

Brief Histories of
U.S. Government Agencies
Volume Four

Compiled and Edited by

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Table of Contents Volume Four

Section	Page Number
About the Editor	4
Introduction	7
Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG)	9
Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP)	11
U.S. Capitol Police (USCP)	18
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)	20
Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)	29
Securities and Exchange Commission	33
Director of National Intelligence (DNI)	43
National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC)	46
Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)	53
Indian Arts and Crafts Board (IACB)	58
Joint Chiefs of Staff	61
Mississippi River Commission	64
National Indian Gaming Commission	67
National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)	68
Pentagon Force Protection Agency	72
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	74
National Credit Union Administration	81

Table of Contents Volume Three

Section	Page Number
About the Editor	4
Introduction	5
Federal Trade Commission	8
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	13
Federal Reserve	29
Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council's (FFIEC)	37
Department of Labor	39
Defense Security Service (DSS)	48
Department of Transportation	51
U.S. Army Medical Department Office Of Medical History	67
United States Postal Service	73
General Accountability Office (GAO)	84
National Cancer Institute (NCI)	86
U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO)	88
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)	96
American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC)	99

Table of Contents Volume Two

Section	Page Number
About the Editor	4
Introduction	5
Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)	7
U.S. Naval Academy	11
Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)	13
The Peace Corps	16
Department of State	18
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	21
Department of Interior	23
The Army Corps of Engineers	26
Internal Revenue Service	40
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	44
The Jet Propulsion Laboratory	49
U.S. Coast Guard	51
Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	55
U.S. Border Patrol	59
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	62
The National Weather Service	69
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)	85

Table of Contents Volume One

Section	Page Number
About the Editor	3
Introduction	4
U.S. Secret Service	6
U.S. Marshals Service	9
Department of Homeland Security	17
The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)	20
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or ICE	30
Military History and Museums	31
Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)	34
U.S. Bureau of the Census	38
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services	41
Social Security Administration	50
Food and Drug Administration	62
The National Park Service	68
The White House History	73
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	75
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	81
United States Department of Energy	85
Library of Congress	110

About the Editor

Michael Erbschloe has worked for over 30 years performing analysis of the economics of information technology, public policy relating to technology, and utilizing technology in reengineering organization processes. He has authored several books on social and management issues of information technology that were published by McGraw Hill and other major publishers. He has also taught at several universities and developed technology-related curriculum. His career has focused on several interrelated areas:

- Technology strategy, analysis, and forecasting
- Teaching and curriculum development
- Writing books and articles
- Publishing and editing
- Public policy analysis and program evaluation

Books by Michael Erbschloe

Social Media Warfare: Equal Weapons for All (Auerbach Publications)

Walling Out the Insiders: Controlling Access to Improve Organizational Security (Auerbach Publications)

Physical Security for IT (Elsevier Science)

Trojans, Worms, and Spyware (Butterworth-Heinemann)

Implementing Homeland Security in Enterprise IT (Digital Press)

Guide to Disaster Recovery (Course Technology)

Socially Responsible IT Management (Digital Press)

Information Warfare: How to Survive Cyber Attacks (McGraw Hill)

The Executive's Guide to Privacy Management (McGraw Hill)

Net Privacy: A Guide to Developing & Implementing an e-business Privacy Plan (McGraw Hill)

Introduction

This book provides a brief history of U.S. Government agencies that were retrieved from the agency websites and other sources. The purpose is to preserve that documentation. The editor is not attempting to copyright public documents. This book also shows how government agencies help organizations and individuals. Grants are one example as well as housing loans and employment assistance.

What is a Grant from the Government? A grant is one of the ways the government funds ideas and projects to provide public services and stimulate the economy. Grants support critical recovery initiatives, innovative research, and many other programs listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA).

The federal government typically awards grants to state and local governments, universities, researchers, law enforcement, organizations, and institutions planning major projects that will benefit specific parts of the population or the community as a whole.

Contrary to what you might see online or in the media, the federal government does not offer grants or “free money” to individuals to start a business, or cover personal expenses. However, the government offers federal benefit programs designed to help individuals and families in need become self-sufficient or lower their expenses.

