

FOUNDING FATHERS GLASSWARE – DESIGN DETAILS AND PROVENANCE

1. Ben Franklin

Quote:

*Sir, I prefer the following Abstract from the London Journal to any Thing of my own, and therefore shall present it to your Readers this week without any further Preface. **Without Freedom of Thought, there can be no such Thing as Wisdom; and no such Thing as publick Liberty, without Freedom of Speech;** which is the Right of every Man, as far as by it he does not hurt or controul the Right of another: And this is the only Check it ought to suffer, and the only Bounds it ought to know.*

Quote Provenance: This article appeared in the July 9 1722 issue of The New-England Courant, which was founded in Boston in 1721 by James Franklin (Ben Franklin's older brother) and was one of the first American newspapers. Ben, who was just 16 at the time, published this and many other anti-establishment articles under the pseudonym Silence Dogood to avoid prosecution.

Seal Provenance:

The personal seal of Benjamin Franklin

2. John Adams

Quote:

*This spirit, however, without knowledge, would be little better than a brutal rage. Let us tenderly and kindly cherish, therefore, the means of knowledge. **Let us dare to read, think, speak, and write.** Let every order and degree among the people rouse their attention and animate their resolution. Let them all become attentive to the grounds and principles of government, ecclesiastical and civil. Let us study the law of nature; search into the spirit of the British constitution; read the histories of ancient ages; contemplate the great examples of Greece and Rome; set before us the conduct of our own British ancestors, who have defended for us the inherent rights of mankind against foreign and domestic tyrants and usurpers, against arbitrary kings and cruel priests, in short, against the gates of earth and hell.*

Quote Provenance: First published untitled and unsigned in the *Boston Gazette* in October 1765, John Adams' essay was a forceful justification of American resistance to British tyranny and was Adams' initial contribution to the literature of the American Revolution. Later titled "Dissertation on the Canon and the Feudal Law," Adams' now-famous essay was widely circulated during the revolutionary era.

Seal Provenance:

The signet ring of John Adams, one of three seals on the Treaty of Paris that inspired the design of the Great Seal of the United States

3. George Washington

Quote:

It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world; so far, I mean, as we are now at liberty to do it; for let me not be understood as capable of patronizing infidelity

*to existing engagements. I hold the maxim no less applicable to public than to private affairs, that **honesty is always the best policy**. I repeat it, therefore, let those engagements be observed in their genuine sense. But, in my opinion, it is unnecessary and would be unwise to extend them.*

Quote Provenance: This passage is from George Washington's 1796 *Farewell Address*, in which he urged Americans to stay unified despite growing political partisanship that was dividing the young nation. The address was printed in newspapers across America after Washington decided not to run for a third presidential term.

Seal Provenance:

The crest of the Washington arms, correctly a raven rising from a coronet but often shown by the Washingtons of Virginia as an eagle, was engraved on a set of silver cups the general used throughout the Revolution and on a number of small silver items, such as spoons, used to furnish his home at Mount Vernon. (In his reply to Sir Isaac Heard's letter concerning the Washington arms, the President described this crest as a "flying griffin," but heraldic griffins are portrayed with feathered ears, which do not appear on any Washington crest.)

4. Alexander Hamilton

Quote:

*If she is determined to enslave us, it must be by force of arms; and to attempt this, I again assert, would be nothing less, than the grossest infatuation, madness itself. Whatever may be said of the disciplined troops of Britain, the event of the contest must be extremely doubtful. **There is a certain enthusiasm in liberty, that makes human nature rise above itself, in acts of bravery and heroism.** It cannot be expected, that America would yield, without a magnanimous persevering and bloody struggle. The testimony of past ages, and the least knowledge of mankind, must suffice to convince us of the contrary.*

Quote Provenance: Passage from "The Farmer Refuted," Alexander Hamilton's second published work, printed in February 1775. This essay was a staunch defense of the First Continental Congress, which had been convened by American colonial leaders in 1774 in response to harsh punitive acts by the British Parliament that many colonists viewed as unnecessarily cruel violations of their natural rights.

Seal Provenance:

Being proud of his family's heritage, Alexander Hamilton used various versions of his family crest. Alexander Hamilton of Grange, this version is the design used as the bookplate of the second version of his personal copy of the *Federalist Papers*

5. John Jay

Quote:

*To me, there appears reason to expect a long storm and difficult navigation. Calm repose and the sweets of undisturbed retirement appear more distant than a peace with Britain. It gives me pleasure, however, to reflect that the period is approaching when we shall become citizens of a better-ordered state; and the spending a few troublesome years of our eternity in doing good to this and future generations is not to be avoided nor regretted. **Things will come right, and these States will be great and flourishing.** The dissolution of our government threw us into a political chaos. Time, wisdom, and perseverance will*

reduce it into form, and give it strength, order, and harmony. In this work you are, to speak in the style of one of your professions, a master-builder; and God grant that you may long continue a free and accepted mason.

Quote Provenance: April 21, 1779 letter from John Jay, who had been a key member of the First and Second Continental Congresses, to General George Washington, with whom Jay exchanged several correspondences throughout the Revolutionary War. Washington later appointed Jay as the first Chief Justice of the United States in 1789.

Seal Provenance:

The signet ring of John Jay, one of three seals on the Treaty of Paris that inspired the design of the Great Seal of the United States

6. James Madison

Quote:

*The liberal appropriations made by the Legislature of Kentucky for a general system of Education cannot be too much applauded. A popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or, perhaps both. **Knowledge will forever govern ignorance:** And a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.*

Quote Provenance: August 4, 1822 letter from then ex-President James Madison to Kentucky Senator William T. Barry in which Madison enthusiastically supports Barry's plan to subsidize public education across the state of Kentucky.

Seal Provenance:

The signet ring of James Madison

7. Thomas Jefferson

Quote:

*I have met with, and very kindly and opportunely offered me the means of reprocurring some part of the library treasures which I have ceded to Congress to replace the devastations of British Vandalism at Washington. **I cannot live without books,** but fewer will suffice where amusement, and not use, is the only future object. I am about sending him a catalogue to which less than his critical knolege of books would hardly be adequate. Present my high respects to mrs Adams and accept yourself the assurances of my affectionate attachment.*

Quote Provenance: June 10, 1815 letter Thomas Jefferson wrote to John Adams shortly after Jefferson sold much of his personal library to Congress to replace the Congressional Library, which was destroyed during the War of 1812 when British forces set fire to the White House, the Capitol, and many other public buildings.

Seal Provenance:

The official seal of the Library of Congress, appropriate given the donation from Jefferson rebuilding the Library's contents