

**THE SEAL OF THE UNITED  
STATES:  
HOW IT WAS DEVELOPED  
AND ADOPTED**

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The Seal of the United States: How it was Developed and Adopted by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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Department of State,

Washington, Dec. 30, 1892

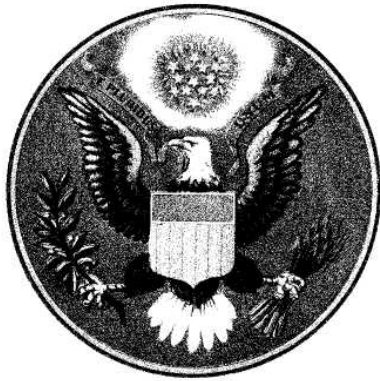
To the Librarian, University of Michigan

Sir:

I have the pleasure of transmitting to you the accompanying monograph, describing the origin of the Seal of the United States, for the use of your library.

Very respectfully yours,

John W. Foster.



THE

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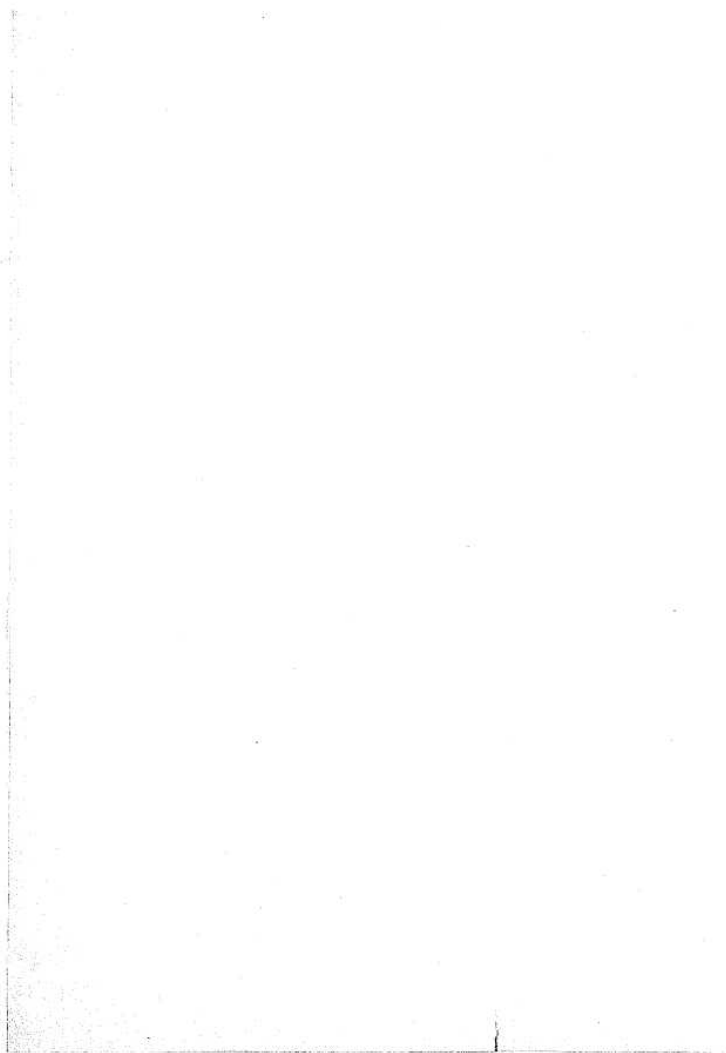
SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES

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HOW IT WAS DEVELOPED AND ADOPTED

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WASHINGTON  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
1892





DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, May 23, 1892.*

The Honorable JAMES G. BLAINE,  
*Secretary of State.*

SIR: In compliance with instructions received through the Chief Clerk, Sevellon A. Brown, Esq., I have the honor to transmit a sketch, showing, from authentic and official sources, the development of the seal of the United States and the national arms.

The illustrations were drawn by Mr. Walter Manton, of the Department, from the original designs.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

GAILLARD HUNT.



### THE SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES.

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On July 4, 1776, after the Declaration of Independence had been read in the Continental Congress, it was "*Resolved*, That Dr. Franklin, Mr. J. Adams and Mr. Jefferson be a committee, to prepare a device for a Seal of the United States of North America."\*

The committee reported on August 10 as follows:†

The great seal should on one side have the arms of the United States of America which arms should be as follows:

The shield has six Quarters, parts one, coupé two.‡  
The 1st Or, a Rose enamelled gules and argent for England: the 2nd Argent, a Thistle proper for Scotland: the 3d Vert a Harp Or for Ireland: the 4th Azure a Flower de luce Or for France: the 5th Or the Imperial Eagle Sable for Germany; and the 6th Or the Belgic Lion Gules

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\* Journals of Congress, vol. 1, p. 397.

† Reports of Committees Relating to Congress, vol. 23, Department of State MS. archives. All the committee reports bearing on the seal are in this volume.

‡ See note at the end for a glossary of heraldic terms used.