Use the federal government’s free, official website, Grants.gov rather than commercial sites that may charge a fee for grant information or application forms. Grants.gov centralizes information from more than 1,000 government grant programs to help states and organizations find and apply for grants.

- Eligibility - Most of the funding opportunities are for organizations, not individuals.
- How to apply - Get tips and tools to help you with the registration and application process. And learn how to write a successful grant proposal.
- E-mail notifications - Sign up to be notified by e-mail about new grant opportunities.

"Free" Grants and Grant Scams: If you received information stating you qualify for a "free grant," it is probably a scam. Get information from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to help you learn to recognize and avoid grant scams. If you have been a victim of a grant scam, you can file a complaint with the FTC.

The most common type of financial help from the government for home repairs or modifications is through home improvement loan programs backed by the government. The loans are through traditional lenders, like banks, but the programs help these lenders make loans that they might normally not fulfill. Some programs are available on a nationwide basis, while others are only on

a state or county level. To learn about the options available to you, contact your local Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) office.

The Department of Labor has released new information about landing a high paying job — with and without a college education. Here are some highlights:

- There are a total of 141 occupations that pay more than twice (\$72,400) the median wage for all occupations (\$36,200).
- 14 of those occupations don't necessarily require a bachelor's degree.
- The key to getting a high-paying job is a good education.

Learn more about jobs that pay more than the median today at:

<https://medium.com/@USDOL/want-to-make-the-big-bucks-try-one-of-these-jobs-b7d8ecbf4413#.sa9gegpwf>

It can be overwhelming to search for dependable information about government services and benefits. USA.gov is your starting point--the official federal program that guides you to the information you need from across government. Browse or search for the agencies and programs you need on USA.gov or its Spanish language counterpart, GobiernoUSA.gov. If you'd rather talk to a person, the USA.gov Contact Center at 1-844-USA-GOV1 is there for you.

How Can the USA.gov Contact Center Help You? The Contact Center handles more than 800,000 inquiries a year, answering questions for free on scores of topics including:

- Taxes
- Affordable housing
- Scams and identity theft
- Passports and travel warnings
- Address changes
- Green Cards and immigration
- Voting and elections

Broadcasting Board of Governors

The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) is a networked global media agency. The five media organizations that comprise the BBG complement and reinforce one another in a shared mission vital to U.S. national interests: to inform, engage and connect people around the world in support of freedom and democracy. Together, the BBG media organizations communicate each week with more than 278 million people across the globe.

The mission of the Broadcasting Board of Governors is to inform, engage, and connect people around the world in support of freedom and democracy. The Agency's mission is reinforced by those of the individual broadcasters that are overseen by the BBG. The Board is composed of nine members with expertise in the fields of mass communications, broadcast media, or international affairs. Eight members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The ninth, the Secretary of State, serves ex officio.

BBG oversees a global network of over 90 transmitting sites delivering high frequency, medium wave (AM), FM, and TV broadcasts, and currently leases broadcast time on 15 high power MW and SW transmitting facilities in 14 countries, subject to mission requirements, as well as on many FM and TV stations around the world. BBG also provides anti-censorship support to overcome efforts by other governments to jam BBG broadcasts on radio, television, and the Internet.

Voice of America Charter President Gerald Ford signed the VOA Charter (Public Law 94-350) into law in 1976. It protects the independence and integrity of VOA programming.

The long-range interests of the United States are served by communicating directly with the peoples of the world by radio. To be effective, the Voice of America must win the attention and respect of listeners. These principles will therefore govern Voice of America (VOA) broadcasts:

1. VOA will serve as a consistently reliable and authoritative source of news. VOA news will be accurate, objective, and comprehensive.
2. VOA will represent America, not any single segment of American society, and will therefore present a balanced and comprehensive projection of significant American thought and institutions.
3. VOA will present the policies of the United States clearly and effectively, and will also present responsible discussions and opinion on these policies.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

RFE/RL's mission is to promote democratic values and institutions by reporting the news in countries where a free press is banned by the government or not fully established. Our journalists provide what many people cannot get locally: uncensored news, responsible discussion, and open debate.

Office of Cuba Broadcasting (Radio and TV Martí)

The Office of Cuba Broadcasting's mission is to promote freedom and democracy by providing the people of Cuba with objective news and information programming.

