9.25 x 3.75 inches. The purchase was arranged in cooperation with Treasury Curator Jon Frederick. The House of Representatives and the National Museum of African American History and Culture also have this engraving in their collections.

Anniversary of Transfer of Treasury Bureaus to the New Department of Homeland Security

March 1st 2023 marked the 20th anniversary of the implementation of the Homeland Security Act in 2003.

The Treasury Department was once the second largest law enforcement agency in the Federal Government, but the Act creating the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) changed all that. Seven current and former Treasury bureaus were directly affected.

Three historical Treasury bureaus were transferred to DHS or the Department of Justice (DOJ). These were:

The U.S. Customs Service, established on July 31, 1789, was transferred to DHS. Customs, one of the oldest organizations in the Federal Government, was broken up into two separate agencies once it became part of the new department.

The U.S. Secret Service, established on July 5, 1865, was also transferred to DHS.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) was separated from the IRS and became a new bureau in 1972. In 2003 BATF was transferred to DOJ. Treasury continued BATF's regulatory and revenue collection functions in a new bureau called the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), established on March 2, 1970, by a Treasury Order rather than by law, was transferred to DHS.

Three other historical Treasury bureaus previously moved to other departments were also transferred to DHS in March 2003.

The U.S. Coast Guard, established in Treasury by Alexander Hamilton as the Revenue Cutter Service on August 4, 1790 was combined on January 28, 1915 with the Lighthouse Service, established in 1789. This combined Coast Guard bureau was transferred to the Department of Transportation in 1967, and then to DHS in March 2003.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service, transferred long ago to DoJ, was also moved to DHS.

My First Job at Treasury

(Editor Note: Last December, readers were invited to send memories of their first job at the Treasury Building complex. The first story is from THA Board Chairman Tom O'Malley. Please send your first Treasury job story, especially those 50 or more years ago.)

Sixty-plus years ago, on June 5, 1961, following my first year in college as an economics major, I had the good fortune of having an internship at the Department of the Treasury's Bureau of Accounts, a predecessor of today's Bureau of the Fiscal Service. The Bureau headquarters was located in what was then called Treasury Annex No. 1, later titled just Treasury Annex, now the Freedman's Bank Building. This housed not only the Bureau's headquarters, but also one of its 10 regional disbursing offices on two or three floors. The workspace was wide open throughout the entire third floor, except for one private office.

I was assigned to the office's Periodic Payments Branch as a GS-2 file clerk. I worked on dividend disbursements to large investors, mostly Wall Street firms, which received very large interest payments each month. Each account - and some firms had many accounts – were sent checks printed by means of addressograph plates. These were metal embossed plates about the size of credit cards, but 20 times as heavy.

I would receive a large fanfold printed computer listing each day - sometimes more than one a day - from the Bureau of the Public Debt, which told me which addressograph plates to pull from file drawers for each day's payments. I accumulated hundreds of plates in long narrow trays each day and took them to another floor of the building where the check printing was conducted. The plates were loaded into the check printing machines to imprint each firm's name and address onto the check, and the periodic payment amount.

I would pick up the previous day's plates and return them to the appropriate file drawers and locations in the scores of cabinets; these file drawers were very similar in size to library card catalog drawers - but each drawer was very heavy when filled with metal plates. Collecting vast numbers of plates in trays was perhaps part of Treasury's physical fitness training program.

In those days, employees in the Annex "worked for a bell." An electric bell would ring at 9 am, at which time we were expected to be seated at our desks; again at 10:15 and 10:30, the bell would signal the start and end of our morning coffee break, with a food vendor cart arriving near the elevators. Again, at noon and 12:30 the bell signaled the start and end of our 30-minute lunch period, with the afternoon break ringing in at 2:30 and 2.45. At the conclusion of the day, the bell rang at 5:30, causing a rush to exit the building.

A far cry from today's work culture!

