Money - Stpries & Illustrations

**According to the U.S. Transportation Security Administration, in 2003 passengers left $303,970 in loose change at airport metal detectors. The U.S. Treasury Department appropriates the money and returns it to circulation. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 58)***

**Carroll O’Connor and Jean Stapleton sing the All in the Family show’s opening theme seated at a piano because the producers couldn’t afford an orchestra. (Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 9)**

**If you carry $61 around with you, you’re exactly average for this part of the world, according to surveytakers. But averages don’t mean much. It’s also known men habitually carry about twice as much cash as women. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Bahamians use $2,500 gold coins. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The word “bank” comes from the Italian banca, meaning “bench.” In fifteenth-century Venice, Jewish moneylenders were not allowed to own property, so they conducted their business on benches in the piazza. *(Harry Bright & Jakob Anser, in Are You Kidding Me?, p. 102)***

**The Bible devotes some 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 verses on faith, but more than 2,000 verses on money and possessions. (Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 11)**

**What’s called a “billion” in the United States is called a “milliard” in Great Britain. (L. M. Boyd)**

**How much is a billion dollars? If you spent $1,000 a day ($365,000 a year), it would take you nearly 3,000 years to spend it all! *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Andrew Carnegie, one of the richest Americans ever, practically became allergic to money as he grew older. He was offended, he said, just by the sight and touch of it, and never carried any. Because he had no money with him with which to pay the fare, Carnegie was once put off a London tram. *(Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 60)***

It was Abraham Lincoln’s Secretary of the Treasury who decided our money should be green. Salmon P. Chase also came up with, “In God We Trust.” *(L. M. Boyd)*

**Because poor people could not afford real silk, they tried to make other cloth look silky. Women would beat on cotton with sticks to soften the fibers. Then they rubbed it against a big stone to make it shiny. The shiny cotton was called “chintz.” Because chintz was a cheaper copy of silk, calling something “chintzy” means it is cheap and not of good quality. (Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 142)**

**Each of the suits in a deck of cards represents the four major pillars of the economy in the Middle Ages: hearts represented the Church, spades represented the military, clubs represented agriculture, and diamonds represented the merchant class. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 168)***

**Since its establishment by Congress in 1913, the Federal Reserve has overseen a 98% drop in the value of the U.S. dollar. In other words, today’s dollar would have been worth 2 cents in 1913. Before the Fed’s establishment, the purchasing power of the dollar remained constant for over a century. *(Harry Bright & Jakob Anser, in That’s A Fact, Jack!, p. 126)***

**The dollar sign is a modification of the figure eight as it appeared on the old Spanish "pieces of eight." *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It's a Weird World, p. 12)***

**Albert Einstein was once asked what he thought was the greatest human invention. His reply, “compound interest.” *(Moore & Company Realtor)***

**The first coins issued by authority of the United States government were minted in 1787. These pennies were inscribed with the plainspoken motto, “Mind your own business.” *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 111)***

**Fun facts about currency: The Bureau of Engraving and Printing produced $9.3 billion in 1995. In 1994, 7.2 billion pieces of U.S. currency worth $76.6 billion were shredded by the Federal Reserve. The average life span of $1 and $5 bills is 18 months, $50 and $100 bills can last eight to 10 years. Nine bills in every million are counterfeit. If found, they are turned over to the Secret Service. *(Treasury Department, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Federal Reserve Board; USA Today research by Tammi Wark)***

**About that currency in your pocket. Its paper contains germicides and fungicides and its ink contains antibacterial agents. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**In Roman mythology Juno Regina was supposed to be the wife of Jupiter and queen of the heavens. Juno assumed many characters and had a host of divine responsibilities. Most important of all, she was the goddess of warning. The Romans were so grateful to Juno for telling them about the dangers ahead on various occasions that the2 built a temple to her on the Capitoline Hill and when coinage was devised they set their mint in her temple, and as Juno Moneta, the goddess became guardian of the finances. Her name Moneta was derived from the Latin word moneo “warn,” and finally entered Old French as moneie, and thus eventually became our word money. *(Wilfred Funk)***