Radio Free Asia

Radio Free Asia's mission is to provide accurate and timely news and information to Asian countries whose governments prohibit access to a free press.

Middle East Broadcasting Networks (Alhurra TV and Radio Sawa)

The mission of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks is to provide objective, accurate, and relevant news and information to the people of the Middle East about the region, the world, and the United States. MBN supports democratic values by expanding the spectrum of ideas, opinions, and perspectives available in the region's media.

As a federal agency, the BBG's budget request is part of the President's Budget request to the Congress. The Agency's mandate comes from multiple pieces of legislation. BBG is accountable to 6 bipartisan House and Senate committees.

(Link: <https://www.bbg.gov/who-we-are/>)

Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP)

The BEP had its foundations in 1862 with workers signing, separating, and trimming sheets of United States Notes in the Treasury building. Gradually, more and more work, including engraving and printing, was entrusted to the organization. Within a few years, the BEP was producing Fractional Currency, revenue stamps, government obligations, and other security documents for many federal agencies. In 1877, the BEP became the sole producer of all United States currency. The addition of postage stamp production to its workload in 1894 established the BEP as the nation's security printer, responding to the needs of the U.S. government in both times of peace and war. Today, the BEP no longer produces government obligations or postage stamps, but it still holds the honor of being the largest producer of government security documents with production facilities in Washington, DC, and in Fort Worth, Texas.

The centrality of the BEP to the financial, monetary, postal, and printing developments of the United States since the Civil War has made it a repository of numerous invaluable historic items. At the same time, the BEP's history reflects and provides a unique perspective on the development of modern America. These facts have long been recognized by the BEP, which is devoted to the preservation and exploration of its own past. Some of the work of the curatorial, archival, and historical efforts of the BEP and its Historical Resource Center (HRC) is presented on this website.

Colonial Notes 1690

The Massachusetts Bay Colony, one of the 13 original colonies, issues the first paper money to cover costs of military expeditions. The practice of issuing paper notes spread to the other colonies.

Franklin's Unique Counterfeit Deterrent 1739

Benjamin Franklin's printing firm in Philadelphia prints colonial notes with nature prints--unique raised impressions of patterns cast from actual leaves. This process added an innovative and effective counterfeit deterrent to notes, not completely understood until centuries later.

Continental Currency 1775

The Continental Congress issues paper currency to finance the Revolutionary War. Continental currency was denominated in Spanish milled dollars. Without solid backing and easily counterfeited, the notes quickly lost their value, giving rise to the phrase "not worth a Continental."

Monetary System 1792

The Coinage Act of 1792 creates the U.S. Mint and establishes a federal monetary system, sets denominations for coins, and specifies the value of each coin in gold, silver, or copper.

Greenbacks 1861

The first general circulation of paper money by the federal government occurs. Pressed to finance the Civil War, Congress authorizes the U.S. Treasury to issue non-interest-bearing Demand Notes. All U.S. currency issued since 1861 remains valid and redeemable at full face value.

First \$10 Bills – Demand Notes 1861

The first \$10 notes are Demand Notes, issued in 1861 by the Treasury Department. A portrait of President Abraham Lincoln is included on the face of the notes.

Treasury Department Authorization 1862

The Treasury Secretary is authorized to engrave and print notes at the Treasury Department; the design of which incorporates fine-line engraving, intricate geometric lathe work patterns, a Treasury seal, and engraved signatures to aid in counterfeit deterrence.

Spencer Clark 1862

Spencer M. Clark, Chief Clerk in the Treasury Department's Bureau of Construction, obtains presses for the Treasury's Loan Branch for overprinting seals on notes. About the same time, Clark experiments with two hand-crank machines for trimming and separating. Later that year, Treasury Secretary Salmon Chase directs Clark to proceed with trials using steam-powered machines to trim, separate, and seal \$1 and \$2 United States Notes.

National Banknotes 1863

Congress establishes a national banking system and authorizes the U.S. Treasury to oversee the issuance of National Banknotes. This system sets federal guidelines for chartering and regulating "national" banks and authorizes those banks to issue national currency secured by the purchase of United States bonds. These notes are printed by private companies and finished by the BEP until 1875, when the BEP begins printing the faces.