The Annex Building did not provide the luxury of air conditioning. Instead, we had many rotating electric fans that sat on small shelves about eight feet high on the walls and pillars of the work space. That's when I became aware of the value of having paperweights, now mostly an outdated decorative novelty.

I would go to the air-conditioned Main Treasury Building frequently, mostly at lunch time, since the cafeteria was located in the South courtyard and two snack bars were located at the SE and NW corners on the first floor under the spiral staircase domes.

Employee paychecks were distributed personally in those days, and I was able to go to the Cash Room to exchange my $109.54 semi-monthly paycheck for brand new coins and crisp new currency.

I had done some historic research on a Washington building the previous summer, which prompted me to greatly admire the Treasury Building, even though it was then in a great neglected condition.

Despite the very routine and not very challenging set of tasks that I performed as an 18-year old intern under the strict rule of the bell, my work gave me the opportunity to gain an appreciation for the magnificent architectural features of Main Treasury, which convinced me that this is where I wanted to work someday as an economist. Half of this desire came true with my being hired at Main Treasury, eight years later, not as an economist but as a procurement and contracting officer, thanks to my training and experience during my intervening military service years. Ironically, 33 years after my internship in the Annex, I retired from that same building.

"50 for 50" Fundraiser to Celebrate THA's 50th Year

THA was founded on December 13, 1973 and has provided 50 years of service to the Treasury Department. THA is seeking contributions of $50 (or more) for THA's "50th". There is still time to make such donations.

The primary focus of this initiative is to fund the restoration of the 100-year-old Alexander Hamilton and the 75-year-old Albert Gallatin statues on the South and North Treasury Building plazas, respectively. The 70-year-old Liberty Bell replica located at the West Treasury Building entrance is also included in this effort. All three are in dire need of restoration and preservation to protect them from future deterioration.

Hamilton

Gallatin

You can help fund these three very important projects by sending your "50 for 50" contribution to THA by U.S. mail or by contributing online under the "Donate Now" tab on the THA website.

THA Social Media Presence and On-line Videos

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Treasury Historical Association Limited-Edition 50th Anniversary Commemorative Ornament

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The ornament's dimensions are about 3 inches high and 2.5 inches wide.

The price for this ornament is $25 plus shipping and handling. Shipping and handling to one continental US address is $6.50 for one ornament, $8.00 for 2 ornaments, $9.50 for 3 ornaments, and $11.00 for 4 or more ornaments.

A single production run of a limited quantity was produced by the company that manufactures the long-established White House Historical Association's annual Christmas ornaments.

This THA Golden Anniversary commemorative ornament may be ordered online on THA's website. Alternatively, you may order it by mailing a check to THA's post office box address listed in the address box on this page.

2023 THA Officers and Members of the Board

Thomas O'Malley, Board Chairman

Gary Grippo, President

Cora Beebe Fosdick. 1st Vice President

Lori Santamorena, Secretary

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Treasury Historical Association
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Washington, DC 20038-8118

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New THA Website Coming

THA has been working on a new website that is expected to be unveiled within the next few months. During the transition period and for some additional time, the old website will provide links to the new website.

Update on Treasury Building Saturday Morning Public Tours

Saturday morning public tours are being offered the first and third Saturdays of the month, but spaces are limited. No tours are scheduled on February 15 due to the three-day holiday. Those who are interested in taking a tour should e-mail the Treasury Department's tour coordinator at *Luke.Leyh@treasury.gov* for availability and details about making a reservation for taking a tour.

From the Editor

Thanks to Abby Gilbert and Tom O'Malley for contributing articles for this issue and to Janet Auten for her help in editing this newsletter.

Special thanks to Andy Young, Treasury Librarian, who has contributed many articles to these newsletters over many years as well as handling the details of on-line lectures in recent years.

Personal Treasury-related stories and suggestions or materials for future articles and topics of interest are welcome and will be greatly appreciated.

Jerry Auten, editor
Gerald.auten@treasury.gov