**Money’s hidden cost: Yet more evidence for the universal truth that money does not buy happiness. A study by Belgian psychologists found that richer people aren’t as capable as poorer ones of savoring small pleasures, be it a piece of chocolate or the thought of completing a task or enjoying a hike. A group of volunteers from all economic strata were asked to ponder scenarios in which they traveled, took a sunny walk, or tasted a bar of chocolate. Questioned afterward, those with more money derived less pleasure from these imagined experiences. More provocatively, subjects who were shown an image of a stack of money at the start of the experiment showed an equally diminished ability to savor small pleasures. When they were given an actual piece of chocolate to eat, those who’d seen the picture of the money first gobbled down the candy 50 percent faster than their counterparts – in 32 seconds on average, compared with 45 seconds – and afterward expressed less satisfaction with it. The results suggest that above poverty level, the acquisition of money has little bearing on one’s happiness, says DiscoverMagazine.com, because wealth makes “delights that were already assessable seem less enticing.” *(The Week magazine, June 18, 2010)***

**Men who kiss their wives goodbye in the morning earn higher salaries than men who don’t. *(Harry Bright & Jakob Anser, in That’s A Fact, Jack!, p. 124)***

**During the California gold rush of 1849, miners sent their laundry to Honolulu for washing and pressing. Due to the extremely high costs in California during these boom years, it was deemed more feasible to send the shirts to Hawaii for servicing. (Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 143)**

**The original Monopoly game, called the Landlord’s Game, was intended as a critique of capitalism. *(Harry Bright & Jakob Anser, in Are You Kidding Me?, p. 67)***

**Why do dimes, quarters and half dollars have notched edges, while pennies and nickels do not? The U.S. Mint began putting notches on the edges of coins containing gold and silver to discourage holders from shaving off small quantities of the precious metals. Dimes, quarters and half dollars are notched because they used to contain silver. Pennies and nickels aren’t notched because the metals they contain are not valuable enough to shave. *(The PassTime Paper)***

**During the Middle Ages, peppercorns were accepted as money. *(Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 232)***

**Canada has introduced a plastic $100 bill. The polymer-based currency is said to last 2.5 times as long as paper bills and will be far harder to counterfeit. Plastic $50 bills will go into circulation in March, followed by $20, $10, and $5 bills in 2013. *(USA Today, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 2, 2011)***

**Playing cards became the first paper currency of Canada in 1685, when the French governor used them to pay off some war debts. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 110)***

**To royalty, pocket cash isn’t money so much as an accessory of dress, like a pocket handkerchief. After the death of King George IV of Great Britain, attendants found in his personal effects some 500 wallets, each having a small amount of cash. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The Romans used to pay their legions in salt, or salarium, hence the word “salary.” *(Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 232)***

**The word “salary” comes from the Latin salarium, meaning “payment in salt.” Roman soldiers were paid partially in salt, a highly valuable commodity at the time. *(Harry Bright & Jakob Anser, in That’s A Fact, Jack!, p. 125)***

**Why are many coin shaped like pigs? Long ago, dishes and cookware in Europe were made of a dense, orange clay called pygg. When people saved coins in jars made of this clay, the jars became known as “pygg banks”. When an English potter misunderstood the word, he made a bank that resembled pig. *(The PassTime Paper)***

**Look at a dollar bill. How many items thereon add up to thirteen? Stars over the eagle’s head. Stripes on the shield over the eagle’s head. Leaves on the branch in the eagle’s claw. Berries on the olive branch. Arrows in the eagle’s claw. And that’s not all. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Wedding rings derive from the ancient Egyptian custom of placing ring-money (rings used as money) on the bride’s finger to indicate that she was endowed with her husband’s wealth. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 167)***

On our $1 bill, the words “Annuit Copetis” means: “He (God) Favored Our Undertakings.” *(L. M. Boyd)*

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***