Fractional Currency 1863

Fractional Currency notes, in denominations of 5, 10, 25, and 50 cents, are issued. This is the first currency produced entirely at the Treasury Department.

1864 The 5-cent note of the second issue of Fractional Currency features the portrait of Spencer Clark, causing a public uproar. It is unclear how Clark's portrait ended up on the note, but in

1866, Congress prohibits the portrait or likeness of any living person on currency notes, bonds, or securities.

Secret Service 1865

The United States Secret Service is established as a bureau of the Treasury for the purpose of deterring counterfeiters whose activities are destroying the public's confidence in the nation's currency. The Secret Service is now part of the Department of Homeland Security.

Gold Certificates 1865

Gold Certificates, backed by gold held by the Treasury, are first issued. Along with Fractional Currency, Gold Certificates are one of the first currency issues produced entirely by the BEP.

Revenue Stamps 1866

The BEP begins producing revenue stamps to be placed on boxes of imported cigars.

United States Notes 1869

The BEP begins engraving and printing the faces and seals of United States Notes, Series 1869. Prior to this time, United States Notes were produced by private banknote companies and then sent to the BEP for sealing, trimming, and cutting.

Bureau of Engraving and Printing 1874

For the first time, Congress allocates money specifically to a "Bureau of Engraving and Printing" for fiscal year 1875.

1876 Congress passes an appropriation bill that directs the Internal Revenue Service to procure stamps engraved and printed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing – provided costs do not exceed that of private firms. As a result, the BEP begins producing almost all revenue stamps in fiscal year 1878.

1877 The BEP begins printing all United States currency.

1878 Silver Certificates

Silver Certificates are first issued. Backed by silver held by the Treasury, the certificates are authorized by legislation directing an increase in the purchase and coinage of silver.

1880 First Facility

The first building constructed specifically for BEP operations is completed at the corner of 14th Street and B Street (Independence Avenue).

1890 Treasury Coin Notes

Treasury Notes, also known as Treasury Coin Notes, are first issued as part of legislation requiring the Treasury Secretary to increase government purchases of silver bullion.

1894 Postage Stamps

The BEP begins printing postage stamps. The first BEP-printed stamp issued is the 6 cent President Garfield.

1900 The first issue of postage stamps in small booklets is produced.

1905 Paper Currency with Background Color

The last United States paper money printed with background color is the \$20 Gold Certificate, Series 1905, which had a golden tint and a red seal and serial number.

1912 Offset Printing

Offset printing is first used in the BEP for the production of checks, certificates, and other miscellaneous items.

1913 Federal Reserve Act

The Federal Reserve Act of 1913 establishes the Federal Reserve as the nation's central bank and provides for a national banking system that is more responsive to the fluctuating financial needs of the country. Federal Reserve Bank Notes are authorized by the Federal Reserve Act and used as a form of emergency currency in the early twentieth century. The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System then issues new notes called Federal Reserve notes.

1914 The first \$10 Federal Reserve Notes

The first \$10 Federal Reserve notes are issued. These notes are larger than today's notes and feature a portrait of President Andrew Jackson on the face.

1929 Federal Reserve Note Standardized Design

The first sweeping change to affect the appearance of all paper money occurs in 1929. In an effort to lower manufacturing costs, all Federal Reserve notes are made about 30 percent smaller. The reduced size enables the BEP to convert from eight to 12 notes per sheet. In addition, standardized designs are instituted for each denomination across all classes of currency, decreasing the number of different designs in circulation. This standardization makes it easier for the public to distinguish between genuine and counterfeit notes.

1939 Food Stamps

The BEP begins printing Food Order and Surplus Food Order stamps. The Cotton Order and Surplus Cotton Order stamps follow in 1940. The stamps encourage consumption of surplus farm commodities while providing assistance to low-income consumers.

1943 Allied Military Currency

The War Department places an order for Allied Military Currency (AMC). The first AMCs are used by Allied forces in Italy. Production begins in July, 1943.

1946 Military Payment Certificates

The BEP begins work on Military Payment Certificates for use by U.S. troops.

1952 18-Subject Sheets

The BEP begins conversion from 12- to 18-subject sheets in currency production. The use of larger sheets is made possible by new non-offsetting ink. By reducing wetting and drying operations, distortion of paper is decreased. By September 1953, all currency is produced from 18-subject plates.

1957 In God We Trust

Following a 1955 law that requires "In God We Trust" on all currency, the motto first appears on paper money on series 1957 \$1 silver certificates, then on 1963 series Federal Reserve notes.

1957 32-Subject Sheets

The BEP begins producing currency on high-speed rotary presses that print notes via the dry intaglio process. Paper distortion caused by wetting is now completely eliminated and sheet sizes increase from 18- to 32-subjects. The first notes printed by this process are the series 1957 silver certificates.

1969 High-Denomination Notes

The Treasury Secretary announces that currency in denominations larger than \$100 will no longer be issued. Last printed in 1945, the high-denomination notes had been used mainly by banking institutions, but advances in bank transfer technologies preclude their further use.

1976 \$2 Federal Reserve Note

The \$2 Federal Reserve note is re-introduced on the 233rd anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's birth. Issuance of the \$2 United States Note had been halted in 1966 as United States Notes were phased out of existence.

1996 Currency Redesign

In the first significant design change in 67 years, United States currency is redesigned to incorporate a series of new counterfeit deterrents. The new notes are issued beginning with the \$100 note in 1996, followed by the \$50 in 1997, the \$20 in 1998, and the \$10 and \$5 notes in 2000.

2005 Final Postage Stamp Run

The BEP produces its final run of postage stamps, printing the 37-cent Flag on the Andreotti gravure press.

Advanced Counterfeit Deterrence

The Advanced Counterfeit Deterrence (ACD) program was established in July 1982 at the Departmental Offices level of the U.S. Department of the Treasury to monitor and communicate counterfeit deterrence issues with the Secretary of the Treasury. The ACD acts as liaison to the Secretary of the Treasury, reporting the combined findings of the committee, which includes senior executives from the Department of the Treasury, the BEP, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (FRB), the United States Secret Service (USSS) and the Currency Technology Office (Bank Operations).

Currency redesign is based on maintaining the security of Federal Reserve notes. Therefore, the ACD is dedicated to maintaining and ensuring the integrity of U.S. currency by exploring existing and emerging technologies to deter the counterfeiting of U.S. currency in the U.S. and worldwide. Its goals are:

- To provide information and make recommendations to the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury on counterfeiting issues, anti-counterfeiting technologies and advanced digital printing technologies;
- To evaluate and recommend incorporation of advanced security features in the design of U.S. currency;
- To support the development and implementation of technical solutions to deter counterfeiting of U.S. currency;
- To create a cooperative working relationship with government and industry to identify technologies to deter counterfeiting;
- To promote international awareness of counterfeit-deterrence efforts through the internet on U.S. currency features, and Treasury's efforts to deter counterfeiting worldwide;
- To educate the public, and money-handlers, so they may detect, reject, and report suspected counterfeits;

- To provide the public with up-to-date information on the latest currency design series and the security features incorporated to combat counterfeiting.

What is the role of each of the organizations sitting on the committee?

The ACD charter requires its member organizations to collaborate on developments related to new designs of Federal Reserve notes.

The BEP is ultimately responsible for currency production. The FRB has oversight responsibility for currency issuance and circulation, and the USSS has relevant information about how the notes must function in circulation to be user friendly and secure against counterfeiting. The Secretary of the Treasury approves each new currency design.

In close collaboration with the FRB, the BEP leads and implements the plan to develop new currency designs, integrating input from appropriate sources, including the FRB, Currency Technology Office of the FRB, and the USSS, internal working groups, external studies, and any other sources that provide input and technical support to the development plan.

Are there other groups or committees involved in developing new currency designs?

Yes, the ACD steering committee established the Interagency Currency Design Technical Group (ICD). The ICD was established to provide guidance on design and other subjects related to new currency.

Who does the ICD report its findings to?

Members of the ICD report to their respective agencies; the ICD as a group reports its findings and recommendations to the ACD.

Regular ACD steering committee meetings facilitate monthly BEP, FRB, USSS reporting to discuss ICD recommendations and other issues.

(Link: <https://www.moneyfactory.gov/about.html>)

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